

South Australian Heritage Council

HERITAGE NEWS – DECEMBER 2023



Image: Above: Commissioner of Public Works Honour Board. Below: Torrens Building, Victoria Square. Source: DEW files. The Honour Board is located in the Torrens Building.

Heritage News contains news from the South Australian Heritage Council meeting and other topical news relating to conserving and promoting South Australia's unique heritage.

The South Australian Heritage Council (Council) met on 7 December 2023.



Government of
South Australia

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Provisional Entries in the South Australian Heritage Register

Shandon (flats), 88 Moseley Street, Glenelg South. On Kaurna Country.

Constructed in 1940 in Glenelg South, Shandon (flats) is an uncommon example of a new, modern way of living, as the Second World War brought a halt to the construction of dwellings. Shandon (flats) is an outstanding example of purpose-built interwar flats, demonstrating many of the principal characteristics of the class. It is also an outstanding representative of interwar streamlined architecture, articulating many of the key attributes of the style.

Council provisionally entered Shandon (flats) in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place, as it is deemed to fulfil criteria (a), (b), (d) and (e) for State heritage listing under section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

This decision triggers three months of public consultation.



Image: Shandon (flats), 88 Moseley Street, Glenelg South
Source: DEW Files, 27 September 2023

Naracoorte Church of Christ, 64 Jenkins Street, Naracoorte. On Bunganditj, Marditjali, Meintangk, Nggarindjeri and Potaruwutj Country.

Naracoorte Church of Christ is an outstanding example of a post-war church. The church complex, completed in 1966, was one of relatively few churches designed and built in a single construction phase during the post-war period. The Naracoorte Church of Christ is also an outstanding example of late twentieth-century ecclesiastical Modern Movement architecture in South Australia.

Council provisionally entered the Naracoorte Church of Christ in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place, as it is deemed to fulfil criteria (d) and (e) for State heritage listing under section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

This decision triggers three months of public consultation.



Image: Naracoorte Church of Christ. Source: DEW files.

Former Salisbury Methodist Church, 59-61 Park Terrace, Salisbury. On Kurna Country.

The former Salisbury Methodist Church, opened in 1961, is an outstanding example of late twentieth-century ecclesiastical Modern Movement architecture in South Australia. South Australian architect W. Lance Brune's innovative, well-resolved design is notable for its dramatic and distinctive A-frame roof, feature cross and foundation stone and the exposed steel joist rafters of its chapel, contrasting with the flat roofs of the non-worship wings.

Council provisionally entered the Former Salisbury Methodist Church in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place, as it is deemed to fulfil criterion (e) for State heritage listing under section 16(1) of the Heritage Places Act 1993.

This decision triggers three months of public consultation.



Image: Former Salisbury Methodist Church. Source: DEW Files.

Nominated places not entered on the Register

Highgate Park (former Julia Farr Centre), 103 Fisher Street, Fullarton. On Kurna Country.

Highgate Park began in 1879 as a charitable organisation. It is an institutional facility that provided residential care for people living with a disability. Julie Farr is acknowledged as originating the idea for a Home as she wished to see a place where people without financial means, who were living with an incurable disease or disability, could live, for the remainder of their life, if necessary.

Dr William Gosse assisted Farr in the establishment of the home in 1879 and then provided medical advice and services until his death in 1883.

James Campbell Irwin is an architect who served on the Management Committee for the institution. While Irwin likely had design oversight of East Block of Highgate Park, his name does not appear on any of the architectural drawings for the building, meaning that while he may have contributed to its design it cannot be attributed to him but rather only the practice.

Council considered a detailed assessment report and the nomination for this place. Council determined it did not meet the threshold for listing as a State Heritage Place.

If you are interested in reading more about this place, the assessment report can be downloaded from this webpage: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/sa-heritage-register/entries-confirmations>



Image: Highgate Park East Block and Gosse Building. Source: SA Government.

Objects Intrinsically associated with a State Heritage Place

Commissioner of Public Works Honour Board, Torrens Building, Victoria Square / Tarndanyangga, Adelaide. On Kaurna Country.

Containing the names of 497 enlisted servicemen, including 52 that died overseas, the Honour Board demonstrates the profound impact of the First World War on the state's public service and commemorates the contribution of the Public Works Department to the defence of South Australia and Australia.

The Honour Board features the names of Aboriginal service personnel who served this country during the First World War.

The creation of the Honour Board and its six siblings was the responsibility of the Works and Buildings branch and was designed by draughtsman for the Architect-in-Chief's branch, Archibald J. Lavender, and made by South Australian artist Blanche Francis. Both the Architect-in-Chief and Works and Buildings were departments of the Commissioner of Public Works, meaning the Honour Board was made for and by members of staff who worked in the Torrens Building.

The Honour Board is intrinsically associated with the Torrens Building, a State Heritage Place. The Torrens Building is an outstanding example of Victorian Free Classical architecture in South Australia as it demonstrates many of the key attributes of the style and remains highly intact.

Council provisionally entered the Commissioner of Public Works Honour Board as an object intrinsically related to the heritage significance of the Torrens Building, 202-220 Victoria Square, Adelaide, pursuant to section 14(2)(b) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.



Image: The Honour Board, Torrens Building.

Better Heritage Information Reports

There are a number of State Heritage Places that were heritage listed at a time when only limited information was required to enter them in the Register. In many cases this included only the address of the place, the name and the Certificate of Title. Council, with the assistance of Heritage South Australia assessment officers, is now improving the information about why they are State Heritage Places.

At this meeting the Council approved seven reports for inclusion in the supplementary information to the Register entry for each of the following:

Former Government Residency, 1A Hagen Street, Robe. On Bunganditj Country.

The Former Government Residency at Robe, erected in c.1849 and replacing the earlier structure built in 1847, demonstrates the government's understanding of the importance of Robe's port and the town's intended role as the major service centre for the South East.

The South Australian Register reported that there were 'three Government officials with little to do, except to quarrel with each other'. These officials were likely Butler, Lipson, and Dr. Healey. On 1 September 1846, Captain Gerald Villiers Butler of the 96th Regiment was appointed Government Resident for the Counties of Robe and Grey at an annual salary of £200.

The house was erected on Allotments 51 and 52 on land bought in the name of W. Smillie for fifteen pounds at the first auction sale. It faced Lake Butler and had a generous portion of land facing Smillie Street, comprising Sections 23 and 24. Likely within a few months after the foundations had been laid, construction of the house was completed for Captain Butler. The house was the first residential property built in Robe. Around one or two years later, the house was substantially rebuilt with quarried limestone.

During Butler's tenure as Government Resident, the first buildings of the Courthouse and Police Complex were constructed.



Image: Southern elevation showing French doors, lean-to, and shelter, c.1982. Source: DEW Files

Robe Institute, Smillie Street, Robe

The Robe Institute, along with other places such as Cemetery - Robe and St Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church demonstrates the social and cultural development of Robe as a key service town in South Australia during the nineteenth century.

In early 1862, a public meeting was conducted in Robe to create a local mechanics' institute. Organised and chaired by A. Grace, Esquire, key positions were filled during the meeting, including the Secretary and Treasurer. Three Trustees were also elected, as were six Committee members. Additionally, rules and by-laws were partially approved during the meeting and £98 in subscription fees amassed.

The Robe Institute building opened in late February 1869. On 1 March 1869, the *Evening Journal* reported that the community 'commemorated the opening of the new Institute' by conducting a week-long carnival. The article described the hall as a 'fine room, 50x24' that had been 'tastefully decorated'. It noted the carnival provided quality entertainment, raised 'a handsome sum to the credit of the Institute' and paid for a 'splendid new piano'. Importantly, it observed that towards the end of the carnival the 'Institute Committee were called before the curtain, and received an ovation'.



Image: Streetview of Robe Institute c.1913. Source: W. J. Angus, SLSA B12088

Former CSIRO Field Research Station (including shed, water tank, yard fencing and gates)

The Former CSIR/CSIRO Field Research Station at Robe demonstrates South Australia's role in the advancement of applied science to cure widespread animal disease impacting on agricultural productivity.

This place was confirmed as a State Heritage Place on 12 February 1998.



Image: Entrance to the shed showing entrance, signage, a section of the concrete yard, timber fencing, and steel-framed wire gates, April 2003.

Colman's Store, 25 Commercial Road, Strathalbyn

Built in 1864 by William Colman, a miller and the owner of the Angas Mill, the Store was used to store grain and flour produced by the Mill. Between 1883 and 1910 the store was also the venue for the Strathalbyn Agricultural Show.

In addition to its primary purpose as an agricultural building, Colman's Store was also Strathalbyn's 'makeshift' community hall, playing host to a variety of live performances, balls, fundraisers, lectures, meetings, sermons, and festivals prior to the establishment of purpose-built venues.

This place was Confirmed as a State Heritage Place on 5 April 1984.



Image: Colman's Store in April 2023. Source: Google Maps.

Shop, 4-6 Albyn Terrace, Strathalbyn

Built between 1868 and 1869 by John James Bonnar for his legal practice, the Shops along Albyn Terrace are associated with the early commercial development of the township of Strathalbyn and its establishment as a regional service centre in the late nineteenth century. Commercial properties were vital to the success of the township and demonstrate the importance of early businesses in serving travellers and attracting settlers to Strathalbyn, securing its position as a nodal centre.

This place was confirmed as a State Heritage Place on 1 September 1983.



Image: Albyn Terrace from Commercial Road c.1908.

J.J. Bonnar's shops are the third from the right. Source: SLSA B 11379

Capri Cinema (former New Goodwood Star, late New Curzon), 141 Goodwood Road, Goodwood

The Capri Theatre (former New Goodwood Star Theatre) demonstrates the evolution of motion pictures as a new form of mass entertainment in the twentieth century. Built in 1941, it was the last purpose-built picture theatre constructed during the interwar period in South Australia.

The Capri Theatre continues to show pictures, and if you attend the evening session on Tuesday, Friday or Saturday you will see the Capri's 'Wurlitzer' Organ play before the commencement of the movie.

The Capri can accommodate up to 750 guests over two levels in a theatre style.

Check out what pictures are showing here: <https://capri.org.au/movies/>

This place was confirmed as a State Heritage Place on 27 September 1990.



Image: Capri Theatre.

Piccadilly Theatre, 181 – 189 O’Connell Street, North Adelaide

The Piccadilly Theatre demonstrates the evolution of motion pictures as a new form of mass entertainment in the twentieth century. Built in 1940, it was the penultimate purpose-built picture theatre constructed during the interwar period.

While the Piccadilly Theatre has undergone many changes over the years including removal of original fabric and reinstatement of recreated fabric, the exterior and foyer interiors remain highly intact.

There are many good movies on at the moment so why not head to both the Piccadilly and Capri Theatres these Christmas holidays. Check out what is playing at the Piccadilly Theatre here:

<https://wallis.com.au/piccadilly/cinema-info/>



Image: Piccadilly Cinema. Source: National Trust of South Australia.

Other Heritage News / Events

The 2023-24 Heritage Conservation grants have been awarded

Eighteen state heritage-listed properties will share in \$250,000 of funding to help conserve significant sites as part of the first round of the state government's Heritage Conservation Grants Program.

The new program will provide a total of \$2.5 million over 10 grant rounds, doubling the investment made under the previous program initiated in 2018.

The grants aim to encourage investment in South Australia's diverse range of heritage places through financial assistance and advice for private owners undertaking conservation works.

The first round of sites to be awarded funding are an interesting mix of private residences, churches, stables, a pavilion, ticket office, cemetery, clock tower, flour mill, movie theatre, manor, bank, police station, winery and cottage from all over the state. Grant allocations range from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

Some of these remarkable buildings include, the Minlaton Showground's Jubilee Pavilion, which was established in 1882 and, with its incorporated grandstand, is the only example left of its kind in South Australia. The Robe Historic Cemetery, which is a rich source of history on the many early pastoralists buried there. The Capri Theatre, Goodwood, which first opened in October 1941. Clayton Heritage Farm Museum, in Bordertown, which showcases Australian farmyard technologies and construction techniques from the 1870s to 1930s.

These State Heritage listed places tell stories from South Australia's rich history, and it is important they are preserved so everyone can enjoy them long into the future.

For more information about the grants program

www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/heritage-grant

Twentieth Century Church Architecture

On 16 November, Chris Burns from Heritage South Australia co-presented a short talk with Bethany Pietsch, Lutheran Archives, at the International Confederation of Architecture Museums (ICAM) Australasia 2023 Meeting. The meeting was hosted by the University of South Australia Architecture Museum. This talk explored the role played by the Lutheran Archives in Chris's research into twentieth century church architecture. Chris discussed the kinds of relevant records held by the Lutheran Archives and the historical information that may be derived from those records. Bethany reflected on lessons learned for the Lutheran Archives emerging from Chris's research.

ICAM Australasia was established in 2010 as a network of people collecting, caring for, managing, promoting and using architecture and design records in Australia and New Zealand. The network is not formally structured and operates through the informal collaboration of its members. The 2023 meeting was a chance to re-connect with colleagues and friends and to introduce new people to the network. The ICAM Australasia network focuses on connecting, and on fostering the exchange of information between, institutions; professional, government and community groups; and individuals collecting, caring for, managing, promoting and using architecture and design records.

ICAM's objectives are to:

- Preserve the architectural record and make it accessible,
- Raise the quality and protection of the built environment,
- Foster the study of architectural history in the interest of future practice,

- Stimulate the public appreciation of architecture,
- Promote the exchange of information and professional expertise.

If you have an interest in getting involved or further information, please contact the SA Architecture Museum:

<https://www.unisa.edu.au/connect/galleries-museums-and-centres/architecture-museum/>

Government House Picnics / Tours

From September 2023, on the first Friday of every month, Her Excellency the Governor is opening the grounds of Government House for the public to enjoy their lunch picnic-style on the lawns. Each month, visitors can enjoy a performance by a local band or orchestra.

Visitors are invited to explore the Government House gardens and bring their own food, beverages, chairs and picnic rugs. The initiative reflects Her Excellency's commitment to welcoming as many people as possible into the Government House grounds.

For garden enthusiasts such as yourselves, earlier in the day, tours of the garden will be conducted by guides from the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide. Participants will learn about how the Government House garden has developed over time, its oldest trees, the history of its statues and sculptures, and more.

Upcoming Dates: 5 January 2024, 2 February 2024, 1 March 2024, and 3 May 2024.

Lunch on the Lawns

Gates open from 12-2pm, corner North Terrace and King William Road.

Entry is free, no bookings required. Visitors must bring their own food, rugs etc.

Garden tours

10.45am-11.45am.

Entry is free, bookings are required: telephone 08 8203 9800.

Cummins House

Cummins House is an important State Heritage Place located in Novar Gardens in the western beachside suburbs of Adelaide and is one of South Australia's earliest extant buildings.

It was the residence of South Australian pioneer and politician John Morphett, purpose-built for him and lived in by five generations of the Morphett family until sold to the State Government in the 1970s. There are very few residences in South Australia occupied by one family for such a long period. Morphett was of considerable significance to the establishment and development of the Colony of South Australia.

Today Cummins House and gardens are carefully tended by the dedicated volunteers of The Cummins Society who run regular guided tours.

Tours are the first and third Sunday of the month between 2pm and 4:30pm. Bookings are essential as the number of people in each group is limited to comply with COVID-19 requirements. Tour and Devonshire Tea for \$15 per person. For bookings please call 0417 852 320.

Art Gallery of South Australia

Tarnanthi at the Art Gallery showcases the latest works of contemporary art from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists across the continent.

A major feature is the first survey exhibition of acclaimed portraitist Vincent Namatjira, whose works offer a wry Aboriginal perspective on the politics of history, power and leadership. Namatjira's dynamic community of Indulkana is also the source of Tiger Yaltangki's painted incursions into classic AC/DC rock posters and Iwantja Arts' fortieth anniversary retrospective.

Tarnanthi is on display from 20 Oct 2023 – 21 Jan 2024.

Bookings and further detail here:

<https://www.agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/tarnanthi/tarnanthi-2023/tarnanthi-at-agsa/>

The Art Gallery is a State Heritage Place.

Beltana – State Heritage Area (happy 150th!)

If you are travelling to the northern parts of South Australia these holidays, make a stop at Beltana township.

The historic settlement of Beltana is located near Warioota Creek in the western fringe of the Flinders Ranges, around 540km north of Adelaide, just a short detour off the main highway on a bitumen Road. The State Heritage Area includes the township and the nearby cemetery and railway station.

Settlers began arriving in the area in the 1850s and 60s, and the town was surveyed and gazetted in 1873 meaning Beltana turned 150 in 2023!

Adnyamathanha people have a continuous over 50,000 history with Beltana. Post colonisation, Beltana became historically important for its links with the Overland Telegraph, the Transcontinental Railway, mining, outback services and the home of the RFDS through the Australian Inland Mission. The town was an important hub for camel-based transport during the 19th century.

People of Aboriginal, Afghan and European descents all regard Beltana as an important place in their cultural heritage.



Image: Smith of Dunesk Mission Building. Beltana. Source: Beltana Progress Association.



Image: Beltana. Source: Beltana Progress Association.



Image: Royal Victoria Hotel, Beltana Source: Jan Ferguson.

Friends of Torrens Island

The Friends of Torrens Island Inc. (FOTI) is a group which aims to: “Preserve, conserve, promote and enhance the environmental, historical and cultural heritage of Torrens Island.”

The main role of the FOTI is maintaining the heritage-listed Quarantine Station site, and as a Friends of Parks member group we have an interest in the adjacent Conservation Park. Volunteer activities include conservation (tree-planting, weeding and seed collection), and advocating for and promoting the historical and environmental riches of the Island.

FOTI are delighted to invite you to come along to celebrate what it has achieved at the Quarantine Station.

Please call the membership Secretary on 0422 902 934 or email malsgold@internode.on.net for details about visiting, participating in working bees and gate access.

Working bees are held the last Sunday of each month and start about 10:00am and finish around 2:00pm.

Access to the site is via AGL security, who must be informed you intend to visit there, or you will not be allowed access on to the island.

Friends of Torrens Island (FOTI) would be very pleased to have your company and assistance to help with maintenance, weeding, and other jobs. It's also an opportunity to spend time in this very unique place not far from the CBD. FOTI members have diverse interests including heritage, conservation, community projects and Landcare. Regardless of our backgrounds or experience we are united by our passion for this unique and significant island.

Find FOTI on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Torrens-Island-1374851426059651>



Image: Torrens Island Quarantine Station. Photo supplied by Angela Wojcik

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

The South Australian Heritage Council and Heritage South Australia wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy 2024!

This giant Christmas tree in the Mortlock Chamber of the State Library is on display until 7 January 2024.



Image: Mortlock Library Christmas Tree. Photo credit Keith Conlon 2020

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)

9 National Heritage Places

11 Commonwealth Heritage Places

2324 Confirmed State Heritage Places

6 Provisionally listed State Heritage Places

17 State Heritage Areas

29 State Heritage Objects

17 State Heritage Places Designated for their archaeological significance

22 State Heritage Places Designated for their geological significance

9 State Heritage Places Designated for their palaeontological significance

3 State Heritage Places Designated for their speleological significance

Over 7000 Local Heritage Places in 38 Local Councils

The Criteria

Heritage Places Act 1993 – Section 16—Heritage Significance

A place is of heritage significance if it satisfies one or more of the following criteria:

- (a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history; or
- (b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance; or
- (c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history; or
- (d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance; or
- (e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics; or
- (f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it; or
- (g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.

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:



Published by the South Australian Heritage Council
Government of South Australia
15 December 2023

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