

**ACT Symposium**  
***Heritage and Planning – Partners in Development***  
**23 July 2011**

The theme of this symposium was ‘What works well, what hasn't been a success and what has fallen through the cracks?’ Mr Eric Martin AM, President of the National Trust of Australia (ACT), introduced the symposium stating that it would be a collaborative effort between planners, government, heritage professionals and non-government organizations.

### **The Papers**

**Heritage and Planning – Equal Partners in Planning and Development? – David Logan.** This paper outlined the problems and practices when heritage places are within the boundaries of development projects. It concluded that heritage planning should be an essential part of the early planning legislation and controls – until then and only then would heritage and planning be equal partners.

**Identification in Planning New Suburbs – Meredith Walker**  
**Learning from the past (in the ACT)**

Looking from past experiences in heritage conservation and planning, this paper considered the relationships with heritage and planning – what went right - what does ‘right’ mean and has there been a following of current best practice.

**Incorporating Heritage into Infrastructure Design – Suzanne Moulis**  
**Heritage as a driver for sustainability in infrastructure**

Designers, at the end of the day, wish to have meaning in their design. But integrating intangible meaning into physical design is a challenge - case involving heritage values and the Cotter Dam precinct development.

**Mechanical Excavation in archaeological methodology – A defence. – Kelvin Officer**

Over the last five years, NSW & ACT governments have been becoming resistant to this type of excavation – not granting projects to those intending to use it. This paper presented the advantages of using mechanical methodologies in excavations.

**The Kowen Plateau – Colin McAllister & Friends of Glenburn**

Kowen Plateau has some of the earliest relics of indigenous use and historical settlement in the Canberra area. The Canberra Spatial Plan has identified the need for heritage assessment prior to future development. While conservation work has been done on some places, there is an urgent need for more funding to be made available to protect what is left.

**Ongoing Erosion of heritage values in a registered heritage precinct – Anne Forrest**

Old Griffith or Blandfordia 5 is a Garden City heritage precinct developed between the 1920s and the Second World War. Despite concerns for its heritage values, the area has been the subject of two variations to the Territory Plan since ACT self-

government. Residents are concerned with the lack of heritage advice from ACT Government & public notification of housing developments. Lack of public consultation, education and difficulties in navigating government web sites pose problems.

#### **Heritage at Sea: Maritime archaeology and the development process – Sarah Ward**

This paper presented a review of NSW maritime archaeology and the planning process. What is maritime archaeology: Stuff that happens underwater – ship wrecks? Maritime archaeology is concerned with maritime infrastructure, maritime landscapes, Indigenous submerged sites, traditional boats, individual relics.

#### **Brooks Terrace, Kanahooka (Dapto) NSW – Anita Yousef**

A success story! Discusses the successful integration of the ruins of the former Dapto smelter works within a planned urban environment. Archaeology and heritage features have been important components to the planning process and will guide development in the urban area and the smelter components in the future.

#### **What is the Social Purpose of heritage Listing – Paul Rappaport**

Using the 2006 Productivity Commission report into heritage which revealed that more than 90% of all Australia's built heritage is in private ownership, this paper discussed issues surrounding heritage listing including: who pays for heritage, contribution by private owners, public and private components of listing and community benefits.

#### **Tall Tales and True – findings of the ACT Heritage Act Review – Duncan Marshall**

Duncan Marshall authored the 2010 review into the 2005 ACT Heritage Act. The review identified several issues: backlog of nominations, ACT Heritage Register database (a heritage item in itself??), current lack of access to database in the list, an overload of development applications requiring a lot of work by the heritage system and little capacity to undertake compliance enforcement and a strong need for the ACT Heritage Unit to be better resourced.

#### **The role of heritage advisers in NSW Local Government - Pip Giovanelli**

This paper outlined the role of a heritage advisor to local governments in regional NSW. Duties include: provision of educational and promotion opportunities; initiate research and studies; ensure effective statutory management of heritage; management of heritage and development processes; public liaison; and advice on compliance with NSW Heritage Act.

#### **Heritage Planning – to be or not to be - Ken Taylor**

A tale of two cities: George Town and Canberra. George Town (and Melacca) Malaysia is described on the World Heritage List not as an architectural entity but a living, social, historic entity with a multicultural population. Canberra is a remarkable planned city. Why is it not on the World Heritage Listing? The Australian Government did not proceed with a motion to list Canberra on the World Heritage List.

### **Twelve Questions to Add Value to the Heritage Process – Viv Straw**

New views are now treating urban environments as organic forms. This paper presented twelve questions on how planners need to develop sites. These include:

- What are the drivers, incentives and reasons for being involved in making and keeping this place?
- What sets this site apart – what is its future?
- How do people find their way around the site?
- Who will own and manage the site? Actual owners and a sense of ownership by community;
- Will it survive change? Resilience to change and adaptation;
- What is it and how will it be developed and marketed? - The Wow factor.

### **Further theoretical approaches to assessing and thus managing Aboriginal heritage – Tim Owen**

Aboriginal heritage is vital to assessing the heritage significance of a place. But in assessing Indigenous heritage values, the cultural landscape as a whole is a major component of heritage meaning and values. Nevertheless Indigenous heritage as a cultural landscape is still not being applied via criteria definition in assessments.

### **Despoiling the vision – the proposed lakeside memorials and heritage failures – Juliet Ramsay**

This is not a good news story. Proposed monuments to World War One and Two are being planned for the shoreline of Lake Burley Griffin. The proposed monuments will have a severe impact on the land/lake axis – a critical open landscape axis fundamental to the planning concept for the city.