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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Arts Tasmania funding to enhance the story of the Vin Smith Collection**

The story of the Vin Smith Collection at Geeveston Town Hall will be further enhanced with a self-guided interpretation guide following the success of two Arts Tasmania grants. The Huon Valley Council has received funding through the State Government's Cultural Heritage Organisations and Roving Curator programs.

Vincent 'Vin' Smith, now deceased, was an avid collector of woodturning tools and machinery. His collection, now owned by the Council, includes many fine examples of early treadle machines, pedal-operated saws, spindle moulders and scroll saws.

Acting Mayor Sally Doyle said the funds will help preserve and showcase the unique and incredibly rare collection of antiques.

"The Council was successful last year with grants through these same programs, and we were able to develop three interpretation banners telling the story of Vin Smith, the machines he collected, and the timber industry associated with the local region.

"This next round of funding is for the development of a self-guided interpretation guide that will enhance the visitor experience. The interpretation guides will allow visitors to engage more meaningfully with the collection and gain greater appreciation of its significance."

Cr Doyle said the Collection is a great asset to the Hall, and the work being carried out through the grants program from Arts Tasmania continues to cement the value of this collection and will build on its public appeal.

"The collection is one of very few in the world and includes some very rare pieces such as the foot powered bandsaw. This current curation will enhance the interpretation to ensure it becomes a must-see collection."

The Collection is located on the upper floor of the Geeveston Town Hall. The recent installation of the lift will assist in accessibility for all visitors and enable a larger proportion of people to view the collection.

**For more information: Acting Mayor Sally Doyle (03) 6264 0300**

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