

South Australian Heritage Council

HERITAGE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2025



Image: Former A.A. Axel Stenross & Company Boatyard,

Heritage News contains updates from the South Australian Heritage Council meeting held on 14th August 2025 and other topical news relating to conserving and promoting South Australia's unique heritage.



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Confirmations in the South Australian Heritage Register

Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades). On Kurna Country.

The Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) is an outstanding example of Art Deco architecture in South Australia. Designed by South Australian architect Chris A. Smith in 1936 to visually unify an existing civic building with a substantial extension, the Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) articulates many key attributes of the style, including vertical emphasis; dominant symmetrical features; rendered Portland cement facades; decoration suggesting, but stylised away from, historical precedents; a skyline featuring receding steps; emphatic vertical fin-like elements; and parallel line, zig-zag and fern motifs.

The Council confirmed this place under criterion e) of section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

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



Image: Former Hindmarsh Town Hall façade. Source: DEW files.

Former A. A. Stenross & Company Boatyard. On Barngala Country.

Serving as a commercial enterprise between 1930 and 1980 and maintained as a museum, the Former A. A. Stenross & Company Boatyard is the only known substantially intact vernacular boatyard remaining in South Australia, demonstrating the process of wooden boatbuilding. The practice of boatbuilding changed radically after the Second World War and while wooden boats are still built commercially in South Australia in small numbers, few, if any are wholly hand-made using the vernacular materials, processes and technologies demonstrated by the Former A. A. Stenross & Company Boatyard.

The Council confirmed this place under criteria b) and d) of section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

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



Image: Former A. A. Stenross & Company Boatyard, showing front of workshop building. Source: DEW Files

Amendment of the SA Heritage Register

“Greenaways (Chris A. Smith House)”, 3-3A Prospect Road, Prospect. On Karna Country.

This is an existing State Heritage Place that had a very long name! The South Australian Heritage Council has now approved a shortened and more appropriate new name, as titled in the heading above.

The previous name was: *“Dwelling and Flat (former Office/Garage) designed by Christopher Smith in the Art Deco Style for his own residence”*.

Located at 3-3A Prospect Road, Prospect, Greenaways is a fine example, both externally and internally, of the Art Deco style of architecture as applied to residences. The house (c. 1938) and flat (1936) were built by the architect Christopher A Smith as his own residence and workshop. Smith worked from the flat and it is thought that he used the house, which was located in a prominent position on Prospect Road, as a showpiece for potential clients. Some of the plaster moulds in the house are replicated in Smiths public buildings. Although he did not train as an architect, Smith built up a reputation for designing cinemas and council buildings and was probably the most prolific user of the Art Deco style in Adelaide. He was an important civic architect and his works include the Capri Theatre at Goodwood, council buildings at Port Adelaide and Brighton, and a new facade at Hindmarsh Town Hall.

Other Heritage News

Remembering the Thebarton Mounted Police Barracks

Opening on 1st March 1917, the Thebarton Mounted Police Barracks was the home of the Mounted Police and Dog Operations Units and served as an important facility for a broad range of police functions in the delivery of policing services to the community of South Australia.

The Thebarton Mounted Police Barracks was located at Lot 80, Gaol Road, Adelaide. It ceased to be a State Heritage Place under Section 13(2) of the New Women’s and Children’s Hospital Act 2022, as assented to by parliament on 19 January 2023.

Earlier this year the Thebarton Mounted Police Barracks was demolished to make way for the construction of the new Women’s and Children’s Hospital.

Interpretive and recording work of the former Thebarton Mounted Police Barracks was undertaken before demolition. This will help us remember it and educate people as to the important functions it carried out.

The information recorded to remember this place can be viewed through this weblink: [Thebarton Barracks Virtual Tour - Department for Environment and Water](#)

A tip: After you click on “Start Exploring”, click on “Guided Tours” at the bottom right of the page and you can watch the videos or scroll through the information segments that have been created.

You can also explore the interactive map on the home page at your own pace.

Further information about heritage places can be accessed here: <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/visiting-heritage-places>

Outback SA celebrates its history and heritage

A new web page has been created to celebrate and educate people about the history and heritage of South Australia's outback. Natural heritage, Aboriginal cultural heritage and colonial heritage have all shaped the landscape of the outback.

Watch the video on the webpage that introduces the concept of heritage, and features interviews with Kristian Coulthard from Wadna in Blinman, and Gini Lee who sits on the South Australian Heritage Council.

Access the web page here: [History and Heritage](#)

SA Heritage Council Public Report 2024-25

The Council approved its public facing report for 2024-25.

This report includes information about the sixteen places that were confirmed as State Heritage Places, the ten places that were nominated but not listed and other information such as an object listed because of its associated importance with a place. It also includes strategic matters that the South Australian Heritage Council have been working on.

It can be viewed through the Council's webpage here: [South-Australian Heritage Council communications document](#)

Re-opening of the Royal Victoria Hotel within the Beltana State Heritage Area

The historic town of Beltana was declared a State Heritage Area on 16 July 1987. After copper was discovered at Sliding Rock in 1870, Beltana became a mining town. In 1878, the Royal Victoria Hotel opened its doors. Before long, Beltana was a major service, transport and communication centre for the region.

In 1957, after the mining boom had largely relocated to Leigh Creek, the Royal Victoria Hotel closed its doors, however, Jan and Chris Ferguson have worked to revive the hotel to its previous glory.

The Royal Victoria Hotel, which opened its doors again on the 22nd of May 2025 now serves drinks, light meals and locally brewed pale ale.

The Royal Victoria Hotel is open Thursday to Sunday, 10am-6pm at 3 First St, Beltana SA.

Sources and more information:

[Retired couple reopen Beltana's Royal Victoria Hotel pub in SA after decades - ABC News](#)

[Flinders Ranges' beloved Royal Victoria Hotel is back after 66 years, pouring pints and sharing stories - Glam Adelaide](#)



Image: The Royal Victoria Hotel 3 First St, Beltana. Source: DEW Files

Explore the Port – Port Adelaide Heritage Bus Tours

Take a Heritage Bus Tour around the Port Adelaide Region organised by the Port Adelaide Historical Society.

This guided two-hour tour includes a coffee and tea break at the Port Adelaide Historical Society Museum and tells the stories of many of the buildings and sites within the historic region of Port Adelaide.

Tickets are available on Sunday the 28th of September and Sunday the 30th November from 1-3pm, here: <https://events.humanitix.com/port-adelaide-heritage-bus-tours-2025-2>.

Nature Festival

From 26 September to 12 October 2025, the Nature Festival is a celebration of South Australia's nature and there are events happening throughout Adelaide and into the regions.

Take the time to explore the different events through this webpage:

[Nature Festival of SA: 26 Sept - 12 Oct 2025](#)

Nature is part of our heritage. We have many natural heritage places protected and recognised in the South Australian Heritage Register. Just one example is the Hallett Cove Conservation Park & Sandison Reserve which features in the Nature Festival. Read more here: [Sunrise Walk and Mandala Making by the Sea | Nature Festival SA](#)

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](#)

Recommended reading

Cornish Pasty by Oswald Pryor, features cartoons that were first published in *The Bulletin*. They capture the atmosphere of the Cornish mining settlements, where close-knit communities kept up their old customs of carol-singing, church-going, and band music, while developing a fierce loyalty to their new surroundings.

Cornish Pasty was recently reprinted by National Trust of South Australia chair Graham Hancock and World Heritage site coordinator Kate Tuohy. The author, Oswald Pryor, was born at Moonta in 1881, and worked in the mines from the age of thirteen, until 1923 when the mines closed.

Get your copy here: [Cornish Pasty - Wakefield Press](#)

The Death of Dora Black by Lainie Anderson takes you back to Adelaide 1917. The story features the real-life Miss Kate Cocks who was the first female police officer in South Australia.

The book is fictional but inspired by the true story of Miss Kate Cocks. It is a most enjoyable read – a real page turner.

Read more about the amazing life of Miss Cocks here: [Kate Cocks: South Australia's first policewoman | State Library of South Australia](#)

Order your copy of the book from author Lainie Anderson's webpage or at most good bookstores. [THE DEATH OF DORA BLACK](#)

Some of our favourite State Heritage Places!

Recently, heritage experts in Heritage South Australia were asked about their favourite State Heritage Places.

The list of places might surprise you!

While you enjoy the article, have a think about what your favourite heritage place is?

Have a read here: [Heritage doesn't just mean old! Celebrating some of SA's 20th Century...](#)

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
- 2347 Confirmed State Heritage Places
- 6 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

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



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



LinkedIn - Heritage South Australia:



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