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Conservation Achievements Hailed

The refurbishment of Perth Town Hall and conservation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and Priest House in Mullewa have been awarded with a Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) win.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and Priest House in Mullewa.

The Heritage Council Conservation Award was presented at the RAIA Architectural Awards gala ceremony on 6 June 2003.

The restoration of a 1930s middle class Nedlands bungalow 'Clifton' also received a commendation.

Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards said the projects were recognised as best practice in heritage conservation.

"Congratulations to Cox Howlett and Bailey Woodland Architects in association with Hocking Planning and Architecture for their outstanding achievement in the first stage refurbishment works to the Perth Town Hall," Dr Edwards said.

"The project is a clear success. Not only has it improved access and usability for the wider community, the extensive interpretation of the building's original fabric and history has enhanced its status as a heritage icon.

"The architects and the City of Perth are to be commended for pursuing a conservation solution and for their commitment to faithfully restoring the building.

"John Taylor Architects are also to be congratulated for their conservation work to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and Priest House in the MidWest town of Mullewa, also a winner of the Heritage Council Conservation Award.

"The painstaking conservation of one of Monsignor John Hawes finest examples of ecclesiastical architecture has revealed a tremendous result.

"The conservation works to the Church will ensure it is retained, and that the local community and visitors continue to appreciate the cultural heritage significance of the building.

"The owners of the Clifton residence and architects Ian Dewar and Associates are also to be applauded. The project illustrates how heritage principles do not have to be compromised to adapt an older house for affordable, contemporary living."

Chair of the Heritage Council Conservation Award Judging Panel Bruce Callow said the Perth Town Hall demonstrated the potential for redevelopment of heritage buildings.

"Perth Town Hall succeeds in creating the necessary heritage balance between intervention and conservation of one of Perth's most public and 'iconic' buildings.

"The heritage architects have transformed the Town Hall building at street level into one that city users can enjoy while also appreciating the building's original open form."

Mr Callow said the conservation work to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and Priest House in Mullewa was a subtle but remarkable result.

"The project was recognised for its diligent adherence to the conservation plan and for the degree of technical skill and perseverance exhibited by the community and the restoration team over five to six stages on low budgets.

"The conservation works have restored the former beauty and greatly prolonged the life of this very significant building."

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PERTH TOWN HALL (WINNER)



Perth Town Hall

The first stage of refurbishment works to the Perth Town Hall began the process of rediscovery of the original hall and undercroft area, which have enhanced the hall as an important and valued icon within the City of Perth.

The removal of the 1960s colonnades and retail enclosures on the ground floor, including the old R & I Bank, revealed the former open market place under the building.

The first stage of works focused on this ground level, addressing accessibility and useability issues. Access is now provided through a well defined entry foyer that is visible from both Barrack and Hay Streets, with a new lift and toilets, located on the first floor.

Conservation works included the reconstruction of both the south façade and part reconstruction of the east façade, with the re-establishment of the brick arches on the ground level north and west façades.



The ground floor lobby of the Perth Town Hall has been restored. Photo courtesy of Cox Howlett and Bailey Woodland Architects.

Mr Bret White of Cox Howlett and Bailey Woodland Architects said the aim of the first stage of works was to reinstate and conserve the building to provide access and greater usability, all in accordance with the Burra Charter.

"Restored fabric was carefully detailed and researched to maintain integrity of the material

and workmanship. For example, new bricks were hand selected from quarries with clay of similar composition to the original brick," Mr White said.

"New spaces and facilities are expressed in a contemporary manner, and detailed in contrast to the existing fabric. Hence, the 'story' of the building is inherent in the layers of its fabric and detail."

Extensive interpretation elements adorn the building providing visitors with knowledge of the building and its history.

"Time line panels were set into the granite paving, a glass viewing panel reveals obscure footing details discovered during archaeological research, ceiling viewing panels expose the original building fabric and un-refurbished brickwork has been retained."

OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL CHURCH AND THE PRIEST HOUSE (WINNER)

The character of one of the State's most significant churches, Our Lady of Mt Carmel and the Priest House, has been restored as part of reconstruction work to conserve significant fabric of the building.

Following the principles of the Burra Charter, Architect John Taylor directed the conservation works, which involved the replacement of floors, removal of damaging internal and external render followed by the restoration of the brick arches and stonework.

On a low budget, John Taylor directed the works over a seven-year period involving the successful implementation of thoroughly researched and practical conservation measures.

Mr Taylor said the project was important in enabling users and visitors to the church to appreciate the great atmosphere that priest and architect John Hawes had originally given the place.

"The project assisted to rediscover the timeless atmosphere of the church, so conducive to prayer and contemplation," Mr Taylor said.

"Monsignor Hawes advocated that a church, regardless of size, should be of monumental character and that the design should be reminiscent of the past and also inclusive of the present. The appearance of the stonework at the Mullewa church is a major part of the character of the place."

Over time the mortar to joints of the masonry deteriorated, and the placement of a cement rich dado and complete internal rendering in the 1960s not only changed the appearance of the building, but also caused further deterioration.

"The return of the rustic character of the masonry by removal of the grey cement render covering the masonry walls has re-achieved the original design intent," he said.



The Priest House



The interior of the church showing conserved stonework. Photos courtesy of John Taylor Architects.

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Local Government Provisions in Heritage Bill Progressed

More than three quarters of the local governments that commented on the Minister's Heritage Working Party Discussion Paper supported the recommendations made by the Working Party, relating to the review of existing arrangements for local heritage protection.

The *Discussion Paper* was distributed to all local governments for comment by the WA Local Government Association. The recommendations will be adopted in the preparation of the first draft of the Heritage Bill 2003, with a consultation draft of the bill expected to be released in the near future.

The Heritage Working Party's recommendations regarding the bill included:

1. The bill should provide for a system of common standards for municipal inventories as previously proposed in the *Heritage Bill 2000*, with limited changes including a name change from "Local Government Heritage Inventory" to "Local Heritage Survey".
2. Greater commonality of standards of heritage protection in local planning schemes should be achieved through improved planning practice and planning guidance (not through the Heritage Bill itself), with the assistance of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the WA Planning Commission (WAPC). This would include establishment of a State Planning Policy for heritage conservation by the WAPC.

Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards said the overall response to the Heritage Working Party's recommendations was positive.

"The input of local governments has been extremely valuable and will continue to play an important role in directing the development of new heritage legislation," Dr Edwards said.

"The Working Party will follow up with more work concerning the details of 'common standards' for local surveys/inventories; the heritage provisions in the Model Scheme Text; precinct management issues; incentives and related matters."

Dr Edwards said the recommendations were intended to lead to greater consistency of heritage related decisions across local government.

"Last year's review of the Subiaco Municipal Inventory, and the decision of the Town Planning Appeal Tribunal in the *Moullin, Town of Cottesloe* case highlighted the need for changes to the way local heritage protection is handled," she said.

"Local Government has a pivotal role to play in heritage conservation management in Western Australia as the majority of WA's cultural heritage places are areas of local significance.

"Local Governments are best placed to identify and protect places of local heritage significance on the basis of local knowledge, local community consultation and an established town planning infrastructure."

The Minister appointed the Heritage Working Party in August 2002. It comprised representatives of the Office of Minister for the Environment and Heritage, WA Local Government Association, Real Estate Institute of WA, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Heritage Council of WA and various metropolitan and regional Local Governments.

National Archaeology Week Launched



*Volunteers at the demonstration archaeological dig at John Curtin House.
Photo courtesy Gaye Nayton.*

The inaugural National Archaeology Week was held on 11 to 18 May 2003, involving a nationwide program of events.

Western Australia embraced the week with many activities being held throughout the State, including public lectures, seminars, exhibits and displays, as well as a demonstration archaeological dig held at John Curtin House in Cottesloe.

Joint coordinators of National Archaeology Week, Jo-Anne Thompson and Gaye Nayton said the week was a resounding success.

"The activities held were valuable in demonstrating the work of Australian archaeologists both at home and abroad and in raising awareness of Australian archaeology," Ms Nayton said.

National Archaeology Week aims to promote the importance of protecting Australia's unique archaeological heritage.

Charm Restored for Grand Court



Supreme Court building... the masonry columns have been gently cleaned for conservation purposes.

It has seen the trials of some of the State's most notorious criminals, the sentencing of the last man hanged in WA and the setting of legal precedents in some of the most important cases in Western Australia's legal history over the past 100 years.

The Supreme Court building has been given a new lease of life in celebration of the centenary of the official opening of the Supreme Court in June this year.

Conservation works to the building's exterior, Courtroom Two, Judicial Chambers and the foyer and entrance hall have been undertaken to restore the original character of the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice David Malcolm said the Supreme Court was a physical and symbolic representation of law and order in the State.

"The significance of the Supreme Court - and its appearance and conservation - cannot be overstated. I have been delighted to watch the current refurbishments taking place throughout this magnificent building," he said.

"This vital restoration and renovation work is a small step toward maintaining this building as the site of justice for Western Australians for many, many years to come.

"It is appropriate that this conservation work has been completed at a time when we are celebrating such an historic milestone for the building, its Centenary."

Mr Christopher Paterson of Palassis Architects said the aim of the conservation works was to conserve and interpret the original fabric of the building, while achieving a more consistent approach to the fitout of the place.

"Conservation works to the building's exterior involved cleaning the masonry walls and columns with a low-pressure water wash, taking care not to damage the render and sandstone surfaces," Mr Paterson said.

"The approach has been to do less rather than more to protect the fabric, so only potentially harmful deposits of soot and other pollutants have been removed, and no abrasive cleaning techniques were used.

"The windows and doors have been repainted using both documentary and physical evidence to assist in colour selection. Interestingly the colour scheme of cream windows and burgundy doors turned out to be similar to the nearby Government House."

Courtroom Two and the Judicial Chambers have been fully refurbished, revealing three original windows in the courtroom that were previously boarded up.

"The architraves to the windows had been removed when they were boarded, so new architraves have been copied from the remaining to complete the windows," said Mr Paterson.



Works in progress in Courtroom Two.

While the timberwork has been polished, markings will be retained to highlight the building's age and history.

"Preparation works have been undertaken gently to avoid damage to the fabric; the one hundred years of continuous use have left clues and markings that help to subtly interpret the place."

An important part of the project was in undertaking research to determine the original fabrics used in the fitout of the building when it was first built.

"Over time, minor changes to the building's fitout have resulted in a mix of finishes," he said.

"Through investigating early newspaper reports which described the use of 'court carpet' in the building, we were able to refurbish Courtroom Two with carpet of similar characteristic and quality to the original.

"The term 'court carpet', has little to do with the legal process of the courts, but refers to much earlier usage as floor coverings in the Persian Courts.

"The new carpet also provided the additional benefit of being highly absorptive of some frequencies of sound."

Supreme Court Executive Officer Gavan Jones said conservation works began in 2002 with painting of the walls and various features in the Supreme Court foyer undertaken by the Buchan Group Architects.



The foyer area has been refurbished and painted.

"The foyer painting enhances the court's decorative features and also serves the court's functional requirements due to the high volume of people using the area," Mr Jones said.

"The colours in the existing stained glass windows in the roof of the foyer were used as a reference point in the painting and a decorative paint finish to resemble marble was applied to the walls up to the dado level."

The foyer now also displays an original Supreme Court clock, which was located in the Francis Burt Law Museum in Fremantle.

While the staircases in the foyer were recarpeted for practical purposes, the edges of the timber steps have now been revealed. The entrance hall was also recarpeted.

"The conservation works have made a significant difference to the appearance of the building, while still retaining its aged look," Mr Jones said.

The Supreme Court was officially opened on 8 June 1903 by Governor Sir Frederick Bedford, in an elaborate ceremony held in the entrance hall and main foyer of the building.

Its construction was one of State's most ambitious projects and was a major technical design achievement, due to its difficult location on the banks of the Swan River.

Welcome to the Register

26 places were added to the State Register of Heritage Places on an interim basis between March and June 2003. Another 16 places were added to the State Register on a permanent basis. Interim registrations included:

PLACE NAME	CONSOLIDATED ADDRESS
Armadale District Hall	Cnr Jull Street and Church Avenue, Armadale
Bassendean Oval	Guildford Road, Bassendean
Beverley Town Hall	138 Vincent Street, Beverley
Chinatown Conservation Area	Frederick/Chapple/Short Streets, Broome
Cole's Shaft (fmr)	Summit View, Armadale
Cottesloe Beach Pylon	offshore at Cottesloe Beach in line with John Street, Cottesloe
Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr)	482 Robinson Street, Cue
Cue Pensioners Cottages	Austin Street, Cue
Eucla Telegraph Station	Eucla
Gloucester Park	40 Nelson Crescent, East Perth
Godfrey House	Cnr Thomas Street and Roberts Road, Subiaco
Guildford Fire Station & Quarters	2 Meadow Street, Guildford
Kulahea	4 Forrest Street, Cottesloe
Lewis House	8 Barsden Street, Cottesloe
Mahogany Inn	4260 Great Eastern Highway, Mahogany Creek
Narra Tarra Homestead, Outbuildings & Cemetery	Former East Chapman Road, Howatharra
Nedlands Park Masonic Hall	6-8 Broadway, Crawley
Niagara Dam	Kookynie Road, 12 km SE of Kookynie
Norseman Post Office	82 Princep Street, Cnr Ramsay Street, Norseman
Pine Court	96-98 Broome Street, Cottesloe
Railway Water Tank, Corrigin	Corrigin railway reserve, along side Connelly Parade, Corrigin
Russ Cottage	St Dominics Rd and Parker Street, Port Denison
Slater Homestead	Goomalling-Dowerin Road, Goomalling
Station Master's House, Leonora	Railway Reserve, Kurrajong Street, Leonora
The Tannery (fmr)	22 Russell Street, Fremantle
Wallcliffe Homestead	Wallcliffe Road, Prevelly

Star Attraction for WA Dish



OTC Satellite

An historic satellite dish sitting in a paddock in Parkes, New South Wales became a national icon following the release of the movie 'The Dish'. It is hoped a similar claim to fame will be achieved for another historic dish - the OTC Satellite Earth Station in Carnarvon, Western Australia.

The Earth Station was not only involved with NASA space missions such as the 1969 moon landing, but also

made possible the very first direct television broadcast between Australia and another country.

With such a prestigious history, plans are underway to raise the profile of the Carnarvon dish and Earth Station. Building on a recently completed conservation plan funded by the Heritage Council of WA's grants program, a Tourist Concept Plan is being proposed to identify restoration and tourism opportunities similar to those undertaken in Parkes.

The joint Shire of Carnarvon and local historical groups initiative will restore and extend the facilities currently available to tourists, and will provide visitors with an opportunity to learn more about the role once played by the Earth Station.

Shire of Carnarvon Chief Executive Officer Clinton Strugnell said the Tourist Concept Plan would be funded through a \$14,000 Gascoyne Development Commission grant and Council funds.

"While the conservation plan identified the restoration works most critical to maintaining the heritage value of the dish and surrounding buildings, the concept plan will identify how we can sustainably restore and manage the site for tourist use," he said.

"Once the concept plan has been completed, we will be able to move forward and develop the site to attract passing tourists.

The Shire was recently successful in attracting Lotterywest funding to undergo restoration works.

Mr Strugnell said in addition to the 29.6 metre parabolic dish, the Earth Station site comprised a number of buildings including a smaller dish known as a Casshorn antenna, an administration building and office building, a workshop and power station and a recreational building with a swimming pool and tennis court.

"Many of these facilities require restoration, but future uses such as a museum and interpretive centre will contribute significantly to an enhanced tourist attraction," he said.

"The Earth Station site had also comprised 25 staff houses, although these have since been sold to private owners.

Situated at the top of Brown's Range and looking out onto the enormous satellite dish, the houses form an attractive community and offer an alternative neighborhood for Carnarvon residents."

It is no wonder then that the Earth Station's main dish has already been adopted by the Carnarvon Tourist Bureau as a tourism icon.

"The dish is unique in that it was one of only eight in the world capable of tracking satellites and collecting their signals while in orbit over the Indian and Pacific Oceans. This function was known as Tracking, Telemetry, Command and Monitoring (TTC&M)," he said.

"The Earth Station was also the first to be built in Australia by the Overseas Telecommunications Commission, and played a significant role in an agreement by 14 countries, including Australia, to create an international telecommunications satellite consortium (INTELSAT) and establish a global communications system."

Mr Strugnell said the Earth Station provided a significant opportunity to broaden the variety of tourism attractions in Carnarvon, and keep visitors in the community a little longer when travelling through.

"We also hope the history of the site and its previous uses will provide some educational value to visitors. For example, its involvement in NASA space programs such as the Mercury and Apollo missions

and the launch of Skylab is an achievement that many Australians would not know about," he said.

While the Earth Station was closed in 1987, the site continues to be used by the Birmingham University, which leases an astronomical observatory constructed in 1989.

"The observatory operates 24 hours a day and is building a historic database of the earth's distance from the sun. The University has indicated it would like to be involved in the Tourist Concept Plan, which is expected to contribute significantly to the information that will be available to tourists visiting the site."

Mr Strugnell said the Tourist Concept Plan would also be based on consultations with many of the staff that had been employed at the Earth Station between the 1960s and 1980s.

"We are fortunate in that many of the people who worked or lived in the community when the facility was operating are still here, and it is important that we take advantage of the knowledge of these people when developing options for the site's future."



Buildings comprising the OTC Satellite Earth Station.

Restoration gives Victoria Hall new lease of life



The restoration of the façade has revealed the building's detail.

The Heritage Council's Heritage Grants Program funding has helped to restore the façade of the historic Victoria Hall in Fremantle, which was unveiled recently.

The conservation works have revealed the building as it would have looked when it was built in 1896.

The façade of Victoria Hall was originally a bare cement render, but painting of the façade in relatively recent times had obscured much of the fine detail.

The original cement render was revealed following paint tests which involved scraping individual layers of paints in a number of locations on the façade.

Structural pinning of the front façade was also required to repair structural damage and replacement of mouldings and detailing was undertaken to correct badly damaged or missing components.

Rising damp has also been rectified with the installation of new drainage, and the limestone and brickwork on the exterior wall of the hall has been repointed. Repairs and repainting of exterior windows was also undertaken.

The conservation work was carried out in accordance with Australia ICOMOS' The Burra Charter, an internationally recognised guiding document for heritage conservation.

Fremantle Mayor Peter Tagliaferri said restoration of the façade completed the first stage of conservation works to Victoria Hall.

"Victoria Hall is important architecturally, socially and culturally to the people of Western Australia and is a much loved landmark for the Fremantle community," Mr Tagliaferri said.

"Victoria Hall has a fascinating history and in the past has been used for Saturday night dances, the Happy Hour Club and an assembly hall," Mr Tagliaferri said.

"At one stage it housed the communist party and is currently being used as a theatre."

new lease of life

The building is highly valued by the local community, demonstrated by efforts to prevent the demolition of the place twice in the 1970s and public opposition to inappropriate redevelopment in 2000.

Mr Tagliaferri said one of the aims of the project was to demonstrate the City's commitment to the heritage of Fremantle and showcase the benefits of proper conservation processes.

"We hope that its results would be appreciated and encourage others to follow which in turn should improve appreciation of Fremantle's heritage."

The City of Fremantle purchased the building in 2001 for \$627,500 and committed to restoring it to its former glory, after it had fallen into disrepair.

The City was successful in obtaining a Heritage Council Heritage Grants Program grant of \$75,000 in 2002, which was the largest grant allocated that year, and the fourth largest grant ever to be allocated under the program.

Conservation works were also facilitated by a Lotterywest grant of close to \$42,000.

The Heritage Council also allocated \$5,000 towards the development of a conservation plan for the place, which was used to identify urgent conservation works.



Victoria Hall prior to conservation works.

The City of Fremantle plans to continue conservation works until the entire building is fully restored; the project is expected to take between five and ten years.

Heritage Council Director Mr Ian Baxter congratulated the City of Fremantle on their initiative and commitment to faithfully restoring the hall.

"Victoria Hall was constructed as the parish hall for St John's Church built in 1882, and is a visually dominant element of High Street, being one of the only remaining turn of the century buildings in that part of High Street," Mr Baxter said.

"Built in Victorian Academic Classical style, the design of the Hall is indicative of the prominence of the church at the time."

Originally intended to be named St John's Hall, the opening coincided with the diamond jubilee of the ruling monarch and it is presumed that the name we now know was in honour of the Queen's jubilee.

"It has continued to play a prominent role in the social life of many Fremantle residents for most of its history."

Photos courtesy City of Fremantle.

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Conservation Achievements Hailed (continued)

RAIA ARCHITECTURE AWARDS

CLIFTON RESIDENCE (COMMENDATION)



The restoration of a 1930s middle class suburban bungalow in Nedlands has demonstrated the potential to faithfully restore a heritage residence while providing an affordable solution for contemporary living.

A new kitchen has been created at the rear of the house. Photo Courtesy Ian Dewar Architects.

Architect Ian Dewar said while the house was not heritage listed, the owners recognised the value of the historic property.

“Although not greatly attractive by modern standards, the house was much loved by the owners who chose to restore it faithfully and to extend the place in its original style, albeit with modern appliances and fitments,” said Mr Dewar.

“Realistic limits were set on renovation aspects of the project. While essential repairs were carried out and previous alterations corrected, many faults in the building were left as legitimate expressions of its age.”

With only two bedrooms and a study required, the original front lounge and dining room were retained for the present, but can be made into bedrooms.

New family living areas, as well as kitchen and laundry areas, were created at the rear of the house with the potential for additional bedrooms as required.

“The old kitchen in the centre of the house has been made into a new study/bedroom, but with many of the old fitments retained to tell the story,” he said.

“The old building has had its self esteem restored. It is true to itself yet serves a young family well.”

METHODIST LADIES COLLEGE CENTENARY BUILDING CUPOLA

The iconic focus of the Centenary Building - the original school on the Methodist Ladies College Campus in Claremont - has been conserved and restored.

The project involved the removal, dismantling, reconstruction and replacement of this important roof element, removed from the building during major reconstruction and repair work to the roof of the building in 1995.

Due to its poor condition, and the cost and complexity involved in the project, it was not replaced until early this year.



Reinstalled Cupola on the Methodist Ladies College Centenary Building.

Photo courtesy Murray Slavin Architects.

Architect Murray Slavin said the works conserved and retained as much of the original structure as possible.

“In keeping with conservation and life-cycle principles embedded in the College masterplan, copper and stainless steel were chosen as the primary building materials,” Mr Slavin said.

“The original painted galvanized ‘tiles’ were replaced with copper to make the structure maintenance free, while still matching the pattern of the original tiles.

“The degraded timber base on which the cupola sits has been replaced with a more durable stainless steel platform. The original jarrah frame was fixed to the new base in such a way that it was slightly elevated to prevent any contact with water.

“The project was successful in reinforcing the heritage significance of the Centenary Building as the cultural and emblematic centre of focus for the College. The project clearly signals the College’s commitment to its heritage.”

MEERILINGA HOUSE

Conservation works have helped to retain one of the State’s most important examples of Federation Queen Anne architecture, Meerilinga House, in Hay St West Perth.

Conservation of the significant external fabric of the building was undertaken as well as restoration and repairs to the building’s interior in accordance with the Burra Charter.

Mr Duncan Jordan of Cameron Chisholm and Nicol Architects said the project focused on urgent works required to maintain the building in a stable condition.

“The building was in an unsafe condition due to deterioration and inappropriate repairs made over time,” Mr Jordan said.

“Urgent works included replacing wall ties in all the external walls, replacing the slate roof, dismantling the first floor verandah, replacing the majority of beams, posts and floor joists and most of the plaster and lathe ceilings.

“In working closely with the Heritage Council during the course of construction, we ensured the character and fine aesthetic qualities of the place were retained.

“Detailed archival research of original details and materials including use of photographic records were used to accurately restore the place.”



Exterior of Meerilinga House, a Federation Queen Anne style building. Photo courtesy Cameron Chisholm Architects.

PEPPERMINT GROVE RESIDENCE

An historic Peppermint Grove residence, once the subject of a fierce debate for demolition by a previous owner, has been renovated to provide a modern standard of living while keeping the original façade and character of the place.

Architect Craig Steere said the success of the project was the result of careful consideration of the living requirements of the owners and the heritage significance of the place.

“Our clients were passionate about retaining the old neglected dwelling, and to have alterations and additions carried out to accommodate their living requirements while enhancing the original character of the building and gardens,” Mr Steere said.

“The existing dwelling had received many makeovers, additions and alterations over the years resulting in a conglomeration of small spaces creating a “rabbit warren” effect with inconsistency between architectural detailing.”

A second storey structure was added to accommodate the bedroom zones, whilst the ground floor structure was retained, but significantly modified internally.

“In order not to disturb the structural integrity of the existing fabric, the second storey addition was engineered to be independently supported,” he said.

“Existing ground level sill height windows were maintained, however cut down to floor level to form French doors leading out to the northern verandah.

The existing dwelling had received many makeovers, additions and alterations over the years resulting in a conglomeration of small spaces...

This captures critical natural light and vistas to the new architecturally designed formal gardens and swimming pool that add form, function and privacy.

“The now stately house has a new injection of life, with the benefit of today’s modern conveniences whilst maintaining the character of yesteryear.”

Peppermint Grove residence before and after renovations.



Photos courtesy Craig Steere Architects.

PERTH OVAL GATES

One of Perth’s iconic structures, the Perth Oval Gates, has been restored and conserved as part of a project to stabilise the 1932 gates.

The Perth Oval Gates comprise a ticket office and change booths linked by rendered and tuck-pointed brick walls, as well as the turnstile and vehicle gates.

Mr Philip Griffiths of Considine and Griffiths Architects said the project was important to ensure the long term conservation of the historic gates.

“The conservation work has enabled an important part of the State’s heritage to be retained and returned to use,” Mr Griffiths said.

“The work has achieved a useful gatehouse and was a more economic option than construction of a replacement gate.”

Prior to conservation works, the gates had deteriorated and were in an unsafe state. Some of the original finishes were covered with paint and the richness of the original design obscured by the simplification of decorative treatments.

Urgent conservation works included the stabilisation of the shifting and cracking brickwork walls, repairs to the damaged and deteriorated tile roofing, removal of inappropriate paint finishes and new paving to both sides of the gates.

General maintenance works were carried out as well as the conservation of corroding gates, turnstiles, and ceilings throughout. One of the existing turnstiles that had been removed was located at the council’s depot, repaired and re-fitted.

Mr Griffiths said the project reinstated the gates in their original form.

“Structural repairs to the brickwork involved the reconstruction of piers and the support of wall planes so that the original brickwork could be retained, in some cases safely retaining its original lean to do so,” he said.

“The paint over the external render and brickwork was removed and the original paint colours were determined by conducting paint scrapes throughout.

“Imperfections in the gates were also retained as a record of the structure’s history and only non viable materials were replaced.”



The iconic Perth Oval Gates have been conserved and restored. Photos courtesy Considine and Griffiths Architects.

Development Update - Nurses Memorial Centre

The Nurses Memorial Centre on Kings Park Road in West Perth will be retained and conserved as part of a development proposal to build 70 residential units adjacent to and behind the heritage buildings.

The Nurses Memorial Centre comprises two single storey buildings, a former residence and ballroom, which are set to become a restaurant and function centre.



Exterior of the Nurses Memorial Centre residence, in its current form.

...the conservation and adaptive re-use of the Nurses Memorial Centre would enable the buildings to be enjoyed by the community, while ensuring their long term maintenance.

"The Nurses Memorial Centre has significant architectural and social value and contributes to the cultural heritage of Western Australia," Mr Carrick said.

"The ballroom is an exquisite building with elaborate, ornamental detailing on the interior, including decorative plaster friezes and columns, a fireplace with a carved mantle piece, a vaulted ceiling decorated with fine mouldings and original lead light windows."

Extensive conservation works to the external brick work, verandahs, chimney, doors and windows will be undertaken as

The rear section of the former residence (of little heritage significance) and a 1967 hall built behind the ballroom have been demolished, while the ballroom will be retained in its entirety.

Heritage Council Manager, Conservation and Assessment Mr Stephen Carrick said the conservation and adaptive re-use of the Nurses Memorial Centre would enable the buildings to be enjoyed by the community, while ensuring their long term maintenance.

well as conservation of the original tiling and cleaning of the slate roof.

Intrusive additions and alterations will also be rectified, including the removal of the verandah enclosure to the former residence.

Michael Croudace of Parry and Rosenthal Architects said a good outcome would be achieved for the heritage buildings and the residential apartments through working with the Heritage Council.

"The Nurses Memorial Centre buildings will be restored in accordance with the conservation plan; essentially it will bring the buildings back to their original form, if not better," Mr Croudace said.

Interpretation facilities will provide information on the significance of the building and a history of its ownership, stages of its development and the people with whom the place is associated.

This includes several interpretative plaques to be installed in the former residence and ballroom buildings and in the new paving under the covered link between the buildings.

"A complete photographic record has also been developed of the buildings as they are now."

A Heritage Agreement is being negotiated between the Heritage Council and the owner to ensure the long term conservation of the place.



One of the stained glass windows in the Nurses Memorial Centre ballroom.

As part of the Heritage Agreement, the owner is required to carry out the conservation works by specific construction completion dates, and in return may be eligible for certain incentives such as rate remissions, land tax reductions, grants, planning concessions and plot ratio transfer.

The residence was built in Federation Queen Anne style in 1899, followed by the ballroom in 1910, for William Henry Vincent, a well-known Perth building contractor.

It is an example of the scale and style of residences built for more affluent citizens in West Perth at the turn-of-the century.

The buildings were sold to the Royal Australian Nursing Federation in 1960 at a time when many of the original houses were demolished for multi storey commercial offices.

Cue's heritage treasures revealed

The historic outback town of Cue is being recognised as one of Western Australia's most valuable heritage icons.

Almost \$100,000 in Heritage Council Heritage Grant Program funding has helped to conserve five heritage buildings, with another two places in Cue recently added to the State Register of Heritage Places.



The Shire Offices is one of the few two storey buildings in Cue.

Heritage is what distinguishes Cue from other towns and gives Cue its uniqueness.

Urgent conservation works have been completed to the Shire Offices, Cue Railway Station, Old Gaol, Public Buildings, Old Council Offices, Rotunda and the former Masonic Lodge to ensure the long term conservation of Cue's cultural heritage.

The Cue Pensioners' Cottages and Cue Municipal Chambers (fmr) were both interim heritage listed in May.

Shire of Cue Chief Executive Officer Mr Stan Scott said the Heritage Council Heritage Grant's Program funding was critical in helping the Shire to manage and recognise its many heritage assets.

"Heritage is what distinguishes Cue from other towns and gives Cue its uniqueness, so it is vital that our heritage is retained," Mr Scott said.

"Over the years, many of the heritage buildings in Cue had fallen into disuse and the characteristic stone work has become severely eroded in a number of buildings."

Over the past three years, the Shire of Cue has embarked on a campaign to lift the heritage character of the town and find uses for its heritage buildings.

"In our experience, heritage buildings will be maintained if they continue to be used."

At the Old Gaol repairs were made to the wall caps, stucco sills and brackets and timber brackets and cement rendering was removed.

The Old Gaol served as a gaol and lock up from its construction in 1896/97 until 1935, after which it was mostly unused. Following conservation works, the place has been opened to the public and is promoted as a tourist attraction.

Significant stonework repairs were carried out at the Shire Offices. Improvements to ground drainage and waste pipes were made and the timber posts were strengthened and repainted.

Works were completed on the restoration of the rotunda, together with conservation measures on the old council offices that currently function as the tourist bureau.

Five semi-detached Public Buildings, comprising the Police Station, Police Station House, Magistrate's Court, Post Office and Post Office House, also underwent stonework repairs.

Conservation works to the Cue Railway Station improved the ground drainage and ventilation. The existing cement render plinth was removed and the wall was repaired with a lime based render. Eroded stone above the plinth level was also replaced and all stonework re-pointed.

Cue's Masonic Lodge underwent structural repairs and restoration of the external fabric of the building. The building has been re-stumped and work is about to commence on the conservation of the superstructure.

The privately owned Masonic Lodge is an imposing landmark in Cue due to its use of iron, and is believed to be the largest building of its type in the Southern Hemisphere.

"Cue is a very historical place, and was once the administration centre of the Murchison-Goldfields. At that time, the population of Cue was larger than that of the Perth metropolitan area," Mr Scott said.

"Cue's heritage gives the town a real sense of place and character. The original main street still has its wide road and wide verandahs, much how Kalgoorlie used to feel prior to its development.



Cue Old Gaol.

"The current Shire Offices were formerly a gentleman's club of which Herbert Hoover was once the President, before he went on to become an American President.

"The Old Gaol is associated with some notorious criminals, including multiple murderer Snowy Rowles.

"We encourage visitors and tourists to Cue to see the various heritage sites. The Shire Offices also house a historical photograph collection of 500 photographs dating back to the founding of Cue.

"We also hold the annual QFest outback festival with market stall days. During the festival the main street of Cue is reminiscent of the bustle of people that would have existed 90 years ago."

Photos courtesy of Considine and Griffiths Architects.

Heritage Profile – Serpentine Historical Society

Since its founding seven years ago, the Serpentine Historical Society has aimed to raise the profile of heritage in Serpentine, in Western Australia's Peel region, south of Perth.

Society President Ms Wilma Mann said the Serpentine region has made a significant contribution to the State's cultural heritage.

"Serpentine's heritage is characterised by its long history. Serpentine is one of the very early Swan River settlements and dates back to the early 1850s," said Ms Mann.

"The old settlement represents a close-knit farming community typical of English village life. The original British settlers built their houses on the banks of the Serpentine River close to the sand track, originally made by the local Indigenous community, that runs along the foot of the Darling Range."

"It's vital that we realise that heritage is something to be passed on."

As a result of the improvement in transport brought about by the opening of the government railway in 1893, a new community was formed one and a half kilometres west of the original settlement. The new townsite developed rapidly some fifty years later as a result of Whittaker's Mill moving from North Dandalup to Serpentine.

"One of the Society's aims is to promote the original Serpentine settlement as a historic precinct as recognised by the Heritage Council and the National Trust. Part of our

five year strategic plan for the Historic Precinct, is to raise community awareness of the importance of this site.

"The first part of this plan was completed with the opening of the Old Bridge Federation Park that surrounds the Old Bridge School."

Following the development of a conservation plan for the old school, part funded by a Heritage Council Heritage Grants Program grant in 1999, the Society organised conservation works that included re-roofing of the building, completed in 2001.

"We open the place to the public as a Museum of Education on holiday weekends and the caretaker, Mr Frank MacKay, conducts tours for school children throughout the school year."

Ms Mann said that establishing a footbridge to link the individual historic places within the Historic Precinct would enhance the area as a tourist attraction.

"The footbridge will provide the means of linking St Stephen's Church, the Old Bridge School, Serpentine Cemetery, Turner Cottage and Baldwin Cottage. It is an essential component of the Strategic Plan for encouraging the local community and tourists to enjoy a heritage walk linking the heritage sites."

The Society has also been active in the conservation of other heritage sites and working with owners of heritage places to encourage their conservation and promotion.

"Last year, the Society promoted local heritage sites by organising a bus tour around the area that took in a number of historical sites, including school sites. We learned a lot from that pilot tour and propose changes to the next guided site tour, to be advertised in the local press.

"We have several other projects ongoing. We are trying to save Baldwin Cottage and put it to use as our 'home'. It is the oldest building in the historic precinct and we feel that it has considerable historic interest.

"Another project we are pursuing is compiling information for identification and interpretation plaques to be posted at the numerous historic school sites throughout the district.

"A third project involves the newly-established cemetery committee that is looking at managing the site in terms of caring for the graves and surrounds and making the Serpentine cemetery more inviting for visitors.

"The cemetery is an important site in that it records the community's history. It evidences the long association some families, such as the Baldwins and Spencers, have with the original pioneers."

"Generally speaking, people are unaware of Serpentine's pioneering heritage but through the historical society's activities and newsletters, we are attempting to generate an interest in the past.

"The first activity undertaken by the group was an oral history project, which was designed to tell the stories of the Serpentine region from the experiences of individual members of the community."

The project, entitled 'Speaking of Serpentine' involved 22 interviews coordinated by Ms Mann. Some of those testimonies were later used in Ms Mann's new social history book "*Harnessing Voices: a people's history of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale*" published in 2001. Copies of this book are available through the Society (tel: 9525 2144) and the Shire Offices in Mundijong.

Ms Mann said that encouraging younger generations to become interested and involved in heritage would be important for the future.

"It's vital that we realise that heritage is something to be passed on. It is our responsibility to conserve and preserve the past for future generations."



Wilma Mann at the Old Bridge School. Photo courtesy Serpentine Historical Society.



Heritage Council Chair Marli Wallace presents Dr Cathie Clement with the Heritage Award

Heritage Awarded

Passion for conserving the heritage of the Kimberley region saw Mt Lawley historian, Dr Cathie Clement, win the 2002 Heritage Award.

Heritage Council Chair Mrs Marli Wallace presented the award to Dr Clement in March for her commitment to conserving and interpreting the heritage of Western Australia.

The award has been presented each year since 1992 to an individual

and/or organisation for their contribution to the conservation and recognition of the heritage of Western Australia.

In receiving the award, Dr Clement acknowledged the widespread community support that included Heritage and Conservation Professionals of Perth donating their architectural expertise to make the project affordable.

Dr Clement said the lack of historical research about early contact and the complex history of the Kimberley sparked her interest in the region.

"So much of the history and heritage of the region has been lost," Dr Clement said.

"Few old structures are left due to boom and bust cycles, abandonment of buildings due to both those cycles and the high level of mobility, and recycling of structures due to the remoteness.

"The mix of mainly timber and iron or timber and mud brick buildings means that not much early architecture endured in the region.

"Many of the documentary records have also been lost due to white ants and floods, so much of my work is trying to reconstruct the history of a place from the thousands of snippets that have survived."

Dr Clement's work has resulted in the conservation of a number of culturally significant heritage buildings and the development of an extensive resource base of historical information, including the recording of all 19th century pastoral leasing transactions in the Kimberley.

Mrs Wallace said many communities in the Kimberley have benefited from Dr Clement's resolve in promoting the unique heritage of the region.

"Most notable were her efforts in leading a campaign over three years to save and interpret the Halls Creek Post Office ruins," Mrs Wallace said.

"The former Post Office, built in 1889 and a remnant of the original Halls Creek townsite, was rapidly deteriorating due to exposure to the elements.

"The campaign and fundraising resulted in the construction of a free standing roof in May 2002 to ensure the preservation of the ruin.

"Dr Clement has also written and contributed to 39 publications and developed a significant resource base of information on the heritage and history of the Kimberley region."



The Halls Creek Post Office ruins are now protected by a freestanding roof. Photo courtesy Derek Keene, Halls Creek.

She also co-ordinated the establishment of the Kimberley Society in 1992; the group has since been active in promoting the preservation of the environment and heritage of the Kimberley region.

Dr Clement said her future work will focus on writing a book on each of the historically significant areas of the Kimberley, and continuing to contribute to the conservation and interpretation of the area through conducting research and documenting the region's history.

"Significant issues such as withdrawal of services and drop in population have had a severe impact on the survival of heritage structures," Dr Clement said.

"When a town is battling to survive economically, it becomes difficult to justify investing in heritage, but the history of these places makes a significant contribution not only to the cultural heritage of the Kimberley but also to the State."

Dr Clement said she is currently liaising with the Shire and the owner to prepare and install permanent interpretation panels at the Halls Creek Post Office ruins.

"Interpretation of places such as the Old Halls Creek townsite will help with the retention of visitors to the region."

Heritage listing for Chinatown Conservation Area

The heritage of Broome's Chinatown has been recognised with the recent interim listing of the Chinatown Conservation Area in the Heritage Council's State Register of Heritage Places.

The listing follows extensive community consultation within the Shire of Broome and research and assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the precinct.

Announcing the registration, Environment and Heritage Minister Dr Judy Edwards said the heritage listing acknowledged the historical, cultural, architectural, archaeological and social qualities associated with the area.

"Chinatown's historic significance dates back to 1880 with the commencement of Roebuck Bay's pearling operations, which were unique and rare in Australia.

"From an architectural point of view, Chinatown's improvisation of structures, built to accommodate and service pearlers, divers, lugger crews and commercial operators, are significant.

"Chinatown has particularly distinctive aesthetic features including small single and two storey structures, symmetrical façades with small windows, vertically and horizontally lined corrugated galvanized iron wall and roof coverings, storm shutters, lattice screens, verandahs and balcony additions."

Dr Edwards said Broome was an important example of cultural diversity and known as the State's first multicultural town.

The area interim listing of Chinatown encompassed the peninsula northwards of Gray Street and extending southwards to Frederick Street, and from Roebuck Bay to the western side of Carnarvon Street and including the adjacent Streeter's Jetty and Boat Yard and Slipway at the other extremity of Dampier Terrace.

Places included in the interim registered area are the Sun Picture Gardens, Streeter and Male Stores, Kennedy's Store as well as property owned by the Broome Shire Council, the Broome Port Authority and the Rubibi Aboriginal Corporation.

The site was recognised widely for its cultural and historical value - which was also classified by the National Trust, listed in the Shire of Broome's Municipal Inventory and entered in the Register of the National Estate.

"Places such as the Short Street Gallery, Old Tang Wei Café and Residence, Bob's Shoe Store and Kinney's Store make Chinatown the unique place that it is today," Dr Edwards said.

From an architectural point of view, Chinatown's improvisation of structures, built to accommodate and service pearlers, divers, lugger crews and commercial operators, are significant.

"It is a constantly changing, thriving centre of commercial activity in Broome and interim registration is an important step towards recognition of its importance to all Western Australians and preservation for future generations."

Local MLA Carol Martin said the public comment period for the interim listing would be extended, to allow wide community consultation.

"While a six-week public comment period is usually allocated, in recognition of the large number of owners and stakeholders involved in the Chinatown area, the time for comment will be doubled to 12 weeks from the outset," Ms Martin said.

"This will ensure owners and their representatives as well as other stakeholders, have ample opportunity to comment."

Owners, the local government and other stakeholders have the opportunity to formally comment on the proposed registration on the basis of cultural heritage significance, closing on 15 July 2003.



Permanent registration would then be considered, taking into account owner and stakeholder submissions.

The Heritage Council of WA will also be working with the Shire of Broome to develop an agreement, which would allow the shire to continue to handle the majority of development applications for Chinatown.

An *Information for Owners* booklet has been produced, providing information on what interim heritage listing means and answers to commonly asked questions. The booklet is available on the Heritage Council's website, www.heritage.wa.gov.au or by calling 9221 4177.



Beverley Town Hall

Heritage value of Beverley Town Hall recognised

The heritage of Beverley has been bolstered with the recent registration of the Beverley Town Hall in the Heritage Council's State Register of Heritage Places, an accolade the Shire of Beverley has been proud to accept.

The place is a rare example of a rural town hall building in the Inter-war Functionalist style, more popularly known as Art Deco, and is the only known

remaining example of a 1930s former picture garden established as part of the original design of a town hall complex in rural Western Australia.

Shire of Beverley Town Planner Roy Winslow said the Beverley Town Hall made an important contribution to the heritage character of the town.

"The Shire of Beverley is supportive of registration of heritage buildings in the town, particularly in the State Register of Heritage Places, because of the recognition and benefits it affords," Mr Winslow said.

"Heritage listing means the Shire has access to grants and funding for potential conservation works in years to come."

Importantly, the Shire has been committed to maintaining the building over time.

"The Beverley Town Hall is unique in that much of the interior of the building is the original, giving the place high authenticity," Mr Winslow said.

"Beverley is lucky in that almost all the original buildings are still intact, particularly in the main street of the town.

"The Council is very sensitive to retaining the character of the town, and one way of ensuring this is through maintaining our heritage buildings."

A typical Wheatbelt town, Beverley has a mix of architectural styles, from Federation style buildings to the 1930s Art Deco style, which demonstrate the boom times that influenced the growth of Beverley.

"The Council has been pro-active in the long-term conservation of heritage buildings, and has acquired buildings over time to protect against their demolition," he said.

"The Shire of Beverley is now the custodian of numerous significant heritage buildings, including the Courthouse and the Beverley Railway Station."

Beverley Town Hall was constructed in 1938 in Inter-war Functionalist style to the design of respected architect W.G. Bennett, and consists of the town hall, lesser hall and picture gardens.

A landmark in the main street, the place complements and enhances the predominantly Art Deco streetscape, of which there are many substantial buildings dating from the mid 1880s.

The place is highly valued by the local community for its social and cultural associations as the district's community centre since 1938, as a venue for picture shows, balls, dances, public meetings, displays, fundraising, wedding receptions and school concerts.

Heritage Planning and Management Seminar 2003

The Heritage Planning and Management Seminar 2003 will be held on 6-7 July 2003 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Perth.

This year's seminar is aimed at an advanced level on themes of local heritage protection, assessing local heritage significance, compatible development, financial incentives and heritage property values.

Information sessions will be led by a number of consultants, state and Local Government offices as well as Heritage Council Councillors.

Among the line up of speakers is Marli Wallace, Chair of the Heritage Council; John Hammond, former Mayor of Cottesloe; Tony Costa, Mayor of Subiaco; Philip Griffiths, Chair of the Heritage Council's Register Committee; Bret White, Cox Howlett Bailey Woodland Architects; Noel Robertson, City of Perth; Ray Stokes, Department of Planning and Infrastructures, Murray Casselton, City of Subiaco; Gavin Hegney, Hegney Property Group and Greg Rossen Chair Real Estate Institute of WA Heritage Committee.

The seminar will be facilitated by Curtin University's Professor David Dolan, Director Research Institute for Cultural Heritage.

Once again, there has been a high level of interest in the seminar with all places currently taken.

If you are interested in attending an introductory level seminar, covering the basics of local heritage protection, processes of development and registration, and other heritage related matters, email nmillane@hc.wa.gov.au.

For more information contact the Heritage Council on 9221 4177.

Heritage Visit Highlights Peel Heritage

A recent two day Heritage Council visit to the Peel region focussed on the valuable heritage of the Waroona, Murray and Serpentine-Jarrahdale districts.

In conjunction with a Heritage Council meeting held at Fairbridge Village, Heritage Council members viewed heritage sites and met with local government, Peel Development Commission and heritage representatives on 13 and 14 March.

Heritage Council Chair Mrs Marli Wallace also made heritage plaque presentations to Drakesbrook School in Waroona, and the Edenvale Group and Fairbridge Village in the Shire of Murray, in recognition of their contribution to Western Australia's cultural heritage.

Places visited included the Hamel Hall and Nursery, Old Serpentine Bridge School and Conservation Area and the Old Post Office in Jarrahdale.

Mrs Wallace said Heritage Council members welcomed the opportunity to meet with local historical groups, council members and owners of heritage places, and also benefited from the visit to heritage sites throughout the Peel.

"The Peel region has a diverse heritage, characterised by the early colonial settlements of Pinjarra, Waroona and Serpentine-Jarrahdale," Mrs Wallace said.

"The first-hand look enhanced the Council's understanding of the region's heritage significance, and provided an opportunity to identify heritage related issues in the region."



At Fairbridge Chapel: (from left to right) David Wood (Heritage Council member), Marli Wallace (Heritage Council Chair), Peter Kenyon (Heritage Council member), Ian Baxter (Heritage Council Director), Kareena Ballard (Heritage Council member), Julia Ball (Heritage Council member) Mark Anderson (CEO Fairbridge Village) and Philip Griffiths (Heritage Council member).

A community reception held at Fairbridge Village on 13 March provided Heritage Council members with a further opportunity to meet with local Shire Councillors and community members involved with heritage places and groups.

"The community's response to our visit was very positive and we look forward to having a closer working relationship with the Shires and community members in the future."

Useful Publications

The Heritage Council has produced a series of case studies which highlight some of the heritage success stories in WA.

Valuing our Heritage looks at seven places in metropolitan and regional Western Australia that have been successfully conserved and adapted for re-use.

The projects vary from restoration of workers cottages to large scale conservation of buildings and factories for offices and apartments.

The case studies demonstrate the value of conserving heritage buildings and the success which can result from recognising the potential of heritage buildings and making a strong investment in the project.

The case studies also give strategies for success and are inspiration for anyone considering conservation works to their heritage home or commercial property.

Valuing our Heritage is free and is available on the Heritage Council's website, www.heritage.wa.gov.au or by calling 9221 4177.

