

6. The Heritage Council of New South Wales

OBJECTIVES:

The Heritage Council's 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 Heritage Office works to carry out its statutory function efficiently and to make its approvals system accountable. In March 2003 new standard exemptions and exceptions were gazetted in order to streamline the approval process and minimise the number of unnecessary or minor requests for approval.

During 2002–2003 the Heritage Office successfully met its statutory requirements regarding the processing of applications for works to heritage items:

- 52 integrated development approvals applications were processed and approved, a 2% increase on the previous year;
- 172 section 60 applications were processed and approved, a 7% decrease on the previous year;
- 110 section 140 archaeology permits were issued, a 13% increase on the previous year.
- 76 section 57(2) exemptions were granted in 2002–2003 (none in previous year).
- 1 section 139 (4) exception was granted in 2002–2003 (none in previous year).
- 37 section 60 approvals were granted under delegation by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority.

Conservation of Items of State Significance

Fifty-two applications under the Integrated Development Approvals system were processed during the year. The Heritage Council or the Heritage Council Approvals Committee assessed 14 of these applications during the year. Thirty-eight applications were approved by the Heritage Office under delegation.

The processing of applications for works under section 60 of the Heritage Act decreased from 185 last year to 172 in 2002–2003. The Heritage Council or the Heritage Council Approvals Committee assessed six of these applications during the year. One hundred and sixty six applications were approved by the Heritage Office under delegation.

A total of 110 section 140 permits for excavation were issued in 2002–2003, an increase of thirteen from the previous year. A total of five permits was issued by the Heritage Council Approvals Committee, the remainder were assessed under delegation by the Heritage Office.

The following are some of the major projects which the Heritage Council contributed to under section 60, section 140 of the Heritage Act or as Integrated Development.

Norville Homestead, 3 Elizabeth Drive Norville

Built in 1857, Norville homestead is a rare surviving early Australian homestead. The building is also rare in that it was constructed almost entirely of cedar. It is associated with a notable figure in Australia's colonial history and in the discovery of gold. Edward Hammond Hargraves built Norville from reward money received for his controversial discovery of payable gold at Ophir in 1851. This discovery led to the first gold rush in New South Wales.

The site functioned as a homestead for the past 146 years and was associated with the Hargraves family throughout this period. It is an integral part of Australia's early coastal, farming and family history.

This application was for the adaptive re-use of the homestead as bed and breakfast accommodation, demolition of service buildings and construction of a new service building and family residence to the rear.

The Heritage Council approved the application with the conditions that archaeological works would be done in accordance with the submitted assessment, all buildings and structures would be archivally recorded, an inventory of all movable items would be prepared in accordance with Heritage Office guidelines within six months of the approval and a conservation management plan would be prepared for the site within twelve months and submitted to the Heritage Office for endorsement.

Port Macquarie Government House Site, 2 Clarence Street, Port Macquarie

As one of the few remaining sites with strong associations with the convict system, Port Macquarie is important in the history of the early European settlement of Australia. Established in 1821, Port Macquarie was the first designated place of secondary punishment to be established in Australia and the archaeological remains are the only known surviving example in the New South Wales of a 'government house' in a distant 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 archaeological evidence at Port Macquarie is not duplicated in the existing range of convict sites at Sydney, Parramatta and Newcastle. Government House is one of the two main elements of the picturesque composition of the penal settlement, the other being the existing church of St Thomas.

A number of options was considered by the Heritage Council in association with the applicant and the local council. Some of these options required the relaxation of development control plan provisions to achieve both conservation of the ruins and a viable development. It was not possible to achieve support from the council and community for these options. The applicants eventually sought approval to cap the remains of the former Government House. This capping will preserve the archaeological remains under the proposed development.

The Heritage Council approved the application, with conditions.

Jenner House, 2 Macleay Street Potts Point

The Jenner precinct demonstrates the lifestyle of the late 19th century residents of the Potts Point area, which was characterised by the beauty of its houses and grounds and the wealth of its residents. The precinct is also significant because of its 40-year period as a private hospital. It was also associated with the Navy and the operations of Garden Island, one of the largest engineering undertakings in 20th century Australia. Jenner House was built in 1871 and represents a fine example of the domestic work of Edmund Blacket, with interesting internal detailing by Blacket and his then employee, Horbury Hunt. The building's third floor was the work of Thomas Rowe in 1877.

The proposal submitted to the Heritage Council was for alterations and additions to Jenner House, its conversion to two dwellings, the construction of an additional dwelling, the subdivision of the land under the *Strata Schemes (Freehold Development) Act* and the demolition of an existing garage.

The Heritage Council required extensive changes to the scheme submitted and then approved the development of the site with conditions. Some of these conditions required revised fenestration and façade detailing for the eastern and western elevations of the proposed additions, a schedule of repair and conservation works, details of the proposed landscaping, the protection of the Magnolia Grandiflora tree located in the western forecourt and the prevention of damage during construction to the curved sandstone wall and iron balustrading in the eastern garden.

Chief Secretary's Building, Bridge Street, Sydney

The Chief Secretary's building is of national significance. It embodies the pre-eminently important office and department of the Colonial Secretary, later Chief Secretary, of the colony of New South Wales. This institution, through its expansion and growing politicisation, achieved the most far reaching powers of any of the administrative departments of the colonial bureaucracy. The decisions made in this department affected every level of society in the colony.

The proposed works consisted of:

- an upgrade of the existing building services to a level that meets the standard requirements, including the provision of three new lifts;
- the replacement of most of the existing building services;
- the fit-out of the building to serve as the Industrial Relations Commission courts and associated facilities of the Attorney General's Department.
- essential repairs and maintenance to be carried out to the building.

The new works will provide increased access to the building for the general public.

The on-going use of the building for public service offices was strongly supported by the Heritage Council which approved the application with conditions.

Walsh Bay Shoreshed building of Pier 2/3

Wharf 2/3 individually, and as part of the Walsh Bay complex, has a strong architectural presence that contributes to the overall urban landscape of the southern shore of Port Jackson. It provides a prominent and historically rich landmark and contributes to significant views and vistas to and from Sydney Harbour in the Miller's Point area. Wharf 2/3 is a good example of Federation period maritime engineering architecture. The Hickson Road brick and stone shore shed façade has a strong architectural presence and contributes to the streetscape and overall character of the area.

The area of the shoreshed building is to be converted to commercial/retail suites on the ground floor and with commercial/studio suites on the upper floors. The Heritage Council approved the development application with conditions requiring retention of much of the heritage fabric.



Cadia site, near Orange

Cadia Village Archaeological Site, Cadia Goldmine

The overall significance of the residential heart of Cadia cannot be divorced from its industrial milieu. The beam engine house, which has now been conserved by Cadia Mines, is the most famous and visible part of the industrial heritage of Cadia, but the recently excavated remains of the early reverberatory furnaces at Copper Smelter No. 1, near the village site, are also of State significance. The village and the industrial plant remain intertwined and the high historical and heritage significance of the industrial area at Cadia is part of the value of the village site.

The project submitted to the Heritage Council for approval consisted of the excavation of a 1-2 million cubic metre bulk mineral sample, the construction of major infrastructure, including formalised access roads and the creation of creek diversion levees, following investigation of the archaeological remains.

The proposed works were supported by the Heritage Council in light of the fact that the archaeological results will be transcribed into interpretive material suitable for educating the general public, heritage practitioners and other relevant stakeholders about the significance of the site. Careful consideration was also given to the appropriate level of protection from potential future mining ventures and management for the remaining archaeological resource in the Upper Cadia Village at the site.

Parramatta Civic Place Master Plan

The master plan guides detailed development in central Parramatta, a precinct of exceptional heritage significance to New South Wales. The area is the site of the first New South Wales market place, adjoining one of Australia's earliest churches, and provides evidence of early town planning by Governors Phillip and Macquarie. The area includes early military barracks (Lancer Barracks), educational institutions (Arthur Phillip High School), 19th and 20th century shopping strips and the railway. It has rich archaeological resources of State significance in addition to its above-ground heritage values.

The Parramatta Regional Environmental Plan lists two city areas requiring master plans to guide future detailed development, one of which is Civic Place. Parramatta City Council has prepared a draft plan, with Heritage Office and other stakeholder involvement and review. This is the core of Parramatta City, containing some of its richest heritage resources. It is also the functional core as arrival and focal point, being immediately adjacent to major roads and the second busiest rail hub in the metropolitan area. The REP forecasts a doubling of jobs to 60,000 and increased public transport use via the Parramatta Rail Link (2010), new underground station and new integrated bus interchange.

The Heritage Council provided in-principle support for the Master Plan and noted that it will have the opportunity to make a submission on the plan when it is on exhibition.

North Head Quarantine Station and Reserve, Manly

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 was in use from 1828 to 1984. It is the oldest, largest and most intact station of its type. 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 under the Heritage Act was for the adaptive re-use and conservation of the North Head Quarantine Station. The Heritage Office had provided a submission to the Commission of Inquiry held in early 2002 into the proposed adaptive re-use of the Quarantine Station. The Heritage Council approved the application subject to the conditions set out in the Draft Joint Determining Authorities Report dated November 2002 and Draft Conditions of Approval dated November 2002.

Cross City Tunnel Project, Darling Harbour to Kings Cross

The Cross City Tunnel will provide a dual tunnel crossing under the Sydney CBD with entry and exit points at Darling Harbour, Sir John Young Crescent, Bourke Street and east of the present Kings Cross Tunnel. The associated cut and cover tunnelling, as well as roadworks to achieve substantial reductions in current ground levels along the Cross City Tunnel route, will mean that several archaeological sites may be disturbed.

This application was for an archaeological program comprising archaeological monitoring, archaeological tests and large scale excavations to determine the nature and extent of potential remains prior to their full documentation and removal. The proposal includes an interpretive program.

The Heritage Council considered that the applicant presented a sound argument that the significance of the remains lies in their research potential. It is also anticipated that identified research questions will be addressed by a thorough analysis of the archaeological resources at the various sites, and that these results can be interpreted for use by historians and the general public in understanding the undocumented history of colonial Sydney. The conditions of consent will provide public interpretation opportunities, particularly for the Barker's Mill Site, both during and after the archaeological programs.

Former Lidcombe Hospital, Joseph Street, Lidcombe

The Lidcombe Hospital site was in continual institutional use from 1878 to 1995, evolving from a boys reformatory with self-sustaining farm to an asylum for the aged and an important State teaching hospital specialising in geriatric care and rehabilitation. The expansion and closure of the hospital reflect changes in Commonwealth and State health care policy over the 20th century. The site has significance for its associations with innovative medical practitioners, specialists in geriatric health care, nursing and the local community. The place also has associations with the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, providing short-term accommodation for 5000 visiting journalists.

Auburn Council referred a development application for lot consolidation and boundary adjustment subdivision and a masterplan development application for the redevelopment of the site to the Heritage Council for comment.

The masterplan proposed a maximum of 750 medium density dwellings and the adaptive re-use of the heritage precinct for education facilities. The site is not listed on the State Heritage Register, but several buildings have been graded by the conservation management plan as being of State significance.

The Heritage Council considered the proposed development to be acceptable in terms of heritage impact subject to the submission and referral to the Heritage Office of further details prior to occupation of the heritage buildings and new development in the vicinity of the heritage precinct. The Heritage Council also considered that the proposed subdivision of the land required the imposition of suitable conditions to achieve the conservation of the heritage buildings concurrently with the development of the remainder of the site.

Former CBC Building, 343 George Street, Sydney

This grand commercial building was the former headquarters of one of the leading banks in New South Wales, the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney. The bank had occupied this site from the 1850s until its merger with the National Bank in the 1980s. The design and execution, scale, form and materials of this building combine to present an extremely fine expression of the qualities and aspirations of a leading, well established and respected bank from the 1920s, a time when great confidence and trust was placed in these institutions.

The proposed works to the ground floor and lower ground floor will convert the former banking chamber to a retail use. The original application was modified to meet the Heritage Council's concerns with the extent of the proposed removal of counters. The amended proposal increased their retention and was a considerable improvement on the original scheme. It now also largely complies with the policies of the endorsed conservation management plan. The alterations generally conserve the elements and characteristics of the banking chamber that are essential to its significance, while ensuring the viability of the new retail use. The chamber will be retained as a single large space without further subdivision.



Excavation at a Meriton redevelopment site in Parramatta. *Photograph by Natalie Vinton*

Archaeology Excavation Permits

This year 110 archaeological excavation permits were issued for archaeological investigations under section 140 of the Heritage Act. This represents a slight increase of 13% on section 140 permits issued in 2001–2002.

Nine section 144 excavation permit variations were approved in 2002–2003, which equals the number of section 144 approvals issued in the previous year.

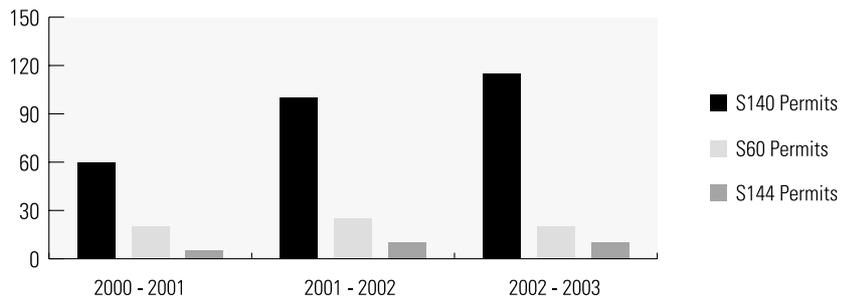
Six exceptions for the removal of archaeological relics of low significance were approved under the new section 139 (4) exceptions gazetted in March 2003, representing an increase of 83% on the exceptions approved in 2002–2003. Three archaeological exemptions were approved under the new section 57(2) exemptions gazetted in March 2003.

Under section 60 of the Heritage Act, 24 archaeological excavation permits were issued, representing a 17% decrease on section 60 approvals issued for archaeological excavations in 2001–2002.

A further 20 applications approved under section 60 of the Act issued approval for the removal of, or disturbance to archaeological remains, as part of a broader scope of works approved, in order to facilitate development.

The statistics show that 49% of all statutory approvals issued under section 60, section 140, and section 144 of the Act were for archaeological excavation permits, and a further 7% of approvals required consideration of archaeological impacts within a broader framework of works, prior to approval (total of 56%). This compares to the last financial year where 46% of all approvals issued by the Heritage Council under these sections were for archaeological works only.

Permit Graph 2003



Heritage Council Committees and Panels

Heritage Council Committees

State Heritage Register Committee

Ian Jack (Chair), Michael Collins, Megan Jones, Reece McDougall, Sharon Sullivan, Joan Templeman, John Delaney, Jason Ardler (deputy for Brian Gilligan) (membership as at 30 June 2003)

The committee is responsible for recommending the listing of items on the State Heritage Register to the Minister and providing expert comment on planning documents for major heritage places. For recommendations of the committee to the Minister for Planning (until March 2003) and to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning [Planning Administration] (from March 2003), turn to page 79.

Approvals Committee

Mary-Lynne Taylor (Chair), Terrence Barnes (Deputy Chair), Elsa Atkin, Rod Leaver, Diane Jones, Garry Fielding, Chris Johnson, Bruce Pettman (deputy for Chris Johnson), Susan Macdonald (deputy for Reece McDougall) (membership as at 30 June 2003)

The Approvals Committee performs in the Heritage Council's consent authority role. It approves, comments on, or suggests amendments to proposed changes to listed items.

Strategy Committee

Michael Collins (Chair), Ian Jack, Mary-Lynne Taylor, Reece McDougall (membership as at 30 June 2003)

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.

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, James Welsh, Yvonne Weldon, Bill Robinson; agency representatives from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, National Parks and Wildlife Service; Heritage Office and Heritage Council of New South Wales representatives (membership as at 30 June 2003)

The Aboriginal Heritage Committee is responsible for providing advice to the Heritage Council on Aboriginal heritage and related matters, including ongoing program planning, monitoring and development and implementation of Aboriginal Heritage programs funded by the Heritage Council.

There was an increase in the number of applications for funding in the Aboriginal heritage component of the Heritage Incentives Program this year owing to increased community awareness of the program. Applications are assessed and approved at each meeting of the committee. Projects which have been funded during the year include:

- Umbarra Cultural Centre Promotional Project
- Northern Beaches Regional Aboriginal History, *Tale of a Whale*
- conservation of Aboriginal canoe tree, Finley
- *Footprints* – Aboriginal Pathways and Movement in the high country of SE Australia
- Wiradjuri 20th Anniversary book: *Two Steps Forward*
- North Sydney Council Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan
- Wagga Wagga Shire Council Aboriginal Heritage Study.

The Aboriginal Heritage Committee is committed to increasing the number of Aboriginal places of State significance on the State Heritage Register. This year the Aboriginal Heritage Committee have been working on the listings for the Grave of Yuranigh, Windradyne's Grave and Erambie Mission and the Old School, South West Rocks. Communities are becoming increasingly interested in nominating places of significance in their local area and are becoming actively involved in the process with the Heritage Office.

Archaeology Advisory Panel

In 2002 the Heritage Office decided to suspend the Archaeological Advisory Panel to conduct a review of the panel's role and function. The Heritage Council last reviewed the role and function of the panel in 1997.

The review is currently underway and is examining the terms of reference, aims, objectives and membership of the panel. It is proposed to reappoint the panel in 2003–2004.

Fire, Access and Services Advisory Panel

Bruce Pettman (Chair), Government Architects Office; Don Truman, RAlA; Peter Phillips, RAlA; Barry Waite, New South Wales 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; Megan Jones, architect (membership as at 30 June 2003)

In addition Trevor Howse, Louise Cox (past Chair) and Shan Ramanathan (City of Sydney) assisted the panel as members of a reference panel.

In 2002–2003 there has been a growing number of enquiries in the field of design resolutions for access to heritage buildings and sites for people with disabilities.

FASAP provided advice on appropriate ways of meeting fire, access and service requirements in heritage buildings and sites with minimal intrusion into significant and irreplaceable fabric. In 2002–2003 the panel:

- revised its previous publication on ceiling/floor systems;
- prepared a proposal for Heritage Office funding to carry out research into fire retarding capabilities of traditional pressed metal ceilings. It is proposed that CSIRO carry out the research;
- presented information sessions on Building Code and access requirements to the annual Heritage Network seminar in August 2002;
- contributed to community awareness of FASAP issues through various presentation by individual members at seminars.

Heritage Incentives Panel

Priority setting for this program by the panel is now set every two years and its first meetings were in 2001–2002. The panel therefore did not meet in this current year 2002–2003. The panel is next scheduled to meet on 23 July 2003.

History Advisory Panel

Associate Professor Ian Jack (Chair), Dr Carol Liston, Dr Lucy Taksa, Terry Kass, Joy McCann, Sue Rosen, Sharon Veal and Bruce Baskerville, with Megan Martin as an observer (membership as at 30 June 2003)

The role of the 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 members' 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.

Noteworthy achievements in 2002–2003 include:

- input into the formulation of a guideline for using State Heritage Register Criterion A, “important in the course or pattern of New South Wales history”;
- providing advice on a Bill before the Legislative Council concerning the display of Royal and State coat of arms. Concern was expressed that examples of outstanding artisanship and artistry might be removed without regard for their heritage significance, and that no provision had been made for creating a State heraldic authority. The submission to the parliamentary committee resulted in several changes to the text of the Bill;
- work on a draft policy on toponymical heritage, with a strong focus on the significance issues associated with place names. The draft policy, which was prompted by an address by the Australian National Placenames Survey, is expected to be completed by December 2003;
- policy advice on the issues of ruins and ‘ruinisation’ (a deliberate policy to create a ruin out of a remnant place or building).

Interpretation Committee

Diane Jones (Chair), Sharon Veale, Kylie Winkworth, Kieran Hosty, John Delaney, Wendy Thorp, Jim Mein, Colleen Morris (as at 30 June 2003)

By October 2002 the Heritage Council recognised that councils, developers, property owners and heritage practitioners needed clearer advice about the content and scope of interpretation plans; the purpose and content of interpretation and definitions; stages and steps in the preparation of interpretation policies, strategies and plans.

The Heritage Council established an Interpretation Committee to oversee the development of “Guidelines for Interpretation”. The project aims to:

- set out a broader policy framework for the interpretation of all types of heritage items, under a range of management regimes;
- achieve broad industry agreement on terms and methodology;
- achieve whole-of-government endorsement and so provide for interpretation of heritage assets to be structured and linked across the state through regional and/or state-wide strategies;
- define what interpretation policies, plans and projects encompass, their purpose and when and how they may be initiated;
- develop a model brief for interpretation plans for use by the Heritage Office, heritage managers and practitioners that will ensure the commissioning of a high quality, imaginative interpretative work that conserves and makes accessible the meanings of heritage items;
- provide innovative, practical guidelines for undertaking interpretation.

The Committee anticipates completion of the project with the publication of the guidelines in April 2004.

Maritime Archaeology Advisory Panel

Kieran Hosty, Australian National Maritime Museum (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, New South Wales Department of Transport; Sgt John Marshall, New South Wales Water Police; Judith McDonald, industry representative; Staff Officer Rod Smith, RAN; Rod Leaver, Heritage Council representative (membership as at 30 June 2003)

The Maritime Archaeology Advisory Panel provides valuable input and feedback on the Heritage Office's program for the management of the State's underwater cultural heritage.

During the year, two long serving members, John Riley and Rob Everet, of the Panel retired from their panel duties. Their exemplary contributions to the work of the Heritage Office through the panel were noted and their departure was accepted with regret.

During the year the status of the Maritime Archaeology Advisory Panel changed with its incorporation as a formal panel of the Heritage Council of New South Wales. The members of the panel welcomed the change and potential for greater opportunity to present its deliberations to the Heritage Council.

Movable Heritage Advisory Panel

Diane Jones (Chair); Dr James Broadbent, Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales; Rodney Harrison, New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service; Lisa Newell, Godden Mackay Logan; Maisy Stapleton, Museums and Galleries Foundation; Chris Dalitz, Ministry of Energy and Utilities; Kylie Winkworth, museums consultant (membership as at 30 June 2003)

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 2002–2003 the panel:

- welcomed its new Chair, Diane Jones, representing the Heritage Council, and farewelled its inaugural Chair, Joan Domicelj AM, who guided the panel's deliberations from its inception in March 2000;
- reviewed its operating strategic plan and priority task areas;
- provided advice on a range of movable heritage issues and public education projects;
- identified significant contributions by major State Government agencies in recording and preserving their movable heritage assets;
- held discussions with Sydney Water, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Pacific Power, State Rail Authority and New South Wales Fire Brigades on their movable heritage management;
- commented on nominations for the listing of movable items on the State Heritage Register, including State Rail's 1937 rail paybus;
- contributed expert advice on several significant movable collections, including the Museum of Fire at Penrith, the Festival Records Studio collection, and the Australiana Pioneer Village Moved Building Group;

- jointly presented *Bringing Themes to Life* with the Museum and Galleries Foundation of New South Wales, a seminar promoting regional thematic approaches within heritage studies and museum collection and interpretation strategies in Sydney in September 2002;
- assisted with the development of a workshop addressing the implications of moving heritage buildings and an Orange workshop, *Local Stories: Local Collections*, exploring the use of themes to assist regional museums in interpreting their collections;
- provided advice on two regionally-based thematic projects, the Dubbo-based Electricity Study, and the Illawarra/Shoalhaven Dairy Study, being completed as part of the Heritage Office / Ministry for the Arts movable heritage project;
- provided advice on policy issues related to the management and conservation of historic vessels, including the Kooleen ferry managed by the New South Wales Waterways Authority, and the State Heritage Register listed vessels Lady Denman and the privately-owned *Barragoola*.

Several heritage items have been assessed for possible inclusion on the State Heritage Register, while key movable conservation projects have been funded through the 2002–2004 Heritage Incentives Program. Key ongoing priorities for 2003–2004 have been identified, including:

- development of a model brief for stand-alone heritage and conservation registers covering movable heritage collections;
- specific content on movable heritage policy for inclusion in conservation management plan guidelines;
- contributory notes to augment information related to exemptions covering movable heritage collections under section 57 of the Heritage Act; and
- promotion of regional workshops for assessing significant collections.

Religious Property Advisory Panel

Michael Collins (Chair); Hector Abrahams, RAlA; Dr Ken Cable, Historian; Angelo Candalepas, National Trust; Paul Davies, Anglican Church; James Mein, Uniting Church; John Spillane, Catholic Church (membership at 30 June 2003)

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 so that they are aware of the special features of religious heritage and the issues impacting upon conservation and management.

The panel considered 22 nominations for listing on the State Heritage Register. The following items were recommended to the Heritage Council for listing on the State Heritage Register:

- St Thomas' Anglican Church, Port Macquarie
- Christ Church Cathedral, Grafton
- Tryon Road Uniting Church, Lindfield
- Trinity Uniting Church, Strathfield
- St John's Uniting Church, Wahroonga

A major achievement for 2002–2003 was the Uniting Church Conservation Management Plan and Nominations Pilot Project, which was considered by the panel. The end product was an excellent resource that, within a historical context, has assessed the significance of 10 items owned by the Uniting Church and produced conservation and management recommendations in direct consultation with Church stewards and the congregations. The extensive photographic survey provides for an archival recording of the property at the time.

The Panel has been providing comment and advice on the proposed sale of St John the Evangelist Church, Wallerawang.

Technical Advisory Group

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.

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:

Quarantine Station, North Head

Mary-Lynne Taylor, Jim Barrett, Elsa Atkin,
Joan Templeman, Susan Macdonald

Chief Secretary's Building

Diane Jones, Mary-Lynne Taylor, Megan Jones,
Susan Macdonald

Parramatta Rail Link

Prof Ian Jack, Diane Jones, Susan Macdonald

Mount St Mary's Convent, Katoomba

Diane Jones, Mary-Lynne Taylor, Bruce Pettman,
Rod Leaver

Walsh Bay

Chris Johnson, Howard Tanner and Alan Croker

Prosecutions Under the Heritage Act

There were no prosecutions under the Heritage Act in 2002–2003.

Managing Change

Case Study:

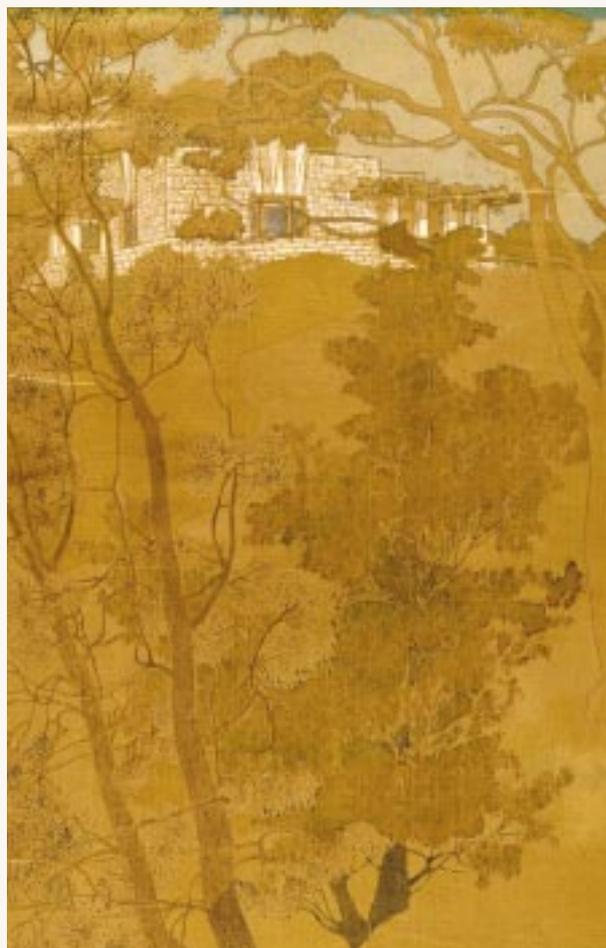
The Cheong House, Castlecrag

The Cheong House was built in 1922 and was designed by architects Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahoney Griffin, who were major figures in early twentieth century architecture and design in Australia. The Cheong House is significant as one of fifteen houses designed by Walter and Marion Griffin at Castlecrag. It is one of the most intact and clearly demonstrates Griffin's design philosophy. It is located within its subdivision context at Castlecrag, Griffin's model suburb. The Cheong House is a fine example of the work of the Griffins and is highly regarded for its innovative design and orientation within the Castlecrag subdivision. It has specific design relationships with the garden, pathway, Lookout Reserve and adjoining Moon House. The Cheong House is an excellent example of Walter Burley Griffin's design of interlocking squares, an innovative plan which he used in a number of domestic designs.

The proposed alterations to the Cheong House were quite controversial due to the high significance of the item, its prominence in Castlecrag, the wide community esteem for the house and its multiple layers of significance. Added to this was the complexity of designing an addition to a diminutive house and a site with unique and unconventional characteristics. The level of interest and debate was demonstrated by the large number of high quality and diverse views expressed in the submissions and assessments made by the local residents, eminent architects and heritage professionals, academics, the Walter Burley Griffin Society, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA), and the National Trust.

The proposed works include construction of a single-storey addition within the front building set-back from the street, including an attached carport, part-demolition of a later Buhrich "sun-trap" addition at the rear (to the east), retaining one wall to a height of approximately 1 metre, demolition of the existing sandstone garage (excepting one boundary wall), and repair of the existing house.

On balance, the Heritage Council concluded that the proposal would have an acceptable and overall positive impact on the significance of the item, subject to some modifications. It would achieve the essential conservation of the item, reinstate original features and views, and retain its single-storey scale, while introducing a relatively sympathetic and modest addition. The pavilion-style addition was considered to have been carefully thought through and as a number of alternatives had been explored to respect the Griffin design principles and to minimise its impact on significant fabric.



Drawing of Cheong House on silk by Walter Burley Griffin, c. 1921.
By permission of the National Library of Australia



The Trinity Uniting Church in Strathfield is typical of the Victorian era when large sums of money could be spent on new church buildings by powerful families. Sir Philip Sydney Jones and his brother Edward (sons of David Jones of department store fame) contributed financially to this Congregational church. It was identified as a significant church building by the Uniting Church.

Conserving Sacred Spaces

The Uniting Church manages over 2,000 buildings across New South Wales. This year, in a joint project with the Heritage Office and the Religious Property Advisory Panel, the church embarked on the task of identifying the most special and important buildings in its care.

Since the early days of European settlement in Australia, religious organisations have built places of worship for their communities. Often much loved and esteemed by their communities, churches make important contributions to streetscapes, history, social life and religious life.

As the first part of the project, historian Ken Cable wrote a historical overview of the Uniting Church and heritage consultants Design 5 Architects surveyed a sample of ten properties in Sydney suburbs.

The Uniting Church was established in Australia in 1977 when the Presbyterian, Congregationalist and Methodist Churches combined. All three denominations have a long tradition and history in Australia.

The late 19th century was a period of massive growth for church building in Australia. With growing suburbs and flourishing country towns, the Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists set about providing churches in newly populated areas.

With its active members, the Methodist Church was able to raise resources to erect new churches. It was common for the new buildings to be modelled on churches in England, and in general they were modest in style and decoration.

Presbyterian churches of this era are much more varied, both in style and dimension. With the aid of funding from prominent local citizens or benefactors, many fine churches were constructed, often reflecting the Scottish origins of the denomination.

Among the churches identified by the report were St John's Uniting Church at Wahroonga, Trinity Uniting Church at Strathfield and Tryon Road Uniting Church at Lindfield. It is estimated that these significant religious properties will be listed on the State Heritage Register later in 2003.

Today caring for the built heritage of over 200 years of religious life in New South Wales is a huge task for Christian communities. By working with the Heritage Office to strategically identify its most significant heritage buildings, the Uniting Church is managing these complex conservation issues.

The Heritage Council's Religious Property Advisory Panel commended the Uniting Church on an excellent resource that produced conservation and management recommendations for ten significant properties in direct consultation with Church stewards and congregations.