Heritage Places in Queensland

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For millennia people have left their mark on the land – scarred trees, handprints, rock art, shell middens. This urge to leave a sign of passing, of occupation, is strong in most cultures. These often accidental marks are today’s heritage, the physical legacy of previous generations. From the historical date of some events and records of what happened on that date in a specific place, we can construct an account of its history. By examining the evidence left at the place as well as this record of history, we can determine its cultural significance to people today; that is, we create its heritage.

A timeline of European events of historical significance to Queensland by century is presented in Appendix 1. The exploration of Terra Australis by mariners is the preoccupation of the first two centuries, until John Oxley’s survey in 1823. The convict era commenced in 1824 and ran until 1840, when free settlement brought an extensive if tenuous occupation to the southeast of today’s Queensland and wider pastoral exploration began. After 30 years of European settlement, Brisbane was perceived as a ‘sleepy hollow’ and in 1854 there were complaints of dilapidated government buildings and services, but brick houses were being erected in North Quay and immigrants were establishing a thriving village in Fortitude Valley. By 1859 there were about 28,000 Queenslanders of European origin, half located in the country north to Rockhampton and half divided between Brisbane, Ipswich and smaller provincial towns.

Following separation from New South Wales, the new colony set about establishing its mark in land surveys, marking out freehold, roads, railways and other utilitarian reserves. In the first session of the Queensland Parliament in 1860, four land Bills were passed and these defined conditions under which pastoral and agricultural land could be held. The land titles office, a survey office and a police force were also established so that taking up of land could be accelerated and law and order enforced. Cultural institutions also had their beginnings at this time, and the Philosophical Society, formed in 1862 under the leadership of Sir George Bowen and Charles Coxen, was given a large room in the windmill on Wickham Terrace to receive specimens of natural history, which became the nucleus of the Queensland Museum collections.

In 1881 the convict barracks were demolished. Following the loss of their original use, they had housed the police court in 1839, then the Supreme Court in 1857, and were the first

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1 W Ross Johnston, Brisbane, the first thirty years, Brisbane, Boolarong Publications, 1988, pp. 235-6.
House of Parliament until 1868, when the current sandstone building, designed by Charles Tiffin, the first Queensland colonial architect, was opened. There seemed to be little concern about obliterating the obvious marks of convict architecture, but the windmill in Wickham Terrace was another matter. As early as 8 December 1848, the Moreton Bay Courier argued that the windmill should be spared demolition: ‘... it would be a great pity to destroy a structure which ... adds so much to the picturesque beauty of the town’. This appears to be the first campaign to save an historic building in Queensland. In this 150th anniversary year, let us hope that the Courier-Mail will continue to champion heritage conservation!

The remainder of the nineteenth century saw more cultural institutions established, both geographical societies and historical societies. But the emphasis was on making collections of artefacts of the past rather than conserving them in situ, in the place of their provenance. This is shown by the Investigator Tree donated by the Port Office in 1899 to the Queensland Museum. It was a 3-metre-long portion of a tree trunk from Sweer’s Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria that had been incised during the breaching of Captain Matthew Flinders’ ship, the Investigator, in 1802; a later incision – ‘Beagle, 1841’ – was added by a crew member of one of Charles Darwin’s scientifically significant expeditions, and there were other inscriptions in Chinese characters and indecipherable engravings.

The twentieth century began with the colonies forming a federation, the Commonwealth of Australia. This had long-term significance for the conservation of public buildings associated with Commonwealth functions – post offices, customs houses, quarantine stations, army barracks, forts, lighthouses and naval installations. It was also a time of forest reservation in the state, for the protection of timber resources and for beauty spots such as Witches Falls at Mt Tamborine in 1908. Interest by the public in natural history was high, although 80 percent of Queensland’s bird life had been named by ornithologists as early as 1860.

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland (RHSQ) was formed in 1913, just prior to the start of World War I. This war was to have a major impact on the Queensland population, with 38 percent of all mature males in Queensland enlisting, and two Queensland battalions experienced the highest casualty rates of any in the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF). A census at this time also revealed the massive inequalities in wealth distribution, with 8 percent of the population holding 70 percent of Queensland’s material assets. This inequality continued throughout the Great Depression despite the radical governments of the 1920s. In 1939 the RHSQ succeeded in getting an Act of Parliament passed, the Newstead House Trust Act, to protect the oldest house remaining in Brisbane ‘and 3 feet from its walls’.

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4 Mather, ‘A time for a museum’, p. 74.
the 1846 house built by Patrick Leslie, a squatter from the Darling Downs, and extended by Captain John Wickham, police magistrate for the Moreton Bay region during his residency from 1857 to 1859. In 1932 the RHSQ was given the use of three rooms in the building, and after World War II Newstead House was opened to the public as an historical museum.7

The creation of national parks proceeded slowly after the war, and in 1963 the National Trust of Queensland was established with leading Brisbane people on its council. This popular community-based group fought to save important houses and public buildings in most Australian states and campaigned for a new national authority to list and conserve heritage places. In 1973 Gough Whitlam’s new Labor government, which had campaigned on a platform of environmental conservation, established a Committee of Enquiry into the National Estate. This committee recommended the creation of the Australian Heritage Commission, whose primary role was to establish a Register of the National Estate of those ‘things we want to keep’.

Despite the name, places did not need to be of national significance in order to be listed. However, the name ‘National Estate’ created confusion and controversy for the next 30 years. Historians saw this national heritage movement as part of a wider international trend in the 1960s and 1970s, and the creation of the National Estate ‘might as readily be seen as an indirect creation of UNESCO as a symptom of Whitlam’s new nationalism’.8

Australian heritage is dominated by landscapes representing wild nature and the product of Indigenous peoples. This landscape heritage is complex, woven by the interaction of people and their environment over time, including extensive shaping by Europeans. Perceptions of the relationship between nature and culture have changed over the years and have influenced the development of Australia’s landscape conservation, which has, for many years, placed a higher value on natural heritage. The development of heritage protection has been dramatically altered by the World Heritage Convention that ushered in many nominations of natural sites of global significance. Australia joined the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1974, and World Heritage has had an impact on Australians ever since – in their legislation, in their tourism and in their concepts about nature and culture. Today the 17 World Heritage areas in Australia are household names, icons of popular heritage and major tourist destinations, but only after bitter contests with a variety of communities and commercial interests. World Heritage in Australia has been a very political issue and especially so in Queensland.

7 In the 1970s, Newstead House was opened as a house museum operated by the Friends of Newstead, and in the early 1980s the RHSQ moved to the Commissariat building in the city.
In 1976 the Australian Heritage Commission was established to identify and conserve the National Estate, which was defined as:

... those places, being components of the natural environment of Australia, or the cultural environment of Australia that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations as well as for the present community (section 4 (1), Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975).

Soon after, Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) developed its Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance, the Burra Charter, to assist in assessing the significance of cultural heritage values present at a place.9

Creating the Register of the National Estate has kept Australians aware of heritage, due to the many controversies surrounding the listing of these places. In November 1976 the federal government instructed that Fraser Island, the world’s largest sand island, be entered in the Register as the first place listed, and the mining of mineral sands ceased after a decade of battling the Queensland state government and the miners, notably US Dillingham Constructions.10 Some places such as Uluru and Kata Tjuta have iconic status, but listing others has been much contested. Where states had inadequate land-use protection, conservation advocates used the listing process to draw attention to threatened places, ranging from potential World Heritage sites to local landscapes with remnant natural vegetation.11

In 1981 the Great Barrier Reef, the world’s largest living organism, Kakadu with its rugged landscapes, expansive wetlands and Aboriginal art, and Willandra Lakes, a series of former lakes and dunes containing the oldest documented human remains in Australia, were all entered on the World Heritage List. This reinforced the view that our big landscapes had international value. In 1982 the Tasmanian Wilderness, one-quarter of the state of Tasmania, was World Heritage listed, despite strident opposition from the state government. The Labor government under Bob Hawke won the 1983 federal election on the issue of using the external treaties power in the Constitution to protect wilderness areas and passed the World Heritage Properties Conservation Act in that year. Australia was the only nation at that time to have legislation to protect World Heritage properties. World Heritage listing was used as a policy instrument to protect key Australian landscapes, especially in those states that did not use their land management powers appropriately for conservation.

The early World Heritage battles were predicated on the expectation of economic disaster for north Queensland and Tasmania because of the closing down of mining and logging, but

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9 See http://www.icomos.org/australia/charters.
the opposite has occurred, with tourism as the new industry. The difference in people's attitude to World Heritage listing over the last 20 years is fascinating. It has ranged from absolute horror at 'UN intervention' and state delegations, especially of Queensland National Party ministers, flying to Paris to try and persuade the World Heritage committee not to list, to the present situation in which there is a clamour for places to be given World Heritage status.\(^\text{12}\)

In many ways, this opposition by states set the scene for some of the key elements of World Heritage management in Australia – the emphasis on universal as opposed to local values, the emphasis on the natural as opposed to European heritage values, and the imposition of a centralist model of decision-making versus local involvement and consultation (a trend that is now being reversed). The problem of having no jurisdiction except through the external treaty power to prevent inappropriate land use is one of the reasons for the setting-up of the National Heritage List of Australian heritage places, which came into force on 1 January 2004.

Meanwhile, in Queensland from the mid-1970s until 1990 the National Party oversaw the destruction of many much loved historic buildings in Brisbane\(^\text{13}\) and constantly battled the Commonwealth government over heritage issues. 'Dimly aware' of the need to broaden its urban base, the National Party permitted the Brisbane City Council to incorporate development control plans into its planning scheme, commencing with Spring Hill and Petrie Terrace, while also embarking on a major rehabilitation of government properties such as the Old Parliament House, the Commissariat Stores, Harris Terrace, The Mansions, the Government Printery and Government House itself – all without application of the ICOMOS conservation guidelines.

In 1985 the National Party set up an advisory committee to Cabinet on heritage matters and rolled both Aboriginal relics preservation and built environment protection into one Act, the Cultural Records (Landscapes Queensland and Queensland Estates) Act 1987. Neither 'Aborigines' nor 'heritage' was specifically defined and no one was obliged to identify, list or conserve items of cultural significance, so the Act was seen as a charade.\(^\text{14}\) A fundamental flaw of the Cultural Records Act was that it provided 'handkerchief coverage rather than blanket protection' from human impacts – there was no general requirement for landholders to arrange for cultural heritage surveys to be undertaken prior to any works on the property, and there was no requirement to exercise a duty of care. There was only scope for the management of impacts on sites that had been listed on a 'register' (which was in fact never

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\(^{12}\) Jane Lennon, 'Paris Down Under', pp. 213.

\(^{13}\) Rod Fisher estimated that 60 significant buildings were demolished between the mid-1970s and 1990; see Rod Fisher, 'Nocturnal demolitions: The long march towards heritage legislation in Queensland', in John Rickard and Peter Spearritt, eds, Packaging the past? public histories, Melbourne, Melbourne University Press, 1991, pp. 55–65.

\(^{14}\) Rod Fisher, 'Nocturnal demolitions', pp. 60–61.
kept), or where the works were so substantial as to trigger the need for an environmental impact statement under other legislation.\(^{15}\)

The Fitzgerald Inquiry into corruption (1987–89) exposed the political masters of Queensland and the National Party replaced Joh Bjelke-Petersen with Mike Ahern in 1987. But in December 1989, after 32 years of Country/National Party dominance, the Goss Labor government was swept into power. A consultative committee was formed and a Green Paper on proposed heritage legislation released in early 1990. In the interim, the Minister for Environment and Heritage, Pat Comben, introduced the *Heritage Buildings Protection Bill*, which was passed by Parliament on World Heritage Day, 5 June 1990.

The parliamentary debate at the time of amending this Bill on 10 March 1992 is a significant record of attitudes to heritage, issues that are still of concern and aspirations for future care of this heritage.\(^{16}\) The Opposition, through the Member for Cunningham, Mr Tony Elliot, defended its record:

> The Opposition has always seen a need for heritage legislation. As far back as the early 1980s when I was a Minister, I endeavoured to get heritage legislation into this House. The whole thrust of the interim legislation cuts across the private property rights and the basic principles of democracy. If a building is put on the heritage register, one cannot appeal to anyone other than the Minister ...

> Anyone with any brains would want the important buildings in Queensland to be preserved, maintained and, where possible, restored. The previous Government bought buildings for the National Parks and Wildlife Service’s regional headquarters in Maryborough and did them up, so no-one can come into this place and say that the National Party was not interested in heritage. I, for one, most certainly was.

Elliot discussed further the need for government assistance to owners of heritage places, an issue still of concern, as shown by the issues raised in the nationwide Productivity Commission Inquiry in 2006:\(^{17}\)

> If tax incentives were in place, private enterprise would refurbish and utilise some of the magnificent old buildings for office space and so on. Until the Federal Government recognises its responsibilities in that regard, we will not get anywhere with this legislation. At present, people cannot afford to invest in or refurbish old buildings. In the case of two adjacent buildings, if one is on the Heritage Register and the other is not, the owner of one of the buildings has restricted future development rights. There are those who are concerned about the importance of looking after our built environment, our built heritage, other monuments and areas of historical significance. However, a very large group in private enterprise is most concerned by the Minister’s approach and by the attitude of Governments to private property rights.\(^{18}\)

The Member for Maryborough, Mr Dollin, noted that tourism was a beneficiary of the restoration of heritage buildings in his city, and that ‘the beautiful brick bond store is a


\(^{16}\) Hansard, 10 March 1992, Queensland Legislative Assembly, p. 3952 ff.

\(^{17}\) Productivity Commission Inquiry Report, no. 37, 6 April 2006, *Conservation of Australia’s historic heritage places*.

\(^{18}\) Hansard, 10 March 1992, Queensland Legislative Assembly, p. 3955.
building of some consequence, and the courthouse is possibly the gem of the buildings'. Maryborough City Council proposed a number of projects to promote cultural tourism, including the Wharf Street and central business district heritage streetscape program. However, his predecessor, the National Party member Gilbert Alison, suggested that 'people who wanted to keep the old buildings be put in the old courthouse and blown up'.

The Liberal Party, through the Member for Sherwood, Mr Dunworth, supported the new legislation – while suggesting that people who own heritage buildings should be offered some sort of rebate on land tax or rates:

People will then be given an incentive to develop these buildings. The Labor Government tends to forget that if one owns a heritage building and has no money to do anything with it, nothing can be done.19

Peter Beattie, Member for Brisbane Central, summarised the legislation's history:

For more than eight years, the National Party looked at heritage legislation. It received eight drafts of the Bill. At the end of 1989 when the National Party lost office, was there any heritage legislation?

There was zilch. In 1989, there was heritage legislation in every State in Australia, but there was none in Queensland.

Let us look at what happened under the National Party and the Liberal Party. There was the Bellevue, that wonderful, historical hotel that used to be across the road from Parliament House. It is not there any longer. It is gone. What happened to Cloudland? It has gone. Under the National Party Government, the midnight marauders, the Deen brothers, did extremely well and were the major beneficiaries. That is the legacy left by the National Party.20

He also went on to describe what he saw as the essential components of heritage:

If one looks at what determines heritage, one sees that it is not unreasonable to take into consideration things such as the historical context, the distinctiveness of the building, the technological or architectural distinctiveness, the cultural distinctiveness and the physical context as well.

I know that there are a number of broader definitions, but in summary those are the criteria that are used to determine what is a heritage building. 'Heritage' is the word which describes the blend of culture, traditions and assets passed from one generation to another. It is simply not good enough to do that by word of mouth or by pictures in appropriate books. Something has to be done in a physical sense to present to future generations our proud heritage, and that is what this legislation seeks to do.21

The Minister for Environment and Heritage in the second reading speech summarised the aims for a new heritage protection era:

The intent ... is to provide for the conservation and comprehensive protection of Queensland's cultural heritage. This Bill is the product of extensive consultation with individual property owners, private and commercial interest groups, heritage associations, particularly the National Trust, and religious organisations throughout the State following release of the Heritage Green Paper in October 1990. This Bill will replace the interim Heritage Buildings Protection Act 1990 ... this Bill represents a balancing of the rights of a private individual against public enjoyment and public rights. Whenever we

19 ibid., p. 3960.
20 ibid., p. 3961.
21 ibid., p. 3963.
step legislatively into those sorts of provisions, we tread on eggshells and, at times, broken glass.22

And so Queensland at last had effective legislation with a suite of provisions to enact it. Interestingly, several members of parliament raised issues of continuing importance in adequate and representative heritage conservation. Engaging local youth in conservation corps works and in the use of local heritage places was raised by the Member for Cooroora, Mr Barber:

I point out that it is very important, if the Government is to combat youth alienation, to encourage Queensland’s youth to understand our past and our history. Coolum cinema is a case in point that I will mention briefly to the House. It is one of the few buildings in Coolum that speaks of that town’s history. No-one could say that it will ever be heritage listed or that it has heritage value in terms of the Act, but it is under threat presently because the cinema proprietors have been evicted by the land-owners. The future of that building is a great unknown. It is not just the building about which the people are concerned. That place was pretty much the life-blood and heart of the town through the congregation of youth who go there on weekends to see films, through the fund-raising and through the wine and cheese nights that used to be held at the cinema. The proprietors of the cinema used to pour a lot of good back into the community.23

And rural places were of concern to the Member for Carnarvon, Mr Springborg:

Many rural property owners cannot afford the costs of maintenance and upkeep of old buildings, so if a person wanted to buy a rural property on which an old building was situated, it is highly unlikely that he would undertake a restoration project. These issues must be considered, and I hope that the comprehensive legislation that will be introduced later this year will take account of all those factors.24

How have heritage places fared since 1992? There were 1591 places entered into the Queensland Heritage Register at May 2009. The 2003 amendments to the Heritage Act clarified that complex places in multiple ownership can be entered in the Heritage Register. There were a number of such places already entered in the Register, including Castle Hill in Townsville, a group of apartment buildings at Julius Street in New Farm and Captain Cook’s Landing Place at the Town of 1770.

In 2005 the government announced its intention to undertake a survey of Queensland’s historic cultural heritage places to provide certainty to the community about heritage conservation issues. Funding of $2.7 million over five years was assured, along with $5 million in Living Buildings & Places grants and a review of the Queensland Heritage Act.

Preparatory studies were undertaken. Queensland Cultural Heritage Places Context Study by Thom Blake, historian, in 2005 has a framework of 10 themes to guide the assessment of places and regions. Blake divided Queensland into 17 geographical regions to make the assessment more manageable. The regions were established in an historical context, while taking account of existing local government boundaries The study includes a brief ‘story’ on the history of each region as a starting point for discussions with communities.

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22 ibid., p. 3973.
23 ibid., p. 3965.
24 ibid., p. 3964.
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Godden Mackay Logan, a Sydney-based heritage consulting firm, prepared a methodology for conducting regional assessments. This methodology was adapted and it uses a community consultation model with meetings of historical societies, local governments and community members, and a website, information sheets, posters and postcards, newsletters and newspapers and radio commentary.

The state-wide survey is being conducted under a framework that is a mix of regional and thematic surveys:

- Thematic survey of World War II places, North Queensland
- Roads and bridges typological study
- Policing and justice typological study
- Queensland pastoral heritage survey.

In 2007, Mackay-Whitsunday, North Coast (SEQ), Far North (FNQ), World War II North Queensland, and Roads and Bridges studies were completed. In 2008, surveys began in Central (Rockhampton), Wide Bay-Burnett and Far North (continued), and studies of Tracks & Trails and the Queensland pastoral scene commenced.

The review of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* examined the nomination process, development assessment, integrating management of archaeology, the strategic role of the Heritage Council and the role of local government in heritage. The role of the Heritage Council is to decide places to be included in the heritage register, to hear representations from owners and other parties, to advise state agencies on development, to undertake strategic projects and to provide strategic advice to the minister. The nomination process now incorporates defensible timeframes – 170 days maximum for a Heritage Council decision, and opportunities to ‘stop the clock’ – as well as early engagement with owners and the community through a copy of the application being sent to owners and the local government association, and submissions are invited. With regard to Development Assessment, there are major changes as the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is now the decision-maker (except for state projects), and applicants deal more directly with the decision-maker. The status quo remains for State Development but it is supported by State Heritage Management Principles and advice can be sought from the Heritage Council for major development issues. In addition, protection of archaeological places was brought into the development system through the *Integrated Planning Act* and requires investigation of archaeological sites prior to development. Places of archaeological potential are also being identified through the state-wide survey. Finally, the review suggested that local heritage registers managed by local government be established,

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Lennon Heritage places in Queensland supported with a heritage place code; the minister may recommend that places appear on the register, but the decision rests with the local government.

At this time of the 150th anniversary celebrations, we should reflect on whether enough is being done at the local government level to protect heritage places. Heritage overlays are not mandatory in local planning schemes and very few councils other than the big cities like Brisbane, Ipswich and Gold Coast have adopted them. A new regional planning system is being rolled out. But are the places – sites, remains, landscapes of our agricultural activities – being identified? The many dairy farms, piggeries, sugar fields with their cane-cutters barracks and tram lines, tobacco kilns and pineapple packing sheds all provide evidence of past ways of rural life, along with the bridle paths, travelling stock routes, railways and roads that linked these places.

Have we protected the accidental survivals of our pre-Separation settlement? It would be a mature decision to identify and protect these remnants before they are all ruins, archaeological in nature. The convict beginnings of Queensland are often overlooked, in comparison to the rich built legacy in Tasmania and New South Wales, but some of this heritage remains.

And what are the clues in today’s landscape? Little evidence survives – a handful of built structures and archaeological sites, such as the Commissariat store along the Brisbane River, the windmill in Albert Park off Wickham Terrace, the Dunwich causeway, and the convict settlement layout reflected in aspects of Brisbane CBD streets and their functions. Historically they are an important part of the story of convict settlement in the Moreton Bay District of New South Wales before Queensland became a separate colony in 1859. From 1825 convicts toiled on the river bank building the stone store to house their food and supplies. The windmill was initially constructed to provide wind power to grind wheat into flour, but it was not successful.

But the convict beginnings are part of a wider story. Because of the convict settlement, free settlement was not permitted within 100 miles of the tiny Brisbane town until 1842, so that pastoral settlement first occurred on the Darling Downs following Cunningham’s explorations of 1827–29. Food was produced from crops grown initially at the City Botanic Gardens, and later in the 1820s, as land was cleared, there was a New Farm and the women’s prison at Eagle Farm, and all these were close to the river which was used to transport goods.

Moreton Bay can be considered as a cultural landscape, with settlements and outstations established at Redcliffe (short-lived), North Brisbane (main settlement), South Brisbane (farm), Kangaroo Point (farm and porphyry quarry), Oxley (sandstone quarry), New Farm (farm), Breakfast Creek (farm), Eagle Farm (farm and women’s prison), Cowper’s Plains (cattle station), Limestone (limestone quarry), Dunwich (stores depot), Amity Point (pilot
station) and Tweed Heads (military outpost). The impact of about 1,000 people on local Aboriginal groups and on the forests is now understood.

Heritage listing of remaining convict places will ensure their accessibility to Australians. Telling the story continues by further research, such as Jennifer Harrison’s studies of the Brisbane women convicts and their descendants.

The convict theme in Australian history and heritage is now being recognised, and a World Heritage Listing is being sought currently by the Australian government for a serial site nomination comprising Kingston and Arthurs Vale on Norfolk Island, Old Government House and Domain at Parramatta, Hyde Park Barracks, Brickendon–Woolmers estates in Tasmania, Darlington Probation Station in Tasmania, Old Great North Road, north of the Hawkesbury River, Cascades female factory in Hobart, Port Arthur and the coal mines on Tasman Peninsula, Cockatoo Island (Sydney Harbour) and Fremantle Prison in Western Australia. The nomination is currently before the World Heritage Committee in Paris for consideration at its 2009 meeting. No Queensland sites were included because they are not intact enough by comparison with those listed above. However, there is much to celebrate in the school education curriculum regarding our convict origins, such as Dame Mary Gilmore’s poem, *Old Botany Bay* about convicts building the nation, and popular history books such as *For the term of his natural life*, *Fatal shore* and *Australia’s birthstain* continue this theme.

Many people have favourite places that tell their own heritage story. But Rod Fisher cautioned us in 1991:

> If heritage is to be treated more as history, academic historians need to direct greater attention towards serving the community. In particular a new breed of historian is required, not only as chroniclers, critics, practitioners and participants, but also as counsellors to convey the meaning of heritage as history.26

Telling the stories, giving meaning to places so that we know, love and care for this heritage, is our challenge. However, as Tim Bonyhady has reminded us:

> The problem for conservationists is not just that government is unlikely to make the law more favourable to them but also that their achievements are always vulnerable ... Forests declared as national parks, buildings subject to heritage orders, even plants and animals classified as endangered can be stripped of these protections by ministerial decision or Act of Parliament. Because government cannot be trusted to protect even those areas identified as the common heritage of mankind, conservationists are destined to fight again and again for places they believe are worth keeping.27

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Timeline by century of European events of historical significance to Queensland

1606  Willem Janz in *Dyfken* explores Gulf of Carpentaria

1770  James Cook in *Endeavour* explores east coast and lands in Queensland

1799  Matthew Flinders discovers Pumistone Passage

1823  John Oxley surveys Brisbane River with castaways Pamphlett, Parsons and Finnegan

1824  Redcliffe is established as the first convict settlement in Moreton Bay

1825  Convict settlement is transferred to Brisbane Town

1827  Allan Cunningham discovers Cunningham’s Gap and the Darling Downs

1840  The first squatters arrive on the Darling Downs – the Leslie brothers with 8,000 sheep

1842  Free settlement begins in Brisbane

1844  Ludwig Leichhardt explores north Queensland

1846  Major Thomas Mitchell explores west Queensland

1847  Port Curtis (Gladstone) is established then abandoned until the 1850s

1848  First campaign to save an historic building – the Brisbane Windmill

1849  Separation from New South Wales proclaimed 10 December by Governor George Bowen

1859  Philosophical Society formed; given large room in the Windmill to receive specimens of natural history, the nucleus of the Queensland Museum

1862  *Crown Lands Act*

1874  Aboriginal reservations established

1879  Queensland Museum completed in William St – later the State Library

1881  Convict barracks demolished; they had housed the police court until 1839, then the Supreme Court (1857), and the first House of Parliament until 1868

1883  The Royal Society replaced the Philosophical Society and the majority of donations were minerals or fossils

1885  Royal Geographic Society of Queensland (RGSQ) formed

1886  ‘Talga skull’ discovered

1890  First Arbor Day

1899  Qld Museum moved to new Exhibition Building

1900  Forestry branch established in Lands Department

1901  Federation of the Commonwealth of Australia; Commonwealth took over customs (12 posts on Qld borders), quarantine (4 stations), colonial navy, forts and barracks, light houses, post offices

1906  State Forest and National Parks Act

1908  Witches Falls National Park (Mt Tamborine) established; first in Queensland
1909 University of Queensland established
1912 First state high schools open
1913 Royal Historical Society of Queensland founded
1919 War memorial construction began in many towns
1926 RGSQ appeal and construction of Cook Memorial Cairn at Round Hill, Town of
1770 (so named in 1936); recreation reserve gazetted around it
1939 Newstead House Trust Act
1930 National Parks Association of Queensland established; 30 national parks gazetted
covering 63,330 hectares; campaigned in 1930s for Mt Barney, Mt Lindesay,
Bellenden Kerr, Chillagoe caves, Cunningham’s Gap, Dunk Island, Eungella,
Hinchinbrook Island and all unalienated islands off the coast
1963 National Trust of Queensland Act; first property acquired, Wolston Homestead (1852)
1966 Joss House, Breakfast Creek (1884), reopened following restoration
1966 Buildings demolished for King George Square development, Brisbane
1970 Captain Cook Bi-Centenary Celebrations
1975 Australian Heritage Commission Act
1975 Fraser Island, the first place entered on Commonwealth Register of the National
Estate
1975 Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service established, ending 70 years of park
administration by Forestry Department; 292 national parks covering 1.1 million
hectares
1979 St Helena Island penal ruins declared a national park; first one protecting historical
structures
1979 Bellevue Hotel demolished
1980s Early Street Historical Village began at Eulalia
1981 Meaker Trust (Raine Island Research) Act to protect the cultural values of these
outer reef cays, including the Raine Island beacon, 1844
1982 Queensland Art Gallery opened at South Bank
1982 Cloudland Ballroom demolished
1983 Her Majesty’s Theatre demolished
1987 Cultural Record (Landscapes Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act
1988 World Expo ’88 opened at South Bank; Bicentenary of Australia’s settlement
1990 Heritage Buildings Protection Act
1992 Heritage Act
1992 Nature Conservation Act
1993 Noonuccal descendants land claim, Stradbroke Island

2007 Heritage Act and Other Legislation Amendment Act