# HERITAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 1999/2000

## TABLE OF CONTENTS


Chairman's overview ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 1

Achievements 1999/2000 ... ... ... ... ... ... 3

Council members ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 6

Meetings ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 8

Functions of Council ... .... ... ... ... ... ... 8

The Heritage Conservation Act 1991 ... ... ... ... ... 9

Northern Territory Heritage Register ... ... ... ... ... 10
- Nominations ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 10
- Assessments ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 10
- Proposed heritage places ... ... ... ... ... 11
- Declarations ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 14
- Places not recommended ... ... ... ... ... 17
- Places not declared ... ... ... ... ... ... 17
- Places revoked ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 17
- Places destroyed ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 17
- Interim conservation orders ... ... ... ... ... 17
- The State of the Register... ... ... ... ... ... 18

Section 29 (Archaeological) Permits ... ... ... ... ... 19

Section 39 Permits (works on heritage places) ... ... ... 20

Section 47 Delegations ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 20

Conservation and Management ... ... ... ... 21

Government Incentive Package ... ... ... ... ... 22

Education and Promotion ... ... ... ... ... 24

Policy and Strategy ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 24

Appendix 1 ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 26

## *CHAIRMAN' S OVERVIEW*

I take great pleasure in presenting the 9th Annual Report of the Heritage Advisory Council (HAC). The Heritage Advisory Council was established under the provisions of the *Heritage Conservation Act 1991* (the Act). The Act was assented to on 26 September 1991 and came into operation on 1 November 1991.

Conservation of heritage in a world increasingly dominated by economic considerations continues to be a challenging yet rewarding task. This was particularly the case during the 1999/2000 year in which the Council faced several critical issues. The result has been a mixed success for heritage conservation in the Territory. On one hand there was the loss of two important places in the Darwin CBD, the Hotel Darwin and the old Supreme Court despite this Council's advice. The demolition of the Hotel Darwin in particular is an event lamented by many Territorians.

In June the Minister announced his proposal to relocate the former Wesleyan Church to the Botanic Gardens. As well as statutory processes required under the Act, a re-assessment of the values of the building was undertaken and a meeting held to discuss the Minister's intentions and provision of Council's advice. Preliminary advice was provided to the Minister outlining practical and procedural issues to be addressed should the need for relocation come to pass.

In addition to the advice provided on these three issues which consumed much of Council's attention, a great deal has been achieved including:

- Consideration of assessment reports for 56 places nominated to the NT Heritage Register,

- Resolution of issues raised by owners and lessees in relation to five proposed heritage places,

- Implementation of the recommendations from the *1998 Review of the Conservation and Management of Declared Heritage Places and Objects in the Northern Territory,*

- Development of a practical conservation strategy for 2000-2003,

- Completion of rehabilitation works to Springvale Homestead and official opening, and

- Available funding under the Northern Territory Heritage Grant Program was increased to $150,000.

These achievements represent a real net beneficial gain for the overall conservation of the Territory's unique heritage.

It is pleasing to note that many owners of heritage places are continuing to utilise the government's incentive package and are continuing to apply for funding for conservation works and development of conservation plans under the Northern Territory Heritage Grant Program.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that the Heritage Advisory Council is just that: an advisory body. Too often in the past year Council has been castigated following decisions made by the Minister and there have been attempts to drive a wedge between this Council and the Minister whom we are responsible to. The HAC only has the power to advise the Minister. It is gratifying to note that in the overwhelming majority of cases the Minister has accepted Council's advice and thanked it for its diligence and application. Those few occasions where the Minister does not agree with Council reflect the appropriate operation of the Minister's powers and responsibilities to all Territorians. It is fundamental to the successful operation of the Act that this distinction is maintained.

On a final note Council extends their best wishes to Mr Ron Hooper who retired from his position as Chief Executive Officer of Council and Director of the Heritage Conservation Branch. During his term he made a valuable contribution to the operation of this Council. The HAC welcomes his successor, Mr Stephen Sutton, and looks forward to continuing to work to conserve the Territory's heritage.

PETER JAMES

## *ACHIEVEMENTS 1999/2000*

### Assessment and Declaration

- A total of 16 assessments of places and objects nominated to the NT Heritage Register were completed. These assessments covered a total of 56 sites. Only 11 of these sites were considered to be below the significance threshold for recommendation to the Minister.

- Eight places and 1 object were declared as heritage places and heritage objects.

- Resolution of issues raised by owners and lessees in relation to five proposed heritage places.

### Permits, consents and advice on development proposals

- Five permits to undertake works on archaeological sites were signed by the Minister.

- The Minister gave his consent to carry out works on 4 declared heritage places and objects. His delegates also gave consent to undertake routine maintenance works on several places.

- Advice in relation to archaeological sites and appropriate procedures under the Act were provided for over 56 projects.

- Advice on heritage matters other than archaeological sites was provided in relation to over 49 development proposals.

### Amendments to the *Heritage Conservation Act*

- Drafting of amendments to the *Heritage Conservation Act* were close to completion.

### Conservation and Management

- Implementation of the recommendations from the 1998 *Review of the Conservation and Management of Declared Heritage Places and Objects in the Northern Territory.*

- Conservation statements for 45 declared heritage places and objects have been prepared.

- Six conservation studies and plans were prepared.

- Completion of rehabilitation works to Springvale Homestead following the 1998 floods.

- Development of a practical conservation strategy for 2000-2003.

**Government Incentive Package**

- Owners eligible for rate relief continue to take up this rebate.

- The heritage advisory service that provides free specialist advice to owners of heritage places in relation to heritage conservation continued to be maintained.

- In the last financial year the heritage advisers provided advice in relation to 36 projects.

- A total of 21 projects were funded under the 1999-2000 round of the NT Heritage Grant Program (NTHGP). Available funding under the NTHGP was increased to $150,000.

- Applications for the 2000-2001 NTHGP closed in March. A total of 26 applications were received for projects worth in excess of $600,000.

- A total of 7 previous NTHGP projects were completed and acquitted.

- The completion of the National Estate Grants Program continued with the acquittal of 22 projects. This represents nearly 50% of the outstanding projects.

**Education and Promotion**

- Continued to play a role in the co-ordination and development of the NT Heritage Trails.

- Participation in the development of a "Virtual Trail" for the world wide web for the Northern Goldfields Loop Heritage Trail.

- Participation in the celebration of the Heritage Festival in Darwin.

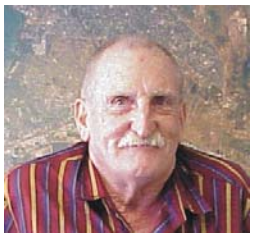
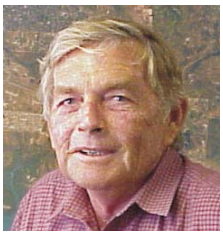
- For the first time, a heritage category was established for the NT Tidy Towns Awards.

**Policy and Strategy**

- Reviewed a range of Council policies in relation to various procedural matters and conservation issues.

- Continued involvement in the development of a National Heritage Places Strategy.

## *COUNCIL MEMBERS*

*Council members: (from left to right) Peter James; Ms Fran Erlich; Ms Elizabeth Close; Mr Peter Dermoudy; Mr Jim Hayes; Mr Patrick Filmer Sankey; Mrs Ruth Murphy; Mr Vic Stephens; Dr David Ritchie.*

The Act provides for a Council of nine members appointed by the Minister. Membership of the Council from 1 July 1999 through to 30 June 2000 was as follows:

***Mr Peter James (Chairman)***

Mr Peter James has been Chairman since the commencement of the Heritage Advisory Council in 1992. Mr James is a consultant lawyer and his particular interest lies in the application of legislation to heritage protection.

***Ms Fran Erlich (Deputy Chair)***

Ms Erlich has been a member of Council since 1995. She is a teacher at St Philip's College in Alice Springs, has a degree in archaeology and is the Mayor of Alice Springs. She has a particular interest in NT cultural heritage.

***Ms Elizabeth Close***

Ms Elizabeth Close was appointed as the National Trust representative in April 1999 after she took up the position of Director of the Trust. She is particularly interested in increasing public awareness of the Territory's unique heritage.

***Mr Peter Dermoudy***

Mr Dermoudy is one of the original members of Council. He is a heritage consultant and specialist in World War II history and site identification. He also conducts field research into early European settlement.

***Mr Jim Hayes***

A member of Council since 1992, Mr Hayes is the fourth generation of Hayes living on Undoolya Station. He has held a personal interest in the local history of the Alice Springs district for many years.

***Mr Patrick Filmer Sankey***

Patrick was appointed as the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory representative in February 1999. He is interested in the presentation and interpretation of heritage places.

***Mrs Ruth Murphy***

Ruth has been a member of Council since late 1996 and is from an old Katherine family. Her particular interests lie in the history and preservation of representative samples of the early lifestyles of the Katherine and rural area and in the pastoral history of the NT.

***Mr Vic Stephens***

Vic was appointed as the representative of the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment in February 1999. His interest is in Territory history and place names and in achieving the balance between heritage values and development needs in a rapidly growing community.

***Dr David Ritchie***

David is the Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and is a founding member of the Heritage Advisory Council. David currently serves on the Archaeology and Heritage Grants sub-committees. His area of expertise is the prehistory and history of the Northern Territory.

## *MEETINGS*

Five meetings were held during the year as listed below. All meetings were held in Darwin.

- 40th Meeting, 16th September 1999
- 41st Meeting, 25th November 1999
- 42nd Meeting, 13th January 2000
- 43rd Meeting, 24th March 2000
- 44th Meeting, 16th June 2000.

Council members' attendance is listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Council members' attendance at meetings held during the last financial year.

| Member | Number of meetings attended |
|---|---|
| Peter James | 5 |
| Fran Erlich | 5 |
| Elizabeth Close | 5 |
| Peter Dermoudy | 4 |
| Jim Hayes | 4 |
| Patrick Filmer Sankey | 4 |
| Ruth Murphy | 5 |
| Vic Stephens | 5 |
| David Ritchie | 3.5 |

## *FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL*

The Council is responsible to the Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment under section 12 of the Act, for a number of functions pertaining to heritage matters. These are described in the box below.

*Functions of Council*

*to carry out research into, and evaluate the heritage value of, places and objects,*

*to recommend to the Minister places and objects of heritage value for inclusion in the NT Heritage Register (NTHR),*

*to recommend to the Minister the removal of places and objects from the NTHR,*

*to advise the Minister on the conservation and use of heritage places and heritage objects,*

*to promote as it thinks fit the public use and enjoyment of heritage places and heritage objects in a manner consistent with the conservation of their heritage value and facilitate relevant public education and programs,*

*to advise the Minister on financial incentives or concessions for heritage preservation,*

*to advise the Minister on all matters affecting the natural and cultural heritage of the Territory,*

*to make recommendations to the Minister on heritage agreements in general or particular agreements,*

*to recommend to the Minister the imposition of an interim conservation order for the protection of a place or object,*

*to prepare conservation management plans in respect of heritage places, and,*

*to perform other such functions as required by, or under this, or any other Act or as directed by the Minister.*

## *THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION ACT 1991*

The purpose of the Act is to provide a system for the identification, assessment, recording, conservation and protection of places and objects of prehistoric, protohistoric, historic, social, aesthetic or scientific value, including geological structures, fossils, archaeological sites, ruins, buildings, gardens, landscapes, coastlines, and plant and animal communities or ecosystems of the Territory.

Drafting of amendments to the Act that clarify several areas are close to completion.

The Act can be accessed on the Internet at the URL below: http://www.nt.gov.au/lant

## *NORTHERN TERRITORY HERITAGE REGISTER*

***Nominations***

Council received several nominations during the last twelve months including:

- East Arm Settlement,
- Kormilda College (former Qantas swimming pool),
- B24 Liberator Aircraft Wreckage,
- Gardens Road Cemetery,
- Former Naval Victualling Yards and Married Quarters,
- Birdum,
- Hope Inlet Shoal Bay and
- Timber Creek old School Site (Silver Bullets).

Council nominated the Angurugu Historic Precinct, Galiwinku Historic Precinct, 48 Bath Street and the Seismic pit and array in Alice Springs of its own volition.

***Assessments***

A number of places were assessed by Council in the last financial year including:

- Angurugu Historic Precinct,
- Banyan Tree Hinkler Crescent,
- Bynoe Harbour Tin Mines,
- Catalina wrecks,
- East Arm Settlement,
- Galiwinku Historic Precinct,
- Gorrie Airfield,
- Kurutiti (Helen Springs Quarry),
- Old Supreme Court (re-assessment),
- Spencer Hill WWII Sites (Alice Springs),
- Submerged Telegraph Line,
- Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park,
- Wesleyan Church (re-assessment),
- WWII Army Officer's Mess (9AAOD Camp) and
- 48 Bath Street Alice Springs.

These assessments covered a total of 56 sites and compares well with the number of assessments undertaken over the past three financial years (Figure 1).

The quality of the assessments continues to remain high with all but two assessments not requiring further consideration by Council.

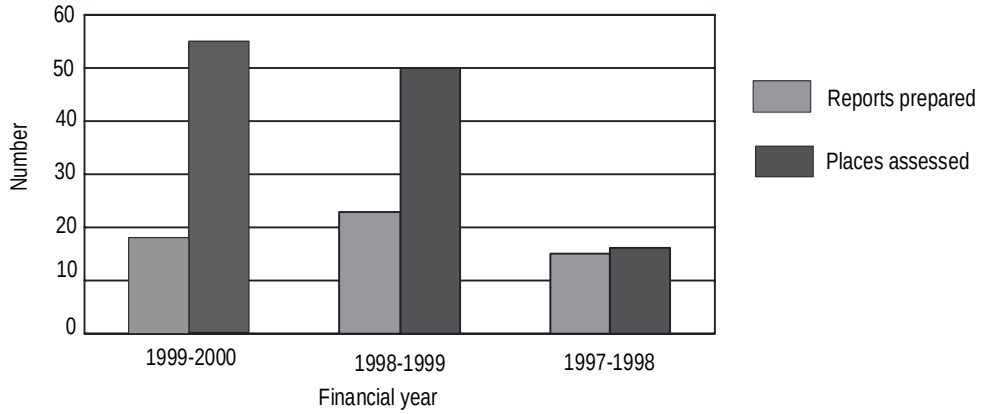



Figure 1. Number of reports prepared and places assessed for the last three financial years.

Although fewer reports were prepared in the last year a larger number of sites were considered. This increased efficiency has been achieved by greater emphasis on undertaking assessments on a regional and thematic basis. Examples of this approach include assessment reports on a series of tin mining sites in the Bynoe Harbour area and places relating to the mission period in Arnhem Land.

It is also worth noting that the assessment of World War II sites continued during the last year. To date the heritage value of 21 WWII sites has been assessed.

The backlog of places waiting to be assessed has been reduced from over 10% of all nominations in mid-1996 to 6% as of June 30th 2000.

Each place or object nominated to the NT Heritage Register is assessed against a number of criteria in order to ascertain its heritage value. These criteria are listed in the box below.

The process by which places and objects are nominated, assessed, recommended and declared as heritage places is illustrated in Figure 2.

***Proposed heritage places***

As shown in Figure 2, the Act provides for the consultation and conflict resolution with owners and lessees prior to making a recommendation to the Minister. During the last financial year substantial progress was made towards the resolution of issues raised by owners and lessees of five places: Catholic Church Precinct, Heenan Building, former Tunck's Store, former Alice Bazaar and Ross River Homestead. Although resolution of such issues can be a complex and lengthy process, it is the only way in which the future retention and preservation of these places can be assured.

*Criteria for assessing places nominated to the Northern Territory Heritage Register*

*Whether the place or object has special significance in the Territory -*

*(a) for the evolution of flora, fauna, landscape or climate;*

*(b) because of the diversity or richness of its flora, fauna, landscapes or cultural features;*

*(c) because it contains rare, endangered, or uncommon flora, fauna, biotic communities, ecosystems, natural landscapes or phenomena;*

*(d) in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of landscapes, environments or ecosystems, the attributes of which identify them as being characteristic of their class;*

*(e) as wilderness;*

*(f) for the maintenance of existing natural processes or systems;*

*(g) because it contributes to a wider understanding of natural history by virtue of its use as a research site, a teaching site, an example of a type of locality or reference area;*

*(h) by virtue of its association with events, developments or cultural phases in human occupation and evolution;*

*(j) by providing information contributing to a broader understanding of the history of human occupation;*

*(k) in demonstrating a way of life, custom, process, land use, function or design no longer practised, in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest;*

*(m) in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities which take or have taken place in the Territory, including ways of life, customs, processes, land uses, functions, designs or techniques;*

*(n) by virtue of aesthetic characteristics or through technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement held in high esteem or otherwise valued by a community;*

*(p) in being highly valued by a community for religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational or social associations; or*

*(q) through its close association with individuals whose activities have been significant in the history of the Territory.*

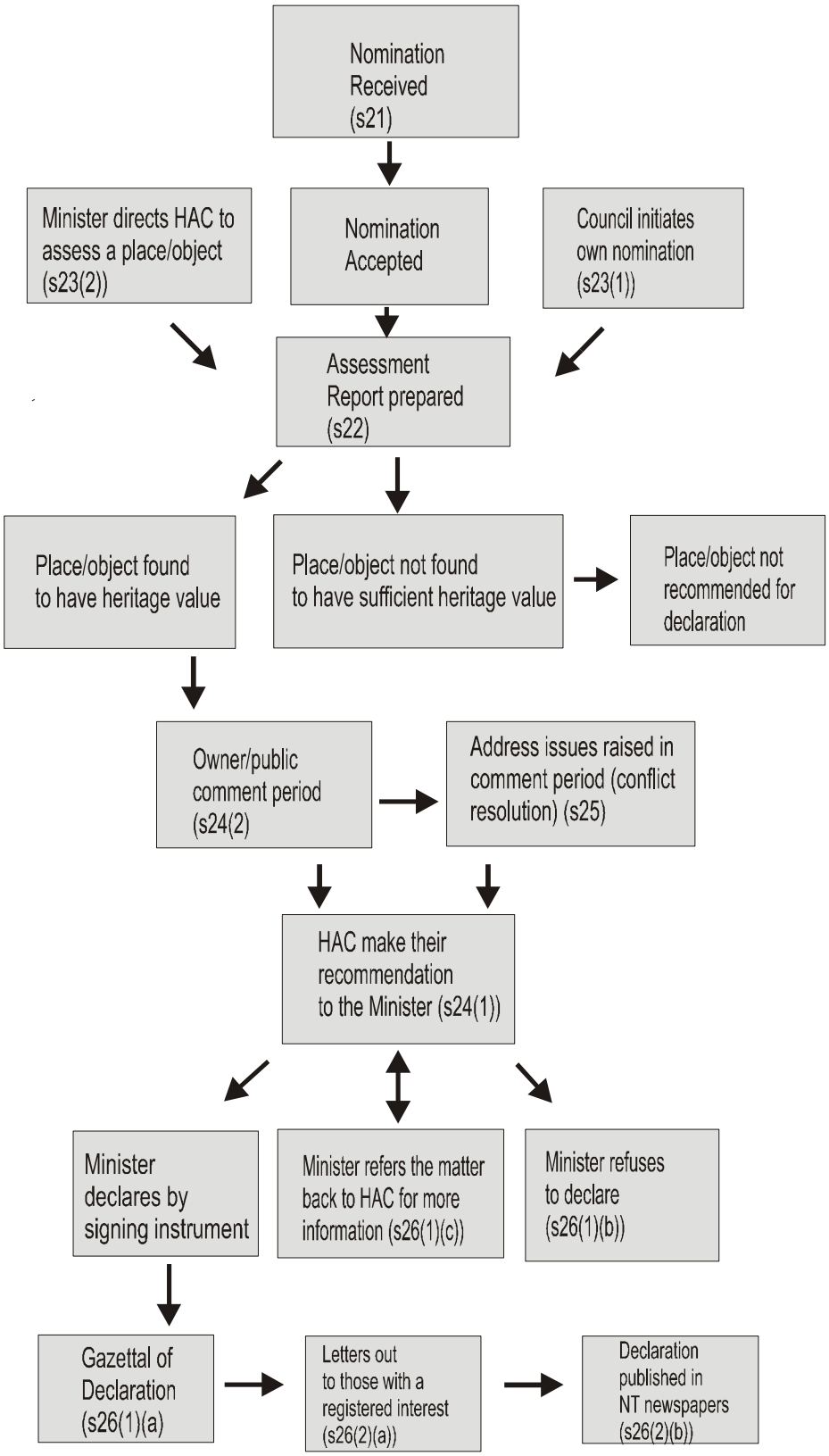



Figure 1. Simple flow diagram of the nomination and assessment process.

***Declarations***

Eight places were declared as heritage places and 1 object declared as a heritage object during the last year. These additions to the Northern Territory Heritage Register are summarised below.

*Bradshaw's Packhorse Cutting*

Situated on the Old Bradshaw Station, this site represents an example of remarkable bush engineering and resourcefulness. The innovative use of local stone slabs to construct the cutting through the Yambarran Range accords this feature a certain level of uniqueness in the Territory. It is also significant for its associations with the Bradshaw family and early period of pastoral development in the Victoria River District.

*Brocks Creek Cemetery*

Brock's Creek Cemetery was established in 1898 as the last resting place for deceased Europeans in the Brock's Creek mining area and is of historical significance to the Northern Territory. Those who died and were buried there were pioneers of the Territory's early mining history and their efforts were a contribution to the formative years of this industry. The circumstances of the deaths of those interred are evidence of the lack of medical services, harsh physical environment and hazards faced by the pioneers whose deaths were often a consequence of mining accidents and outbreaks of malarial fever. The cemetery also documents the influx of English miners, particularly the Cornish miners who brought their skills and knowledge of mining technology to Brock's Creek.

GA Wilson's grave, Brocks Creek Cemetery

Brock's Creek Cemetery is the burial place, of Adam Johns, a prominent pioneer of mining in the Territory who was responsible for building the plant and buildings for the Zapopan mine in 1895 and whose death led to gazettal of a cemetery reserve.

*Darwin Cenotaph*

The Darwin Cenotaph was the first official memorial to be erected in the Territory. It was erected to commemorate those who

lost their lives in the First World War and was dedicated on 24 April 1921. Since it was erected the monument has been moved several times and is now located on the Esplanade. It overlooks the Harbour where so many died during the Japanese air attack of February 19 1942 and is located on the site where the guns of the 14th Anti-Aircraft Battery were positioned and which fired the first shots in defence of Australia on Australian soil during WWII.

*Escape Cliffs*

This site represents the first South Australian attempt at settling the NT. The historical and archaeological data provides information regarding human adaptations to unfamiliar environments. Although the settlement was never successful, the experiences of those settlers based at Escape Cliffs were to provide valuable knowledge of the climate and environment of the Top End and the difficulties that would have to be overcome if any future settlement in the north was to succeed. The site is also associated with several individuals who made a valuable contribution of the exploration and settlement of the Territory including J.W. Bennett, B.T. Finniss, J.T. Manton, J. McKinlay and F.H. Litchfield.

Remains of the bakehouse oven, Escape Cliffs

*Koolendong Waterhole Boabs*

A range of carvings are inscribed on these trees including the names of Aboriginal stockmen who worked in the area prior to Aborigines being granted full citizenship rights. More importantly, the trees contain rare examples of Aboriginal carvings including an emu-like bird and geometric motifs.

*Observation Post, Sandy Creek, Casuarina Coastal Reserve*

The Observation Post was built between 1939-1941 during the build-up of defence installations in Darwin. It was one of a set of structures built as part of an overall coastal defence strategy in anticipation of a sea and land based invasion. However after the bombing of Darwin in 1942 the strategic position of these structures and their effectiveness was questioned. The observation post serves

as a reminder of the serious underestimation made by the Allied Forces of the capabilities and strategy of the enemy.

Observation post, Sandy Creek, Casuarina Coastal Reserve

*Old Bradshaw Homestead Precinct*

The Old Bradshaw Homestead Precinct contains a diverse range of features including the old homestead, Savage's grave, several carved boabs, remains of the landing and the old Aboriginal camp. The site is associated with the early pastoral industry and Aboriginal-European encounters. Features of the precinct have the potential to contribute to our understanding of both early European settlement of the Territory and nature of Aboriginal-European contact. The construction and later rebuilding of the homestead using recycled materials such as water pipes is an unusual technique. The precinct also derives its significance from its associations with the Bradshaw family.

The old Bradshaw Station Homestead, Bradshaw Station

*WWII RAAF Operations Room, Berrimah.*

The RAAF Operations Room was established in response to a direction of the Air Board to provide a coordinating role for the control of aerial defences in the Northern Western Area of Operations in northern Australia during World War II. The Operations Room housed personnel and equipment required to plot and relay the positions of enemy aircraft to put Allied fighter aircraft in an optimum position for interception, in cooperation with the Radio Direction Finding and anti-

aircraft defences. From November 1943 the Operations Room provided information on reconnaissance sorties by the Japanese and was instrumental in the downing of the last enemy aircraft intercepted over the Top End on June 12 1944. The unit remained a part of the Air Defence Headquarters in Darwin before disbanding in April 1946. The Operations Room played a vital role in the aerial defence of Darwin and the Top End during World War II.

*Well, 48 Bath Street Alice Springs*

The well in the northeast corner of Lot 6779 (48 Bath St) Alice Springs is important as a reminder of the technological changes that have occurred regarding the provision of essential services in the town. It reflects a former way of life whereby individual residents had to supply their own water, rather than being connected to the town system. The well is associated with Alice Springs identities Lizzie Milnes and Arthur 'Musty' Milnes.

***Places not recommended***

The HAC resolved not to recommend 11 places to the Minister because they did not meet heritage assessment criteria and/or they were not of special significant to the Territory. These places included 7 sites at Galiwinku, the Hinkler Crescent Banyan Tree, Kormilda College Swimming Pool, East Arm Settlement and Submerged Telegraph Line.

***Places not declared***

The Minister declined to declare one place recommended by the HAC until such time that future use of the area is known. Two places were referred back to the Heritage Advisory Council for further information.

***Places revoked***

The Minister revoked the declaration of the former Bagot Superintendent's Residence following a fire in the building that had virtually destroyed all the significant fabric and left the building in a dangerous state.

***Places destroyed***

Two places nominated to the NTHR were destroyed during the last year: the Hotel Darwin and former Supreme Court building.

***Interim Conservation Orders***

Council recommended the Minister declare two places to be subject to interim conservation orders in the last year; the well at 48 Bath St in Alice Springs and the Hotel Darwin. The Minister refused to sign the latter.

***The State of the Register***

From the time of commencement to the 30 June 2000 a total of 344 places and objects have been nominated to the NTHR. Figure 3 below indicates that the majority of places nominated to the Register have either been declared or not recommended. The incidence of places that have been destroyed and revoked is a small percentage of all nominations.

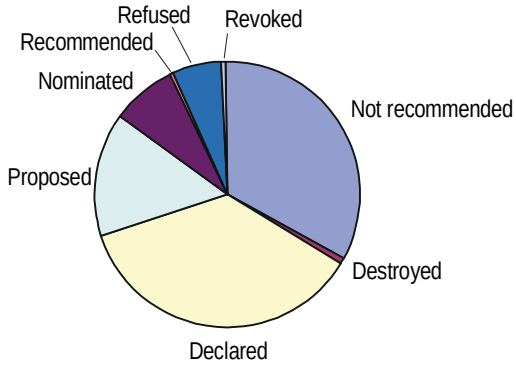



Figure 3. Pie diagram illustrating the status of all places nominated to the NTHR expressed as a percentage of all nominations.

Declared heritage places and objects are widely distributed across the Territory. Figure 4 indicates that the majority of places are found in urban areas (Alice Springs and Darwin).

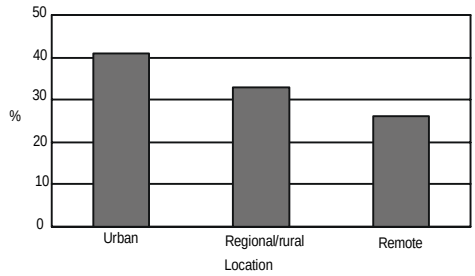
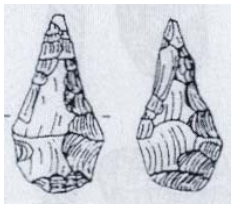



Figure 4. Distribution of declared heritage places & objects across the Territory, expressed as a percentage.

A wide range of different types of places are now represented on the NT Heritage Register, including trees, geological features, archaeological sites, mining 'relics', shipwrecks, buildings, ruins, cemeteries, floral communities and places of social significance.

*From left to right commencing at top: Fossils at the Bullock Creek Fossil Site, Ilamurta Springs Conservation Reserve, Government House, Victoria Settlement, Glen Maggie Homestead at Ryan's Well, Gregory's Tree, Engravings at the N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park, the meat house at Old Hamilton Downs, Mt Riddock Cemetery.*

## *SECTION 29 (ARCHAEOLOGICAL) PERMITS*



Under the provisions of sections 29 and 39 of the *Heritage Conservation Act 1991*, no work may be undertaken on a prescribed archaeological place or object without the permission of the Minister or his delegate. From time to time applications are received to do work, including archaeological excavation and collection as well as disturbance and destruction, on prescribed archaeological places and objects.

Five permits were granted during the last financial year. Two of these were for research purposes, while the remaining X:\nreta\heritage\manage\pdf\hacannrep9899.pdf granted in order to destroy/disturb archaeological material prior to development. In each of these cases mitigative works were undertaken prior to destruction. For each permit an assessment of the significance of the place or object was made by the Archaeological sub-committee of the HAC prior to a final decision being made.

Additionally, advice in relation to archaeological sites and the appropriate procedures under the Act were provided for over 56 projects including the Alice Springs – Darwin Railway.

## *SECTION 39 PERMITS*
### *(WORKS ON HERITAGE PLACES)*

Under the provisions of section 33 of the Act, no work can be undertaken on a declared heritage place or object without the permission of the Minister or his delegate under section 39.

From time to time applications are received to do works on these places. During the last financial year the Minister gave his consent to undertake conservation and maintenance works on four places:

- Gregory's Tree Historic Reserve,
- East Point Fortifications,
- Springvale Homestead, and
- Quarantine Anti-Aircraft Battery.

The works at Gregory's Tree will facilitate the protection of the tree and surrounding Reserve in a manner that is consistent with its isolated bush setting yet allow for visitor's appreciation and enjoyment of the site.

The works at Springvale were undertaken as part of the final stage of the post-1998 flood rehabilitation works and are described in more detail under the conservation and management section of this report. The works at East Point also described in this section.

Advice on heritage matters other than archaeological sites was provided in relation to more than 49 development proposals.

## *SECTION 47 DELEGATIONS*

Under Section 47 of the *Heritage Conservation Act 1991* the Minister may appoint a person as the Minister's delegate for the performance of a function or exercise of a power under the Act. The following individuals are currently appointed as Minister's delegates:

- Patrick Filmer Sankey, Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory (section 39K(1)(a) powers in relation to places/objects owned, managed or controlled by the Museum),

- John Maurice Pinney, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (section 39K(1)(a) powers in relation to places/objects owned, managed or controlled by the Department),

- William John Freeland, Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT (section 39K(1)(a) powers in relation to places/objects owned, managed or controlled by the Commission),

- Elizabeth Anne Close, National Trust of Australia (NT) (section 39K(1)(a) powers in relation to places/objects owned, managed or controlled by the National Trust).

During the last financial year consent was given by delegates of the Minister to undertake works on several declared heritage places including Fannie Bay Gaol, Lyons Cottage, Qantas Hangar, The Residency and Old Courthouse.

## *CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT*

Substantial progress has been made toward implementing the recommendations from the 1998 *Review of the Conservation and Management of Declared Heritage Places and Objects in the Northern Territory.* This has included preparation of conservation statements for 45 declared heritage places and objects. The purpose of these statements is to provide a broad policy statement regarding future conservation of each place. Additionally conservation and management actions for each place and object have been identified and ranked on a needs priority basis. This information together with records of all conservation works, grants received and documentation for each place is being combined into a conservation and management database. Design of the database is well underway and completion is expected in the next 12 months.

Information obtained as a result of the above process has been incorporated into Council's Conservation Strategy for 2000-2003. The strategy focuses on nodal areas and precincts for conservation and is orientated towards practical conservation outcomes that will have a beneficial flow-on effect for the community.

***Conservation studies and plans***

Six conservation studies and plans were prepared in the past year. Conservation plans and management plans were finalised for the following places:

- Bradshaw Homestead,
- Bullita Homestead Precinct,
- East Point,
- Gregory's Tree Historic Reserve, and
- Silver Bullets (old Timber Creek School).

In October a conservation plan for historic sites at East Point was initiated. This project was undertaken in co-operation with the

Darwin City Council to mesh with their Master Plan. Development of the conservation plan is a significant step towards ensuring the long-term preservation of this important World War II site.

***Conservation works***

Completion of rehabilitation works to Springvale Homestead following the 1998 floods was a major event late last year. The Homestead was officially re-opened in October 1999 by the Minister.

Works were also undertaken at East Point. These works were in accordance with the Conservation Plan developed earlier and consisted of the removal of asbestos cement sheeting from the two explosives magazines and replacement with a non-hazardous material of similar profile and appearance.

Various conservation works were also undertaken as part of the NT Heritage Grant Program (see below). A number of projects received funding in the 1999-2000 round to undertake works to maintain and enhance the heritage value of a number of declared and proposed heritage places including No.16 Railway Terrace, Old Hamilton Downs Station, Old Stuart Town Gaol, Myilly Point Precinct, Old Hartley Street School, Les Hansen House (part of the Alice Springs Heritage Precinct), Old Gaolers Residence & 88 Hartley Street (part of the Alice Springs Heritage Precinct), Adelaide House, Aileron Homestead, Old Colonists Residence (part of Hermannsburg Historic Village), and the Heenan Building.

## *GOVERNMENT INCENTIVE PACKAGE*

***Rate Relief***

Municipal rate relief arrangements are in place for owners of declared heritage places. Rate relief is set at 25% of the struck rate for residential places and 75% of the struck rate for commercial places. This incentive is managed administratively as a reimbursement on rates paid to municipalities. Owners of eligible places continue to utilise this incentive.

***Heritage Advisers***

The Government's incentive package provides free expert and specialist services to owners of declared heritage places on heritage conservation issues. Heritage conservation architects have been retained in Darwin and Alice Springs in order to provide Territory-wide services.

During the last financial year the heritage advisers provided advice in relation to 36 projects.

***Northern Territory Heritage Grant Program***

The Northern Territory Heritage Grant Program effectively remains the only funding source for conservation works in the NT. A total of 34 applications requesting $369,913 worth of projects were received for the 1999/2000 round of funding. The successful applicants and projects are listed in Table 2 below. Most of these projects were for conservation works to heritage places.

A total of 26 applications requesting about $600,000 worth of projects were received for the 2000/01 round of funding. Of the applications recommended for funding, 6 were for conservation works, 2 for the development of conservation plans, 4 for education/interpretative projects and 1 for research and documentation.

Since 1992 over $1,000,000 has been spent on documenting, conserving and promoting the Territory's heritage through this grants program.

Table 2. Successful applicants and projects in the 1999/2000 NTHGP.

| Applicant | Project |
|---|---|
| Adelaide House Museum | Restoration of cellar walls, Adelaide House |
| Arltarlpilta Community Government Council | Stage 1 (documentation) of Harts Range Historic Sites Conservation Program |
| Ms Barnes & Mr Pecorari | Restoration of No 16 Railway Terrace. |
| Mr P Dermoudy | Non destructive location of unmarked graves |
| Mr D. Guse and G. Neimoeller | Significance assessment of Southport |
| Hamilton Downs Youth Camp | Restoration meat house roof |
| Hermannsburg Historical Society | Restoration of roof of old Colonist's House |
| Mr TR Jennings | Restoration works Heenan Building |
| Mr & Mrs Leigh | Restoration works Aileron Homestead |
| Mental Health Association | Repaint exterior of Old Gaolers Residence |
| National Trust | Drainage system for Old Stuart Town Gaol |
| | Conservation works to Burnett House |
| | Les Hansen House Repairs |
| | Development Myilly Point Heritage Precinct |
| | Conservation works Old Hartley Street School |
| | National Trust Web Site |
| | Police History of the Gulf |
| | Interpretation of the Gulf Track |
| Salvation Army | Restoration exterior finishes 88 Hartley Street |
| Messrs B. Stuart, F.Stevens & Ms R.Ferber | Living with Sacred Sites in Urban Areas |

***Use of heritage places***

Council's view is that the continued use of heritage places, in some cases the adaptive or compatible re-use, is the best way of ensuring that such places are maintained and are used in a beneficial manner. Accordingly this Council continues to encourage the adaptive re-use wherever possible. Negotiations are continuing regarding the future use of the former Alice Springs Gaol.

Of the declared heritage places, 60% are subject to some form of use, including adaptive or compatible re-use such as private residences, restaurants/cafe's, museums, tourist attractions and offices.

During the last year several heritage places were sold including two of the Railway Cottages and the Grove Hill Hotel. In each case there was a substantial financial gain for the vendors. This result vindicates Council's view that heritage listing does not automatically result in a loss of economic value.

## *EDUCATION AND PROMOTION*

During the last year Council continued to play a role in the co-ordination and development of the NT Heritage Trails. Work has commenced on the proposed "Ghan Trail" and it is intended to generate interpretative facilities and conservation plans consistent with those already developed for the South Australian portion of the Trail. Heritage officers have also been developing a "Virtual Trail" of the Northern Goldfields Loop for placement on the World Wide Web.

As part of promoting and celebrating the Territory's heritage Council participated in the Heritage Festival. A heritage officer presented a speech at the National Trust Seminar and events were organised at Old Admiralty House and 17 Shepherd Street that focussed on the public use and enjoyment of these heritage places.

## *POLICY AND STRATEGY*

In February the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer attended the Annual National Heritage Chairs and Officials Meeting in Brisbane. Of key interest was the proposal to re-ignite the National Heritage Places Strategy and potential implications for the

Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.*

Also in February the Chief Executive Officer hosted a meeting in Darwin with a representative from Environment Australia's Natural Environment Division. Key issues discussed included the proposed Register of the National Estate listing of Darwin Harbour and poor performance of Commonwealth agencies when dealing with both Commonwealth and Territory listed heritage places.

The Chief Executive Officer participated in a meeting with Dr Sharman Stone MLA Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment and Heritage in Darwin in May. Site inspections of Myilly Point, East Point and other locations in the Darwin region were undertaken.

During the year heritage officers also met with Graham Ward from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies regarding the operation of heritage legislation in the Northern Territory.

A review of Council policies in relation to various procedural matters and conservation issues was undertaken. The review resulted in the clarification of several areas.

## *APPENDIX 1*

Declared heritage places and objects as of 30 June 2000.

Adelaide House
Adelaide River Pioneer Cemetery
Adelaide River Railway Siding and Bridge
Administrator's Office
Alcoota Fossil Beds
Alice Springs Heritage Precinct
Anna's Reservoir Conservation Reserve
Anzac Hill Memorial

Bamboo Creek Tin Mine
Blyth Homestead
Boab Tree, Cavenagh Street, Darwin
Bonney Well
Borroloola Police Station Museum
Bowson Hut
Bradshaw's Homestead
Bradshaw's Packhorse Cutting
Brocks Creek Cemetery
Brock's Creek Chinatown and Temple Site
Brock's Creek Township, Railway Siding and Military Detention Barracks
Brown's Mart
Bullock Creek Fossil Site
Burrundie Explosives Magazine

Cape Don Lighthouse Complex
Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve
Channel Island Leprosarium and Reefs
Christ Church Cathedral Ruins
Commonwealth Bank
CWA/Red Cross Shop
Cypress Pine Overland Telegraph Poles

Daly River Coppermine and Graves
Daly Waters Aviation Complex
Darwin Cenotaph
Darwin Botanic Gardens
Driffield Mine Site

East Point Fortifications
Escape Cliffs
Ewaninga Conservation Reserve

Fannie Bay Gaol
Fenton Airfield
Flying Fox, Daly Waters
Former Alice Springs Post Office
Former CWA Rooms, Alice Springs
Former Methodist Manse
Former RAAF Explosives Storage Area
Francis Bay Explosives Complex
Frog Hollow

Gilbert Well
Government Battery and Cyanide Works, Arltunga
Government House
Gregory's Tree
Grove Hill Hotel

Heavitree Gap Police Station Historic Reserve
Hore's Homestead

Illamurta Springs Nature Reserve

Katherine Overland Telegraph Pylons
Katherine Railway Precinct
Kintore Caves Nature Reserve
Knott's Crossing
Kohinoor Adit
Koolendong Waterhole Boabs

Lot 5601 Town of Darwin (Qantas Hangar)
Lots 7733-7736 Town of Alice Springs (Railway Cottages)
Lyons Cottage - B.A.T House

MacClark (*Acacia peuce*) Conservation Reserve
McLachlan's Tree
Milingimbi Mud Brick Houses
Mt Riddock Cemetery
Munmarlary Homestead
Murranji Track
Myilly Point Precinct

N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park
Newcastle Waters Township
Noltenius Billabong and Grave

Observation Post, Sandy Creek
O'Keeffe House
Old Admiralty House
Old Andado Station

Old Bonrook Station
Old Courthouse Building, Alice Springs
Old Hamilton Downs Station
Old Hartley Street School
Old Mt Riddock Homestead
Old Pine Creek Butchery
Old Playford Club Hotel

Palmerston Cemetery
Pine Creek Bakery
Pine Creek Post and Office Repeater Station
Pine Creek Railway Precinct

Quarantine Anti-Aircraft Battery Site

Roper River Overland Telegraph Construction Depot
Rumbalara Ochre Mine
Ryan Well Reserve

Smith Point Beacon
Snake Creek Armament Depot
Springhill Battery
Springvale Homestead Complex
SS *Ellengowan*
State Square Banyan Tree
Steam Pump House
Stuart Memorial Cemetery
Stuart Town Gaol
17 Shepherd Street

Tennant Creek Hospital Outpatients Department
The Residency, Alice Springs
Timber Creek Police Station Precinct
Town Hall Ruins
Tree of Knowledge
Twelve Mile Chinatown (Settlement and Battery)

Uniya Station

Victoria Settlement Historical Reserve

Well (48 Bath Street, Alice Springs)
Wesleyan Church
Westpac Bank
Wishart Siding and Fettler's Mess
World War II RAAF Ops Room
World War II Shipwrecks