

# 5. Conserving Our Heritage

## OBJECTIVE:

*The Heritage Council will set best practice standards for heritage conservation.*

## Conservation Management Plans

The fundamental tool for guiding the conservation of heritage places is a conservation management plan. The Heritage Council recommends these plans as essential documents to guide future care and use, including any new development. It is particularly important that these plans are prepared for items on the State Heritage Register.

The Heritage Council's State Heritage Register Committee reviews and endorses conservation management plans. In this reporting year 49 conservation management plans were formally endorsed in a final or conditional form, a 50% increase on last year.

### *Of the plans endorsed in 2002–2003 fourteen were for privately-owned items:*

- All Saint's Anglican Church, North Parramatta
- Bathurst City Uniting Church, Bathurst
- Buckland Village (Hospital), Springwood
- Bundarra Court House & Police Station (former), Bundarra
- Coombing Park, near Carcoar
- Experiment Farm Cottage, Harris Park
- Glenfield Farm, Casula
- Lower Hawkesbury Wesleyan Chapel, Gunderman
- Merembra (John's Farm), Bathurst
- Mount St Mary's College & Convent (Renaissance Centre), Katoomba
- St Clement's Anglican Church, Yass
- St David's Uniting Church Precinct, Haberfield
- St John's Anglican Church, Stroud
- St John's Anglican Site, Darlinghurst

### *Thirty-five were for publicly-owned items:*

- Abattoir Heritage Precinct, Sydney Olympic Park
- Arncliffe Market Gardens, Arncliffe
- Athol, Hill End Historic Site
- Ben Lomond Railway Station, Ben Lomond
- Black Mountain Railway Station, Black Mountain
- Chief Secretary's Building, Sydney
- Deepwater Railway Station, Deepwater
- Eveleigh Carriageworks, Redfern
- Frederickton Public School, Frederickton
- General Store & Bakery, Hill End Historic Site
- Hartley Historic Site, Hartley
- Kedumba Slab Hut, Kedumba Valley
- Kiama Lighthouse, Kiama
- Kinchega Woolshed, Kinchega National Park
- Kyeemagh Market Gardens, Rockdale
- Laurieton School of Arts, Laurieton
- Locomotive 3526
- Mamre, St Marys
- Metropolitan Dams (Cordeaux, Cataract, Avon & Nepean)
- Mount Penang Parklands, Somersby
- Old Government Cottages, Bathurst
- Old Government House, Parramatta
- Penders (grounds & Myers Retreat) Mimosas National Park
- Prince Henry Site, Little Bay
- Qantas House (1 Chifley Square), Sydney
- Robin Hood Farm, Ingleburn
- Rockend Cottage (Banjo's Restaurant), Gladesville
- Rosebank, Liverpool
- Royal Cricketer's Arms Inn, Prospect
- State Rail carriages (AAH7, AAH8, AAH9, PAM11, AAH19 & PHA2396)
- Stone Cottage, Minto
- The National Pass, Blue Mountains National Park
- Toomavera Lane Chinese Market gardens, Kogarah
- Warden Head Lighthouse, Ulladulla
- Wollongong Head Lighthouse, Wollongong

## Conservation Practices

The Heritage Council provides advice to heritage professionals and owners about conservation techniques and materials. The council's Technical Advisory Group is made up of a number of technical experts, drawn from many fields, who can be called upon to help solve specific materials conservation problems.

- *Keeping Up Appearances*, a joint seminar on cleaning external masonry, was presented in August 2002 by the Heritage Office, Technical Advisory Group and National Trust (NSW). Heritage professionals and specialists from around Australia attended the workshop to hear up-to-date information on new cleaning methods, with a balance between theory and industry involvement;
- *Conserving Concrete*, a one-day seminar on the care and conservation of concrete heritage items, was presented in May 2003 by the Heritage Office and Technical Advisory Group in association with Sydney Water and DOCOMOMO Australia. The seminar highlighted some of the key technical issues associated with conserving concrete structures. As well as the historical and architectural background of concrete in Australia, speakers discussed technical issues such as how concrete deteriorates and how it can be repaired.

### Fire, Access and Services

The Heritage Office receives many enquiries regarding fire, access and services issues. The Fire, Access and Services Advisory Panel (FASAP) advises the Heritage Council, government agencies, design professionals, developers and owners on appropriate ways of meeting fire and access requirements and services installations in heritage buildings and sites to minimise the impact on significant spaces and heritage fabric. It also provides comments on proposals. It reviews the impact of current and emerging building legislation and technologies, as applied to heritage places, including fire safety provisions. FASAP also evaluates and promotes research into enhancing the fire resistance of traditional building materials, including recent developments in fire detection and protection technology and their potential application in heritage properties. This year the Heritage Office received 30 enquiries relating to fire, access and services. Seven projects were presented to the panel for their advice. The panel also provided presentations to the Heritage Network meeting in August 2002 on the Building Code of Australia and access issues.



At the time of its opening in 1964, the Gladstone Bridge was the longest single-span concrete arch bridge in the world. This year the Heritage Council's Technical Advisory Group presented a technical seminar on conserving significant concrete structures of the 20th century. *Photograph by Paul Percival, courtesy of the Australian Photograph Agency, State Library of NSW*

## Keeping Up Appearances

This year the Heritage Council and Heritage Office held a practical seminar on cleaning external masonry. Seminars for heritage professionals are an important way of encouraging best practice standards for heritage conservation.

The seminar was presented at Observatory Hill in August 2002 as a joint venture with the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales).

Cleaning masonry is one of the recurrent questions directed to the Heritage Council's Technical Advisory Group, and the options are constantly changing as new methods enter the market. The seminar provided up-to-date information on cleaning methods now available and presented a balance between theory and industry involvement.

The keynote speaker was Nicola Ashurst, an international specialist in the conservation and repair of traditional masonry materials and the author of *Cleaning Historic Buildings*.

Contractors demonstrated five different techniques used for cleaning external masonry: wet abrasive, dry abrasive, chemical removal of graffiti, poultices, and gel products for the removal of paint.



The methods for cleaning external masonry are constantly changing. This year the Technical Advisory Group provided up-to-date information and demonstrations on current cleaning methods. *Photographs by Paramount Studios*