

2012 Heritage at Risk National Nominations

Places at Risk

Argus Building, Melbourne, Vic



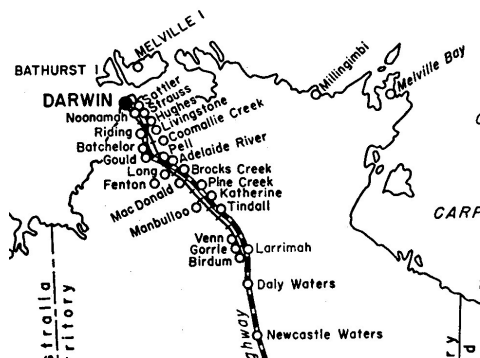
Argus building, Melbourne



Interior of Argus building

In 2004, La Trobe University purchased the building with the view of restoring and using it as a CBD campus. The plans included completing the clock tower to the original design. However the costs of renovating the building and removing asbestos proved too high and the university sold the building late in 2008. Currently the inside of the building is unused and has been stripped down to bare concrete and is literally a shell of its former self.

Brocks Creek Military Detention Barrack, NT



Brocks Creek Military Detention Barrack was constructed in early 1942 utilising the existing Police buildings (late 1800s) and the slabs of an earlier school building. It was popularly known as "Belsen" to the soldiers and civilians at the time. It is a reminder of the disciplinary measures employed by the Australian defence forces during World War II and is the only surviving example of this form of military installation in the Katherine-Darwin region and the Northern Territory.



The site is on the Northern Territory Heritage Register but a Canadian based mining consortium presently owns the site. The site is abandoned and suffering from deterioration of the recognised heritage fabric. A road has been graded through the site destroying part of the fabric.

Castlemaine Gaol, Vic



Castlemaine Gaol

Castlemaine Gaol is a landmark on its hilltop site and is an important part of the historic townscape of Castlemaine. The complex is substantial and is associated with the early years of the gold rush in the area. In architectural terms, the complex is typical of gaol design of the period, stylistically in a utilitarian Classical Revival style.

The gaol has been recently sold to a local consortium. The sale documents included indicative plans showing residential development inside and outside the walls. The Mt Alexander Branch of the Trust is advocating for preservation of key parts of the site from residential development. The old gaol is a substantial and iconic heritage complex overlooking Castlemaine.

Elder Park Bandstand, Adelaide, SA



Elder Park Bandstand

A major concern in inner city redevelopment proposals is the planned relocation of Elder Park Bandstand. Elder Park Bandstand and environs, an Adelaide icon donated by Thomas Elder in 1881, is threatened with removal to an ancillary part of the site as part of the Torrens Riverbank redevelopment. It is important also for its prefabricated construction and detailing and for the way in which it greatly contributes to the amenity of Elder Park.

Housing Precincts of Ainslie, Blandfordia 5 and Reid, ACT



Reconstruction of houses in Reid

Ainslie, Blandfordia 5 and Reid are early Canberra housing precincts, heritage listed for their significance in demonstrating examples of Garden City planning in the National Capital. The philosophy behind Garden City planning was to create healthy working and living environments for urban residents. It developed internationally through the 1900s and many of the principles were integral to Walter Burley Griffin's winning design for the new Federal Capital of Australia.

Demolitions contrary to mandatory requirements are leaving only facades of listed houses to be surrounded by rebuilds of unsympathetic character in the precincts. . Streetscape intrusions and soft landscaping reductions by formed

parking lots are increasing without compliance measures being taken. There is an urgent need for conservation and management plans to be written and revised to guide development within these precincts.

Law Courts Building, ACT



Law Courts, Canberra

The Law Courts Building is being refurbished and possibly gutted and redesigned. Potentially the only things to remain of the original building will be the façade, columns and coat of arms. Decorative timber panelling originally gifted by the six states will be kept and somehow utilised in the new design.

The significance of the Law Courts Precinct and specifically the Supreme Court Building has been identified since the 1980's but never officially recognised due to gaps in heritage protection legislation between Commonwealth and Territory. The potential changes could destroy a substantial amount of the identified heritage features of the site.

Of special importance to the original design are the central glassed atrium and the timber furniture fittings all of which are under great threat and may not be replicated or kept in the redesign.

Lake Burley Griffin West Basin, ACT



West Basin, Lake Burley Griffin

The West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin is currently part of the 'City to the Lake and Australia Forum' study area, which could potentially see part of the Lake, filled in to accommodate a National Convention Centre or even a sports stadium. A feasibility study is currently underway to assess the possible options for this area of the Lake and the adjacent City Hill.

Amendments to the National Capital Plan have already been passed with the intention for future development of the area. Potential impacts from this kind of development include reduction of the views and vistas to and from the Lake foreshore, a marked reduction in community open space around the lake and impacts on the established parkland setting and character of the area. These are all important aspects of the Lake that have been identified by stakeholders as significant. At this point the ACT Trust does not believe that these values can be maintained with current proposals to infill part of West Basin.

This kind of development will not only impact on the heritage values of the Lake but also numerous other important heritage sites around Acton and on the ANU campus.

Significant Trees, Qld



Saving a tree in Queensland

Queensland is a large state where the number of trees reflecting cultural and/or natural heritage significance can only be estimated. Significant trees are not well represented in existing statutory registers. Of the more than 1,600 places entered in the Queensland Government Heritage Register, only 23 are individual trees or groups of trees. Further, not all local governments have natural heritage registers and many trees in regional Queensland remain unassessed for their cultural and/or natural heritage values. With their significance not even identified, and with no legislative protection, many important trees in Queensland are at risk.

In an attempt to at least mitigate this situation, since 2011 the Queensland National Trust (along with other State/Territory Trusts) has been conducting an audit of the trees in its register. The Trust has established a Significant Tree Register database to actively engage the Australian people in recognising and recording the valued contribution of trees to their quality of life and the wellbeing of the nation. Nominations from the public can be lodged at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/qld/NominationstotheNTQTreeRegister>

Trees with potential cultural values are being assessed and nominated to existing heritage registers within Queensland. But while this project is proceeding there are still many unassessed trees with no legislative conservation protection.

Royal Adelaide Hospital, SA



Royal Adelaide Hospital foyer (c. 1880s)

The Royal Adelaide Hospital Precinct (dating from 1855) is an important suite of stripped classical and modernist buildings associated with nationally and internationally renowned medical advances and careers, with an important history providing key hospital services for northern Territory and Broken Hill NSW patients as well as central and regional South Australia.

Within this precinct ten places, including the Medical School, Dental Hospital, Eleanor Harrald Nurses Home, Allied Health Services, McEwin and Bice Buildings, former Kiosk, East Wing and Staff Quarters, have been identified and nominated as of significant heritage value, but are currently unprotected by state or local heritage listing. These places are at risk as the hospital precinct is being upgraded and moved. The SA National Trust advocates that these places be listed on the State Heritage Register and appropriately conserved under the statutory provisions of the Register.

Thompson Square, Windsor, NSW



Thompson Square 1929



Thompson Square 2012

Thompson Square is unique as the only eighteenth-century civic square in Australia. It pre-dates Governor Macquarie, has evolved over 217 years with extensive archaeological potential and survives today as a key Georgian precinct.

The square commemorates Andrew Thompson, the very first ex-convict Governor Macquarie appointed in 1810 to a high position as a magistrate. Macquarie regarded Thompson as the father and founder of Green Hills, later to be re-named by him as Windsor.

There is a proposal to rebuild a new main road through the Thompson Square Conservation Precinct, which would have a significant impact on the archaeology and amenity of the park.

The NSW National Trust believes that with the new proposal there is an opportunity to remove the existing roadway through Thompson Square, which has previously fragmented parkland, and restore the integrity of Australia's oldest surviving civic square.



Region at Risk

Murray Darling Basin Qld, NSW, Vic, SA.



Murray Darling Basin

The Murray Darling Basin contains Australia's most important river system. The drainage basin covers over 1,000,000 km², beginning in Queensland and extending through New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. The system supports agriculture and a wide variety of ecosystems, and has archaeological, scientific, ecological, Indigenous and European cultural and historical significance.

Threat

River flow has been drastically reduced throughout the system and in the drought years prior to 2011, ceased in places altogether.

Lack of flows and excessive salt levels due to regulatory structures, unsustainable water extraction together with drought have endangered flora and fauna habitats and have impacted on the sustainability of the economic and cultural practices throughout the vast region.

The 2010 *Murray Darling Basin Plan Guide* and the revised 2011 *Proposed Basin Plan* have so far failed to achieve results in delivering a sustainable healthy working basin.

In October 2012 the Federal Government announced a programme of injecting a further 450 billion litres back into the river system lifting the total amount of returned water through the proposed plans to 3,200 billion litres. This boost, it was announced, would come through infrastructure upgrades such as improved water-saving channels and dams. Such a boost could flush further salt from the system out to sea keeping the Coorong and Lakes of South Australia less saline and keep the Murray mouth open to the sea. However, the Australian Conservation Foundation has stated that a boost to 3,200 billion litres flowing

through the system meets only 65% of the estimated requirements for an environmentally functioning system.

Desired outcome/vision

The ACNT welcomes this announced increase in flow as a step in the right direction to a sustainable Basin but sees 3,200 billion litres as a starting point for further increases in later years.

Although it has its limitations, this new proposal does provide a positive step towards a sounder environmental management model. However, it will largely depend on the willingness of the State/Territory governments within the Basin agreement. And that is far from being a certainty.

