

**MINUTES OF THE 309TH MEETING, WEDNESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2005,
NSW HERITAGE OFFICE, 3 MARIST PLACE, PARRAMATTA**

undertaking archaeological works.

Tempe Bus Depot, Godden Mackay Logan is undertaking a heritage assessment.

Non Pecuniary Interests

Nil

Conflicts of Interest

Nil

2.0 Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Heritage Council Meeting 1st December 2004

Members received a copy of the minutes.

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meetings of 1st December 2004 be adopted.

3.0 Reports

3.1 Chairs Report

The Chair advised members that at the last Heritage Council meeting it discussed the proposed Redfern Waterloo Authority Bill and at that meeting it was resolved that the Chair write to the Premier, Minister Knowles, Minister Beamer and Minister Sartor in relation to a number of concerns in relation to the Bill. Members noted that the letter was sent the day after that Heritage Council meeting. Members were also advised that the Chair was contacted by Minister Sartor and subsequently had discussions with Minister Knowles with a view to amending the Bill. The Bill has now been amended to allow for consultation with the Heritage Council for affected items on the SHR.

Arising out of these discussions the Chair advised members that the legislation has been amended and he has been invited to join as member of the Redfern Waterloo Authority Board.

The Chair advised members Australian Technology Park is the most significant heritage asset within the control of the Redfern Waterloo Authority Act and that he has also been invited to become a member of the Australian Technology Park Board.

Members were also advised that the Chair has also been invited to join as a member of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, an authority with considerable heritage assets.

It was noted that the Chair has very much welcomed these appointments which he has accepted.

Members were advised that with Murray Brown of the Heritage Office he has been involved with the Premiers Commemorative Plaques Program which is to be launched on a date to be announced.

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Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the report.

3.2 Directors Report including

3.2.1 Matters approved under Delegation (Listings team)

3.2.2 Matters approved under Delegation (Conservation team)

3.2.3 Heritage Council Meeting Action Report

The Director commenced his report with congratulating the Chair on his appointments to the Redfern Waterloo Authority Board, Australian Technology Park Board and the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority.

On Friday, 10th December, 2004, the Director informed members that the Deputy Premier of NSW, Dr Andrew Refshauge, dived 19 metres to the wreck of the sailing ship *Centurion* to unveil the State's first underwater interpretive plaque at which the Chair

It was noted that the *Centurion* is one of Sydney's most visited underwater wreck sites. It is a relatively intact wreck site, is located in a reasonable depth in a protected location and is colonised with a variety of marine life. The vessel struck North Head in a squall on 16 January, 1887, while under tow. The crew escaped but the barque drifted into the harbour and sank about 300 metres WSW from the Quarantine Station.

Heritage Council member Rod Leaver provided transport to the site for the Official Party on his Riviera launch. The heavy plinth was first lowered by the Maritime Authority onto sand alongside the wreck. From aboard a Police launch, (one of about nine support/observation craft), Chair thanked the large number of government and private sponsors of the event and congratulated the Deputy Premier on his dive.

The Director informed members that in 2004 the NSW Government adopted the State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Metropolitan Water Supply) 2004. The aims of this policy is to facilitate development for water supply infrastructure to enable deep water extraction from dams supplying water to the Sydney metropolitan area, to facilitate investigation into the availability of groundwater to augment water supply to the Sydney metropolitan area (including the carrying out of exploratory drilling) and to suspend the operation of certain laws for the purposes of enabling the development referred above.

It was noted that this Policy provides that any development carried out by or on behalf of the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) in relation to this work may be carried out without development consent. Development for the purposes of deep water access infrastructure may be carried out by or on behalf of SCA without development consent or any other approval, permit or authorisation required by an environmental planning instrument. It also extends to development that is necessary for or incidental to deep water access infrastructure, including access, investigations, temporary structures, the clearing of vegetation and other works associated with the construction of the infrastructure, environmental management works and the demolition, refurbishment or alteration of existing pumping stations, pipelines and other water supply infrastructure (such as the Megarritys Creek Water Pumping Station and other Warragamba Emergency Scheme works).

Members were advised the Heritage Office participated in a teleconference with other national, principally NGOs on how the heritage agencies, organisations and professions could assist in the salvage and regeneration challenges ahead in the tsunami affected areas. Groups

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represented included ICOMOS, the Australian Council of National Trusts, RAI, Museum, Library and Underwater heritage based organisations. The meeting was useful in clarifying what actions have been undertaken to date, what the role of the various organisations has been and how best in Australia any assistance can be best targeted and co-ordinated.

It was noted that many of the professional based organisations have good international links and are well advanced in assistance roles.

It was agreed that co-ordination and integration of efforts was paramount, sensitivity to local needs, cultural practices, traditional and beliefs should be carefully observed. The Heritage Office has agreed to remain involved in a watching capacity with this reference group.

An outcome of the discussion was to raise the question of disaster preparedness in Australia generally in relation to cultural heritage. With the exception of individual organisations such as HHT, the individual libraries and galleries, there is no cross government system in place. The Heritage Office is currently addressing this issue.

Members were reminded that the National Trust Heritage Festival runs this year from 9 to 17 April. The theme this year is *Community + Heritage – celebrating 60 years*, with the focus on the relationship of the Trust with communities around NSW in protecting and conserving heritage since the Trust's formation in 1945.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the report.

3.2.4 Business Manager Report

The Business Manager presented the report.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the report.

3.2.5 Media Highlights Presentation

Members received a comprehensive report on media highlights on heritage issues over the past twelve months.

Highlights included State Heritage Register listings made during the year which provides opportunities for the Chair and Minister an outstanding example of which was the listings of the main religious icons in Sydney which received considerable media interest.

The Heritage Council visit to Bourke and Brewarrina in September 2004 was very successful and received considerable media coverage.

Many media releases are released during the year and members noted examples where these are picked up by the media.

The volunteer awards receive extensive coverage and members were advised how this event is released through local members to maximise regional coverage in the press.

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The unveiling of the plaque for the Centurian was used as an example, this involved coverage 19 meters under water, the preparation of media kits, liaison with the Deputy Premiers office, provision of audio and video leads and a rehearsal. The media cover which resulted was presented to members.

Members noted that with a full time media officer on staff this provides opportunities of presenting a balance of SHR listings with the approvals work of the office. The Office can highlight where the Heritage Council adds value to development and achievements of the Heritage Incentives Program.

It was noted that this will now become a regular item on the agenda.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the report.

3.3 Report from Members on items of importance to the Heritage Council

3.3.1 SCG Scoreboard

Members raised the issue of the view to the SCG Scoreboard behind the Doug Walters Stand and requested that the issue be looked into.

3.4 Aboriginal Heritage

Members were advised that the Aboriginal Heritage Panel last met on 18th November 2004.

It was noted that Samira Boney resigned on 15th December 2004 and Naomi Donovan has taken her place. The Heritage Office acknowledges Samira's contribution to the work of the Office.

Members were advised that the Panel have recommended three applications to the Minister for funding. These were the Casula Powerhouse Museum application for funding for the Elders Talk: Survival Day Video Project as a pro rata grant for \$16,436; Dharriwaa Elders Group Multimedia Site Register Project as a pro rata grant for \$11,960 and North Sydney/Lane Cove/Warringah/Willoughby Council School Program Volunteer Sites Officer Project as a dollar for dollar grant of \$40,000

Members were also provided with an update of listings. It was noted that the listing of Ulgundahi Island to the State Heritage Register was announced at a special function held on the Island in Maclean on the 2 December 2004 by the Minister, Diane Beamer. The island was gazetted on the 16 December. Brewarrina Mission has been recommended to the Minister for listing. Awaiting for confirmation from Minister Debus and Minister Beamer's Office for a joint listing for Yurinagh Grave and Windradyne Grave. The Aboriginal Heritage Unit was successful in listing two new Aboriginal sites to the Register in 2004, with three to be processed. The Aboriginal Heritage Unit has three new potential listings and two joint National listings for 2005.

Members were further advised that Tanya Koenaman and Robin Bryant will be joining the Panel in 2005. It was noted that it was a difficult decision for the Panel to select two candidates out of a total of eight who applied. It was also noted that the remaining six candidates who were unsuccessful were offered a role as Aboriginal Resource Officer.

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Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the report.

4.0 Matters for Consideration and Decision

4.1 Cronulla Business Park Rehabilitation and Landscape Management Plan

Members were advised that the Land and Environment Court granted two development consents on 23 January 2004 for bulk earthworks and subdivision of land at Cronulla, part of which is listed on the State Heritage Register.

It was noted that conditions imposed on both consents require the approval of the Heritage Council of NSW for a Rehabilitation and Landscape Management Plan. No delegation to the Director has been issued to exercise this function of the Heritage Council. Consultation is currently being undertaken with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources and Sutherland Shire Council regarding the Rehabilitation and Landscape Management Plan.

Members were advised that in order for the matter to be dealt with expeditiously, and to similarly deal with other applications where such conditions are imposed, it is proposed that the Heritage Council delegate the performance of its approval function (required by conditions of consent or approvals) to the Director, Approvals Committee and other staff of the Heritage Office.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council:

- 1. seek the consent of the Minister in accordance with section 169(3) of the Heritage Act, in relation to Cronulla Business Park Rehabilitation Business Plan, and delegate its approval functions imposed by conditions of consent or approvals, to the Approvals Committee, Director, Assistant Director and Principal Heritage Officers (PHOs), subject to the condition that the delegation to the PHOs is limited to those applications which will not materially affect the significance of the item; and***
- 2. authorise the Chair of the Heritage Council to sign the instrument of delegation, on behalf of the Heritage Council in accordance with the Minister's consent.***

4.2 Heritage Volunteer Awards

Members were advised that at its February 2004 meeting the Heritage Council endorsed a proposal to refine criteria and categories and assessment processes for the 2004 awards. Following the implementation of these changes in 2004 members considered a paper which proposes further ways of improving the nomination and assessment process. It also proposes an upgrade in the awards ceremony itself.

In 2004 the Heritage Council endorsed revised award categories and types of work.

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Members were further advised that in addition to specifying the category and type of work the nominee has performed nominators are now asked to supply endorsements by two other people, preferably in organisations that are different from that of the nominator. This process has been followed by community nominees, but not by organisations such as the Heritage Office, the National Trust and the Department of Environment & Conservation. As the awards develop in prestige it is important that all nominations reach an appropriate standard of presentation.

In relation to the calling of nominations and assuming that the awards ceremony will continue to be held in late October it is therefore important that the Minister's announcement is made no later than the time of the Heritage Festival each year.

With the aim of widening the net for nominations the Heritage Office will be asking all Heritage Council committees and panels to consider potential nominees for awards at their first meeting this year.

It is proposed that the assessment of nominations will again be undertaken by the Heritage Council's Strategy Committee expanded to include a former award recipient.

Members were advised that it is now an appropriate time to consider an enhanced ceremony that will build on the current prestige of the awards and attract both corporate involvement and also expanded media coverage. It is therefore proposed that the Heritage Office investigate a lunch ceremony in the Strangers' Room at Parliament House, large screen projection of moving or still images relating to the recipient's activities while the citation is read and greater involvement of the Heritage Office in providing media coverage for the event, particularly through rural media.

Resolved:***that the Heritage Council:***

- 1. request all its committees and panels to consider nominating potential award recipients for the 2005 NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards***
- 2. endorse the proposal to increase the prestige and visibility of the awards program described in this paper.***
- 3. establish a marketing sub-committee to examine finding options Mary-Lynne Taylor (Chair) Megan Jones, Jacqui Goddard, Reece McDougall, Sharon Sullivan and David Logan.***

4.3 Heritage Council Committees

Members considered a report which proposed future membership of the Approvals and State Heritage Register Committees.

The report proposed that the membership of the Approvals Committee be expanded to include a representative of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (when not already represented on the Heritage Council), and the State Heritage Register Committee be expanded to include a representative from the Institution of Engineers in order to augment the expertise of the Heritage Council in development assessment and the assessment of engineering structures.

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Resolved:

that the Heritage Council:

agrees to the representative membership of Heritage Council members to the Approvals and State Heritage Register Committee as recommended in the report and subject to confirmatory advice from the Crown Solicitor:

- 1. agrees to the augmentation of the membership of the Approvals Committee to include a representative of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (when not already represented on the Heritage Council) for a period of up to three years;***
- 2. agrees to the augmentation of the membership of the State Heritage Register Committee to include a representative of the Institution of Engineers – Sydney Division – Heritage Committee for a period of up to three years;***
- 3. writes to the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and the Institution of Engineers – Sydney Division – Heritage Committee inviting each organisation to submit three nominees for membership of the Heritage Council's Committees in line with resolutions one and two;***
- 4. delegates to the Chair and Director the selection of the appointment of representatives, from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and the Institution of Engineers – Sydney Division to enable their attendance at the March Committee meetings; and***
- 5. agrees to amend the Code of Meeting Practice to reflect the above and to grant the ability of each committee to co-opt the new Members (if approved) to the alternate committee to assist in the consideration of individual matters as necessary.***

4.4 Movable Heritage Panel

Members were advised that the Heritage Council's Movable Heritage Panel has provided invaluable service in assisting the Heritage Office to direct its attention to the listing and conservation of movable heritage items and collections.

With the primary goals of the panel now achieved, and the consideration of movable items well integrated into Heritage Office processes, it is now an appropriate time to re-define the panel as a reference group rather than a panel requiring administrative resources for regular meetings.

It is therefore proposed that the Movable Heritage Panel cease to operate as a conventional Heritage Council panel, but that its members are retained as a reference group on whose expertise the Heritage Office can call by phone, email or convene to advise on specific issues as required.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council:

- 1. supports the proposal to re-designate of the Movable Heritage Panel as the Movable Heritage Reference Group;***

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2. *thanks the Panel for their valuable assistance in achieving its aims and objectives;*
3. *requests the Office to advise the Panel members of this proposal; and*
4. *subject to responses from Panel members requests the Director to establish the new Moveable Heritage Reference Group.*

5.0 Matters for Information or Noting

5.1 Background briefing on the proposed World Heritage nomination for the Sydney Opera House

Members were advised that the NSW Premier Bob Carr has proposed that the NSW Government and the Australian Government jointly prepare a nomination to include the Sydney Opera House on the World Heritage List.

The NSW Heritage Office is project managing a nomination of the Sydney Opera House for World Heritage listing, to be submitted to UNESCO in February 2006.

It was noted that the fundamental criteria required for World Heritage listing is that an item or place has 'outstanding universal value'. Successful listing requires both a good quality nomination submission and achieving the support of the 21 national representatives entitled to vote on the World Heritage Committee.

The World Heritage Committee deadline for the submission of nominations is the first day of February each year. The nominations are examined at length with the expert help of various independent heritage organisations. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) helps in the assessment of items of 'cultural' heritage, which are visited by a delegation late in the year of submission. The World Heritage Committee then votes on each nomination in June of the following year.

The Sydney Opera House was added to the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) in 2003. It has also been nominated to the new National Heritage List. Both these heritage listings are considered desirable pre-requisites to World Heritage listing.

It was further noted that during 2003 the NSW Cabinet Office formed the 'Sydney Opera House Taskforce' composed of representatives from concerned NSW Government agencies, to help in the process of listing the Sydney Opera House on the SHR. The Sydney Opera House Taskforce plans to continue to meet regularly throughout 2005 to provide a forum for NSW Government agencies to address any State issues arising from the World Heritage nomination process.

In late 2004 the Sydney Opera House Taskforce formed the 'Sydney Opera House World Heritage Listing Nomination Steering Committee' with the primary objective to produce the best quality publication possible within the constraints of time and resources, that can be submitted as a nomination to UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in Paris by February 2006.

The first meeting of the Sydney Opera House World Heritage Listing Nomination Steering Committee was held in December 2004. The Committee is constituted by members representing the Commonwealth Department of Environment & Heritage as well as the same NSW government agencies which made up the Taskforce. The Committee is being chaired by the NSW Heritage Office's Assistant Director, Susan Macdonald.

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Members were advised that this nomination plans to propose a large 'buffer zone' around the Sydney Opera House, as recommended by World Heritage guidelines, which acknowledges the harbour setting included in earlier nominations

It was noted that since 1999, the NSW Government has resolved that the nomination of the Sydney Opera House to World Heritage listing requires a specific 'Bilateral agreement' to be reached between the NSW and Australian Governments over the management of the site. The Bilateral agreement is currently being drafted jointly by the Cabinet Office and the DEH and must be passed by both houses of Federal Parliament before the nomination is submitted in February 2006.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the report.

5.2 Productivity Commission Inquiry into Heritage – NSW Issues

Deferred to a future meeting.

5.3 Technical Advisory Panel (TAG)

Members were advised that Julian Bickersteth has been a member of TAG since April 2001. Julian has been a strong supporter of TAG's work and has contributed invaluable experience to the panels' causes. Julian is the only conservator on the TAG panel.

Mr David West, another member of TAG joined ISC, of which Julian is the Managing Director, in 2004. Therefore there remains a strong link to the work of this firm. Julian has agreed to remain on the TAG reference panel so that particular issues can be addressed to him.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council accept Julian Bickesteth's resignation and continued involvement in the TAG reference panel.

5.4 Parramatta Road Heritage Demonstration Project

Members were advised that the NSW Government is preparing a Metropolitan Strategy to respond to growth and change that will occur in the Greater Metropolitan Region of Sydney over the next 30 years. As part of the Metropolitan Strategy, Parramatta Road has been identified as a 'corridor' for renewal.

It was noted that in May 2004 the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources set up a taskforce to plan and manage the revitalization of Parramatta Road. The Parramatta Road Taskforce is chaired by Professor David Richmond AO, Chairman of the Sydney Olympic Park and includes representatives from eight local councils (Leichhardt, Marrickville, Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Strathfield, Auburn and Parramatta), Roads and Traffic Authority, Sydney Olympic Park, the Government Architect and the Heritage Office. The road has been divided into four sectors and councils are preparing structure plans that focus on managing change and setting new directions for integrated development of the built environment. The structure planning process recognises that heritage places and values need to be protected and well managed.

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Following an overview presentation of heritage items along Parramatta Road at the Taskforce meeting of 10th November 2004 it was recommended that the Heritage Office identify potential heritage demonstration sites that could be conserved and enhanced. They could serve as a catalyst to encourage the good management of other heritage items.

The Heritage Demonstration Project will aim to conserve and enhance the physical appearance of all elements of the items, add to the local amenity and serve as a catalyst for the community to enhance other heritage items in a similar manner.

In December 2004 DIPNR approved funding of \$50,000 to assist the Heritage Office in completing this project. A small team has been established within the Office to complete this project.

The Heritage Office anticipates that a final report will be completed in early March for the Taskforce's consideration.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note this Report.

5.5 Heritage Office Heritage Council Web Site Review

Members were advised that the Heritage Office Website has required design and navigation updates for some time to improve ease of use for visitors to the site.

It was noted that in January 2005 an upgrade was commenced that aims to achieve a reduction in the number of main menu items, more on-screen navigation information, an increase in the size of the smaller text and automatic resizing of pages to fit any computer monitor or printer page. The new design will also lower the complexity of the page layout to reduce the time required to maintain and update the information content.

Members received a demonstration of the new website and the GIS feature which shows the distribution of State Heritage Register items over the State.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the presentation.

6.0 Reports from Heritage Council Committees and Panels

- 6.1 Approvals Committee
- 6.2 State Heritage Register
- 6.3 Strategy Committee
- 6.4 Aboriginal Heritage Advisory Panel
- 6.5 Archaeology Advisory Panel
- 6.6 Fire Access Services Advisory Panel
- 6.7 History Advisory Panel
- 6.8 Maritime Advisory Panel
- 6.9 Movable Heritage Panel
- 6.10 Religious Property Advisory Panel
- 6.11 Technical Advisory Group

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Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the reports.

7.0 General Business

Nil

8.0 Presentations

Deferred to a future meeting.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 12.30 pm.

Michael Collins
Chair
Heritage Council of NSW
Date:

Next Meeting of the Heritage Council of NSW
Wednesday 2nd February 2005
NSW Heritage Office
3 Marist Place
Parramatta