

# SA Heritage Register

Nomination form

South Australian  
HERITAGE COUNCIL

## A. Nominated Object

1. Name	
Name of Object you wish to nominate.	Keith Conlon
Name and number of State Heritage Place or Area associated with the nominated Object	Mortlock Wing, State Library of South Australia  AND  The Fountain of Youth (exact location unknown but thought to be somewhere near Gover Street, North Adelaide)

2. Location of Object
Hard to pin down Keith's location – always active!  He is always busy on heritage matters. Has been sighted regularly in the Adelaide Park Lands, The Flying Fig Café or out on a community bicycle ride (usually on Wednesdays). If the Crows are playing he is likely to be found in his lounge room cheering loudly at the TV, while plotting his next social media post during the breaks.

3. Ownership	
Name of Owner(s):	Self.
Contact person: (if different from owner explain relationship)	Keith Conlon
Ownership History:	Other than a bit of help from his parents in the 1940's, has been self-managed and maintained.

4. Nominator (your details)	
Your Name/s:	Anonymous - on behalf of all South Australians!

## B. Description

5. Description of nominated object	
Description of the nominated object and its current condition:	Surprisingly in great shape given the many years of service to the community, thousands of kms on the bike, 600 episodes of Postcards, news presenter on TV, lots of hours on radio and the millions of social media posts, plus the odd slice of cake.

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<b>Are you aware of any modifications or additions to the object?</b> Can you provide dates for these changes?	Had a bit of help with the eyesight, but the hair looks genuine. The brain is as good as gold.
<b>Is the Owner aware of the nomination?</b>	He is now!
<b>Are there any current or long term threats to the nominated object?</b>	If the internet shut down it would seriously curtail his history and heritage story telling.  If they stopped playing Jazz music.  If the Crows and Sturt finish near the bottom of the ladder.  If the Christmas Pageant is cancelled.  If his bicycle got stolen.  If he could not get his hands on cake.  If he lost his perpetual diary.  And the Adelaide Park Lands.....

### C. History

6. Origins and history	
<b>Years of Construction:</b>	<b>Start:</b> 1944
<b>Name of Manufacturer:</b>	His parents.
<b>History of the nominated object:</b>	Very good pedigree from Coromandel Valley and Colonel Light Gardens. A genuine South Australian product. Has been seen eating Haighs chocolates, Balfours Frog Cakes and enjoys a South Australian wine.

### D. Heritage Significance

<b>7. Statement of Heritage Significance.</b> Insert below the Statement of Heritage Significance of the State Heritage Place associated with the Object.
An amazing talent for imparting knowledge and telling stories about South Australia.  Before "Hey Google" and "Hey Siri" it was "Hey Keith".  If we could clone the man, we could put one of him in each of our schools!

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**8. Please outline below why you believe the Object you are nominating is intrinsically associated to the State Heritage Place.**

**Note that 'Intrinsic' means 'being an extremely important and basic characteristic of a thing.'**

Intrinsically related to the Mortlock Library as he is the human equivalent. You could make a case that Keith's brain is a back up for the Mortlock Library – or conversely, the Mortlock Library is a backup of Keith's stored knowledge!

## **9. Significance Criteria**

*You do not need to fill in this section if you are nominating an object for its intrinsic association with a place under Section 16 (2) (c) of the Heritage Places Act 1993 – we will anyway!*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.</b>   | We wouldn't know our history without Keith.   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.</b>  | His brain is the size of the State Library of South Australia.  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.</b>  | <p>This is a no brainer. Just say "Hey Keith" and he will tell you anything about the State's history. He is like an OTR – he never closes – a bit of history retold every day!</p> <p>As an example - scroll to the 12 minute, 15 second section this video of Keith from 1987 where he introduces a story about the Vickers Vimy:</p> <p><a href="#">ADS-7 State Affair - Adelaide - Wednesday March 18th, 1987 - YouTube</a></p> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.</b>   | <p>Outstanding representative is appropriate. I think they made this category with Keith in mind.</p> <p>Keith is the G.O.A.T in his chosen field.</p>  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.</b> | <p>Thank his parents for this amazing creation.</p> <p>His interior is significant as a relatively well-preserved example of a walking human library.</p>   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.</b>  | The SA Heritage Council, Postcards, ABC Radio, the Christmas Pageant, Jazz music – heck the whole of South Australia actually. He is also known as "Mr South Australia" – that says it all!   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.</b>   | Keith is associated with every event in South Australia's history due to his ability to tell its story in creative and evocative ways. A great gift for imparting knowledge.  |

## E. Additional Information

The Object: Keith Conlon (the one on the right)



Intrinsically associated with the Fountain of Youth – it must be where he gets his energy source!





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Intrinsic association with the Mortlock Wing of the State Library:



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And if you need more proof – here is a recent 8 days of Facebook Posts (not to mention his Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn). Note that not one of them is about what he had for dinner:

- 27 March 1915 – referendum re 6pm Hotel closing time.
- 26 March 1869 – the opening of the Bridge at Murray Bridge.
- 25 March 1966 – The Queen’s Mother opened Flinders University.
- 25 March 1853 - The Randall Brothers and their paddlewheeler “The Mary Ann”.
- 24 March - Les Peters does it again with a marvellous photo of the wreck of the Ethel in Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National IPark at the foot of Yorke Peninsula.
- 24 March 1962 – The Second Adelaide Festival of Arts.
- 23 March 1920 – The Vickers Vimy lands in Adelaide.
- 22 March - A lesser-known rail trail in Adelaide took the Wednesday Ride group of 26 down to the Pat and back today. The Westside Bikeway is on the route of the Holdfast Bay Railway, which chuffed from 1880 to 1929. Plympton station platform is still there.
- 22 March - Brilliant restoration of an old photo of Melrose in the Southern Flinders Ranges. Remarkable detail. The two storey 1882 North Star Hotel (centre) is still going strong.
- 21 March - Basket Range rhubarb by the truckload! A nostalgic photo from the East Torrens Historical Society with a poignant note from World War I that was soon to change their world.
- 20 March 1942 - US General Douglas MacArthur spoke to reporters at Terowie Railway Station in the mid North of South Australia 20 March 1942. He concluded with the now famous "I shall return". The phrase became his rallying call and promise to the Philippines. A cairn commemorates the occasion.
- 20 March 1796 - Edward Gibbon Wakefield, an enthusiast and key player in the creation of South Australia (1836), was born 20 March 1796. He expounded his theory of colonisation, thus aiding the birth of the free colony of South Australia, in ‘A Letter from Sydney’ in 1829. But he was in Newgate Prison in London at the time for abducting a 15 year old heiress!
- 20 March - A revelation on just how many picture theatres in town halls, Chris a Smith designed in the first half of the 20th century in Adelaide... a great presentation by Chris Burns in last week’s heritage Friday forum.
- 19 March 1981 - Unprecedented legislation in Australian lands rights history was assented to 19 March 1981 in South Australia. The Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act gave traditional owners inalienable freehold title to their lands in the far north-west SA.