

**HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW
MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING**

Meeting Number 338

2nd April 2008

Heritage Branch, Department of Planning
3 Marist Place
Parramatta



PRESENT Gabrielle Kibble AO (Chair), Sharon Sullivan AO (Deputy Chair), Rosemary Annable, Petula Samios (for Director General, Department of Planning), Peter Mould (Government Architect), Chris Johnson (Department of Planning), Tina Jackson (National Trust of Australia [NSW]), David Logan, Paul House (for Director-General Department of Environment and Conservation)

APOLOGIES Hewitt Whyman, John Robertson, Ross Fitzgerald, Julie Bindon

ALSO PRESENT Cameron White (Heritage Branch), Colleen Klingberg (Heritage Branch), Vincent Sicari (Heritage Branch)

1. Opening – Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.00 am.

1.2 Confirmation and Timing of Agenda

The agenda was confirmed.

1.3 Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary Interests	Nil
Non Pecuniary Interests	Nil
Conflict of Interest	Nil

2.0 Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Heritage Council Meeting of 13th February 2008 and Special Meeting of 5th March 2008.

Members considered minutes of the meetings of 13th February and 5th March 2008.

Resolved:

- 1. that the Heritage Council adopt the minutes of 13th February 2008.**
- 2. that the Heritage Council adopt the minutes of 5th March 2008.**

3.0 Reports

3.1 Chairs Report

The Chair advised that she attended the annual Heritage Chairs and Officials Australia and New Zealand meeting in Cairns with Tim Smith, Senior Heritage Officer Heritage Branch, on 27-28 March. This was the first opportunity to meet the National Chairs and Departmental representatives. Reports were received on current joint projects, targeted studies, and opportunities to gain benefits of sharing good work practices occurring in other states. The report presented by NSW was of high standard and the staff should be complemented on their work. Discussions were held in regards to having a central heritage listings database managed at a commonwealth level to allow for ready comparative assessments and to facilitate annual reporting and research needs. Development of a national portal or database system will require a common set of fields and data transfer capability. The Chair commented on the need for of a focussed agenda for the HCOANZ and better alignment of the group's work with the EPBC Standing Committee forum. The next meeting is to be held in August 2008.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council of NSW notes the report.

3.2 Director's 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 of the Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, Petula Samios presented her report covering.

- **AE2 submarine project, Turkey**

Senior Heritage Officer Tim Smith will travel to Istanbul 22-30 April to attend a workshop on management options for the Australian submarine wreck AE2. Lost during the Gallipoli Campaign on 30 April 1915, Mr Smith is Director of the project assessing the submarine.

- **Section 170 Workshop – maritime sector**

Another successful NSW State agency workshop was held for the maritime sector at historic Fort Denison on 28 February 2008. Hosted by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, the meeting provided an opportunity for agencies dealing with maritime infrastructure assets both in the water and the near shore. Participants provided an update of their heritage asset management programs, and major strategic focuses.

- **EPH SC meeting, Adelaide**

The Standing Committee of the Environmental Protection and Heritage Council met in Adelaide on 13 March. Key topics considered at the meeting included (1) World Heritage, (2) the proposed Cooperative National Heritage Agenda 'Comprehensive national heritage Inventory and Information Portal' Project and (3) the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the protection of the underwater cultural heritage.

- **Coal ships anchoring off Newcastle**

The Heritage Branch has received many concerned calls from recreational divers about coal ships anchoring near historic shipwrecks over the Easter weekend. These ships regularly anchor off Newcastle-Central Coast awaiting an opportunity to enter harbour. However their long anchor chain deployments can result in significant damage to fragile shipwrecks. The Heritage Branch has urgently requested the Australian Hydrographic Office to electronically chart wrecks in the immediate vicinity for access by Ship's Masters. The Heritage Branch will also formally contact the Newcastle Harbour Master requesting opportunities to develop a mooring protocol with visiting ships.

- **Hillview**

Legal action is currently on hold pending negotiations.

- **Linnwood**

Transfer of the Linnwood Estate, Holroyd from Department of Education to the Ministerial Corporation Sole is currently being undertaken. Negotiations between Holroyd Council and the Department are continuing to effect transfer of Linnwood Hall to Council. Options for rezoning and subsequent subdivision and disposal for lot facing Tamplin Road are being discussed with the Minister.

- **Local government heritage management day 14 March 2008**

50 local government heritage officers and heritage advisors attended the Local Government Heritage Management day hosted by the Heritage Branch. There were discussion sessions in the morning on topics including Aboriginal heritage studies, heritage and comprehensive LEPs, and exempt and complying development. An afternoon workshop focused on preparing and updating local government heritage strategies and annual reporting requirements, both required as part of the funding provided to local government for heritage advisors.

- **Staffing**

In relation to staffing of the Heritage Branch the Director advised that Vincent Sicari is taking Rec/Long Service leave from early May till the end of the year. David Nutley leaving to take up position of Principal Maritime Heritage Officer with Heritage South Australia. Max Gray has been transferred to the Office of the Director General. Yvonne Kaiser-Glass currently on secondment with Sydney Water has resigned after being offered a permanent position with them. The Director also thanked them for their significant contributions to the work of the Heritage Branch. Colleen Klingberg will take up the role as Secretariat for the Heritage Council.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council of NSW notes the report.

3.3 Member's Report

Members were advised by Sharon Sullivan that she recently attended a Back to the 50's Celebration in Armidale at which she was invited to present the Heritage Awards representing the Heritage Council. Sharon advised that she was impressed by the high standard reflected in the awards particularly in the architecture in private buildings in Armidale.

Resolved:**that the Heritage Council of NSW notes the report.**

4.0 Matters for Consideration and Decision

4.1 2008 NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards

Members considered a report for the Heritage Council to endorse, in principle, the program for the 2008 NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards and to endorse, in principle, a new initiative to broaden the Awards program to include a section for senior high school students who undertake volunteer heritage conservation in support of their local community.

It was recognised that volunteering is a fundamental part of heritage conservation work in Australia. Heritage work is particularly attractive to seniors, the fastest growing sector of the Australian population. Many of the projects funded through the Heritage Incentives Program would not be possible without the involvement of volunteers.

The NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards recognise the outstanding performance of individuals and community organisations that have fulfilled the following assessment criteria:

- Significantly improved the profile of heritage management in their local communities;
- Motivated and managed heritage projects; and
- Promoted the value of heritage by significant means and through exemplary service.

It is proposed to hold the awards ceremony in mid-November and as such a timetable of actions will need to be developed to allow appropriate time for processing the nominations and organising the event. In accordance with the practice in previous years nominations will be via publication of nomination form on the Heritage Branch website and will also be sought by letter from the Heritage Council's key partners, such as the National Trust, Historic Houses Trust, Royal Australian Historical Society, Department of Environment and Climate Change and Museums & Galleries NSW.

The assessment of nominations will be undertaken by the Heritage Council's Strategy Committee expanded to include a former award recipient. Assessment will again be based on:

- quality of the nominee's contribution to heritage conservation;
- spread of nominees across categories and types of work; and
- geographical representation.

The proposal to develop a NSW Government Youth Heritage Awards program as an adjunct to the existing program was discussed. The aim of this new program will be to encourage young people to become more actively involved in their local community as heritage volunteers. Recipients for these awards is envisaged as senior high school students involved in local heritage studies, Aboriginal heritage, environmental heritage projects, local historical societies, heritage research, physical conservation and restoration projects, education and promotional heritage activities within their local community.

Members discussed the need to develop methods / tools to engage young peoples interest in heritage in the community. Engaging young people through the use of technology was discussed and the need to have input from youth as to best way achieving this. Program needs to be developed in the first instance to encourage the youth participation in heritage.

Possible ideas included the use of a competition. A possible opportunity that could be explored was identified in the very successful competition currently run by the National Trust for students in schools to carry out heritage projects. Also it was identified that a possible avenue to promote heritage to youth could be through the current environment centres which have been setup for that purpose.

It was also recognised that youth could also encompass students at university where for example architectural students or IT students work on a project.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council of NSW

- 1. endorse in principle the 2008 Heritage Awards Program.**
- 2. note that further work will be undertaken to determine the feasibility of a youth based Heritage Awards program to be held in conjunction with the main Heritage Awards Program.**
- 3. note a briefing note will be sent to the Minister for Planning informing him of the 2008 Heritage Awards Program.**

4.2 FASAP Membership

Members considered a report regards to the change of the NSW Fire Brigade representative on the Fire Access and Services Advisory Panel, (FASAP).

Representation from the NSW Fire Brigades has been constant since the formation of this Panel in September 1984. This representation has been important in providing unified responses about significant sites when upgrading is being proposed.

The NSW Fire Brigades has been represented by Mr Maurie Parker since December 2005. Mr Parker has now left the Brigades.

The Brigades have suggested Supt Christopher Jurgeit, Manager, Structural Fire Safety Unit as his replacement. Mr Jugeit has considerable experience in this area and currently also sits on the Building Reform Advisory Committee (BRAC) with other members of the Panel.

Resolved :

that the Heritage Council of NSW appoints Supt Christopher Jurgeit as the NSW Fire Brigades representative on the Fire Access and Services Advisory Panel (FASAP).

4.3 Membership of the State Heritage Register Committee

Members considered a report outlining the current membership of the State Heritage Register Committee. The report recommended that the Chair of the Heritage Council be appointed as a member of the Heritage Council's State Heritage Register Committee.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council of NSW appoint Ms Gabrielle Kibble as a member of the Heritage Council's State Heritage Register Committee.

5.0 Matters for Information or Noting

5.1 M24 Japanese Midget Submarine Wreck Inspection Report.

Senior heritage officer and M24 project Manager Tim Smith addressed the Members. The December 2007 preliminary Wreck Inspection Report on the Japanese midget submarine wreck M24, was tabled. The report summarises the discovery, management, protection and archaeological survey outcomes of the State Heritage Register listed Imperial Japanese midget submarine M24. The report was officially released in February 2008.

The report has identified the site to be of national heritage significance and a possible future nomination to the National Heritage List will be explored. Key findings include the likelihood that its two-man crew are retained within the historic wreck site and that the site contains potentially volatile unexploded ordnance. A critical finding is that the midget was lost en-route to an earlier proposed northern rendezvous location. This is against earlier views that the recovery position was fixed off the Royal National Park to Sydney's south. The report's release has attracted media interest, most recently from Japanese media outlets.

An article on the report's release will be included in the forthcoming Autumn issue of *Heritage NSW*, produced by the Heritage Branch, Department of Planning.

The report is available on the Heritage Branch web site, together with a two-page Shipwreck Information Sheet, summarising the discovery and archaeological survey operations. Web site statistics for February 2008 indicate that 470 people have accessed the report, making it one of the top twenty downloaded features.

The work that has been carried out by Tim Smith and the Heritage Branch has been revolutionary and is a demonstration of very good conservation work, bringing together significant management issues in this cutting edge project.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council of NSW

- 1. notes the tabled Wreck Inspection Report and media interest in the findings**
- 2. endorses the production of a soft cover book regarding the archaeology of the site.**

5.2 Update on Integration of the former Heritage Office with the Department of Planning

Petula Samios, Director of Heritage Branch presented the members with a verbal update on the Integration of the former Heritage Office with the Department of Planning. Key points to note are:

- No lesser archaeological support or advice will be provided by the newly-named Heritage Branch, Department of Planning.
- Core functions of the Heritage Act, such as advice on the conservation of movable heritage, will continue unaffected.
- The current Local Government Heritage Advisers Network will continue, with support as before from the Heritage Branch.
- No change within the Heritage Branch, Department of Planning is proposed to previous practice concerning State Heritage Register listings.
- The Heritage Branch will provide the same technical and administrative support to the NSW Heritage Council as did the Heritage Office.
- The transfer of some Heritage staff into the Department's plan-making, development assessment and policy processes will enhance heritage considerations earlier in the decision making process.
- The Heritage Branch Management team is preparing a business plan for the next twelve months including resourcing needs.
- The integration of the Branch into the Department requires a change of work practices from both the staff throughout the Department and the Heritage Branch.

The members expressed a concern in regards to the amount of mis-information in the media concerning the changes to the Heritage Branch. The Director advised that the Heritage Branch is working with media unit and the Minister's Office to address these concerns expressed.

The members requested that the Director provides them with a diagram illustrating the new lines of reporting and the proposal on how communication links are going to be maintained between the staff to be located in other locations of the Department and the staff at the Heritage Branch.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council of NSW

- 1. notes the report and media interest in the changes occurring**
- 2. requests the Director to provide the members a diagram illustrating the new lines of reporting.**
- 3. requests the Director to advise proposed communication strategy between Heritage staff across the Department.**

6.0 Reports from Heritage Council Committees and Panels

- 6.1 Approvals Committee
- 6.2 State Heritage Register Committee
- 6.3 Aboriginal Heritage Advisory Panel
- 6.4 Archaeology Advisory Panel
- 6.5 Fire Access Services Advisory Panel
- 6.6 History Advisory Panel
- 6.7 Maritime Archaeology Advisory Panel
- 6.8 Technical Advisory Panel

6.9 Religious Property Advisory Panel

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council of NSW

- 1. note in addition to the report received from the State Heritage Register committee, the committee at its last meeting had resolved to adopt a strategic approach to listings and once that has been developed it will be presented to the Heritage Council.**
- 2. notes the reports.**

7.0 General Business

7.1 Declarations of Interest

Members discussed the use of Declarations of Interest Forms. It was agreed that when addressing an item where a member may have a conflict of interest that the member verbally inform the Heritage Council and it is noted.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council members make Declarations of Interest verbally and that these declarations be recorded in the minutes.

7.2 Nobby's Headland, Newcastle Development Proposal

Members discussed the current development in regards to the Nobbys Headland, Newcastle. Due to the proposal affecting commonwealth owned land the development requires approval for the Federal Minister who has announced intention to not approve the proposed development of restaurant and accommodation at the site.

Resolved:

that the Minister for Planning be briefed on the current situation in regards to the site and the previous recommendations made by the Heritage Council.

8.0 Presentations

8.1 Geoff Bailey, Executive Director, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

The members received a presentation from Mr Geoff Bailey, Executive Director, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. They were advised that the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust was established by the Commonwealth in 2001. The Harbour Trust has the role to conserve and preserve land in the Sydney Harbour region for the benefit of present and future generations of Australians. The sites include Cockatoo Island; Former School of Artillery, North Head; Macquarie Light Station;

Former Marine Biological Station, Watsons Bay; Woolwich Dock and Parklands; Snapper Island; HMAS Platypus; Georges Heights, Chowder Bay and Middle Head.

These are former Defence and other special Commonwealth lands, most of which have been hidden away from the community for many years. The lands are in public ownership. The Harbour Trust is creating something truly special for these lands - to enhance the harbour and leave a lasting legacy for Sydney. The lands provide an amazing opportunity for Sydney. They contain historic buildings and areas of pristine natural vegetation, magnificent views of the harbour and a record of our city's Aboriginal, maritime and defence heritage. The cultural heritage of the lands will be conserved, the environment protected and maximum public access provided.

A Draft Plan for the lands was placed on public exhibition towards the end of 2002. Following receipt of submissions, a revised plan was submitted to the Minister for Environment and Heritage in March 2003. The Plan was approved by the Minister for Environment and Heritage in September 2003. The Plan sets out a vision for these sites and includes a process for preparing more detailed management plans for specific precincts, places or buildings. The Harbour Trust is currently preparing detailed site management plans and the outcomes of these are being implemented through on-ground work that opens sites up to the public and rehabilitates buildings and facilities.

The sites are gradually being opened up to the public. While some sites are publicly accessible from sunrise to sunset every day, others are accessible by guided tour only. Community involvement is vital to the Harbour Trust's work and the only way that the Harbour Trust can produce effective and representative plans for the future of these lands.

One of the major challenges faced by the Trust has been decontamination of the sites and the need to replace the majority of all services to the sites. Public access to the sites is continuously increasing along with an increase proportion of buildings being commercially leased providing revenue.

The members thanked Mr Geoff Bailey for his very informative presentation and complimented the Trust on its work to date.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council of NSW notes the report

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 11.00am.

Next Meeting of the Heritage Council of NSW

Wednesday 7th May 2008
Heritage Branch, Department of Planning
3 Marist Place, Parramatta