

NATIONAL TRUST (ACT) HERITAGE AWARDS 2026

JUDGING PANEL REPORT

The judges were impressed by the number and quality of entries received this year. Debating which projects would take the winners' trophy was a very difficult decision in all categories. The judges particularly noted the diversity of projects nominated this year, showing the many and varied ways that communities in the ACT care for, participate in, and celebrate their shared multicultural heritage. All finalists are to be commended on their community spirit, creativity and contribution to the cultural life of the ACT and its environment.

BUILT HERITAGE - PUBLIC/COMMERCIAL

Projects that are sympathetic to the heritage significance of a place or complement and utilise existing built heritage, including adaptive reuse or new work in historic contexts.

WINNER

Sydney and Melbourne Buildings Façade Revitalisation Program

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: *City Renewal Authority, Philip Leeson Architects, Communication Link*

COMMENDED

National Film and Sound Archive Heritage Building Renewal Stage 2

The NFSA has undertaken exceptional conservation work for three distinct spaces in the building. The work is an exciting chapter for the building, and we look forward to their planned, future adaptive reuse and conservation works.

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

BUILT HERITAGE -RESIDENTIAL

WINNER

Barton Kitchen Garden Room

The Barton Kitchen Room project is a standout example of how we can balance the need to safeguard our built heritage whilst also increasing liveability and modernisation. The work sits so gently within the landscape, in deep reverence to the heritage dwelling whilst confidently presenting its own identity, it is a project worthy of celebration.

Awarded to: *Josh Mulford Architects*

COMMENDED

FTC Alterations

The FTC Alterations project is a bold extension, finely detailed and presenting a beautifully balanced new chapter for a built typology that is a much loved part of Canberra's identity.

Awarded to: *Typology Architecture*

FIRST NATIONS HERITAGE

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

WINNER

Visitor Facilities at Yankee Hat Aboriginal Rock Art Site

Whilst a seemingly prosaic construction, the judges celebrate this new intervention providing access to one of the most important heritage sites in the ACT. The walkway and platforms support and enhance the First Nations heritage and the lack of interference with, or damage to, the important site is to be commended, as is the consultative process and pre-construction work.

Awarded to: *Namadgi National Park, The Traditional Custodians of the Namadgi Ranges and associated peoples, Navin Officer Heritage Consultants, Art of Multimedia, Makin Trax Australia and Stone Three Architecture, Iconic Trails*

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Garema Place Public Realm Renewal – Ngunnawal Dhawura Artworks

This installation is a beautiful and practical addition to the site, with the potential to have hundreds of people interact with the Ngunnawal culture and traditional plantings.

Awarded to: *City Renewal Authority, ACT Government*

EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND TOURS

Projects that provide individuals with the opportunity to visit, learn, gain new perspectives on, or otherwise engage with, ACT's heritage. These may include events, performances, exhibitions, lectures, tours or experiential heritage tourism initiatives.

The judges awarded two winners in this category

WINNER

Bringing the Iconic Callam Offices to a New Community

Woden Town parkrun brings thousands of people into regular contact with the heritage-listed Callam Offices. Since launching in October 2025, the free, volunteer-led event has welcomed more than 5,000 participants and nearly 400 volunteers. Participants gather beside the building and run beneath it, while event briefings, photography and social media share its story. This contemporary community use has made the Callam Offices part of the event's identity and introduced a broad audience to a distinctive piece of Canberra's heritage.

Awarded to: *Woden Town parkrun*

WINNER

Taglietti A life in design

This substantive exhibition co-curated by an expert curatorial team for Canberra Museum and Art Gallery, celebrated the centenary of the visionary Italian-Australian architect Enrico Taglietti and his creative partnership with his wife Franca. Their contribution to the cultural life and design of Canberra is explored across seven themes which bridge their civic and the personal lives. It received high praise across national and industry publications, and reminded those that are concerned to conserve the legacy of this work of the centrality of their ethos of 'feelings over function' in this humanistic architectural work.

Awarded to: *Canberra Museum and Gallery, Dr Silvia Micheli, University of Queensland, Tanja Taglietti, Taglietti Studio and Archive, Virginia Rigney, Canberra Museum and Gallery.*

HERITAGE INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Projects that produce innovative, creative and/or research-based interpretations of the ACT's heritage in any media, including interpretive signs and displays, oral histories, new books, websites, guidebooks and digital media.

The judges awarded two winners and a Highly Commended in this category

WINNER

Mulligans Flat Geoheritage Trail: Where Geology and Culture Connect

This entry demonstrates the culmination of a great volume of research, writing and collaboration, undertaken by volunteers. The result will be a valuable resource for schools and the general public for many years to come.

Awarded to:

Woodland and Wetlands Trust: Megan Lech, Jason Cummings (CEO), Dean Maxworthy, Dylan DeLorenzo, Alex Humphreys

Geological Society of Australia: Megan Lech, Tiah Penny, Doug Finlayson, Des Strusz, Amber Jarret, Marita Bradshaw

Hall Heritage Centre: Ken Heffernan

Daagun: Tyson Powell

ACT Parks and Conservation Service: Leith Collard

2025 ANU design students: Rebecca Fauby, Safa Fahiz, Brianna Collette, Phoebe Spilsbury

WINNER

The Man Who Planted Canberra: Charles Weston and His Three Million Trees

Published by the National Library of Australia, this significant publication contributes to our knowledge of one of the most important contributors to the designed landscapes of Canberra, Charles Weston. His plantings came to define the beloved character of Canberra's urban landscapes. This research will contribute to the improved understanding and conservation of this legacy for future generations.

Awarded to: Robert Macklin with Dr John Gray

Nominated by National Library of Australia Publishing, this is a posthumous award.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Centenary Stories

This website is comprehensive, attractive, and an engaging instrument for lifelong learning. The focus on workers and personal stories is commendable, as is the willingness to evolve as more stories are collected and research undertaken.

Awarded to: *Hyatt Hotel Canberra – A Park Hyatt Hotel*

HERITAGE LANDSCAPES AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Projects to conserve the unique natural environment and cultural landscapes of the ACT. Eligible initiatives may include management plans, research, bushland management and regeneration, protection of waterways and forests, landscape design and conservation of significant landscapes and gardens.

WINNER

National Rose Garden Stormwater Upgrade

This large scale project is an engineering and heritage success story because it can't be seen! The work lies under the ground, involving an extensive, new hydraulic system for maintaining the National Rose Gardens. It shows care for the landscape in the Parliamentary Zone which is necessary for generations to come.

Awarded to: National Capital Authority, Woden Contractors Pty Ltd

HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND POLICY RESOURCES

Tools, plans, strategies, resources or other materials developed for specific projects or categories of heritage management. These could include Conservation and Heritage Management Plans, heritage reports and planning documents, new digital and technology-based resources and tools.

(No winner was awarded in this category)

LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Community-led projects that conserve, educate or promote local heritage. These could include community celebrations, local restorations, streetscape improvements, signage and publications.

WINNER

Dickson Shops 60th Anniversary Celebration

A wonderful example of inclusive cultural heritage, celebrating the life of this community through food, music, culture, history and hospitality. This event showed the important community impact that can be achieved on a limited budget but enriched by the input of generous community co-design, cooperation and participation.

Awarded to: *Dickson Residents Group*

JUDGING PANEL

Prof. Tracy Ireland – Chair of the judging panel and Vice President of National Trust (ACT).

Cathy Skippington – Chair of the ACT Heritage Council.

Roslyn Hull – National Trust (ACT) Council member.

Rachel Jackson – Heritage Principal and Company Director, GML.

Shannon Battison – Architect, Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects

13 October 2025