



**THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY
RESTORATION FUND FOR HISTORIC GARDENS**

GUIDELINES FOR BRANCH COMMITTEES & NMC

The Australian Garden History Society (AGHS) exists to promote awareness and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscapes through engagement, research, advocacy and activities

To support this mission the society has established a scheme to assist in the restoration of significant historic gardens.

(1) Who/What qualifies?

- Public properties (government-supported, institutional where other funding is not available)
- Private properties (personal and corporate)
- Other organisations/associations with similar objectives to AGHS may apply.
- Heritage gardens with significance determined by documentation, publications, listings, local experts
- Applicants need not be members of AGHS to apply, but membership is required if grant application is approved
- Applicants must be prepared to provide a third of the total project budget costs
- Grant applications accepted by AGHS once a year, to be received by 1 July.

(2) What projects are eligible?

- Suitable restoration projects of important historic gardens and landscapes, include individual plants (eg trees, rare plants), historic garden structures and reinstatement of historic design.
- Historic or heritage significance must be demonstrated, as must the rationale for proposed works to support this significance
- The presence of a garden management or conservation plan will support likely eligibility
- Quoted budget and project timing are essential for eligibility
- Excludes improvements and hard landscaping for utility and amenity purposes

(3) Nomination/Approval Process

- All projects commence at or referred firstly to Branch
- Branch must approve the project and commit to half the money for AGHS contribution
- Then refer to NMC to approve and commit matching funds

(4) Form Used to Apply

- Standardised publicly available form

(5) Information Required

- Description of property (including significance)
- Description of project (including rationale for works)
- Ownership of property
- Previous grants (source)
- Evidence of funding exploration from sources other than AGHS
- Estimated costs based on quotations
- Inputs from applicants (including in-kind), costed if possible
- Project timeline, noting project milestones and key dates

(6) Funding Granted

- Funding is not guaranteed and will depend on availability of grant money and merits of proposals
- There is no minimum amount
- Maximum amount is suggested to be between \$1,000 - \$5,000 but determined Branch by Branch depending on local finances and advised to applicants on request to apply for grant – particularly deserving projects may receive additional funding, if it is available, or projects may have to be staged.
- NMC to match Branch funding by agreement
- Applicant to contribute financially - a 3 way split scenario (NMC, Branch, applicant) as cash if possible but in-kind costed contributions will be considered. Where funding is also available from a forth party (local government grant, other sponsor) a 4 way split may be applicable.
- Monies provided on invoice for demonstrated works completion

(7) Grant Management (by Branch Committee once NMC approval is granted)

- Monies and reconciliation of funds to be managed by Branches.
- Signed agreement with recipient including all documentation of application
- Agreed timetable with appropriate progress points depending on nature of project
- Payments based on written progress reports of works completion according to agreed project plan (applicant 1/3 contribution to start off the project if necessary)

(8) Publicity/Public Relations.

- Encouraging suitable applications – through Australian Garden History, website, Branch newsletters
- AGHS website to also provide broad guidance for other revenue streams eg. local heritage grants, Remembrance Drive, Veterans Affairs and War Memorial Funds.
- Garden Restoration Grants reports via AGHS Journal and newsletters – recipients to provide short report and photos to Branch supplying funding management
- Signposting of projects during operation, and badging afterwards to identify AGHS support (AGHS to supply logo but signage cost to be included in project budget)
- Recipients to provide a photographic record with copyright clearance for AGHS to use photographs
- Advertising completed projects locally
- Public access assurances including invitation to local AGHS Branch for a visit and talk