

Queensland Heritage Council

Annual report



2017-18



Above: Bundaberg Central State School (est 1874)



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Background

The object of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (the Act) is to provide for the conservation of the State's cultural heritage for the benefit of the community and future generations. The Act also establishes the Queensland Heritage Council (Heritage Council), which is comprised of 12 members.

The Heritage Council has as its principal functions:

- decision maker for places entered in or removed from the Queensland Heritage Register
- provision of strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts about matters relating to Queensland's cultural heritage
- provision of information to the community to encourage interest in and understanding of Queensland's cultural heritage
- advice to government entities and community organisations about conserving Queensland's cultural heritage
- encouragement of the appropriate management of places of cultural heritage significance
- other functions delegated to the Heritage Council by the Minister.
- In performing its functions, the Heritage Council must act independently, impartially and in the public interest.

The Department of Environment and Science (the department) supports and funds the operations of the Heritage Council. The department's Heritage Branch provides professional, administrative and technical assistance for meetings, communications, projects, applications related to the Queensland Heritage Register and applications for development proposed by the Queensland Government on State heritage places.

Heritage Council members are remunerated in accordance with the Remuneration of Part-Time Chairs and Members of Government Boards, Committees and Statutory Authorities as approved by the Governor in Council.



Membership

The Heritage Council comprises 12 members, including a Chair and Deputy Chair, appointed by the Governor in Council. Five members must be appointed to represent specific organisations, while the remaining five members are appointed for their knowledge, expertise and interest in heritage conservation. Terms of appointment are up to three years and total continuous service by any individual on the Heritage Council must not exceed six years.

In appointing the Heritage Council careful consideration was given to the Government's target of improving gender equality on representative boards. The Government has set an ambitious gender equity target of 50% representation of women on Queensland Government bodies by 2020. In 2018 eight of the 12 positions of Queensland Heritage Council are held by women.

On a sad note, 2017 saw the passing of one of our members, Ian Sinnamon on 17 December. Heritage Council were so privileged to have someone of Ian's expertise and standing in architectural education and heritage conservation as a member. Ian worked tirelessly providing expert advice and insights of incredible wisdom. He has been greatly missed and on behalf of my fellow members, I extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

At 30 June 2018 membership of the Heritage Council comprises:

- 1 **Ms Debbie Best, CHAIR**
(expert representative)
- 2 **Cr George Seymour, DEPUTY CHAIR**
(expert representative)
- 3 **Dr Val Dennis**
(National Trust of Australia
Queensland representative)
- 4 **Mr Bill Marklew**
(Queensland Council of Unions
representative)
- 5 **Mr Anthony Ross**
(rural industries representative)
- 6 **Ms Judy Peters**
(Local Government Association of
Queensland representative)
- 7 **Ms Tanya Neville**
(property owners and managers
representative)
- 8 **Ms Alice Hampson**
(expert representative)
- 9 **Ms Kathy Davis**
(expert representative)
- 10 **Dr Katie McConnel**
(expert representative)
- 11 **Ms Judy Brien**
(expert representative)

Strategic direction

The Queensland Heritage Strategy: protecting, investing in and connecting Queensland's story (the Heritage Strategy) was developed to shape the future management of the state's heritage and sets out the heritage management strategic framework. The Heritage Strategy sets out the directions, supported by priority actions to help achieve a sustainable future for the State's heritage:

- **leadership:** strengthen and streamline heritage protection
- **investing in Queensland's heritage:** a collaborative effort
- **our state—our heritage:** connecting Queenslanders with their heritage.

Following the introduction of the *Planning Act 2016* in July 2017, it is now a requirement for Heritage Council's view to be sought before approvals are given to development proposals that are likely to substantially reduce or destroy the cultural heritage significance of a place on the Queensland Heritage Register. An outcome strongly advocated for by the Heritage Council, this is a positive step in ensuring the significance of Queensland's most important heritage places is taken properly into account when development is proposed.

The Heritage Council's role in ensuring the protection and conservation of Queensland's cultural heritage for the benefit of the community and future generations includes encouraging the appropriate management of heritage places and regulation of development that impacts on their values. The Heritage Council is keenly aware of ongoing community concerns about the adequacy of heritage regulatory frameworks established to protect

local, state and Commonwealth heritage places. The Heritage Council has prioritised engaging with Queensland Government departments and local government officers, not only to acknowledge their significant role as owners and custodians and regulators of heritage places, but to highlight community views.

In November 2017 the Heritage Council held a Strategic Planning Workshop, facilitated by Professor Richard Mackay AM. The purpose of the strategic workshop was to revisit the Heritage Strategy and the 2017 Heritage Working Group report and confirm the Heritage Council's focus and its key heritage actions. This workshop identified a range of initiatives aligning with strategic priorities of communication, education, heritage funding and engaging with local government. The Heritage Council has agreed to champion the following strategic projects in the current term:

- **Increasing the reach**—communicating, educating and engaging the community with heritage
- **Pub Trails**—a key recommendation of the Queensland Government's Heritage Working Group
- **Revolving fund**—further investigate the feasibility of establishing a revolving fund for heritage.

The Queensland Heritage Register

The Queensland Heritage Register is the primary mechanism in the Act for the protection of Queensland's heritage. A key role of the Heritage Council is to decide applications in relation to the Queensland Heritage Register. Each application is carefully considered by the Heritage Council to ensure the Heritage Register is a representative and comprehensive state-wide record of Queensland's historic heritage. Close engagement with owners and custodians of heritage places, local government and local communities is an essential aspect of this process.

Applications from the community demonstrate the sustained interest in protecting Queensland's heritage and the diverse range of historic places valued by the community across the state. The number of places in the Queensland Heritage Register at 30 June 2018 totalled 1750.

Heritage Council made decisions on 100% of applications to the Queensland Heritage Register within the statutory timeframes, these included:

Places entered

Ashgrove State School

Endrim and the Woodstock Road
Tram Shed and Track, Toowong

Grove Street Pensioners' Cottages,
Cairns

Leslie Park, Warwick
(additional feature –
Leslie Centenary Memorial Gates)

Morningside State School

Pacific Islander Hospital and
Cemetery site, Tinana

Ravenswood State School
Swimming Pool (former) –
merged with Ravenswood School
and Residence

Somerset Graves Site, Somerset

Toowoomba East State School

Waaje Fire Tower No.4

Warwick State High School

West End State School

Wynnum State High School

Places not entered

Albion Park Racecourse

Ascot Taxis Building (former),
Fortitude Valley

Gateway Presbyterian Church,
Ascot

Matthew Flinders Memorial Avenue
(remnant), Benaraby

The Priory, Indooroopilly

Trenfield's House (former),
Ravenswood

Village Green, Mount Tambourine

Warwick Town Hall
(additional feature -toilet block)

Place removed

(AS A DESTROYED PLACE)

Harlin Rail Bridge

Places partly removed

(PART OF THE SITE)

Bardon House

Eagle Farm Racecourse and Ascot
Railway Station

Plumb's Chambers, Warwick

St Brigid's Convent (former), Red Hill

Places entry revisions

(WITH CONSENT OF OWNER)

Landsborough Tree (site of),
Burketown

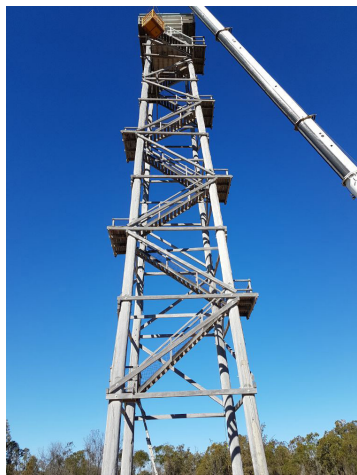
Ravenswood State School
Swimming Pool (former) – merged
with Ravenswood School and
Residence

Rockhampton School of Arts
(former)

Rockhampton Town Hall

Mount Morgan Railway Station
Complex

Notable new entries this year include:



Above: Waaje Fire Tower (1964)

Waaje Fire Tower (1964), important in demonstrating the evolution of the management of timber resources evolution of timber fire tower design.

Grove Street Pensioner Cottages, Cairns (1953-1958), important in demonstrating the widespread movement to provide affordable housing for old aged pensioners in the 1940s-50s in Queensland.

The Pacific Islander Hospital and Cemetery site (1883-88), Tinana, important in demonstrating the response 1880s to the high death rate among indentured South Sea Islanders employed in Queensland's sugar industry.

Endrim (1906) and the Woodstock Road Tram Shed (1924) and Track, important in demonstrating the evolution of Brisbane's former public tramway system and for its association with Joseph Stillman Badger, general manager of the Brisbane Tramways Company.

In the last year the Department of Education (DoE) has continued its ongoing proactive approach in identifying and protecting its heritage assets through the Queensland Schools Heritage Strategy. These schools are important in demonstrating the evolution in Queensland of State education and its associated architecture. Across Queensland, a number of State Schools have been entered in the register, including Wynnum State School (1942), Toowoomba East State School (1877) and Warwick State High School (1914). The Heritage Council acknowledges the lead role of DoE in conserving Queensland's historically significant state schools.

Development advice

Heritage Council is committed to providing advice about the effect that proposed development may have on the cultural heritage significance of a State heritage places, to ensure the best outcome for these important places. Priority Development Areas (PDA) that include heritage places are a particular focus of attention for the Heritage Council. In 2017-18 Heritage Council engaged closely with Economic Development Queensland (responsible for assessing PDA development), providing representatives on the Queen's Wharf Working Group, and advice on the Herston Quarter. Further, Heritage Council provided six recommendations and advice to respective Ministers for the development of heritage places proposed by the Queensland Government and provided representatives to the Heritage Working Group.



Above: Ravenswood Mining Landscape and Chinese Settlement Area (est. 1870s)

Meetings

The Heritage Council met on 11 occasions this financial year, including visits to Ipswich in July 2017 and Charters Towers and Ravenswood in April 2018. The Heritage Council has a mandate to protect cultural heritage across the state and is committed to visiting regional Queensland. In addition to visiting outstanding heritage places across Queensland, regional visits provide an unparalleled opportunity for the Heritage Council to meet with owners of heritage places and local government representatives to hear directly about their successes and challenges in conserving heritage places. Heritage Council meeting dates were:

2017	2018	
28 July	25 January	24 April
24 August	23 February	25 May
27 October	1 March	28 June
1 December	23 March	

Highlights

Queensland Heritage Council 2017–2018:

Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand (HCOANZ)—the Heritage Council Deputy Chair attended the annual meeting held in Darwin on 22 May 2018. This was a historic meeting of Cultural Heritage leaders with invitations extended to State Aboriginal Heritage Committees and Councils. The outcome included a unanimous agreement that the group will continue to work together to ensure a comprehensive Australian heritage story is recorded and shared.

Historic Houses Association of Australia (HHAA) conference—HHAA strives to ensure that Australian privately owned and managed heritage properties are better promoted, understood and protected. Two Heritage Council members attended the inaugural HHAA conference held in Sydney this year. The conference highlighted there is no similar advocacy group or organisation totally focused and energised to support the interests of private heritage homeowners in Queensland. Heritage Council is keen to explore owners' interest for a HHAA Queensland Chapter.

Time & Place—Heritage Council released its 33rd issue of its official magazine, which is published annually. Digital copies of the current and previous editions of Time and Place can be accessed at <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/council/publications>

Open House events—Heritage Council contributes to various Open House events, which are held across the state each year. In 2017-18 Heritage Council supported Open House events in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Maryborough, Gold Coast, Cairns and Bundaberg.

Local Government—Heritage Council recognises the important role local government plays in conserving heritage and is keen to work with and support local councils across Queensland to protect and, in many cases, manage local and state heritage places. Throughout 2017-18 Heritage Council undertook regional visits to Charters

Towers, Ravenswood and Ipswich. These visits provided a great opportunity to engage directly with local councillors and officers to discuss and understand heritage matters across these regions.

The Council congratulates City of Gold Coast Council on taking the initiative to host the Local Government heritage officers' conference which was attended by two Heritage Council members. The conference offered important opportunities for local government officers to share their experiences and challenges on protecting local heritage places across Queensland.

Awards and grants—in 2018 the Heritage Council again supported the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) awards. In addition to its financial contribution to the awards, Heritage Council members were appointed to judging panels for the Heritage Awards. The awards acknowledge outstanding projects and people that demonstrate excellence in the protection, conservation and celebration of Queensland's environmental and built cultural heritage. This year Queensland Rail was presented the John Herbert Memorial Award for its heritage program which manages more than 600 heritage assets.

Debbie Best

Ms Debbie Best
Chair, Queensland Heritage Council

