

## **2023 National Trust (ACT) Heritage Awards**

### **Summary Report of Category and Trust Council Award Winners**

#### ***Category Winners***

##### **Architecture and Building Conservation**

*For outstanding conservation or restoration works to existing heritage listed buildings, new or adapted buildings, including small projects. Conservation and Heritage Management Plans, heritage reports and planning documents are also eligible within this category.*

Winner: The Old Parliament House Fire Remediation Project team, winners in the Architecture and Building Conservation Category.

Remediation works were required particularly to the front façade and front entry of Old Parliament House following a fire in December 2021. The project was guided by the Burra Charter and the Old Parliament House Heritage Management Plan and involved retaining as much of the heritage fabric as possible, maintain the design intent, whilst welcoming visitors.

External works included reconstructing a new front canopy, restoring the front doors, cleaning and repainting external fixtures and features, and removal and replacement of the front landing and stairs. Salvaged and new materials were used in the rebuilding and restorations as necessary.

Internal works included faithfully reconstructing the timber parquetry and inlaid rubber in the front foyer which was damaged beyond repair. Staff and contractors removed discolouration and dirt caused by sooty water.

The project was a collaborative effort delivered by MoAD staff, a Managing Contractor, conservators, and dozens of trades including MoAD OPH Heritage and Capital Projects, Manteena Security (Aust) Pty Ltd, International Conservation Services, Celia Cramer Conservation, Conservation Works, Eric Martin & Associates, Art and Archival.

##### **Heritage Landscapes and the Natural Environment**

*For projects to conserve the beautiful natural environment of the ACT.*

Winner: The Jarramlee Nature Reserve Remediation and Restoration Project, winners in the Heritage Landscapes and the Natural Environment category.

This project involved the remediation and restoration of a decommissioned sewerage treatment plant and construction a cultural entry garden within the Jarramlee Nature Reserve, which protects the second-largest recorded population of the vulnerable Golden Sun Moth in the ACT. The work included the preparation and implementation of a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan, and all works were undertaken in accordance with an approved Remedial Action Plan.

The remediation of the site involved removal and/or grout-filling of known and unknown buried existing sewer pipes and structures across the site, backfilling operations, and capping with native

grass seeded topsoil. A 260m long swale and multiple rock chutes were constructed to control and disperse water from an existing pond. Approximately 25000 native plants were individually planted.

The project included the establishment of a Ngunnawal interpretation space and native 'entry garden' with deco-gravel footpaths and carved seating. Locally engraved native animal and plant totems were installed, as well as a large central ground map created as an interactive space. The space interprets the continuing connection Ngunnawal people have to the native grasslands, river systems and mountain ranges of the region.

The project was undertaken by Cord Civil Pty Ltd.

### **Local Community Projects**

*For local projects, for example, streetscape improvements, local restorations, community centres and facilities, playgrounds etc.) of heritage significance.*

Winner: The Restoring the Natural Riparian Environment of the Tuggeranong Creek at the Tuggeranong Homestead Project, winners in the Local Community Projects category.

This project involved consistent work by volunteers to restore the eroded environment, conserve the existing creek line and regenerate the waterway, further enhancing the historic landscape of the Tuggeranong Homestead.

The work included:

- Planning in collaboration with Southern ACT Catchment Group, Friends of Grasslands, Greening Australia, and staff from Environment ACT
- Selection of suitable species of trees, forbs, rushes and grasses
- Layout of Greening Australia trees and preparation for ground spraying to suppress African Love Grass
- Plaiting riparian species to halt erosion
- Reintroduction of species including reinforcing threatened woodland species with emphasis on local species of red gum yellow box grassy woodland trees that have been lost due to past overgrazing and poor pasture management
- Ongoing maintenance work by MOTH volunteers to suppress introduced weed species such as African Love Grass, Saffron and Scotch thistles, horehound, St John's Wort and blackberry.

The project was undertaken by Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead Inc. and its dedicated volunteers in conjunction with the managers of the property as a successful partnership.

### **First Peoples' Heritage**

*For excellence in the conservation, interpretation, education or celebration of First Peoples' heritage.*

Winner: The Ngunnawal Night Tales – Wildbark Fire Pit and Interpretation Program, winners in the First People's Heritage category.

This project worked with Ngunnawal people and fabricators to develop a fire pit, artwork and interpretive signage to provide a space for story-telling at night introducing people to local Aboriginal culture.

Project tasks included: Collaboration with local Ngunnawal people on artworks and wording; site preparation and landscaping works; and planning, fabrication and installation of the fire pit and interpretive signage including a Canberra Tracks sign.

Bespoke “Ngunnawal Night Tales” outreach events have since been run. These events were booked out when during the Heritage Festival. Regular Cultural Awareness programs for public and private sector groups are also run. Wildbark’s head chef has been taught to cook with traditional foods such as kangaroo and wattle seed damper.

The firepit is the result of an ACT Heritage grant and is wonderful addition to Wildbark. The project helps promote local Aboriginal culture and history and engage Traditional Custodians. The project was completed by Andy O’Meara, Lauren Brown, Richie Allan, Richard Allan Jnr, Project Coordination, Innovative Metalworks, Fire by Design, ACT Heritage.

### **Heritage Education and Promotion**

*For projects which provide individuals with the opportunity to visit, learn, gain new perspectives on, or otherwise engage with ACT’s heritage.*

Winner: The Play On: From Grassroots to Glory Project, winners in the Heritage Education and Promotion category.

The Play On exhibition connected audiences with the heritage of women’s football in Canberra and the region during the FIFA Women’s World Cup. Community stories and experiences were shared through memorabilia, oral history, curated displays, and special events.

The exhibition development was community-led via a partnership with Capital Football. Surveys were used to find out what Canberra women’s football heritage was important to record and what people would be willing to display and share for an exhibition. A broad range of individuals in the Canberra football community responded.

A Work Integrated Learning unit was created and working in teams, students were dedicated to producing the exhibition, honing their skills in developing exhibition content, marketing, and graphic design. Seven visible galleries in the upper levels on the University of Canberra Refectory were transformed into an exhibition. The exhibition has generated considerable public interest with its launch attracting over 200 visitors, and 70 bookings for exhibition tours.

The core project team consisted of project leaders Mikaela Danvers (Visual Communication), Stephanie Trimble (Interior Architecture), and Ashley Harrison (Culture and Heritage). In excess of 20 students also played a part in the project.

### **Heritage Research Tool or Resource**

The judges determined during the assessment of nominations that it was appropriate to make an award in an additional category – Heritage Research Tool or Resource.

Winner: The Digital Heritage: Collaborative Research and Promotion Project, winners in the Heritage Research Tool or Resource category.

Canberra and Region Heritage Researchers provides a meeting place and forum for heritage researchers at all levels where they can learn more about digital techniques, form collaborations, and seek advice to enhance their own research and the promotion of their findings to a broader audience.

Some examples of recent collaborations include:

- Archival research and mapping overlays have led to the recognition of richer heritage features in Dickson associated with the Dickson Aerodrome
- A similar approach has identified the site the fatal crash of a RAAF aircraft during the opening of the Provisional Parliament House on 9 May 1927. Newspaper articles and walks have been produced to tell the story
- Identification of the precise locations of the earliest settler buildings in Acton, informing walks and other interpretive efforts
- The location of many temporary camps which housed the labourers who built or helped plant Canberra has been identified, with surviving relics uncovered
- Collaboration with Other Organisations including the Canberra and District Historical Society, The Friends of ACT Trees, Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra, and Australian Garden History Society

Trevor Lipscombe and Tony Maple lead this work as co-convenors of Canberra and Region Historical Researchers.

### ***Trust Council Award Winners***

This year, the Trust initiated two new awards to recognise significant contributions to ACT heritage conservation in the categories of Lifetime Achievement and Outstanding Advocacy.

#### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

The inaugural recipient is Mr Ken Charlton AM FRAIA.

Ken is an architectural historian with qualifications in architecture and conservation. When he was with the Australian Heritage Commission from 1979 to 1996, he was a Senior Conservation Officer assessing places for the Register of the National Estate.

Ken directed the research for, and co-authored a book on the life and work of the prominent Canberra architect Enrico Taglietti which saw him awarded the Clive Cummings medal by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA). He also authored or co-authored other titles, including books on the architecture of the Federal Capital from 1911 to 1939, and the significant contribution to Canberra of architect Dirk Bolt, which supplemented his publication on Taglietti.

Ken Charlton has been a member of the National Trust (ACT) for over 30 years and volunteers his time in various ways. He continues to participate in the National Trust's Heritage Committee and served as a judge for the Trust's annual Heritage Awards from their inception until two years ago. He continues to serve as a member of the RAIA Heritage Committee.

Ken's long term service to heritage conservation and outcomes makes him a worthy recipient of the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award.

## **Outstanding Advocacy**

The inaugural recipient is Mr Nick Swain.

Nick is a well-known and respected heritage expert in Canberra.

He has prepared, or participated in the preparation of, many recent heritage nominations relating to, most with very positive outcomes, for example:

- Kingston shops
- Manuka shops
- Hotel Kingston
- Former Kingston Post Office building – recently provisionally listed
- Griffith Flats – recently provisionally listed
- Proposed residential and commercial development in Kennedy Street

He appeared as an expert witness in the ACT against Giles St development next to the Former Kingston Post Office.

He is the author of a recent history of Manuka.

Nick is currently Secretary of the Canberra and District Historical Society and a committee member of the Kingston and Barton Residents Group. He has taken a keen interest in the planning of the Kingston Arts Precinct (centred around the Power House and Fitters Workshop) and the East Lake redevelopment area. Nick is currently the Vice President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.

Nick's efforts in advocating for the Heritage of the ACT make him a worthy recipient of this year's Outstanding Advocacy Award.