

2. Helping State Government



The elevated Waverley Reservoir is just one of the varied heritage items owned by Sydney Water listed this year. One of the most ornate and decorative of the reinforced concrete reservoirs, it was constructed in the early 20th century with a high level of engineering expertise. *Photograph courtesy of Sydney Water*

OBJECTIVE:

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

OBJECTIVE:

Heritage assessment and management will be integrated into the standard asset management and planning practices of New South Wales.

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 2002–2003 the Heritage Office and Heritage Council continued to work with State government agencies to achieve their responsibilities under the Heritage Act. Currently there are some 75 government instrumentalities that 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 2003, of 761 State-significant, publicly-owned heritage items.

Identifying Heritage Items

Under section 170 of the Heritage Act 1977, 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.

A major register was submitted in 2002–2003 from the Department of Agriculture, (previously submitted in 1998 in non-electronic form). This agency manages a wide range of heritage assets, including the Government Stud Poultry Farm in Seven Hills and Wagga Wagga Experiment Farm. The Heritage Office liaised closely with the agency on the preparation of the register.

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 register are considered for listing on the State Heritage Register.

Managing Heritage Items

The 1999 and 2001 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 through education and promotion programs. Actions this year included:

- assisting agencies in the preparation of heritage and conservation registers and in the revision of existing registers. In 2002–2003 the Heritage Office worked particularly with the Department of Agriculture, Attorney Generals Department, Department of Education and Training, Department of Housing, State Water, New South Wales Department of Mineral Resources, New South Wales Fire Brigades, and Waterways Authority;
- encouraging agencies to develop and implement heritage asset management guidelines;
- encouraging agencies to use the Internet to promote transparent decision making and to make heritage and conservation registers available online. In 2002–2003 Sydney Water and State Rail Authority produced significant online heritage sites;
- 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;
- providing Heritage Office representation on Government agencies' heritage committees. In 2002–2003 the office contributed to the Sydney Water Heritage Committee, Rail Heritage Committee, Roads and Traffic Authority Heritage Committee and New South Wales Health Heritage Committee by providing heritage advice, working on promotional ideas and discussing heritage issues.

Further information on government heritage asset management is available at the Heritage Office website, State Government Resources page at www.heritage.nsw.gov.au.



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*

<i>Location:</i>	<i>Lachlan Village, Newell Highway, Forbes</i>
<i>New South Wales historical themes:</i>	<i>technology, industry</i>
<i>Years of construction:</i>	<i>1881, reconstructed 1993</i>

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 was listed on the State Heritage Register in 1999.

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

2 *Exeter Farm*

<i>Location:</i>	<i>Meurants Lane, Parklea (Lot 52, DP 869799 and Lot 4021, DP879557)</i>
<i>New South Wales historical themes:</i>	<i>agriculture, housing, pastoralism</i>
<i>Years of construction:</i>	<i>1810-1825</i>

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.

Exeter Farm was listed at State level in 1985, and was entered on the State Heritage Register in 1999.

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.



Exeter Farm

3 Hillview

Location:	Old Illawarra Highway, Sutton Forest (Lt 12, DP 260417)
New South Wales historical themes:	persons, government & administration, housing
Years of construction:	1875-1899



Hillview
Photograph by Nathanael Hughes

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Hillview, including 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 contents 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 that can 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 all eight hotel suites completed by June 2003. Negotiations on further work and on the standard of work to date are continuing.

A revised conservation management 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 was listed at State level in 1986, and entered on the State Heritage Register in 1999. The property is generally in good condition. There is substantial archaeological potential on the site.



Linnwood Photograph by Murray Brown

4 Linnwood

<i>Location:</i>	<i>11-35 Byron Road, Guildford (Lt 1, DP 169485, Lot 1, DP 1830175)</i>
<i>New South Wales historical themes:</i>	<i>persons, welfare</i>
<i>Years of construction:</i>	<i>1891</i>

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Linnwood, including its associated buildings and landscape, is primarily significant as a welfare site that was in operation and use for over 80 years. Since 1917 the site has been continually adapted and developed, specifically for various welfare uses such as housing and educating state wards. Of particular significance is the use of Linnwood as the first and only Truant School that was in existence in New South Wales between 1917 and 1936. It was later used by the Department of Welfare as a Girls Home Science Domestic School for state wards.

The site is also significant as an example of a prominent and wealthy city businessman's country retreat that was constructed on a large estate beyond the then outskirts of Sydney. The grand size and fine detail of this late Victorian residence demonstrates the wealth, aspirations and lifestyle of this class in society. Specifically, Linnwood provides evidence of its original designer and occupier, George McCredie. George McCredie was prominent in the local community through his involvement in the political arena and in community activities. On a broader level, George McCredie is known for his role in conducting the cleansing of The Rocks following the outbreak of the bubonic plague in 1900, and the building activities of his family firm A.L. & G. McCredie and Sons.

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 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.

During the year a conservation management plan for the property was undertaken and work commenced on repairs to meet the Heritage Council's minimum maintenance standards. It was listed on the State Heritage Register in February 2003.

5 Rose Seidler House

<i>Location:</i>	<i>69-71 Clissold Road, Wahroonga (Pt. Lt A, DP 372495)</i>
<i>New South Wales historical themes:</i>	<i>housing, persons, cultural sites</i>
<i>Years of construction:</i>	<i>1948-1950</i>

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Rose Seidler House is historically significant as a resource that demonstrates 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 post-war housing construction in a period of conservative building regulations, scarcity of materials, skills and industrial processes.

The house was listed at State level in 1983, and was entered on the State Heritage Register in 1999. It is managed by the Historic Houses Trust.

Physical condition is excellent. Archaeological potential is low.

6 Tusculum

<i>Location:</i>	<i>1-3 Manning Street, Potts Point (Lt 1, DP 710723)</i>
<i>New South Wales historical themes:</i>	<i>persons, religion, cultural sites</i>
<i>Years of construction:</i>	<i>1831-1837</i>

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Tusculum was used 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 stairs, 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.

Tusculum’s heritage significance has been recognised for some time. It was first listed at State level in 1979, and was entered on the State Heritage Register in 1999. 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. The Institute has also inserted a modern office building at the rear of the site.

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.



Rose Seidler House
Photograph by Lloyd Sharp



Tusculum
Photograph courtesy of the RAlA

Commonwealth Government Heritage

The Commonwealth Government has continued with its initiatives in preparing draft legislation which will list places of national heritage significance, establish a heritage list for Commonwealth government agencies and create a new Australian Heritage Council to advise the Minister on heritage matters. It is anticipated that the draft legislation will be put to Parliament in July / August 2003.

Environment Protection and Heritage Council

The newly established Environment Protection and Heritage Council comprising ministers at State, Territory and Commonwealth level has approved the establishment of a number of task forces to work on heritage projects which are of national interest.

The Heritage Tourism Taskforce has now prepared a report titled *Going Places* on key opportunities to integrate heritage into tourism in Australia and has sought comment from key parties on their priorities. In addition, a draft report is being prepared on the range of incentives available to enhance heritage conservation in Australia and is expected to be considered by the Council in early 2004.

Underwater Cultural Heritage

Commonwealth Waters

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

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 Tweed Heads, building on an earlier survey in 1995.

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

In addition, the information gathered during the surveys was transformed into publicly accessible products such as brochures, interpretative 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.

The Sydney suburb of Collaroy and its beach were named after the dramatic stranding of a paddle steamer there in 1881. Heritage Office maritime archaeologist, Tim Smith, has located two anchors used to stabilise the stranded vessel. A plaque recording Collaroy's maritime past was erected by Warringah Council and the Heritage Office in August 2002. *Photograph by Tim Smith*



Major achievements in 2002–2003 included:

- a survey of wrecks in the vicinity of Tweed Heads, including the international steamer *Fido* (1907), hopper barge *Alcides* and the interstate steamer *Dellie* (1941). The work culminated in the launch of the Tweed Heads shipwreck information sheet, detailing the major local shipwreck events and wreck sites, launched by the Minister;
- survey and management of shipwrecks and relics notified to the Heritage Office under the requirements of the Historic Shipwrecks Act. Activities during the year included inspections of the ss *Royal Shepherd* (1890), a steering wheel and associated sites at Stockton Beach, historic aircraft remains impacted by commercial fishing operations near Eden, Norah Head, Sydney and Bittangabee Bay and *HMAS Australia* historic shipwreck off Sydney Heads;
- liaison with community groups, local councils and government agencies associated with these shipwrecks and with relics discovered by surveys;
- enhancement of the Maritime Heritage Online web site. Additional features were added to the site so that the public could undertake major research queries such as shipwrecks by month, wreck sites by position, vessel losses by type and search for shipwrecks by year, month and day;
- development of further Historic Shipwreck Information Sheets on historic aircraft crash sites in New South Wales; *Kielawarra* (1896); Northern Beaches Historic Shipwrecks and Tweed Heads Historic Shipwrecks;
- development of the Shipwreck Place Names Project with ABC Radio National – a national series of radio plays highlighting key historic shipwreck events and their association with coastal place names today;
- negotiations on the continuing archaeological investigations of the AE2, a historic Australian submarine wrecked near Gallipoli. Maritime archaeologist Tim Smith, co-director of Project AE2, provided technical briefings for the major Australian-Turkish discussions held in Ankara, Turkey;
- development and launch, in partnership with Warringah Council, of an interpretative plaque on the stranding of the paddle steamer *Collaroy* (1881) off Sydney's Northern Beaches;
- assistance to Environment Australia on the development of a National Maritime Heritage Strategy, National Shipwrecks Database, National Artefact Database and National Historic Shipwrecks Program web site;
- presentation of Maritime Archaeology training courses under the auspices of the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology. Courses were held at Merimbula and Sydney;
- input into zoning plans for marine parks at Solitary Islands, Byron Bay, Lord Howe Island and Wreck Bay; and New South Wales Fisheries environmental impact statements of significant fisheries;
- presentation of public education lectures to community groups, historical societies, dive clubs and maritime associations;
- issuing of permits for Historic Shipwrecks in protected zones: five for ss *Duckenfield* (1889) and four for *Lady Darling* (1880). Meetings held in Narooma and Bermagui with *Lady Darling* permit holders regarding ongoing maintenance of the permit system and on-site mooring;
- raising of public awareness of the shipwrecks and underwater cultural relics through widespread media coverage including radio interviews, newspaper articles, and editorial. These have included: *Heritage NSW*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Sydney Morning Herald*; AIMA newsletter.



Remains of the paddle steamer *Manning* at Taree, abandoned in the 1940s. Photograph by David Nutley

State waters

The New South Wales Underwater Heritage Program began in 1988 and runs in tandem to 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.

Major achievements in 2002–2003 included:

- a regional survey of key historic shipwrecks in the Darling River system and survey of paddle steamer *Rodney* (1894), *Providence* (1872) and maritime related sites and structures;
- inspection of historic anchors associated with the stranding of the *Collaroy* in 1881;
- major inspection and survey of *Centurion* (1887) historic shipwreck in Sydney Harbour, in partnership with the Waterways Authority of New South Wales and the development of a conservation management plan for the site;
- inspection of historic shipwrecks in State waters – *Edward Lombe* (1834), ss *Currajong* (1910), site of HMB *Endeavour* 1770 mooring, Botany Bay, in partnership with Australian National Maritime Museum, New South Wales Water Police and Sydney Ports Corporation;
- promotion and development of interpretive maritime signage, including launch of Greater Taree City Council's program for key historic shipwrecks and maritime precincts on the Manning River, and, in partnership with Warringah Council, an interpretive plaque on the stranding of the paddle steamer *Collaroy* (1881) off Sydney's Northern Beaches;
- discussions with New South Wales Waterways Authority regarding their management responsibilities for underwater heritage sites through section 170 obligations under the Heritage Act. Ongoing discussions regarding the authority's re-use options for the movable heritage item, *Kooleen*, historic Sydney ferry.
- management of the highly successful Wreck Spotter program, which encourages reports of shipwrecks and relics through community liaison.



Opening of viewing platform and signage above the wreck of the *Manning* at Taree. Photograph by David Nutley



The Darling River was surveyed this year by for historic shipwrecks maritime archaeologists. Photograph by David Nutley

Joint Programs with State Agencies

State of the Environment Report

The Environment Protection Authority's biennial State of the Environment Report is a key tool for government, industry and the public. The 2003 report will include a cultural heritage component for the first time. The Heritage Office has worked closely with the Environmental Protection Authority, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Department of Aboriginal Affairs to produce text and data for this section. The report is due for publication in late 2003.

Minding the Store

In late 2002 the Heritage Office published *A Lot in Store; Celebrating our Shopping Heritage*, a thematic study of shopping and retail heritage in New South Wales produced by historian Joy McCann for the Heritage Office and Minister for Arts Movable Heritage Project. The Heritage Office and the Powerhouse Museum are preparing a new publication, *Minding the Store*, which explores shopping and retail heritage from a national perspective. It is due for publication early in the next financial year.

Historic Town Signs

Last year the Heritage Office and Tourism New South Wales jointly funded a consultant to develop criteria for the awarding of "historic town" signs along the New South Wales highway system. These criteria were adopted by the Tourism Attraction Signposting Advisory Committee during the year. Applications are referred to the Heritage Office for comment.

Council on the Cost and Quality of Government

The council undertook a review of the operations and effectiveness of the Heritage Office during the year. The review, which was undertaken over the three to four months, assessed the appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency and prudence of the office. Recommendations from the report were made to the Minister and implementation reviewed as part of the process.

Tracking our rail heritage



This lavish Commissioner's Car was built in 1919 for the sole use of the Commissioner of Railways on his tours of the railway network. It was one of five historic carriages assessed by the State Rail Authority, in consultation with the Heritage Office, as being of state heritage significance. *Photographs courtesy of State Rail Archives*

Movable heritage is an important part of our diverse heritage and State agencies are the custodians of many significant collections. A highlight this year was the listing of a collection of prestigious rail carriages nominated by State Rail. The high quality vehicles demonstrate the status of the New South Wales Government Railways in the halcyon days when rail was king.

The collection consists of five rail cars which were specially fitted out for conveying the Commissioner for Railways and his executive officers on tours of inspection throughout the State system from 1919 until the 1970s.

In the first half of the century the railway network was such an important part of Government business that the Commissioner was often the only representative of the State who travelled regularly to remote towns and communities. The prized 1919 Commissioner's carriage is still largely intact and features a unique interior, with furnishings and fittings of a high standard suitable for the senior executive of the largest government authority at the time.

The State Rail Authority is the owner of one of the largest collections of heritage assets of any State government agency – managing rolling stock and track vehicles, machinery and equipment, antique furniture, clocks and historic records.

State Rail, as managers of the fine collection, nominated the carriages for listing on the State Heritage Register. Conservation management plans will be developed for the carriages to guide future conservation works.



The Wreck of the Centurion

This year the Heritage Office worked closely with the New South Wales Waterways Authority to help them with their management responsibilities for underwater heritage sites.

One of the major projects was to survey the shipwreck site of the *Centurion*, a timber sailing ship lost inside North Head in 1887. The wreck is a reminder of the days when Sydney Harbour was a major shipping destination, congested with international and coastal sailing vessels, belching steamers and harbour craft.

The *Centurion* is the largest timber shipwreck site in Sydney Harbour and is very popular with recreational SCUBA divers. The complicated structure is spread over 40 metres on sand. Major elements include a pile of stone ballast, concentrations of anchor chain and iron fastenings from the hull. Many of the hull's timbers can be seen, particularly when sand levels change, exposing previously buried portions of the structure.

The *Centurion* was a magnificent barque, square-rigged on two of three masts with a length of 63 metres. It had been built by the celebrated Scottish shipwright, Walter Hood. *Centurion* was departing Sydney Heads under tow for Newcastle to load coal for Honolulu when it got into difficulties. It was towards the end of its life and the once proud passenger and cargo carrier now served as an ordinary collier. When its tow rope slipped, the vessel washed onto the rocks of North Head, near The Old Man's Hat. Recovering the tow rope, the steamer *Phoebe* pulled *Centurion* off but the vessel sank, fatally holed in 18 metres of water inside Cannae Point.

The Heritage Office investigations are timely. While popular for divers, the site has seen little detailed archaeological recording since its discovery in the early 1960s. It contains an important range of data on hull construction techniques in a period of changing ship technology. The New South Wales Waterways Authority worked with the Heritage Office to survey the site and the thorough work will result in a conservation management plan, a detailed site plan for visitors and other interpretive products.



A Heritage Office maritime archaeologist records remains of the barque *Centurion*, the largest timber shipwreck site in Sydney Harbour. *Underwater photography courtesy of www.markspencer.com.au*

The *Centurion* foundering in Sydney Harbour in 1887. *Illustration courtesy of the State Library of New South Wales*