

**Expressions of Interest**  
**Two PhD Scholarships on the**  
**ARC Funded Linkage Project:**  
**The Invisible Farmer**

*The Invisible Farmer* funded as an ARC Linkage project, is the largest ever study of Australian women on the land. It will combine personal narratives and academic research to map the diverse, innovative and vital role of women in Australian agriculture. The project is based on a creative partnership between rural communities, academics, government and cultural organisations, and aims to:

- Create new histories of rural Australia
- Reveal the hidden stories of women on the land
- Learn about the diverse, innovative and vital role of women in agriculture
- Stimulate public discussions about contemporary issues facing rural Australia and its future
- Develop significant public collections that will enable far reaching outcomes in research, industry and public policy

Funding is available for scholarships to support two postgraduate research projects. We are seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified candidates who must be available to commence on **27 February 2017**. Formal position descriptions and information on how to apply will be made available as soon as possible.

**1) Postgraduate project 1: A history of the Australian Rural Women's Movement in the late 20th century.**

The successful candidate will conduct research that draws upon archival material created during previous studies to document the history of the Australian Rural Women's Movement. They will also collect life history interviews to expand and develop existing collections. Using an innovative mix of oral history, digital technologies and material culture the candidate will contribute to the larger ARC funded project as it reframes the narrative of Australian history to highlight the role of women on the land.

The candidate's research will be situated at the intersection of multiple fields: oral history and collecting/curating methodologies, gender/women's studies, public policy, sociology, social and cultural informatics and digital humanities. They will be co-supervised by Professor Joy Damousi in the history programme in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne and Liza Dale-Hallet, Senior Curator, Museum Victoria

Candidates would be required to meet the entry requirements of a PhD – that is, an honours degree (H2A and above) in History, or in related fields such as Gender studies, Heritage and Museum studies.

Candidates must be able to commence their enrolment on February 27, 2017.

**1) Postgraduate project 2: An analysis of the contemporary position of Australian women in agriculture**

The successful candidate will conduct research with rural women to understand the contemporary opportunities and limitations to women's leadership in agriculture and the impacts of these on the health and sustainability of rural communities. The research will complement the history project and build on our understanding of the contributions of rural women. The candidate will add to previous studies of rurality and gender and conduct original interviews and focus groups. Using a mixed methodology the candidate will contribute to the larger ARC funded project as it reframes the narrative of Australian history to highlight the role of women on the land.

The candidate's research will be situated at the intersection of multiple fields: sociology, social work, gender/women's studies and social policy. They will receive targeted training in gender studies and feminist analysis. They will be co-supervised by Professor Margaret Alston at Monash University and a research focused member of the Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR).

Candidates would be required to meet the entry requirements of a PhD – that is, an honours degree (H2A and above) in Sociology or another related social science discipline.

Candidates are to commence their enrolment as early as possible in 2017.

Candidates interested in applying for either scholarship should forward their expressions of interest to Dr Nikki Henningham via email at [n.henningham@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:n.henningham@unimelb.edu.au).

Expressions of interest should include:

- clear identification of which scholarship the application wishes to apply for,
- a 1-2 page document outlining formal qualifications, work experience and any other features that support the applicant's suitability for candidature.
- in the case of applicants for Scholarship 1, a statement indicating their availability to start on February 27, 2017. In the case for Scholarship 2, a statement indicating their earliest starting date.