



Department of Planning,
Lands and Heritage



HERITAGE
COUNCIL



Aboriginal
Cultural
Heritage
Committee



STATE
HERITAGE
CONFERENCE
2025

The Heritage Ecosystem PROGRAM

12-13 May 2025

The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle



HERITAGE MINISTER'S FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 State Heritage Conference.

As we explore The Heritage Ecosystem, this theme is a timely and powerful reminder that heritage does not exist in isolation. It is deeply woven into the cultural, social, environmental and economic fabric of our State.

Our heritage tells the stories of who we are, how we live and what we value – and it continues to evolve as we do.

I particularly want to acknowledge the profound connections between Aboriginal cultural heritage and the natural environment. These intertwined relationships have sustained communities and Country for tens of thousands of years, and their recognition is essential to telling a more complete and truthful history of Western Australia.

As this conference highlights, embracing connections offers new and meaningful opportunities for healing, understanding and sharing stewardship. This is something that the Heritage Council of Western Australia continues to strive for.

The two-day program is rich with ideas and insights. From harnessing digital tools to enhance access and storytelling, to reimagining heritage values through inclusive lenses, the conference explores how we can better preserve, activate and pass on the places, objects and traditions that shape our identity. I am particularly inspired by the focus on engaging younger generations and creating space for diverse voices within the heritage sector.

As I begin my journey as Western Australia's Minister for Heritage, I am excited to learn more about the projects to be showcased here and the incredible work being undertaken across the sector. It is a testament to the creativity, care and commitment of individuals, communities and businesses across the State that underpins our heritage landscape.

I hope this conference sparks meaningful conversations, new partnerships and bold ideas. Together, we have the opportunity to ensure Western Australia's heritage – both ancient and modern – is celebrated, protected and shared for generations to come.

Thank you for being part of this important dialogue.

Hon Simone McGurk MLA
Minister for Heritage



ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS MINISTER'S FOREWORD

Western Australia's story began tens of thousands of years ago. It is a unique history – the oldest living culture in the world. Across our vast State, Aboriginal heritage holds significant value to Aboriginal people and provides an essential link to their past, present and future.

The 2025 State Heritage Conference explores the role of Aboriginal heritage, truth-telling and cultural landscapes in The Heritage Ecosystem. Heritage is not confined to individual sites or stories – it is part of an interconnected web that links people, places, culture and Country across generations.

In particular, the conference includes many projects located in regional Western Australia and provides a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the deep and enduring connection Aboriginal people have to land, waters and sky.

Aboriginal cultural heritage is inseparable from our natural environment. It carries stories of kinship, ceremony, survival and belonging – continuing to shape identity, community and the future. From powerful keynote presentations to practical sessions on conservation and storytelling, you will experience how heritage can be a tool for truth-telling, healing and empowerment.

I am particularly encouraged by the inclusion of diverse perspectives and Aboriginal-led projects that transforming the way heritage is understood and managed. I encourage you all to maximise this opportunity for important conversations, and to share knowledge between professionals, communities and Traditional Owners who are actively working to protect and celebrate places of significance across our State.

It is a great privilege to serve as the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and to welcome you to the inaugural joint conference, hosted for the first time by the Heritage Council of Western Australia and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee.

Together, we can ensure the stories, knowledge and custodianship of Aboriginal people are respected and recognised as central to Western Australia's identity. I hope the connections and ideas sparked at this conference continue to grow long after the final session ends.

Hon Don Punch MLA
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs





HERITAGE COUNCIL WA CHAIR MESSAGE

Welcome to the State Heritage Conference 2025.

Heritage isn't just about preserving the past; it's about weaving it into our present and future and telling the epic stories of Western Australia.

As 2029 approaches, the Council is conscious of the long history of Western Australia and the need to acknowledge and promote the many perspectives, painful truths and our shared stories.

Aboriginal heritage is a vital part of our heritage ecosystem, offering rich, ancient stories and deep connections to the land. Recognising and preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage is essential for fostering a comprehensive and inclusive understanding of our shared history.

Fremantle is a prime example of a place where many perspectives meet with its strong cultural presence, painful connection to Rottnest Island and as the first place many migrants landed when arriving in Western Australia.

This year's conference theme, The Heritage Ecosystem, highlights how heritage connects with fields like environmental sciences, economics, tourism, education, and technology. Our heritage places and collections face environmental changes but also play a big role in sustainability. The Heritage Council is conscious of this and wants to assist owners of heritage places to ensure that places with cultural heritage significance are activated, bringing economic benefits and tourism.

Education is crucial in the heritage ecosystem, both for community appreciation of heritage and for the people working to preserve and celebrate our history. As some of the speakers will note, it's essential to equip the next generation with the right skills and knowledge.

Technology has transformed how we access and interact with heritage collections and places. From digital images and 3D representations to conserving fragile collections, technology allows us to celebrate and share our history in innovative ways. It lets people engage with heritage on a personal level, enriching Western Australia's history with their own stories.

We acknowledge the important support of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage in staging this conference. We also acknowledge the involvement of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee members who have contributed to the planning and development of the program.

As we come together for this conference, I wish you an enjoyable and informative time and hope you are able to reflect on the present and future.

Darren Foster
Chair
Heritage Council of Western Australia



ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS MESSAGE

Welcome to the State Heritage Conference 2025.

This year's theme, The Heritage Ecosystem, highlights the interconnectedness of heritage with various fields such as environmental sciences, economics, education, and technology.

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Committee is dedicated to preserving and protecting Aboriginal heritage in Western Australia through its statutory work which respects and upholds cultural practices in all our endeavours. It's the start of our journey to actively engage with stakeholders.

Within the ecosystem theme, it is crucial to understand how people, stories, and cultures connect across the state, ensuring that both tangible sites and intangible stories are preserved for future generations as the community wishes them to be told.

Equally important is the truth-telling that links Aboriginal cultural heritage with the broader narratives of those who have come to Western Australia. These often painful truths add layers of meaning to places enjoyed by many and must be recognised, particularly as we approach 2029.

The community generously shares its connection to culture and the environment with new audiences, fostering a deeper understanding of this land. From traditional ecological knowledge used in land management across the state to cultural tourism, the environment is central to our understanding of places like Walyalup (Fremantle).

We acknowledge the invaluable support from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage in staging this conference, as well as the contributions of the Heritage Council of Western Australia members in planning and developing the program.

We hope that through listening to the many speakers, you gain new perspectives on Aboriginal cultural heritage and share this knowledge with others.

Ms Irene Stainton AO (Co-Chairperson) and
Hon Ken Wyatt AM JP (Co-Chairperson)



PROGRAM

DAY 1 - MONDAY 12 MAY

Registration desk will open from 8:00am in the function area

9:00am	Welcome to Country Robyn Collard and Tryse Rioli
9:15am	Welcome to delegates and introduction of keynote speaker MC Mandy Gadsdon
9:20 – 10:00am	Keynote address The Heritage Ecosystem: Valuing the Everyday, Everywhere, and Everywhen Dr Steve Brown, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Creative and Cultural Research, University of Canberra; Special Advisor, GML Heritage

10:00 – 10:30amBREAK - MORNING TEA (ORION ROOM)

10:30 – 11:00am	Evolving Heritage Values Luke Donegan, Department Planning, Lands and Heritage Dr Constance Wyndham and Peter White, Museums of History NSW
11:00 – 11:30am	The intersection of heritage and Human Rights at Murujuga Amy Stevens, Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation
11:30 – 12:00pm	Panel discussion
12:00 – 12:30pm	Museums and galleries: cornerstones of the heritage ecosystem Jane King and Alana Part, Australian Museums and Galleries Association, WA Branch

12:30 – 1:30pmBREAK – LUNCH (ORION ROOM)

NETWORKING EVENT

History Slam 2025 – Share or enjoy a WA history tale in three minutes

Date: Monday 12 May 2025
Time: 5:00pm – 6:30pm
Venue: Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle
For more information or to register: [History Slam 2025](#)

Heritage of the Fremantle Town Hall Clock

Date: Monday 12 May 2025
Time: 5pm – 6pm
Venue: Fremantle History Centre, Ground Floor, Walyalup Civic Centre
For more information or to register: [Heritage of the Fremantle Town Hall Clock](#)

1:30 – 3:00pm	CONCURRENT SESSION 1 <i>Select from the following two options:</i>	
1:30 – 2:00pm	Using technology to reveal more about heritage <i>Sirius Room</i>	Future proofing <i>Pleiades Room</i>
	Digital technology driving an innovative approach to heritage preservation Garon Deutsch, MENd	Challenges and opportunities for Rail Heritage WA in 21st Century Philippa Rogers, Rail Heritage WA
2:00 – 2:30pm	Architectural treasures - creating public engagement with the retentions debate through immersive visualisation of the Perth Pensioner Barracks Thomas Brady, Curtin University	Young minds, new Ideas Anne Chapple, Friends of ANZAC Cottage
2:30 – 3:00pm	Exploring Perth’s maritime heritage: Revolutionising preservation through technology Ian Warne, Maritime Archaeological Association of Western Australia	What do we do now? Succession planning for everyday Georgia Walton, Chimeris Group

3:00 – 3:30pmBREAK - AFTERNOON TEA (ORION ROOM)

3:30 – 4:30pm	CONCURRENT SESSION 2 <i>Select from the following two options:</i>	
3:30 – 4:00pm	Cultural mapping <i>Sirius Room</i>	Albany 2026 <i>Pleiades Room</i>
	Connecting the dots: Using a Geographic Information System (GIS) to manage the cultural landscape of Perth Airport, Western Australia Sally Burgess, Perth Airport	Numen: Visualising Deep Time, climate and landscape Peter Morse, Peter Morse Studio
4:00 – 4:30pm	Empowering Country: Redefining cultural mapping through data sovereignty Sharleah Ramirez, Everick Heritage	Albany 2026 - Celebration or pause for reflection Malcolm Traill, UWA

4:30 – 5:00pmSUMMARY SESSION
All delegates to return to Sirius room

PROGRAM

DAY 2 – TUESDAY 13 MAY

Registration desk will open from 8:00am in the function area

9:00 – 9:05am	MC Mandy Gadsdon welcome to delegates
9:05 – 9:20am	Minister for Heritage address
9:25 – 9:40am	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs address (recording)
9:40 – 10:00am	Wadjemup Wirin Bidi Spirit Trail Aboriginal-Led Healing Journey Karen Jacobs, Farley Garlett, Wadjemup Project Steering Group and Richenda Prall and Kelly Parks, Rotttnest Island Authority

10am – 10:30am

BREAK - MORNING TEA (ORION ROOM)

10:30 – 12:30pm		
CONCURRENT SESSION 3 Select from the following two options:		
10:30 – 11:00am	Adaptive reuse in design <i>Sirius Room</i>	Interpretation <i>Pleiades Room</i>
	Reflections on a definition Osnat Harlap, urbanframeworks	Cease and Desist: Nail the “so what?” test before interpreting heritage (workshop) Kylie Christian, Everick Heritage
11:00 – 11:30am	Sustainable Urban Heritage Strategies and Adequate Housing Alonso Ayala, Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies, Rotterdam	Bridging heritage and innovation: Lessons from Stories Unseen Erin Clark, Stories Unseen
11:30 – 12:00pm	Stabilisation of the Bristle Kilns, chimney stacks and tunnels Dinah Mujati, Hocking Heritage + Architecture and Simon Jewel, Atelier JV	Community and interpretation in the City of Busselton Jacquie Happ with Carol Mulhearn, City of Busselton
12:00 – 12:30pm	Sustainability, Equity and Heritage: Exploring New Contextualism in the heritage sites Mohammad Habib Reza, BRAC University, Bangladesh	Farther Christmas – heritage keeping in isolation Chris Su, Shire of Christmas Island

12:30 – 1:30pm

BREAK – LUNCH (ORION ROOM)

1:30 – 3:00pm		
CONCURRENT SESSION 4 Select from the following two options:		
1:30 – 2:00pm	Conservation and preservation <i>Sirius Room</i>	Contemporary evolution of heritage values <i>Pleiades Room</i>
	How to make the climate work for you and save our heritage Ian MacLeod, Heritage Conservation Solutions	Central Greenough on Yamatji Country: The evolving heritage values of a ‘historic hamlet’ Leanne Brass, National Trust of Western Australia
2:00 – 2:30pm	Conservators and the heritage ecosystem Claire Rowson, International Conservation Services and Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (AICCM)	West End heritage ecosystem case study City of Fremantle
2:30 – 3:00pm	Preservation of WA cultural heritage material through the Digitisation Centre of WA Janet Luk, Digitisation Centre of Western Australia	Illuminating heritage stories using luminescence dating Luke Gliganic, Vicus

3:00 – 3:30pm

BREAK - AFTERNOON TEA (ORION ROOM)

3:30 – 4:15pm		
CONCURRENT SESSION 5 Select from the following two options:		
3:30 – 4:15pm	<i>Sirius Room</i>	<i>Pleiades Room</i>
	Heroes, Villains and Vagabonds Richard Offen	Our horrible asylum – board game workshop Fiona Giles <i>(Please note that only 18 people can play the game; spectators are welcome to participate)</i>

4:15 – 4:30pm

SUMMARY SESSION AND CLOSE
All delegates to return to Sirius room

DAY 1 PRESENTATION SUMMARIES

THE HERITAGE ECOSYSTEM: VALUING THE EVERYDAY, EVERYWHERE, AND EVERYWHEN

DR STEVE BROWN

A heritage ecosystem approach recognises that heritage is not just a static collection of things but a dynamic, evolving system influenced by human and natural intra-actions. It is a perspective that emphasises the interconnectedness of cultural, natural, and social-economic-political-technological factors in shaping and understanding heritage, moving beyond traditional notions of conservation to encompass broader environmental and cultural contexts. Consequently, a heritage ecosystem approach necessarily requires multidisciplinary collaboration, as well as cross-cultural ways of knowing and learning. In this presentation, I draw on personal experience, work on international and local projects, and concepts of Country and the everyday to argue for naturecultures interconnectedness as intrinsic to a heritage ecosystem approach.

EVOLVING HERITAGE VALUES

**LUKE DONEGAN, DR CONSTANCE WYNNDHAM
AND PETER WHITE**

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. Peter and Constance from the Museums of History New South Wales will then discuss their work with the Gujaga Foundation to re-evaluate the heritage values of the First Government House site, aiming for the inclusion of First Nations perspectives.

THE INTERSECTION OF HERITAGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS AT MURUJUGA

AMY STEVENS

Traditional Owners and Custodians of Murujuga have been lobbying for World Heritage Listing of Murujuga for decades and are anticipating a decision on the formal nomination of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape in 2025. The evolution of how people recognise and discuss the complex value of heritage has allowed for a nomination that recognises far more than just the rock art at Murujuga. Cultural knowledge holders at Murujuga, along with Indigenous people across the world, have a distinctly holistic perspective on the relative significance of heritage, culture, country and knowledge succession that intrinsically places heritage within a much broader ecosystem. As we consider how heritage sits within an extensive ecosystem of related fields, it is worth reflecting on the significant impact of that system on the rights of Indigenous peoples.

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES: CORNERSTONES OF THE HERITAGE ECOSYSTEM

JANE KING AND ALANA PART

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.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY DRIVING AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO HERITAGE PRESERVATION

GARON DEUTSCH

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.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RAIL HERITAGE WA IN 21ST CENTURY

PHILIPPA ROGERS

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.



ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES – CREATING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH THE RETENTIONS DEBATE THROUGH IMMERSIVE VISUALISATION OF THE PERTH PENSIONER BARRACKS

THOMAS BRADY

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 19th-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.

YOUNG MINDS, NEW IDEAS

ANNE CHAPPLE

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.

EXPLORING PERTH’S MARITIME HERITAGE: REVOLUTIONISING PRESERVATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

IAN WARNE

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.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW? SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR EVERYDAY

GEORGIA WALTON

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.

CONNECTING THE DOTS: USING A GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) TO MANAGE THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF PERTH AIRPORT, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SALLY BURGESS

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.

NUMEN: VISUALISING DEEP TIME THROUGH CLIMATE AND LANDSCAPE

PETER MORSE

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.

EMPOWERING COUNTRY: REDEFINING CULTURAL MAPPING THROUGH DATA SOVEREIGNTY

SHARLEAH RAMIREZ

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.

ALBANY 2026: CELEBRATION OR PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

MALCOLM TRAILL

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.



DAY 2 PRESENTATION SUMMARIES

WADJEMUP WIRIN BIDI | SPIRIT TRAIL – ABORIGINAL-LED HEALING JOURNEY

KAREN JACOBS, FARLEY GARLETT, WADJEMUP PROJECT STEERING GROUP AND RICHENDA PRALL AND KELLY PARKS, ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY

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.

REFLECTIONS ON A DEFINITION

OSNAT HARLAP

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.

CEASE AND DESIST: NAIL THE “SO WHAT?” TEST BEFORE INTERPRETING HERITAGE

KYLIE CHRISTIAN

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.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN HERITAGE STRATEGIES AND ADEQUATE HOUSING

ALONSO AYALA

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.

BRIDGING HERITAGE AND INNOVATION: LESSONS FROM STORIES UNSEEN

ERIN CLARK

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.

STABILISATION OF THE BRISTLE KILNS, CHIMNEY STACKS AND TUNNELS

DINAH MUJATI AND SIMON JEWEL

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.

COMMUNITY AND INTERPRETATION IN THE CITY OF BUSSELTON

JACQUIE HAPP WITH CAROL MULHEARN

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.

SUSTAINABILITY, EQUITY AND HERITAGE: EXPLORING NEW CONTEXTUALISM IN THE HERITAGE SITES

MOHAMMAD HABIB REZA

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.

FARTHER CHRISTMAS – HERITAGE KEEPING IN ISOLATION

CHRIS SU

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.

HOW TO MAKE THE CLIMATE WORK FOR YOU AND SAVE OUR HERITAGE

IAN MACLEOD

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.

CENTRAL GREENOUGH ON YAMATJI COUNTRY: THE EVOLVING HERITAGE VALUES OF A ‘HISTORIC HAMLET’

LEANNE BRASS

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 19th-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.

CONSERVATORS AND THE HERITAGE ECOSYSTEM

CLAIRE ROWSON

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.

WEST END HERITAGE ECOSYSTEM CASE STUDY

CITY OF FREMANTLE

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.

PRESERVATION OF WA CULTURAL HERITAGE MATERIAL THROUGH THE DIGITISATION CENTRE OF WA

JANET LUK

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.

ILLUMINATING HERITAGE STORIES USING LUMINESCENCE DATING

LUKE GLIGANIC

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.

HEROES, VILLAINS AND VAGABONDS

RICHARD OFFEN

Western Australia’s story is littered with colourful characters, some who become legends while others faded to history. Join Richard as he brings some of these stories to light.

OUR HORRIBLE ASYLUM – BOARD GAME WORKSHOP

FIONA GILES

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.)

