

## **Presentation summaries**

### **Alonso Ayala - Heritage ecosystem**

At the IHS we have developed our own understanding of adequate housing. Our conceptual framework considers five principles that we called the five A's Principles of Adequate Housing, namely, availability, accessibility, affordability, acceptability and adaptability. These five principles take as their starting point the definition of adequate housing according to the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights.

The objective of this lecture is to explain the meaning of adequate housing and reflect on how adequate housing can be achieved through sustainable urban development strategies related to heritage, such as adaptive reuse of historical buildings, green infrastructure integration, and community engagement through, for example, tactical urbanism.

### **Thomas Brady - Architectural Treasures - Creating public engagement with the retentions debate through immersive visualisation of the Perth Pensioner Barracks**

There exist large collections of Australian-built heritage drawings and photographs within museum and library archives that are not engaging the Australian public to their full potential. Curtin HIVE and the State Library of Western Australia sought to solve this by developing an immersive desktop application prototype. This prototype brings to life the historic drawings of the Perth Pensioner Barracks by first re-creating the built form and surrounding landscape of the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Pensioner Barracks. It then allows the general public to engage with the retention debate by allowing the removal of and restoration of built-form components.

### **Leanne Brass - Central Greenough on Yamatji Country: the evolving heritage values of a 'historic hamlet'**

When key places at Central Greenough were included on the State Register, their setting was described as a 'historic hamlet', a relatively intact collection of 19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings. Managed by the National Trust since the 1970s, Central Greenough is still the 'hamlet' for many but this understanding disconnects it from its cultural landscape.

Recent consultation with Yamatji representatives has informed new archaeological and historical research, highlighting the importance of connection to Country, geographical and historical context in understanding heritage values. The challenge now is to communicate this deeper understanding through new interpretation that reframes the 'historic hamlet' as Central Greenough on Yamatji Country.

### **Sally Burgess - Connecting the dots: Using a Geographic Information System (GIS) to manage the cultural landscape of Perth Airport, Western Australia**

Tangible and intangible heritage values within the Perth Airport cultural landscape have been mapped for the first time using a GIS heritage application for heritage management. As a proof of concept, Aboriginal and non-Indigenous histories spanning deep time to the recent past have been mapped. Three case studies are presented: nature with culture, rediscovering an aviation disaster, and visualising Indigenous Knowledge in a cultural map. These case studies provide novel applications of GIS in spatial archaeology. The project

aims to influence future approaches to compliance and the community expectations of heritage management amid increasing development demands and legislative uncertainty.

### **Kylie Christian - Cease and Desist: Nail the “so what?” test before interpreting heritage**

Ready to elevate heritage interpretation? Then, this is a must-attend workshop for anyone passionate about heritage storytelling. We'll delve into the essential 'So What?' test, examining the importance of understanding what is being interpreted, whether or not it should be interpreted, and who it is being interpreted for. Through interactive discussion and practical exercises, we will unpack the mystery of heritage interpretation for cultural, natural, and historical places and delve beyond the idea that interpretation is simply signage or suitable mitigation for the loss of heritage.

### **City of Fremantle - West End heritage ecosystem case study**

Through a panel format, we will utilise the West End as a heritage ecosystem to explore the interactions, challenges and opportunities between heritage and environmental sciences, economics, education and technology. Issues such as tree canopies, urban forests, global warming, sea level rise, flooding, coastal risk management, noise, climatic control, economic value, infill development, increased housing education and aboriginal heritage will be discussed.

### **Erin Clark - Bridging heritage and innovation: Lessons from Stories Unseen**

This session explores the journey of Stories Unseen, a Western Australian business transforming heritage tourism through immersive, self-guided tours delivered via a mobile app.

Attendees will gain insights into storytelling with technology, including practical advice on selecting the right tools for different contexts. The presentation concludes with a deep dive into the research, design, and testing process behind Stories Unseen, revealing how the team crafts engaging experiences that bring heritage to life.

Ideal for those interested in innovation and storytelling in the heritage sector.

### **Anne Chapple - Young minds, new ideas**

Recognising that the younger generations will carry forward the stories of yesteryear, the Friends of ANZAC Cottage has strived to include this cohort in our operations and events through various strategies.

This paper will describe the various ideas explored and implemented and the impact of this multi-generational interaction.

### **Garon Deutsch - Digital technology driving an innovative approach to heritage preservation**

A joint presentation with URBIS to discuss case studies of the Edmund Rice College Central Block and the Fremantle Port B-Shed with a demonstration of high-resolution 3D photogrammetry model capture and how it created efficiencies in the heritage assessment and remedial work scoping. We will also discuss how this could be used throughout the preservation process and into the future.

### **Luke Donegan - Evolving heritage values**

Heritage properties are not static. They change, evolve, degrade, renew, because of time and surrounding systems and pressures. Similarly, the ways communities value a place also change and evolve. There are many reasons why Statements of Significance or Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) may no longer accurately describe a property's significance. Attributes may have been lost, or new ones found. Heritage value is a social construct and as communities evolve, so do their related social constructs.

In contrast, heritage systems that define, describe and document significance, in effect fix heritage significance to a place and time. As a result, some of the Statements of Significance for our heritage places no longer accurately reflect their current significance to communities. Many projects are underway across Australia to re-evaluate and update Statements of Significance for heritage properties at the State, National and World Heritage levels.

How can, and should, Statements of Significance or OUV be updated to reflect current values? What does the concept of evolving heritage value mean for the protection and conservation of properties? In this presentation, Luke will discuss the fluid nature of significance and detail some examples of where the significance of properties is currently under re-evaluation.

### **Fiona Giles - Our horrible asylum – board game workshop**

Join us for a unique workshop that blends architecture, history and game design. Play a board game that communicates the spatial histories of the inhabitants of the former Fremantle Asylum, sparking discussions and reflecting upon the heritage values of the existing building. Eighteen participants in three groups will be supported in sampling the game for about 20 minutes, experiencing difficult and often traumatic stories of those who lived and worked at the asylum. Afterwards we'll share feedback and discuss themes such as public scrutiny, categorisation and resistance; and reflect on how 'playing history' connects us with others and contributes to preserving heritage.

(Please note that only 18 people can play the game; spectators are welcome to participate.)

### **Luke Gliganic - Illuminating heritage stories using luminescence dating**

Stories are powerful. While each individual part of a story can be interesting in isolation, they have greater impact and meaning when understood in relation to each other and in the correct sequence. So it is with the stories that archaeological artefacts can reveal about heritage. Determining the age of archaeological material is essential to understanding the relationships between artefacts across space and time, from their deep-time heritage to the present-day custodians of that heritage. Here, I will discuss (i) how conventional and novel luminescence dating techniques can help stakeholders better understand the stories that can be told by archaeological materials, especially lithic artefacts and (ii) how improvements

in measurement workflows allow these data to be delivered in timeframes relevant to heritage management projects.

### **Jacque Happ with Carol Mulhearn - Community and interpretation in the City of Busselton**

With a limited budget, the City has involved local community members to provide rich information for several interpretation projects in the Courthouse Complex and for the Ballaarat Engine. There are untold stories that celebrate the people who have connection with the gaol cells. From retelling tales of escapes to contemporary stays in the cells – some told by the inmate themselves. The story of the SS Georgette is rediscovered with new information about others who were involved in the famous 'rescue' and the retelling of the involvement of Grace Bussell and Yebble Isaacs. The Ballaarat Engine celebrated 150 years and the community provided memories and photos that were included in panels and then a 3D model of the engine was commissioned and released on a website. Alongside this are retelling of newspaper articles of the difficulties in hiring people, as well as visits to the engine while it lay deteriorating in a paddock.

In the Old Busselton Cemetery project, new plaques will include more than double the names of the original plaques, and in getting these names, the community has provided stories and sometimes photos of some of the people buried there. This new information will be included in a web database and potentially via QR codes in the cemetery itself.

### **Osnat Harlap - Reflections on a definition**

My core perspective is grounded in a relational paradigm, which has informed my work on the Dadaa Hub Project (DHP). This experience prompted me to explore various aspects of heritage concepts within that framework. I was fortunate to investigate these ideas further while working with Notre Dame Architecture students in a Heritage Design Studio. In this presentation, I will share my journey through the discourse of heritage architecture and my efforts to integrate inclusion as a fundamental principle in all architectural design work. This approach extends to how agencies envision, develop, and consider the public realm, ensuring it is entirely inclusive.

### **Karen Jacobs, Farley Garlett, Wadjemup Project Steering Group and Richenda Prall and Kelly Parks, Rottnest Island Authority - Wadjemup Wirin Bidi | Spirit Trail – Aboriginal-led healing journey**

Wadjemup had part of the soul ripped out, taking these men's lives. It is our turn now to take care of unfinished business. (WPSG, 2024)

The Wadjemup Project initiated in 2020 by the then Ministers for Aboriginal Affairs and Tourism to reconcile the history of Aboriginal people's imprisonment on Wadjemup is one of the first large-scale and genuine acts of recognition of the impact of colonisation on Aboriginal people.

Wadjemup Wirin Bidi, meaning Spirit Trail, was a week-long cultural ceremony held in November 2024 for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to facilitate healing and commemorate all those affected by the past incarceration on Wadjemup. This presentation

examines the spiritual journey of community healing and what it means for the future management of cultural sites on Wadjemup.

### **Jane King, Alana Part and Julianne Mackay – Museums and galleries: cornerstones of the heritage ecosystem**

The Australian Museums and Galleries Association WA (AMaGA WA), the state's peak body for museums and galleries, presents an engaging session highlighting the integral role of cultural institutions within the heritage ecosystem. This session will showcase innovative and impactful projects, spotlighting recently completed and ongoing initiatives. Attendees will explore how museums and galleries preserve, interpret, and connect heritage, fostering community identity and resilience. The session also offers a valuable networking opportunity, inviting collaboration across sectors to strengthen WA's heritage ecosystem and ensure its sustainability for future generations.

### **Janet Luk - Preservation of WA cultural heritage material through the Digitisation Centre of WA**

In late 2019, Perth's Universities, with the State Library of Western Australia and the West Australian Museum, were awarded a government research grant to set up a digitisation centre with a goal to digitise their collective cultural heritage collections within the next 10 years. There was an overriding need to build Perth's first centralised digitisation centre for the university and arts sectors.

The Digitisation Centre of Western Australia (DCWA) aimed to de-risk and make accessible the process of cultural heritage digitisation in Western Australia. It is a state-of-art digitisation facility providing services to archival standard to local cultural institutions and small organisations. It not only proves itself to be a more viable alternative to transporting material to other digitisation service providers clustered in the eastern states, but also becomes a platform for further collaboration, innovation and knowledge dissemination in terms of preservation and digitisation of cultural heritage collections in Western Australia.

This presentation will cover the format capabilities and services it provides to the collecting organisations in Western Australia, followed by the workflows in DCWA and a highlight of a number of collection case studies. Finally, the opportunities and challenges for this collaborative facility will be discussed, suggesting how researchers, practitioners from various fields and governments may work closer together to support local digitisation work.

### **Ian MacLeod - How to make the climate work for you and save our heritage**

Nearly all community-based museums and keeping places have been recording the temperature and relative humidity for years. All too often the data is stored and forgotten. With diminishing resources to pay for energy costs and with changing climates there is an urgent need to be smarter. By looking at the absolute humidity and the way it varies with time it is possible to see how buildings are acting as buffers to change and to develop strategies for low-energy solutions to minimize the rate of change and so lower rates of deterioration. The paper will empower you to make great changes.

### **Peter Morse – Numen: Visualising Deep Time through climate and landscape**

A multimedia installation for Albany 2026 exploring cultural heritage through atmospheric and geological transformation. Using advanced data visualisation, Numen reveals the Great Southern region's environmental evolution across 1.2 billion years - from ancient supercontinents to future climate projections. The project combines climate visualisation with Menang-Noongar six-season knowledge, situating indigenous understanding within a context of geophysical modelling to create an immersive journey through deep time, weather patterns, and atmospheric change. AI-enhanced visuals and music connect human timescales to Earth's grand cycles.

### **Dinah Mujati and Simon Jewel – Stabilisation of the Bristle Kilns, chimney stacks and tunnels**

Australia's largest group of downdraught kilns and chimneys located in Belmont were in poor condition in part due to the closure of the industrial site. Some were at risk of collapse and vulnerable to demolition by experts. Rigorous testing and a scientific approach formulated solutions which would be appropriate to ensure the stability of each structure and to maintain cultural significance.

The presentation will showcase the modern structural interventions applied and the role of the local community, local and state governments, heritage consultants and skilled contractors in the protection of our historical landmarks to achieve outstanding outcomes in heritage conservation.

### **Sharleah Ramirez – Empowering Country: Redefining cultural mapping through data sovereignty**

In an era of rapid technological innovation, cultural mapping solutions are proliferating, yet many overlook a critical element: data sovereignty. Everick's approach prioritises empowering indigenous communities, providing skills, tools, and systems to independently manage cultural data. Through practical solutions tailored to knowledge holders, communities maintain full control, eliminating reliance on third parties. This presentation showcases how Nyikina Mangala are using this platform to record their cultural knowledge, advancing cultural autonomy while addressing broader responsibilities in heritage and environmental management.

### **Mohammad Habib Reza – Sustainability, equity and heritage: Exploring New Contextualism in the heritage sites**

This presentation will explore the concept of New Contextualism and its potential to inform the preservation and adaptation of heritage sites. Drawing on the work of Mohammad Habib Reza, the presentation will argue that New Contextualism offers a valuable framework for creating sustainable, equitable, and culturally sensitive heritage sites.

The presentation will begin by providing an overview of New Contextualism and its key principles. It will then discuss how these principles can be applied to heritage sites, using case studies to illustrate the potential of this approach. The presentation will conclude by discussing the implications of New Contextualism for the future of heritage preservation.

### **Philippa Rogers – Challenges and opportunities for Rail Heritage WA in 21st Century**

Everything about railways is big – big items, big challenges and big opportunities. Like others, our collection of railway heritage is impacted by environment change but so are our volunteers.

With sustainability now a key focus for Rail Heritage WA in terms of conservation, volunteers, environment and economic challenges, we ask, will tackling aspects associated with volunteers significantly contribute to the resolution of other aspects impacting sustainability.

This includes education as it is not just for visitors, with time running out to ensure the 'lost trade' skills previously practised at the Railway Workshops in Midland are taught to new generations.

### **Claire Rowson – Conservators and the heritage ecosystem**

Material conservators play an important, albeit lesser-known role in the heritage ecosystem. They are represented nationally by the AICCM, Australia's leading body for the advocacy of professional cultural materials conservators in Australia. In this presentation, Claire Rowson gives an overview of the role not only of the AICCM but the broader value that conservators contribute to heritage practice in Australia and internationally as both innate diagnosticians of preservation risks and expert technicians in remedial conservation treatments. Claire will share some case studies of her conservation projects in Western Australia, and also of recent advancements in the field shared at the last AICCM National Conference, held in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the organisation in 2023.

### **Chris Su – Farther Christmas – Heritage keeping in isolation**

Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands are west of Western Australia, comprising people from Canton to Malaya to India and were, until the 1950s, part of the Singapore Straits Colonies. Without a governance structure to support formal heritage preservation, Islanders engage heritage keeping in isolation through 'community archiving as a commons for feeling.' This presentation will show the results of several of these community-archiving efforts and how they interpret our stories across the last century and a half of life on Christmas Island in our own separate 'Heritage Ecosystem' independent of the mainland.

### **Malcolm Traill – Albany 2026: Celebration or pause for reflection**

Albany is the first WA settlement to mark 200 years of European occupation. Many years of planning have gone into ways to mark this anniversary, but the overall theme has been "Menang First". As a marked contrast to previous Australian milestones, a concentrated effort has been made to incorporate Menang/Noongar stories into the events and commemorations that will occur throughout the year. The end result and feedback will no doubt inform the 2029 plans, which will mark 200 years since the foundation of the Swan River Colony.

### **Georgia Walton – What do we do now? Succession planning for everyday**

The Heritage industry has its issues, one of which is an aging population of workers and volunteers. These workers have a wealth of knowledge that disappears when people retire or leave. It is not just the ultimate loss of staff that brings holes in heritage management knowledge; restructures and shuffles of staff to suit management needs can result in gaps.

What do we do when the person with all the inside tips and tricks is no longer a part of the team. Panic? Question everything? Or know that you are perfectly prepared because of the comprehensive succession planning your organisation has undertaken. Hopefully it is the latter. If not start with this talk, then take the strategies we give you and start a succession plan in your own organisations. Let me help you decrease the risk of knowledge loss.

### **Ian Warne – Exploring Perth's maritime heritage: Revolutionising preservation through technology**

Maritime shipping was essential to early Perth's development, and technological advancements have revolutionised how its maritime heritage is preserved and shared. Drone photography offers precise images of current historic structures, while underwater GoPro footage and video mapping provide accurate representations of submerged artefacts in the Swan and Canning rivers. A robust web-based database allows the public to access historical photos, videos, and detailed information, making the region's maritime history more accessible. These modern tools enhance the understanding and appreciation of Perth's maritime heritage, bridging the gap between the past and the present for a wider audience.