

Local Government Heritage Forum

DATE: Friday 31 May 2024

TIME: 10.00 am – 4.30 pm (Registration from 9.30 am)

LOCATION: Museum Theatre, Lower Level, Melbourne Museum, 11 Nicholson Street, Carlton

	Time	Topic	Speakers
AM	9:30 – 10:00	REGISTRATION	
	10:00 – 10:25	Welcome & Heritage Council update <i>Ruth Redden (Convener – Heritage Council)</i>	Prof Philip Goad (Chair, Heritage Council)
	10:25 – 10:40	Heritage Victoria – update	Geoff Austin (Heritage Victoria)
	10:40 – 11:00	The issue of heritage and flooding in Port Phillip	Dr Cael Leskovec (City of Port Phillip)
	11:00 – 11:30	MORNING TEA	
	11:30 – 12:35	Key partnerships with Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owners Partnering to Care for Country: Wadawurrung <i>Dja</i> (Country) Cultural Heritage Planners Network Stony Rises case study Strategic Aboriginal Heritage Assessments pilot and integration with the Planning System	Susan Ryan & Laura Murphy (Golden Plains Shire) Colleen Lazenby (City of Whittlesea) Harry Webber (First Peoples – State Relations)
PM	12.35 – 12.40	Protection for Dry Stone Walls – new Toolkit	Colleen Lazenby (City of Whittlesea)
	12.40 – 1.00	Planning Panels – hot heritage topics	Con Tsotsoros (Planning Panels Victoria)
	1:00 – 1:50	LUNCH	
	1:50 – 2:10	Heritage, People and Place: developing a new Heritage Strategy for a changing city	Klover Apostola & Dana Foenander (City of Melbourne)
	2:15 – 3:20	Panel – Heritage Studies: Strategies for dealing with legacy studies <i>Samantha Westbrooke (Facilitator)</i>	Annabel Neylon (City of Ballarat), Emma Bryant (Department of Transport and Planning), Kirsten Miller (Horsham Rural City) & Suellen Hunter (City of Stonnington)
	3:20 – 3:30	Closing Remarks	Ruth Redden
	3:30 – 4:30	AFTERNOON TEA & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY	

Bios & Presentation Synopsis

Prof Philip Goad **Heritage Council of Victoria**

Prof Philip Goad is the Chair of the Heritage Council of Victoria. He is a leader in the field of architectural history and a respected academic with significant experience in assessing and managing cultural heritage. He is internationally known for his research and is an authority on modern Australian architecture. He has also worked extensively as an architect, conservation consultant and curator. Philip is a Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor and Chair of Architecture at the University of Melbourne.

Ruth Redden – Convener **Heritage Council of Victoria**

Ruth is the Heritage Council's Alternate Architectural conservation/architectural history Member. She is a registered architect with over 10 years' experience in the conservation, management, repair and adaptive reuse of historic sites. She is a heritage advisor to multiple inner-city municipalities, where she advises on developments within local heritage overlay areas.

Geoff Austin **Manager Heritage Register, Heritage Victoria (Department of Transport and Planning)**

Geoff is a planner and has worked in historic heritage conservation since 1982. He joined the State Government in 1989 and was initially involved with the local government heritage program. Since 2015 he has managed the team that assesses places and objects for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register.

Synopsis: Heritage Victoria – update

News of recent work of Heritage Victoria including World Heritage proposals; the review of General Permit Exemptions; the operation of recent amendments to the Heritage Act 2017, and other initiatives.

Dr Cael Leskovec **Senior Heritage Planner, City of Port Phillip**

Dr Cael Leskovec is an urban planning historian and heritage planning practitioner currently working at the City of Port Phillip. He has previously worked at the Heritage Council of Victoria, where he authored the State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage report, and at RMIT University as a sessional academic.

Synopsis: The issue of heritage and flooding in Port Phillip

The City of Port Phillip has the distinction of being home to many heritage properties and prone to flooding due to its low-lying topography. The heightened flooding risk associated with climate change is increasingly challenging the City's ability to successfully manage the conflict between heritage conservation and flood mitigation. This presentation outlines in detail the issue currently facing Port Phillip and the guidance needed to manage it.

Bios & Presentation Synopsis cont.

Key partnerships with Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owners

Susan Ryan Strategic Planner, Golden Plains Shire

Susan is a Strategic Planner, at Golden Plains Shire and contributes not only to the growth of the Shire but growth with consideration to planning together for Country. Susan's desire to discover new knowledge around planning with Country was generated through her research at Deakin University and experiences within local government.

Laura Murphy Coordinator Strategic Planning, Golden Plains Shire

Laura is the Coordinator Strategic Planning at Golden Plains Shire. Laura has been with the Shire for 18 years, over which time she has contributed to much of the planning related to the growth of the Shire while building a dynamic team, who take pride in working towards creating thriving communities.

A. Synopsis: Partnering to Care for Country: Wadawurrung Dja (Country) Cultural Heritage Planners Network

The Wadawurrung *Dja* (Country) Cultural Heritage Planners Network provides an opportunity to consider how we recognise and value Indigenous knowledge, enabling planners by establishing relationships centred around listening, while gaining a greater understanding of shared values and respect for Country. The Network allows Wadawurrung to have one voice across all eleven Councils and state government counterparts, working together to make Country and Culture strong.¹

¹ Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC), 2020.

Colleen Lazenby Coordinator Heritage Strategy and Programs, City of Whittlesea

Colleen Lazenby is an archaeologist, geologist and heritage specialist who works as Heritage Coordinator at City of Whittlesea. She chairs the Heritage Special Interest Group for LG Pro, the Heritage Committee of Melbourne Royal, and is a member of the Local Government Special Advisory Committee, Heritage Council of Victoria.

B. Synopsis: Stony Rises Case Study

City of Whittlesea and Wurundjeri Elders jointly advocated to First Peoples State Relations for amendment of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018* to add the stony rises landform for high sensitivity values. Three years of work on the rationale and evidence base was presented in June 2022. Subsequently Wurundjeri received funding to map attributes across the whole of their Traditional lands, including the presence of stony rises and unnamed waterways, an important step to increased protection.

Harry Webber Director, Heritage Services, First Peoples – State Relations (Department of Premier and Cabinet)

Harry Webber is the Director of Heritage Services at First Peoples – State Relations, in the Department of Premier and Cabinet. This role includes leading what is widely regarded as the most advanced Aboriginal heritage management system in the country. Harry has over 30 years of experience in heritage management including practical experience at State, National and International heritage protection levels.

C. Synopsis: Strategic Aboriginal Heritage Assessments pilot and integration with the Planning System

Victoria has strong laws that mandate engagement of Traditional Owners, minimum standards of assessment, Traditional Owner decision making, and all prior to statutory approval. This is particularly important, as it is before plans have been finalised, and adjustments can still be made to avoid Aboriginal heritage. And yet, in many instances even this is proving too late.

There is one earlier time that heritage protection could be considered, and that is during strategic planning. And that brings us to the Strategic Aboriginal Heritage Assessments pilot program.

Bios & Presentation Synopsis cont.

Colleen Lazenby **Coordinator Heritage Strategy and Programs, City of Whittlesea**

Protection for Dry Stone Walls – New Toolkit

All historic dry stone walls built before 1940 are protected by Clause 52.33 in the state planning framework, and at some local governments by additional inclusion on the Heritage Overlay. City of Whittlesea received funding from the Victorian Planning Authority to develop resources for a Dry Stone Wall Toolkit. Elements of the Toolkit and a download location will be introduced in this presentation

Con Tsotsoros **Deputy Chief Panel Member, Planning Panels Victoria (Department of Transport and Planning)**

Con is the Deputy Chief Panel Member at Planning Panels Victoria (PPV) and has 30 years' experience in planning and development. He has chaired heritage matters in Melbourne and regional Victoria, and is the lead editor of the PPV Heritage Issues report. Con is a registered planner and Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia.

Synopsis: Planning Panels – hot heritage topics

Heritage issues raised in submissions to a planning scheme amendment keep evolving, though many are constant. Issues range from heritage assessment methodologies to how heritage should be managed in areas such as an activity centre where significant growth is anticipated. Responses to the same issue may vary because of different circumstances. This presentation outlines examples of 'hot' topics and how planning panels are responding to them.

Klover Apostola **Senior Strategic Planner – Heritage Strategy, City of Melbourne**

Klover is a Senior Strategic Planner at the City of Melbourne with over 20 years of experience in Victoria, NSW and the UK. After focusing on heritage reviews, Klover is passionate about understanding the connections between people and their stories to the heritage places that are being protected.

Dana Foenander **Heritage Planner – Heritage Strategy, City of Melbourne**

Dana is a heritage and strategic planner with experience in local government and private consulting. They believe that heritage is a part of all of us, and is an evolving practice that takes many forms. Dana is passionate about exploring new ways of connecting heritage and community.

Synopsis: Heritage, People and Place: developing a new Heritage Strategy for a changing city

The way we consider heritage needs to evolve in our changing city. The City of Melbourne is developing a new 'people-centred' Heritage Strategy that will consider how we can better understand, communicate and interpret the heritage that people value in contemporary Melbourne. The presentation will discuss some of the opportunities and challenges that have emerged in taking a people-centred approach, and why we believe this change is necessary.

Bios & Presentation Synopsis cont.

Panel Discussion: *Heritage studies – strategies for dealing with legacy studies*

Heritage studies are the foundation of the local heritage protection system. Over time, expectations of the type of information and level of detail required has grown. This has increased their cost and the time required to produce them. It has also added to the time and the level of expertise required of planners to translate the information into an amendment to the Planning Scheme.

One of the challenges is dealing with 'legacy' heritage studies – i.e. older heritage studies that no longer satisfy the level of detail required of current studies. How do we ensure that work undertaken on legacy heritage studies does not go to waste? Panel members will discuss their experiences translating legacy studies into current planning scheme requirements and taking them through the amendment process.

Samantha Westbrooke – Facilitator

Conservation architect/Heritage adviser

Samantha is a registered architect with over 25 years' experience in the heritage industry, including heritage advisory work and involvement in heritage studies. Samantha currently works at the National Trust as the Executive Manager of Conservation & Advocacy and is the heritage advisor for Corangamite and Colac Otway Shires. She is a current member of the Heritage Council's Local Government Specialist Committee.

Annabel Neylon

Coordinator Heritage, City of Ballarat

Annabel is a highly experienced heritage professional who has worked with local governments both as a consultant and employee for over 25 years. In her role as Coordinator Heritage, she is working with her team to undertake an ambitious program of strategic heritage work, including working with legacy studies and assessments dating back to 1979.

Emma Bryant

Manager – Grampians, Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)

Emma has a keen interest and 25 years' experience in heritage planning and implementing studies and strategies into planning schemes. In her current role at DTP her team advises councils on drafting heritage amendments. In her previous role at Bendigo Council she developed a program to update outdated heritage policy, guidelines and overlays across the municipality.

Kirsten Miller

Strategic Planner, Horsham Rural City

Kirsten Miller is a Strategic Planner for Horsham Rural City Council. With a passion for heritage protection within her hometown, Kirsten is the heritage lead for Horsham and has been involved in the implementation of the recent Heritage Study Review. This will see the protection of 31 individual places, 4 precincts and 1 serial listing across the municipality through a planning scheme amendment later this year.

Suellen Hunter

Coordinator Strategic Planning, City of Stonnington

Suellen Hunter leads a team dedicated to protecting and interpreting Stonnington's rich heritage. She has worked for several councils for over 22 years, in addition to stints at Lovell Chen and State Government. Her legacy project is the Hoddle Grid Heritage Review, which recognised the Aboriginal significance of central Melbourne and protected 125 heritage places and five heritage precincts.

Thank you for attending the Heritage Council's 2024 Local Government Heritage Forum.