

Heritage Officer Report to Council

May 2010

Peter Dowling
Heritage Officer
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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 Border Walks Project** – This project is proceeding well. So far drafts of five walks to and along the northern border areas have been researched, walked and written up – Little Mulligans Flat (North Mulligans), Old Coach Road, Straight Line Border (Dunlop area), Piccadilly Circus to Bulls Head, Railway line (Harman/Queanbeyan Cooma Tourist railway line); and one along Old Tuggeranong Road/Melrose has been researched and walked. Some areas in the southern part of the border have also been investigated.

On 25 May this project was discussed with Dan Watters, Project Officer – Community Engagement for Canberra 100. The Canberra 100 group will be soon be considering endorsing community projects relating to the centenary of Canberra.

- 12 April – Advised and discussed with members of public regarding the nomination process for Flynn Primary School.
- 14 April - Advised member of public on the heritage significance of Hill Station and the status of the nomination. (We nominated it in 1999 and it's still at status 1 on the register!)
- 14 May – Advised and discussed with member of the public the future of the site of 'Charnwood' homestead which once was the residence of Henry Hall.

- 22 May – In association with Canberra Archaeological Society I gave an on-site lecture at Ginninderra Blacksmiths Shop for members of the public.
- 25 May - Advised and discussed a member of public from Griffith who was concerned about future development on and around Griffith oval and former Griffith School.

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

- 1 April – met with Margaret Ferguson, A UC student I am mentoring, to discuss her assignments and advise on conservation history/methods.
- 14 April – gave on-site lectures and assistance at Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop to UC students doing conservation. This was arranged between Dr Tracy Ireland and me and was part of the students’ curriculum and assessment.
- 22 May – In association with Canberra Archaeological Society I gave an on-site lecture at Ginninderra Blacksmiths Shop for members of the public.

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

- 8 April – Attended an information session held by NCA on future management of Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station. Submitted comments on 20 April.
- Organized and attended a meeting with Heritage Committee and private heritage practitioners to discuss the ACT legislation review.

Strategy 2.2 – Monitor ACT places and objects of heritage interest

During the period I have visited the following places of heritage interest:

- Ginninderra Blacksmith Ship
- ‘The Valley’, Gungahlin
- North Weston Aboriginal and Historic sites – this visit was with Helen Cooke, President of Canberra Archaeology Society (CAS). We located a number of Aboriginal artefacts which may not have been recorded. CAS has advised the ACT Heritage Unit.
- Jerrabomberra Wetlands (twice)
- London Bridge geological site (NSW)
- Lanyon Cemetery

Strategy 2.3 – Liaise with Governments on heritage matters

- 28 April – Attended Yarralumla Brickworks Reference Group first meeting with Land Development Agency. Membership of the group was by invitation from LDA and consists of a number of stakeholders.

The Project Reference Group will provide a forum to:

- provide advice and guidance to LDA and the project team which will be developing the Brickworks and grounds
- test ideas
- gain a broad cross section of views to inform the planning process
- provide information to key community members who will allow them to disseminate information about the planning process to their organizations, associations and/or networks.

Further meetings of this group will be in June and July 2010. (see separate report to Heritage Committee)

- 19 May – I attended a meeting at Jerrabomberra Wetlands held for key stakeholders to discuss the proposed relocation of the East Lake electricity substation and cable lines. The invitation was from Chief Minister Stanhope and went to a number of groups who had sent in submissions to the draft environmental impact statement for this project. (See separate report sent to Heritage Committee)
- 11 May – President, EO and I Met with Caroline Le Couteur, Greens MLA to discuss current heritage issues (e.g. Heritage Act Review, Yarralumla Brickworks). This meeting was at the request of Ms Le Couteur.

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

This project is proceeding very well with the work put in by our volunteer team and will continue.

- The Classified Places files have now been rationalized and we are now reviewing and arranging information files on past projects and places that the NT has not classified but are of historical/cultural interest. These files will be a valuable resource.
- Scanning to digital format of our Classification and Recorded places is proceeding and a number have been placed on our website under the 'Classifications' page.
- Prepared a grant application to the 2010 Community Heritage Grants Programme (managed by the National Library of Australia) to have a significance assessment done on Trust collections – including Classification files, oral histories, reports, maps, plans, photographs etc. While other historic/heritage library collections duplicate to some extent ours e.g. ACT

Heritage Unit, ACT Heritage Library & Canberra and District Historic Society library, as a whole our collection on heritage places, compiled over 30 years, is distinctive from others. . If successful, this project will help explain the meaning and value of the collection and provide further information for its management and interpretation.

Strategy 3.1 – Promote membership involvement in ACT heritage

- Ongoing discussion, advice and assistance to volunteer members working on the Classification Files
- Advice to members, on request, on the heritage management status and future use/management of heritage places. For example, I have been contacted by several members regarding the future of the CSIRO buildings which are heritage listed and the Yarralumla Brickworks. I have advised them and encouraged them to attend meetings and write submissions outlining their own concerns.

Strategy 3.2 – Promote community involvement in ACT Heritage

- 24 April - Assisted with NT tour to London Bridge.
- 22 May – In association with Canberra Archaeological Society I gave an on-site lecture at Ginninderra Blacksmiths Shop for members of the public.

Strategy 4.1 – Conduct an active heritage media information program

8 April –	Contacted by ABC 666 Genevieve Jacobs for live interview regarding NCA proposal for possible development in urban open spaces
12 April	Contacted by Roslyn Beeby from Canberra Times regarding CSIRO buildings be vacated
14 April	Contacted by Journo from Canberra Times regarding church at Braddon.
13 May – Media Release - ACT National Trust calls for better administration of the ACT Heritage Act.	President contacted and interviewed by 2CC commercial radio.

Strategy 4.2 – Comment professionally on material planning and heritage issues

- Submitted comments on City Plan

- Compiled and submitted NT comments and advice on the ACT Heritage Legislation review.

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

- 29 April - Attended the second NCA Public Information forum.
- 27 May – Attended an ICOMOS meeting regarding management and preservation of heritage sites in Vietnam.
- 27 May – Attended a meeting of the Great War Study Group. This is a newly formed group of military historians and people interested in Australia’s involvement in World War One and the places that are commemorated.

Strategy 5.8 - Manage Trust heritage resources

- This is a continuing project of collecting written material on places and issues of heritage significance from media sources, government and professional reports etc.