

South Australian Heritage Council

HERITAGE NEWS – AUGUST 2023



Image: Victa Cinema, Victor Harbor. Source: DEW Files

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 17 August 2023.



Government of
South Australia

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Provisional Entries in the South Australian Heritage Register

Former Jenkins Street Slips Precinct, Birkenhead

On Kaurna Country.

Council considered a nomination for the 'Port Adelaide Sailing Club and surrounds' and an accompanying Assessment Report. The Council agreed that the Sailing Club did not meet the criteria for State Heritage listing. The Council did, however, agree that the entire parcel of land from Birkenhead Bridge to Fletcher's slip south of Jenkins Street is considered to have high archaeological potential – particularly in relation to the ship building process.

Most of what we know about nineteenth and early twentieth century ship-building comes from the archaeological study of shipwrecks. Little is known about the process of ship-building as there have been very few detailed archaeological investigations of ship-building sites in South Australia.

Given the above, the Council provisional entered the Former Jenkins Street Slips Precinct under criterion c) of section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (the criteria are listed at the end of this Heritage News).

The slipways and existing above ground structures and objects associated with shipyards are considered to be part of the archaeological assemblage of the site.



Image: Jenkins Street Slips Precinct, slips in vicinity of former Searles Boatyard. Source: DEW files.

This decision by the Council triggers three months community consultation. You are encouraged to have your say. Submission forms will be made available through:




<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/sa-heritage-register/entries-confirmations>

Council thanks those who were involved in submitting the substantial and well researched nomination for the Port Adelaide Sailing Club and surrounds.



Image: Jenkins Street Slips Precinct (CT 5874/511 A7 D54259 Hundred of Port Adelaide)

LEGEND

-  Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
-  Existing State Heritage Place(s)
-  Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

St Patrick's Schoolhouse, 268 Grote Street, Adelaide

On Kurna Country.

St Patrick's Schoolhouse is one of the State's oldest surviving school buildings and is the oldest bespoke Catholic school building in South Australia.

Erected in 1848, St Patrick's Schoolhouse demonstrates the emergence and evolution of schooling in South Australia and specifically Bishop Francis Murphy's efforts to establish Catholic education. It is also a rare example of a school built prior to the first Education Act of 1851.

While over a hundred bespoke schoolhouses were constructed by 1873, many have been demolished or altered beyond recognition with only sixteen being known to survive. Consequently, schoolhouses built during the foundational period of the provision of education in the new colony are uncommon. Further, most of these schoolhouses were built after the government started to provide funding for their construction in the late 1850s. St Patrick's Schoolhouse, operating from 1848, is one of four surviving schoolhouses, built before the Education Act 1851 and accordingly is a rare example of a schoolhouse that is associated with the early origins of education in South Australia.

At its meeting, the Council provisionally entered St Patrick's Schoolhouse, 268 Grote Street, Adelaide in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place, as it is deemed to fulfil criteria (a) and (b) for State heritage listing under section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

This decision by the Council triggers three months of community consultation. You are encouraged to have your say. Submission forms will be made available through:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/sa-heritage-register/entries-confirmations>



Image: St Patrick's Schoolhouse. Source: DEW files

Confirmations in the South Australian Heritage Register

Nelly Creek Fossil Flora, Oodnadatta Track, Callana

On Arabana Country.

The Nelly Creek Fossil Flora Complex comprises seven fossil sites containing numerous palaeobotanical fossils (leaves, wood and pollen) dating from the Eocene Epoch (~56–33 Million years ago (Ma)). The combination of rare mummified fossil leaves and its central Australian locality differentiates Nelly Creek from all other South Australian fossil sites.

The species preserved in the fossils at the site expand the known range of extinct and extant native plant species, with many not found anywhere else within the State. Additionally, the anatomy of the preserved flora differs greatly from those found at other South Australian fossil sites and appears to denote a transitional period in climate not shown in any other fossil assemblages in the State. As such, the place can be considered of State and National interest.

The Nelly Creek Fossil Flora Complex is also highly likely to yield information that will build knowledge of Eocene environments within South Australia, including climate change and the aridification of the State.

Council confirmed the entry of the Nelly Creek Fossil Flora Complex as a State Heritage Place under criteria (b) and (c) of Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. Council also designated this place for its palaeontological significance.



Images: Fossil leaves extracted from Eyre Formation in Nelly Creek". Source: Neville Alley 1999.

Poole Creek Fossil Flora Complex, south of Kati Thanda / Lake Eyre and Covrichina Dam.

On Arabana Country.

The Poole Creek Fossil Flora Complex, including a portion of the Poole Creek Palaeochannel Geological Monument located south of Kati Thanda (Lake Eyre South) contains rare silicified botanical fossils of leaves, wood and fruit and a unique type specimen of the pine *Manchesteria australis*, deposited during the Cenozoic Era (66 Million years ago to present). The fossil assemblages extend over 29.5km of dry riverbed and contain rare seed cones resembling *Banksia*, eucalypt-like nuts and leaves of various species with a high quality of preservation. The fossil record contained in the complex extends the known temporal and geographical range of some identified species. Poole Creek Fossil Flora Complex also has a high potential to yield further information that will enable a greater understand of the environment and evolution of the Australian continent in ancient times.

The Poole Creek Fossil Flora Complex was confirmed as a State Heritage Place under criterion (b) and (c) of Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. Council also indicated its intent to designate this place for its palaeontological significance.



Poole Creek Palaeochannel. Eyre Formation channel sands. Silcrete cement. Basal beds contain multicoloured quartz, agate, fossil wood. Plant fossils present in this outcrop.

Source: Government of South Australia. Department of State Development. Report Book, 90/00015

Victa Cinema (former Ozone Theatre), 37-41 Ocean Street, Victor Harbor

On Ramindjeri and Ngarrindjeri Country.

As the first South Australian picture theatre purpose-built to screen 'talkies,' (movies with sound), the Victa Cinema (former Ozone Theatre) established the pattern for all picture theatres that followed and is both an influential and pivotal example of its class, demonstrating an unusually high level of intactness and integrity.

The Cinema began operating in November 1923.

The Victa Cinema (former Ozone Theatre) demonstrates the evolution of motion pictures as a new form of mass entertainment in the twentieth century, and in particular, the role of cinema-going and its contribution to community building in regional South Australia in the interwar period.



Image: Inside the Victa Cinema. Source: DEW files.

The cinema is an early, outstanding example of interwar streamlined architecture articulating many of the key attributes of the style such as clean, parallel lines, contrasting bands of dissimilar materials, and horizontal emphasis with vertical relief. The cinema is also the only remaining intact picture theatre purpose-built by Ozone Theatres Limited, an innovative and influential family-owned exhibition company which grew to be the largest in South Australia in the first half of the twentieth century.

The Council confirmed the entry of the Victa Cinema (former Ozone Theatre), in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place, as it satisfies criteria (a), (d), (e) and (g) under section 16(1) of the Act.

The Victa Cinema is still operating. Its website includes more information about its history: <https://www.victacinemas.com.au/history/>

It is well worth a visit.

Browse the movies showing here: <https://www.victacinemas.com.au/now-showing/>

Nominated Places Not Entered in the South Australian Heritage Register

Colonel Light Gardens Church of Christ, Kaurana Country, 539-541 Goodwood Road, Colonel Light Gardens

The Colonel Light Gardens Church of Christ congregation arose from the suggestion that a Sunday school should be opened to meet the needs of families in the area. This idea gained momentum when a house-to-house canvass of the Colonel Light Gardens district revealed 29 children in three families alone. Worship began on 21 January 1925 in the home of W. J. Harris, with 23 adult members and 20 children.

Gifts, loans and a small bank mortgage funded the first church building on the site, which opened on 26 August 1925.

The Church that we have today had its foundation stone laid on 14 November 1964 and the chapel opened the following year.

Colonel Light Gardens was one of five new chapels built for the Churches of Christ during the twelve months before September 1965, along with those at Bordertown, Cheltenham, Croydon, and Goolwa.

In recent times the Bethel International Church worshipped in the chapel. For many years the venue for a weekday community op-shop, due to a dwindling congregation, the Colonel Light Gardens Church of Christ closed in early 2023.



Image: Church of Christ, Colonel Light Gardens. Source: DEW files.

At its August meeting the Council considered a thorough report and agreed with the recommendation that the Church did not meet any of the criteria for State Heritage listing under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

The Assessment Report can be downloaded from the following website if you would like to learn more about this Church and its history:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/sa-heritage-register/entries-confirmations>

Great Western Bridge, Barngarla Country, Foreshore, Port Augusta

The Great Western Bridge then known as 'The Bridge' was constructed in 1926-1927 and was built after decades of calls for a bridge to span the head of Spencer Gulf, to link the townships of Port Augusta and Port Augusta West. The bridge shortened the road distance by about 24km, across poorly made and maintained roads, considerably reducing travel times between Port Augusta and Port Augusta West. Previously there was a ferry and/or barge that made the crossing between the townships, however, it was not always operational during low tide, meaning a possible 5-6 hour waiting time to cross.

The construction of the bridge hastened the amalgamation of Port Augusta with Port Augusta West and Davenport, with incorporation of the three towns as a single entity occurring in 1932.

At this meeting, the Council considered a public nomination and an assessment report for the Great Western Bridge, Foreshore, Port Augusta for entry in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.

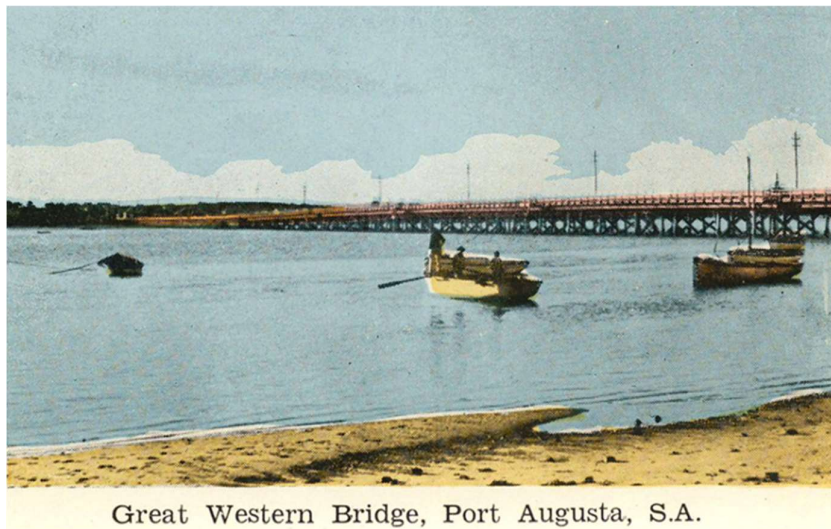


Image: Coloured postcard of the Great Western Bridge c.1948, showing the additional piles and bracing added after the bridge was widened in 1944. Source: Flickr

The Council agreed that the Great Western Bridge is one of many wooden bridges built in South Australia, and it is not considered to possess rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance to SA.

Council made the decision that it does not meet any of the criteria for State Heritage listing under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

Nantawarra Silo, 18 Silo Road, Kurna Country, Nantawarra

This silo was built by the South Australian Co-operative of Bulk Handling Limited (SACBH) in 1956.



The Nantawarra Silo was one of many built to handle the storage of grain. The *Bulk Handling of Grain Act* (Bulk Handling Act) was assented to by Parliament on 7 July 1955, granting SACBH the exclusive right to handle wheat and other grains in bulk within South Australia with the principal objective of 'establishing, maintaining, and conducting in the State of South Australia a scheme or system for receiving, handling, transporting, and storing wheat and other grain in bulk.

The first upcountry silo in the State, a horizontal shed type, opened at Paskeville in January 1956. Bute followed a few months later. That same year, the Co-operative received approval to erect five horizontal shed-type silos at Balaklava, Snowtown, Blyth, Hoyleton and Brinkworth, and three cylindrical concrete vertical silos including the one at Nantawarra. In two short years, a new terminal and 13 upcountry silos representing 10 million bushels of storage had been completed, with demand escalating thereafter. The order of priority for the erection of bulk handling facilities was determined by the urgency of the needs of growers and the amount of grain produced in the various parts of the State. Expansion echoed the growth of members as the toll system financed silo construction - the greater the number of members, the greater the number of upcountry silos.

By 1965, just ten years after the passing of the Bulk Handling Act, the Co-operative had constructed provision for the storage of 48,877,000 bushels of grain.

By the time SACBH selected Nantawarra as one of the first regional grain silo sites in 1956, the district was averaging yearly harvests of 51,800 bags of wheat and 11,800 bags of barley.

The Nantawarra Silo is no longer in use, and its nomination and subsequent assessment were driven by the fact that it is due to be demolished as part of an end of lease agreement.

At its August meeting, the Council considered the public nomination and a thorough assessment report for the Nantawarra Silo, 18 Silo Road, Nantawarra for entry in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place.

Council agreed with a recommendation that the Nantawarra Silo does not meet any of the criteria for State Heritage listing under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

Places Designated on the South Australian Heritage Register

Tertiary Silcrete Flora, Stuarts Creek, Arabana Country

There are provisions in the Heritage Places Act which enable places of special significance to be identified and “Designated” by the Council. Excavating or collecting specimens from these places will be controlled by permit. These provisions are intended to be used only for a small number of scientifically valuable and fragile sites.

At this meeting, the Council confirmed the Designation of Tertiary Silcrete Flora, Stuarts Creek, Arabana Country, West of Marree in the South Australian Heritage Register as a place of paleontological significance.

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 preserved plant remains.

Tertiary Silcrete Flora, Stuarts Creek’s proposed Miocene-Pliocene age makes it younger than nearby fossil sites, placing it in a transitional period in Australia’s environmental history. The site depicts a unique transition from an earlier rainforest-like climate to arid climates seen today. Tertiary Silcrete Flora, Stuarts Creek provides the best record of this environmental transition within the State and perhaps Australia.

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 four reports:

London House, 7 High Street, Strathalbyn, Peramangk and Ndarrindjeri Country.

London House is associated with the early commercial development of the township of Strathalbyn and its establishment as a regional service and transport centre connecting Adelaide to South Australia's south-east and Victoria in the late nineteenth century. Designed in the Victorian Regency style and built by storekeeper Thomas Stephens in 1867, London House is located on High Street in Strathalbyn's north-east. Stores like London House were vital to the early success of the township, demonstrating the importance of commerce in attracting visitors and settlers to townships and securing their permanence as nodal centres.

The stables at the rear of site once accommodated horses for South Australia's largest and most enduring coaching business Hill & Co. and as such represent how regional depots operated during the peak period of coach transport in the colony prior to the prevalence of rail



Image: Side view of London House along Grey Street, April 2023. The building's masonry and signage was conserved in 1993 to replicate the facades during Harrington's and McFarlane's ownership

Nautical Museum (former Robe Customs House), Boandik Country

Former Customs House demonstrates Robe's economic importance to South Australia during its heyday as a major seaport town between the 1840s and 1860s.

For several years during this period, Robe collected over £5,000 annually in customs revenue, making it the colony's second most valuable port after Port Adelaide. Former Customs House was built by the colonial government in 1863 to better facilitate the collection of this revenue. Accordingly, Former Customs House is associated with enabling the economic security of the fledgling colony of South Australia.



Royal Circus and Sea Wall Historic Site, Robe, Boandik Country

The Royal Circus and Seawall Historic Site at Robe demonstrates the early development of regional ports and townships in South Australia and the role such places played in supporting the expansion of government administration in the mid-nineteenth century and growth of primary industry, transport and migration.

The site has particularly strong associations for the Chinese-Australian community. Over 16,000 Chinese migrants arrived at or near the Royal Circus before walking to the Victorian goldfields in the 1850s. A Chinese Memorial, built in the 1980s, commemorates the arrival and enduring association Chinese-Australians have with Robe.



Image: View of the platform atop the grassy mound at the centre of the Royal Circus, c. 2011. Neither the platform nor the items on it are considered to contribute to the elements of significance of the place.



Image: Closer view of a portion of the Seawall in front of the Royal Circus, c. 2011. Given the various repairs made over the years, the Seawall likely consists of original and non-original stones. Source: DEW Files

Minlaton Showground Complex (including Pavilion and Grandstand, Walls, and Pedestrian Gate, Ticket Office and Outbuildings), West Terrace, Minlaton

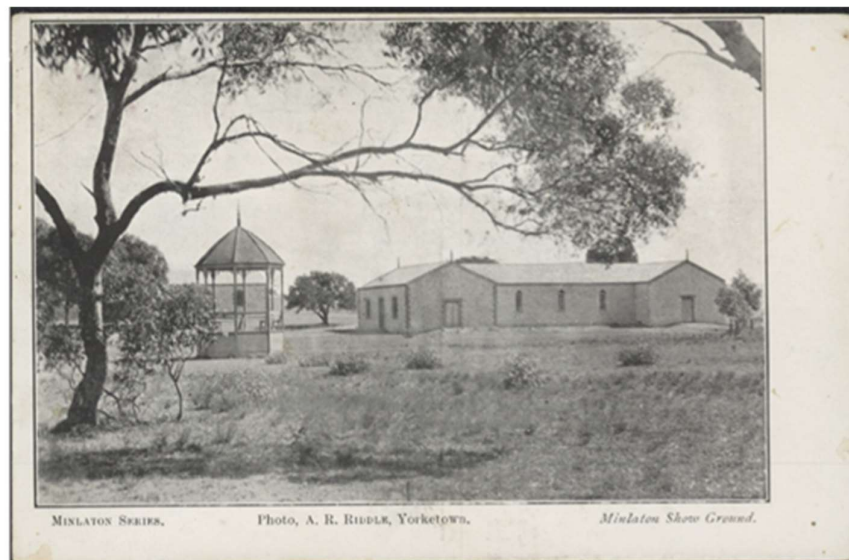
The Council thanks the Minlaton History Group for providing further information about the Showground Complex which have now been incorporated into a revised report.

Established in 1882, the Minlaton Showground Complex is associated with the agricultural expansion of South Australia through the process of closer settlement that occurred after the passage of the Strangways Act 1869. With expansion came the emergence of agricultural and horticultural societies which played a vital role in disseminating new ideas, farming techniques and machinery to the agricultural areas of South Australia through annual shows prior to the formation of the Department of Agriculture in 1902.

Constructed by the Central Yorke's Peninsula Agricultural Society (CYPAS), the Minlaton Showground Complex is an outstanding example of its class, with several early show buildings and structures surviving at the site, including the main Pavilion and Grandstand, an Outbuilding, a Ticket Office, and a Stone Wall, all constructed out of locally quarried limestone, and a Livestock Shelter. The Pavilion with its incorporated Grandstand is the only example left of its kind in South Australia. The Minlaton Showground Complex assisted in the successful operation of the show and its society, and as a consequence, demonstrates important aspects of the agricultural development of South Australia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

You can read the full report on each of these four places here:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/sa-heritage-register/entries-confirmations>



Show Ground, Minlaton circa 1900.

Other Heritage News / Events

Heritage Forum – 31 August 2023

You are invited to a Heritage Forum with Donovan Rypkema, President of Heritage Strategies International based in Washington DC.

About the talk:

Heritage advocates often promote the aesthetic, cultural, and symbolic importance of historic resources. But there is growing evidence that the contributions of heritage conservation include environmental, urban quality, economic and other impacts.

While the qualitative importance of heritage is broadly acknowledged, there is an increasing body of quantitative research supplementing those qualitative values.

This presentation by Donovan will share some of those findings plus discuss some current perspectives and initiatives of heritage professionals from around the world.

Location: Drill Hall, Torrens Training Depot, Lot 23 Victoria Drive, Adelaide.

Time and Date: 4:30pm Thursday 31 August 2023 (will finish around 6:30pm).

Cost: \$5 entry fee (including nibbles), or pay \$10 and you receive a beverage (please bring cash for payment)

Parking: Car parking will be available on the Parade Ground.

RSVP: Please RSVP to David Hanna via email david.hanna@sa.gov.au by Wednesday 30 August for catering purposes.

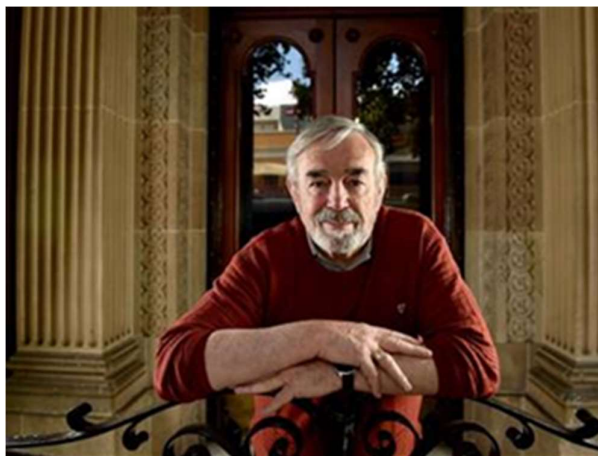


Image: Donovan Rypkema

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.

Dates: September 1 2023, October 6 2023, November 3 2023, December 1 2024, January 5 2024, February 2 2024, March 1 2024, and May 3 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

Iconic works by two of the most influential and loved artists of the twentieth century – Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera – feature at the Art Gallery in an Australian exclusive exhibition, alongside works by key Mexican contemporaries.

On display until 17 September 2023.

Bookings and further detail here:

<https://www.agsa.sa.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/frida-diego-love-revolution/>

The Art Gallery is a State Heritage Place.

The South Australian Museum

Our Museum is showcasing photographs from the Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year competition. This exhibition celebrates the natural heritage of Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica and New Guinea.

On display from 26 August to 29 October 2023.

Further details here:

<https://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/event/npoty>

The museum is a State Heritage Place.

Tea Tree Gully Heritage Museum

On Sunday September 17th the Tea Tree Gully Heritage Museum will be holding a “Book Lover’s Day”.

For one day only visitors will have the opportunity to see the Museum’s significant book collection. This vintage collection is usually held in controlled storage conditions.

From children’s annuals, medicinal journals, cook books and hymnals, many were award gifts to our pioneer citizens.

Explore twelve rooms in the building, four display pavilions, blacksmith, police cell, laundry and the charming garden.

Sausage Sizzle and Devonshire Tea will be available and the gift shop is stocked with unique craft.

Entry: Adult \$5, Concession is \$4, Children Free

The Tea Tree Gully Museum is located at 3 Perseverance Road, Tea Tree Gully.

The Museum is a State Heritage Place.

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

2319 Confirmed State Heritage Places

7 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:



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Telephone +61 (8) 8226 2127

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