



MEDIA RELEASE

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THE STATE'S DIVERSE HERITAGE HONOURED

A novel approach to the conservation and preservation of our marine heritage has resulted in a win for the State Government's Heritage Branch at the prestigious EnergyAustralia National Trust Heritage Awards announced today at the Westin Hotel, Sydney.

The discovery of the missing Japanese midget submarine M24 from the 1942 attack on Sydney Harbour created international interest. In response, the State Government's Heritage Branch developed an innovative site management response that has been heralded as an international benchmark.

The 16th EnergyAustralia National Trust Heritage Awards showcase individuals, organisations, government departments and community groups who have completed a project that promotes the conservation of Australia's environmental, built or cultural heritage.

"Congratulations to all of our 59 entries, and a particular well done to our winners, a fabulous testament to the significance of heritage in our lives. To use one example, the judges have again picked a unique winner, this time in the Maritime Heritage Award category, where a heritage site beneath the waters of Sydney's harbour is being managed and preserved," said John Neish, Executive Director of The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales).

Continuing with the maritime theme, the Newcastle firm of Suters Architects was recognised for their work in the conservation of our built heritage on the Fort Scratchley History Site, situated on a hilltop overlook city's harbour. The project included the preparation of scoping studies, coordinating consultant teams, assisting with prioritising the Works, participated in community workshops, contributed significantly to interpretation strategies and devices, designed and documented the Works and co-authored the Heritage Management Plan. These viability works were done prior to the transfer of the site by the Federal Government to the Newcastle City Council.

Another watery win, this time for the conservation of our natural or wilderness areas, was the Lachlan Catchment Management Authority for their holistic approach to improving the natural landscape and waterways of the Bland Creek Catchment and Lake Cowal area in western New South Wales.

Migration was also a winner at today's awards with the Tweed River Regional Museum and NSW Migration Heritage Centre being recognised for their work in documenting their culturally diverse community in the book *The Other Side of the World – Migration to the Tweed 1940s to 1960s*. The book documents the tangible and intangible forms and expressions of our heritage that are in danger of being lost.

The NSW Migration Centre's winning entry is an online movable heritage register showcasing significant objects and collections and places that tell the story of NSW's migration history.

A complete list of winners can be found at http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/images/Media%20Release%20for%20WINNERS%20of%20the%202009%20EnergyAustralia%20National%20Trust%20Heritage%20Awards_3.pdf

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