

4. Helping the Community



Community members learn archaeology survey techniques at a training course to introduce maritime archaeology to a new public audience. *Photograph by David Nutley*

OBJECTIVE:

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

Heritage Resources on the Internet

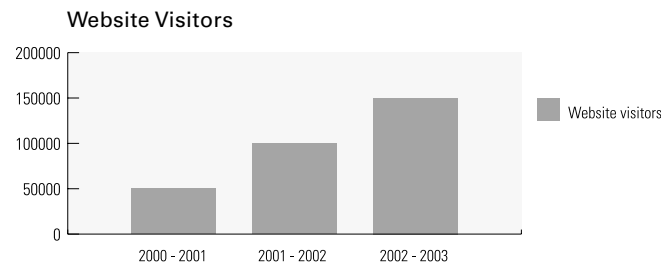
The Heritage Office webpage at www.heritage.nsw.gov.au is the prime access point for the community to find out about heritage in New South Wales. It provides information about the role of the Heritage Office, its staff and services, publications and funding programs. It is also the public gateway to the State Heritage Inventory and State Heritage Register.

There were 151,307 visitors to the Heritage Office webpage in 2002–2003. An average of 414 people accessed the site per day. This was an increase of 43% and reflects changes to the site to improve community access to information about heritage.

In addition, there were another 17,529 visitors to Maritime Heritage Online. An average of 48 people accessed the site per day. This was an increase of 125% over the last 12 months.

Initiatives in 2002–2003 include:

- Members of the general public can now access information on Parramatta's archaeological resources through the internet. All 'Archaeological Management Units' identified in the Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management System (PHALMS) are available through the State Heritage Inventory.



Maritime Heritage Online

Maritime Heritage Online is an associated website, specifically designed for shipwreck researchers and enthusiasts. This year saw major developments to the site to increase the research ability of the site. New features include:

- a list of all historic ships lost on the current day. This innovative element allows greater public appreciation of significant loss events and major maritime events;
- interactive graphs of key research searches across the site, including shipwrecks by year, month and day and wreck sites by position and distance;
- more comprehensive data including additional summary wreck histories produced with the help of volunteers;
- increase in publications available online, including key wreck inspection reports and conservation management plans;
- new shipwreck information sheets, including Historic Aircraft Crash Sites in New South Wales; *Kielawarra* (1896); Northern Beaches Historic Shipwrecks, and Tweed Heads Historic Shipwrecks;
- new research paper *A River in Time; Following the Course of Influences on Manning River History*.

State Heritage Inventory

The State Heritage Inventory is available through the Heritage Office webpage and provides public access to a comprehensive database of information on statutorily-listed heritage items. Making this information available to all those involved in heritage assessment, as well as the wider community and schools is the first step towards community understanding and care for heritage.

The inventory currently includes 30,000 items listed by State and local government. This year the Heritage Office continued to work with local government, State government agencies and the community to make the inventory a comprehensive database of all heritage items in New South Wales.

This vital work centred on:

- gathering information – the office continued to work with government and community groups to import descriptions and images relating to heritage items. To date 35 councils and nine State agencies have supplied their database information to the Heritage Office for inclusion on the State Heritage Inventory;
- standardising the form of information – this is achieved through the distribution of free database software packages as well as software upgrades for previous users. Some financial assistance is available to councils for data entry. The Heritage Office is also assisting local government with data conversion from a variety of data formats into the State Heritage Inventory standard. At the end of the reporting year the total number of councils with the software was 91 and the total number of State government agencies was 43;
- training users in the use of the software – representatives from 23 organisations (consultants, community groups, local and State Government) received training in the operation of the software through the Heritage Office's regular workshops.

Certificates Online – Opis

The Heritage Office, in conjunction with the Roads and Traffic Authority, was involved in a project to create Certificates Online. This project aimed to provide an online facility for members of the public to submit applications for certificates relating to property restrictions.

Renamed, the Online Property Inquiry System (OPIS), it was implemented by the Roads and Traffic Authority in early 2002. The Heritage Office is currently undertaking a cost-benefit analysis of participating in OPIS, based on the level of utilisation of this service by the community.

Geographical Information System Facility – Mapping Heritage

The Heritage Office is considerably advanced in developing a Geographical Information System (GIS) facility on the Heritage Office website that will link to the State Heritage Register online database.

A major challenge in this project has been identifying the curtilage, or boundary, of items listed on the State Heritage Register and transferring drawn maps and verbal descriptions to a mapping system. This project and is now due for completion by December 2003.

Electronic Service Delivery

The Heritage Office is committed to electronic delivery of services, and has continued to add new content and functionality to its website. Currently available services and initiatives in 2002–2003 are outlined above.



Bill Morgan and his Golden Gate Café in Hillston – owned by his family since 1935 – featured in a new publication on NSW's shopping heritage. *Photograph by Marinco Kojdanovski, courtesy of the Powerhouse Museum*

Publications

In 2002–2003 the Heritage Office continued to produce accurate and informative publications, ranging from brochures, newsletters, information sheets, technical guidelines and corporate materials. Highlights include:

- corporate materials for the opening of the new Heritage Office premises at the former King's School in Parramatta;
- *A Lot in Store; Celebrating our Shopping Heritage*, an illustrated book telling the story of New South Wales shopping and retailing with a practical chapter on how to identify, conserve and interpret historic shops and collections;
- *The Investigation and Repair of Historic Concrete*, a practical new guide on repairing reinforced concrete in heritage buildings;
- *Thematic History of the Central West*, a regional history of the Central West region by Terry Kass, completed as part of a project to identify significant items in the region for listing on the State Heritage Register.

Heritage Office Library

The move by the Heritage Office to new premises at the former King's School in Parramatta has given us the opportunity to have our own library. This is a major initiative and gives the public greater access to information on heritage. The library, previously housed within other government department library collections, was moved to the new premises in February 2003.

The Heritage Office Library is now a publicly available heritage resource. It consists of over 7000 items and includes many conservation management plans, heritage studies, thematic studies and Australian and New South Wales histories, as well as a wide range of heritage monographs and journals. The collection is managed by a part-time librarian, and available to the public by appointment.

Heritage Office Events

Heritage Council Celebrity Debate

The Heritage Council sponsored a debate during this year's Heritage Festival. Six celebrity debaters – Deborah Cheetham, Alan Saunders, Bill Leak, Tug Dumbly, Professor Mike Archer and Sarah Macdonald – argued that the future is more important than the past. The past came out ahead on this occasion with the debaters for the negative case winning over the audience by a narrow margin. The debate was presented to an enthusiastic audience at the Powerhouse Museum and broadcast live as part of the popular *Evenings with James O'Loughlin* program on ABC Radio 702.

Tours of the former King's School in Parramatta

This year the Heritage Office moved to new premises in the former King's School building in Parramatta. The King's School has had a presence in the area since 1832 and the striking Georgian building is a heritage icon for Parramatta. As an interpretation tool for its new heritage premises the Heritage Office ran a series of tours of the building during Seniors Week, the Heritage Festival and as part of opening celebrations. Over 300 people took the opportunity to view the latest in adaptive re-use of heritage buildings.



Chair of the Heritage Council, Michael Collins, separates the warring debaters at the Heritage Council Celebrity Debate held at the Powerhouse Museum in April. *Photograph by Paramount Studios*

Community Programs

Historical Archaeology Community Programs

Public Open Days and Interpretation

As part of its objective to encourage the community to celebrate and conserve its heritage, the Heritage Office looks for ways to involve the public in historical archaeology. Increased public access and participation allows people to discover previously hidden history and to take pride in their archaeological sites and resources.

A major initiative of 2002–2003 was to require developers to host public open days at significant archaeological sites that are being excavated as part of redevelopment projects.

During 2002–2003 more than 900 members of the general public were given free public tours at the excavation and recording of three very different archaeological sites in New South Wales:

1. 180 George Street Parramatta – remains associated with the late 18th and early 19th century settlement of Parramatta, including the footings of convict huts dating to 1790 [approximately 600 visitors];
2. Former Hawkesbury Hospital, Windsor – convict barracks contemporary with the Hyde Park Barracks [more than 200 visitors];
3. Towns Place, Millers Point – substantial structural remains associated with the c. 1800s Bonds Store [approx 140 visitors].

In addition to the tours, interpretative signage explaining the historic and archaeological significance of sites was erected during the works programs for 180 George Street Parramatta, Towns Place Millers Point and at the Former Hawkesbury Hospital, Windsor. This signage enabled passers-by to gain an insight into the archaeological works being undertaken at these sites.

Maritime Archaeology Community Programs

Wreck Spotters

The Heritage Office continued support for 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 a range of offshore and onshore heritage sites including significant historic aircraft wreck site discoveries by trawler operators and Port Macquarie shipwreck sites exposed through storm activity. They also participated in surveys of shipwreck sites such as the abandoned hulk resource of Forster’s Wallis Lakes system.

Wrecks Alive

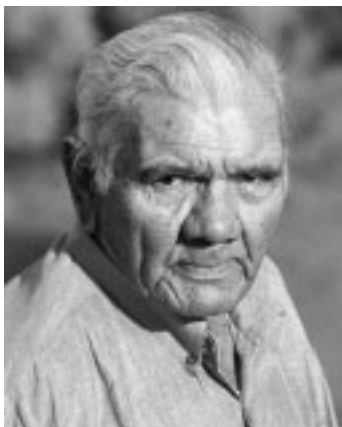
The community wreck survey project Wrecks Alive continued to be run through the year. The research kit and application form were promoted through the Maritime Heritage Online website, AIMA Newsletter and the AIMA/NAS Maritime Archaeology Training courses. Participants of this course have initiated projects including the survey of a former timber wharf complex at Little Manly Beach, Sydney, and the Berry’s Bay barge site.



Community divers conducting investigations of Sydney-based wrecks as part of the Wrecks Alive program.
Photograph by Mark Spencer



Volunteers working with archaeologists at this year's excavation of a riverside site in Parramatta which revealed evidence of convict huts, a 19th century brewery and a large house. *Photograph by Natalie Vinton*



Ted Fields snr has worked to conserve traditional language and plants in the Walgett area. He was one of the winners of the NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards. *Photograph courtesy of Wendy Spencer, Dharriwaa Project, Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service*

Volunteering in Heritage

Maritime Archaeology

The Heritage Office directly provides opportunities for people to become involved with their local maritime heritage. In 2002–2003 the Wreck Spotters program included 28 active volunteers. In addition, the Wrecks Alive project encourages volunteers to research and survey significant maritime sites, providing valuable information to the database.

Historical Archaeology

In 2002–2003 the Heritage Council and Heritage Office worked to encourage public participation in historic archaeology. Five volunteers were given the opportunity to take part in archaeological works alongside professional archaeologists during the salvage archaeological excavation program at 180 George Street Parramatta. This was a result of a Heritage Council requirement to advertise opportunities for volunteers to work on the site. This strategy of public participation will continue into 2003/2004.

Heritage Volunteer Awards

A strategic aim of the Heritage Council and Heritage Office is to encourage the community to celebrate the State's environmental heritage. A major achievement towards this goal was celebrated in 2002–2003 with the inaugural New South Wales Government Heritage Awards for Volunteers.

The purpose of the award is to recognise the outstanding performance of individuals and community groups who have significantly improved the profile of heritage management in their local communities and promoted the value of heritage.

In August 2002 the then Minister for Planning, Dr Andrew Refshaug, presented the following 16 volunteers with the award:

- Mavis Barnes – for her work with the Kendall Heritage Society and commitment to the promotion of heritage within the Hastings local government area;
- Barbara Hickson – for her work above and beyond the call of duty in her promotion and efforts towards heritage in the central west of New South Wales, particularly the Cobb & Co. Trail project;
- Shylie Brown – for her work with the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales), Parramatta Branch, and her contribution to the development of the Parramatta Regional Environmental Plan;
- Wendy Hucker – for her contribution to the conservation of movable heritage, and particularly the National Quilt Register;
- Paul Budde – for his commitment, drive and enthusiasm in establishing the Great North Road Convict Trail Project;
- Uncle Warner Saunders – for his contribution to the identification, protection and conservation of his culture and heritage through both his Aboriginal community and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, particularly in the Taree region;
- Aunty Maggie Morris – for her lifelong commitment to assisting in the conservation and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage, particularly in the Nambucca region;
- Ted Fields, Snr – for his work in conservation of Cultural heritage in the Walgett area, including traditional language, use of traditional plants for food and medicinal purposes;
- Coral Peckham and Will Burns – for their work towards conserving Aboriginal Culture in the Dubbo area;
- Johnny Blackwood – for many years service to the Geurie community in the conservation of cultural heritage in and around Geurie;

- Dennis Brown – for 10 years service to the Berrima branch of the National Trust, particularly fundraising for Harper’s Mansion and Wingecarribee River conservation;
- Elizabeth Lipscomb – for 12 years of committed and tireless service to the National Trust and as an active member and recently elected Chair to the Southern Tableland Regional Committee;
- Diana Nelson – for 15 years service to the National Trust, particularly for her work for the S.H.Ervin Gallery, the Norman Lindsay Gallery and Everglades in the Blue Mountains;
- Dr Bruce Mitchell – for 21 years of service to the National Trust, particularly for his work at Saumarez and Booloominbah and in establishing an effective partnership with Armidale Dumaresq Council;
- Ada Mumford – for ten years of exemplary service to the National Trust, particularly for her work at Old Government House, Parramatta.

Education and Training

Maritime Archaeology Training Courses

Since 1997, as part of the Heritage Office’s Maritime Heritage focus on community education and training, Heritage Office maritime archaeological staff have provided expertise in the conduct of courses run by the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology (AIMA). In May 2003 an agreement was reached between the Heritage Office and the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority to co-host the courses in The Rocks. This is an internationally accredited course. It introduces maritime archaeology to a wide public audience and encourages involvement through local maritime associations, diving clubs or other interested groups. The courses increase knowledge, use, appreciation and enjoyment of Australia’s historic shipwreck heritage. Courses presented in 2002–2003 were Part 1 Introductory and Part 2.

Historical Archaeology School Education

In February 2003 Natalie Vinton presented a lecture titled “Digging up 30 000 years of Sydney in 2002” at the *Investigate the Past: History, Archaeology and Science* Year 11 ancient history seminar days which were attended by more than 1100 Year 11 students from a range of private and public schools across New South Wales.

More than 300 teacher education kits, which included Heritage Office archaeology publications and a video prepared by Australand titled *Trowels and Tribulations* were distributed to all teachers attending the seminar series for use in the classroom.

Heritage Incentives Program

The Heritage Incentives Program is a major contributor to our goal of supporting community-based heritage projects. In this reporting year the Heritage Office continued to administer the 2002–2005 Heritage Incentives Program.

Following a review of funding arrangements for the Heritage Office, a new Heritage Incentives Program was launched by the Minister for Planning in February 2002.

The first projects under this new three-year program were approved in June 2002 and therefore appear in last year’s annual report. In total 214 projects were approved totalling \$3,662,078. A full summary of these 214 projects is available in last year’s report or at www.heritage.nsw.gov.au.

During this year an additional 263 projects were approved totalling \$3,904,982. For a full summary of these projects please turn to page 80.

Heritage Incentives Program 2002–2005

The Heritage Incentives Program is now run as eight sub-programs.

1. 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.
2. Biennial grants for thematic studies, education and promotional projects.
3. Year round consideration of Aboriginal heritage projects.
4. Year round special purposes grants and loans program with an upper limit of \$5,000 per project.
5. Year round consideration of support grants for conservation management plans on items of state heritage significance, with an upper limit of \$2,500.
6. Support by way of three year service agreements to local councils to cover heritage advisory services and local heritage funds and other matters. Commenced in July 2002.
7. Support by way of three year service agreements to heritage agencies e.g. National Trust (New South Wales), Royal Australian Institute of Architects (New South Wales).
8. Grants of up to \$4,000 for local history and archives projects through a \$40,000 grant to the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Contributing to community projects:

The Former Kidman Butcher Shop in Silverton

Community projects across the State have been supported by the Heritage Incentives Program in 2002–2003. Many of these projects are in rural and regional areas.

Silverton is historically significant for having been an important silver mining centre during the 1880s and pre-dates the settlement of Broken Hill. The presence of ruins and large areas of open space within the town area is very evocative of the past and tells the story of the town's decline.

The former Kidman butcher shop is owned by the Silverton Village Committee which identified this building as requiring immediate and urgent attention.

In July 2002 the Heritage Office offered a \$21,000 grant towards the expected \$42,535 cost of stabilisation work to this timber and corrugated iron building.

Heritage Advisor to Broken Hill and Silverton, Liz Vines, provided advice on the work to be carried out.

Mr Ron Hellyer of Broken Hill managed the project for the committee and it was completed by March 2003 at a final cost of \$48,606. The committee is now able to lease the building and create a further business opportunity in the town.



With funding assistance, the Silverton Village Committee was able to give this country butcher's shop a new lease of life.
Photograph by Ron Hellyer



Windsor Hospital with Hawkesbury Benevolent patients in the 1880s. Photograph courtesy of the Paine Collection, Hawkesbury City Council

Saving our special buildings:

Windsor Hospital

During the year Hawkesbury City Council completed most of the conservation of the old Hawkesbury Hospital in Windsor, and it is now being used as a private medical centre.

The original 1820 building was constructed as a convict barracks as part of Governor Macquarie's program to control and care for the convict population. At the time there were three convict gangs stationed in Windsor, including a single-iron gang, a double-iron gang and a road gang.

Evidence of convict barracks and outbuildings is very rare. Only the Hyde Park Barracks survives intact today. Windsor Barracks was built a short time after Hyde Park and was one of the first of this type of convict establishments.

Three years after its construction the building was converted to a convict hospital. The hospital ceased operation in 1842 and the building was taken over a few years later by the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society who adapted it to a general county hospital in 1846.

The hospital continued to operate for over 150 years until 1996, when it was replaced by the present hospital, and the building was acquired by Hawkesbury City Council.

Hawkesbury City Council embarked on a total redevelopment and adaptation of the former hospital site, incorporating health care facilities, a new purpose-built library and art gallery. The building was returned to its 1911 appearance by removing unsympathetic elements and reinstating elements of the original Georgian and later Arts & Crafts design, with assistance of a \$300,000 grant under the Heritage Incentives Program. Part of the original barracks is still contained in the main building.



Rewarding Community Effort:

Heritage Volunteer Awards

A highlight for 2002–2003 was the presentation of the State's first ever heritage volunteer awards.

The New South Wales Government Heritage Awards for Volunteers recognised the outstanding performance of 16 individuals and community organisations that have preserved and protected our heritage.

The then Minister for Planning, Dr Andrew Refshauge, established the annual Heritage Volunteer Awards program to give public recognition to this community effort by heritage volunteers.

“We have volunteers to thank for years of effort in protecting and conserving places that the community now appreciates as reminders of our collective past,” said Dr Refshauge.

“It is critical that we continue to protect and preserve the wonderful icons of our culture – but we could not do it without our volunteers.”

The majority of volunteers recognised by the inaugural awards were from regional and country New South Wales.

The purpose of the award is to recognise the outstanding performance of individuals and community groups who have significantly improved the profile of heritage management in their local communities and promoted the value of heritage.

The sixteen recipients for 2002 received the award on the 28th August 2002. They had worked on a variety of heritage projects including the Cobb & Co. Heritage Trail, the Great North Road Convict Trail Project, significant National Trust properties and conserving cultural heritage significant to local Aboriginal communities in Dubbo, Walgett, Taree, Geurie and Nambucca.



Heritage Volunteer Award winners with Dr Andrew Refshauge, Deputy Premier, at the presentation ceremony at the State Library of NSW. *Photograph by Paramount Studios*

Quilt owned by Lurine Lydiard, part of the National Quilt Register contributed to by volunteer, Wendy Hucker. *Photograph courtesy of the National Quilt Register*





Archaeologists showed the public some of the artifacts they discovered this year during an excavation at a riverside site in Parramatta. *Photograph by Natalie Vinton*



Members of the public view the cellar unearthed at the Parramatta dig. The cellar was once part of a large residence that was built on the George and Charles street corner in the 19th century. *Photograph by Natalie Vinton*

Encouraging public participation:

Archaeology open days

This year some innovative archaeology programs meant that the general public was able to discover and appreciate previously hidden history.

Remains of convict huts, evidence of Chinese market gardens, 18th century wells, aboriginal stone artifacts and a 1794 gold sovereign were just some of the relics of early Parramatta found at a riverside site last year. These artifacts were unearthed by archaeologists working on a Meriton redevelopment site on the corner of George and Charles streets in Parramatta.

The area was part of the early settlement at Rose Hill, where Governor Phillip established a military redoubt. Convicts were sent to the area to start farming and their living quarters were located at the river site.

Six hundred people visited the site to see remains associated with the post-1788 occupation site along the Parramatta River. Consultant architects Casey & Lowe explained how they had discovered footings of convict huts dating from 1790, as well as evidence of later use of the site as a brewery and then a large residential house.

This was an opportunity for the public to join the archaeologists on site and see first-hand how evidence is discovered and analysed. The enormous community interest demonstrated how participation and public access can enable communities to develop knowledge and pride in their archaeological resources. In the coming year, the Heritage Council and Heritage Office will continue to work with developers and owners to achieve positive public outcomes for their archaeological projects.