

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

Meeting Number 317

5th October 2005

NSW Heritage Office, 3 Marist Place, Parramatta



PRESENT Mary-Lynne Taylor (Deputy Chair), Teresa Gaye (for Director-General Department of Environment and Conservation), Ross Fitzgerald, Jacqui Goddard (National Trust of Australia [NSW]) John Delaney, Gary Prattley (Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources) Bruce Pettman (for Government Architect), Sharon Sullivan, Ian Jack, Susan Macdonald (for Director Heritage Office)

APOLOGIES Michael Collins (Chair), Reece McDougall (Director Heritage Office), Megan Jones, David Logan, Peter Mould

ALSO PRESENT Maxwell Gray (Heritage Office), Cameron White (Heritage Office), Vincent Sicari (Heritage Office), Susan Macdonald (Heritage Office) Murray Brown (Heritage Office), Susan McHattie (Heritage Office),

1. Opening – Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.00 a.m.

1.2 Confirmation and Timing of Agenda

The agenda was confirmed.

Two late papers were circulated at the meeting (1) Old Marulan Township; (2) the Aboriginal Heritage Committee report.

1.3 Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary Interests

Nil

Non Pecuniary Interests

Nil

Conflicts of Interest

Nil

2.0 Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Heritage Council Meeting of 8th September 2005

Members received a copy of the minutes.

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meetings of 8th September 2005 be adopted.

3.0 Reports

3.1 Chairs Report

Apologies were received from the Chair, who was attending a meeting of the Australia and New Zealand Heritage Chairs and Officials in New Zealand at the time of the Heritage Council Meeting.

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

Members were advised that the Heritage Office made significant contributions to the conference organised by Engineers Australia held from the 21st to 23rd September 2005 at the Powerhouse Museum. The conference theme was "Sustaining Heritage".

Members were advised Allen Consulting are completing their draft reports for the Heritage Chairs' final submission to the Productivity Commission. The results for the survey work for the project, which consists of a discrete choice modelling exercise to 2000 Australians has been received. These results will now be reviewed by the Office.

Susan Macdonald advised the members that she has been presenting some short talks for the RAIA group on the Design in Context publication and receiving positive feedback. The intention is to roll the document out to local government and a program for achieving this will be prepared on completion of the Productivity Commission work.

Members were advised Cameron White and Susan Macdonald attended Elsa's farewell at the National Trust on the 22 September. Elsa's contribution to the National Trust and to heritage conservation in NSW was celebrated by many of her colleagues, friends, National Trust members and staff. The Heritage Office congratulates Elsa on her achievements.

Members were advised the work on the Sydney Opera House World Heritage Nomination is proceeding with comments from an international peer review now due.

Members were advised that the public consultation regarding the Heritage Council's intention to consider the listing of Braidwood on the State Heritage Register is now in its final phase. Following the consultation meetings with the business community on 17 August and 6 September a meeting with landowners in the listing curtilage was held on 12 September.

On 12 September the Director and Heritage Council Chair also met with councillors and senior staff of Palerang Council to discuss the proposed listing. In that meeting the Director confirmed his offer of \$20,000 for a Braidwood local heritage fund and funding for a report to assist Palerang Council to investigate tourism opportunities that are expected to flow from the listing.

Distribution difficulties hampered the dissemination of the 2nd Braidwood Matters newsletter, with many residents failing to receive a copy. These difficulties were corrected by the publication of the 3d edition as a colour insert in The Braidwood Times on 21 September. This edition featured answers to questions raised in the business meetings that had previously been emailed to participants. The 4th edition will cover responses to questions raised by the landowners.

A draft of the Office of Rural Affairs' rural impact statement was received by the Heritage Office on 16 September, two weeks later than the originally agreed deadline. In view of this delay the Director has extended the public consultation period to 21 October, giving the community time to consider the statement, which will be released following the incorporation of comments and corrections by the Heritage Office and Palerang Council.

Murray Brown and Elaine Stewart attended the monthly Braidwood market day on 24 September to distribute Heritage Office publications and additional copies of Braidwood Matters. The response to this initiative was overwhelmingly positive.

The Heritage Council will consider a Heritage Office recommendation on the proposed listing, including a summary of all submissions received, at its November meeting.

Members were advised that the previous appointee to the position of Senior Heritage Officer, Promotions Team (Heritage Incentives Program), created by the retirement of Dennis McManus, had failed to take up the appointment. Re-advertisement has occurred and interviews were held on 21 September. The successful appointee is Miriam Stacy, currently a senior heritage planner with Christchurch City Council, New Zealand and formerly eight years' experience with the National Parks & Wildlife Service. She is not expected to be able to take up the position until the Christmas/New Year period. Dennis McManus will stay on as a consultant to launch the 2006-2008 program next month and assist with the handover to Ms Stacy.

Members were advised that the Heritage Office had appointed Siobhan Lavelle to the position of Senior Heritage Officer - Archaeologist in the Conservation Team.

Members were advised on 24th October Chair Michael Collins, Reece McDougall, Vincent Sicari and Susan Macdonald met with Parramatta Council Lord Mayor David Borger, General Manager John Neish and Stephen Kerr to discuss a range of issues relating to the heritage of Parramatta. This was a fruitful exchange and it was agreed

to investigate means of working together to achieve our mutual aims of enhancing the role of heritage in Parramatta's regeneration.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the report.

3.2.4 Business Manager Report - Confidential

Susan McHattie spoke to the report.

Following the Heritage Council endorsement of the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan in September 2005, members were advised a briefing note is being prepared for Minister Sartor on the Strategic Plan. In this context it is proposed to discuss with him the directions for the office in the next twelve months, including potential to prepare a new Heritage Policy, and his willingness to review the legislation to support further cost recovery, on the spot fines, and streamlining of assessment processes.

Members were advised that the Management Team is preparing a Work Plan for 2005-2006, based on the priorities within the Strategic Plan, available resources and a risk analysis for the Office. Consultation with the Minister and staff will inform the final work plan. The work plan will comprise three streams of work:

- Statutory or necessary programs
- Projects to improve outcomes, increase resources or demonstrate value at a "whole of Office" level.
- Projects to improve outcomes, increase resources or demonstrate value at a Team level.

Susan McHattie thanked the National Trust for the use of their facilities by the Management Team to workshop the workplan.

Members were advised that an increase in statutory or required work may impact on project resources and timeframes. The work plan and budget will be reviewed on a quarterly basis to adjust for variations in the volume of statutory and other required work.

It is proposed that additional initiatives are scheduled in the forward program for 2006-2010. Any urgent additional work agreed to be undertaken in the course of the financial year will require deferral or deletion of endorsed work plan projects.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the report.

3.2.5 Media Highlights Presentation

Murray Brown presented the Media Report for the period: Aug-Sept 2005

Members were advised that the major heritage issues this period were

- Braidwood and its Setting – Consideration for listing; the issue continues to feature prominently in *Braidwood Times*. The Heritage Office has also published a newsletter (*Braidwood Matters*) as an insert in the paper;
- Evans Head Aerodrome site agreement on the plan of management;
- Convict Trail Project and RTA Bridges – ABC Stateline ran a story on historic bridges. Members viewed a DVD copy of the program.

Members were advised that the Heritage Office carried out the following pre event work for the recent Heritage Council Visit to Bega Valley Shire in September:

- Three media releases were prepared covering the Aboriginal heritage forum;
- Radio interviews preceding visit broadcast on ABC Bega and 2EC Power FM;
- Videographer commissioned to provide broadcast quality electronic news releases.

This work resulted in the following media coverage:

- WIN TV (three news stories broadcast on 9 September (maritime heritage), 12 September (Aboriginal heritage) and 16 September 2005 (grants and Tathra wharf) – members viewed tapes of these items);
- Four separate radio interviews on local ABC and commercial radio stations;
- Coverage in Bega, Eden, Merimbula and Wollongong local press (7 stories).

Upcoming media events that the office is preparing include:

- Listing of Rathmines Flying Boat Base, Lake Macquarie;
- Announcement of Heritage Incentives Program 2006 – 2008;
- NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards Presentation – 10 November 2005.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the report.

3.2.6 Aboriginal Heritage Report

John Delaney presented his report.

Members were advised that since the last Heritage Council meeting in September, the Aboriginal Heritage Panel has not held any further meetings. The next scheduled meeting is to be held on the 28th November.

During the past month the following has occurred:

- The Aboriginal Heritage Unit continues to be very busy with attending community meetings and conferences and working on ongoing projects.
- Adell has recently been appointed as the new Indigenous representative for the Interpretation Association of Australia.
- Adell and Naomi during the past month have been finalising and co-ordinating the Aboriginal Panel forum at Eden and the Heritage Council/Panel site visit to Biamanga.

- Both attended the Illawarra & South East Regional Coordination Management Group Aboriginal Government Employees Network Conference on the 20th & 21st September at South Durras. The conference was attended by over 70 Aboriginal employees from government agencies and was an opportunity for the Office to network with local Aboriginal representatives within government.
- On the 27th September Adell and Naomi attended meetings in Coonabarabran to discuss the Burra Bee Dee listing. A meeting was held with a local farmer, the land on which the old Mission school stands and discussions are underway about the possible relocation of the school.
- Further meetings were held with the local Elders' group and the Local Aboriginal Land Council. The Office has been invited to attend the next LALC meeting on the 25th October, and a further meeting will be convened with stakeholders regarding the development of a management board to produce a Conservation Management Strategy for Burra Bee Dee Mission.
- The Office has received two new applications for funding which are currently being assessed.
- The Office is awaiting for details regarding the joint Ministerial announcement of the listing of Yurinagh's Grave and Windradyne's Grave from the Minister's Office.

Bega Regional Visit Highlights

- The community forum held at Jigmay Farm Eden was well attended by both local community members, local government representatives and Aboriginal organisations.
- It was a great opportunity for all to discuss and listen to the current issues communities are facing regarding cultural heritage and natural resource management.
- Informal presentations were given by representatives from DEC, CMA's, Umburra Cultural Centre and the Eden LALC.
- Overall the afternoon was informative and a great way for both the Panel members and representatives to network with members of the region's communities.
- Friday's site visit, although disappointing to not have the community numbers expected by the Office to attend, was an opportunity to experience Aboriginal culture from a different perspective. It was a chance for members to experience Aboriginal lore and tradition.

Susan Macdonald complimented John Delaney on his speech at Andrew Refshauge's farewell. John's speech was a wonderful tribute to the Minister on his positive role in Aboriginal Heritage.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the report.

3.3 Report from Members on Items of Importance to the Heritage Council

Nil

4.0 Matters for Consideration and Decision

4.1 Increasing Listings on the State Heritage Register

Bruce Baskerville spoke to the paper.

At present, there are 1500 items listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR). Details on the following were outlined in the report and discussed by the members; the number of State Heritage Register nominations added to the Register in the past 6 years, the specific items listed in 2004-2005, the additional listings advanced in 2004-2005, and the proportion of item types listed on the SHR, and listed in the past financial year.

The achievement of a comprehensive State Heritage Register of the State's most important heritage items is a stated aim of the Heritage Council and Heritage Office Strategic Plan. The report presented Stage 1 of an overall review of listing processes undertaken by the Heritage Office to better achieve a comprehensive Register. Two actions are recommended for adoption by the Heritage Council as Stage 1 of the Streamlining Listings Strategy:

- Adoption of a State Heritage Register Nominations Acceptance Policy; and
- Revisions to State Heritage Register Listing Reports (Committee and Delegated).

The recommended actions arise out of the discussion paper that was considered by the State Heritage Register (SHR) Committee at its May 2005 meeting, subsequent Listings Team workshops on streamlining options, and investigations of how equivalent agencies from Victoria, England and Canberra manage the same listing issues. The implementation of this first stage of the Strategy would be a significant advancement in streamlining the key factors which determine the rate of listings, whilst still maintaining the integrity and transparency of the listing process and the Register.

Members were advised that a number of factors have been identified that impact on the rate at which items can be added to the Register. These were detailed in the Discussion Paper considered by the SHR Committee at its May 2005 meeting. In summary, the key factors are:

1. **Nominations adequacy:** adequacy of information supplied with nominations for the purpose of SHR listing.
2. **Heritage Act steps:** number of separate steps required by the Heritage Act for each listing.
3. **Information requirements:** minimum level of information for each listing to ensure the integrity of the Register and to guide future management of items, eg. State significance assessment and land parcel details of the item.
4. **Curtilage:** determining the listing boundary based on significance, with GIS plan.

5. **Consultation and Stakeholders:** number, extent and complexity of consultation with owners and other stakeholders, and the owners' knowledge of and views regarding the nomination.
6. **Development issues:** resolution of development issues before listing.
7. **Documentation:** internal and public documents required for every listing, eg. Heritage Council reports, documents available on the internet for the item inventory, curtilage map and photographs, notification letters and advertisements.
8. **Site specific Exemptions:** if required in addition to the Standard Exemptions.
9. **Nominations on hand:** management of existing nominations, currently 507 items.
10. **Other major team responsibilities:** such as assessment of Interim Heritage Order nominations and Section 170 Registers, Aboriginal community liaison and nominations assessment, Aboriginal heritage grants, coordination of NSW Government response to Commonwealth nominations, maritime heritage and management of Heritage Council Advisory Panels (Aboriginal, History, Maritime, and Interpretation).

Members were advised that the Streamlining Listings Strategy – Stage 1 forms the first part of an overall review of methods to increase the rate of listings. The implementation of this first stage would be a significant advancement in streamlining two of the ten key factors which affect the rate of listings of:

Key Factor 1 - nominations adequacy; and

Key Factor 7 - listing documentation requirements.

Streamlining Listings Strategy – Stage 1 will contribute towards improving the timeframes for listing and achieving a comprehensive State Heritage Register, whilst still maintaining the integrity and transparency of the listing process and the Register. The eventual aim of the streamlining strategies is to reduce the number of incomplete community nominations on hand within the Office and freeing up resources to allow the Office to approach nominations in a more strategic and thematic manner.

Members were asked to provide comments to the Heritage Office on the nominations process as discussed in the meeting.

After consideration of the recommendation members

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council:

1. **adopts the Streamlining Listings Strategy – Stage 1:**
 - a. **State Heritage Register Nominations Acceptance Policy (as outlined in this report);**
 - b. **Revisions to the State Heritage Register Listing Reports (State Heritage Register Committee and Delegated Reports)(as outlined in this report); and**

- 2. directs the Heritage Office to prepare a revised nominations form and accompanying guideline document outlining the State Heritage Register Nominations Acceptance Policy for publication on the Heritage Office Website; and**
- 3. notes that further streamlining measures will be presented to the Heritage Council in the future as Stage 2 of the Streamlining Listings Strategy.**

4.2 Old Marulan Township (Late Paper)

Vince Sicari spoke re this matter providing the members and update on this site.

Members were advised that, following the resolutions of the Heritage Council at the September meeting, the applicant was initially not comfortable with the conditions of consent. Ongoing discussions have taken place and have now achieved agreement. It was noted that there was no need for a further paper to be presented to the Heritage Council as the majority of items in the September resolution only required clarification.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council note the report.

4.3 Centenary of NSW State Arms in 2006

Bruce Baskerville spoke to the paper.

Members were advised that next year, 2006, will mark the centenary of the State Arms. The NSW Coat of Arms (the State Arms) were assigned and granted in 1906 by King Edward VII. The Arms were designed by the NSW Government Printer, William Applegate Gullick, who was one of the State's foremost heraldic experts in his time, following in a tradition exemplified by heraldic experts such as NSW Colonial Architect James Barnet, NSW Marine Board President Captain Francis Hixson and Professor Charles Badham of Sydney University. Between them these men designed the State badge, the State flag, the State motto, and the State Arms, drawing in all cases upon a long heraldic tradition in the colony and State.

Members were advised of the specific roles of the Heritage Council under the State Arms, Symbols and Emblems Act 2004, notably in providing advice to the Premier of the heritage significance of official coats of arms that they form an integral part of some public buildings, and on the conservation of official coats of arms. The Heritage Council is the only body in the State with any statutory responsibility for official heraldry, and is the appropriate body to commemorate an anniversary as significant as the centenary of the granting of the State Arms.

Members were advised as there is an opportunity to commemorate the centenary with a small event, possibly an exhibition, that would demonstrate government leadership in the management of its own heritage items, encourage other State

agencies to be proactive in managing their heraldic heritage, and encourage nominations of heraldic items for SHR listing.

The members discussed the recommendation that the Heritage Council agree to commemorate the centenary of the State Arms through an appropriate event, preferably in partnership with other agencies, and invite nominations of heraldic heritage for SHR listing. It was noted that a number of agencies and manufacturers have expressed an interest in participating. Other ideas suggested as a result of the discussion included the possibility of the production of a stamp or conservation postmark.

Members were asked to provide ideas to Bruce Baskerville for celebrating Heraldry.

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council:

- 1. Agrees to commemorate the centenary of the assigning of the State Arms in 2006,**
- 2. Requests the Heritage Office to co-ordinate a commemorative event, in partnerships where possible with other State agencies and the private sector, and**
- 3. Invites the submission of nominations for significant heraldic items to be considered for SHR listing in conjunction with the commemorative event.**

4.4 NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards

Murray Brown spoke to the paper.

Members were advised at its September 2004 meeting the Heritage Council endorsed re-defined criteria and the encouragement of group as well as individual nominations for the 2005 awards.

Last month the Heritage Council's Strategy Committee approved the presentation of 26 certificates in the 2005 awards. A total of 32 nominations was considered by the judging panel.

In considering the nominations it was found that, while built heritage still tops the heritage category list, the new category of cultural heritage is the second highest in rank. The most remarkable feature in the type of work categories is the domination of historical research (44%) and the significant drop in representation of physical conservation from 44% last year to 15% in 2005.

The distribution of nominees across the state is not as good as last year, when only four were nominated from the Sydney metropolitan area. This year 19 nominees are from the metropolitan area, or 60% of all nominations. The rural areas percentage of 40% compares poorly with the 70-80% weighting given to non-metropolitan areas in Heritage Incentives Program funding.

Members were advised the judging panel recognised that the awarding of 32 certificates would lengthen the awards ceremony considerably, as well as adding to the drain on Heritage Office resources in preparing for the awards. In view of the heavy weighting towards the built heritage category and nominees in the Sydney metropolitan area it decided to cull six nominations from these categories, leading to a total of 26 nominees to receive awards this year. The culled nominations will be included for consideration in the 2006 awards program. The panel also agreed to re-consider nominations that had been culled from the nominations list in 2003 in next year's program.

The Chair encouraged members to attend the upcoming Volunteer Awards on 10 November.

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council:

- 1. approve 26 or 27 nominations for the 2005 NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards;**
- 2. agree that the culled nominations for 2005, and the culled nominations from 2003, be included in the list of nominees for the 2006 awards;**
- 3. invite Heritage Council members to attend the awards ceremony on 10 November.**

That the Minister:

- 1. be invited to present the awards on 10 November 2005.**

4.5 Membership of Religious Property Advisory Panel

Members were advised that the functions and the membership of the Religious Property Advisory Panel had been reviewed due to the number of recent changes in the composition of the Panel, and a change of membership. The Heritage Office has identified opportunities to enhance expertise on the panel in the areas of broad Australian religious social history, education and promotion.

The role of Chair of the Religious Property Advisory Panel is currently vacant following the departure of Mr Michael Collins. Hector Abrahams, the longest serving member of the Religious Property Advisory Panel, is proposed as the new Chair. The appointment of Hector Abrahams as the new Chair will ensure the Panel retains its high level of skill in religious building conservation issues while also providing for continuity.

After consultation with the Panel, three other nominees were proposed as new members for the approval of the Heritage Council in order to expand the expertise of the Panel, particularly with regard to Australian religious history and the broader social significance of religion.

- Sister Monica Sinclair: As a member of the Sisters of Mercy religious congregation, Sister Monica Sinclair provides the Panel with much needed direct contact and access to the Catholic religious orders, who own considerable property in NSW.
- Dr Anne O' Brien: As a Senior Lecturer in History at the University of NSW, Dr Anne O'Brien brings a wide academic perspective to the Panel. She has published extensively in the area of Australian religion and history.
- Ms Susan Pacey: Active in the community, with qualifications in history and education, Susan brings a wealth of experience in collections, archives, libraries, oral history and promotions with particular knowledge of the history of the Presbyterian Church.

It is considered that the traditional membership of predominantly religious property managers will be augmented and complemented by these new members who will provide both a practical and an expert skills base.

After consideration of the recommendation members

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council

- 1. Approve the appointment of Hector Abrahams as Chair of the Panel***
- 2. Approve the appointment of Sister Monica Sinclair, Susan Pacey and Dr Anne O'Brien as new members of the Religious Property Advisory Panel***
- 3. Advise Hector Abrahams of his appointment as the new Chair of the Panel***
- 4. Advise the new members of their appointment***
- 5. Advise the existing membership of the new appointments***

5.0 Matters for Information or Noting

5.1 History Panel Strategic Projects

Members were advised that the History Advisory Panel has developed a list of seven strategic projects for the period 2004-2007. These implement the Panel's terms of reference, and contribute to heritage assessment methodologies and the identification of various item types, as well as educational and heraldic objectives.

Members were advised that the History Advisory Panel will be reporting to the Heritage Council on the progress of these projects, it was noted that the projects link with the Heritage Office Workplan. At this time Panel members have already commenced working to some degree on most of the projects.

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council notes the History Advisory Panel's Strategic Projects for 2004-2007.

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 Archaeology Advisory Panel
- 6.9 Interpretation Panel
- 6.10 Religious Property Advisory Panel
- 6.11 Technical Advisory Panel

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council notes the reports.

7.0 General Business

Members were advised that an invitation had been received to the launch by the Governor Maree Bashir of a major new Australian heritage magazine, Australian Heritage, on 18 November 2005. The magazine will celebrate the stories, achievements and lives of people who have contributed to Australia's history. Members indicated an interest in attending the launch and receiving subscription information for the magazine.

Members were advised by Garry Prattley that this may be his last Heritage Council meeting as he may be moving to Premiers Department and will no longer be able to represent the Department of Planning. Garry will notify the Heritage Office when this comes into effect. The Chair expressed regret on behalf of the Heritage Council at the loss of Garry Fielding from the Heritage Council and wished him well in his future role.

Sharon Sullivan spoke in relation to item 5.1 of the 8 September 2005 meeting - Future Format of Heritage Council Meetings. This item was deferred for consideration at a future meeting. Sharon Sullivan proposed that a review of the duration of each of the meetings of the committees is carried out to ascertain the viability of combining the committees in relation to the amount of time the work takes. This information will assist in determining the feasibility of the proposal.

Members were asked to consider this information as well as other ways in which the members of the committees can be involved and consider their own skills and how best those skills can be utilised doing different things. Mary-Lynne Taylor has made a submission for discussion on the matter for the November meeting on better utilisation of members skills, such as offering to speak on the work of the Heritage Council.

Members were advised by Susan Macdonald that, in reviewing the proposals for the future format of Heritage Council Meetings, time availability had been taken into consideration and there were a number of options that were being considered to be put forward for the Heritage Council to discuss.

meeting closed at 11.00am

8.0 Presentations

Nil

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

Mary-Lynne Taylor
Deputy Chair
Heritage Council of NSW
Date:

**Next Meeting of the Heritage Council
of NSW**
Wednesday 7th December 2005
NSW Heritage Office
3 Marist Place
Parramatta