

South Australian Heritage Council

HERITAGE NEWS – APRIL 2024

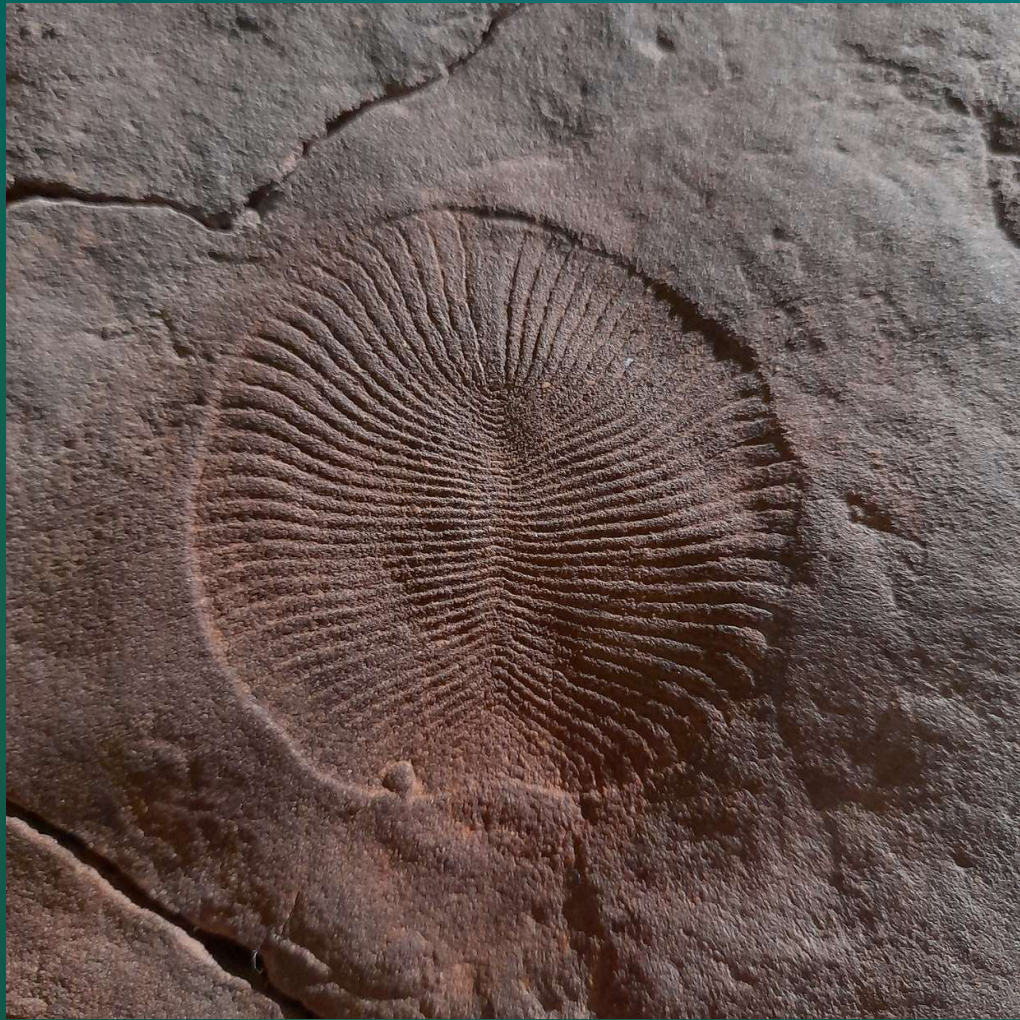


Image: Dickinsonia fossil, Nilpena Ediacara National Park Source: DEW files

Heritage News contains updates from the South Australian Heritage Council meeting held on 6 April 2024 and other topical news relating to conserving and promoting South Australia's unique heritage.



Government of
South Australia

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Regional Meeting and visit

The South Australian Heritage Council's (Council's) 145th meeting was held in the State Heritage township of Beltana in the Flinders Ranges.

The Council welcomed newly appointed members Mr. Tim Lloyd, Ms. Virginia Lee, Mr. Jamie Botten and Ms. Michelle Toft.

Beltana is registered as a State Heritage Area. It is one of 17 in South Australia.

This Heritage News documents the regional sites that the Council visited as part of this regional visit.

Mintaro

Mintaro was declared a State Heritage Area on 20 September 1984 and was the first heritage town that the Council passed through on the journey north to the Flinders Ranges. It is located 135kms north from Adelaide. It is located on Ndadjuri Country.

Mintaro was originally intended as a stopping place for the bullock teams carting the copper ore from the mine to the port and returning with coal and supplies. The first allotments in Mintaro were sold in 1849 facing Gulf Road (now Burra Street) that cut directly through the surveyed village. As a result, Mintaro's early layout reflects the copper route, with streets aligned at 45 degrees to the north-south grid of the surveyed sections and Government roads.

Slate deposits were discovered in the 1850s and the Mintaro Slate Quarry opened in 1854, using Cornish Methodist miners brought from England for the purpose. A flour mill was built in 1858, and Mintaro developed as a service centre for the surrounding farming districts, which provided supplies for the mining townships at Burra.

The Magpie and Stump Hotel was first licensed in 1850. The period from 1850-1860 was a prosperous one. A large proportion of the town's buildings date from this time and are located on the original subdivision.

Mintaro retains a nineteenth century village character and is best enjoyed on foot.



Image: Blacksmith Shop, Mintaro. Source: DEW files.

Burra

Twenty-five minutes on from Mintaro is Burra where the Council met with Mr David Stevenson, CEO of the City of Goyder. Mr Stevenson spoke with Council about the heritage of the Goyder region and provided a tour of the Nationally listed Burra Heritage Mine site. Burra is located on Ndadjuri Country.

The former copper mine at Burra represents a milestone in Australia's history of mining. During the nineteenth century the scale and richness of the copper mine at Burra marked the beginning of Australia's metal mining industry.

Using technology and skills transferred from Cornwall to Australia, the "monster mine", for the first ten years of its life, was the largest mine in Australia. From 1850 to 1860 the mine produced five percent of the world's copper.

The Cornish steam engine, as in Cornwall, was revolutionary, enabling for the first time the mining of metals at depths not previously possible.

Burra was registered as a State Heritage Area on 28 January 1993 and was included on the National Heritage List in 2017.



Image: Aerial view of Burra Mine site. Source: DEW files



Image: Ore dressing tower was erected in 1869 to treat the low-grade ore from the open cut, housed modern ore dressing machinery. Source: DEW files.

Friends of the Burra Railway Station

A group of hard working volunteers have lovingly restored the previously derelict building and a dilapidated 1917 Commonwealth Railways timber dining car. Special mention for Roy Taplin who played a major role in the restoration project - a true Heritage Hero. The friends group now operates a successful high tea in the carriage. In 2022-23, Burra Community Management Committee Inc. (on behalf of Friends of the Burra Railway Station) successfully applied for funding of \$141,400.91 from the Government Owned Heritage Fund. The group provided matched funding for the reconstruction of the Canopy over the rail lines.



Images: Burra Railway Carriage and signage in the Station. Source: DEW files.

Flinders Ranges

The Flinders Ranges are rich in natural, Aboriginal, and European heritage.

The Flinders Ranges began forming about 800 million years ago, when an ancient sea deposited sediments in a basin known as the Adelaide Geosyncline. Around 300 million years later, the basin sediments were folded into mountains during an orogeny, or mountain-building period. The mountains have since eroded to what you see today.

The Flinders Ranges is the only place on Earth where 350 million years of near-continuous geological sequence can be seen, demonstrating the rise of a habitable planet and the dawn of animal life.

St Mary's Peak is on the northern side of the pound and has a height of 3,825 feet (1,166 meters). It is not only the highest peak at Wilpena Pound, but also highest peak in the Flinders Ranges.

The Adnyamathanha are the traditional owners of the Flinders Ranges. Adnyamathanha meaning 'hills' or 'rock people' is a term now used to describe the Kuyani, Wailpi, Yadiaura, Pilatapa and Pangkala peoples of this region.

Places to stay include the Flinders Ranges – Ikara National Park, Wilpena Pound Resort and Rawnsley Park Station.

The park comprises approximately 95,000 hectares. It includes the Heysen Range, Brachina and Bunyeroo gorges and the vast amphitheatre of mountains that is Ikara Wilpena Pound.

Bookings and information: <https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/parks/ikara-flinders-ranges-national-park>

Known to the Traditional Owners as Ikara meaning 'the meeting place', Wilpena Pound Resort offers a one-of-a-kind experience of the destination, guided by the region's Traditional Owners, the Adnyamathanha people.

Bookings and information: <https://www.wilpenapound.com.au/>

Overlooking the southern side of Wilpena Pound, Rawnsley Park Station provides another great base for exploring South Australia's beautiful Flinders Ranges.

Bookings and information: <https://www.rawnsleypark.com.au/>



Image: Parachilna Gorge, Flinders Ranges. Source: DEW files



Image: The Flinders Ranges via the moving tour bus. Source: David Hanna.

The Cazneaux Tree

Majestic gum trees are the scent, shape and shade of the Australian bush.

Eucalypts, or gum trees, are superbly adapted and resilient to the extremes of weather in this semi-arid region. The sheer size of old river red gums like this one, inspired early Australian painters and photographers. Photographer Harold Cazneaux believed that this tree embodied struggle and endurance.

The Spirit of Endurance


This giant gum tree stands in solitary grandeur on a lonely plateau in the arid Flinders Range... where it has grown from a sapling through the years, and long before the shade cast from its giant limbs ever gave shelter from heat to white man.

The passing of the years has left it scarred and marked by the elements – storm, fire, water, - unconquered, it speaks to us of a Spirit of Endurance.


Although aged, its widespread limbs speak of a vitality that will carry on for many more years.

One day, when the sun shone hot and strong, I stood before this giant in silent wonder and admiration. The hot wind stirred its leafy boughs, and some of the living element of this tree passed to me in understanding and friendliness expressing the Spirit of Australia.

Harold Cazneaux, May 1941




Harold Cazneaux



Harold Cazneaux (1878-1953) was an extraordinarily early Australian photographer who felt that every image should be a work of art. Cazneaux was moved by the grandeur and beauty of the Australian landscape with its constantly changing light, and wished to share his vision.

This photograph, taken in 1937, is one of Cazneaux's most famous images. He called it "The Spirit of Endurance" but now it is known as The Cazneaux Tree.

For more information please visit parks.sa.gov.au



Above image: signage describing when Harold Cazneaux took a photo of this tree in 1937.

The image to the right is the same River Red Gum tree as seen today. As you can see – not a lot of change in 87 years!

Harold Cazneaux called his photo the “Spirit of Endurance”.

This beautiful tree is located between Blinman and Hawker in the Flinders Ranges.



Nilpena Ediacara National Park

In the Flinders Ranges, a visit was made to the Nilpena Ediacara National Park.

Kym Geue, National Park Ranger and Jimmy, Adnyamathanha man provided a guided tour of the historic buildings and shared their in-depth knowledge of the fossils found here.

A highlight of the Council's trip was the interactive audio-visual presentation in the historic Blacksmith Shop. It showcased one of the most spectacular fossil beds at Nilpena known as Alice's Restaurant Bed.

The Ediacara fossils are globally significant in preserving a record of the dawn of animal life approximately 550 million years ago.



Image: Interpretive centre (old Blacksmith's shop), Nilpena Ediacara National Park.

The Ediacara Fossil Reserve is registered as a State Heritage Place. It is where fossils of soft bodied marine animals of the Late Precambrian age (600-700 million years ago) were discovered by Reg Sprigg in 1946. These fossils constitute the oldest diversified and abundant marine fauna known to science and are remarkably well-preserved as casts and moulds in red-weathering sandstone.

The park is located on the western margins of the Flinders Ranges adjacent to Lake Torrens, 540 km north of Adelaide in South Australia. Visitors booked on guided tours can access the park via the Outback Highway 30 minutes north of Parachilna and 40 minutes south of Leigh Creek.

Plan your visit to Nilpena Ediacara National Park here:

<https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/park-management/new-in-sa-national-parks/nilpena-ediacara/planning-a-fossil-experience>



Image: Ediacaran fossil. Source DEW files.

Beltana

Located 540 km north of Adelaide and 240 m above sea level, Beltana is a truly remarkable State Heritage listed town in outback South Australia. Settlers began arriving in the area in the 1850s and 60s, and the town was surveyed in 1873. It is hard to imagine today that the little town grew to boast a population of 390 with 70 houses by 1883.

All buildings in Beltana are privately owned and occupied. There is now a permanent population of 30 and an active community of 55.

The discovery of copper at Sliding Rock in 1870 prompted the construction of Martin's Eating House (now the Beltana Hotel). Beltana township was surveyed in 1873 and a purpose-built repeater station was erected in 1875.

In 1987 the town of Beltana was declared a State Heritage Area in recognition of its links with so many important events in SA history including where the Royal Flying Doctor Service began, where pedal wireless experiments took place and where 60,000 years of Aboriginal culture remains strong.

The local hall has a beautifully restored cellar that contains many pieces of landscape artwork. The Council gives thanks to local heritage enthusiast Jan Ferguson who was host and tour guide.



You are encouraged to visit and walk around the town and read the interpretive signage.





Image: The former Police Station, Beltana. Source: DEW files.



If you are planning a trip, the town has both Telstra and Optus 4G transmission towers.

More information about your visit: <https://www.beltana.org.au/>

Blinman

Copper was discovered at Blinman in 1859 by a one-legged shepherd, Robert 'Peg Leg' Blinman, who, unsurprisingly, gave his name to the township which grew up around the mine.

Copper mining occurred in the area from around 1862 through to 1907 when the ore ran out. In total, around 10,000 tonnes of copper were removed from 200,000 tons of ore.

Council experienced a tour of the heritage mine site at Blinman and many thanks go to tour guide Susan Pearl for giving up her time to share her wisdom.

The tour group maintain a great website and you can read more about the Blinman Mine visit here:

<https://heritageblinmanmine.com.au/>

At the peak of the mines operation Blinman township had a population of approximately 1500 residents. Today Blinman has a permanent population of 27, plus the residents of the surrounding pastoral properties.

The Blinman Mine & Mine Manager's Cottage is registered as a State Heritage Place.



Other Heritage News

South Australia's History Festival

The theme for the May 2024 History Festival is "Power".

Every single one of us has a story. Some of these stories are grand and far-reaching; others are quiet and personal, held close. Some are handed down as lasting relics; others are broadcast widely or uploaded with fleeting regard for their permanence. We carry these stories with us; some of them are written across our faces. And every one of our stories is enmeshed with South Australia's vibrant, living history.

Immerse yourself in South Australia's history and plan your program of events here:

<https://festival.history.sa.gov.au/>

Barossa History Fair

The Barossa History Fair is being held on Sunday 5 May in Tanunda from 10am to 4pm.

The attractions include a selection of photos from past finalists of the Heritage Snaps photo competition in the Tabor Church Hall, 77 Murray Street, Tanunda.

Other attractions include Victoriana Society Promenade on the Visitor Information Centre lawns on Murray Street, a performance by the Tanunda Town Band in the Town Hall plus many more!

More information here: <https://www.facebook.com/barossahistoryfair/>

Ayers House Bill passes Parliament

The Ayers House Bill 2023 was introduced into the House of Assembly on 22 February 2024 and passed the House on the same date. It then passed the Legislative Council on 9 April 2024. There were no amendments to the introduced Bill.

The Bill will deliver the government's election commitment to guarantee the National Trust of South Australia's ongoing tenure of Ayers House via an Act of Parliament and ensure that the National Trust is able to generate income at Ayers House.



Image: Ayers House 1860. Source: DEW files

Heritage Trades Training

From 5th to 16th August 2024, Keith McAllister of Applied Building Conservation Training (ABCT), will provide participants with the following theoretical and hands-on experience:

- Heritage Metal Roofing
- Heritage Carpentry
- Heritage Painting
- Reconstruction of heritage verandah to the facade of Pirie Chambers.

Course cost is \$1,200 and will be held in Broken Hill.

More information:

<https://hsrsa.com/courses/heritage-trades-program-pirie-chambers-broken-hill-stage-2/>

Heritage by the numbers

South Australia has a rich and multifaceted history reflected in its tangible heritage. Here are some statistics about Heritage in South Australia, by the numbers:

- 1 World Heritage Place (Australian Fossil Mammal Sites at Naracoorte)
- 10 National Heritage Places
- 11 Commonwealth Heritage Places
- 2327 Confirmed State Heritage Places
- 9 Provisionally listed State Heritage Places
- 17 State Heritage Areas
- 29 State Heritage Objects
- 17 State Heritage Places Designated for their archaeological significance
- 38 State Heritage Places Designated (26 with geological significance, 16 with palaeontological significance and 4 with speleological significance (noting six places have more than one type of designation).
- Over 7,250 Local Heritage Places in 27 of the 68 Local Councils of SA

Map of the Flinders Ranges



More information

If you would like to know more about the work of the South Australian Heritage Council and Heritage South Australia, here are some useful links.

Receive information through our email distribution list. Email us at: dew.heritage@sa.gov.au

Web: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage>



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/heritagesouthaustralia>



LinkedIn - Heritage South Australia:



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