



South Australian Heritage Council members

April 2026



Ms Sandy Verschoor

Sandy is Chair of the South Australian Heritage Council, having been appointed in April 2023. Sandy has a passion for our state's heritage and its ongoing conservation, protection and promotion.

Sandy has a successful and diverse background – as a small business owner, restaurateur, university lecturer, marketing and cultural strategist and executive. Sandy has delivered some of the most significant cultural events for the state including as CEO of the Adelaide Fringe and Adelaide Festival.

Sandy has extensive experience in Boards and Committees roles. She is previously the Lord Mayor of the City of

Adelaide and currently holds the role of Chair of the Art Gallery of South Australia.

Sandy brings a unique perspective to the role of Chair, bridging politics, government administration and private enterprise.

Sandy knows that South Australia is unique in regards its heritage and has a special place in Australian and World history and will work towards enhancing its reputation through her role as Chair of the South Australian Heritage Council.



Mr David Brooks

David studied history at Flinders University, where he completed an honours degree with a thesis on an aspect of South Australian history. While at Flinders David edited the *Flinders Journal of History and Politics* and tutored in a range of Australian history subjects.

After leaving Flinders, David took up a position at the South Australian Parliament Research Library where he worked for the next few years. This was followed by work in the public library network as the Community History Coordinator at the Tea Tree Gully Library. It was here that David developed a passion for South Australian history and a strong interest in looking at the different ways that people in the community engage and

interact with history and heritage, a subject that he has given several conference presentations on.

David commenced in the role of Team Leader Research and Discovery at the State Library of South Australia in 2021 and is the State Library's representative on the History Council of South Australia.



Professor Virginia (Gini) Lee

Gini has wide ranging experience over many years drawn from professional consultancy in interior, architectural, landscape and interpretation design in cross-disciplinary projects across a range of scales.

Gini's wide knowledge of South Australian history has developed due to her involvement with heritage research that informs my teaching, fieldwork investigations leading to technical reports for the cultural landscapes of remote and arid South Australia. Gini is also conversant with the preparation

and review of conservation and strategy plans for buildings and landscapes in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, the most recent as client for the Blinman Mine Conservation Plan and as an early consultant on the Nilpena Ediacaran World Heritage site facilities.



Ms Eleanor Walters

Eleanor is a highly experienced planning professional having led a broad range of planning and sustainability projects for local and State Government and private practice.

Recently, Eleanor has been the Transition Manager for Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 and the Planning and Design Code – including policy input and advocacy, submission preparation, working groups, business readiness co-ordination.

Eleanor is appointed to the Council as the nominee of the Local Government Association and will bring much valued planning skills and knowledge to Council meetings.



Mr James (Jamie) Botten

Jamie, up until his retirement in 2022, practised for over 44 years as a lawyer specializing in town planning, environmental, heritage, and administrative law.

Whilst practising law Jamie acted for a wide range of clients and regularly appeared as an advocate before assessment panels, statutory authorities, the Environment, Resources and Development Court and the Supreme Court.

In addition to his Law Degree (obtained in 1977), Jamie obtained a Graduate Diploma

in Urban and Regional Planning in 1997. This Diploma complements his legal qualifications, and in particular enhances his knowledge and understanding of the role and place of the identification and protection of heritage places in the broader planning and development legislative and policy framework.



Ms Michelle Toft

Michelle is the Historical and Cultural Officer at the City of Burnside, and has responsibility of ensuring that Council-owned heritage-listed sites or sites of local historic value are protected and cared for properly.

An example of this is a project to further conserve and promote the State Heritage listed World War 1 Memorial in Rose Park (Burnside District Fallen Soldiers' Memorial).

Michelle oversees the City of Burnside Blue Heritage Plaques Project and works regularly with owners of State or Local Heritage listed properties. This project elevates the prominence of heritage in the local community, telling stories of the past and educating on the site's historic value. This project also aims to encourage the owner to celebrate and become champions for conservation of heritage.

As the coordinator of the City of Burnside Heritage Grants Scheme, Michelle oversees the selection of grant recipients and support property owners through their conservation projects. Michelle informs owners of appropriate processes of heritage conservation and to connect them with traditional trades and skills of heritage conservation.

Michelle has also worked at the History Trust of South Australia, involved in collections management of the State History Collection.



Tim Lloyd

Tim is a journalist who pioneered and wrote the Heritage Matters column in The Advertiser for the entirety of its long run, focused on issues in heritage and history in South Australia.

He has covered many of the decisions and controversies of the South Australian Heritage Council itself, along with the South Australian History Trust, National Trust and museums and other cultural collections. He has a life-long passion for heritage, architecture and the arts. For The Advertiser he has variously been Arts Editor, Obituaries Editor,

features writer and continues to work as an arts and theatre critic. More recently his writing career has expanded into books including a history of Unley commissioned by City of Unley for its sesquicentenary and due for publication in 2024. He has an arts degree in history from the University of Adelaide.



Ms Ellen Liebelt

Ellen is a registered architect with experience across state and local government as well as private practice.

Ellen currently leads the City of Adelaide's Adaptive Reuse City Housing Initiative (ARCHI), an award-winning program unlocking dwelling potential in vacant and underutilised buildings across the city. Her work spans building audits, policy development, incentives, case management, research, and university partnerships.

Previously, Ellen was a Senior Design Advisor at the Office for Design & Architecture SA, coordinating State Design Review and providing pre-lodgement and statutory design advice to support high-quality design outcomes underpinned by the Principles of Good Design.

Her foundational experience is in heritage architecture, including Conservation Management Plans, Heritage Impact Statements, and the design and documentation of projects involving State Heritage Places. She further developed her interest in strategic policy through a Graduate Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning.

Ellen champions adaptive reuse, heritage conservation and activation, and climate-resilient cities, with a strong commitment to collaboration and knowledge sharing to protect, conserve, and promote South Australia's rich and unique heritage.