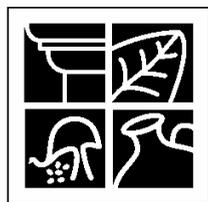


Heritage Office

Annual Report

1999 – 2000



NSW
Heritage
Office

HERITAGE OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT 1999 - 2000

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FOREWORD

This was the first full year in which the Heritage Office has operated under the new amendments to the Heritage Act that came into force in April 1999.

There is no doubt that the amendments have already had an effect in sending positive heritage messages to the community. State Heritage Register listings are now preceded by a community consultation process that makes it clear that the listing is being proposed on the grounds of heritage significance, not immediate threat. Community involvement in heritage issues is fostered through the work of the Heritage Council, particularly the Chair, Hazel Hawke.

The Minister, Dr Andrew Refshauge MP, made his own personal stamp on his heritage responsibilities by issued a directions statement during Heritage Week this year. This recognises both his portfolio interest and personal commitment to Aboriginal heritage and also emphasises the need to form partnerships with owners and communities.

The Heritage Office's first strategic plan concluded this year. During 1999 the Office developed a five-year plan for both the Heritage Council and the Heritage Office. We are confident that through this plan, and the implementation of the amendments to the Heritage Act NSW will have a heritage system that is responsive to the community's needs and wishes.

Rosalind Strong
Director
Heritage Office

REPORT OF THE HERITAGE OFFICE 2000

The Heritage office is a State Government agency established in July 1996. It is responsible for providing advice to the Minister for Urban Affairs & Planning, the Heritage Council, local councils and the wider community about the management of heritage items across the State.

The Office is a specialist service provider and policy agency. It provides leadership on heritage issues and specialised assistance for State and local government, heritage professionals, property owners and others involved in the State's heritage system.

One of the Office's major responsibilities is the administration of the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*. Major amendments were made to this legislation in 1998.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Expenses of \$6.0m (\$5.4m in 1998-99) included employee-related expenses of \$2.3m (\$2.0m), other operating expenses of \$1.1m (\$1.0m) and grants and subsidies of \$2.4m (\$2.3m). The major components of other operating expenses were building occupancy charges of \$261,972 (\$226,594), public relations costs of \$157,697 (\$58,525), fees of \$123,000 (\$121,000) paid to the Central Corporate Services Unit of the Department of Public Works and Services for corporate services and \$138,922 (\$185,028) for consultancies.

Grants and subsidies included \$1.378m (\$1.3m) in grants paid under the *Heritage 2001* program and a contribution of \$1.0m (\$1.0m) to a trust administered by the Corporation Sole 'Minister Administering the Heritage Act, 1977' for the conservation of St Andrew's Cathedral.

Revenue of \$2.4m (\$2.1m) included interest income of \$1.691m (\$1.61m), grants and contributions of \$173,595 (\$90,980), and \$509,666 (\$250,000) for the recovery of administration costs of the Corporation Sole. After bringing to account government contributions of \$3.4m (\$11.8m) the operating deficit for the year was \$211,514 (\$8.4m surplus).

At 30 June 2000, assets totalled \$31.4m (\$31.5m) and consisted of cash and investments, (\$30.4M) (\$30.5m), receivables \$236,671 (\$175,778), leasehold improvements \$275,296 (\$312,051), plant and equipment \$150,207 (\$144,797) and recoverable advances of \$302,634 (\$269,263).

The Office's liabilities at 30 June 2000 were accounts payable of \$111,863 (\$57,384) and \$349,238 (\$287,581) for accrued employee-related expenses. After allowing for the operating deficit of \$211,514 (\$8.4m surplus), accumulated funds at year-end totalled \$30.9m (\$31.1m).

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

STRATEGIC MISSION OF THE HERITAGE OFFICE:
HELPING THE COMMUNITY TO CONSERVE OUR HERITAGE

The Strategic Plan 2000-2005 was developed jointly by the Heritage Council and the Heritage Office during 1999. It was adopted by the Heritage Council in August 1999. The plan is structured around the major client groups with which the Heritage Office needs to maintain strong relationships if it is to achieve its strategic mission:

- community;
- local government;
- State and Commonwealth government.

The plan proposes that, during the period 2000–2005, the Heritage Council and Heritage Office will make a significant difference in the following areas:

1. Knowledge of NSW heritage, its significance and conservation

The community will have access to quality and timely information about statutory-listed NSW heritage through the State Heritage Inventory and the legislative framework.

Achievements to June 2000:

605 items added to the State Heritage Register

2. NSW Government leadership in heritage management

The community will recognise NSW Government agencies as leaders in heritage management. NSW Government agencies will model best practice in the management of heritage places.

Achievements to June 2000:

Draft guidelines circulated to agencies for comment.

Two forums conducted for asset managers.

The Commonwealth amended the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* to provide for a national list of heritage items.

The Heritage Office has participated in a range of bilateral and national heritage officials discussions arising from this legislation.

3. Local heritage management

Local councils will integrate heritage conservation into their overall environmental management.

Achievements to June 2000:

Three items associated with the Australian Chinese community were listed on the State Heritage Register.

76% of councils have heritage local environmental plans.

62% of councils have heritage advisors or officers.

4. Value of heritage to the community

The community will celebrate and conserve the State's environmental heritage.

Achievements to June 2000:

Curriculum materials delivered to all primary schools.

Seventeen seminars presented to teachers.

Community-based heritage study guidelines endorsed by the Heritage Council.

5. Conservation practice standards

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

Achievements to June 2000:

Seminars presented to Royal Australian Institute of Architects (NSW) and Australian Property Institute (NSW).

A regulation to provide requirements for the preparation, review and endorsement of conservation management plans has been prepared.

6. Role & functions of Heritage Council

The Heritage Council role and functions will be clearly understood at community and government levels.

Achievements to June 2000:

An economic study of the economic impact of heritage listings is in progress.
A Heritage Council media strategy has been produced.
Media releases publicising State Heritage Register listings are regularly picked up in metropolitan and rural media.

7. Support to the Minister and the Heritage Council (Heritage Office only)

The Office will provide quality advice to the Minister and the Heritage Council and support the Heritage Council so that it can conduct efficient meetings and make good decisions.

Achievements to June 2000:

Most elements of the Strategic Plan have been initiated.
Sixty-eight Integrated Development Approvals applications processed.
One hundred and forty-three section 60 applications processed.
Ninety-one section 140 archaeology permits issued.

8. Development of Heritage Office and its staff (Heritage Office only)

The Heritage Office will have a diverse staff with the skills and resources needed to carry out its functions.

Achievements to June 2000:

Staff training database established.
Staff involved in organisation of one seminar and one conference.
Economic evaluations prepared to support the Heritage Office's proposal for sustainable financing of the Office's future.

HERITAGE PROMOTION & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

School Education Project

In 1997 the Ministers for Education & Training and Urban Affairs and Planning each made available funding of \$200,00 over two years towards developing materials for subjects in the new Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) curriculum. The aim is to develop a

sensitivity to cultural heritage in school students that is at least equal to their respect for the natural environment.

During the year the Department of Education & Training's Curriculum Support Directorate distributed three sets of primary materials:

- **Treasures** - an introduction to the idea of heritage databases for Years K-2
- **It didn't always look like this** - exploring successive layers of history in the Penrith Lakes area (Years 3-4)
- **Sites and Scenes** - a CD-ROM with a mass of visual and aural information to assist students to research 14 key heritage items in NSW (Years 5-6)

Mary Parry, formerly a senior history teacher, worked on the development of the project as a consultant to the Heritage Office. A reference group comprised of the major professional teaching associations, the National Trust and educational authorities provided professional advice and input into the project.

Following the distribution of the materials to all NSW primary schools early in the new year the Department of Education & Training's HSIE consultants held seminars across the State to introduce primary teachers to the materials and their teaching potential.

During the year negotiations were completed with the Board of Studies regarding the development of a website for the professional development of secondary geography and history teachers. Work on the *TeachingHeritage* website, under the direction of Lyndon Sharp, head of the Board's Interactive Design Group, was well advanced by the end of the year. The site will contain a wealth of text, audio and video information on 24 sites chosen for their capacity to illustrate major themes in the curriculum, as well as timelines, lesson plans and teachers' notes.

NSW Heritage on the Net

The Heritage Office home page was developed and launched in association with the State Heritage Inventory launch in October 1997. The home page has been extensively developed and now provides information about the role of the Heritage Office, its staff and services, publications and funding programs. It is also the public gateway to the State Heritage Inventory and Register.

The home page enables clients to download free publications and funding application forms, answers common questions on heritage management and includes links to other State and Commonwealth heritage agencies. The address of the home page is **www.heritage.nsw.gov.au**. During the year the Heritage Office received funding of \$93,000 from the ConnectNSW program, in part to develop enhancements to the website, which will lead to linkages to the Land Titles Office and other government property information.

State Heritage Inventory

The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) provides public access to a comprehensive database of information on statutorily-listed heritage items. By making this information available to all those professionally involved in heritage assessment, as well as the wider community and schools, the Inventory will encourage the development of a much broader frame of reference to assist in the assessment of items of heritage significance and to allow comparative analysis of types of items throughout New South Wales.

The Inventory currently includes nearly 20,000 items listed by State and local government. It will ultimately become a comprehensive database containing information on all identified heritage items in the State.

State Heritage Inventory Software

The Heritage Office continues to make the State Heritage Inventory database software available to local and State government agencies to assist in the preparation and documentation of heritage studies and section 170 conservation registers. The software has been designed as an effective tool for managing the information obtained through these processes.

To date, the software has been distributed to 58 local government and 10 State government agencies. The Heritage Office is also assisting local government with data conversion from a variety of data formats into the State Heritage Inventory standard. This will greatly facilitate both the gathering of information in a standardised form and also the transfer of that information into the State Heritage Inventory managed by the Heritage Office.

Regular training courses in the operation of the software for users and potential users are held at the Heritage Office in Parramatta and at rural locations. During the year approximately 70 local and State government officers, consultants and community members have received training in its operation.

Eight Councils and seven State agencies have supplied their database information to the Heritage Office for uploading to the State Heritage Inventory.

Your State Your Place

The *Your State Your Place* program is a joint initiative of the Heritage Office and the Royal Australian Historical Society. This has been the second year of the program's operation.

The aim of the program is to engage community historians in researching the historical and physical aspects of items listed in the State Heritage Inventory that have little or no information entered in the database. The focus of the program is upon items that have been listed in the State Heritage Register but which have not been fully researched.

Workshops were held in a number of regional centres last year, but the focus this year has moved to a more formal training procedure. A Certificate in Historical Research has been developed for community historians. The certificate course is managed by Mari Metzke at the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Participants in the course are introduced to the main repositories and archives in Sydney used in place history research, such as the Land Titles Office, the Mitchell Library, and the Society of Australian Genealogists Library and one of the outcomes of the course work is to complete a State Heritage Inventory form for an under-researched State Heritage Register item. The names and addresses of 40 such items in the County of Cumberland and 40 elsewhere in NSW have been accepted for use in the course, and the first completed forms are expected in the new reporting year.

Presentations were made to several local historical societies during the reporting year including The Hills District Historical Society at Castle Hill, Parramatta & District Historical Society and Bankstown Historical Society. The Heritage Council's Religious Properties Panel has expressed an interest in holding a *Your State Your Place* workshop for members of congregations interested in recording significant religious properties.

Publications

Heritage NSW

Publication of this quarterly newsletter commenced in January 1994. The newsletter includes discussion of major heritage issues, technical advice, news of Heritage Council activities, reports on completed Heritage Assistance Program projects, information on new publications and examples of worthwhile heritage initiatives by local councils. The newsletter is the principal means of communication between the Heritage Council and its client and target groups.

Three issues of the newsletter were published during the year. A wide range of topics was covered, including heritage curriculum materials, Aboriginal, movable, multicultural, rural and sporting heritage, historical research, interwar housing, historical and maritime archaeology, cinemas, conservation management plans, heritage trades training, adaptive reuse and technical issues. The Autumn 2000 issue included the Minister's Directions Statement as an insert.

Heritage Information Series

As the Heritage Office's prime information vehicle, the *Heritage Information Series* is a key source of information on heritage management in NSW. Last financial year it was updated and given a face-lift. With new distinctive yellow covers and a flexible and cost effective format, it has been widely distributed to councils, State government agencies and the general public.

The series is also now available over the Internet via the Heritage Office homepage.

Anchor Conservation Information Sheet

This sheet provides basic information about treatment of anchors – an important part of our maritime heritage and commonly used as symbolic monuments. The Heritage Office receives regular enquiries about proposals to remove anchors from the seabed. The information sheets advise that it is important to note that not every anchor on the seabed needs to be brought out onto land. For divers, an anchor can be an attractive part of the underwater environment, providing attachment points for marine life. Anchors can also mark the last resting place of a shipwreck. In addition, proper conservation work is complex and expensive.

Heritage Projects Funded in 1999/2000

In 1999/2000 the Deputy Premier and Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, Dr Andrew Refshauge, announced funding of \$5M for 327 heritage projects. This illustrated summary provides details of all the projects funded.

Historical Research for Heritage

These guidelines are a general introduction to the use of history in heritage work. They will be of interest to heritage professionals working in the field, as well as owners of heritage places, community historians or anyone simply interested in finding out about the history of a place. They include a chapter on how to research the history of a private house, as well as a general guide to sources in NSW.

History of Heritage Listings [published online]

The idea of creating a list of heritage items for their protection is essentially a 20th century concept. This document traces the development of listing from the Athens Charter of 1932 to the system used today. It looks particularly at heritage listing in NSW and the regional differences in development.

Movable Heritage Principles

Developed as part of the movable heritage project, the principles provide best practice guidance for government and community organisations to help them manage their movable heritage items.

Natural Heritage Principles

These principles guide the Heritage Council of NSW when it considers requests to protect natural heritage items and in exercising its responsibilities under the Heritage Act.

Objects in Their Place: An Introduction to Movable Heritage

This brochure explains that the heritage significance of many movable objects is closely tied to the place with which they are associated. It includes basic guidelines for documentation and conservation.

Shipwreck Information Sheets

The first nine of this new series cover the Solitary Islands off Coffs Harbour, the far south coast around Twofold/Disaster Bay, Jervis Bay and Byron Bay, Shoalhaven, Shellharbour,

Bellambi, Homebush Bay and Lord Howe Island. They provide a summary and background of major shipwreck events along a specific section of coast.

Tradition and Change

The first national conference on the conservation of religious property was organised by the Heritage Office and held in Sydney in September 1998. The conference was assisted with funding from the Australian Heritage Commission and addressed issues such as the physical impacts of liturgical change on church buildings, adaptive re-use, the conservation of movable items and multicultural and community issues. This publication contains the transcripts and texts of the addresses and papers given at the conference.

Parramatta History & Heritage

The result of the combined efforts of a working party convened and coordinated by the Heritage Office, this brochure provides a self-guided tour and map of Parramatta's major heritage sites. Old Government House, Elizabeth Farm, Parramatta Park, Experiment Farm and St John's Cathedral are some of the places included.

Ethnic Communities Consultation Program

In April 1997 the Heritage Office launched an Ethnic Communities Consultation Program to draw on the rich resources of the many ethnic communities who have already contributed so much to the development of Australian culture.

The program signals to ethnic communities around NSW that their views are an important component of community involvement in heritage matters.

In 1999 the Heritage Office secured the secondment of suitably qualified public sector employees through the NSW Government's Migrant Skills Development Program to assist with this task. Karl Zhao (Office of State Revenue) was appointed to work with the Chinese community, and Luca Stewart-Crisanti (Department of Industrial Relations) with the Italo-Australian community. Although appointed initially for a six-month period, their terms were later extended to twelve months with the support of the Migration Heritage Centre, a special project of the Premier's Department.

The appointments proved to be extremely successful in their outreach and consultation role. Both officers had considerable media skills and provided a substantial number of articles and interviews as the program got underway. During the year thematic histories of Italian and Chinese settlement in the State were commissioned from qualified historians. Task forces of eminent members of the respective communities guided the development of each project.

The Chinese project commenced a number of nominations to the State Heritage Register, while the Italo-Australian project concentrated on establishing regional committees in the main centres of Italo-Australian settlement: Lismore, Griffith, Newcastle and Wollongong. Support was also given to a "Places in the Heart" survey of potential heritage sites by the Leichhardt-based community organisation Co.As.It.

When the one-year secondments of Karl Zhao and Luca Stewart-Crisanti ended, the Heritage Office negotiated their release from their departments on a one-day-per-month basis so that they could retain their involvement in the program. In addition, a memorandum of understanding was entered into with Com.It.Es, a peak Italo-Australian organisation, to keep one of its staff in contact with the regional groups. The trial period for this arrangement expires in September 2000.

Migration Heritage Centre

The Migration Heritage Centre is a joint initiative of the Premier's Department, Ministry for the Arts, the Ethnic Affairs Commission and the Heritage Office based in the Premier's Department. The Centre is a "museum without walls" that acts as a catalyst to encourage the celebration and dissemination of migration heritage. The centre commenced operations in October 1998.

The centre has provided advice on the implementation of the Ethnic Communities Consultation Program and provided funding to enable the Chinese and Italian project officers' appointments to be extended to a full year. During the year the Heritage Office managed a program of pilot consultation projects in rural areas for the centre.

The project consultant, Kate Rea, developed consultation programs in Albury, Orange and Broken Hill. Following the successful completion of a Stage 1 report and consultation guidelines, the Migration Heritage Centre agreed to the extension of funding for Stage 2. This is due for completion at the end of the year, and will include the production of a brochure to encourage the State's cultural networks to be more inclusive of ethnic communities in their programs.

Heritage Week 2000

Acknowledging 2000 as the year of the Sydney Olympic Games 'Our sporting heritage' was the inevitable theme for this year's Heritage Week, which ran from 1-9 April. The National Trust received \$90,000 from the Heritage Assistance Program to support their management of this annual event. The Heritage Office sponsored and coordinated the following activities:

- launch of the Heritage Trades Training Strategy in collaboration with the Department of Education & Training, the Department of Public Works & Services and One Martin Place;
- a meeting of the Heritage Council in Newcastle, which included discussions with community organisations, consideration of heritage issues at the BHP site and extensive media coverage for Mrs Hawke in her role as Heritage Council Chair;
- joint presentation with the Royal Australian Institute of Architects of the seminar, *Material Evidence: Conserving Historic Building Fabric*.

Heritage Trades Training Strategy

Today's building materials and techniques differ greatly from those of the past. Conservation work demands specialist skills and there is a shortage of these skills throughout Australia. Many of the most significant historic buildings in the State are at risk of degradation or loss simply because there is a lack of this specialist expertise to conserve them.

The NSW Government has launched the Heritage Trades Training Strategy to ensure these heritage assets are conserved and maintained with the best available skills. The Government aims to promote heritage trades training through schools, TAFE colleges, private training organisations and the building and construction industry. People who are either interested in a career in the industry or who are already qualified in the building trades are being encouraged to consider the prospect of working in the heritage conservation field.

The project has involved the development of a strategy document and a video to promote the heritage trades. These materials were launched during Heritage Week. The Heritage Office has also developed a short list of funded projects that could be linked to trades training initiatives.

Material Evidence: Conserving Historic Building Fabric Seminar

Over 140 conservation practitioners attended the seminar, titled *Material Evidence: Conserving Historic Building Fabric*. It was held on 13-14 April 2000 at Tusculum, headquarters for the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (NSW) in Kings Cross. The seminar was opened by the Minister and examined technical issues concerning the practical conservation of historic buildings, combining theory with current practice. Sessions included the stabilisation of heritage buildings, the conservation of materials such as concrete, stone and timber and the particular problems associated with the conservation of significant flooring and roofing.

Heritage Funding Programs

The NSW Heritage Office runs the largest state-based heritage funding program in Australia.

The Heritage Council's **Heritage Incentives Committee** establishes priorities for each new program and makes funding recommendations to the Heritage Council which in turn advises the Minister.

The first phase of grants from the new \$30M fund, which assists larger conservation work projects involving State significant heritage items, was established in 1997 under the title *Heritage 2001*. In the current year 35 new *Heritage 2001* projects totalling \$1.2 million and 53 *Heritage 2001* year 2 and 3 projects totalling \$2.1 million were approved. A total of \$8.5 million has so far been approved for a total of 140 projects over the 4-year period to the end of 2001.

The **NSW Heritage Assistance Program** provides funding for a wide range of projects. In the current year 250 projects were approved totalling some \$1.7 million.

In addition to these programs, the Director has the delegated power to make small grants and loans for emergency projects to a limit of \$5,000 per project. Sixteen projects were approved in 1999/2000 totalling \$61,968.

In total, 355 projects were approved for funding during the year totalling some \$5 million. The full list of these approved projects is contained in Appendix D.

Heritage Incentives Program Review

During the year the Minister agreed to the Heritage Council's recommendation that the funding programs would pause in 2000 so that a review could be undertaken. The program did not seek new applications. Funding was maintained for continuing local council programs and for support of key heritage agencies, such as the National Trust, the Royal Australian Historical Society, Keep Australia Beautiful Council, Great North Road Project and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

In June six consultancy firms with experience in assessing public programs were invited to tender to undertake the review process. The date for the close of tenders was after the end of the financial year.

Maritime Archaeology Program

Wreck Spotters

Some thirty individuals residing along the NSW coast have been endorsed as Heritage Office *Wreck Spotters*. This unique Heritage Office initiative aims to build a network of locally-based shipwreck enthusiasts who can respond quickly to new wreck sightings, encourage local research and site interpretation and develop their network of community contacts.

Wrecks Alive

A number of individuals have now joined the NSW *Wrecks Alive* volunteers project. By picking any wreck or wrecks of interest, they can undertake introductory historical research, wreck site plans, photography and other documentation. Each participant receives a *Wrecks Alive* kit to provide direction and guidance for their research.

Wreck trail

Paddle steamer *Manning*, Taree

In April 2000 the Greater Taree Shire Council launched a maritime heritage walking trail along the banks of the Manning River at Taree. A timber wreck viewing platform and plinth was unveiled overlooking the site of the Sydney-built iron paddle steamer ps *Manning*

(1878-1937), located on the riverbank in the centre of town. The Heritage Office's Maritime Archaeology Program and Heritage Assistance Program provided funding support for this project.

Field work

K-IX submarine discovery

The Dutch (ex-Australian) submarine *K-IX* was successfully re-located under Submarine Beach near Seal Rocks by a Maritime Archaeology Program team in July 1999. In early 2000 storm surges briefly uncovered the site, allowing the Heritage Office to confirm its earlier remote survey findings. Local researchers provided valuable assistance throughout the survey period.

Durisdeer Survey

Reported by local divers, the wreck of the *Durisdeer* (1895) located offshore from Stockton Beach includes a substantial portion of hull and original masts, although deeply buried by sand during the inspection. The wreck is rarely visited due to generally dirty water conditions near the entrance to the Hunter River.

Search for rudderless wreck

A magnetometer survey was conducted of the inshore area north of the breakwater at Stockton Beach, near Newcastle. The search aimed to determine the presence of shipwreck remains which might have been the source for the large 6.15 metre timber copper-sheathed rudder which washed ashore from this area in April 1999. This rudder is currently being conserved by the Newcastle Regional Museum. A wreck, possibly of a sailing vessel, was discovered in five meters of water within 200 metres of the rudder's find location.

Admiralty Pattern Long Shank anchor, Sydney

A further inspection was completed of the rare iron Admiralty Old Pattern Long Shank anchor located at Sydney Heads in August 1999. Additional measurements and video footage were taken of the anchor, which was discovered by diver John Riley. While the type is now confirmed, the origin of the anchor or reasons for its loss are almost impossible to ascertain. The item is protected by the NSW *Heritage Act 1977*.

Solitary Islands Marine Park survey

A four-day field trip to the Solitary Islands Marine Park, centred on Coffs Harbour, was undertaken between 14-17 February 2000. The search for a steamer wreck reported on South Solitary Island had to be cancelled due to high seas. Excellent results were achieved in the survey of a timber wreck located on the beach at nearby Woolgoolga. Exposed by storms in 1999, the wreck is thought to be the Canadian-built barquentine *Buster*, wrecked whilst loading timber in 1893. Another timber wreck was notified lying in the lagoon at Moonee Creek just north of Coffs Harbour.

Shipwreck Database

The NSW database with almost 2000 entries contains the largest number of shipwrecks of any Australian state or territory. About 500 items were updated during the year.

Conservation Management Plans

Plans have been finalised for three prominent wreck sites. They detail site inspections conducted by the Heritage Office in 1999 of the ss *Fiona* (1882) steamer and submarine *K-IX* (1945) wreck sites near Seal Rocks, and an Old Plan Admiralty Long Shank anchor discovered at North Head, Sydney.

AIMA Conference

The Heritage Office hosted the 19th *Australian Institute for Maritime Archaeology* (AIMA) conference with the Australian National Maritime Museum between 18-21 September 1999 at the museum. Keynote addresses were provided by Dr Sheli Smith, Director of the Newport Harbour Nautical Museum (USA) and Dr Kathy Abbass (USA) who returned from fieldwork at a wreck thought to be Captain Cook's Endeavour at Newport, Rhode Island. Topics covered by the 39 papers presented at the conference included heritage management, field inspections, museum ethics, conservation developments, site interpretation, data presentation and community access to heritage sites.

Aboriginal Heritage

The Heritage Office's Aboriginal Heritage Officer provides executive support to the Aboriginal Heritage Committee and advises the committee on the selection of projects for funding from the Heritage Assistance Program.

The Minister's Directions Statement emphasised a need to have the State Heritage Register better reflect Aboriginal communities' heritage values, including a more comprehensive listing of Aboriginal heritage items on the State Heritage Register. The Brewarrina fishtraps site has now been added to the Register and there is an increase in Aboriginal communities' recognition of the Heritage Act as a mechanism for celebrating and protecting Aboriginal heritage.

Seventeen Aboriginal projects totalling \$171,884 were funded under the Heritage Assistance Program for 1999/2000, including works projects, site surveys, oral histories, education and promotion and a whaling thematic history project.

This year also saw the completion of heritage projects funded in previous years, including:

- Hornsby Shire Council's Aboriginal Education Kit;
- *Building Bridges*, an oral history project recording the lives of four Aboriginal women elders;
- Rockdale City Council's Aboriginal heritage study; and
- a plaque in recognition of the Myall Creek Massacre Site.

Through the work of the Aboriginal Heritage Committee there is now a clearer understanding within Aboriginal communities of the role of the Heritage Office in Aboriginal heritage. This has led to better working relationships with other government departments involved in managing Aboriginal heritage, including National Parks and Wildlife Service, Sydney Harbour Foreshores Authority, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

The last three years of policy development have clarified roles and built liaison between the Heritage Office and Aboriginal communities, thus raising the profile of Aboriginal heritage in the work of the Office. This will be reflected in further listings on the State Heritage Register in coming years.

Movable Heritage

The position jointly funded by the NSW Heritage Office and the Ministry for the Arts has been extended to 30 June 2001.

As part of a community education program, the Heritage Office published and widely disseminated a document entitled *Movable Heritage Principles* and conservation guidelines entitled *Objects in their Place* to State Government agencies and cultural institutions, local government heritage advisors and to museum and gallery workers through the NSW Museums and Galleries Foundation and Museums Australia (NSW).

Both documents were promoted in presentations to the Heritage Network, State Government Heritage Forums and the NSW Museums and Galleries Foundation regional conferences at Newcastle and the Hunter Valley. The publications were also promoted at the national Australia ICOMOS conference at Tocal and within the Collections Development Section and the National Cultural Heritage Committee of the Department of Information Technology, Communications and the Arts.

The Heritage Office and Ministry for the Arts funded and project managed a conservation and museum management plan for the Wing Hing Long Store, Tingha, which included community and volunteer workshops for the care of heritage objects.

Two thematic studies, a study of significant shops with in situ collections and a study of wheat industry technology held by community museums and historical studies in the Riverina region were completed. The consultants gave presentations at the Australia ICOMOS and NSW Museums and Galleries Foundation conferences.

The NSW Heritage Office is exploring opportunities to publish and disseminate the shops study with cultural institutions and the private sector. The Heritage Office is publishing a guide for the care of rural technology in partnership with the NSW Museums and Galleries Foundation and a guideline on moved buildings with the Australian Heritage Commission. A third study on the connection of electricity and domestic collections was ready to commence at the end of the financial year. The Heritage Office participated in a National Trust of NSW advisory group for a publication on historic interiors written by heritage consultant, Meredith

Walker, and sponsored *True Stories*, the state conference with the NSW Museums and Galleries Foundation in October 1999.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Heritage Short Courses for NSW Local Government

Last year the Heritage Office completed negotiations to hand over the administration of its successful short course program to the Local Government & Shires Associations' Training Unit. The first course under this new arrangement was held in March 1999.

During the year three short programs were delivered for elected members and local government professional staff. The programs were:

- Development Approvals: The Heritage Perspective, 25 October in Sydney with 25 attendees. The program was facilitated by David Logan and a site visit was made to the Hyde Park Barracks.
- Development Approvals: The Heritage Perspective, 16 March in Sydney with 18 participants. The program was facilitated by David Logan and a site visit was made to the Hyde Park Barracks.
- Heritage Planning in Practice, 25-26 March in Mudgee with 14 attendees. The program was facilitated by Sue Jackson.

The feedback from the programs has been very positive, with attendees commenting on the high standard of the presentation and reporting a growth in their knowledge and understanding about heritage issues.

Heritage Advisors

Since 1983 the Heritage Council, through the NSW Heritage Assistance Program, has provided joint funding with local councils for the placement of a part-time heritage advisor to advise the council and the local community on heritage matters.

At 30 June 2000 there were 102 heritage advisor positions across NSW. Seventy-eight rural positions were jointly funded by the Heritage Office and local councils. Twenty-four metropolitan positions were funded solely by local councils. In addition, 40 councils (including 30 with advisors) also have full-time or near full-time heritage officers.

Including those councils with specialist officers, 59% of the State's 174 councils now have an advisory service.

Local Government Association Annual Conference

The Heritage Office promoted its services through its usual display stand at the Local Government Association Annual Conference held in Dubbo in November 1999. Staff were in attendance to explain the work of the Heritage Office and demonstrate the benefits of the State Heritage Inventory to many of the 800 delegates, most of whom were councillors and managers.

Heritage Network

Quarterly state-wide meetings of heritage advisors and local government planners facilitate discussion on issues of common interest and the workshopping of proposals for new procedures. Each meeting includes information sessions and an opportunity for advisors to showcase their work, and provides continuing professional development for those working in these positions.

The network meetings covered a range of issues, including school education materials, the management of conservation areas, Aboriginal heritage, rural heritage, natural heritage, adaptive reuse and Integrated Development Assessment. Meetings were held in conjunction with Warringah, North Sydney and Woollahra Councils. The November 1999 meeting was held in association with the Australia ICOMOS rural heritage conference at Tocal Agricultural College in the Hunter Valley.

During the year a supplementary e-mail group service was introduced to extend opportunities for advisors to share ideas and opinions. The service had a membership of 100 by the end of the year.

STATE AND COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

State Government Agencies

Since 1987 government instrumentalities have been required, under section 170 of the Heritage Act to prepare heritage and conservation registers of the items they own or manage. These statutory heritage management responsibilities have been more clearly articulated through the recent amendments to the Heritage Act.

Agencies must now notify the Heritage Council if they intend to take certain actions in regard to their heritage assets, particularly demolition or sale; they must maintain their heritage assets

with due diligence; and agencies must include a statement about the condition of their heritage assets in annual reports.

Under transitional provisions when the amendments came into force in April 1999, all items identified as State significant in heritage and conservation registers prepared by State government instrumentalities were listed on the State Heritage Register. The Register now includes 578 items identified as having State significance on section 170 registers.

During the year the Heritage Office has continued to assist agencies in the preparation of section 170 registers and the revision of existing registers. Further forms of assistance included:

- two forums and a number of workshops and discussions particularly focused on the amendments to the Heritage Act; and
- re-drafting of the heritage requirements of the State government's Total Asset Management Manual.

National Heritage Places Strategy

The COAG Heads of Agreement on Commonwealth/State Roles and Responsibilities for the Environment of November 1997 provided for the development of a National Heritage Places Strategy to :

- set out the roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth and the States;
- identify criteria, standards and guidelines, as appropriate, for the protection of heritage by each level of government;
- provide for the establishment of a list of places of national heritage significance; and
- maximise Commonwealth compliance with State heritage and planning laws.

The Commonwealth released the draft strategy for public comment in April 1999 and proposed to finalise the strategy for consideration at a Heritage Ministers' meeting. The Commonwealth has now indicated it will implement elements of the strategy relating to its own heritage responsibilities and amend the Australian Heritage Commission Act.

SUPPORT TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

Statutory Approvals

The Heritage Office effectively met its statutory requirements regarding the processing of applications for works to heritage places. See page 38 for details of the numbers of applications processed during the year.

These increases are due to the upturn in the construction industry in NSW, particularly in Sydney, and reflect the Heritage Office's success in targeting local councils and government agencies regarding best practice procedures in heritage management.

State Heritage Register

The State Register was created by an amendment to the Heritage Act on 2 April 1999. On that date the number of listed State significant items was doubled by adding over 600 items in State government ownership to the 650 privately-owned items previously protected by permanent conservation orders.

The Register now consists of roughly equal numbers of privately and publicly owned heritage items. The State Heritage Register Committee is working strategically through heritage registers developed by local councils and State agencies to identify potential State Heritage Register items. New items are added each month through a process defined in the legislative amendments.

The Heritage Council is working strategically with organisations such as local councils, the National Trust and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (NSW) to consider groups of items of State significance based on their regional location or type.

Following an initial assessment by the Heritage Council that a nominated item is of State significance, the public is invited to comment on the proposed listing. The Heritage Council then considers comments by the owner and the community and makes its recommendation to the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, who makes the decision on the listing.

Items listed on the Register and associated information is available on the Heritage Office Homepage.

Natural Heritage

Environmental heritage encompasses places, buildings, works, relics, movable objects and precincts of State or local heritage significance. Natural heritage is included within the definition of heritage significance under the Heritage Act relating to places of scientific, cultural, natural or aesthetic value. It encompasses a broad range of areas, including natural ecosystems, geological sites, water systems, modified landscapes and parks as well as gardens and significant trees. The Heritage Council recognises that natural heritage is an important part of the environmental heritage of New South Wales and has prepared natural heritage principles to guide its consideration in this area.

These principles recognise that the natural environment underpins the State's environmental heritage as *natural heritage* and is an essential component of the culture and heritage, in particular, of indigenous communities.

Further, the Heritage Council believes that community organisations and individuals play an important role in conserving the State's natural heritage. Continued community education on

identifying and managing the natural estate, together with voluntary measures and heritage agreements, assist in conserving this asset.

The recent establishment of the State Heritage Register under the amendments to the Act provide the opportunity for natural heritage to be more fully considered as part of a comprehensive identification of the State's heritage.

DEVELOPMENT OF HERITAGE OFFICE AND ITS STAFF

Structure

In 1998 the Heritage Office was restructured in accordance with the key client groups identified in the previous strategic plan and now has three main teams:

- Heritage promotion & community education;
- Local government heritage management; and
- State & Commonwealth government heritage management.

Information about the management of the Heritage Office is at Appendix G.

Aboriginal Employment

To drive forward the integration of Aboriginal and European heritage, the Office created the position of Aboriginal Officer, which since early 1998 has been occupied by an experienced officer on secondment from the National Parks & Wildlife Service. An administrative trainee position has been made available for an Aboriginal staff member.

Accounts Payable Performance

The office achieved 96% prompt payment performance during the year. See Appendix H for details.

Action Plan for Women

The Office staff includes 17 women including the Director, 38% of the total work-force. The Office participates in the State government Spokeswomen's Programme.

Development of the Heritage Office staff

A performance planning system was progressively introduced into the Heritage Office in 1998/99.

Two staff satisfaction surveys conducted in the last two years in association with the introduction and trialling of the system recorded a substantial improvement in general levels of staff satisfaction, particularly in the areas of reporting processes and inter-office communication.

The Heritage Office assisted staff to attend external courses presented by agencies such as the Institute of Public Administration Australia, as well as arranging targeted group training sessions for all staff. Some staff also attend the training sessions organised for the Heritage Network and by professional associations such as Australia ICOMOS, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the Public Relations Institute of Australia and the Royal Australian Planning Institute.

Disability Strategies

- The Office is a tenant of an office tower in Parramatta which is fully accessible by disabled people.
- The Office coordinates the meetings of the Heritage Council's Fire Access & Services Advisory Panel, which has incorporated disabled access to heritage buildings as part of its brief.
- The Heritage Office has prepared a Disability Action Plan in accordance with NSW Government guidelines.

Equal Employment Opportunity

A full statistical account of the Office's EEO is provided in Appendix F.

Ethnic Affairs Priority Statement

Last year the Heritage Office adopted the State government's Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement. Although a very small agency, the office has employed people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, including Chinese, Indian and Italian.

During the previous year, the Office engaged Chinese and Italian project officers through the Migrant Work Experience Program to liaise directly with their communities as part of the Office's Ethnic Communities Consultation Program outreach activities. This program is a fundamental part of the Office's commitment to extend the celebration and listing of heritage from the previous concentration on 19th century colonial places to a recognition of the diversity and multiplicity of the stories which make up the history of the State.

Although both officers have now returned to their host departments, they retain their connection with their consultation programs through secondment arrangements.

Guarantee of Service

This is currently in development.

Information Technology

The Heritage Office has reviewed and updated its Information Management & Technology Strategic Plan for 2000-2001. The plan integrates with the Key Result Areas of the Heritage Office and Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2000-2005 and builds on the progress achieved over the past four years.

The Heritage Office successfully completed the transition from 1999 to 2000 with no adverse effects or downtime as a result of the Y2K issue. Two non-compliant databases were converted and upgraded to Client-Server format. They now have additional functionality and an improved user interface.

Four key result areas were developed in the new plan to achieve identified objectives, and ensure compliance and consistency with the NSW Government IT Blueprint:

- information management
- electronic service delivery
- business continuity
- staff productivity

The Heritage Office has been an enthusiastic user of the internet for delivering services electronically since the launch of its home page and State Heritage Inventory in October 1997. In October 1999 the Heritage Office received a \$93,000 grant from the Office of Information Technology under the ConnectNSW program to implement a number of client-focused internet strategies. These projects will be completed by December 2000.

Occupational Health and Safety

A policy on outdoor fieldwork and a workplace-based occupation rehabilitation program were completed and ready for adoption at the end of the year.

Overseas visits by Staff

There were no overseas visits by staff during the year.

Risk Management

A business continuity and disaster recovery plan were developed during the year.

Year 2000 Compliance Project

A key component of the Heritage Office IT Strategic Plan for 1999/2000 was Year 2000

compliance. In accordance with that strategy, the Heritage Office produced and lodged a Year 2000 Compliance Assessment with the Office of Information Technology of the Premier's Department.

The Compliance Assessment addressed the problems with existing electronic software systems that may have been effected by the year 2000 date change, the level of compliance, risk assessment and migration strategies for non-compliant software and contingency plans if those strategies could not be implemented.

All components of the project were completed by 31 December 1999. No technology problems associated with Year 2000 compliance were reported during the year.

HERITAGE ITEMS OWNED BY CORPORATION SOLE

One of the amendments to the Heritage Act requires State government agencies to report on the condition of the heritage assets they own or manage in their annual reports. This requirement came into force this year.

The Heritage Office's Heritage & Conservation Register, a requirement of section 170 of the Heritage Act, includes the following items:

1 Abernethy & Co. Stonemason's Lathe

Location: Lachlan Village, Newell Highway, Forbes

State historic themes:
technology, industry

Years of construction:
1881, reconstructed 1993

Statement of Significance:

This stonemason's lathe is a rare surviving piece of Victorian machinery that was in use for nearly a century. It demonstrates changes in technology and in the use of stone elements in public buildings. It is associated with many significant public buildings in Sydney of the late Victorian period. It is rare for its size, demonstrating aspects of late 19th century tool-making technology.

Physical Condition:

The lathe is substantially intact. It was dismantled before its heritage status was confirmed. It was then re-assembled. It is not presently in working order but is protected from the weather.

2 Exeter Farm

Location: Meurants Lane, Parklea (Lot 52, DP 869799 and Lot 4021, DP879557)

State historic themes:

Agriculture, housing, pastoralism

Years of construction:

1810-1825

Statement of Significance:

Exeter Farm is a rare intact surviving example of a settler's timber farmhouse dating from the time of Governor Macquarie. It provides a record of occupation by members of one family, possibly from as early as 1808, until 1923.

The oldest part of the house was probably built prior to the granting of land by Governor Macquarie to Daniel Bryan in 1821. There were several additions to the house in the 19th century, making it a valuable record of vernacular domestic construction.

Elements of garden beds, plantings, fences, sheds and other components form a tangible link with the past use of the property. The cottage has close associations with the descendants of Daniel Bryan and their links by marriage to many of the families of the district, including their neighbours, the Meurants.

(A conservation plan for Exeter Farm is being finalised. The above statement of significance is a draft only.)

Physical Condition:

The building is in a dilapidated condition, but has been stabilised with roof, gutter and drainage repairs and security fencing. Further conservation works will be undertaken when the conservation plan is completed and endorsed by the Heritage Council.

3 Hillview

Location: Old Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest (Lt 12, DP 260417)

State historic themes:

Persons, government & administration, housing

Years of construction:

1875-1899

Statement of Significance:

Hillview, including the site, buildings, gardens, archaeological features, fittings and contents has exceptional significance to the people of NSW as the former country home of the governors of NSW.

The house and its assemblage are a rare surviving collection that not only relate to its gubernatorial occupation but demonstrate ways of life, taste and decoration from the 1880 period through to the 1950 period. Their value is enhanced as the place has been largely untouched since 1957 following the departure of the last Governor prior to the sale of the property.

Hillview has been associated with a range of significant people in the history of NSW including governors, architects and landscapers, as well as numerous visitors during the occupation of the governors. *Hillview* is of significance in its relationship to Government House, Sydney and other government houses and country retreats throughout Australia. It is the most intact government summer residence to survive and provides insights into the lives and lifestyles of the governors that is not seen at Government House Sydney.

An agreement to lease has been entered into that requires the lessee to conserve the property and adapt it for use as a guest house and museum.

A revised conservation plan was prepared by Paul Davies during the year.

Physical Condition:

Fair condition

4 Rose Seidler House

Location: 69-71 Clissold Road, Wahroonga (Pt. Lt A, DP 372495)

State historic themes:

Housing, persons, cultural sites

Years of construction:

1948-1950

Statement of Significance:

Rose Seidler House is historically significant as a resource to demonstrate the many features of Modernist art, architecture, design theory and practice. It is one of the finest and purest examples of mid-century modern domestic architecture in Australia as designed by the second generation of 20th century Modern architects. It also contains intact contents of late 1940s furniture by such renowned designers as Eames, Saarinen and Hardoy.

Rose Seidler House is socially significant because of its influence on the character of domestic architecture in New South Wales, not only by direct imitators in the 1950s but on the thinking of architects and architectural practice in subsequent decades. It is technically significant for its design detailing and choice of construction methods and materials which

highlight aspects of postwar housing construction in a period of conservative building regulations, scarcity of materials, skills and industrial processes.

The house is managed by the Historic Houses Trust.

Physical Condition:

Physical condition is excellent. Archaeological potential is low.

5 Tusculum

Location: 1-3 Manning Street, Potts Point (Lt 1, DP 710723)

State historic themes:

Persons, religion, cultural sites

Years of construction:

1831-1837

Statement of Significance:

The principal cultural significance of Tusculum is its use as a residence by William Grant Broughton, first Bishop of Australia from 1836 to 1847, Bishop of Sydney (1847-1852), during almost the entire period of his episcopacy. After Government House, it was the most important domestic building in the colony.

Designed by the prominent architect, John Verge, for entrepreneur, A. B. Spark, Tusculum was one of the first villas to be erected on Woolloomooloo Hill, as part of an elaborate attempt by the Colonial Government to establish a prestigious enclave for the gentry in the 1830s. It has very strong historical and architectural associations with its contemporary neighbour Rockwall, also designed by Verge. This pair is among a handful of colonial villas to have survived the subsequent subdivision of their large estates.

Tusculum is one of the few colonial houses in Sydney to display the attributes of a villa, with basement work areas and stair, demonstrating the "upstairs/downstairs" nature of domestic administration, typical of 19th century English houses. It is an excellent example of the transformation of a Regency villa of high architectural quality into a mid-Victorian Italianate mansion.

The house is leased to the Royal Australian Institute of Architects under terms which required its conservation and permitted its adaptive reuse as the Institute's NSW base.

Physical Condition:

There is a need to update the Fabric Survey and Conservation Analysis to indicate the condition of original fabric after conservation works completed in 1987.