

NATIONAL TRUST (ACT) HERITAGE AWARDS 2025

JUDGING PANEL REPORT

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

West Block Renovation – Oceana Property and Precept Property Partners

The project involved the major conservation and modernisation of this significant building delivered to a high environmental and quality standard whilst retaining its significant heritage fabric and setting. It is an important example of adaptive reuse and retention of embodied energy that demonstrates how buildings can be sensitively adapted to meet contemporary requirements.

Awarded to: *Oceana Funds and Precept Property Partners*

COMMENDED

Double Glazing on Chamber Windows – Museum of Australian Democracy

The project involved a carefully considered and painstakingly executed project to conserve and improve the environmental performance of one of the most significant buildings for Australia's democracy. Projects such as this are important in retaining the specialist carpentry skills required to preserve our built heritage.

Awarded to: *Museum of Australian Democracy*

HERITAGE LANDSCAPES AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Projects to conserve the unique 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 and restoration of historically significant gardens.

WINNER

There is no winner

COMMENDED

Your Guide to Natural Temperate Grasslands Brochure – Landcare ACT

This is an important initiative made possible through the collaboration of community organisations, to raise awareness and appreciation of the critically endangered Natural Temperate Grasslands of ACT and surrounds. A significant resource for community benefit.

Awarded to: *Landcare ACT*

LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

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

WINNER

Kambah Turns 50 – Kambah Turns 50 Organising Committee

A great example of a community led event, which included a diverse range of accessible activities to feature the wide range of interests in the suburb. A great demonstration of heritage strengthening and bringing community together.

Awarded to: *Kambah Turns 50 Organising Committee*

COMMENDED

Canberra Tracks Signage for Indigenous Cultural Trees – Ginninderra Catchment Group

The sign is the outcome of a long collaboration between Traditional Custodians, landholders and community groups, showing respect and acknowledgement for living Aboriginal culture. The efforts of local advocates to protect remnant vegetation and culturally modified trees, with their heritage dimensions, for future generations in the face of potential construction impacts is commendable.

Awarded to: *Ginninderra Catchment Group*

FIRST NATIONS HERITAGE

Projects that promote and advocate for the conservation, education, appreciation and a deeper understanding and celebration of First Nations heritage.

WINNER

Guamong and Boomerang – Materiality Exhibition – Paul Girrawah House

A collection of glass art representing traditional cultural knowledge expressed in a contemporary creative language. The artist's description of the cultural connections of these artworks have been incorporated into a long term educational resource and

a number of the pieces are in the CMAG permanent collection.

Awarded to: *Paul Girrawah House*

COMMENDED

Stromlo to the Stars and Djara – Canberra Museum and Art Gallery

An important exhibition respecting First Nation's perspectives while celebrating 100 years of scientific research at Mt Stromlo Observatory.

Awarded to: *Canberra Museum and Art Gallery*

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

Tale of Two Cities (Book) – Mark Butz

A thoroughly researched and accessible history of the heritage of Canberra and Queanbeyan, focussing on the stories of individuals and families that were (and still are in many cases) influential in the evolution of our capital and its closest neighbour. The stories celebrate our diverse cultures and provide a rich sense of place, identity and belonging.

Awarded to: *Mark Butz*

COMMENDED

Sonic Suburbia – Stories of Calthorpe's House – ACT Historic Places

A great enhancement to the experience of visiting Calthorpes House. The spoken stories personalise and bring a more profound understanding of the way of life reflected in this house museum.

Awarded to: *ACT Historic Places*

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

WINNER

The National Carillion Heritage Façade Restoration and Digital Innovation – Duratec Ltd

Developing innovative digital tools and techniques for use on this nationally significant building paves the way for these technologies to become more widely available for heritage preservation and adaptation projects generally.

Awarded to: *Duratec Ltd and the National Capital Authority*

COMMENDED

NCDC Unearthed: Architecture and Landscape – University of Canberra

A thoroughly researched and well-presented exhibition of one of the most significant periods in Canberra's growth. An important resource that should inform decision making about heritage management and planning for Canberra's future.

Awarded to: *University of Canberra and ACT Heritage Library*

JUDGING PANEL

John Baker – Chairperson of the judging panel and Deputy President of National Trust (ACT).

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 Henschman – 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.