

## NATIONAL TRUST (ACT) HERITAGE AWARDS 2024

### REPORT OF JUDGING PANEL

#### ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING CONSERVATION

*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 in this category.*

##### WINNER

##### **National Film and Sound Archive - Heritage Building Renewal - Stage 1**

This project is an excellent refurbishment of three rooms within a wider renewal of the Commonwealth heritage-listed building that housed the former Australian Institute of Anatomy. The works removed layers of fabric to simplify and showcase the original building's fabric and character. While high quality work is to be expected from national institutions, given their access to professional staff, advisors and funding, the project nevertheless shows real originality in its approach.

**Awarded to:** *National Film and Sound Archive*

##### COMMENDED

##### **Forrest Fire Station Precinct Window Restoration**

The project involved the installation of windows to match the original openings in the Precinct and aims to reduce the impact of the pre-heritage listing extension. It has merit because the sympathetic refurbishment has enhanced the heritage values by improving the presentation of both the building and of the Forrest Fire Station precinct as a whole while improving the environmental performance and liveability of the house. This recognition aims to encourage other owners of heritage homes to consider careful and sympathetic enhancements of the places they care for.

**Awarded to:** *Stephen Blackburn and Rebecca Scouller*

#### HERITAGE LANDSCAPES AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

*Projects to conserve the beautiful natural environment of the ACT is recognised in this award. Eligible initiatives include, for example, management plans, research, bushland, management and regeneration, protection of waterways and forests, and landscape design.*

##### WINNER

##### **Preserving Gorman's Heritage Trees**

Two iconic Hawthorn trees in the courtyards of the heritage-listed Gorman Arts Centre are senescent and under threat. The project involves germinating seedlings and growing on saplings with the assistance of Yarralumla Nursery with a view to their

ultimate replacement. This is an excellent initiative by a community organisation to plan for the future to preserve the heritage values of this significant facility. The project should encourage other individuals and organisations responsible for significant trees to similarly think ahead as their trees near the end of their lifespan.

**Awarded to:** *Jason Burgess and Mauro Avilés*

## **LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

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

### **WINNER**

#### **ACT Weeds Manual**

The manual is a guide to the identification and treatment of weeds and is intended to provide an authoritative practical tool for those working to protect the environment of the ACT region. It is clearly an excellent and valuable resource which will have a lasting benefit for many years to come. The significant volunteer input into the preparation of the manual is impressive.

**Awarded to:** *Project Coordinator Vera Cruz and volunteers and ACT Government officers who contributed to the manual; Friends of Grasslands; and the Southern ACT Catchment Group.*

### **COMMENDED**

#### **A Commemorative Grove of Trees**

The project has involved the planting of a grove of trees to commemorate each country involved in the WWI conflict and the war historian CEW Bean. It is great to see this community initiative come to fruition and celebrating the association of CEW Bean to the site. The panel felt that in addition to the plaque the explanation of the formation of the Southern Cross would benefit from additional interpretive signage to explain the layout and reason for selecting the individual trees.

**Awarded to:** *Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead Inc (MOTH)*

### **FIRST PEOPLE'**

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

**There were no nominations in this category**

## HERITAGE EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

*Projects which provide individuals with the opportunity to visit, learn, gain new perspectives on, or otherwise engage with the ACT's heritage. These might include, for example, events, public lectures, exhibitions, interpretive signs and displays, oral histories, school projects, new books, reports, websites, guidebooks, and media in any format.*

### WINNER

#### **Spectres of Architecture in Canberra**

This project involved an exhibition and website which documented Canberra's erased urban and architectural histories. It combined archival imagery with mapping and photography to overlay past and present using interactive and innovative methods. The project is an excellent one of great relevance to heritage practitioners and planners in present day Canberra. It provides a great education resource and experience about mid-century architecture in Canberra. The panel look forward to seeing further development of the website, with additional information being provided for each entry on it.

**Awarded to:** *Sally Farrah, Mike Louw, Ben Ennis-Butler, Emma Phillips, Rob Henry, Edwina Jans, Amy Jarvis, Rachel Jackson, and the ACT Heritage Library.*

### COMMENDED

#### **Canberra by Bike Cultural Tours**

Slow cultural guided tours by bike to showcase built heritage, including embassies, sculptures, memorials and Marion Mahony Griffin's contribution to Canberra. This is a great active heritage experience in bike friendly Canberra. It is innovative and offers a diverse program of heritage experiences to a group of people who otherwise might not engage with these aspects of Canberra's heritage.

**Awarded to:** *Canberra by Bike Design Company and Pedal Power ACT*

## HERITAGE TOOL OR RESOURCE

*Innovative tools, resources or other materials which were developed to facilitate the conduct of particular projects and/or which may assist others conducting heritage research*

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## **INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION**

*Projects involving the conservation or restoration of industrial machinery, equipment and buildings*

### **WINNER**

#### **Restore and Maintain a Full Fleet of ex-Southern Aurora Carriages to an Operational Condition**

The Southern Aurora was a luxury, overnight stainless-steel rail icon, that ran non-stop from Sydney to Melbourne. The project involved acquiring and restoring a series of Southern Aurora carriages over a five-year period, together with setting up a tour company to support the restoration and allow people to experience the historic carriages. Eleven restored carriages are currently located at the Canberra Railway Museum in Kingston. The award recognises the work of two individuals in “rescuing” the train carriages and ensuring their availability for future operation.

**Awarded to:** *Simon Mitchell and Danielle Smith*

### **JUDGING PANEL**

John Baker – Chairperson of the judging panel and National Trust (ACT) Council Member.

John and his wife, Liz, have owned and restored two stone colonial heritage buildings in NSW and listed them with the National Trust (NSW).

Alistair Henchman – Director of SAJE Consulting and expert member of the ACT Heritage Council. Alistair specialises in the development of tourism experiences at natural and cultural places. He has nearly 40 years’ experience in the development, operation and management of significant tourism infrastructure and the adaptive reuse of major historic sites including many years with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Katrina Keller – Architect and heritage consultant with Philip Leeson Architects. Katrina has over ten years’ experience in the built heritage sector and is also a member of the Australia ICOMOS Executive Committee. She has experience in the assessment of historic fabric, the implementation of sensitive repair works and advising on the appropriate adaptation of heritage places.