



Media Release
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Heritage grants help preserve historic buildings for the future

Heritage grants which will enable restoration, repair and maintenance work to be completed on nine properties and three heritage trees have recently been awarded by Selwyn District Council.

“The Council is pleased to be able to fund work which will allow heritage buildings and trees of importance to the community to be preserved for future generations to enjoy,” says Councillor Malcolm Lyall, the Chair of the Council’s Heritage Grants Assessment Subcommittee.

The grants will enable some well-known historic buildings to be restored or improved.

Southbridge Hall, built in 1930 in the art deco style, is one of the buildings which will receive funding. A \$5,000 grant will enable an acoustic upgrade of the building’s interior to be completed.

Racecourse Hill Homestead, built in 1912, has recently had earthquake damage repaired. A \$5,000 grant has been made to help fund the installation of a commercial sprinkler system to protect the property into the future. Nearby, St Teresa’s Church has also received \$5,000 for earthquake strengthening. The church originally stood in Coalgate, but has been relocated to Racecourse Hill and is likely to be used for weddings once strengthening work has been completed.

The Council has also granted \$11,500 to replace the slate roof and spouting on Lakeside House near Lake Ellesmere. The house was built by the McPherson family in the 1870s and has been retained in their ownership since then. It is built in the Carpenter Gothic style popular in New England in the nineteenth century, but is made of concrete, which is an unusual combination.

The historic Steventon Homestead near Whitecliffs has also received \$4,000 to enable a brick outbuilding to be repaired. The homestead dates from 1855 and was significantly extended in 1866. It was home to Lady Barker, a correspondent for *The Times*, who wrote *Station Life in New Zealand* and published this in 1870. The book is composed of letters she wrote while living at the homestead. The homestead is open to school parties and visits by appointment.

An English Oak tree in Doyleston is one of three trees to receive a heritage grant. The tree was planted in 1902 to mark the coronation of Edward VII and is a prominent part of the town’s streetscape as it sits along Doyleston’s main road. The funding will enable maintenance work on the fence to be done, the plaque to be cleaned and the tree to be trimmed.

Other heritage grant recipients are:

- St George's Church in Kirwee - \$500 to help fund repainting
- The Chicory Kiln, at Trent's Vineyard in Prebbleton - \$1,500 for roof repairs
- Gunyah Lodge - \$1,500 to repair killing sheds
- Old stable building, Stott Drive, Darfield - \$1,500 to replace exterior walls
- Union Church, Lincoln - \$250 to trim a historic English Ash tree by the church
- H.E. Hart Arboretum, Lake Coleridge - \$3,000 to install and replace tree labels

All of the grant recipients except the old stable building at Darfield are listed as heritage items in the Selwyn District Plan. Steventon, Lakeside House and the Chicory Kiln at Trent's Vineyard are also listed as category II items by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust as places of historical or cultural heritage significance or value.

Ends

Photos attached:

- (1) Southbridge Hall has received funding for an acoustic upgrade to the building's interior*
- (2) The English Oak tree in central Doyleston will be trimmed and maintenance work on the fence will be completed. The plaque commemorating the planting of the tree to mark the coronation of Edward VII in 1902 will also be cleaned.*

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