

NATIONAL TRUST (ACT) HERITAGE AWARDS 2022

REPORT FROM JUDGING PANEL

The judging panel would like to extend its sincerest thanks to the applicants who submitted projects for this years' National Trust (ACT) Heritage Awards.

Twelve nominations were received covering a range of project types, including educational events and exhibitions, adaptive reuse, and conservation practice.

The panel comprised:

- Rosemary Hollow, Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra Faculty of Arts, and expert in natural and cultural heritage management
- Kenneth Heffernan, expert in archaeology and at the time of judging, Chairperson of the ACT Heritage Council
- Hannah Griffiths, multidisciplinary heritage specialist and member of the National Trust (ACT) Heritage Committee

Three entries receive an Award for an Outstanding Project:

ANU Birch Building Refurbishment

Hassell, working with Lovell Chen and Hindmarsh Builders, have done an outstanding job of reinvigorating the Australian National University's iconic 1968 Birch Building. The adaptive reuse project respects the building's significant design features and sensitively integrates modern functions and elements to ensure the building's ongoing use and relevance.

Lake Burley Griffin Ecological Project

The Friends of Grasslands project exemplifies the importance of coordinated community and stakeholder mobilisation, and proactive management action in protecting Canberra's significant natural landscapes. By undertaking weed removal and planting of native species, the project maintains an important link to the natural heritage values of the Limestone Plains on which Canberra was settled.

Tidbinbilla Heritage Precinct

The effort to develop and implement interpretative heritage strategies at Tidbinbilla has created an engaging and accessible precinct for visitors to enjoy. The success of this project is greatly supported by the collaboration and skill-sharing between the Tidbinbilla Pioneers Association Inc. and the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. The project is a highly significant presentation of Canberra's early European rural history and the work of Parks staff in recreating the distillery display is to be commended.

Seven entries receive an Award for their Significant Contribution:

8Tracks - An introduction to the Canberra Tracks

These well-designed and engaging short films successfully integrate a new dimension to the popular Canberra Tracks platform. The significant research and time spent on the production of these films is evident in both their content and quality. The project provides the opportunity for visitors to see an online overview of Canberra's history without the need to even visit the capital.

Canberra & District Historical Society New Website

The Canberra & District Historical Society new website is visually appealing, easy to use, and engaging point of access to source information about Canberra's history. The CDHS is to be commended for securing an ACT Heritage Grant and undertaking the challenging job of updating their website. The new website makes an important contribution to the maintenance, ongoing collection, collation, and accessibility of information about Canberra's history.

Canberra Tracks Augmented Reality Videos

These ten augmented reality videos demonstrate well the intersection of technology and storytelling. Family History ACT has enhanced the Canberra Tracks experience for visitors in a way that is both engaging and educational. Their hard work in undertaking research and sourcing content is to be commended.

Marion: the other Griffin Temporary Exhibition

The Marion: the other Griffin Temporary Exhibition shone a light on the less well-known co-design of the national capital. The National Archives of Australia staff are to be highly commended for their skill in researching, developing, and curating such an impressive exhibition. This project has allowed audiences to better understand and appreciate Marion Griffin's influences, and her personal and professional history.

Old Parliament House Hail Damage Restoration

This conservation project by the Museum of Australian Democracy is an excellent example of the restoration and reconstruction of vulnerable heritage fabric. Great care has been taken to ensure a high-quality finish to the remediation works, the result of which conserves the heritage values of Old Parliament House as an iconic local and national building.

Old Parliament House Prime Minister's Suite Interpretation

The Museum of Australian Democracy staff have reinvigorated an important space in Old Parliament House by authentically recreating the prime ministerial offices of the 1980s. The exhibition is professionally designed and curated, and shows careful attention to detail so that visitors can enjoy the 'point in time' aesthetic.

Reviving Inner North's pillar signposts – Phase 1: Reid and Braddon

The original 'Rockite' pillar signposts are a much loved and important part of Canberra's Inner North heritage. The community effort to sensitively conserve and repaint these street posts with the support of conservator Gillian Mitchell is to be applauded. Thanks to the dedication of the Reid Residents Association, these signs will remain iconic signifiers of Canberra's early history.

Two entries did not receive an award:

Tuggeranong School House and Residence Museum

The buildings and surrounding gardens and landscape of the Tuggeranong School House are tangible remnants of Canberra's early rural European history and an important part of Canberra's history. The considerable effort to keep the museum operating is a credit to its volunteer manager, Elizabeth Burness.

The panel was unable to award this project as it did not meet the required date of completion requirement.

ANU Indigenous Knowledge Workshop

The workshop facilitated the informed and sensitive disaster risk management of the ACT's natural environment by sharing knowledge and skills. It merged technical expertise from relevant disciplines with the cultural knowledge and authority of local Traditional Owners (Buru Ngunawal Corporation).