Shared heritage:

*Perspectives on Indigenous Heritage Management in Australia*

Prof Richard Mackay, AM
GML Heritage Pty Ltd

Heritage Network Seminar
Heritage Division, OEH

21 August 2015
I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we are meeting and pay respect to their Elders both past and present. I extend this respect to all indigenous people in attendance today.
Shared heritage:

Three Sisters Aboriginal Place
An admirable stand-in
Shared heritage: Uluru – natural or cultural?
Shared heritage:

Values and perceptions . . .
Australia is a complex, layered natural and cultural landscape in which unique geodiversity and biodiversity provide the backdrop to an ancient, but continuing Indigenous culture . . .
Shared heritage: knowledge AND research
Shared heritage:

National Heritage List 2005 - 2014

![Graph showing heritage list additions from 2005-2014]
3 Indigenous places listed in 2013

- Moree Baths and Swimming Pool
- Western Tasmania Aboriginal Cultural Landscape
- Wurrwurrwuy Stone Arrangements

(There are 19 places with Indigenous values on the NHL)
Moree Baths and Swimming Pool?

- 1965 Freedom Ride
- 1967 Referendum
- Highlighted in SOE 2011

(Photo supplied by Ann Curthoys)
Shared heritage:

NSW State Heritage Register 2010 - 2014

Places listed for Indigenous values
Shared heritage:

Priorities for bioregions, based on EPBC-listed species,
Shared heritage:

Number of heritage places listed by local government area
Shared heritage:

Nationally aggregated data related to Indigenous heritage
Shared heritage:

Whose heritage: timeless and continuing....
As Aboriginal people our identity is inseparable from our Country. We are the people of that Country. It holds our stories, provides food and medicine to our bodies and spirit and it has been home to our people for all recorded history, as it has been home to our ancestors for tens of thousands of years.

Chris Tobin, Darug, 2013
Shared heritage:

Greater Blue Mountains

- World Heritage List 2000
- Evolution and *Eucalyptus sp*
- Habitats and biodiversity
- Nominated by Australia for natural AND cultural values
- National Heritage List 2007 – ONLY natural heritage values
- Re-assessment 2014
- Contemporary Indigenous values
Shared heritage:

Re-establishing connection – The Gully

- The Gully 1957 and 2002
- Focal point for celebration
- Living Country Culture Camp 2011

To my family, it’s all about not losing any more of our past history and to look after what is still out there in our Traditional Lands.
Shared heritage:

Continuing connection - Baiame

Sky deity: then and now
Incremental Destruction

... heritage, once destroyed or sullied, can rarely be recovered. As well, it is important for avoiding the tyranny of little decisions, whereby incremental developments—perhaps done under the aegis of improving access—end up destroying the attractions for which the place was set up in the first place.

Australian Senate Committee 2007
Shared heritage:

A Pilbara case study: Woodstock Abydos

- Protected under *WA Heritage Act 1972*
- Only 57% surveyed, but 500+ sites
- Art, occupation sites, quarries . . .
- Protected area, listed on RNE
- WA Museum custodian
- 3 Railways
  - BHP 1960s
  - Fortescue 2006
  - Handcock 2006

(Photo by Liam Brady University of WA)
Cultural Heritage: Snakes & Ladders!

- Development Proposal
- Feasibility Study
- Announcement
- Cultural Resource
- Site Survey
- EIS
- Govt Decision
- Economic
- Culture
- Jobs and Prosperity
- Benefit
- Impact
- Cultural Heritage
- Archival Record
- Heritage is "the problem"
Shared heritage:

Pro-active conservation: East Leppington

- Stockland land release
- Landscape approach
- Testing
- Sites and artefacts
- Places
Shared heritage:

Involvement of Aboriginal people: East Leppington

- Dharawal
- Gundungurra
- Participation
- Work
- Archaeology
- Science
Shared heritage:

Involvement of Aboriginal people: East Leppington

- Dharawal
- Gundungurra
- Information
- Re-connection
- Involvement
- Determination
Shared heritage:

Conservation as an objective: sites and places
Shared heritage:

Hope and wonder . . .
We must expand the concept of conservation to meet the imperious problems of the new age. We must develop new instruments of foresight and protection and nurture in order to recover the relationship between man (sic) and nature and make sure that the national estate we pass on to our multiplying descendants is green and flourishing.

Shared heritage:

Relationship and culture

- Activity, meaning and engagement
- Art, evolution and events
- Doing not being
- More than regulation
- A sense of place
- Enduring value
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