

South Australian Heritage Council

News from the 123rd meeting

The South Australian Heritage Council (Council) meeting of 4 November 2021 was held on Kaurna Country, at 81-95 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.

Welcome to this edition of our Heritage News.

Fossil Heritage Survey of South Australia

The Council received an excellent presentation on the findings of a state-wide fossil heritage survey.

According to a number of heritage and fossil experts, this fossil heritage survey of SA is the first survey of its kind to be completed anywhere in Australia. The purpose of the survey was to research and identify significant fossil sites within South Australia and determine those that were the highest priority for State Heritage Listing.

Thanks is extended to Ms Megan Thomas, a palaeontological intern with Heritage South Australia from University of Adelaide, who led the work on this important study.

In compiling her report, Ms Thomas worked closely with the SA Fossil Heritage Working group comprising members from across the Department for Environment and Water, University of Adelaide, Flinders University, Griffith University, the Cave Diver's Association of Australia and the SA Museum.

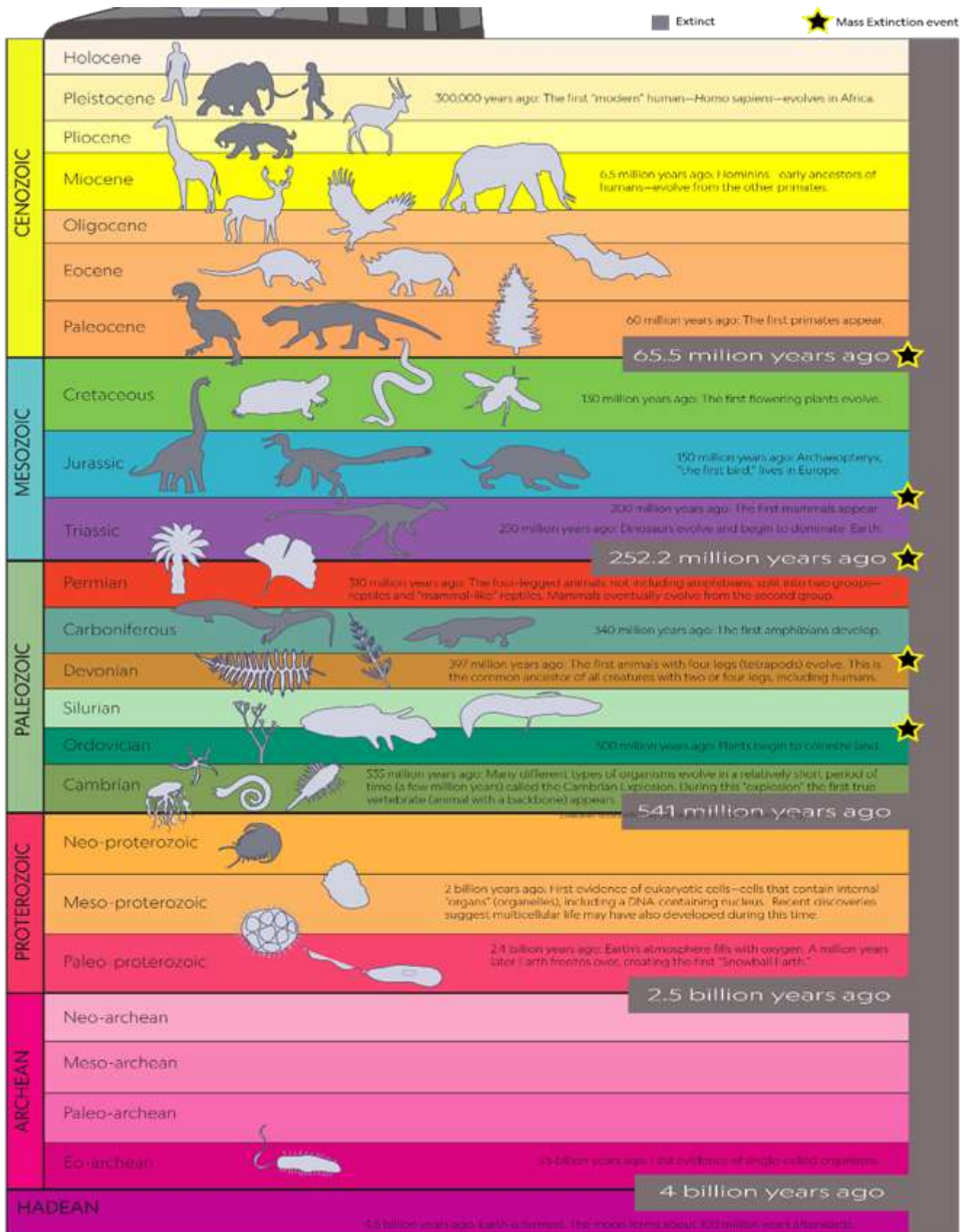
In order to identify priorities for future assessment, the initial analysis of nearly 800 sites was filtered and prioritised with members of the South Australian Fossil Heritage Working Group, as well as with other experts.

Following a review of the survey, Council endorsed seven fossil sites as priorities for future heritage assessment and potential State-listing.

The Council learned that the fossil types at each of the sites are dominated by faunal assemblages (animal fossils). This is because a majority of animals contain hard body parts, usually skeletons or shells which are more readily preserved than soft organic elements.

Plants which are soft-bodied require very specific depositional environments if a fossil is to form. The fossil categories known as microfossils, trace fossils and archaeological fossils are also much fewer in numbers than the usual faunal assemblages. The figure provided on the following page explains the enormous period of time over which these fossils originated.

Figure 1. A geological timeline depicting common animals of each period of time and a short description (National Geographic Society 2019)



Intent to Designate State Heritage Places

Under SAs heritage legislation, special protection applies to State Heritage Places that are designated as places of archaeological, geological, palaeontological or speleological significance.

Designating a State Heritage Place adds a higher level of protection for significant cultural heritage sites and introduces a permit system.

At this meeting, the Council designated two important sites for their palaeontological importance:

Myponga Beach Coastline Geological Site

Council indicated its “intent to designate” Myponga Beach Coastline Geological site, a State Heritage Place, which triggers three months of consultation.

The Myponga Beach Coastline Geological Site is the only easily accessible and well-exposed area of Sellick Hill Limestone in South Australia. The site’s palaeontological areas are split into two, with each containing abundant and diverse fossil fauna dating from the early Cambrian period (believed to be ~541-509 million years ago).

The Western outcropping at Myponga Beach contains some of the best-preserved examples of *Hyalithes* in South Australia. *Hyalithes* were a genus of marine invertebrates that resemble conical snails.

Overall, the rare and unique fossil assemblage at Myponga provides a valuable snapshot of the depositional environment, and depicts a diverse and distinctive Cambrian fossil ecosystem that differs from others found within the State. The area itself is an ideal area for education and learning groups to visit.

Tertiary Silcrete Flora, Stuarts Creek

Council indicated its “intent to designate” the Tertiary Silcrete Flora site, a listed State Heritage Place, which triggers three months of consultation.

The Tertiary Silcrete Flora, Stuarts Creek fossil site is one of the most significant plant fossil sites in South Australia. Regarded for its complexity and unique fossil assemblage, the site contains an abundance of exceptionally well-preserved plant remains.

The Tertiary Silcrete Flora, Stuarts Creek site contains both tropical/monsoonal rainforest and arid-adapted flora found within the same site. Notably, this includes arid-adapted *Eucalyptus* and *Banksia* species and the

rainforest/monsoonal flora, *Gymnostoma* and *Brachychiton* that are abundant, well preserved and uncommon in similarly aged sites.

Imprints of *Eucalyptus* fruits found at Tertiary Silcrete Flora, Stuarts Creek have enabled stratigraphic correlation of the site with other Tertiary deposits from around the world.

Provisional entry on the South Australian Heritage Register

Catholic Church of the Holy Name, Stepney

Council provisionally listed this place as it agreed it satisfies criterion e) under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. This decision now triggers three months of community consultation.

The Catholic Church of the Holy Name is an outstanding example of International Style Modern Movement architecture in South Australia, and demonstrates a high degree of creative and aesthetic accomplishment. Douglas Michelmore's design created one of the first South Australian churches to successfully address contemporary society in secular terms through its architectural expression, by deliberately avoiding visual cues traditionally associated with churches. Notably, Holy Name was the first flat-roofed church built in South Australia. Holy Name was critically acclaimed and recognised as a radical departure in South Australian ecclesiastical architecture within the local and national architectural communities.



View from northeast showing tower; note post-1999 tower belfry. Source DEW files 2021.



Interior view towards altar. Source DEW files 2021.

Confirmations on the South Australian Heritage Register

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, 15 Pennington Terrace, Pennington

Council confirmed the entry of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, 15 Pennington Terrace, Pennington in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place, as it satisfies criteria (a), (d) and (e) under section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

Walkerville Brewhouse Tower, 107 Port Road, Thebarton

Council confirmed the entry of Walkerville Brewhouse Tower, 107 Port Road Thebarton in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place as it satisfies criteria (a), (b) and (g) under section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

Object - Copper Kettle associated with the Walkerville Brewhouse Tower

Council confirmed the entry of Copper Kettle in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Object. The Council found that the Copper Kettle is intrinsically related to the heritage significance of a State Heritage Place – Walkerville Brewhouse Tower, 107 Port Road, Thebarton.

Submission on the Proposed Riverbank Precinct Code Amendment

The Council lodged a submission on the proposal for a Code Amendment to the Riverbank Precinct. Council is strongly supportive of retaining the mainly open and natural aspects of the Park Lands and protecting the values of State Heritage Places within them.

The submission pointed to the long term economic and cultural value of the Park Lands, noting their National Heritage listing status and that Adelaide is the only city to be completely enclosed by Park Lands.

Two State Heritage Places – the Adelaide Gaol and the Thebarton Police Barracks would be adversely impacted by the introduction of an extensive carpark as envisaged in the new Women’s and Children’s Hospital plans. This intrusion into clearly defined green space would also see the loss of an historic olive grove. The Council concluded that, while it is supportive of the new hospital, its design should be re-imagined to keep all its facilities on the eastern side of the rail corridor.

The *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* sought to bind governments to the protection of the green space of the Park Lands. The proposed sweeping changes to what could be built in the Riverbank Precinct would create adverse effects on admirable Government initiatives such as Green Adelaide and the National Park City bid.

Heritage SnAps Photo Competition 2021 – the Top 20!

With over 170 entries received, the Heritage SnAps photo competition has now closed. A great array of photos were received spanning from the coast of Yorke Peninsula to the North West pastoral zone of South Australia. They celebrate the rich heritage tourism potential of our heritage.

The judges have met and selected their Top 20 photos. You are encouraged to view, enjoy the photos and vote for your favourite through the following web link:

[Department for Environment and Water | Heritage Snaps Photo Competition 2021 Top 20 finalists](#)

Voting closes Sunday 21st November at midnight.

The Council thanks the sponsors responsible for donating the great prizes on offer. They are Restaurant Botanic (premier sponsor), SmartArt, Winter Village, Rinaldi Nougat, Spring Gully, One and All Sailing Ship, Adelaide Gaol, Naracoorte Caves and SeaLink.



Image: Cape Jaffa Jetty by Janice Mildwaters - a Top 20 entrant.



Image: Quorn Railway shed by Jeremy Browne— a Top 20 entrant.

Heritage recognised through SA Tourism Awards

The SA Tourism Awards were announced at the Adelaide Oval on Thursday 4 November.

The Council is pleased to note that a number of winners have heritage at the core of their overall visitor experience, and the Council extends its congratulations to them all:

Tourist Attractions

Winner: Pichi Richi Railway

Festivals and Events

Winner: Adelaide Festival

Silver: Bay to Birdwood

Cultural Tourism

Winner: The Cedars, Hahndorf

Silver: Flamboyance Tours

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Tourism

Winner: Dingo Dreaming

Bronze: Tribal Expertise Facility

Tour and Transport Operators

Bronze: Adelaide's Haunted Horizons

Tourism Restaurants & Catering Services

Winner: The Guardsman (inside Adelaide Railway Station)

Silver: The Currant Shed (McLaren Vale – located in a currant drying shed built in the early 1900s).

Tourism Wineries, Distilleries & Breweries

Winner: Seppeltsfield Winery Barossa (as a third time winner they were entered into the Hall of Fame – they spoke proudly of their heritage as integral to their experience)

Bronze: Pindarie Wines (cellar door is located in an old grain store and heritage stables – restored from the ground up).

Hosted Accommodation

Winner: Redwing Farm

5 Star Luxury Accommodation

Winner: Mount Lofty House

Excellence in Food Tourism

Silver: Watervale Hotel and Penobscot Farm

All the winners can be viewed here: <https://ticsa.com.au/2021-south-australian-tourism-awards-winners/>



Image: interior of The Cedars, Heysen Road, Verdun.

The Cedars won the Cultural Tourism Award – congratulations!

The highest heritage significance of 'The Cedars' resides in its historical and artistic associations with the notable 20th century South Australian artist, Hans Heysen, and his immediate family, who lived there for over 75 years from 1912.

SA Heritage Conservation Grants

The SA Heritage Conservation Grants Program is now open to receive applications and will close at 2:00pm on Friday 10 December 2021.

If you own a State Heritage Place or a place within a State Heritage Area and are planning a conservation project that will help to conserve or protect significant fabric or heritage values, you may be eligible to receive a Heritage Conservation Grant.

You can find details about how to apply here:

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

For questions regarding the Heritage Conservation Grants, please contact Alison Othen on (08) 8207 7753 or email Alison.Othen@sa.gov.au

Heritage Tourism Grants

The \$250,000 Heritage Tourism Grants program is intended to accelerate the development of heritage tourism experiences and stimulate investment into heritage places.

Grants of up to \$50,000 will support projects that enable the activation and use of State Heritage-listed Places, Local Heritage-listed Places or State Heritage Areas for tourism purposes. These grants will be provided on a matched funding basis.

Applications close on Friday 3 December 2021.

You can find details about how to apply here:

<https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/park-management/improving-sa-national-parks/nbt-co-investment-fund/small-grants>

For questions regarding the Heritage Tourism Grants, please contact Phil Murray on (08) 8124 4934 or email DEWTourism@sa.gov.au

Have your say

Keep an eye on the Heritage South Australia web page for an opportunity to have your say on places that the Council have provisionally entered for State Heritage registration. Three months is provided to give the owners and community an opportunity to have their say:

[Department for Environment and Water | SA Heritage Register entries](#)

Twentieth Century Architecture Assessment List

The Council is aware that Twentieth Century Heritage is under-represented in the South Australian Heritage Register.

The Council discussed how examples of 20th Century Architecture, such as those outlined in the 100 buildings in the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Significant 20th Century Architecture List, could be prioritised for assessment for possible inclusion in the SA Heritage Register.

Determining heritage assessment priorities

Assessments are undertaken prior to the Council considering possible State Heritage Places for provisional listing.

Assessments are based on public nominations, places identified during other assessments, places identified through reviews of priority areas or gaps in the register such as 20th Century Architecture, Post-War Places of Worship in South Australia and fossil sites.

The Council resolved at this meeting to establish a short-term working group, including staff from Heritage South Australia, to prioritise the order of assessments to be undertaken.

Vale Michael O'Connell

The South Australian Heritage Council is saddened to hear of the passing of Michael O'Connell.

Michael served on the South Australian Heritage Council, and served it very well from 2006 to 2013. We thank Michael for his contribution to heritage.

Michael worked tirelessly for community in various roles as a planner including with Port Adelaide Council and the City of Adelaide. To name just a few, he had an important role in the wetlands at the Port, was involved with planning for the Multi Function Polis (MFP) and a homes project on Victoria Road, North Haven that was way ahead of its time.

In later years Michael did some valuable planning work in Papua New Guinea and will be remembered for his selfless attitude in helping communities.

The Council extends its deepest condolences to Michael's family.

Next meeting

The Council's next meeting will be held on Thursday 16 December 2021, 9:30am-1:30pm, on Level 10, 81 – 95 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.

Council meetings are open to the public and the agenda for meetings is available on the following webpage, approximately 7 days prior to the meeting:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/sa-heritage-council/agendas-minutes>

Contact

Feel free to contact David Hanna, Executive Officer of the SA Heritage Council for any information about the SA Heritage Council via email david.hanna@sa.gov.au or telephone 8226 2127.



Image: Mount Breckan at Victor Harbor by photographer Nicole Rix – a top 20 entry in Heritage SnAps 2021.