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# South Australian Heritage Council

## HERITAGE NEWS

1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION OF 2026



Image: Green Waterhole – Tank Cave Fossil Complex from above

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



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# Provisional Entries in the South Australian Heritage Register

## Lobethal Woollen Mill Objects Collection. On Peramangk Country.

The Lobethal Woollen Mill Objects Collection is intrinsically related to the development of woollen textile production at the Lobethal Woollen Mill, located at 1 Lobethal Road, Lobethal.

Established in the early 1870s as the Lobethal Tweed Factory, the mill expanded to become one of the largest wool manufactures in Australia producing a diverse range of goods for both national and international clients. The collection contains machinery and tools that demonstrate the wool milling process, as well as samples and swatches, memorabilia and business records of Onkaparinga Woollen Company (1928-1993) and its predecessor, the South Australian Woollen Company (1883-1928). As a whole, the Lobethal Woollen Mill Objects Collection demonstrates an industrial process no longer practiced in South Australia and represents the everyday experience of its employees.

The Onkaparinga Woollen Mill Museum Inc (OWMMI) are the custodians of the collection which is housed in Building 26 at the Old Woollen Mill in Lobethal. Read more information and take a virtual tour [here](#).

On 11 December 2025, the Council provisionally entered Lobethal Woollen Mill Objects Collection under section 16(2)(c) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

This decision by Council triggers three months of consultation with the owner.



Photo: Allma Twister (LWM2025.6). Source: DEW files

## Former GJ Coles & Company Adelaide Store. 112 – 118 Rundle Mall, Adelaide. On Kurna Country.

The Former G. J. Coles & Company Adelaide Store demonstrates how city department stores transformed the way South Australian's shopped from the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries, playing a key role in the rise of mass consumption. Since c.1960, many city department stores have been demolished, making it an uncommon surviving example. Designed by Melbourne architect Harry Norris and completed in 1940, the Former G. J. Coles & Company Adelaide Store demonstrates a creative adaptation of available materials and technology of the period and was one of the first in South Australia to employ steel and reinforced concrete to support a non-loadbearing, wraparound façade that appeared to 'float' above ground-floor shopfronts. It is also an outstanding example of functionalist architecture in South Australia, demonstrating many key attributes, notably horizontal emphasis, rounded corners, wide-span ribbon windows, de-emphasised columns, metal window frames and faience facing.

On the 11 December 2025, the Council provisionally entered Former GJ Coles & Company Adelaide Store under criterion (a), (b) and (e) of section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

This decision by Council triggers three months of community consultation. Read more [here](#).



Image: Former G. J. Coles & Company Adelaide Store. Source: DEW files.

# Confirmations in the South Australian Heritage Register

## Green Waterhole – Tank Cave Fossil Complex. On First Nations of the South East Country.

The Green Waterhole – Tank Cave Fossil Complex contains the only known extensive underwater vertebrate fossil deposits in Australia. This unique environment has ensured the preservation of extinct species not found anywhere else, with several additional species new to science recovered and awaiting description. The underwater deposits have also resulted in a completeness and preservation of fossil assemblies almost unique within Australia. This provides an important opportunity to investigate the evolution of South Australian mammals and birds. The impacts of this type of site on the age and nature of the fossil remains have yet to be fully studied. The complex represents unusual geological formations including the occurrence of a shallow fresh waterhole not usually found in sinkholes in the South East, and evidence of rare volcanogenic influences in the formation of the cave system. The cave complex also demonstrates rare speleological features, including length of cave passageways, clarity of water, underwater speleothems, and being a type locality for stygofauna. The complex also holds importance for the development of cave diving in the country and is closely associated with the Cave Divers Association of Australia. It is also acknowledged as a place of significance for the Boandik people.

On 30 October 2025, the Council confirmed this place as it satisfies criterion (b), (c) and (g) of section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. Additionally, designation as a Place of Palaeontological, Speleological and Geological significance is retained in accordance with s14(7)(a)(i) and s14(7)(b) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

You can read more information about this place [here](#).



Photo: Cave Diver Peter Blackmore in Green Waterhole cave; white calcite flakes draped over boulders (source of creamy coloured bones); three stakes and fossil search reference gridlines in foreground.

Source: Ian Ploenges 1987

## Mount Wudinna and Environs. On Barngarla Country.

Mount Wudinna and Environs is an exceptional example of granite inselbergs (isolated rock formations that rise abruptly from the surrounding plain). Located on the northern Eyre Peninsula, Mount Wudinna and Environs is comprised of four major granite outcrops, each displaying well-preserved and sometimes unusual geological features formed in the granite due to compressive stresses and weathering. The granite outcrops provide excellent opportunity for research on the effect of these natural processes in the South Australian landscape and trace the evolution of the topography of the State through several geological features. These features associated with granite are highly likely to contribute to an understanding of the development of granite inselbergs over geological time and into the future as they continue to develop.

On the 30 October 2025, the Council confirmed this place as it satisfies criterion (c) of section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. Additionally, designation as a Place of Geological significance is retained in accordance with s14(7)(a)(i) and s14(7)(b) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

You can read more information about this place [here](#).



Photo: the slope of Mount Wudinna. Source: DEW files.

## Former Sisalkraft Factory Complex. On Karna Country.

In 1956, the Former Sisalkraft Factory Complex was designed by architect Keith Neighbour and built for Sisalkraft Distributors SA Pty Ltd, a company that manufactured sisal-based products including Sisalation. Located in Kilkenny, the complex is an outstanding representative of a mid-twentieth century factory. It exhibits many of the key attributes typical of factories erected during the industrialisation of South Australia, c.1935-1965, notably its Modernist design elements and hard landscaping. The Sisalkraft Factory Complex is also an outstanding example of Postwar International architecture, observed through elements like its rectilinear shape, structural frame and curtain walls. Similarly, the Sisalkraft Factory Complex demonstrates a high degree of creative achievement through the holistic application of Modernist design elements across the complex as well as its distinctive rhomboid skylights and concrete parabolic arch.

The Council confirmed this place at its 11 December 2025 meeting as it satisfies criteria (d) and (e) of section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

You can read more information about this place [here](#).



Photo: The parabolic arch at Former Sisalkraft Factory Complex. Source: DEW Files

# Places not entered in the SA Heritage Register

## **Former Malcolm Reid's Emporium. 187-195 Rundle Street, Adelaide. On Kaurana Country.**

The Former Malcolm Reid's Emporium, was once a city department store that defined South Australian's shopping experience from the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. The Former Malcolm Reid's Emporium contributed to the growth of the state's retail trade and the rise of mass consumption during the first half of the twentieth century. The company, Malcolm Reid and Company Limited, was one of the state's longest running furniture manufacturers and retailers.

After consideration of written and oral representations as well as the 2025 assessment report the Council determined it did not meet the threshold for listing and removed it from the South Australian Heritage Register.

Please note that the facade of this place is protected under a separate State Heritage Place registration.

# Other Heritage News

## Happy New Year

We hope the New Year has started well for you. This year is going by fast again! From mince pies to hot cross buns, the season is turning quickly.

Adelaide's largest indoor Christmas tree, standing at seven metres tall, decorated the Mortlock Wing over the Christmas period and is a great image to include in this new year edition.



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

## Museums in the Port – Special Offer on Admissions Prices

The Port Adelaide area offers four exceptional museums – the South Australian Maritime Museum, the South Australian Aviation Museum, the National Railway Museum and the Clipper Ship *City of Adelaide*.

Between 1 September 2025 and 31 December 2026, these museums are offering a special price for admission. When attending one of the four museums, you will receive a Museums in the Port brochure which will give you 25% off your admission at the remaining three locations valid up to two months from your first visit.

Access the web page [here](#).

## Heritage Who Am I?

Try and guess the identity of this State Heritage Place using the hints below:

- I am associated with the pre-European settlement history of Kangaroo Island.
- I am the earliest memorial in the state.
- My domed structure was erected in 1906 to protect a historic artefact in situ.
- I am associated with Nicolas Baudin's crew of the ship *Le Geographe* from 1803.
- Does the photo help?

*The answer will be published in the next edition of Heritage News.*



## Take a tour of the Old Treasury and Tunnels

The National Trust of South Australia is your host as you head underground into the tunnels.

Located at 142 – 160 King William Street, Adelaide, the former Treasury Building was built in stages from 1839 to 1907, and from 1839 until the late 1960s stood at the centre of the State's administrative and governmental affairs.

The building as it currently appears is principally post 1858, but one internal wall dates from 1839. Over time it housed the Colonial Secretary's Office, Treasury, Survey, Crown Lands, Public Works and Attorney-General's offices. It was the end point for the gold escorts from the Victorian goldfields in the 1850s and housed the Cabinet Room from 1876 until 1968. The building has a strong association with exploration and surveying, the sale and management of land, the development of the State's agricultural and pastoral industries, and executive government.

Book your tour here: [Old Treasury & Tunnels – National Trust](#)

## The Adelaide Oval Scoreboard

After five days of Test Cricket at Adelaide Oval between 17 and 21 December 2025, the old Scoreboard continues to stand the test of time and is the envy of other grounds around Australia. The current scoreboard was completed in 1911, in time for the ninth test match at Adelaide Oval. The Adelaide Oval Scoreboard is an excellent example of an architect's solution to a potentially mundane commission. Manually operated over four storeys, the Scoreboard incorporated new features including a novel approach to the layout of information which gave unparalleled detail on the progress of cricket matches. It was designed F. Kenneth Milne.

The South Australian Cricket Association Annual Report of 1911 said “This board which is being erected at a cost of over 1400 pounds will, when finished, be on the finest in the southern hemisphere. It will give more information than boards on any other grounds”.

Did you know that there have now been 84 test matches at Adelaide Oval, with the first match being played in 1884.



Photo: Adelaide Oval Scoreboard. Source DEW files.

## Heritage pubs in Adelaide

There are a surprising number of State and Local Heritage pubs in the City of Adelaide. An article in the Good Living Blog shines a light on ten of these watering holes. Read it [here](#).

## What's on at the Tea Tree Gully Heritage Museum

### "Brunch in the Garden"

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February from 9:30am to 11:30am. The Museum are trying to raise enough money for a permanent outdoor shelter. Support them by attending this event! It is \$29 per person. Booking via: [Brunch in the Garden Tickets, Sun, 8 Feb 2026 at 9:30 am | Eventbrite](#)

### "Potions and Pills"

On Sunday 15 February from 11am to 4pm, come and listen to Dr Marvel talk about potions of the past! From arsenic to apple cider vinegar, there was a potion for every ill.

Entry fee is \$6 per adult, \$5 for concession and children are free.

The Tea Tree Gully Heritage Museum is a State Heritage Place and is located at 3 Perseverance Road, Tea Tree Gully.

## Around SA

Below is a small selection of interesting things happening around South Australia:

### Eyre Peninsula

Coffin Bay National Park is the traditional lands of the Barngarla and Nauo people who have used the rich food resources of the lower Eyre Peninsula coast long before the arrival of Matthew Flinders.

With spectacular views, Coffin Bay offers great bushwalks, boating, swimming and fishing.

The State Heritage listed Former Coffin Bay Whaling Site is located in the Coffin Bay National Park [Designated as a place of archaeological significance]. The site of the Coffin Bay Whaling Station at Point Sir Isaac provides evidence of one of the Colony's first export industries, of which little is known or documented.

Before you visit this park, please read more [here](#).

### Far North

The William Creek Hotel is State Heritage listed and sits in the centre of the world's largest cattle station, Anna Creek Station.

It has cultural associations with an image of outback Australian life, linking the modern four-wheel drive tourist and back-packer with the bullock teamsters, camel trains, and overland telegraph, railway and road gangs of the past.

William Creek is a 2-to-3-hour drive east of Coober Pedy, and is located on the well-known Oodnadatta Track.

Did you know that the Simpson Desert, to the north of William Creek, contains the world's longest parallel sand dunes, some stretching over 200 km and reaching 90m high!

Read about the history on the Hotel's webpage [here](#).

### Flinders Ranges

Beltana is a small town located about 540kms north of Adelaide that is protected through a State Heritage Area listing.

Beltana is historically important for its links with the Overland Telegraph, the Transcontinental Railway, mining, outback services and the Australian Inland Mission. The town was also an important hub for camel-based transport during the 19th century.

The Adnyamathanha people have lived in and around Beltana for centuries.

Read more [here](#).

### Mid-North

Visit Martindale Hall, the location of the film "Picnic at Hanging Rock" and a State Heritage Place.

Martindale Hall, a property including a mansion and its interiors, coach house, stables, and associated structures, is closely associated with the pastoral and economic development of South Australia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The main house was constructed for Edmund Bowman Jr., in 1879-1880 to a design prepared by London architect E Gregg.

Martindale Hall is located on the traditional lands of the Ngadjuri people,

For information to plan your visit, read [here](#).

### Yorke Peninsula

Explore the Yorke Peninsula Art Trail to discover colourful murals, statues, mosaic creations and photo opportunities across the region. Read about it [here](#).

And if you are truly inspired, you can walk the whole Yorke Peninsula! Careful planning required though as it is approximately 500kms in total. Follow the yellow signs around the coast.

### Fleurieu Peninsula

Myponga has one State Heritage Place, and it is the coastline!

The cliffs flanking Myponga Beach provide a superb continuous coastal section of Early Cambrian (c. 540- 570 million years) fossiliferous limestones.

The Sellick Hill Formation and the overlying Fork Tree Limestone contain the fossil Archaeocyatha, the earliest preserved reef builder in the sea. This is also one of the best-known localities for Hyolithes, another important early Cambrian fossil type.

Myponga is also home to a reservoir managed by SA Water. It is well worth a visit and more information can be found [here](#).

Myponga is located on the traditional lands on the Kurna people and is located 59kms south of Adelaide.

### Adelaide Hills

Nairne was the finish line this year for the community Tour Down Under bicycle ride held on Friday 23 January. It would have been a welcome sight for the leg weary cyclists as they made their way to town.

Nairne is home of the District Hotel.

The District Hotel was originally built as the "Nairne Hotel" by Stoddart in 1840. On his death it was run by his wife Mary, who also ran the first carrying service to Adelaide.

This hotel was bought by James Shakes, hotelier, builder and farmer in 1847 and re-named the "Nairne Arms". In 1851 the name was changed to the District Hotel.

This hotel originally had policeman's quarters originally in the basement.

This hotel was heritage listed as an outstanding example of an 1850s hotel building which demonstrates particularly fine stone construction. Visit the Hotel's website [here](#).

### Murray Mallee

Renmark, located in South Australia's Riverland, has been scorching hot recently, with temperatures in the high forties. The Renmark Hotel is one place that has offered cool relief for the community. Hotel Renmark was established as the first British Empire community-owned Hotel in 1897. It is a State Heritage listed pub.

It originally came into existence to combat a sly grog trade that had sprung up in response to the town being declared a prohibition area. Originally a single storey building, two more storeys were added and completed by 1937 and the Hotel earned the sobriquet of the "Skyscraper of the Upper Murray". Visit the pub's website [here](#).

## South East

The Umpherston Sinkhole was made into a garden by James Umpherston in 1886.

Located in Mount Gambier on the Jubilee Hwy East, the sinkhole is open from dawn to dusk. In the evening the Umpherston Sinkhole comes alive with possums as they come into this beautiful garden to feed.

The sculptures at Umpherston Sinkhole are inspired by the region's geological processes, which formed sinkholes.

# Heritage by 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
- 2350 Confirmed State Heritage Places
- 3 Provisionally listed State Heritage Places
- 17 State Heritage Areas
- 11 State Heritage Objects
- 17 State Heritage Places Designated for their archaeological significance
- 54 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

# 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](mailto:dew.heritage@sa.gov.au)

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