

**MINUTES OF MEETING
State Heritage Register Committee**

Wednesday April 1, 2009
Commencing at 12.50 pm

Heritage Branch – Department of Planning
Heritage Council Meeting Room
3 Marist Place
Parramatta



1.0 Attendance

PRESENT Sharon Sullivan (Chair)
Rosemary Annable
Danny Chapman
Michael Clarke
Russell Couch
Ross Fitzgerald
Gabrielle Kibble

APOLOGIES Nil

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE
(Heritage Branch)** Cameron White
Olwen Beazley
Patricia Hale
Maryann Hamilton
Lucy Moore
Bill Nethery
Sarah Ward

Opening – Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 12.50 pm

2.0 Declarations of Interest

Re Agenda Item 7.1:
Michael Clarke advised that he provided comment on the Wollongong Harbour nomination.
Gabrielle Kibble advised she is the Administrator of Wollongong Council.

3.0 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting of March 14th 2009 were confirmed by the Committee.

4.0 Action Report

Cameron White updated the Action Report with the following advice:

- The Heritage Council today resolved to notify its intention to list the Ben Hall Sites.
 - Three nominations, signed by the previous Minister, have recently been gazetted. These are: Hay Gaol, Chinese Graves and Burner, Nyngan and Blackguard Gully, Young.
 - Crown Solicitor's advice will be sought in regard to SHR listing of sites in Commonwealth ownership.
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5.0 Presentations

5.1 Convict Heritage – The Hive

Sarah Ward provided a presentation on the Heritage Branch's previous and current fieldwork of the wreck of the convict transport *Hive* together with its associated survivor's camp at Wreck Bay on the NSW South Coast. Sarah informed members of the significance of the site and the further work needed to develop a nomination for this item.

The site includes the 1835 shipwreck, (one of 20-25 shipwrecks in Wreck Bay) which is located 60-70m offshore in Wreck Bay, and the nearby survivors' camp located 100m into the bush and sand hills of Bherwerre Beach.

The recent fieldwork confirmed and established the extent of the wreck site.

It was noted that the local indigenous community's assistance was critical in ensuring the survival of the survivors. The survivors remained in camp for two to three months before rescue, assisted by the local Aboriginal community.

Further survey work is needed to confirm the significance of the site for nomination under the SHR Convicts theme.

Comments

The committee noted the presentation with interest and noted that, following further survey work, a nomination is likely to be progressed under the Convicts theme. The committee discussed issues of the integrity of the sites, their security and public access. The camp site is a disturbed landscape that has been damaged by dune stabilisation programs of the 1950s and 1960s. Its integrity is questionable. It was noted that the survivors' camp has historic rather than archaeological significance.

6.2 Macquarie listings theme: follow up to March meeting

Patricia Hale and Siobhan Lavelle spoke on potential sites for investigation at Bathurst and Newcastle under the Macquarie and Convicts SHR listings themes. At its last meeting, the committee asked the Listings Team to further investigate potential sites for nomination under these themes that were outside the Sydney metropolitan area, noting in particular Bathurst and Newcastle areas for further investigation.

Feedback has been sought by the Listings Team from the expert group involved in the Macquarie sites brainstorm last November and from the heritage contacts and advisors at Bathurst and Newcastle councils.

There is only one site currently listed on the SHR at Bathurst that has possible convict associations, being the former Government Cottage. Bathurst Council's Heritage Advisor has

advised the Listings Team of several sites of potential convict era archaeology in Bathurst that could be investigated for potential SHR nomination.

Siobhan Lavelle advised that there is no archaeological management plan (AMP) in place for Bathurst. Surveys have indicated that more of the archaeology of Bathurst (the first colonial inland town, declared by Macquarie in 1815) is likely to have survived and to be far more intact than is generally understood.

Comments

The committee recommended that Heritage Branch officers meet with Bathurst Council's Heritage Advisor and local experts to investigate potential for SHR nomination, and to report back on this to the next committee meeting.

The committee further discussed possible sites in regions outside Sydney that could be considered for SHR listing:

- Precincts of the Cox's Road with remnant fabric; and
- The Macquarie town plans of the Hawkesbury town

The committee considered that recognising the significance of Macquarie's town plans should be progressed by means other than SHR listing. Publications or Heritage Branch webpages commemorating Macquarie's legacy for the 2010 bicentenary were considered. The committee advised opening discussion with the Macquarie 2010 Committee to see how this work could dovetail with the committee's proposals and its media announcements.

The committee advised that sites under the Macquarie theme should have first priority for SHR listing to tie in with the 2010 Macquarie bicentenary.

State Heritage Register – Notice of intention to list - Draft Nominations

7.1 Draft Nominations for Review

Lucy Moore spoke to the following four nominations:

- 1. Rippon Grange, Ku-ring-gai**
- 2. Yooroonah Tank Traps, Ebor**
- 3. Royal Randwick Racecourse, Randwick**
- 4. Bible Garden, Palm Beach**

1. Rippon Grange, Ku-ring-gai

Designed by Sir John Sulman in 1898, Rippon Grange is a fine two-storey building in the Edwardian, Old English, Arts and Crafts and Federation Queen Anne styles. The nomination by the National Trust is for the garden as well as the house. The nominators claim the intact nature of most of the garden, with remnant Blue Gum High Forest, makes it historically and aesthetically significant as a rare example of landscape design and architecture popular in the Federation period. Rippon Grange's site has however been considerably diminished from its original 12 acres and its gatehouse is now on a separate land title.

The committee was advised that Rippon Grange was now owned by a private development company. For some time the site has been proposed for high-rise aged living redevelopment, which has generated significant community opposition. A Part 3A proposal is expected to be

lodged soon for a hospital development in the grounds of Rippon Grange, which will retain the house.

Comments:

The committee could not determine the likely significance of the item and agreed that a site visit was warranted. The committee also agreed to form a sub committee to include Heritage Branch officers to report back to the full committee. Members were Rosemary Annable and Michael Clarke.

2. Yooroonah Tank Traps, Ebor

Constructed in 1942 in WWII to prevent invasion by the Japanese army, the Yooroonah Tank Traps are an interesting example of an inland defence system. The site comprises a tunnel mined under the road (to be exploded if the enemy approached); timber poles to impede enemy tank movement across land; eight concrete tetrahedra situated in swampland, and a number of small stone lookout points.

The committee was advised that there are other examples of similar defence structures in NSW (for example Stockton Beach and Port Stephens) but that the Yooroonah Tank Traps are the most intact, undisturbed and accessible group of such structures in NSW.

The site was endorsed by the Committee (4 March 2009) as a priority site for listing under the World War 1 & 2 theme.

Comments

The committee advised that this information indicated the site was state significant and that the nomination should be progressed under the World Wars 1 and 2 theme.

3. Royal Randwick Racecourse, Randwick

The Royal Randwick Racecourse is Sydney's oldest and longest continually-operating metropolitan racecourse. Its first race meeting was in 1833, and these have continued to the present day as a notable component of the established and well-frequented racing calendar, together with its use as a training ground for horseracing in Sydney.

The site is a unique NSW cultural landmark that includes the racecourse, grandstand, stalls and workshops in an array of traditional recreational architectural styles from the 19th and 20th centuries, set within a landscape of formal gardens and cultural plantings. Nominated by the Australian Jockey Club, the site is in multiple state government and private ownership.

Comments

The committee advised that the Royal Randwick Racecourse was clearly state significant for its social value. As social value is a key aspect of its significance, the committee advised that the management of the site must allow for on-going change and development over time. The committee advised the Heritage Branch to progress this nomination in conjunction with discussion with the site's owners on its on-going use.

4. Bible Garden, Palm Beach

The Bible Garden at Palm Beach is an uncommon example of a landscape based on the plants of the Bible, created in the 1960s by a devout Christian on a spectacular coastal headland setting. It is a rare Australian example of a special interest designed landscape ("Bible gardens") that are becoming increasingly popular in the United States.

Its social value as a place for prayer and reflection is demonstrated by the work of a recognisable group of citizens to protect the garden, resulting in its transfer to Pittwater Council as community land to be enjoyed by future generations. Nominated by Chris Betteridge, heritage consultant.

The committee was advised that Pittwater Council has prepared a Plan of Management for the site and that the Religious Property Advisory Panel has previously considered the site to have potential state significance.

Comments

The committee considered this to be a high-quality nomination for an unusual and rare example of its type. The committee did not, however, consider the Bible Garden to be of state significance.

Maryann Hamilton spoke to the following nomination:

5. Wollongong Harbour

The first stage was constructed in 1837–44 by 300 convict labourers who carved out a basin approx 100m by 50m from the rocky Flagstaff headland to enable a safe harbour for ships. Although demand for better port facilities saw the basin deepened and extended later in the century, this quay, known as Belmore Basin, remains substantially intact.

The precinct also includes the old Breakwater Lighthouse (1871) of rare, prefabricated, iron-clad construction; the interwar era Art Deco-styled Flagstaff Lighthouse, and the first fully automatic electric lighthouse in Australia. Also included are the defence fortifications at Smith's Hill and Flagstaff Hill which represent late nineteenth century coastal defence strategies and technologies.

There are also several historic bathing pools used from the 1830s when convict labour was used to improve access to the site and extend the baths.

Wollongong Harbour is now mostly used by fishing and leisure craft, and by the general public as parkland adjacent to the CBD.

The owner, Department of Lands, is currently considering development options for the site. The committee was advised that a development proposal for Wollongong Harbour has yet to be released. The development proposal has already generated considerable community discussion.

The Heritage Branch has had preliminary talks with the Department of Lands

Comments

Based on a preliminary assessment, the committee considered the site to be state significant. The committee advised the Heritage Branch to actively continue in discussion with Department of Lands regarding the progressing of this nomination.

Patricia Hale spoke to the following nomination

6. Lower Prospect Canal, Holroyd

Lower Canal is one of four components of the Upper Nepean Scheme (Sydney's fourth water supply system) that was completed in 1888. It is the only component of this scheme not to be listed on the SHR. Lower Canal runs entirely through the Holroyd LGA, linking Prospect

Reservoir with Pipehead at Guildford. The Upper Nepean Scheme was a visionary and challenging engineering scheme that ensured the water supply (and survival) of a rapidly expanding Sydney.

The committee was advised that the Heritage Study of the Upper Nepean Scheme (1992) considered all components of the scheme to be state significant, noting that the whole was greater than the sum of the parts, and that the significance of the Upper Nepean Scheme was not diminished by removing parts of the scheme from the operating system as long as they were retained intact in their original context and interpreted.

The Lower Canal functioned as part of the main water supply system for Sydney for over 100 years until it was by-passed by a tunnel from Prospect Reservoir to Pipehead in 1995. In line with the Heritage Study recommendations, the Lower Canal was infilled in 2002 and has functioned since as a public cycleway along its entire length. Lower Canal is owned by the Department of Lands. Holroyd Council has proposed to prepare a nomination for the Lower Canal, pending advice from the Heritage Branch.

Comments

The committee considered that, despite infilling, the site's original canal function was still readable in the landscape and that the site was state significant as a component of the Upper Nepean Scheme. The committee noted that Holroyd Council should be advised that any nomination for the Lower Prospect Canal would have to await later consideration under yet to be identified endorsed priority themes for SHR listing.

8.0 Thematic Listings Program

8.1 Progress of the Convicts listings theme

Patricia Hale gave a presentation on the methodology of the Australian Convict Sites themes as applied to the Convicts SHR listing theme. Patricia tabled print outs of all existing SHR listings under the Convicts theme and spoke to the 15 sites proposed for the committee's endorsement as nominations under the Convicts theme. These are:

1. Great North Road, between Mount Manning and Wollombi
2. Former Liverpool Hospital And Benevolent Asylum (South Western Sydney Institute of TAFE), College Street, Liverpool
3. Site Of Early Convict Settlement, Overseers Cottages (Arts, Conference & Entertainment Centre), 30-42 Clarence Street, Port Macquarie
4. Wreck of the Convict Transport *Hive* and Associated Survivors Camp, Wreck Bay
5. St John's Cemetery, Clergy Road, Wilberforce
6. Mount Victoria Pass, Great Western Highway, Blue Mountains
7. & 8. Two Sites of Convict Private Assignment (locations to be determined)
9. Pipers Creek Lime Kilns, Maria River, Kundabung, Kempsey LGA
10. Wollongong Harbour
11. Liverpool Weir, LGA Liverpool
12. First Fleet Park, Circular Quay, Sydney
13. Towrang Stockade, Bridge, Culverts, Powder Magazines & Graves, near Goulburn
14. Lockyer's Wharf, Ermington
15. Former Military Barracks and Hospital (James Fletcher Hospital site) 72 Watt Street, Newcastle

The committee congratulated the Listings Team on moving the process forward under the Convict theme and advised a gap analysis of existing SHR listings under the Convicts theme to ensure that all priority sites for nomination had been considered.

Resolved:

That the State Heritage Register Committee:

- 1. Endorses the priority list of sites (at Annexure A) as the basis of a work program for listings on the SHR under the Convicts theme in 2009–10.**
- 2. Requests the Heritage Branch to review listing priorities and advise the committee of such, depending on community nominations received.**

8.2 Status of Icons theme nominations

Cameron White spoke to the matter. Icons are considered to be nominations which the community would expect to be listed on the State Heritage Register at Annexure A.

Members suggested the Branch cease using the terminology of icons and consider using potentially significant items. The committee wanted a more strategic approach to listing these sites. Clarity as to what should be listed with the reasons why was needed.

Members noted that Modernism was being taken on by the Branch as a separate project, in consultation with the AIA. The committee agreed to defer Modernist nominations pending the outcome of this project with the exception of Australia Square which the Committee agreed could be retained on this list.

Colonial Estates of the Cumberland Plan should also be included on the list:

- Oran Park
- Raby Estate
- Maryland

Members also agreed to the following sites being retained on the list:

- St Patrick's Estate, Manly
- Queen Victoria Building, Sydney
- Sydney Town Hall
- Sydney Hospital
- Luna Park
- The Strand Arcade
- Luna Park
- Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Surry Hills

In addition, Members requested the Branch examine the list provided at Annexure A and identify other items that should be prioritised for listing and provide reasons. Members noted that the list only included sites located in Sydney and requested the Branch investigate potential sites throughout NSW.

Resolved:

That the State Heritage Register Committee:

Reconsider a revised list of items at the next meeting.

9.0 State Government Heritage (Section 170 Registers/HAMS)

Nil

10.0 Interim Heritage Orders

Nil

11.0 Environmental Planning Instruments & Heritage Studies

Nil

12.0 Matters for Consideration

Nil

13.0 General Business

Nil

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 3.00 pm

Next Meeting of the Heritage Council State Heritage Register Committee

Wednesday 3rd June 2009
Heritage Branch – Department of Planning
Heritage Office Library
3 Marist Place
Parramatta

Minutes endorsed by the Heritage Council State Heritage Register Committee.	<hr/> Chair, State Heritage Register Committee Date:
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