

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Individual

Public

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

The concept is new to me, but it sounds like a good idea. I don't think Australia has done a particularly good job in the past of valuing and recording its history, and the stories that go with it. It has largely been left to the private sector, with little government support. Our history informs our present and helps to shape our future. My own interest is in Victorian alpine history - very specific, but fascinating nonetheless, and not well catered for. This includes the First Nations presence in the mountains, gold and tin mining, alpine cattle grazing, snow skiing and bushwalking development, hydroelectric engineering projects, and much else. I have written (and self-published) books about the history of the Mt Hotham district, and would love to see a museum established at Mt Hotham to celebrate its history. I would also love to see a much more prominent location offered to the National Alpine Museum at Mt Buller. It is currently hidden away in the bowels of a much larger building, and not easy to access. My other great interest is the history of Australian folk music revival, especially in Victoria. Again, it appears to me that very little effort has been made to research and record this history.