

# The year in review

## 1. Listing heritage items

### OBJECTIVE:

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

### The State Heritage Register

The State Heritage Register is a list of places and items identified as being of particular significance to the people of New South Wales. It was established under the Heritage Act in 1996. There are almost 1,500 items on the State Heritage Register, of which approximately 50% are in government ownership. The ongoing work to make the register a comprehensive list of places and items of State heritage significance continued in 2001-2002 with the addition of 121 new items.

Items can be added to the register by the Minister on the recommendation of the Heritage Council, following an assessment of their significance and consultation with owners and the community. Proposals to add items to the register are advertised for public comment.

### Items added to the Register

One hundred and twenty-one new items were added to the register in 2001-2002.

Key listings included:

- four items of movable heritage – the *Lady Denman* ferry, NSW Fire Brigades no. 10 number plates, New England Brass and Iron Lace Collection and the Rail Motor Collection – an important reflection of the growing diversity of the register;
- Hill 60 precinct near Port Kembla, an extraordinary site which provides evidence of Australia's very rich Aboriginal culture, as well as WWII defence installations;
- sixteen National Trust properties, ranging from grand mansions to flora and fauna sanctuaries, giving official recognition to the heritage significance of properties presented by the leading community heritage organisation in the State;
- nearly 100 properties in the historic tourist precinct of Sydney's Rocks area, a "bulk listing" which marks a major achievement by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and the Heritage Office in the management of government-owned heritage items.

### The State Heritage Register Project

The State Heritage Register Project was launched in September 2001 by the then Chair of the Heritage Council, Mrs Hazel Hawke. This new project aims to identify places and items which demonstrate the key stories in the historical development of New South Wales. The compilation of a comprehensive State Heritage Register is a key statutory responsibility of the Heritage Council and Heritage Office.

Most of the items currently listed on the State Heritage Register are buildings. The project aims to uncover a diverse range of items that demonstrate evidence of historical themes and processes. A regional approach to community consultation, identification and assessment was adopted with the Central West region chosen as the pilot study.

A preliminary analysis based on the Heritage Council's publication *Regional Histories* revealed that items such as railway stations and post offices were over-represented in the Central West. On the other hand, some historical themes and processes in the region were under-represented. These included: Aboriginal cultures, agriculture, defence, education, environment – naturally evolved, ethnic influences, industry, mining, pastoralism, persons, towns, suburbs and villages, and transport.



Water Services Officer Leo Geraskis in the Tank Stream, the watercourse that supplied the early colony of Sydney with fresh water. This year Sydney Water celebrated the listing of nearly 30 of its most significant assets on the State Heritage Register. Photograph by Neil Holbrook, courtesy of Sydney Water Corporation

To redress this imbalance, the Heritage Office began a series of workshops, beginning first with heritage practitioners and professional organisations such as the Institution of Engineers and the Royal Australian Institution of Architects. Heritage records and non-statutory heritage listings also helped in building up a list of potential items.

Community consultation is a key element in the process of building a better register. The second stage of the project involved community workshops in Lithgow,

Lucknow, Mudgee, West Wyalong and Forbes, to encourage the nomination of items of state significance based on participants' understanding of the history of their region.

At the conclusion of the workshops the Heritage Office was able to draw up a full list of potential State items. In April 2002 one hundred and twenty items, on which there was general community agreement, were submitted for the Heritage Council's consideration.

Consultation with the community continues on a second set of 60 items. A further workshop is planned for October 2002 to finalise agreement on this group.

It was decided early in the project that the actual nomination process would be a collaborative one, depending on good communications between owners, heritage advisors and council officers. As part of the experimental nature of this project, a decision was taken not to pursue listing against the wishes of an owner.

A draft guideline was prepared providing guidance for advisors and officers on the nomination process, based on a model prepared by heritage advisor Barbara Hickson and approved by the Heritage Council. This Interim Conservation Management Strategy will involve the preparation of a broad brush conservation management plan as part of the nomination. In this way owners will themselves prepare a statement of significance and develop conservation policies with professional assistance.

At the end of the year the Heritage Office held a workshop to brief heritage advisors on the nomination process. It is anticipated that the first State Heritage Register listings arising from the new process will be made in late 2002.

### ***Interim Heritage Orders***

During the year 11 interim heritage orders were made by the Minister for Planning on the recommendation of the Heritage Council. The purpose of an interim heritage order is to provide a "breathing space" of no more than 12 months in which a full heritage assessment can be carried out for items that are under real or potential threat of harm.

The majority of interim heritage orders are made in response to community representations or concerns raised by local government. Temporary in nature, they are not made as a de facto planning tool, but only in relation to items which are believed will be found to be of local or state significance on further investigation.

In 2001-2002 the following interim heritage orders were made under section 22 of the Heritage Act:

Dora Dora Hotel River Road, Talmalmo	6/07/2001
Kingswood 31 Bancroft Avenue, Roseville	13/07/2001
Montrose House 128 Croydon Road, Croydon Park	27/07/2001
Knuckey's Store 51 Swift Street, Wellington	07/09/2001
Beresford House 6 Dawson Street, Cooma	14/09/2001
Festival Records Building 63-79 Miller Street, Pyrmont	19/10/2001
Jerilderie Railway Station and yard group Narrandera-Tocumwal railway	18/01/2002
Jerilderie House 20 Martin Road, Centennial Park	01/03/2002
Renaissance Centre 10-14 Civic Place, Katoomba	05/04/2002
Tudor House 1 West Street, Forster	05/04/2002
Eccles Estate Eccles Avenue, Ashfield	24/05/2002

## Historic shipwreck register

The Heritage Office has statutory responsibilities for the maintenance of a register of historic shipwrecks located within New South Wales and within Commonwealth waters adjacent to the State. These responsibilities arise from legislative requirements within the NSW *Heritage Act 1977* and the Commonwealth *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976*. The Commonwealth responsibilities are conferred upon the Director of the Heritage Office as the Commonwealth's nominated delegate within this State.

Since 1988 the Heritage Office Maritime Heritage Program has been developing and refining a comprehensive database of shipwrecks lost in State waters and in Commonwealth waters adjacent to the New South Wales coast. This database, of over 2000 records, provides the basis for both the NSW Historic Shipwrecks Register and the New South Wales component of the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Register.

In 2001-2002 extensive additional changes were made including new information resulting from specific Heritage Office maritime archaeological site surveys and more accurate information on wreck site location.

Both registers can be accessed through the database on the Heritage Office's Maritime Heritage Online web site which was launched in November 2001. A full list or selection of individual items can be obtained by selecting the relevant Register from the 'Historic Shipwreck Register type' field within the shipwreck search facility. The powerful search engine built into the database enables the user to refine searches for a range of variables related to the ship's construction, history and the wreck event.

Work has also commenced in partnership with the Commonwealth and other State Historic Shipwreck Delegates to develop a new National Shipwreck Database utilising the web-based model developed by the Heritage Office. This database will provide a portal to the New South Wales database and those maintained by other States and Territories.



One of the historic shipwrecks surveyed this year, the paddlesteamer *Manning*. The steering quadrant of the river drogher is evidence of the once bustling river traffic of the coastal rivers.

Photograph by David Nutley

## Reflecting the diversity of the State's heritage

### Movable Heritage: Lady Denman ferry

Movable heritage is an important part of New South Wales's diverse heritage and this continued to be recognized in 2001-2002 with the addition of four items of movable heritage to the State Heritage Register, including the *Lady Denman* ferry.

The *Lady Denman* was built in 1911 by local shipwright, Joseph Dent, for the Balmain New Ferry Company. Today the ferry is the last remaining of those built in Huskisson and is a fine example of the proud timber ship building industry for which Huskisson was famed. Over 120 small wooden ships from sail to steam and diesel were built in Huskisson.

The *Lady Denman* was added to the State Heritage Register in recognition of its important part in the history of the South Coast. It is also a rare surviving example of the characteristic ferryboats which served Sydney Harbour for over a century. The *Lady Denman* plied the harbour waters for 67 years and is strongly associated in public memory with the harbour city.

The ferry is now the centrepiece of the Lady Denman Heritage Complex in Huskisson. In 2001 after nearly two

The *Lady Denman*, the last surviving traditional Lady type ferry in NSW.

Photograph by Tony Prescott



decades on dry land it was refloated in an artificial lock before being manoeuvred into a specially built dry bay. The Museum is continuing its detailed program of work to ensure the long term conservation and public appreciation of the significant vessel, with the assistance of an \$11,000 grant from the Heritage Incentives Program.

### Aboriginal Heritage: Hill 60

Adding Aboriginal heritage places to the State Heritage Register so that it truly reflects Australia's rich Aboriginal culture is a priority of the New South Wales government. One of the highlights of 2001-2002 was the listing of the Hill 60 precinct in Port Kembla.

Hill 60 and its setting contain a rare collection of Aboriginal sites which demonstrate the evolving pattern of Aboriginal cultural history and the Aboriginal political struggle for land rights. It also has evidence of defence fortifications, some dating from WWII.

The quality, extent and diversity of the Aboriginal archaeological remains found on the site are significant and rare.

The Wadi Wadi Aboriginal community of the south coast region have a strong cultural connection to the place. The local community maintained a successful fishing enterprise in the late 1800s supplying produce to local and Sydney markets. Yet they maintained a distinctive Aboriginal lifestyle through family association and traditional economic practices.

Such is the attachment and significance of this place that Aboriginal people living all over New South Wales who once had a connection with Hill 60, return to visit the site for its connections with traditional culture.

The listing was supported by the local Aboriginal Land Council, who worked with Wollongong City Council on the development of a conservation management plan.



Hill 60 precinct near Port Kembla was listed on the State Heritage Register in December. Shell middens and campsites on the site bear testimony to the long history of Aboriginal association with the area.

Photograph by Nyla Simms



Old Government House in Port Macquarie as painted by Blayden Chambers in 1863.

Courtesy of the Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW

### Historical Archaeology: Port Macquarie's Government House

Few places have survived from Australia's convict past. This year one of the most significant was listed on the State Heritage Register. The foundations of Port Macquarie's Government House were unearthed during excavations for an apartment building in 2001. Ninety percent of the foundations were found to be intact below the surface.

Following immense interest from the local community and in heritage circles, the Minister for Planning placed an interim heritage order over the site. The State Government provided \$1M in June 2001 to ensure long-term conservation of the site. The site was listed on the State Heritage Register on 3 August 2001.

Port Macquarie was established in 1821, the first designated place of secondary punishment in the Colony of New South Wales. Governor Macquarie

and his wife Elizabeth together determined the siting and design of the penal settlement. The archaeological remains of Government House are older than the surviving building fabric at Port Arthur and the Second Settlement at Norfolk Island, also places of secondary punishment. The remains have the potential to reveal much about Port Macquarie's early beginnings, as well as the convict period in Australia.

The Heritage Office continues to work with the developer and the local community on new plans for the site that will allow the remains to be conserved.

### Industrial Heritage: Pymont Bridge

Pymont Bridge is the world's oldest electrically-operated swingspan bridge. On the 28th June 2002 it was listed on the State Heritage Register – exactly 100 years since the day it was completed.

The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority nominated the bridge for listing, as an introduction to further investigations into significant heritage items in the Darling Harbour Precinct. The authority recently completed stage one of its heritage and conservation register by identifying significant heritage items in The Rocks.

Pymont Bridge was opened on the 28th June 1902 by the Governor of New South Wales. The design of the bridge was the subject of a design



*Haberfield Garden Suburb – The Place of Beautiful Homes.*  
Promotional brochure by Stanton & Son, c.1913  
Courtesy of Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW

competition. The winning entry was for a steel bridge with a span of 54 feet – one of the largest in the world – and was submitted by the Public Works Department. It was one of the first swing bridges to be powered by electricity.

At the time the design was considered a landmark in the development of Australian engineering skills and technical innovation and was favorably compared with the recently completed Tower Bridge in London. Powered by electricity, the bridge could be opened and closed in 45 seconds.

Threatened with demolition in 1981 after it was closed to traffic, the Bridge survived to be fully restored and the full working order of the swingspan continues today.

Pymont Bridge was listed on the State Heritage Register on its 100th birthday: 28th June 2002.  
Photograph courtesy of Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority

### Conservation Areas: Haberfield

In 2001-2002 the Heritage Act was amended to facilitate the listing of conservation areas on the State Heritage Register. Responding to the amendments, Haberfield is to be nominated as the first major heritage conservation area on the State Heritage Register since it was first introduced.

Haberfield was a revolution in urban planning for its day, and the beginning of the garden suburb movement in Australia. Prior to that, the most common form of housing was the Victorian terrace.

Haberfield was begun in 1901 by developer Richard Stanton as a model Federation suburb. He coined the slogan "Slum-less. Lane-less. Pub-less Haberfield" to promote his planned genteel, residential suburb of free standing brick houses.

Haberfield is important today because it introduced two-way streets, tree plantings, generous gardens and setbacks and a variety of building styles based on a common architectural theme. The Federation houses were single storey and similar in size and design, but distinguished by individual detail. No two houses of the same design were built side by side.

An extensive community consultation process will be undertaken prior to the nomination of Haberfield for listing on the State Heritage Register. Consultation is vital if the listing is to be owned and supported by the community. The Heritage Office is working closely with Ashfield Council to prepare the nomination, which is expected to be assessed in the next financial year.



## 2. Helping State Government

### OBJECTIVE:

*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.*

### **Heritage management by government agencies**

Much of the significant built, movable, engineering and natural heritage in New South Wales is owned or managed by State government agencies. Government agencies have special obligations under the Heritage Act.

The Government expects that its own agencies will lead by example. This means not just exemplary heritage management but also much greater involvement of the community in celebrating and understanding this publicly-owned heritage resource.

In 2001-2002 the Heritage Office and Heritage Council continued to work with State government agencies to achieve their responsibilities under the Heritage Act. Currently there are 75 government instrumentalities who own, manage or occupy heritage assets.

The assessment of the heritage significance of the assets of these agencies has resulted in the listing on the State Heritage Register, as at 30 June 2002, of 760 State-significant, publicly-owned heritage items out of a total of 1500 items.

#### ***Identifying heritage items***

Under section 170 of the Heritage Act 1977, as amended in 1987 and 1999, State government agencies are responsible for preparing a Heritage and Conservation Register of their heritage assets. The register is a tool to assist an agency to manage those heritage assets. It identifies heritage items and provides information needed to make appropriate decisions about their use, management, funding and disposal.

A Heritage and Conservation Register consists of a list of heritage assets and an assessment of the significance of each asset. It may also include a thematic history of the agency. The register identifies buildings and works, as well as natural, movable and Aboriginal heritage.

Two major registers were submitted in 2001-2002: Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and Sydney Water. Both of these agencies manage a wide range of heritage assets, including such heritage icons as the Tank Stream and the Rocks precinct in Sydney. The submission of these section 170 registers marks a major achievement in State government heritage management and was the culmination of an extensive assessment process. The Heritage Office liaised closely with both agencies on the preparation of the registers.

Heritage and Conservation Registers are prepared on the Heritage Office's free database software and form part of the State Heritage Inventory. State significant items identified in a section 170 register are considered for listing on the State Heritage Register.

#### ***Managing heritage items***

The 1999 amendments to the Heritage Act oblige government agencies to do more than simply identify the significant heritage assets in their ownership. They are also required to effectively conserve and manage them and advise the Heritage Office of any disposals. They must also include information about the condition of heritage items in their annual reports.

The Heritage Office helps New South Wales Government agencies to achieve their responsibilities by exercising its regulatory functions, providing support and advice, and education and promotion programs. Actions this year included:

- ▣ assisting agencies in the preparation of section 170 registers and the revision of existing registers, in particular Sydney Water, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and the Crown Property Portfolio of NSW Treasury;
- ▣ encouraging agencies to develop and implement heritage asset management guidelines;
- ▣ encouraging agencies to use the Internet to promote transparent decision making and to make section 170 registers available online. In the previous reporting year the Roads and Traffic Authority published its heritage register online with great success. This year Sydney Water began work on an online heritage site;
- ▣ providing regular advice on heritage management issues;
- ▣ processing section 60 development applications under the Heritage Act and providing technical advice on heritage management and conservation issues;
- ▣ developing agency and operational specific exemptions from approval under the Heritage Act. In 2001-2002 the Heritage Office worked on exemptions for Parliament House, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority;
- ▣ facilitating regular engagement with government agencies through presentations by NSW Government CEOs at Heritage Council meetings;
- ▣ providing online assistance to agencies. In 2002 the Heritage Office launched a new online resource for State Government Agencies. This section of the Heritage Office website will help agencies in their stewardship of heritage assets and includes information on State government heritage management, frequently asked questions and newsletter articles;
- ▣ Representing the NSW Heritage Office on Government agencies' heritage committees. In 2001-2002 the office contributed to the Sydney Water Heritage Committee, Rail Heritage Committee and the Roads and Traffic Authority Heritage Committee by providing heritage advice, working on promotional ideas and discussing heritage issues.

Government agencies are increasing their efforts in the field of environmental management, including heritage management. The sustainability of our public heritage assets is a core responsibility of government agencies.

The benefits of good heritage management for government instrumentalities include investment in our cultural capital through the conservation of heritage for the community, the establishment of funding and management priorities, and assistance in the assessment of development proposals involving heritage assets.

Further information on government heritage asset management is available at the NSW Heritage Office website, State Government Resources sections at [www.heritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au).



The Minister for Planning, Dr Andrew Refshauge, and Mr Jack Munday in The Rocks for the announcement of the listing of nearly 100 properties under overall management of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. Thirty years ago the efforts of Jack Munday and the Builder's Labourers' Federation helped to conserve the historic precinct.

*Photograph courtesy of Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority*

## Heritage items owned by Corporation Sole

The Heritage Office's heritage and conservation register, a requirement of section 170 of the Heritage Act, includes the following items:

### 1 **Abernethy & Co. Stonemason's Lathe**

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*Location:* Lachlan Village, Newell Highway, Forbes

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*NSW historical themes:* technology, industry

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*Years of construction:* 1881, reconstructed 1993

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#### 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.

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 **Tusculum**

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

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*NSW historical themes:* Persons, religion, cultural sites

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*Years of construction:* 1831-1837

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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The principal cultural significance of Tusculum is its use as a residence by William Grant Broughton, first Bishop of Australia (1836-47) and Bishop of Sydney (1847-52), 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 re-use as the institute's New South Wales base.

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.



### 3 Hillview

<i>Location:</i>	Old Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest (Lt 12, DP 260417)
<i>NSW historical themes:</i>	Persons, government & administration, housing
<i>Years of construction:</i>	1875-1899

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

*Hillview*, encompassing the site, buildings, gardens, archaeological features, fittings and contents, has exceptional significance to the people of New South Wales as the former country home of the governors of New South Wales.

The house and its assemblage are a rare surviving collection that not only relates to its gubernatorial occupation but also demonstrates 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 New South Wales 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 not seen at Government House, Sydney.

A prospective lessee entered into an agreement to lease in 1999. This requires the lessee to conserve the property and adapt it for use as a guesthouse and museum. During the year conservation work approved by the Heritage Council was well advanced, with four hotel suites completed. The property is expected to be officially opened in November 2002.

A revised conservation plan was completed by Paul Davies in November 2000.

The conservation works have stabilised and upgraded the fabric of the building. The garden has been greatly improved with the removal of excess growth.



*Hillview, Sutton Forest.*  
Photograph by Nathanael Hughes

### 4 Exeter Farm

<i>Location:</i>	Meurants Lane, Parklea (Lot 52, DP 869799 and Lot 4021, DP879557)
<i>NSW historical themes:</i>	Agriculture, housing, pastoralism
<i>Years of construction:</i>	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.)

The building 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.



Linnwood, Guildford.  
Photograph by Murray Brown

## 5 Linnwood

*Location:* 11-35 Byron Road, Guildford (Lt 1, DP 169485, Lot 1, DP 1830175)

*NSW historical themes:* Persons, welfare

*Years of construction:* 1891

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Linnwood was transferred to Corporation Sole on the 30th June 2002 from the NSW Department of Community Services. It has local and state historic, social, and aesthetic significance.

The main residence was designed and built by George McCredie, a prominent figure in both local and state politics. In a statewide context the building is a good representative example of a Victorian Italianate Villa with much original fabric and detailing. In its local context Linnwood is a notably fine and rare example of this kind of building. The historic and aesthetic significance of the place is enhanced by its retention of much of its original landscaped grounds, which provide an attractive and historically appropriate setting for the main residence.

The villa sits within spacious grounds, which retain several other early elements from the initial phase of development of the property. They include an octagonal summerhouse, several mature trees and fountains. Retention of such large landscaped grounds around a main residence within its original curtilage is relatively rare, especially in suburban Sydney. Due to the lack of subsequent development of the grounds it is highly likely that archaeological evidence of features shown in early photographs may survive, giving the site's considerable historical archaeological potential.

The buildings are in sound condition. The wood panelling and stained glass have survived more than a century without serious damage.

## 6 Rose Seidler House

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

*NSW historical 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 Modernist 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 is excellent. Archaeological potential is low.



Rose Seidler House, Wahroonga.  
Photograph by Lloyd Sharp

## Commonwealth Government Heritage

The Commonwealth Government is reforming the national heritage protection system.

On 27 June 2002 the Government introduced into Parliament three bills to amend the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) to identify and conserve places of national heritage significance, provide for the appropriate management of Commonwealth heritage places and establish the Australian Heritage Council.

The new heritage regime will operate through a list of places of national heritage significance, the establishment of a Commonwealth Heritage List and the creation of the Australian Heritage Council to advise the Minister on heritage matters.

The new system aligns the Commonwealth's responsibilities on nationally-significant places and Commonwealth heritage assets, as well as on controlling Commonwealth actions affecting heritage places.

Under the proposed changes, the Australian Heritage Council will replace the Australian Heritage Commission as the Government's expert advisory body on heritage matters.

Visit <http://www.ea.gov.au/heritage/law/heritageact/index.html> for information on the current status of the reform package.

### **Environmental Protection and Heritage Council**

In November 2001 a new ministerial council was created to address heritage matters at a national level. The Environmental Protection and Heritage Council comprises Commonwealth, State and Territory members for environmental protection and heritage. At its first meeting at Hobart in May 2002 the council resolved to establish task forces for five key heritage projects aimed at drafting a national heritage strategy:

- Integrated National Heritage Policy
- National Heritage Incentive Program
- system of periodic reports on national and world heritage properties
- data collection and storage system to use across all jurisdictions
- National Heritage Tourism Strategy.

The Director of the NSW Heritage Office is the Chair of the Heritage Tourism Taskforce.

## Historic shipwrecks in Commonwealth waters

The Heritage Office is the New South Wales agency responsible for administering both the Commonwealth *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976* and the relics provisions of the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW). These two Acts provide protection to maritime archaeological sites in New South Wales by making unauthorised disturbance an illegal activity.

The NSW Maritime Archaeology Program began in 1988 and forms part of the Commonwealth's Historic Shipwrecks Program. Employing two maritime archaeologists, the Heritage Office leads by example in the research, documentation, management, protection and interpretation of maritime archaeological sites across the State. The work is undertaken in close consultation with community groups and individuals.

Documenting and surveying shipwreck sites is a central element of the management of historic shipwrecks in Commonwealth waters. Work this year included a number of individual sites and a regional survey of Lord Howe Island.

The work involved scientific gathering of site formation and site stability information. Site significance was assessed and management recommendations were incorporated within conservation management plans.



Lord Howe Island with the remains of the steamer *Jacques del Mar*, wrecked in 1954, in the foreground. This year Heritage Office maritime archaeologists undertook a survey of Lord Howe Island and its many historic shipwrecks.

*Photograph by Tim Smith*

In addition, the information gathered during the surveys was transformed into publicly accessible products such as brochures, interpretive plaques, magazine articles, lectures and information pages on the Heritage Office's Maritime Heritage Online web site. The work is intrinsically associated with broad liaison with community groups such as divers, historical societies and fishing cooperatives as well as with government agencies and local government.

Specific work included:

- survey of wrecks in the vicinity of Lord Howe island including the early whalers *Wolfe* (1837) and *George* (1830), *Ovalau* (1903), *Favorite* (1965), *LeMeurthe*, *Jacques del Mar* (1907) and the anchor from the First Fleet ship *Supply*;
- survey of shipwrecks notified to the Heritage Office under the requirements of the Historic Shipwrecks Act, e.g. newly reported wrecks at Collaroy;
- preparation of conservation management plans for these sites;
- liaison with relevant community groups, local councils and government agencies associated with the shipwrecks subject to the above surveys;
- development of online material associated with the above surveys for general public access – through publication on Maritime Heritage Online;
- issuing of permits for historic shipwrecks in protected zones: three for *ss Duckenfield* and ten for *ss Lady Darling*;
- ongoing maintenance of existing partnerships with the states, the Northern Territory, Norfolk Island and Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology, liaison and formal and informal communication with State and Territory;
- support for local council shipwreck interpretive sign and/or information brochure projects at Manly, Evans Head, Tweed Heads and Warringah;
- assistance to Environment Australia on the development of a National Maritime Heritage Strategy, National Historic Shipwreck Database and National Artefact Database;
- input into zoning plans for Marine Parks at Solitary Islands and Lord Howe Island;
- agreement on management of underwater cultural heritage in Marine Parks through a memorandum of understanding between the NSW Heritage Office and the NSW Marine Parks Authority. Launch of a document *Marine Park Shipwrecks and Other Underwater Relics: Management Principles*;
- conservation management plans produced for Lord Howe Island, Collaroy anchors.

Increased awareness of the shipwrecks subject to the surveys was reflected in newspaper articles and records of other media coverage. These included the Lord Howe Island newsletter *Signal*, the Heritage Office newsletter *Heritage NSW*, *Daily Telegraph* (Lord Howe Island), Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology newsletter and various radio interviews about Lord Howe Island and the *Collaroy*.

## Engineered for heritage

The Tank Stream was probably the subject of Australia's first conservation order – in 1795 an order was issued forbidding pollution of the watercourse and establishing a 15-metre greenbelt on either side. This unassuming stream was the single most important resource responsible for determining the location of the city of Sydney. Over 200 years later, the heritage of the watercourse was celebrated along with other significant items managed by Sydney Water.

The launch of Sydney Water's Heritage and Conservation Register on the 27 May 2002 marked the celebration of a critical part of Sydney's engineering heritage. Over 200 items are listed on the register which has been developed with the assistance of the NSW Heritage Office.

The particular importance of some of the items was recognized by the Minister for Planning's announcement at the Tank Stream that 27 would be listed on the State Heritage Register.

Sydney Water manages a diverse range of heritage items ranging from reservoirs, sewage treatment plants and sewage pumping stations. The submission of its section 170 register was the culmination of a three year review of its heritage registers. Items selected for listing on the State Heritage Register included the Prospect Reservoir, the Sydney Water Head Office building, the 'Ben Buckler' sewer vent at Bondi and the Sydenham Pit and Draining pumping station in Marrickville. Some of the items have surprising significance, such as the Obelisk in Hyde Park which is actually a sewer vent. It was the first major vent for Sydney's first sewerage system, completed in 1857.

Although sewerage plants and vents are sometimes not considered a city's most attractive features, the listing recognizes that they are important examples of engineering ingenuity and help to tell us how the infrastructure of our city developed.

Sydney Water has undertaken other initiatives, including appointing a senior heritage manager, establishing a Heritage Strategy Steering Committee, developing guidelines for the protection of Aboriginal heritage and commissioning thematic studies of reservoirs, sewage treatment plants and sewage pumping stations.

Integrating heritage management into the standard asset management of NSW government agencies is a major goal of the Heritage Council and Heritage Office.

Minister for Planning, Dr Andrew Refshauge, and Minister for Energy, Mr Kimberley Yeadon, at the Tank Stream to announce the launch of Sydney Water's heritage and conservation register.

*Photograph by Neil Holbrook, courtesy of Sydney Water Corporation*



## State Government Heritage on The Rocks

Nearly 100 properties in Sydney's historic Rocks precinct were listed on the State Heritage Register this year.

The listing of the properties is a major achievement for State Government heritage. The historic terraces and commercial buildings are under the overall management of the Sydney Harbour Foreshores Authority. The Heritage Act provides for the "bulk listing" of government-owned heritage items identified by agencies as state significant in their heritage and conservation register.

Originally a waterfront neighbourhood with pubs, brothels and warehouses, the precinct was slated for re-development in the 1970s. The effort

of the Builder's Labourers' Federation – through the Green Bans – and public support for area saw The Rocks conserved and led directly to the Wran government's introduction of heritage legislation.

As well as approving the listing, the Minister of Planning also agreed to the delegation to the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority of some of the Heritage Council's powers to approve changes to these properties. This reflected the authority's strong record in heritage management of State government items.

In The Rocks to announce the listing of almost 100 significant properties on the State Heritage Register: Mr Greg Robinson, CEO Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, Mr Wayne Johnson, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority archaeologist, Mr Jack Munday, Dr Andrew Refshauge, Minister for Planning.



## On the Register: Parliament House

As evidence of the business of government in New South Wales, Parliament House is one of our most evocative and important sites. It is the oldest Parliament building in the Commonwealth. In 2002 this notable building was added to the State Heritage Register.

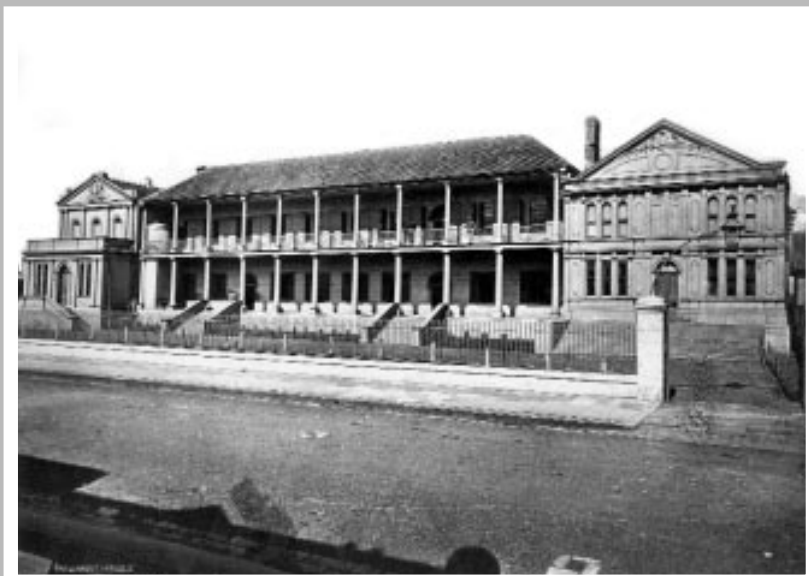
Parliament House has been at the centre of the history of New South Wales since 1816, when it was built as accommodation for the principal surgeon of Sydney's first permanent hospital. Known as the Rum Hospital, it was built of sandstone with colonnaded timber verandahs.

The hospital was converted for the use of the legislative council in 1829.

Today it is part of Sydney's oldest complex of public buildings.

There have been several additions and extensions to the Parliament buildings. In 1843 and 1856 chambers were added to either side of the original building. Major new sections were again added in 1975-85, when all of the old buildings behind the historic hospital and chambers were replaced.

Heritage listing means that the approval of the Heritage Council is required for any major changes. The Heritage Council worked with senior Parliamentary staff to develop a memorandum of understanding which detailed exemptions from this requirement to ensure that Parliament House will continue to be managed without delays for minor approvals.



Parliament House in Macquarie Street, Sydney, in 1870. This year Australia's oldest parliament building was listed on the State Heritage Register.

*Photograph Courtesy of Parliamentary Archives*

### 3. Helping Local Government

#### OBJECTIVE:

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

#### Local Government Heritage

As most of the 20,000 heritage items on statutory lists in New South Wales are of local significance, local government is at the forefront of heritage management. This year councils received new heritage powers to help them identify and manage heritage in their local area.

On 1 February 2002 the Minister for Planning, Dr Andrew Refshauge, delegated additional heritage powers to all councils in New South Wales. These powers included:

- the delegation of certain approval functions of the Heritage Council of NSW;
- the authorisation to make interim heritage orders.

The delegation of certain Heritage Council approval functions will streamline the approvals process for those items in each local government area listed on the State Heritage Register. It will enable local councils to be a one-stop shop for applications for minor works to items listed on the State Heritage Register where the works do not materially affect the significance of the item.

The Minister also authorised, on a staged basis, a number of councils – particularly in rural areas – to make interim heritage orders. This authorisation allows a council to provide short term protection for an item under threat whilst it undertakes an assessment of heritage significance and considers whether statutory protection is warranted through listing in the heritage schedule of the local environmental plan.

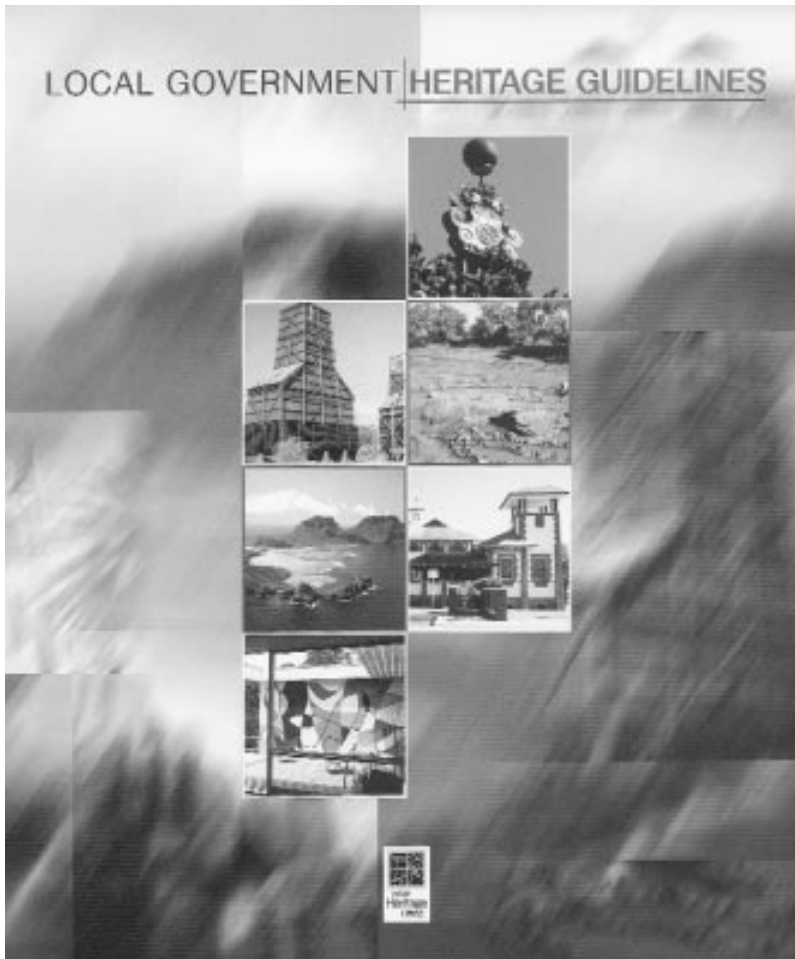
At this stage a total of 146 local councils (17 Sydney suburban councils and 129 rural and regional councils) are authorised to make interim heritage orders.

The additional powers will assist local councils to improve their performance in heritage management and provide a more streamlined approvals process for owners of heritage items.

A number of initiatives were undertaken by the Heritage Office in 2002 to help councils with their new responsibilities:

- publication of the *Local Government Heritage Guidelines* to assist local councils with the implementation of the additional powers. The guidelines provide a better understanding of heritage matters for all those with some responsibility for local government heritage management;
- the *Local Government Heritage Guidelines* were made available in both printed format and electronic format via the Heritage Office website. Copies of the new publication were sent to each local council in New South Wales;
- training workshops presented to local councils across the State. The series began in June 2002 and will be completed by October 2002. The workshops provide assistance with the implementation of the *Local Government Heritage Guidelines* and the additional powers;
- the Local Government Resource Centre was launched on the Heritage Office website to provide easy access to information and resources on heritage management specific to local government for council staff and heritage advisors.

These Heritage Office initiatives and the new heritage powers will guide decision making and improve heritage practice by local councils. The delegation of heritage powers was a major goal of the 2000-2005 Strategic Plan and will assist councils to more effectively identify, assess and manage their local heritage.



The Local Government Heritage Guidelines were published this year to provide guidance to local councils.

### **Protection Through Planning Instruments**

Identifying and listing items of heritage significance are only the first steps in protecting and managing those places and objects that we as a community want to keep. Planning instruments provide the framework for managing the approval of major changes so that heritage significance is retained and not diminished. In 2001-2002 the Heritage Office continued to work with local councils to assist them to develop a satisfactory framework for good heritage management.

#### ***Local Environmental Plans***

The Heritage Act requires that all draft local environmental plans that affect an item of heritage significance contain provisions that will facilitate the conservation of that item.

The Heritage Council and the Heritage Office examine draft local environmental plans and provide advice to councils about whether plans comply with the requirements of the Heritage Act and the Heritage Office's model provisions. The Heritage Model Provisions provide guidance to councils on the provisions of plans relating to heritage conservation.

During the year the Director of the Heritage Office, as a delegate of the Heritage Council, provided advice to councils on 132 draft local environmental plans. Several councils prepared comprehensive local plans which have significantly added to their lists of heritage items: Camden, Griffiths, Lane Cove, Pittwater, Ryde, Sydney and Sutherland. Several other councils have prepared plans that include specific heritage provisions to provide increased protection for numerous additional items: Ashfield, Bankstown, Eurobodalla, Holroyd, Kogarah, Ku-ring-gai, Newcastle, Manly and Ryde.

Preliminary advice was also provided to an increased number of councils undertaking environmental studies, strategies and master plans. These included Dungog (local environmental study), Great Lakes (draft conservation and management strategy), Randwick (town centre studies) and South Sydney (Eveleigh Railway Workshops site master plan). In all, 12 master planning and strategy documents were reviewed by the Heritage Office.

#### ***State and Regional Environmental Plans***

Several State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) and Regional Environmental Plans (REPs) were reviewed by the Heritage Office. These included SEPP no. 59 (Greystanes Estate – CSIRO Land) and its accompanying draft precinct plan and SEPP no. 65 (Residential Development).

The Heritage Council provided comment regarding the draft REP, master plan and heritage impact assessment for the Cooks Cove precinct. The site, comprising approximately 100 hectares of land over several separate land parcels, is to be rezoned to permit the relocation of the Kogarah Golf Course and adjoining sports fields



for a trade and technology park. The site also includes the Chinese market garden in West Botany Street, Arncliffe, one of three Rockdale market gardens considered of state significance for their association with the Chinese community and their demonstration of a continuous pattern of land usage since the late nineteenth century. Initial proposals for the site had the potential to significantly impact on the market garden. Following negotiation with all stakeholders, the draft plans have been amended to a change of use for the minor uncultivated portion of the market garden.

### **Development Control Plans**

The Director of the Heritage Office provided advice to councils on the preparation of 16 development control plans (DCPs) which related to heritage issues, including Maitland City Council's Morpeth DCP, Burwood Council's Appian Way and Malvern Hill conservation area DCPs and Great Lakes Council's Stroud heritage conservation area DCP.

### **Parramatta Regional Environmental Plan**

In September 1996 the Premier announced that a regional environmental plan (REP) would be developed for Parramatta as Sydney's second main centre of business and population, focusing on issues of heritage, access and urban design.

The Heritage Office has been an active partner with Planning NSW and Parramatta City Council in preparing and implementing the regional environmental plan.

The Department of Transport, Roads and Traffic Authority, business community and community groups have also been closely involved.

The plan consists of a four-part package of documents:

- a planning strategy outlining planning objectives for each city precinct;
- a supporting access strategy covering public and private transport improvements;
- a statutory plan outlining the planning controls; and
- an action plan outlining its implementation.

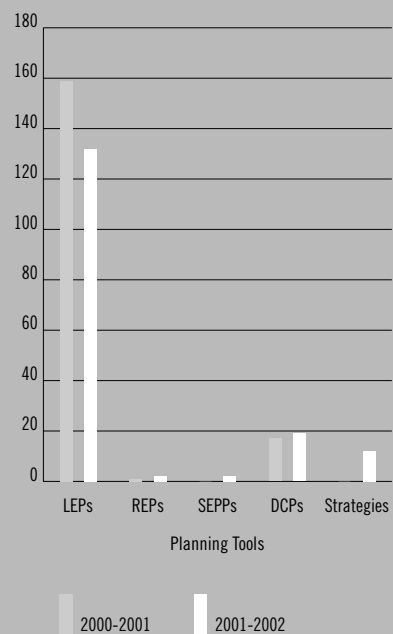
The regional environmental plan package covers the area from Westmead in the west to Rydalmere and Camellia in the east, and builds on the *Parramatta Strategy* public discussion paper of 1997. As a result of its gazettal on 30 August 1999, the emphasis has now shifted from preparing broad-based planning controls to the preparation of more detailed development controls, including development control plans and master plans. In particular, master plans are being prepared for Civic Place and North Parramatta government sites. The Heritage Office has been involved in the preparation of these plans with other relevant stakeholders.

The regional environmental plan was also amended to include controls for the Prince Alfred Park Special Area in North Parramatta to accommodate a proposed new cathedral on the St Patrick's Cathedral site. The Heritage Office was actively involved in the preparation of the amendments.

Detailed controls have also been prepared for the City Centre and Harris Park areas. Following extensive consultation with the Heritage Office, the City Centre Development Control Plan was completed and adopted by Parramatta City Council. The Harris Park Development Control Plan has been publicly exhibited and is being finalized.

The Heritage Office has also been involved with the refinement of planning studies for the Camellia and Rydalmere precincts. These studies focus on future development potential and benefits from infrastructure improvements, such as the construction of the Parramatta Rail Link. Draft regional environmental plan provisions and controls have been finalised and are expected to be exhibited in September 2002.

### **Referral of Statutory Planning Tools**



This table shows a reduction in the number of local environmental plans being referred to the NSW Heritage Office for comment, as fewer councils are preparing exempt and complying local environmental plans. Meanwhile the total number of other planning tools has increased. The overall number of planning referrals is the same as the previous year.

### **Government Heritage Assets in North Parramatta**

The Department of Public Works and Services has prepared a conservation management plan and a master plan for the North Parramatta Government sites. These documents form part of a whole-of-government approach to the management and redevelopment of major State Government heritage assets in Parramatta.

The properties adjoin the Parramatta River in the city and North Parramatta, including Parramatta Gaol, Cumberland Hospital East (former Female Factory, Gaol and Lunatic Asylum), the Norma Parker Centre and Kambala (former Roman Catholic Orphan School). City sites include Parramatta Hospital and the Marsden Rehabilitation Centre at the Old Kings School.

The sites were developed from as early as 1792 and represent over 200 years of continuous government institutional use in Parramatta. They form a broader cultural landscape of national heritage significance and include designed and natural landscapes, buildings, historic plantings, open space and considerable archaeological resources.

The Heritage Office continued to work with the Department of Public Works and Services, which is co-ordinating the finalisation of a master plan, component conservation management plans, economic feasibility studies and redevelopment proposals by a number of Government agencies.

### **Assistance to Local Councils**

One of the major ways the Heritage Office assists local councils with heritage management is by providing advice to heritage officers and heritage advisors. Major channels of assistance in 2001-2002 were the Heritage Advisor Program and the Heritage Network.

#### **Heritage Advisor Program**

Since 1983 the Heritage Council has financially and administratively supported the part-time appointment of heritage advisors to advise local councils and the local community on heritage matters.

In New South Wales 118 of the 172 councils have heritage advisor positions, of which 87 are in rural areas (there are 126 rural councils) and 31 in metropolitan areas. Seventy councils (40 in rural New South Wales) also have officers who are knowledgeable on heritage matters. Fifty-four of these 70 councils also have a part-time heritage advisor.

In summary, 134 councils out of the 172 councils potentially have access to heritage services – either a heritage advisor or an officer knowledgeable in heritage matters.

#### **Heritage Network**

This year the Heritage Network moved to a new schedule, with one full-day seminar and additional workshops arranged as required. In 2001-2002 the following meetings were held:

- Heritage Advisor Network Seminar was held at the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority premises in The Rocks in August 2001. Ninety heritage advisors and local government officers attended;
- information session on the new Heritage Incentives Program and the new delegations to local councils in March 2002.



Parramatta is home to many early and significant heritage sites, including the Parramatta River, Old Government House and Parramatta Regional Park.  
*Photograph courtesy of Parramatta Park Trust*

**Heritage Advisors E-mail Network**

The e-mail network linking heritage advisors, local government officers and the Heritage Office has proved to be an invaluable medium for the exchange of information, the exploration of conservation strategies and the announcement of new initiatives. There are now 170 members on the network. This year the Heritage Office implemented a monthly bulletin to the network summarising announcements and initiatives.

**Natural Heritage Advisor**

In 2001-2002 the first natural heritage advisor in New South Wales was appointed. The trial position at Campbelltown City Council is jointly funded by the Heritage Office and the council. The position will:

- oversee the natural and cultural landscape study;
- develop a bushwalking trails strategy;
- oversee the bushland regeneration program;
- develop interpretative signage for bushwalking and natural areas.

**Heritage Short Courses for NSW Local Government**

The administration of the successful heritage short course program developed by the Heritage Office is now handled by the Local Government and Shires Associations' Training Unit.

The Local Government and Shires Association delivered two programs which were attended by 26 participants including four councillors, twenty senior managers and local government professionals and two professionals from the private sector. The feedback from the programs was excellent and the participants appreciated the continuing interest of the Heritage Office in sponsoring the professional development of councillors and local government staff.

The programs were:

*Development Approvals: The Heritage Perspective*, 26 October 2001, delivered by David Logan, Director, Godden Mackay Logan;

*Heritage Planning in Practice*, 20-21 March 2002, delivered by Sue Jackson-Stepowski, heritage consultant.

## CASE STUDY

### Heritage Advisors in NSW: Making a Difference

In both rural and metropolitan areas the heritage advisor is the crucial link between the community, the local council and the Heritage Office. This year there were 118 local government areas with heritage advisor positions in New South Wales. Heritage advisors work at the grassroots level of a community where action to conserve heritage really happens.

In Maclean the heritage advisor, Debra Wray, has seen heritage work transform the small northern rivers town. She is employed as a permanent in-house heritage advisor to Maclean Shire Council. The position is partially funded under the Heritage Incentives Program. The availability of heritage advice on a frequent basis has had positive results for the community and made a difference to heritage conservation in the local area.

The advantages include easy access for heritage advice, the introduction of grant assistance for owners of heritage items, regular input in the development process, and the development of planning policies specifically to protect heritage.

One of the highlights has been the Main Street project which has significantly raised the profile and value of heritage in Maclean. Historic buildings have been conserved and verandahs reconstructed to give the town a new lease of life and restore civic pride. Grants have provided the incentive for property owners to undertake work, particularly verandah reconstruction, and Debra Wray has provide the free specialist heritage advice.

This year a significant triple-fronted building facing the river was conserved with outstanding results. Grant assistance of \$10,000 was provided by council to the total project cost of \$78,807. After major repairs and reconstruction of the verandah to its original form, the building has become a source of pride, an attraction for new investment from local businesses and an inspiration for additional heritage projects. The heritage restoration work and enhancements to Maclean Main Street have provided the catalyst to raise the profile of heritage and have generated tremendous feedback from locals and visitors alike.



Heritage advisors provide advice and help communities conserve their heritage. The town of Maclean has been transformed with work to the main street, including 195-97 River Street, pictured before and after conservation work.

*Photographs courtesy of Maclean Shire Council*

## 4. Helping the Community

### OBJECTIVE:

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

### Heritage Resources on the Internet

The Heritage Office homepage at [www.heritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au) is the prime access point for the community to find out about heritage in New South Wales. It 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 State Heritage Register.

There were 106,000 visitors to the Heritage Office webpage in 2001-2002. The average number of daily visitors to the website increased by 104% in just 12 months.

The major focus this year was the enhancement of the webpage to improve community access to information about heritage.

- The website was redesigned. Features such as new navigation and graphic presentation improved accessibility for the general public. As well as improving usability, additional information was made available through new pages on Researching Heritage Items, Conserving Heritage Places, State Government Resources and Local Government Resources.

- A new database search facility was introduced for the State Heritage Register which provides additional search criteria for visitors, including the Designer/Builder, Item Types and Groups, and Australian and New South Wales historic themes. Additional information is now also provided on land parcels, standard or specific exemptions and management policies recommended for the item.

- The Local Government Resource Centre on the website was developed. Launched in June 2002, this resource means that for the first time those working in or for local councils have easy access to information on heritage management specific to local government. The centre was launched in June 2002 and it is envisaged that it will become the key distribution channel for heritage information to local councils in both rural and metropolitan New South Wales.

- Maritime Heritage Online was launched in November 2001. This new site, which is accessed via the Heritage Office website is a major achievement that has attracted wide interest and promoted involvement with maritime heritage sites in New South Wales [see details below].

### **Maritime Heritage Online**

A key strategy in improving community access to information about maritime heritage in New South Wales was the development of the NSW Maritime Heritage Online website. This project draws together key objectives of the NSW Heritage Office Strategic Plan as well as the National Historic Shipwreck Program as it applies to this State.

The Maritime Heritage Online site was launched by the Minister for Planning, Dr Andrew Refshauge, in November 2001 and provides an unprecedented level of public access to maritime heritage and resources. This includes information about a range of maritime heritage sites including coastal defences, lighthouses, Aboriginal maritime heritage and historic shipwrecks, as well as the NSW Historic shipwreck database, wreck inspection reports and other maritime publications. Other features include online guidelines to help divers participate in researching and recording shipwrecks and a guide to place names associated with historic shipwrecks. In June 2002 additional facilities were built into the web site including an automated list of 'Wrecks of the Day'.



The NSW Maritime Heritage Online website was launched this year giving divers, students, tourists and other interested members of the public unprecedented access to maritime heritage and resources.

The target usage rate was 160 visitors per day by the end of the first six months. This target was reached within the first month and reached a level in excess of 400 visits per day by January 2002.

With the increasing incorporation of maritime archaeology and maritime history into the primary and high school syllabuses the site will continue to be developed as an invaluable resource for students and teachers. At the same time, it is of value to divers, those with a general interest in maritime history, tourists and those seeking links for more in depth research projects.

### ***Certificates Online***

In December 1999 the Heritage Office was granted \$93,000 from the Department of Information Technology and Management to implement an online heritage certificates and applications project.

This project proved more complex in implementation than originally estimated. The Heritage Office is now proceeding, in conjunction with the Roads and Traffic Authority which also received funding for a similar project, to provide this facility for any State agency which has the responsibility for property restrictions. The Heritage Office contributed \$60,000 from the original budget for the joint development.

The project is now called Online Property Inquiry System (OPIS) and it became operational for the Roads and Traffic Authority in early 2002. The Heritage Office and other participating agencies will go online in the fourth quarter of 2002, after management of the financial transactions and reporting on customer credit card statements is resolved and a participation agreement is finalised.

### ***Geographical Information System Facility***

The Heritage Office received funding of \$208,000 from the 2001-2002 Connect.nsw Program to deliver a Geographical Information System (GIS) facility on the Heritage Office website that will link to the State Heritage Inventory and State Heritage Register online database.

This GIS facility will be accessed in two ways:

- clicking on a section of the New South Wales map, region or local government area to produce an enlarged view showing the location of heritage items within the view. Clicking on any one of the items will activate a hyperlink to that item in the State Heritage Inventory or State Heritage Register database, displaying text and photos; and
- Searching the database by town/suburb, street, historic theme will provide the option of viewing the database entry for items listed in the search results or having them displayed graphically on a map.

This project is due for completion in December 2002.

### ***State Heritage Inventory***

The State Heritage Inventory on the Internet provides public access to a comprehensive database of information on statutorily-listed heritage items. By making this information available to all those involved in heritage assessment, as well as the wider community and schools, the inventory encourages 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 30,000 items listed by State and local government. It will ultimately become a comprehensive database containing information on all identified items in the State. The Heritage Office is continuing to work with local and State government agencies and community groups to import descriptions and images relating to identified heritage items through the distribution of free database software and some financial assistance for data entry.

### **Electronic Service Delivery**

The Heritage Office is committed to electronic delivery of services, and has met its service delivery targets to date. The major services detailed above are publicly available on the Internet.

### **State Heritage Inventory Software**

The Heritage Office has continued to make the State Heritage Inventory database software available to local and State government agencies and community groups to assist in the preparation and documentation of heritage studies. The software has been designed as an effective tool for managing the information obtained through this process.

In 2001-2002 the Heritage Office distributed the software package to 12 local councils. This brings the total number of councils with the software to 66 and the total number of State government agencies to 42. 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.

In 2001-2002 the Heritage Office continued to work with local and state government agencies and community groups to import descriptions and images relating to identified heritage items. To date, 27 councils and 9 State agencies have supplied their database information to the Heritage Office for inclusion on the State Heritage Inventory.

Regular training courses in the operation of the software are held at the Heritage Office in Parramatta. During the year 41 people from 25 organisations (consultants, community groups, local and State Government) received training.

### **Publications**

In 2002-2002 the Heritage Office continued to produce quality publications to promote heritage and increase understanding of the heritage management system in New South Wales. Highlights included:

■ *Assessing Heritage Significance*. This is the authoritative guideline for assessing heritage items in New South Wales. An update to the Heritage Assessments section of the 1996 *NSW Heritage Manual*, it explains how to assess all kinds of heritage items at both local and State levels of significance;

■ *Creating a Living Past; Ideas for Successful Heritage Projects*. This booklet provides practical advice for community groups and individuals working to conserve heritage places in their local communities. It presents a sample of interesting and innovative projects and describes the process by which energetic individuals and groups used heritage funding to bring their projects to fruition. The booklet was produced to coincide with the announcement of Heritage Incentives Program funding for 2002 and was sent to every successful applicant;

■ *The Local Government Heritage Guidelines*. This manual for local councils explains two initiatives: the delegation of certain approval functions of the Heritage Council of NSW to local councils, and the authorisation for local councils to make interim heritage orders. It is also available as a web-based resource;

■ *Twentieth Century Heritage; Marking the Recent Past*. A joint venture by Australia's heritage agencies, this publication asks what we should keep from the recent past. It challenges readers to consider what it is that heritage groups are meant to preserve;

■ *Heritage NSW*. The newsletter of the Heritage Council of NSW and the Heritage Office continued to keep heritage practitioners and enthusiasts informed about heritage in New South Wales. Two issues were produced in 2001-2002 and 7,500



The newly established NSW Government Heritage Awards for Volunteers recognize the enormous contribution of community organisations and volunteers to our heritage. Barbara Hickson (riding shotgun) has been a committed volunteer to the Cobb & Co. Heritage Trail Project.

*Photograph courtesy of Orange City Council*

copies of each were distributed widely to heritage consultants, State government agencies, local councils and communities.

A full list of publications can be viewed at page 93.

### School Education Project

A key objective of the Heritage Council of NSW and the Heritage Office is to develop initiatives in school, tertiary and adult education that will increase understanding of the value of heritage protection and conservation.

The Teaching Heritage website – [www.teachingheritage.nsw.edu.au](http://www.teachingheritage.nsw.edu.au) – was developed by the Heritage Office and Board of Studies for the professional development of secondary geography and history teachers. The site contains more than 1000 pages of journal articles, news reports, excerpts from heritage documents and other source material, as well as over 750 photographs. This innovative resource for secondary teachers was recently short-listed in *The Australian* newspaper's Awards for Excellence in Educational Publishing.

This year an average of 800 pages of the site were viewed every day, with the most popular heritage sites being the Randwick Ritz, Rookwood Cemetery and Necropolis, Cowra POW Camp and Parramatta Park. Averaged over 24 hours, 4.25 people are using the website every hour. Statistics indicate that many people find it valuable and worth revisiting with 15% of users staying for between 10 and 29 minutes and 30% (most likely students in classrooms) staying about an hour.

During the year the Heritage Office organised a meeting of a representative sample of users to assess its virtues and defects. As a result of this consultation a detailed program of changes to the site commenced with funding from the Heritage Office.

### Migration Heritage Centre

During the year the Migration Heritage Centre, a special project of the Premier's Department, published a migration heritage toolkit developed by the Heritage Office. The kit is a set of guidelines derived from a trial project in which consultant historian Kate Rea assisted ethnic communities in Albury, Broken Hill and Orange to identify places of special importance to their communities. It sets out a recommended method for the management and administration of similar migration heritage programs in rural centres and is accessible through the centre's website: [www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au).

### Community Programs

#### **Maritime Archaeology Community Programs**

##### *Wreck Spotters*

The Heritage Office continued support for 28 nominated 'wreck spotters' along the coast who provide valuable assistance in the management of the State's underwater heritage. During the year wreck spotters provided reports on about ten shipwrecks or items, such as anchors, associated with shipwreck events exposed following storm activity.

##### *Wrecks Alive*

The Heritage Office also assisted people to become involved in the study and documentation of underwater cultural heritage through the Heritage Office's *Wrecks Alive* project guide and through the provision of lecturing staff for two weekend maritime archaeological training courses conducted by the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology.



Each year community "wreck spotters" help to identify exposed shipwrecks. Wreckspotter Bill Legge is pictured with the remains of the K-IX submarine, stranded in 1945, which he recently helped to locate.  
Photograph by Tim Smith



### ***Heritage Volunteer Awards***

In 2001-2002 the Heritage Council and Heritage Office encouraged the community to celebrate the State's environmental heritage by establishing the New South Wales Government Heritage Awards for Volunteers.

Nominations for the inaugural awards closed in February 2002. The awards will be presented in August 2002 by the Minister for Planning, Dr Andrew Refshauge. Through the awards the New South Wales Government is recognising the enormous contribution of the many committed organisations and volunteers to the heritage of New South Wales.

The purpose of the New South Wales Government Heritage Awards is to recognise the outstanding performance of individuals and community organisations in terms of those who have:

- significantly improved the profile of heritage management in their local communities;
- successfully motivated and managed heritage projects;
- promoted the value of heritage by significant means and through exemplary service.

### ***Historic Towns Project***

This project arose from the Road and Traffic Authority's need to develop criteria for the placement of 'historic town' signs along the highway system. In 2001-2002 the Heritage Office and Tourism NSW jointly funded a consultant to develop the criteria. The focus is on genuine historical interest and inclusiveness.

The criteria will be beneficial to all parties. The Roads and Traffic Authority will have clear criteria to assist in deciding which towns should receive signs, while Tourism NSW will be better able to assess cultural tourism proposals in rural and regional areas. The aim is that the sign will eventually become a guarantee that the term "historic town" has real meaning and visiting the place will provide a rewarding tourism experience.

### **Heritage Incentives Program**

The Heritage Incentives Program is a major contributor to the Heritage Council and Heritage Office's goal of increasing involvement in community-based heritage projects. Following a review of funding arrangements for the Heritage Office over the last two years, a new Heritage Incentives Program was launched by the Minister for Planning in February 2002. Applications closed on 22 March 2002 and 210 applications were received by the Heritage Office.

In June funding was announced for 126 conservation, study and promotional projects totalling \$2.8 million across the State under the new Heritage Incentives Program.

The 126 approved projects covered 86 site work projects, 20 study and promotional projects, 7 Aboriginal heritage projects, 12 conservation management plans and funding to the Royal Australian Historical Society for a local history and archives program.

In line with government policy a high priority was given to rural and regional projects under the program. Seventy percent of the \$2.8 million approved for the 126 projects was in rural and regional areas.

A full summary of the 126 approved projects is available on the NSW Heritage Office's website at [www.heritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au). For a list of grants turn to page 76.

During the review period of the last two years interim funding arrangements have been in place to ensure continued support for local government heritage management, support to heritage agencies and emergency grants. \$839,108 in grants was offered over 86 projects under this interim program.

### Heritage Incentives Program 2002-2004

- ❑ Biennial grants and loans to undertake conservation or presentation work on heritage items listed on Local and Regional Environmental Plans and/or on the State Heritage Register;
- ❑ Biennial grants for thematic studies, education and promotional projects;
- ❑ Year round consideration of Aboriginal heritage projects;
- ❑ Year round special purposes grants and loans program with an upper limit of \$5,000 per project;
- ❑ Year round consideration of support grants for conservation management plans on items of state heritage

significance, with an upper limit of \$2,500;

- ❑ Support by way of three year service agreements to local councils to cover heritage advisory services and local heritage funds and other matters. Commencing in July 2002;
- ❑ Support by way of three year service agreements to heritage agencies e.g. National Trust;
- ❑ Grants of up to \$4,000 for local history and archives projects through a \$40,000 grant to the Royal Australian Historical Society.

A total of \$2.3 million each year is to be provided to the Heritage Office to run this program commencing 1 July 2002.

In 2002-2004 priority was given to projects that:

- ❑ Link heritage with cultural tourism or with the re-vitalisation, enhancement, interpretation and/or promotion of whole precincts, towns, villages or areas
- ❑ Assist Aboriginal or ethnic communities to identify, assess and manage places, objects and collections they value
- ❑ Conserve and present non-residential heritage items in rural and regional areas
- ❑ Undertake comparative and thematic studies of categories of movable items, based on significance assessment.

### Documenting multicultural heritage in NSW: the Greek community

The recognition, exploration and celebration of our multicultural heritage is a key priority of the NSW Heritage Council and Heritage Office. An important initiative in 2001-2002 was *Beyond the Rolling Wave: A Thematic History of Greek Settlement in New South Wales*.

This new study was the result of a partnership between the Heritage Office and the University of NSW to document the contribution of the Greek community to New South Wales' history

and to identify the special places that reflect that history. Craig Turnbull and Chris Valiotis produced the thematic history for the University's Centre for Community History. The project was supervised by Professor Ian Tyrrell.

The study traces the story of Greek settlement in New South Wales from the earliest arrivals in the 1810s. In the 19th many of the Greeks to come to New South Wales were single men; some sought fortune during the Gold Rush, others worked in the pastoralism industry or established businesses in country towns. By the mid-20th century 43% of Greek-Australians lived in rural New South Wales.

The authors describe the challenges faced by these early arrivals:

"Greek culture survived in colonial New South Wales despite the many obstacles encountered by the first immigrants, some of whom, for example, felt compelled to anglicise their names to deflect the xenophobic hostility of numerically dominant Anglo settlers."

The study charts the boom in immigration after WWII when the number of Greek-born immigrants living in Australia increased six-fold in 15 years. It looks at the patterns of employment, including the phenomenon of Greek shopkeeping, as well as social, religious and leisure activities in Greek communities. It highlights the determination of Greeks to sustain traditional cultural forms in New South Wales, while at the same time adapting to the society they encountered in their adopted home. The dynamic and distinctive Greek-Australian culture which resulted is part of the rich heritage of New South Wales.

The study was made available in electronic format on the Heritage Office website.



Greek cafes and milk bars were once a familiar sight in suburbs and country towns throughout NSW.  
Photograph by Joy McCann

## Participating in Maritime Heritage: Lord Howe Island

When active and committed people become involved in looking after their special places and items, the history of a place comes alive. Without this work the Heritage Council's aim of involving the community in the identification, assessment and management of its local heritage cannot be realized. This year on Lord Howe Island the local community helped to uncover some of its significant maritime heritage.

Maritime archaeologists David Nutley and Tim Smith from the NSW Heritage Office visited Lord Howe Island to survey its many significant historic shipwrecks. The project, undertaken with the Lord Howe Island Marine Park Authority, aimed to assist the authority in managing the range of unique natural and cultural remains within the park's waters.

One of the highlights of the project, was the search for an iron anchor lost by HMS *Supply*, armed tender to the Flagship of the First Fleet, HMS *Sirius* in 1788.

The search for the lost iron anchor became a target of the Heritage Office's 14-day field expedition. Variations in the island's natural magnetic signature were mapped with a sophisticated magnetometer towed from the Marine Parks vessel, *Corris*. While the exact location of the anchor was not detected in the time available, an enthusiastic team of local divers has begun searching for the historic marker in the area of the located magnetic anomalies.



Heritage Office maritime archaeologist, Tim Smith, and Marine Parks diver, Julie Smith, record details of steamer *Ovalau* for the Lord Howe Island survey.  
*Photograph by David Nutley*

The Lord Howe survey was a great success, with the community becoming involved in all aspects of the work. A remarkable place with a significant maritime heritage, Lord Howe Island will continue to be the focus of ongoing research and site documentation.

## Contributing to community projects: the Amusu Theatre

A unique bush cinema was one of the major projects approved under this year's Heritage Incentives Program. The aim of the program is to support the community's identification, assessment, management and interpretation of New South Wales heritage. In June funding was



announced for 126 conservation, study and promotional projects totalling \$2.8 million across the State.

The Amusu Theatre in Manildra was owned and run by the same family from 1936 to 1999 and is in full working order. The grant of \$40,000 will enable the local community to purchase the Amusu Theatre and adjoining Tom's Garage. A fundraising partnership between the community, local business, Cabonne Shire Council and the Heritage Office will provide the community with the opportunity to properly care for the building and collection and extend its life.

The small country cinema was built in 1936 by Allan Tom, who is renowned as a travelling picture show pioneer. The building and its interior remain largely unchanged, providing a tangible link to

the earliest days of the movie industry in rural New South Wales.

The 300 seat theatre features an art deco façade and its interior houses a collection of movie memorabilia, original fixtures and fittings. The collection includes 1936 projectors, movie posters from the 1930s to the 1990s, advertising from a travelling picture show and very rare arc-lamp projectors.

Allan Tom screened films at the Amusu through the ups and downs of drought, flood, depression, the advent of clubs, television and video. He continued to operate the Amusu until his death in 1995, aged 93. The Amusu Theatre was listed on the State Heritage Register four years later.

The Amusu Theatre in Manildra, a rare country cinema with original fittings and movie memorabilia, was one of 126 community projects to receive funding under this year's Heritage Incentives Program.

*Photograph courtesy of Cabonne Council*

## 5. Conserving Our Heritage

### OBJECTIVE:

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

### Conservation Management Plans

There are many items and places that the community has identified as being important. We need to care for them by retaining their heritage values. Looking after a place in a way that retains the values that make it significant to us is known as “conservation”.

One of the most important tools in caring for a heritage place is a conservation management plan. The Heritage Council recommends these plans as an essential document to guide future care and use, including any new development. It is particularly important that these plans are prepared for items of state significance on the State Heritage Register.

The Heritage Council’s State Heritage Register Committee reviews and endorses conservation management plans. During the reporting year 31 plans were considered by the committee. Twenty-four were formally endorsed in a final or conditional form.

This represented a slight fall in numbers compared to the previous year (34 plans). However, this was offset by the complexity and diversity of plans being considered. The preparation of plans for items such as the Rockdale Market Gardens, the *Lady Denman* ferry, Hambledon Cottage landscapes, Sugarloaf Farm and the Werris Creek Locomotive Maintenance Centre indicates the increasing diversity of items listed on the State Heritage Register.

A significant change during the year in the processing of conservation management plans for endorsement came from the delegation by the Heritage Council of its endorsement function (with some exceptions) to the Director of the Heritage Office. Conservation management plans endorsed under delegation are identified in the following lists by the annotation (D).

Of the plans endorsed in 2001-2002 nine were for privately-owned items:

- Carrington Hotel gardens, Katoomba (D)
- former Burwood Post Office, Burwood (D)
- former CBC Bank, 343 George Street, Sydney (D)
- former Sorensen’s Nursery site, Leura (D)
- Hambledon Cottage landscape, Parramatta
- *Lady Denman* ferry, Huskisson
- Oswald Bond Store, The Rocks (D)
- Qantas House, Chifley Square, Sydney
- St Patrick’s Cathedral Precinct, Parramatta

Sixteen were for publicly-owned items:

- Denman’s Cottage, Hill End Historic Site
- former Berry Courthouse, Berry (D)
- Gladesville Hospital, Gladesville
- Holtermann’s Corner Buildings, Hill End Historic Site
- Kedumba Slab Hut, Kedumba Valley, Blue Mountains (D)
- Loder House, Windsor
- Mitchell Wing, State Library of NSW, Sydney (D)
- Parramatta Hospital & Attorney General’s Car Park site, Parramatta

- ❑ Parramatta Park Landscape master plan, Parramatta
- ❑ Prince Henry Hospital site (Stage 1), Little Bay
- ❑ Rockdale (Chinese) Market Gardens, Banksia, Kyeemagh and Kogarah
- ❑ Rozelle Hospital (Callan Park), Rozelle
- ❑ Sugarloaf Farm, Gilead
- ❑ Taronga Zoological Park masterplan, Mosman
- ❑ Tomaree Head, Tomaree National Park, Shoal Bay
- ❑ Werris Creek Locomotive Maintenance Centre, Werris Creek

Six plans were returned to their authors for modification.

A notable development in 2001-2002 was the adoption by the Heritage Council of the Interim Conservation Management Strategy as an abridged form of conservation management plan suitable for state significant items where little change is proposed, and for items of local significance. The Interim Conservation Management Strategy is being trialled as part of the nomination process for potential items identified in the State Heritage Register Project's Central West program, with the first strategy being prepared for the Old Government Cottage in Stanley Street, Bathurst, by local heritage advisor Barbara Hickson.

In addition, Heritage Office staff have provided advice on the preparation of conservation management plans for the Blue Mountains Walking Tracks and Centennial Parklands, Chief Secretary's Building, Lidcombe Hospital site, St John's Camden, St Paul's Cobbitty and the Sydney Heritage Fleet (formerly Sydney Maritime Museum).

At the close of the reporting year 29 plans were on hand awaiting review and consideration.

## Conservation Practices

### **Technical Advisory Group**

The Heritage Council provides advice to heritage professionals and owners about conservation techniques and materials. The council's Technical Advisory Group is made up of a number of technical experts, drawn from many fields, who can be called upon to help solve specific materials conservation problems. This year the Technical Advisory Group received 46 enquiries relating to technical issues.

A highlight for 2001-2002 was *Any Old Iron: The Conservation and Repair of Iron Roofs*, a technical seminar on the repair of iron roofs held in August 2001. Sixty-five participants heard presentations on the history of iron roofing in Australia, the science of corrosion, case studies, and a review of available materials by BHP. This seminar initiated a dialogue between the Technical Advisory Group and BHP about the supply and use of galvanised roofing materials and accessories.

### **Fire, Access and Services**

The Heritage Office receives many enquiries regarding fire, access and services issues. The Fire, Access and Services Advisory Panel advises the Heritage Council, government agencies, professionals, developers and owners on appropriate ways of meeting fire, access and services requirements in heritage buildings and sites with minimal intrusion into significant and irreplaceable fabric. It reviews legislation and fire safety provisions for heritage buildings and promotes research into the fire resistance of traditional building materials. Recent developments in fire fighting technology and their potential application in heritage properties are also evaluated. This year the Heritage Office received 32 enquiries relating to fire, access and services. Nine projects were presented to the panel for their advice.



Rockdale Market Gardens, the subject of an award winning conservation management plan that was endorsed by the Heritage Council of NSW in 2002.

*Photograph by Karl Zhao*

## CASE STUDIES

### Ironing out technical issues

Seminars for heritage professionals are one of the important ways that the Heritage Council and Heritage Office encourage best practice standards for heritage conservation. This year one of Australia's most characteristic building materials was in the spotlight: corrugated iron.

Corrugated iron was one of the most commonly used building materials of the 20th century. Yet few buildings survive in Sydney as examples of this significant material. Regarded as a second rate or temporary material, corrugated iron was not often seen as worth keeping. Large buildings using corrugated iron are even more rare. At the Technical Advisory Group's seminar, *Any Old Iron: the Conservation and Repair of Iron Roofs* in August 2001 participants heard about a unique survivor: Pier 8/9 at Walsh Bay.

The corrugated iron walls of Pier 8/9 at Walsh Bay have survived 80 years of hard knocks and harsh maritime conditions. Conservator Dave McBeath,

principle of OHM Consultants, worked on their conservation as part of the adaptation for commercial offices.

Pier 8/9 was constructed in 1912 and is the only corrugated iron pier shed at Walsh Bay. This forms part of its special significance. Wharves have a high incidence of damage due to loadings and bumps from ships. Corrugated iron was a good solution as sheets could be repaired and changed within the day.

Too often buildings like Pier 8/9 are not valued simply because of their construction material. We risk losing an important part of our built heritage if these corrugated iron structures are demolished without any consideration of their significance.

The Heritage Council seminar brought together technical specialists and practitioners to examine the latest techniques for conserving corrugated iron. Topics included the science of corrosion, history of the material in Australia, case studies and a review of available materials by BHP.



Pier 8/9, the only corrugated iron pier shed at Walsh Bay.

Photograph by Lianne Hall

### Planning for the future

Three market gardens in the Rockdale municipality that have been worked continuously for over 150 years are listed on the State Heritage Register. This year the Heritage Council endorsed a conservation management plan that looks at their future care and use.

Rare survivors of the mid-19th century use of the area for market gardens, the properties are largely in their original form and still employ traditional cultivation practices. German, Irish and Cornish settlers grew vegetables on the land from the 1850s, and then in the 20th century Chinese communities became synonymous with the labour intensive farms. Today they retain much of their former appearance, with little intrusion of modern technology, and are among only a handful of historic market gardens still operating in metropolitan Sydney.

The conservation management plan won this year's National Trust/Energy



These sites in Rockdale have been continuously used for market gardening since the 1850s.

Photograph by Karl Zhao

Australia Heritage Award for Conservation Planning. The plan was innovative in its emphasis on the gardens not just as built heritage, but as living places. Its conservation policies will ensure that the market gardens will continue to thrive, providing an important window into our past.

The Rockdale Market Gardens Conservation Management Plan was

endorsed by the Heritage Council in 2002. The Heritage Council encourages the use of conservation management plans as standard, user-friendly and practical tools in heritage management. This year it endorsed 24 new plans for a variety of heritage places.

## 6. The Heritage Council of NSW

### OBJECTIVES:

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

*The Heritage 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. [Heritage Office only]*

### Statutory Approvals

The Heritage Council is the consent authority for any proposed changes to items listed on the State Heritage Register. The Heritage Office provides support and advice to the Heritage Council to enable it to carry out this role. The office works to carry out its statutory function efficiently and to make its approvals system accountable.

During 2001-2002 the Heritage Office met its statutory requirements regarding the processing of applications for works to heritage items:

- 51 integrated development approvals applications were processed and approved, a 4% increase on the previous year :
- 185 section 60 applications were processed and approved, a 2% increase on the previous year;
- 97 section 140 archaeology permits were issued, a 67% increase on the previous year.

### Conservation of Items of State Significance

Fifty-one applications under the Integrated Development Approvals system were processed during the year. The Heritage Council or the Heritage Council Approvals Committee assessed six of these applications during the year. Forty-five applications were approved by the Heritage Office under delegation.

The processing of applications for works under section 60 of the Heritage Act increased from 180 last year to 185 in 2001-2002. The Heritage Council or the Heritage Council Approvals Committee assessed eight of these applications during the year. One hundred and seventy-seven applications were approved by the Heritage Office under delegation.

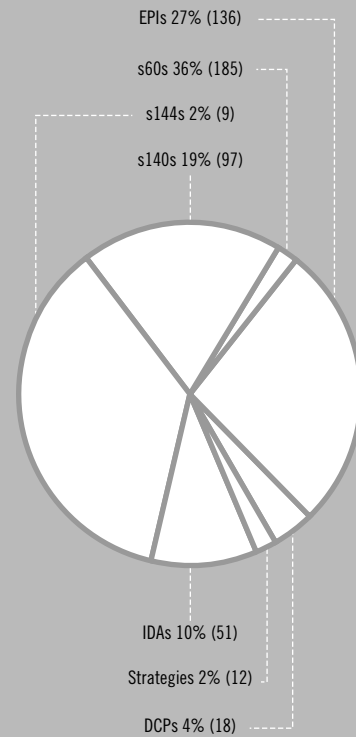
The following are some of the major projects which the Heritage Council contributed to under section 60 of the Heritage Act or integrated development:

#### **Tempe House, Tempe**

Tempe House is of exceptional historical state significance as a remarkably intact 1830s villa still within its largely unaltered landscape setting. Tempe House and estate form an exceptional and rare example of Neo-Classical Georgian Architecture. It was designed by noted colonial architect, John Verge, as an Arcadian villa within a picturesque setting.

This proposal was for the construction of swimming pool, associated facilities and terrace attached to Building 1B, with three levels of car parking below and landscaped courtyard at the rear of Tempe House.

### Statutory Referrals 2001-2002



Note: This chart does not include figures for EIS, REF, LES or DA Referrals or general correspondence.

This chart also includes figures for statutory referrals in the form of environmental planning instruments and development control plans. For further details, see chapter titled Helping Local Government.



The development of Tempe House will give the public unprecedented access to the grounds and foreshore of the John Verge designed house and its neighbouring chapel.

Photograph courtesy of Interciti Arncliffe Developments

The Heritage Council provided its general terms to Rockdale City Council, subject to a number of conditions, which required the developer to:

- enter into a heritage agreement to achieve the long-term conservation of the house and grounds;
- prepare an archaeological management plan and program;
- produce a comprehensive landscape management plan for Mount Olympus;
- modify the proposed envelope of Buildings 1A and 1B to reduce the excavation of Mt Olympus; and
- remove as few eucalypts as possible.

The Heritage Council did not approve either the proposed pool spa and associated facilities or underground car parking directly below. It required that this area be landscaped to reduce the visual impact of the new buildings on the setting of Tempe House. The Heritage Council noted that as a result of the development, the public will gain an unprecedented level of access to the grounds and foreshore of Tempe House, chapel and grounds.

#### ***Burns Philp Building, Sydney***

The Burns Philp Building is of high architectural, historic, aesthetic, social and scientific significance as one of the best examples of the Romanesque style exhibiting finely executed and detailed sandstone carving and design with an impressive and imposing façade to Bridge Street.

This application was for installation of a platform lift for persons with disabilities. The application was approved subject to submission of further details. The Fire, Access and Services Panel advised on access for people with disabilities.

#### ***Campsie Railway Station***

The Campsie Station complex is a representative example of a suburban railway station group dating from the Edwardian period. The station provides a visual and social focus for the local community. The original 1915 platform buildings remain largely intact and the integrity of the station group at platform level is retained and is highly significant.

The proposal submitted was for general upgrade of station facilities including alterations and additions to the existing railway station including a new ticketing area, lifts, stairs and platform canopies.

#### ***Walsh Bay, Sydney***

The Heritage Council has continued its involvement with the Walsh Bay re-development through the Walsh Bay Sub-committee and the Approvals Committee. It has approved applications for the construction and fit-out works for Pier 8/9 as commercial offices, new infrastructure throughout the precinct, new terrace houses along Pottinger Street, the adaptive re-use of Bond Stores 2 and 3, a new theatre in Bond Store 4, and a new residential building in Bond 4 East. Applications have also been approved for commercial offices in Towns Place East, the conservation of the sub-structure at Pier 2/3, and the Pottinger Street Interpretation Plan. A Heritage Council sub-committee continues to provide advice on the project on a regular basis on issues of adaptive re-use, streetscape, urban design and conservation.

#### ***Scots Church, York Street, Sydney***

Scots Church is a five-storey building of interwar Gothic style. It has exceptional historic importance for its long association with the Presbyterian Church. As well as recalling the early nineteenth century history of this area, then known as Church Hill, the building also has a powerful ability to reflect the impact made on the city by the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



The Scots Church redevelopment was a development application referral from Sydney City Council. The proposed redevelopment of the church included the adaptation of the existing church auditorium and ancillary spaces and the addition of a multi-storey residential tower, with provision of 160 residential apartments and the excavation for car parking of 150 cars. It also included the provision of church facilities including a 389-seat assembly hall, a 62-seat chapel and meeting rooms and provision of some retail and commercial tenancies.

The Heritage Council provided comment to the Sydney City Council who approved the application. The Heritage Council's comments related to the adaptation of the former assembly hall, the design of the residential tower and the conservation works generally.

### ***Jones Bay Wharf***

Jones Bay Wharf is of exceptional significance as a rare and intact example of early twentieth century wharf construction. It is listed as a heritage item under Schedule 4 of Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 26 – City West. It is also listed by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the National Trust and has been placed on the interim list of the Register of the National Estate. Although the property is not listed on the State Heritage Register of NSW, it is included in the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority's Section 170 Register.

The Heritage Office has provided comment on the development proposal for the wharf and continues to liaise with the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and the developers on all heritage issues. Discussions focussed on the adaptive re-use of the wharf for offices, the retention of fabric and the appropriated methodologies for repair, archaeological investigation and selection of compatible new uses.

### ***Rockdale Railway Station***

Rockdale is an excellent example of a suburban second class station building with a rare surviving goods shed. It forms one of a small group of buildings on the Illawarra line that dates from the opening of the line and is an important part of the historical development of that line.

The works proposed for this station include a revised ticketing area, lifts, stairs, car park and bus rail interchange. This will involve demolition and replacement of the existing footbridge and erection of two new lifts. The existing steel over-head pedestrian bridge is being replaced because it is in a deteriorated condition and has been severely altered over a period of time so that it has little significance left. The replacement bridge has been designed using steel trusses to help blend it in with the character of the existing buildings and to maintain consistency with the original bridge.

### ***Eric Pratten House, Pymble***

The Eric Pratten house is important as Walter Burley Griffin's largest domestic commission in Australia. It was one of his last works before leaving Australia for India and was completed by his associate, Eric Nicholls. It is one of three large Griffin houses in Ku-ring-gai. The Eric Pratten house is important as a large intact Griffin designed residence with a garden setting. It is rare, as the majority of his residential commissions in Australia are relatively small houses, typically one storey. The house demonstrates a high level of technical competence and excellence, particularly in relation to stone construction in Australia during the 1930s.

The Heritage Council has been liaising closely with the new owners in order to achieve a conservation program that maintains and enhances the building. Approval with conditions has been granted for the refurbishment of some of the bathrooms and kitchen. A conservation management plan has now been requested and is currently being prepared.



Eric Pratten House, a rare Walter Burley Griffin house in Ku-ring-gai.

***North Head Quarantine Station***

The North Head Quarantine Station is a place of national, historical and social significance. It occupies the first site officially designated as a place of quarantine for people entering Australia. It is the oldest, largest and most intact station of its type. It was in use from 1828 to 1984. All buildings and developments on the site illustrate the changing social and scientific demands of quarantine during that period. The site's characteristics include its rugged topography, rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, evidence of Aboriginal occupation and evidence of immigration, health and cultural significance.

This proposal is for the adaptive re-use and conservation of the North Head Quarantine Station. The Heritage Office provided a submission to the Commission of Inquiry into the proposed adaptive re-use of the Quarantine Station, held in early 2002.

***MSB Stores Complex, Millers Point***

Two buildings on the complex are good examples of Victorian Georgian warehouse construction. They are historically significant as part of Sydney's first gas manufacturing plant and illustrate the early development and growth of the AGL organization. They are also significant for their association with the port facilities and maritime activities of Darling Harbour. They have scientific significance as the only remaining above ground structures from Sydney's first gas manufacturing plant and are rare examples of harbourside stone warehouses of the early Victorian period using traditional construction materials and techniques.

This application related to the conservation of the heritage buildings, a proposal for new commercial and residential buildings, 10 levels and 12 levels respectively, including retail/commercial at ground level. The development application was approved by the Central Sydney Planning Committee in May 2002 and the application under the section 60 of the Heritage Act was approved in August 2002.

***Sydney GPO***

The Sydney GPO site is listed on the State Heritage Register and is of national significance. The post office has been on the site since 1830 and the fabric reflects the history of postal, telegraphic and telephonic services in New South Wales and Australia.

This proposal consisted of a new café with new wall panelling, new ceramic tile flooring to bar areas, new steel stair to connect ground floor to basement, new loose chairs in the tenancy and in the colonnade, and new pendant light fittings. The approval granted included a restriction on the proposed seating as the colonnade was considered too narrow to support the number of tables and chairs proposed.

***Cahill Expressway, Sydney***

Circular Quay Station marks the transition from inter-war functionalist railway architecture. It also demonstrates the transition between riveting and welding technologies in large steel construction projects. It also represents a change from the placement of buildings on platforms to their location either above or below the rail lines.

This proposal was for the construction of a new walk stretching from the Royal Botanic Gardens across the Cahill Expressway and to Circular Quay West. The Heritage Council agreed to the proposal and requested the preparation of an archaeological research design and interpretation strategy.

## Managing Change: 343 George Street, Sydney

Each year the Heritage Council makes decisions about changes to places on the State Heritage Register. The challenge for 343 George Street was to encourage an appropriate use that would conserve the elegant grandeur and significance of the banking chamber.

A stately survivor at the western end of Martin Place, the former headquarters of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney evokes an era when opulence and fine finishes were thought to inspire trust and confidence in the country's banking institutions.

Built in the 1920s, this twelve-storey building was designed by architects Kent and Massie and built by Stuart Brothers. The banking chamber and safe deposit area are particularly significant as Sydney's finest and most intact marble finished bank interiors from the early 20th century. With its fine marble and bronze finishes and

fittings and the play of natural and artificial light within it, the banking chamber evokes the stature, role and functions of one of Sydney's former leading banking institutions.

The Heritage Council considered the conservation management plan and made recommendations that encouraged the conservation of the banking chamber without loss of its special character. The developer was able to find a solution that didn't require subdivision of the space. The size, design and positioning of signage and lighting will also enhance the building detailing and decoration rather than distracting from its significance.

The Heritage Council encourages new uses and practical changes for heritage buildings to maintain their continuing life. Managing those changes means making choices between changes that retain the item's heritage significance, and those that diminish it.



One of Sydney's finest banking chambers, the former CBC Bank in George Street, is being adapted for a new use in the 21st century.

## Interpreting Historical Archaeology

This year the public enjoyed a rare opportunity to see beneath the surface of Sydney's largest archaeological dig. The public interpretation and tours of archaeological excavations at Quadrant, Ultimo, and Bullecourt Place, Pyrmont, resulted in the awarding of the first-ever Certificate of Merit by the Minister for Planning to Australand Holdings.

Covering two entire city blocks, the inner city site holds evidence of the ordinary lives of Sydneysiders from the early days of settlement. It is being developed by Australand for apartments. With important remnants of Sydney's early years buried beneath the ground surface, the Heritage Council recommended that an archaeological excavation be undertaken before the evidence was destroyed. Opportunities for public interpretation were agreed upon as part of the excavation permit process.

At the end of 2001 Australand invited the public to view the archaeological

excavation and received an unprecedented response from members of the public intrigued to discover the story behind Blackwattle Creek. Historical archaeologist Dana Mider and her research team led tours of the site and explained their excavation work. More than 1,000 people gained a rare insight into the workings of an archaeological investigation and how archaeological relics form a significant component of our heritage resources.

Blackwattle Creek was not an exclusive address. Sydney's poorest lived here in what was described as slum housing. By 1850s the area was tightly packed with houses, slaughter yards and industry. The archaeological dig helped to uncover evidence of the layers of history and to discover what life was like for the urban working class of the nineteenth century.

Among the finds unearthed during the five-month dig were house footings, a roughly built ford across Blackwattle Creek, bones and off-cuts from the slaughter yards and planks used for walk ways.

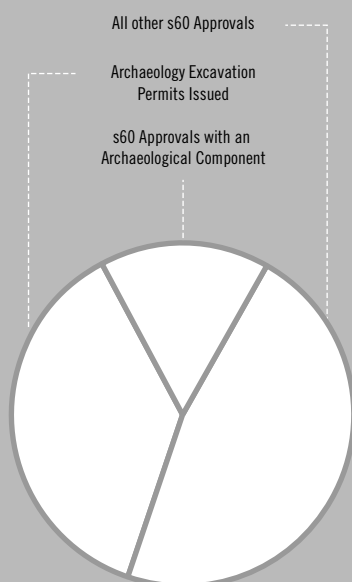


This year the public had the rare opportunity to find out more about historical archaeology when Australand conducted a series of highly popular tours of the Quadrant site, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council.

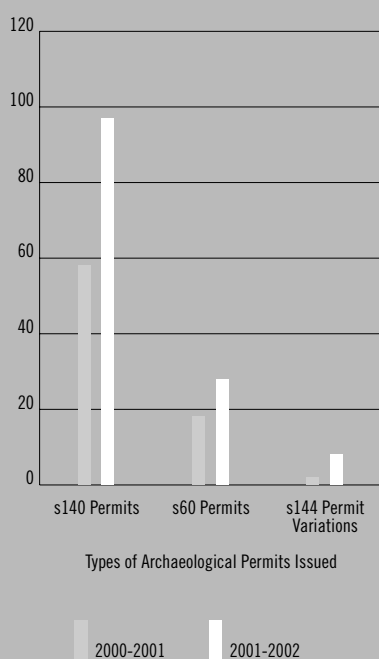
*Photograph by Scott Wajon, courtesy of Australand.*

The innovative approach by Australand to the archaeological issues faced by developers represents a significant advancement towards marrying development with positive archaeological outcomes for the community. Following the success of the public interpretation program on this site, the Heritage Council will continue to investigate opportunities for community participation in historic archaeology.

### Types of Statutory Approvals issued under s60, s140 and s144 in 2001-2002



### Comparison between Archaeological Excavation Permits Issued



## Heritage Agreements

The first heritage agreement under the NSW Heritage Act was signed by the Minister for Planning on 1 April 2002 with Interciti Arncliffe Developments, the company that is developing Tempe House and its surrounds adjacent to the Wolli Creek railway station.

The provisions for heritage agreements encourage owners of State Heritage Register properties to undertake works for their long-term use and conservation.

The Tempe House agreement will secure the long-term conservation of the historic property for the people of New South Wales. Tempe House is the oldest colonial villa in southern Sydney. It was designed by colonial architect John Verge in the late 1830s and is the oldest surviving colonial villa in southern Sydney.

In early 2002 the Heritage Council approved a master plan for the Interciti development. The preparation of the agreement was a key element of its approval. It will guarantee conservation works on the site, as well as the ongoing use, management and maintenance of Tempe House in accordance with the schedule of works, conservation management plan and archaeological management plan approved by the Heritage Council.

The agreement secures the funding of the conservation of Tempe House from the income for the Interciti development, and includes the timing and staging of works. It binds the owner and the land title, so that the rights and obligations under the agreement will be transferred to any new owner if it is sold.

## Archaeology Excavation Permits

Ninety-seven archaeological excavation permits were issued for archaeological investigations under section 140 of the Heritage Act in 2001-2002. This represents a 67% increase on permits issued in 2000/2001 (58).

Nine section 144 excavation permit variations were approved in 2001-2002 compared with two permits issued in the previous year.

One exception for the removal of archaeological relics of low significance was gazetted under the new section 139 (4) exceptions created in December 2001.

Twenty-nine archaeological excavation permits were issued under of the Heritage Act, representing a 61% increase on section 60 approvals issued for archaeological excavations in 2000-2001 (18).

A further 48 applications were approved under section 60 of the Act for the removal of, or disturbance to archaeological remains, as part of a broader scope of works approved.

The statistics show that 46% of all statutory approvals issued under section 60, section 140, and section 144 of the Act were for archaeological excavation permits, and a further 16% of approvals required consideration of archaeological impacts within a broader framework of works, prior to approval.

The significant increase in applications received during 2001-2002 for archaeological works indicates that there is increasing public awareness of the Heritage Act approval process for the removal and management of archaeological resources. It may also be a reflection of the increase in quality and detail of information available to the general public on the Heritage Office website.

## Heritage Council Committees and Panels

### **State Heritage Register Committee**

Ian Jack (Chair), Michael Collins, Megan Jones, Reece McDougall, Sharon Sullivan, Joan Templeman, John Delaney, Jason Ardler, (membership as at 30 June 2002)

The committee is responsible for recommending the listing of items on the State Heritage Register to the Minister for Planning and providing expert comment on planning documents for major heritage places. Its work is managed by Cameron White, Principal Heritage Officer. For recommendations of the committee to the Minister for Planning, turn to page 72.

### **Approvals Committee**

Mary-Lynne Taylor, Chair; Diane Jones, Susan Macdonald, Rod Leaver, Garry Fielding, Elsa Atkin, Terrence Barnes, Chris Johnson (alternate, Bruce Pettman) (membership as at 30 June 2002)

The Approvals Committee acts in the Heritage Council's consent authority role. It approves, comments on, or suggests amendments to proposed changes to listed items. Its work is managed by Vince Sicari, Principal Heritage Officer.

### **Strategy Committee**

Michael Collins, Chair; Ian Jack, Mary-Lynne Taylor, Reece McDougall (membership as at 30 June 2002)

The Strategy Committee focuses on strategic issues for the Heritage Council. Its membership comprises the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Heritage Council, the chairs of the State Heritage Register Committee and Approvals Committee and the Director of the Heritage Office. Its work is managed by Murray Brown, Principal Heritage Officer.

### **Heritage Council Advisory Panels**

The Heritage Council's advisory panels provide expert advice to the full council on a range of conservation and management issues. The committees include members of the Heritage Council with appropriate skills and experience, and also a range of other heritage experts.

### **Aboriginal Heritage Committee**

John Delaney, Chair; Aboriginal community members: Ian Woods, Mary Lou Buck, Evelyn Crawford, Colin Walker, Wayne Carr, James Welsh; agency representation from Department of Aboriginal Affairs, National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Heritage Office and Heritage Council of NSW representatives (membership as at 30 June 2002)

The Aboriginal Heritage Committee provides advice on the appropriate role of the Heritage Council in listing and planning issues, as well as providing an important link between government and the Aboriginal community.

This year Evelyn Crawford retired as the Chair of the Aboriginal Heritage Committee. She has been the chair on this committee since its inception and stood down this year due to her increased work load. She continues as a community representative on the committee. Her place as chair was taken by John Delaney, who represents Aboriginal interests on the Heritage Council.

The Aboriginal Heritage Committee worked on the listing of Hill 60, Port Kembla, on the State Heritage Register as well as assisting in the development of an education kit of the site for schools. It is expected that additional Aboriginal items will be listed in the coming year due to progress in discussions of the Blacktown Native Institute site as well as the commissioning of thematic studies on the *History of Aboriginal Reserves and Missions in NSW* and *The Freedom Ride Thematic History*.



The Aboriginal Heritage Committee provided advice on the listing of Hill 60 at Port Kembla, a site of great significance to the Aboriginal community.

Photograph by Nyla Simms

Involvement in the Central West stage of the State Heritage Register Project has also led to State significant sites being identified by the Bathurst/Orange Aboriginal communities. It is anticipated that these sites will be listed in the near future.

Changes to the Heritage Incentives Program this year have also led to a 'rolling program' for Aboriginal heritage projects with applications being sought throughout the year. Batches of applications are assessed at each Aboriginal Heritage Committee meeting. This has led to the funding of many excellent community projects including:

- Brewarrina Aboriginal Mission interpretation project
- Arakwal Aboriginal Education and Interpretive Program, Cape Byron
- interpretation of Warangesda Mission Site, Griffith
- Yulawirri Nurai Native Vegetation Project, Maitland
- Liverpool Local Government Area Heritage Study, Liverpool
- Centennial Parklands Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Management Plan
- Trangie Oral History Project.

#### **Archaeology Advisory Panel**

This year the Heritage Office decided to suspend the Archaeological Advisory Panel until the end of 2002, in order to conduct the five-yearly review of the panel's role and function. The review will examine the terms of reference, aims, objectives and membership of the panel.

#### **Fire, Access and Services Advisory Panel**

Bruce Pettman, Chair since April 2002; Don Truman, RAIA; Peter Phillips, RAIA; Barry Waite NSW Fire Brigades; Carol Edds, consultant; Alex Webb, CSIRO; Julie Rudnicka, DUAP; John Whitlock, consultant; Mark Relf, access consultant; George Lim, Local Government Building Surveyors; Shane Kelly, City of Sydney Council; Marianne Foley, consultant fire engineer (membership as at 30 June 2002)

Retiring members: Louise Cox, Barry Bourke, Australian Institute of Surveyors; John Mathias, National Trust (NSW); Anne Higham, DPWS; Trevor Howse, consultant fire engineer; Ross Murray, Fire Protection Industry Association

The Fire, Access and Services Advisory Panel advises the Heritage Council, government agencies, professionals, developers and owners on appropriate ways of meeting fire, access and services requirements in heritage buildings and sites with minimal intrusion into significant and irreplaceable fabric. It reviews legislation and fire safety provisions for heritage buildings and promotes research into the fire resistance of traditional building materials. Recent developments in fire fighting technology and their potential application in heritage properties are also evaluated.

During 2001-2002 the Fire, Access and Services Panel:

- formed a new reference panel to assist in responding to the large number of enquiries to the Heritage Office relating to fire and access issues;
- developed revised terms of reference which were approved by the Heritage Council in April 2002. A three-year strategic plan was also agreed to cover the panel's strategic educational, publications and research projects;
- reviewed the publications *Upgrading the Fire Resistance of Timber Panelled Doors and Fire and Heritage* which will now be republished as soon as funds permit;
- presented an internal seminar on fire, access and services issues to members of the Heritage Office in August 2001.

### **Heritage Incentives Panel**

Joan Templeman, Chair; Michael Collins, Mary-Lynne Taylor, Associate Professor Ian Jack, Reece McDougall, Brendan Hartnett, Sam Thomas (membership as at 30 June 2002)

A new panel was established on the recommendation of an extensive review of the Heritage Incentives Program. It consists of the Heritage Council's Strategy Committee, expanded to include representatives from the former Heritage Incentives Panel (Joan Templeman), local government (Brendan Hartnett) and a person experienced in government funding programs (Sam Thomas).

The panel met in September to consider recommendations arising from the review of the program, notably its division into eight discrete program areas, priorities for the assessment of projects and the introduction of three-year service agreements with local councils and heritage organisations.

At its second meeting in May 2002 the panel reviewed the funding recommendations prepared by Heritage Office staff and endorsed by the Heritage Office management group. The panel recommended to the Minister the funding of 125 new projects totalling \$2.76M, including eighty-five site work projects (\$2.26M), twenty study and promotional projects (\$291,450), seven Aboriginal heritage projects (\$86,020), twelve conservation management plan projects (\$30,000) and funding to the Royal Australian Historical Society for a local history and archives program (\$90,000).

### **History Advisory Panel**

Associate Professor Ian Jack, Chair since January 2000; Dr Carol Liston, Dr Lucy Taksa, Terry Kass, Joy McCann, Sue Rosen, Ann Flood, Sharon Veale and Bruce Baskerville, with Megan Martin as an observer (membership as at 30 June 2002)

The role of the History Advisory Panel is to provide advice to the Heritage Council and the Heritage Office on the contribution of history to the identification, assessment and conservation of the heritage of New South Wales and to facilitate communication between the history community and the Heritage Council and Heritage Office. The panel's advice to the Heritage Office historians provides an important level of peer review and input into the development of guidelines and strategic advice for the Heritage Council.

The panel's attention focused on several areas of advice and policy development during the reporting year:

- guidance to Heritage Office historians on a new guideline on using State Heritage Register Criterion A which states: 'important in the course or pattern of New South Wales' history'. This follows the panel's production of *Assessing Historical Association* which gave guidance on using Criterion B and which is now available on the Heritage Office website;
- comment upon the State Heritage Register Project's thematic history of the Central West region of New South Wales. This is an evolving work in progress, and continues the panel's ongoing discussions of the utility of themes and thematic approaches to history in heritage work;
- consideration of the review of the *State Records Act in 2003* and, in particular, issues relating to access to records for historical research on heritage items;
- advising on appropriate roles for the Heritage Council in the lead-up to the sesquicentenary of self-government in New South Wales in 2006.



Paddlesteamer *Rodney*, 1894 shipwreck, Darling River, recently surveyed by NSW Heritage Office.  
Photograph David Nutley.

### **Maritime Archaeology Advisory Panel**

Kieran Hosty, ANMM, Chair; Antonia Syme, Collections Manager, Deputy Chair; John Riley, Deputy Chair; Dr John Bach, historian; Captain Rob Everett, Waterways Authority; Debbie Hardy, diving representative; Robert Lea, NSW Department of Transport; Sgt John Marshall, NSW Water Police; Judith McDonald, industry representative; Lieutenant Commander Rod Smith, RAN (membership as at 30 June 2002)

The Maritime Archaeology Advisory Panel continued to meet every three months to provide valuable input and feedback on the Heritage Office's program for management of the State's underwater cultural heritage. The panel members were actively involved in advising on the development of a number of key projects, particularly the Maritime Heritage Online web site, as well as the Strategic Plan for the Maritime Heritage Program.

### **Movable Heritage Advisory Panel**

Joan Domicelj AM, Chair; Ian Arthur, Institute of Engineers; Dr James Broadbent, Historic Houses Trust of NSW; David Ellis, Ministry for the Arts; Rodney Harrison, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service; Lisa Newell, Randwick City Council; Maisy Stapleton, Museums and Galleries Foundation; Kylie Winkworth (membership as at 30 June 2002)

The Movable Heritage Advisory Panel provides advice on the appropriate role for the Heritage Council in listing and managing movable heritage and provides a link between the Heritage Council, the museums sector, owners and the general community in promoting the value and conservation of movable heritage.

In 2001-2002 the panel:

- provided significant advice on a range of movable heritage issues and public education projects;
- keenly followed the implementation of the State Heritage Register Central West pilot project, and confirmed its desire that movable heritage be identified through the community liaison and agency workshops. Several movable collections have subsequently been identified through the preliminary documentation phases of the project;
- panel member, Maisy Stapleton, supported a proposal for a joint seminar by the Museum and Galleries Foundation and the NSW Heritage Office on promoting regional thematic approaches within heritage studies and museum collection and interpretation strategies. *Bringing Themes to Life* will be held in Sydney in September 2002. A comparable workshop addressing the documentation and promotion of movable Aboriginal heritage collections was also keenly supported;
- provided advice on two regionally-based thematic projects currently underway, the Dubbo-based Electricity Study, assessing the social and technological implications of the coming of domestic electricity supply, and the Illawarra/Shoalhaven Dairy Study documenting the rich history of dairying and opportunities for promotion of that heritage;
- provided specific advice on policy issues related to the potential overseas sale of a Walter Burley Griffin collection, and to the Heritage Council on the Sydney Heritage Fleet nomination for State Heritage Listing of the *James Craig* and other fleet vessels.

The profile of movable heritage within the community has been advanced by the Heritage Office's strong lead in developing appropriate strategic guidelines and advice on its identification, management and promotion. This has been achieved through the participation of a dedicated staff officer, initially as a joint Ministry for the Arts/Heritage Office initiative. A tangible outcome has been the involvement of State agencies in assessing movable heritage items and collections when developing their statutory Section 170 registers under the Heritage Act. A number of individual heritage



items have been assessed for possible inclusion on the State Heritage Register, while several key conservation projects were funded following advice to the Heritage Incentives Program for the 2002 grant program.

### **Religious Property Advisory Panel**

Michael Collins, Acting Chair; Hector Abrahams, RAAI; Dr Ken Cable, Historian; John Spillane, Catholic Church; James Mein, Uniting Church; Kevin Stonham, Anglican Church; Angelo Candalepas, National Trust (membership at 30 June 2002)

Retiring members: Associate Professor Ian Jack; Hector Abrahams, RAAI; Robert Staas, RAAI; Dr Ken Cable, Historian; Father Brian Lucas, Catholic Church; James Mein, Uniting Church; Kevin Stonham, Anglican Church; Jyoti Somerville, Australia ICOMOS; Professor Tong Wu, National Trust

Much of the State's significant built heritage is owned by religious organisations. The panel seeks to achieve the conservation of significant religious heritage items through the provision of guidance, encouragement and an understanding of the liturgical and practical management considerations facing religious properties. The panel provides advice on the heritage management of religious property assets, comments on alteration and demolition proposals, and advises on conservation management and adaptive re-use issues. The panel also liaises with other heritage specialists and decision makers to ensure that they are aware of the special features of religious heritage and the issues impacting upon conservation and management. Members assisted in the process of assessing applications for funding through the Heritage Incentives Program 2002/2004.

### **Technical Advisory Group**

Alan Croker (Chair), Anne Warr, David Young, David West, Diane Jones, Simon Wiltshier, Julian Bickersteth, Stan Hellyer (memberships at 30 June 2002)

The group provides advice to heritage professionals and owners about conservation techniques and materials. Its membership includes conservation architects, a structural engineer, a conservator, and technical experts in material science.

In 2001-2002 the group:

- responded to public enquiries on technical issues;
- initiated a review of the *Maintenance of Heritage Assets Manual*;
- developed a proposal for a new technical publication on joint repairs in masonry buildings to replace current brochure. It will be jointly funded by other state heritage agencies, so it will refer to practice across the country;
- presented, with the Heritage Office, a technical seminar on the repair of iron roofs in August 2001. The seminar covered the history of the material in Australia, the science of corrosion, case studies, and a review of available materials by BHP;
- prepared, with the Heritage Office, a seminar on cleaning external masonry, to be held in August 2002. This will be held with the National Trust (NSW) and represents an active search for partners in developing technical conservation education programs in NSW.

### **Site Specific Committees and Working Parties**

Limited term committees are formed as required to address heritage issues related to particular places or items. This year the committees were:

*Government House Site, Port Macquarie*

Ian Jack, Jim Barrett, Alan Croker, Reece McDougall

*Hermitage, Ryde*

Jim Barrett (Chair), Terrence Barnes, Reece McDougall, Bruce Edgar

*North Head Quarantine Station Detailed Area Conservation Management Plans*

Alan Croker, Christine O'Brien, Bruce Baskerville, Ian Kelly

*North Head Quarantine Station Adaptive Re-use Proposal*

Jim Barrett (Chair), Joan Templeman, Joan Domicelj, Susan Macdonald, Mary-Lynne Taylor

*Tempe House, Arncliffe*

Jim Barrett, Philip Thalys, Alan Croker, Chris Johnson, Graham Quint

*Walsh Bay, Sydney*

Howard Tanner (Chair), Kevin Rice, Chris Johnson, Rosalind Strong, Alan Croker

## Prosecutions Under the Heritage Act

The penalty provisions of the amended Heritage Act were first used in March 2001 when the Newcastle District Court convicted the lessee of Newcastle's Great Northern Hotel for breaches of the Heritage Act. An appeal was heard at the Newcastle district Court in October 2001 and the court upheld the previous judgement, with some amendments to the initial penalties.

The prosecution arose out of exceptional circumstances concerning the Great Northern Hotel, a major art deco building in the central business district of Newcastle which was first protected by a permanent conservation order in 1987.

Mr. Steve Jackson, Magistrate of the Newcastle Local Court, found that the defendant had carried out works on the historic hotel in late 1999 without Heritage Council approval. The works involved the fitout of the ground floor as an Irish-themed bar. Mr Jackson imposed a fine of \$11,000 plus costs of \$13,000 on the lessee of the hotel, Ms Donna Batiste, and her associated company Hazaran Pty Ltd.

The Magistrate emphasized that the Heritage Office had 'taken every step to expedite the process' and that the applicant had no excuse to proceed without approval.

The 1938 building, which is listed on the State Heritage Register, is one of the State's finest art deco hotels, retaining much of its original finishes, fittings and furnishings. The site has long been associated with hotel accommodation and is held in high regard by the local community.

The court made the following comments in relation to the case:

- the Heritage Council was reasonable in their request to require further details of the bar areas of the hotel for approval;
- that the defendant entered into her lease of the property in the full knowledge that the item is on the State Heritage Register and what the implications of that were;
- the defendant should have anticipated the timing required to gain the necessary approvals;
- the defendant showed a 'blatant disregard' for the law and the requirements of the Heritage Act, and he also noted that the works did not have approval under the *Local Government Act*;
- the Heritage Office took steps to expedite the approvals process for the defendant in recognition of the financial pressures involved;
- it is important to ensure that owners of heritage items abide by the Heritage Act, and breaches of that Act will not be tolerated;
- that this was a test case and he would make recommendations to the licensing board that they consider the importance of the defendant retaining the licensee on heritage grounds.

## 7. The Heritage Office

### OBJECTIVE:

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

### Aboriginal Employment

The Heritage Office has two Aboriginal employees. With the integration of Aboriginal and European heritage the Heritage office created a position of Aboriginal Officer in 1998. The position has been occupied by a suitably qualified Aboriginal Officer since that date. The Office also has an Aboriginal Officer in the Directorate Team of the Office. The appointment of this officer resulted from an Administration Traineeship offered by the Office through Mission Australia Group Training and this officer was directly appointed to a vacant position with the approval of the Office of the Director of Equal Employment Opportunity in 2001. Opportunities have been made available for this Aboriginal staff member to assist the Aboriginal Heritage Committee .

### Development of Staff

The work of the Heritage Office staff is managed through the Heritage Office Performance Planning System (HOPSS). In 2001-2002 HOPPS was reviewed to bring it into line with the Heritage Office workplan.

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.

Exchange and secondment opportunities were arranged for Ian Kelly to Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, John Petersen to the Historic Houses Trust and Caitlin Allen who took the opportunity to work in the private sector on the Australand excavation at Broadway, Glebe.

### Overseas Visits by Staff

In September 2001, Natalie Vinton, Archaeologist/Heritage Officer was awarded a \$6000 Travelling Fellowship in Public Sector Management, an award sponsored by the State Government Employees Credit Union, and administered by the Premier's Department of NSW.

Her project, entitled *Interpretation of Public Archaeology – The Home of Archaeology Lies in the Heart of Modern Communities* took Natalie to the United States in February 2002 to undertake a study of international best-practice in the interpretation of archaeological resources for the benefit of the general public.

### Staff Awards

Elisha Long, of the Heritage Office, and William Blackledge won the national Timber Design Award for a residential building on Friday 24th November, 2001. They were also finalists in the competition for the best timber building of any type constructed in Australia. The award recognises the innovative and sustainable use of timber in contemporary design in Australia.



Heritage Office historical archaeologist, Natalie Vinton, at an archaeological ruin at Mesa Verde in Colorado, USA, where she investigated methods of interpreting archaeology for the public.  
Photograph by Brad Fallon

## Staff Participation in Conferences

### *Australia ICOMOS Conference 20th Century Heritage: Our Recent Cultural Legacy*

Murray Brown and Susan Macdonald attended the ICOMOS conference in Adelaide in late November. The three-day conference addressed a broad range of papers on the conservation of 20th century heritage and was attended by practitioners from across Australia and overseas. Susan Macdonald presented a paper entitled "Conserving the recent past: recognition, protection and practical challenges".

The publication "Twentieth century heritage – marking the recent past" was launched at the conference. Murray Brown contributed to the publication, the production of which was coordinated by Heritage South Australia for the Australian Heritage Information Network. It provides an overview of the richness and diversity of Australia's 20th century heritage, a historical survey examining the influence of social and economic changes on the built environment, a useful contacts list and a bibliography.

## Staff and Council Representation on Key External Bodies

### *Natural Cultural Heritage Forum, Canberra, 18-19 September 2002*

Chair of the Heritage Council, Michael Collins, attended the forum as the representative of the Heritage chairs and officials of State heritage agencies.

Matters discussed included the progress of the national heritage legislation, the treatment of Commonwealth heritage property and the provision of Commonwealth Government incentive and concessions to owners of heritage properties. David Nutley, of the Heritage Office, also attended the conference representing the Australian Institute of Maritime Archaeology.

### ■ *Environment Protection and Heritage Standing Committee, 30 November 2001.*

The Committee provides advice to the new Environment Protection and Heritage Ministerial Council.

## Staff Representation on Professional Bodies

- Caitlin Allen was elected to the Executive Committee of Australia ICOMOS for a two-year term in November 2001;
- Bruce Baskerville is Treasurer of the Professional Historians' Association (NSW);
- Catherine Colville is a member of the National Trust of NSW's Cemeteries Committee;
- David Nutley is President of the Australasian Institute of Maritime Archaeology;
- Susan Macdonald is a member of the International Specialist Committee of DOCOMOMO International. She is also a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Architectural Conservation*;
- Reece McDougall is a member of the Sutherland Shire Council's Heritage Committee;
- Tony Prescott is President of the Professional Historians Association (NSW) and NSW representative on Australian Council of Professional Historians' Associations;
- Stuart Read was elected onto the National Management Committee of the Australian Garden History Society in November 2001 for a period of three years;
- Tim Smith is Secretary of the Australasian Institute of Maritime Archaeology;
- Natalie Vinton is a member of the Management Committee of the History Council of NSW.



St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.  
*Photograph courtesy of Sydney Archdiocesan Archives*