



# Education as conservation: the importance of meaning

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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.

# Hope and wonder . . .



- Hope Inquiry 1974
- Commonwealth leadership
- ‘National’ estate
- Broadly-defined notion of ‘heritage’

# RNE: a broad church



- Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975
- Register of the National Estate
- No national – state – local thresholds
- Initial focus on places: their history and aesthetics

# History and aesthetics



*Photo: NSW Office of Environment and Heritage*

- 1960s and 1970s
- 'Reconstruction'
- Focus on SOME values

# West and East



# East and West



# Antiquarianism and anastylosis



# Restoration as interpretation



Carcassonne

*To restore is not to preserve it, to repair it or to re-build it; it is to re-instate it in a condition of completeness which may never have existed at any given time.*

Eugene Viollet-le-Duc c1860

# Restoration as interpretation



The Parthenon, Acropolis, Athens

*It is better to preserve than to repair,*

*better to repair than to restore,*

*better to restore than to reconstruct.*

Alexandre Didron 1839

# Heritage Convention 1998



- Government and non-government participants
- Natural – historic – Indigenous framework
- National – state – local roles

# EPBC Act amendments 2003

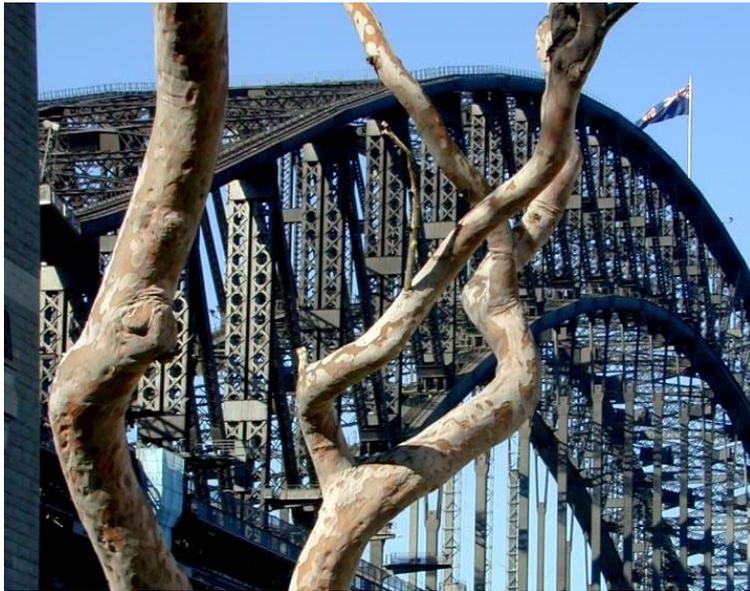


Photo: GML Heritage Pty Ltd

- Heritage 'inserted'
- National Heritage List
- Commonwealth Heritage List
- Demise of the Register of the National Estate
- Matters of National Environmental Significance
- Management of **VALUES** not places

# The Burra Charter



- Charter of Athens 1931
- Venice Charter 1964
- Burra Charter 1979
- Revised 1999 and 2013
- Fabric, use association, meaning . . .

*The Australia ICOMOS  
Charter for Places of  
Cultural Significance*

# Conservation and participation



## *Article 12. Participation*

Conservation, interpretation and management of a place should provide for the participation of people for whom the place has significant associations and meanings, or who have social, spiritual or other cultural responsibilities for the place.

# Conservation and interpretation



## *Article 14. Conservation processes*

Conservation may, according to circumstance, include the processes of: retention or reintroduction of a use; retention of associations and meanings; maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation and interpretation . . .

# Explaining cultural values



## *Article 25. Interpretation*

The cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and engagement, and be culturally appropriate.

# Education as conservation



The word:

*education*

does not occur in the  
Burra Charter

# Moree Baths



Photo: Ann Curthoys

- 1965 Freedom Ride
- 1967 Referendum
- Highlighted in SOE 2011
- 100<sup>th</sup> place added to the National Heritage List: 2013

# Australian Heritage Strategy



Launched December 2015

Three high-level outcomes:

- National Leadership
- Strong Partnerships
- Engaged Communities

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/australian-heritage-strategy>



# Australian Heritage Strategy

## Vision

Our natural, historic and Indigenous heritage places are valued by Australians, protected for future generations and cared for by the community

### Outcome 1

#### National leadership

##### Objectives:

1. Continue to support Australia's iconic World Heritage properties
2. Ensure Australia's National Heritage List truly reflects the Australian story
3. Effective management of the Commonwealth Heritage List
4. Contribute to international heritage standard setting and guidance

### Outcome 2

#### Strong partnerships

##### Objectives:

5. Improve heritage policy and process alignment across all levels of government
6. Further develop heritage partnerships between government and other sectors
7. Explore innovative funding, resource sharing and creative partnerships
8. Foster greater collaboration between the heritage and tourism sectors

### Outcome 3

#### Engaged communities

##### Objectives:

9. Focus protection efforts on Indigenous heritage
10. Promote greater awareness, knowledge and engagement with our national heritage
11. Provide consistent best practice standards and guidelines for heritage conservation and management

## Outcome 3 Engaged communities

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Proposed actions	Delivery	Lead	Partners
Enhance Australia's Community Heritage website to facilitate greater public interaction, encouraging them to better share their heritage stories and events.	Ongoing	Department of the Environment Community groups	Australian Heritage Council Federation of Australian Historical Societies
Facilitate publication of project success stories by grant recipients and Green Army project managers on the Australia's Community Heritage website.	Ongoing	Department of the Environment	Heritage grant recipients Green Army project managers
Enhance the interactive nature of the National Heritage List website with a stronger social media presence.	July 2016	Department of the Environment	National Trusts of Australia
Raise awareness of the National Heritage List and the values and stories of its included places including with support under the Community Heritage and Icons Grants program.	Ongoing 2014-18	Department of the Environment	Australian Heritage Council Place managers State and territory governments Federation of Australian Historical Societies Community groups
'Support engagement with Australian Heritage Information website' to enhance community access to heritage information.	July 2020	Department of the Environment Heritage Officials of Australia and New Zealand	State and territory governments Universities Ministry for the Arts (Department of Communications and the Arts)
'Support stakeholder engagement with the Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites Heritage Toolkit.'	Ongoing	Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites	Department of the Environment Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (Toolkit) Heritage non-government organisations
Explore opportunities to improve public access to heritage information through new technologies and social media, for example, site-specific smart phone applications.	July 2020	Department of the Environment Heritage Officials of Australia and New Zealand	National Trusts of Australia Place managers

# National leadership



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# Greater Awareness



The City of Broken Hill National Heritage Place

- *Focus on National Heritage*
- *Australia's Community Heritage Website*
- *Community Heritage and Icons Grants Program*
- *Improved public access using new technologies*

# What about education?



Photo: National Trust of Australia (WA)

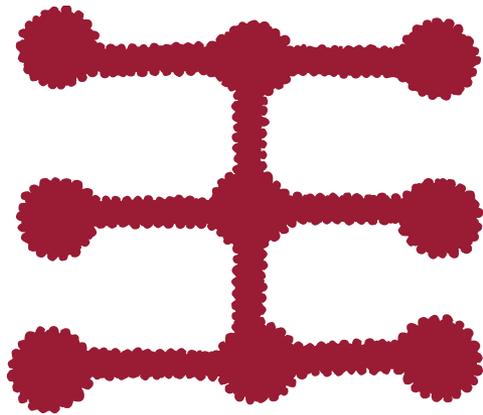
- *Partnerships with 'other sectors'*
- *Enhanced community access to heritage information*
- *Indigenous career paths*

*Aspirations and absences*

# Yet education unlocks meaning

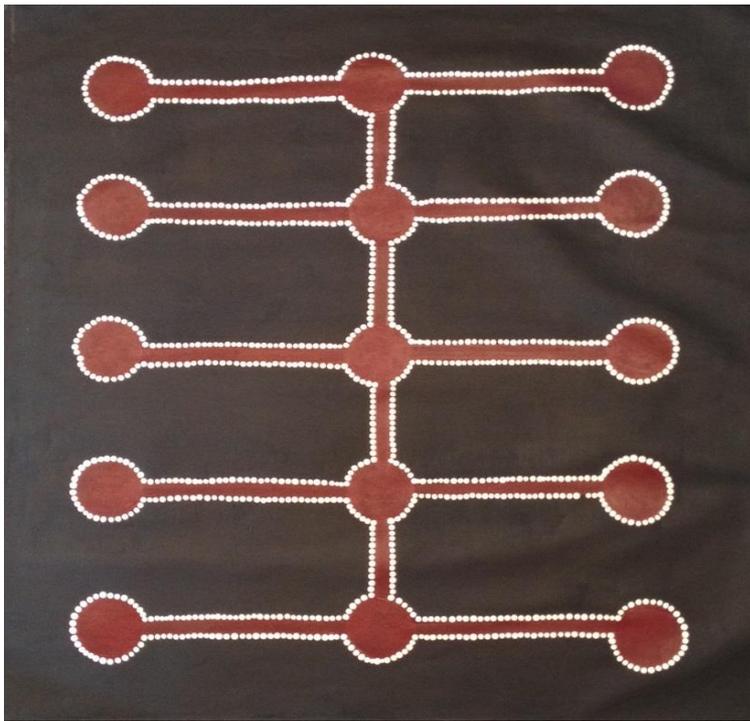


# Understanding meaning



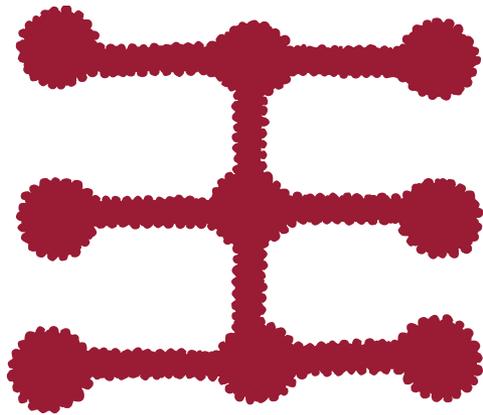
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# The importance of meaning



- Wilkinkarra
- Zakius Tjakamarra Jack
- Haasts Bluff: Western Desert
- Bushfire from the east  
... created Lake Mackay

Meaning



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