

2009 HERITAGE AWARDS WINNERS

AWARD NAME: Conservation Built Heritage for Project over \$1 million

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Fort Scratchley Historic Site

AWARD RECIPIENT: Suters Architects

CITATION (AWARD):

Newcastle's Fort Scratchley is one of Australia's iconic defence sites, presenting issues of physical conservation, interpretation and use as complex and challenging as any heritage site could. Prior to its transfer to the care and control of Newcastle City Council, the Commonwealth Government, in meeting its obligations under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, undertook to carry out those conservation works and upgrades in visitor facilities necessary for the site's viability in its continuing role as a publicly accessible heritage site.

Suters Architects of Newcastle prepared the initial scoping studies, coordinated the necessarily multi-disciplinary consultant teams, and assisted with prioritizing the program of works. They participated in community workshops, contributed significantly to the site interpretation strategies and devices installed, and designed and documented the works, after co-authoring the Heritage Management Plan (which revised and extended the CMP).

To those who have tackled such projects, the simple sophistication of the outcome belies THE SHEER EFFORT which underpins such achievements.

AWARD NAME: Conservation Built Heritage for Project over \$1 million

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Mariner's Church (former) 100 George St – Sandstone Conservation

AWARD RECIPIENT: Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, NSW Department of Commerce, Stone Mason & Artist Garner Rose

CITATION (AWARD):

Like other great cities, Sydney continues to reveal its hidden heritage dimensions as continuing research and site investigation bring to light what has been obscured by the accretions and mishaps of management for different priorities. So it is with the former Mariner's Church of 1859, in the Rocks, where the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, assisted by the stonemasons of the NSW Department of Commerce and contractor Gartner Rose, have been carefully revealing more of the delights of this architectural gem, designed by the early Colonial period architect John Bibb.

Careful research and building craftsmanship in stonemasonry enable us to better appreciate the architectural excellence of this fine building, and reinforce the need for its future care. Elements of the original John Bibb design have been carefully restored, juxtaposed with the complex later alterations made to the building.

AWARD NAME: Conservation Landscape Heritage

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Bland Incentive Grants Project (B.I.G. Project)

AWARD RECIPIENT: Lachlan Catchment Management Authority

CITATION (AWARD):

Bland Creek rises near Cootamundra in Central NSW, and terminates at Lake Cowal, a nationally significant wetland which is the largest natural inland lake in NSW. Developed in a partnership comprising the Lachlan Catchment Management Authority, the Bland Creek Catchment Committee, the Lake Cowal Foundation and Greening Australia, together with local landowners, the project has seen some \$5million invested in the catchment over three years, these funds being sourced from the Lake Cowal Foundation, the National Landcare Program, and the NSW and Australian Governments.

Initiated in 2006, the B.I.G. project has had numerous heritage outcomes, having conserved and/or revegetated almost 3000ha of native vegetation, and improved some 10,000ha of perennial pastures. Addressing terrestrial habitats at a landscape scale, the project has established some 1000ha of perennial pastures to act as salinity and nutrient buffers for natural watercourses ; protected and enhanced some 70 kilometres of creeklines to improve water quality in Bland Creek and Lake Cowal, and improved the habitat for the abundant aquatic life, particularly waterfowl, which rely upon the wetlands. The local Aboriginal community and Aboriginal Land Council have assessed and recorded significant cultural sites and improved the awareness of them amongst local communities and landholders.

Through on-the-ground works and education, the project has had an enormous, pervasive impact and promises to encourage action and commitment to the area into the future. It provides an inspiring model for the conservation and rehabilitation of other degraded areas.

AWARD NAME: Conservation Maritime Heritage

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Managing the Missing Midget Submarine

AWARD RECIPIENT: Heritage Branch – NSW Department of Planning

CITATION (AWARD):

After 50 years of rumours, legends and false finds, there was worldwide interest in the discovery in 2006 by the No Frills Divers team of the missing Japanese midget submarine M24, from the 1942 attack on Sydney Harbour. Acting both sensitively and decisively, the State Government's Heritage Branch developed an innovative site management approach that has been heralded as an international benchmark in underwater heritage conservation. Presenting the challenges of a War Grave, still potentially explosive, and with complex material conservation issues to be addressed as well as those of site security, the Midget Sub, with its cultural heritage significance to two nations, has elicited a comprehensive, professional response worthy of salute through this award.

AWARD NAME: Conservation Management Plan

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Meeting Place Precinct Conservation Management Plan

AWARD RECIPIENT: Context Pty Ltd

CITATION (AWARD):

The Meeting Place Precinct, within Botany Bay National Park at Kurnell, embodies a story of outstanding national importance – that of the encounter between Indigenous Australians and the expedition of Lieutenant James Cook in 1770.

Context Pty Ltd, engaged to develop a Conservation Management Plan for the precinct and utilising extensive community and stakeholder consultation, has produced an exemplar of such a Plan, a strategic document providing policies, guidelines and recommendations for actions that will conserve and celebrate the complex, tangible and intangible attributes of this place, for all Australians.

AWARD NAME: Cultural Heritage

AWARD CATEGORY: Community Groups

ENTRY NAME: The Other Side of the World – Migration to the Tweed 1940s to 1960s

AWARD RECIPIENT: Tweed River Regional Museum and NSW Migration Heritage Centre

CITATION (AWARD):

The book “The Other Side of the World - Migration to the Tweed 1940s to 1960s” has emerged from a partnership thematic study between the NSW Migration Heritage Centre and the Tweed River Regional Museum. The Museum incorporates the volunteer Historical Societies of Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, and Uki and South Arm, whose members worked on the project with the professional heritage staff at Tweed Shire Council and local historians Dr. Johanna Kijas and Dr. Joanna Boileau.

The study and the publication examine the regionally distinctive histories and associated places, moveable heritage collections and diverse memories from the diverse communities of the Tweed Valley, whose residents came from the South Sea Islands, China, India, Greece, Italy and the United Kingdom. Drawing upon successful community workshops which attracted some 500 people sharing their memories, collections and photographs, the project and the publication are an outstanding community achievement, already recognised in a 2008 IMAGinE Award for excellence in Education and Public Engagement from Museums and Galleries NSW. The project has documented some of the tangible and intangible inheritance and cultural expression that we have gained from Post-Second World War Migration, whose current vulnerability through the age and fragility of most Post War migrants, makes the project more timely and laudable.

AWARD NAME: Interpretation and Presentation

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Objects Through Time

AWARD RECIPIENT: NSW Migration Heritage Centre

CITATION (AWARD):

More than an online register of movable heritage, drawing upon statements of heritage significance, "Objects Through Time" is both an on-line exhibition and a virtual place of heritage research showcasing significant objects and collections and places that tell the story of NSW migration history.

In a timeline that documents objects in a broader context and narrative, it draws out their associations with people and heritage places, making the experiences of migration and settlement more readily and enjoyably accessible. That it works is shown by its appeal to 170,000 visitors in a year of operation, attracting both teachers and students and the expanding sector of our community who access heritage information via the Web. It provides both a model and a target for web-based heritage registers, databases and heritage lists which will need to communicate and interest an increasing audience, if they are to encourage and secure the engagement of the community in heritage matters.

AWARD NAME: Interpretation and Presentation

AWARD CATEGORY: Individuals

ENTRY NAME: Published book; Donald Thomas Esplin, Sydney Architect: His life and work

AWARD RECIPIENT: The Esplin Family

CITATION (AWARD):

The study which produced this wonderful architectural biography, published in May 2008, was initiated by three of Donald Esplin's grandchildren, who commissioned its preparation by Robert Irving, heritage architect and educator, and Noel Irving, research assistant. A once fashionable architect, living and working in Sydney for some 65 years, with over 500 projects known to flow from his authorship, Esplin and his work are now less known because so much of his work has been demolished – for instance only one of his CBD designs survives, of some 19 recorded, and that is the wonderful Astor Apartments building in Macquarie Street. He has been little celebrated, but this delightful book should change that.

Battling the absence of Esplin's own practice records, the authors have doggedly drawn out of municipal building records, local studies collections and the contemporary building press a comprehensive and intriguing picture of Esplin's work and his place in the architectural life, history and heritage of Sydney and NSW.

AWARD NAME: Education

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Lost Gardens of Sydney by Colleen Morris

AWARD RECIPIENT: Historic Houses Trust of NSW

CITATION (AWARD):

Together with the exhibition of the same name at the Museum of Sydney, "Lost Gardens of Sydney" written by Colleen Morris and published by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, has explored the rise and rise fall of a selection of Sydney gardens and garden styles, from the native bush and significant early colonial gardens, to the corporate roof-top gardens and threatened suburban gardens of today. The first publication to survey the loss of significant gardens for both a specialist and general audience, the book has been well received, just as the exhibition was a visitation success.

Analysing and celebrating some 18 gardens in joyous detail, Colleen Morris traces the fortunes of some notable gardens lost, diminished, or threatening to disappear. The exhibition and book proclaim the richness and diversity of Sydney's garden history, the value of gardens to our heritage, and advocate regard and priority for their retention as part of Sydney's cultural life. In particular the book is a visual treat, seductively illustrated and hard to put down!

AWARD NAME: Education

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Salt Attack and Rising Damp: A Guide to Salt Damp in Historic and Older Buildings

AWARD RECIPIENT: David Young OAM, and the Heritage Council of NSW, Heritage Victoria, South Australian Department for Environment and Heritage, Adelaide City Council.

CITATION (AWARD):

Rising damp and the often associated salt attack are two of the most common and enduring problems in heritage buildings of masonry construction, yet they are widely and poorly understood, often misdiagnosed, and improperly treated.

The author and his sponsors have produced what will undoubtedly become one of the major weapons with which heritage professionals will fight the enduring ignorance of these problems within the community and the building industry. Authoritative, science-based, well reasoned and well illustrated, it will go straight to the front line of the sadly persistent battles on how to treat these frustrating, persisting problems.

AWARD NAME: Cathy Donnelly Memorial Award

AWARD RECIPIENT: Joy Singh

CITATION: Over the past decade Joy Singh has been a major influence, motivator and implementer in the development of professional, technical and trade conservation skills for the assessment, repair and protection of Sydney's (& the state's) most significant sandstone fabric as found in our historic public buildings, structures, monuments and sites.

She has provided exceptional leadership in the mentoring, training and management of young heritage architects within the Government Architect's Office in regard to stone conservation as well as developing the essential close ties between professional and skilled stonemasons, and other trades people, which has enabled much more informed and better conservation of our built heritage.

Joy graduated as an architect at UNSW, where she later tutored in design and conservation at. In 1996 she won an International Specialised Skills Training Fellowship: to the European Centre for Skills of Architectural Heritage, in Venice, Italy.

Joy's determined goal of informing all those who make decisions about our built heritage includes her negotiation, development and presenting of a 4hr per week 12 week Heritage Overview Course, in association with TAFE.

Joy coordinates and oversees the restoration of the sandstone facades of most of Sydney's significant public buildings including Government House, the Art Gallery, the State Library, Sydney Hospital, Darlinghurst Courthouse, RPA Hospital and many more city, metropolitan and regional properties.

She also stimulates ongoing enquiry and detailed research into the performance of stone fabric through the UTS laboratories, the selection of appropriate stone for repairs and the various impacts of stone cleaning and stone consolidation treatments being offered to the industry.

Joy Singh's empathy, dedication and continuous efforts to educate others in the merits of conservation, in the appreciation of the craft and artistic skills of the early masons and artisans, and in the proper care of our stone buildings as good conservation practice is well recognised by her peers in both the private and public sectors.

AWARD NAME: EnergyAustralia Award: Conservation – Energy Management

ENTRY NAME: New uses for Heritage Places – Infill Guideline

AWARD RECIPIENT: Heritage Branch – Department of Planning and Australian Institute of Architects (NSW)

CITATION (AWARD):

The jury considered that the spirit and intent of this award were most aptly and laudably met by the joint NSW Heritage Branch and NSW Chapter AIA publications "Design in Context" and "New Uses for Heritage Places", the former dealing with infill development in sensitive heritage contexts of different kinds, the latter proposing guidelines for the adaptive reuse of historic buildings and sites.

Increasingly, the demolition of redundant buildings is being seen as regrettable and something of a last resort, as appreciation grows of the energy embodied in existing structures. When these structures are historic, carrying with them values and associations for the communities around them, their loss is increasingly unacceptable, and especially so when smart property management already provides

evidence that adaptive reuse of heritage structures and places can be economically positive.

These publications show that keeping heritage significance need not be incompatible with sound innovative design, pitched at reconciling heritage values and attributes with contemporary practicality and functionality. Part of this equation is energy use, and the admirable performance of many heritage buildings, supported by new technology, is gaining new supporters for conservation of existing buildings.

Similarly the compatible development of precious opportunity sites in heritage contexts can be achieved with thoughtful contemporary design that responds to and works with its setting, rather than seeking only counterpoint. The privilege of developing such sites is increasingly appreciated, coming as they do endowed with social and cultural infrastructure that cannot be instantly conjured up out of nowhere.

The current pair of volumes are soon to be joined by a third on the alteration of heritage buildings, and as a team of publications the three will provide both inducement and encouragement to architects and their clients for the consideration of conservation solutions for existing structures, rather than clearance.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Meredith Walker

CITATION: Where-ever you look in Australian heritage conservation, and whatever you look at, Meredith has been there. Although she is perhaps best known for her co-authorship of the Illustrated Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, Meredith has been one of this country's leading and enduring heritage theorists, and activists, for a long time.

Rather than striving with bricks and mortar, Meredith has been a fountain of ideas, and those ideas have meant we still have a great deal of important bricks and mortar. While she was a key contributor to the first adopted draft of the Burra Charter, with James Kerr and others back in the late 1970s and 80s, and also to the guidelines to the Charter, Meredith's role in promoting heritage conservation goes back to the late 1960s, when she encouraged the National Trust to comment on exhibited planning schemes. In the early 1970s, Meredith was a member of the Rocks People's Planning Committee, and implemented local government's first provisions for urban conservation, in Paddington.

Meredith has introduced ideas and methods which have since become mainstream, ranging across all areas of heritage practice, including: urban conservation, community participation, place museums, cultural landscapes, movable heritage, heritage interpretation and views. She has made major contributions to the work of the National Trusts in New South Wales and Queensland, both as an employee and an activist, especially through urban conservation, heritage legislation and property management.

Like others, Meredith has served on government committees and boards and Australia ICOMOS, and has been a face behind many seminars and conferences, as well as a speaker. However, her true calling has been behind the scenes, raising and addressing issues, responding to requests from the community, and her colleagues.

In her own wonderful homes in Brisbane and Sydney she has been opening the eyes of the rest of us, celebrating linoleum, carefully cleaning where others were stripping back and repainting, extolling the joys of hills hoists and old electricity power boards. At the same time, and at any one time, she has been advocating diverse causes,

including the National Apron Front, the setting of the Glasshouse Mountains in Queensland, and houses made of kerosene tins, or packing cases.

Meredith's contribution has been unique, and distinctly Meredith, and as her friend Elaine Lawson commented in advice on this citation, "Meredith has always put the cause first, and her own interests last". She has sought, in all this, to explain and make explicable the links between places, objects and people, and to help us enjoy and appreciate our heritage. In short, a wonderful, generous, visionary trouble maker. That's our Meredith.

2009 HERITAGE AWARDS HIGHLY COMMENDED

AWARD NAME: Conservation Built Heritage for Project under \$1 million

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: The University of Sydney Great Hall Equitable Access

AWARD RECIPIENT: Clive Lucas Stapleton & Partners Pty Ltd

CITATION (COMMENDATION):

Used for prestigious ceremonial events in the life of the University, Sydney Uni's Great Hall is also a popular venue for lectures, fairs, dinners and other special events. It is a place of celebration and vitality in the life of the University.

In this commended project, ramped access for visitors with disabilities has been provided in a manner befitting the architectural importance and quality of this important building. When subtle changes are required to meet our changing needs of heritage places, it should always happen this well.

AWARD NAME: Conservation Built Heritage for Project under \$1 million

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: The Grissell Building Conservation and Reconstruction

AWARD RECIPIENT: Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd, Meriton Apartments Pty Ltd, International Conservation Services Pty Ltd, Hughes Trueman Pty Ltd

CITATION (COMMENDATION):

The Grissell building is highly significant as one of two known surviving examples of the work of important iron founders Henry and M D Grissell, Regents Canal, London. Manufactured C.1855, it was discovered partly intact and enveloped within a later 20th Century industrial building on the former ACI glassmaking factory site. Fortunately the fragment was astutely recognised, and alternative futures considered for it.

Its conservation and reconstruction as part of the publicly accessible parkland in the Meriton apartment's complex now occupying the site was achieved through a CMP and reconstruction strategy developed with the City of Sydney. Stored, then re-erected with the reconstruction of some missing key components, the building fragment is now a centrepiece of the parkland, with an interpretive roof reflecting the original – and protecting what is a remarkable survivor amongst Sydney's heritage of industrial archaeology.

AWARD NAME: Conservation Built Heritage for Project under \$1 million

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Bar Island Conservation Project

AWARD RECIPIENT: Hornsby Shire Council

CITATION:

CITATION (COMMENDATION):

Bar Island is a small island at the junction of the Hawkesbury River with Marramarra and Berowra Creeks, upstream of the village of Brooklyn. The Bar Island Conservation project has aimed to conserve both the Aboriginal and European heritage values of the island, which have been assessed as being of State Significance. Located in an area of great natural beauty, the island provides important evidence of evolving settlement on the lower Hawkesbury and the importance of the river for transport and communication. A shell midden on the northern tip of the island evidences Aboriginal occupation and use.

Built in 1876 St John's Anglican Church had a part time school the following year and a full time school by 1884. It was closed by 1903, and the Church was ruinous by 1906. The first burial in the island cemetery took place in 1879, with fine monuments from the masons of Sydney, Rookwood and the North Shore.

Prior to the conservation project, the island was in poor condition, with erosion of the shell midden and pathways, vandalism and damage to the rectory and church ruins, and removal of the cemetery headstones. Extensive repairs, groundworks and bushland regeneration have made admirable progress in securing the island's heritage values, in partnership with the local community.

AWARD NAME: Conservation Built Heritage for Project under \$1 million

AWARD CATEGORY: Individuals

ENTRY NAME: Restoration of Highroyd

AWARD RECIPIENT: Paragrid Pty Ltd Architecture

CITATION (COMMENDATION):

Built by John Young, the progressive 'Father of Annandale' in the 1880's, as one of four houses for his four daughters, and one of previously 8 grand houses in a row, the house known as "Highroyd" is one of the famous Annandale "Witches' Houses" of Johnson Street that include Young's own famous home "The Abbey" and "Oybin", the focus of a major local community conservation battle in the 1980s. Protected from redevelopment by heritage listing, "Highroyd" had been through hard times, with unsympathetic changes and proposals for re-use, until purchase by its current owners who have undertaken a long term conservation program, including the works commended now.

"Highroyd" is a large gable fronted house with a prominent tower and spire on its front elevation, all styled in a Picturesque / Victorian Free Classical manner. Converted into five flats, with its cast iron embellished front verandahs later enclosed to provide extra rooms, the house has now begun to re-emerge through conservation works planned by David Springett of Paragrid Pty Ltd Architecture. After careful research and investigation of the building's fabric, the principal façade has been restored, with its original cast iron patterns re-cast by Wagga Iron Foundry, and new concrete edge beams replicating Young's innovative original construction. The slate roof has been retiled and new gargoyles installed on the spire.

"Highroyd's owners are convinced of the soundness of their investment in restoration of the house, and community groups supporting their efforts have commended their commitment to the property and its locality.

AWARD NAME: Conservation Maritime Heritage

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Ballina Surf Life Saving Club Archaeological Assessment

AWARD RECIPIENT: ARCHAEO Cultural Heritage Services and Ballina Shire Council

CITATION (COMMENDATION):

Ballina Surf Life Saving Club and Ballina Shire Council are commended with Archaeo Cultural Heritage Services for their cooperation in the preparation of this report. The Ballina Surf Life Saving Club Maritime Archaeological Assessment (Ballina SLSC Assessment) was commissioned by Ballina Shire Council to determine if the proposed site of the new Ballina SLSC had the potential to contain shipwreck heritage (archaeological potential). An area of reclaimed land over the mouth of the Richmond River on NSW's far north coast, whose context is now largely suburban, the site was once part of a dangerous river port entry, which claimed over 100 ships from the 1840s until 1910.

Using maps, archival research and surface survey, the report has arrived at management guidelines to shape the development of this site as well as others in the historic river mouth area, and to minimise the impact upon any shipwreck archaeology that may emerge. It is a fine example of careful, logical planning to protect unknown heritage resources and a measure of the value that our communities increasingly place upon their heritage.

AWARD NAME: Adaptive Reuse

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Admissions Building

AWARD RECIPIENT: Suters Architects

CITATION (COMMENDATION):

An adaptive re-use of the old Camperdown Children's Hospital admissions building, the project presents the adapted building as a 3 storey heritage structure at the front, with a modern addition at the back. The building now houses apartments with a swimming pool/gymnasium and community offices, in a combined use which employs and celebrates the character and significance of the old building in its role within the new urban precinct developed around it.

Part of a masterplanned redevelopment of the hospital site, the overall project combines recycled buildings, new buildings, landscape and infrastructure works. The restoration and adaptive re-use of the Admissions Building provides one of the particular linkages remaining with the former use of the site, and this has been emphasised through the retention and conservation within the building of celebrated murals by the artist Pixie O'Harris.

AWARD NAME: Adaptive Reuse

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Artisan's Gallery, Little Bay

AWARD RECIPIENT: Stockland and Tanner Architects

CITATION (COMMENDATION):

Once a group of eight attached dwellings with paired driveways and joined garages, the Artisans' Cottages, formerly known as the 'Staff Cottages' were built during the establishment and consolidation phase of the Coast Hospital, Little Bay (1881-1914).

Nos. 2 & 3 (demolished 1940s) and 4 & 5 were completed around 1888, to designs by the Government Architect's Office in the NSW Department of Public Works. Nos. 6 & 7, and 8 & 9 (the latter pair demolished 2005) were built c.1910. By 2006 only two pairs remained, (4/5 and 6/7), in poor condition, with the different design and construction dates explaining the stylistic differences between them.

Responding to the "Prince Henry Amended Masterplan" of August 2003, and the "Prince Henry Site – Little Bay – Conservation Management Plan" of February 2003, which assessed the cottages and their setting as items of High Significance, the project implemented by Tanner Architects comprised the conservation, adaptation and extension of the two remaining cottage pairs, and the construction of two new pairs of attached dwellings to complete the group in a contemporary manner. Retained and treated as part of a cohesive group, the older cottages feature facilities equal to their contemporary partners, and complemented by the new "pairs", have a secure future amongst the new urban precinct on the site.

AWARD NAME: Adaptive Reuse

AWARD CATEGORY: Individuals

ENTRY NAME: 4 Wiston Gardens

AWARD RECIPIENT: Luigi Rosselli Pty Ltd

CITATION:

CITATION (COMMENDATION):

Notwithstanding our best attempts to protect our rich heritage of domestic architecture, not all our wonderful houses find a sympathetic, caring owner, prepared or indeed able to go the hard yards. No. 4 Wiston Gardens has been fortunate, and found owners prepared to carefully adapt and improve the house for contemporary living.

Architect Luigi Roselli was asked to repair and adapt the house with quite a wish list for additional rooms and functions. Family living areas, a pool and new garaging have been added with care and consideration for the qualities of this important Leslie Wilkinson-designed house.

AWARD NAME: Cultural Heritage

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: The Singing Quilt

AWARD RECIPIENT: Andrew Ford – Composer

CITATION (Commendation):

The Singing Quilt project was a recognition and statement, in song, of what makes up a community - its people and environment. Just as communities have produced quilts to represent their heritage, the Singing Quilt aimed to do this in song, for the Wingecarribee Shire.

Local Composer Andrew Ford, commissioned to write a piece of music for choir, percussion and spoken word, interviewed local people from the disparate origins represented in the community, and set some of their words to music. Premiered at Bundanoon Soldiers Memorial Hall on the 1st November 2008, the performance deeply moved its local audience, for whom it has since been broadcast twice on local community radio, most recently on Australia Day 2009. To be released on a CD this month (March), the project has been celebrated as a “snapshot” of Wingecarribee in 2008 – in the score, the interviews, the performance and its recording.

AWARD NAME: Cultural Heritage

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: The Nature of Manly

AWARD RECIPIENT: Manly Council

CITATION (Commendation):

“The Nature of Manly” exhibition at the Manly Art Gallery and Museum is the product of a collaborative effort by the Gallery/Museum, Manly Environment Centre and Council's CPS Division to highlight the natural and cultural heritage of Manly. Using the resources of the Gallery/Museum, with the collegiate advice of the Manly Environment Centre, Council's Planning and Strategy Branch and the Aboriginal Heritage Office, the exhibition sought to provide an authoritative study of the unique natural and cultural heritage of the Manly LGA.

Prepared by guest curator Ms. Virginia McLeod the exhibition has drawn upon photographs, newspaper clippings, paintings and drawings, plans and models, specimens and objects, many of which have not been seen by the public before. Running now for one year and complemented by an education program focused on the community and including activities for younger residents, the exhibition has been extended to August 2009 in response to its popularity.

AWARD NAME: Cultural Heritage

AWARD CATEGORY: Community Groups

ENTRY NAME: A photographic record of sites and streetscapes in Ku-ring-gai, impacted by LEP 194/200/202/204/207 residential development strategy stage 1

AWARD RECIPIENT: Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc (FOKE)

CITATION (Commendation):

The FOKE Photographic record assembles and holds some 2,000 photographs of the houses and streetscapes of Ku-ring-gai affected by the gazettal of the Local Environmental Plans facilitating the urban consolidation of Ku-ring-gai. The loss and disruption has been immense - houses, streetscapes and suburbs, many consistently recommended for heritage protection through successive studies and reports over almost 30 years.

Members of FOKE with prodigious energy and commitment have sought to make a record, a time capsule, in photographs and maps, of what has been – AND IS BEING – lost.

AWARD NAME: Interpretation and Presentation

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Book; Sydney Town Hall: The Building and its Collection

AWARD RECIPIENT: Margaret Betteridge, Curator

CITATION (COMMENDATION):

Celebrating what has become a fabulous collection in a fabulous building, “Sydney Town Hall: The Building and its Collection” is the first comprehensive survey to have been published on this important landmark. Stimulated by the thankfully averted threat to one of the building’s most celebrated features, the “Australia” stained glass window by Lucien Henry, the book promotes the understanding of the building’s rich heritage significance as a way of securing its future. As a permanent record, it will help those charged with the building’s future care to make properly informed decisions.

Designed to provide better access to the understanding and appreciation of the building, and of the extraordinary civic collection managed within it by the Council, the book by Council’s Curator Margaret Betteridge, is now used to inform contractors about the heritage values and importance of the place, and is also used as an official gift by the City of Sydney with a special presentation volume presented by the Mayor to international visitors.

AWARD NAME: Interpretation and Presentation

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Fort Scratchley, Newcastle

AWARD RECIPIENT: Commonwealth Dept of Finance & Deregulation / Newcastle City Council / Suters Architects / International Conservation Services

CITATION (COMMENDATION):

Fort Scratchley, the nationally significant defence site in Newcastle has been conserved and restored by the Commonwealth Department of Finance and Deregulation prior to the transfer of its ownership to the Newcastle City Council. As part of the conservation and restoration project, International Conservation Services were engaged to develop the interpretation program and approach for the site, developed with the project architects Suters, the volunteer Fort Scratchley Historical Society, and other involved community groups. The strategy also had to integrate with that for the surrounding Coal River Precinct, which is also listed on the NSW Heritage Register.

While maintaining consultation with community stakeholders, the project took shape in an Interpretation Works Plan outlining the strategy for the site. Four access zones were delineated, enabling interpretive devices to respond to different visitor types and the extent of guiding required or available in each zone. The works were budgeted, designed and documented, and supported by a maintenance manual for future care. Further strategy documents outlined principles for future exhibitions and further guided tours.

Sound interpretation planning translates to increased visitor satisfaction (and numbers) and the sure start made at Fort Scratchley should mean that future Interpretation works build upon the initial high quality Interpretation program.

AWARD NAME: Education

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Port Macquarie's 2nd Burying Ground - A School Education

AWARD RECIPIENT: MUSEcape Pty Ltd (Chris & Margaret Betteridge) and Port Macquarie/ Hastings Council (Mitch McKay & Lorrae O'Brien)

CITATION (Commendation):

Port Macquarie's historic Second Burying Ground is a State-significant cemetery in use from 1824, when the town was still a penal settlement, until 1886. Nearly 1500 soldiers, convicts and early settlers, are interred there, including notables such as the architect John Verge and members of the Innes family.

A Conservation Management Plan for the cemetery was prepared for Port Macquarie/Hastings Council by Chris and Margaret Betteridge of MUSEcape Pty Ltd in 2002 under the direction of Mitch McKay Council's Heritage Officer.

While the CMP included interpretive strategies such as signage, printed publications and electronic media, Council subsequently determined to commission MUSEcape to prepare a detailed Interpretive Plan and Education Kit as part of a program across the LGA to focus community attention on its rich cultural heritage.

The Kit, developed in consultation with UTS Lindfield and local teachers, facilitates the use of the cemetery as a resource for teaching in several key learning areas in the NSW primary and secondary school curricula. Its wider use will hopefully stimulate a respect for historic cemeteries, and help to combat vandalism and neglect.

AWARD NAME: Education

AWARD CATEGORY: Corporate / Government

ENTRY NAME: Lake Cowal Conservation Centre

AWARD RECIPIENT: Lachlan Catchment Management Authority

CITATION (COMMENDATION):

Emerging from a partnership between the West Wyalong High School, the Lake Cowal Foundation Ltd, Barrick Australia Ltd and the Lachlan Catchment Management Authority, the Lake Cowal Conservation Centre was initiated in 2005 and its premises opened on 2nd November 2007.

Situated 35kms north-east of West Wyalong and 3kms south of the Cowal Gold Mine at Lake Cowal, the centre is a community education facility where school students, land managers and community members can learn about environmental and natural resource management issues. Located at the property "Hillgrove", owned by Barrick Australia, it uses interpretation of the property's features including its 240 hectares of remnant bushland, and 4.5 kms of walking trails to inform about the property itself, and the area's flora, fauna and cultural heritage.

The Centre has been visited by school, university and TAFE groups. Landcare and Greencorps. Greening Australia, CSIRO, conservation farmer groups and farm planning groups, as well as Catchment Management Authorities. Students have participated in seed collection and revegetation activities and training days. Land Managers and farmers have had detailed training in sustainable farming principles and the development of farm plans to pursue the better planning and management of their properties, including the conservation of remnant vegetation areas. Exposure to field days and courses at the Centre have helped land owners to make the decision to support Natural Resource Management, in combination with OTHER sustainable land management practices.