

**NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (ACT) HERITAGE AWARDS 2016**  
ANNOUNCED ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2016  
**REPORT FROM JUDGING PANEL**

For this, the third year of these awards, the judging panel consisted of Dr Tracy Ireland, Associate Professor of Cultural Heritage at the University of Canberra; George Bailey, a member of the ACT Heritage Council and its expert in object conservation, and Ken Charlton, an architectural historian who is a member of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) Heritage Committee.

The high standard of entries in these awards in previous years has been maintained and all eight projects nominated had much to commend them, which is most pleasing.

Four entries each received an Award for an Outstanding Project:

**Mount Stromlo Observatory Precinct Heritage Management Plan**

This excellent Heritage Management Plan by GML Heritage includes an innovative 'Heritage Snapshot' which captures the essence of the precinct's history, highlights key management policies and is presented in an effective manner. The 2004 Conservation Management Plan by Tanner Architects completed soon after the firestorm was revised and expanded to take in the landscape, including ruins, and Indigenous, archaeological and natural values. It establishes Mt Stromlo as the key precinct commemorating Canberra's 2003 bushfires and its recovery from them.

**Listening to the Past**

This project has taken the appreciation of historic places in a new direction, by introducing the sound of music, singing and oral histories to websites, ready for inclusion in digital guides to enhance visitors' experiences at three house museums. Dr Gall has undertaken significant historical research and has given recitals and lectures. Mugga Mugga's restored violin has been played there and pianos at Mugga Mugga and Lanyon have been restored and played. It is great to hear primary sources used to produce the dimension of sound from the past.

**Conservation of Front Facade, Old Parliament House**

This project was undertaken with the utmost regard for retaining original fabric wherever possible. The iconic character of the facade has been retained to a remarkable degree, honouring the architect's design and the original craftsmanship. The way the public has been allowed to observe the conservation process and share in it through social media is most commendable.

**Conservation of King's Hall, Old Parliament House**

The amount of original fabric retained in this key interior space while it has undergone conservation work is remarkable. The attitude of those managing the work inspired the workers to complete the work in a scrupulous manner. A high standard of conservation work at Old Parliament House has been maintained in a challenging fiscal environment. The use of social media and other innovative ways of sharing the progress of work with the public is worthy of commendation.

Two entries were each awarded a certificate for a Significant Contribution to Heritage Conservation:

**Conservation and Management of the Barton Heritage Precinct's Streetscape** It is great to see people in a neighbourhood looking after their own heritage. The enthusiastic residents are to be commended for completing a thorough survey and report, with recommendations for caring for elements of the public spaces in their suburb. The need for a conservation management plan as a basis for future conservation work was stressed effectively in the executive summary of the report. Now that an ACT Heritage Grant has been received to conserve the remaining concrete pillar signposts, a nomination for a future heritage award should be made after the work is completed.

**The Birth of Canberra: Archaeological Study of Springbank Island, Canberra's Earliest Owner Occupied Homestead**

A well organised community project worthy of recognition for raising awareness of Canberra's Indigenous and European history and for the high level of expertise evident in its inception, research, survey and excavation. The considerable amount of public involvement at all stages of the study, is particularly noteworthy. The interest by the media proves how valuable the study has been in promoting the community's appreciation of its heritage.

Two entries did not receive awards.