

## **Heritage Officer Report to Council**

**February 2010**

The following report has been arranged under the current Strategic Plan strategies for heritage and heritage related activities.

### **Strategy 1.1 – Promote heritage issues and information to the community**

- **Centenary Walks project** - Arranged and held meeting in Office to discuss methodology for the Centenary Border Walks project. Attending were: Eric Martin, Peter Dowling, David Headon (Canberra 2013), Mathew Higgins (National Museum of Australia), Alex Petrow (Survey Office ACTPLA), Linda Roberts, Gerard Zatschler (ACT Heritage Unit) and Sue Chambers. An advisory group to assist the Heritage Officer was formed consisting of; Matthew Higgins, David Headon, Alex Petrow and Gerhard Zatschler. The aim of the project is to produce two self-guided walk brochures which will guide people along tracks/trails to areas of the ACT/NSW border. The brochures will give directions, maps and history of the immediate area and details on that particular part of the border. I will be using the diaries and fieldbooks of the surveyors to provide information on the methods and experiences of the surveyors on each particular section of the border. Sections of the border in the north of the Territory will be selected for the first brochure which is intended for publication by midyear 2010 and the second brochure will be areas in the south of the Territory. I intend to commence archival/library research in first week of February 2010.
- 19 January - Discussed with Alistair Crombie (Hall & District Progress Association) historical research sources for Hall.
- 22 January – Assisted Mr Crombie with research using NT library & Classification files.
- 22 January – Interviewed live on FM 2XX 11-1145 am on early European history and site conservation in the ACT.

### **Strategy 1.2 – Promote heritage awareness for students in schools and tertiary institutions.**

- Arranged with Dr Tracy Ireland (University of Canberra) to hold on-site lectures with students at the Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop in first semester.

### **Strategy 2.1 – Advocate for identification and conservation of heritage places and objects in the ACT region**

- 4 January – Heritage Committee meeting at NT Office  
Agenda discussed – 2010 Heritage @ Risk; Border walks Project; Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop MOU with ACT Gov et al.
- 22 January – Submitted NT comments on proposed electricity distribution development across Jerrabomberra Wetlands. The submission argued that a new powerline or underground cables should not be constructed within the heritage area. Comments were submitted to DEWHA under EPBC Act referral. DEHWA decided that there was no need for further assessment under federal environmental laws. The proposal is now being assessed under ACT legislation.
- 1 February – Submitted amended NT comments on the draft EIS on proposed electricity distribution development across Jerrabomberra Wetlands to ACTPLA.

### **Strategy 2.2 – Monitor ACT places and objects of heritage interest**

- 11 December – ACT Heritage Unit manager and I visited heritage listed places in the Gungahlin area to discuss future use and conservation. The President and I had a brief informal discussion with the CM and stated our concerns.

### **Strategy 2.3 – Liaise with Governments on heritage matters**

- **Ginninderra blacksmith Shop.** 11 December – I met with the manager of the ACT Heritage Unit and Harcourt Hill Golf Club management on-site at Ginninderra Blacksmith Workshop to arrange a programme of maintenance, conservation and interpretation of site and under a MOU.  
20 January - The Chief Minister and Heritage Unit staff along with the Golf Club management met on site.

The CM agrees that there is concern over the future of the Blacksmith Shop and that much of this concern has come from the NT, CAS and local residents. (Last year the local residents wrote a jointly signed letter expressing their concerns and offering whatever assistance in the conservation they could give). Following the meeting the CM publically announced that he will be allocating a block of funding over the next 3 years to do conservation assessment, archaeological work on the site and open it up for teaching and public visitations. Just what we have been asking for. The NT, CAS, Heritage Unit and University of Canberra will be in discussion shortly on how best we can do this. I have advised the Heritage unit that the first steps in the process would be to form a working group from the concerned organizations and include a member from the nearby residents, revise the CMP which the Trust did and as part of the new CMP a structural inspection and analysis to be done.

**Strategy 2.4 – Manage National Trust Classified and Recorded Places List & Heritage database.**

- 21 January – met with Antoinette Buchanan, ACT Heritage Library, regarding method placing Classification citations on web site & how to best use our volunteers.

**Strategy 3.1 – Promote membership involvement in ACT heritage**

- 21 January & 26 January - Discussed with volunteers Liz Kennedy & Alan Kerr on their continuing involvement with Classifications project. Each will have a role as part of the team to place Classification citations on NT website.

**Strategy 3.2 – Promote community involvement in ACT Heritage**

- 20 January - Attended an ACT Government function at Palmerville, unveiling by CM of signage.

**Strategy 4.1 – Conduct an active heritage media information program**

- 2010 has began with a very busy media campaign with articles about NT concerns in CT and Chronicle, live to air radio interviews, WIN TV news interviews, ABC Radio News interviews.

<b>Media Release</b>	<b>Response</b>
5 January 2010 ACT National Trust concerned about proposed underground electrical cabling across the Jerrabomberra Wetlands	Heritage Officer interviewed by Canberra Times – Article in CT 6-1-10.
7 January – Protection of early historical places in North Weston Development	A joint release with CAS. Helen Cooke and Heritage Officer interviewed by Canberra Times – article in CT Sunday 17 January. Helen Cooke interviewed by 2CA. Helen Cooke and Heritage Officer interviewed on-site at North Weston by Canberra Chronicle.

18 January 2010 ACT NT Recommends against proposed developments on Jerrabomberra Wetlands	18 January - Contacted by Rosslyn Beeby from CT.
22 January	Heritage Officer interviewed on 2XX – 45 minutes on early explorers in the ACT and historic places and planning.
23 January	Article in CT regarding Jerrabomberra Wetlands.
24 January	Article in CT regarding NT concerns about heritage asset surveys being done early in planning processes.
25 January	Article in CT regarding NT and CAS concerns about heritage assessments.

**Strategy 4.2 – Comment professionally on material planning and heritage issues**

- 1 December – Attended and contributed in a workshop meeting of the Tidbinbilla Precinct Planning Group at TAMS.
- 9 December – Attended a working group meeting at NCA on future plans for Bowen Place Crossing.

**Strategy 4.3 – Promote high quality discussion & debate of heritage issues**

- 3 December – attended ICOMOS Canberra workshop on issues concerning a review of the 1999 Burra Charter. This meeting discussed changes and possible additions to the revised addition which will be discussed during 2010.

**Strategy 5.8 - Manage Trust heritage resources**

- The sorting and rationalization of our Classified places files has now been completed by our volunteers (Liz & Alan). The files are now well arranged and easy to gain access to information. The two volunteers have now progressed to the project files arranging them in a rationalized way.

- The next step in the management of our resources is to begin scanning the full heritage citations into a pdf format and placing them on our website. This process has just begun.
- A further resource management project will be to physically split our library collection into two shelved sections: books relating to the ACT and those of a more general subject. Both sections will be arranged using the same Dewey system of reference. This splitting will enable any user who is researching a place in the ACT to browse through other books which may contain further information.

**Dr Peter Dowling**  
**Heritage Officer**  
**January 2010**