



2012-2013



Southern Midlands Council
Heritage Program
Annual Report

Preface

Again, Southern Midlands Council's Heritage Program has had a busy year – in particular with a very successful summer archaeology program, collaboration with Council's business unit of the Centre for Heritage at Oatlands as well as substantial advances in the statutory management of heritage through the various regional planning scheme projects.

The continued success of Callington Mill as our flagship heritage and tourism project has had substantial flow-on effects to the wider community, as measured by the Midlands Economic Development and Land Use Strategy interim report.

A works program has continued at the Oatlands Gaol, with a substantial grant from the Australian Government, through the *Your Community Heritage* program. This has allowed capping and stabilisation works to be undertaken to the remnant gaol walls and the larger Oatlands Gaol project has seen the relocation of the Gaol Arch commence – the arch having been moved to High Street in 1939 is currently being re-erected and restored in its original location – effectively reclaiming 1/2 of the original façade of the gaol complex.

Also through the *Your Community Heritage* program, the Southern Midlands Community Heritage Archive Project travelled through the district staging open days at 12 community halls, collecting stories, histories and

historical information about the district. This culminated in two temporary exhibitions and consequent permanent displays at Oatlands and Kempton – showcasing the local histories of all corners of the municipal area. This demonstrated Council's focus on the entire district – outside of the major towns.

A conservation management plan has been developed for the recently acquired Oatlands Commissariat – and although a major funding application was unsuccessful, a remedial works program is soon to commence (and external funds are being sought). Consultation on the Oatlands Commissariat Master Plan has been undertaken to gauge community views and desires for the site.

Our third summer archaeology program was staged over three weeks in late January/early February, with twelve interstate university students undertaking work on four sites through the district, with supervision by a team of five archaeologists. This program investigated the site of several of Oatlands earliest government buildings – the first gaol, guard house and barracks, all dating from 1827-8. This has resulted in a far greater knowledge of the earliest settlement of Oatlands and will assist in future archaeology and interpretation projects. An archaeology open day held in early February attracted around 600+ people – an education and tour program was rolled out during the day to showcase the work.

Council continues to gain credibility for participation in both statutory heritage management and in heritage projects – taking the lead in the heritage aspects of the regional planning process and preparing to embark on the formal processes around establishing sounder statutory heritage management processes.

This document is the fourth and final annual report pursuant to the *Southern Midlands Historic Heritage Strategy 2009-13*, and it is very satisfying to see so many initiatives ticked off. This plan is to be reviewed in early 2014 and a round of community consultation will be included around Council's endorsement of the new plan.

Council continues to employ a full-time Manager of Heritage Projects, with a part-time (0.6 FTE) Heritage Project Officer position being maintained. A part-time (0.2 FTE) position of Collections Officer has been maintained. Several FTE equivalent positions continue with the Callington Mill business unit, through management, milling and visitor services. Several full-time positions, casual positions and apprenticeships are maintained through the *Centre for Heritage at Oatlands* initiative. Southern Midlands Council continues to have one of the most comprehensively staffed heritage programs of any local government agency in Tasmania. This fact is well recognised within the industry, and ensures Southern Midlands Council's position as a leader in heritage management.

In addition to the dedication of the staff members who have input into Council's Heritage Program, the program has been made a success by the input of volunteers – with countless hours of volunteer time contributing to initiatives such as the Oatlands Supreme Court House, archaeological excavations, collection management/curation etc. The value of volunteer time is massive, and assists greatly in value-adding to the program.

Brad Williams

Manager – Heritage Projects

Southern Midlands Council.

Cover – OUR CONVICT HERITAGE – Plans of various convict buildings around the municipal area. L-R (and top to bottom) – Jerusalem (Colebrook Probation Station), Oatlands Watch House, Sorrell Springs Watch House, separate cells of Lovely Banks Probation Station, a group of convicts on a road gang and a portable probation station as used at Tunbridge and Spring Hill.

SMC Heritage Projects Program staffing 2012-13

Note that this does not include Callington Mill and Centre for Heritage at Oatlands staff – as separate business units of Council.

Manager Brad Williams (full time)

Heritage Project Officer Alan Townsend (0.6 fte)

Project Officer (CHAP Project) Rowena McDougall (temp)

Collections Officer Karen Bramich (0.2 fte)

Supreme Court House volunteers Rowena McDougall

Archaeology program supervisors

Angie McGowan
Sylvana Szydzik
Jennifer Jones

Archaeology program students/volunteers

Bronwyn Woff
Rhiannon Ashton
Chris Silvester
Christian Fielder
Fiona Shanahan
Chelsea Morgan
Adam Valka
Nadia Bajzelj
Leah Ralph
Janine McEgan
Casey Preston
Elizabeth Smedley
Jo Bain
James Glover

Todd England
Peta Straiton
Samantha Fidge
Ilona Bartsch

Consultants

Darryl Rogers - Interpretation

Progress against specific initiatives arising from the Southern Midlands Historic Heritage Strategy 2009-2013 (as at 30th June 2013).

Stream	Strategy	Initiative	Progress during the 2012-2013 Financial Year
4 (Statutory)	a	Process the proposed local-level listings from the GHD survey, either under the current planning scheme, or as part of the anticipated new planning scheme deriving from the JLUPI process in order to ensure adequate statutory protection of heritage places.	Pre statutory consultation for proposed listings has been completed. The feedback from this consultation was considered by Council and the draft schedule has been included in the draft interim planning scheme.
	b	Continue a strong alliance with Heritage Tasmania in the review of Schedule 4 of the Southern Midlands Planning Scheme 1998 (or successor) and Southern Midlands listings on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.	Cooperation between SMC and Heritage Tasmania is continuing as required, demonstrating an effective and collaborative approach to state/local heritage management.
	c	Review existing and proposed heritage areas and develop specific 'desired future character statements' or development guidelines for each, producing 'tailored' heritage precincts in the new planning scheme.	As part of the interim planning scheme preparation process, all heritage precincts have been reviewed resulting in draft amendments to the precincts, including the introduction of a new precinct at Colebrook. Work has commenced on new dwelling development guidelines for heritage precincts.

	d	Incorporate flexible use provisions for heritage listed places within the new planning scheme.	Flexible use provisions, including consideration of non-confirming use for heritage places, where an overall heritage benefit can be demonstrated, has been included in the draft Heritage Code as part of the planning scheme review (see below).
	e	Undertake a review of national planning scheme heritage provisions in order to develop planning scheme provisions for SMC (and the sub-region) as part of the JLUPI process, and in conjunction with the Department of Justice Planning Division's work on new standard planning scheme provisions.	A draft Heritage Code, which includes heritage places, precincts, cultural landscapes and places of archaeological sensitivity has been developed as part of the planning scheme review.
	f	Develop heritage management policies pursuant to statutory provisions in-line with national best-practice.	Adoption of this code as part of the new planning scheme is expected in 2014.
	g	Explore options for the development of an expert-based sub-regional heritage advisory committee.	It is envisaged that the regional planning reform process will provide greater opportunity for regional cooperation and resource sharing for planning process matters including heritage considerations.

	h	Investigate resource sharing for heritage management and heritage projects throughout the JLUPI sub-region.	<p>Ongoing as part of the planning scheme review process.</p> <p>Given the trend towards an increased focus on resource sharing, it is expected that this will extend beyond the JLUPI sub-region.</p>
	i	Investigate ways that cultural landscapes can be investigated and documented without imposing undue limitation on future land-use.	<p>Cultural landscape provisions have been drafted as part of the planning scheme review.</p> <p>Investigations are being undertaken into the possibility of a cultural landscape area at Mangalore/Pontville, in conjunction with Brighton Council.</p>
	j	Liaise with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Office for the development of a better system for managing Aboriginal cultural heritage in the municipal area.	<p>Representatives from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council have been involved with the Mangalore/Pontville cultural landscape area.</p>

5.1 Callington Mill	a	Continue with the implementation of the recommendations of the <i>Callington Mill Master Plan</i> .	<p>The Callington Mill Master Plan was implemented in 2010. A business unit to manage operation of the mill has been established.</p> <p>Some minor works are continuing to complete the implementation of the master plan.</p>
	b	Seek and encourage linkages to the Callington Mill project with other local, regional and thematically relevant attractions.	<p>Ongoing collaboration and linkages with complimentary organisations/businesses (e.g. Casaveen, Tasmanian Organic Producers Society etc.) has continued as part of the operation of Callington Mill.</p> <p>A substantial amount of local, national and international media interest has been directed at the operation.</p>

	c	Develop an archaeological management plan for Callington Mill, which considers archaeology both in the works, and interpretation programs.	Completed in 2010-11.
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5.2 Oatlands Military Precinct	a	Continue to encourage research (historical and archaeological) into the Oatlands Military Precinct to gain a better understanding of layout, physical remains and overall context.	Ongoing historical and archaeological research has been undertaken as resources allow – a particular focus has been on the Oatlands Gaol and Oatlands Probation Station sites. Archaeological investigations of the 1827 Barracks, Guard House and original gaol site were undertaken in 2013 as part of the summer archaeology program.
	b	Develop an archaeological zoning plan for the Oatlands Military Precinct, in order to guide future planning in that precinct.	Completed in 2009-10.
	c	Liaise with Government owners of significant and archaeologically sensitive sites within the precinct for adequate recognition, protection and investigation of sites.	
	d	Develop interpretive media for the Oatlands Military Precinct for incorporation into related interpretation projects.	Completed in 2009-10
	e	Investigate whether current statutory protection of physical remains is adequate.	Completed in 2009-10



Excavating the 1827 Oatlands Guard House as part of the 2013 summer archaeology Program. Fiona Shanahan, Sylvana Szydzik and Chris Silvester.



The 2013 summer archaeology program team.

5.3 Oatlands Gaol	a	Explore options for the establishment of a new swimming pool elsewhere to allow for demolition of the current facility	<p>Plans for the new aquatic centre have been completed.</p> <p>A development application for the new pool has been submitted.</p> <p>Funding sources are continuing to be explored.</p> <p>Some pre-works archaeological investigations of the proposed site have been undertaken.</p>
	b	Implementation of the recommendations of the Oatlands Gaol Conservation Management Plan 2006 as current resources allow – particularly focusing on those works designated as ‘urgent’	<p>A full restoration of the Oatlands Gaoler’s Residence was completed during 2010-11.</p> <p>Stabilisation and capping works to the gaol walls are currently being undertaken.</p> <p>Relocation of the gaol arch from High Street is nearing completion.</p>

	c	Encourage further research into the site and thematic contexts	<p>The underfloor deposit collection is being used in the interpretation fitout of the gaoler's residence.</p> <p>Further historical research has been undertaken on the history of the site as part of the interpretation project.</p>
	d	Continue to seek funding opportunities through internal and external sources	Funding opportunities continue to be explored.
	e	Fully implement the Oatlands Gaol Conservation Management Plan 2006 and to seek funding wherever possible to do so.	<p>Once the 2012-13 works program is completed, then the majority of the recommendations of the Oatlands Gaol CMP have been implemented.</p> <p>No further work can be undertaken until such time as the pool is removed.</p>
	f	Develop an interpretation plan for the site, which considers fit with other local and state heritage/tourism initiatives.	Implementation of the interpretation plan for the gaol is nearing completion with opening to the public expected in February 2014.

	g	Scope business opportunities for the long-term sustainable use of the Oatlands Gaol, in-line with other local and multi-regional heritage and tourism initiatives	<p>Following the completion of the interpretation fitout of the Gaoler's Residence, the building will be open to the public (to a limited capacity).</p> <p>Further business planning is required for the longer-term management and effective use of the building.</p>
	h	Develop an archaeological management plan for the site	Reports on the previous archaeological investigations at the site are forthcoming and form the basis for further archaeological planning.
	i	Ensure that the future use of the building is guided by an appropriate level of business planning to ensure that the use is sustainable and fits with other local heritage/tourism initiatives.	See initiative 5.3 (g).

5.4 Oatlands Supreme Court House	a	Develop a conservation management plan for the Oatlands Supreme Court House	No progress.
	b	Complete restoration of the building	Minor works have been ongoing. Kitchen and toilet block are nearing completion.
	c	Establish a volunteer staffing program to open the building at least 4 days per week on an ongoing basis	Volunteer numbers have decreased this year, with regular opening infrequent; however guided tours of the building are available 7-days per week.
	d	Complete Stage 1 of the Court House interpretation implementation	Completed in 2009-10.
	e	Continue to foster partnerships with relevant stakeholders for the use of the building as a small museum and interpretation centre	The building is used occasionally for special functions/conferences etc. A local theatrical group have been staging performances in the building. Liaison with other stakeholders is ongoing.
	f	Seek funding (whether internal or external) for the development of a business plan for the Court House.	No progress.

	g	Development of a business plan which will consider where the Court House fits with other Oatlands heritage initiatives, i.e. Callington Mill and Oatlands Gaol.	No progress, although considered a high priority.
	h	Review and continue the implementation of the Oatlands Supreme Court House Interpretation Project	No progress.
	i	Subject to the findings of the business plan, seek to operate the Court House as a community focused small museum and heritage interpretation centre.	As per initiative 5.4 (c).

5.5 Chauncy Vale	a	Review and incorporate specific historic heritage management strategies in the review of the <i>Chauncy Vale Management Plan</i>	The current management plan was last revised in 2010 and includes historic heritage management strategies. Additional management strategies will be included in the next review and in the action plan.
	b	Develop a plan for <i>Day Dawn Cottage</i> , which incorporates landscape and archaeological management provisions.	
	c	Develop a collections policy and inventory of chattels for Chauncy Vale, as per the provisions of Council's <i>Heritage Collection Policy</i> .	Completed in 2010-11.

5.6 Mahers Point Cottage	a	Continue the program of maintenance on the building.	Basic maintenance is ongoing, led by the Lake Dulverton/Callington Park Committee.
	b	Seek expressions of interest for usage of the building, preferably for a community use, or by private persons if no community use can be found.	An Artist in Residence project is being scoped by the Callington Park/Lake Dulverton Committee.
5.7 Heritage Collections	a	Develop the documents and procedures required to administer the Southern Midlands Council Heritage Collections Policy, integrating policies for regular update and review.	<p>Policy and procedure documents for management of the collection are being developed.</p> <p>A part-time collections officer position has been ongoing.</p> <p>A part time Archaeology Project Officer position has been created which has input into this process.</p> <p>Ongoing improvement to the collections database is being undertaken. Inventory and audit projects are also ongoing.</p>
	b	Implement the findings of the Stacker report on the Kempton collection, in-line with the heritage collections policy.	Ongoing progress alongside 5.7(a).

	c	Explore options for a short-term heritage collections store, in-line with the Clark & Paterson report.	<p>An archaeological collections store has been established in the Oatlands Gaoler's Residence.</p> <p>The collection has already near-filled this facility and the establishment of a more permanent store is considered a priority.</p>
	d	Pursue acquisition of the Barrack St Police house for the development of a long-term heritage collections store and for ancillary facilities for the Oatlands Gaol.	<p>Preliminary discussions have been held with the Minister for Police, and an in-principle agreement for possible future acquisition has been discussed.</p> <p>The building is currently empty.</p>
	e	Ensure adequate skills and resources to manage SMC's heritage collections to professional standards perpetually.	<p>Council's Heritage Collections Officer and Archaeology Project Officer continue to develop procedures for management of the collection, in conjunction with volunteer and staff training projects as required.</p>

<p>5.8 Streetscapes</p>	<p>a</p>	<p>Continue to incorporate heritage management practice in the planning and implementation processes of streetscape improvement projects.</p>	<p>The review of planning scheme provisions/heritage precincts incorporates heritage streetscape considerations.</p> <p>Ongoing review of development guidelines consider heritage streetscape issues.</p>
<p>5.9 Convict sites</p>	<p>a</p>	<p>Continue to investigate, document and promote the convict heritage of the Southern Midlands where opportunities arise.</p>	<p>A substantial research project has been undertaken to research some 30+ convict sites in the Southern Midlands. Interpretation installations and a publication will be forthcoming from this project in early 2014.</p> <p>Archaeological investigations were undertaken on the Picton Road Station site in 2012, and Oatlands Probation Station site in 2013.</p>

	b	Encourage and foster partnerships with other institutions for the investigation and promotion of the convict heritage of the Southern Midlands.	<p>Twelve students from Flinders and Latrobe Universities participated in the summer archaeology season.</p> <p>Several high school and postgraduate students have been undertaking heritage projects in the Southern Midlands.</p>
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Dismantling and re-erecting the Oatlands Gaol Arch.

5.10 Green Ponds Heritage Centre	a	Develop a brief conservation plan for the remaining portion of the Green Ponds Watch House	Completed in 2010-11.
	b	Undertake conservation and restoration work on the watch house as resources allow	Completed in 2012-12.
	c	Develop a project plan and undertake a feasibility study on the use of the watch house as a heritage centre, which might explore partnership opportunities.	A project plan is to be initiated during 2013-14.



Surveying the Lovely Banks Probation Station as part of a HESC Introduction to Archaeology Course, April 2013.

5.11 Resourcing & business planning	a	Continue to seek external funding opportunities wherever possible	No external funding was attracted during the 2012-13 financial year. Unsuccessful applications were made for several projects through schemes such as Your Community Heritage and the Tasmanian Community Fund.
	b	Maintain internal budget allocations where possible for seed-funding of heritage projects	Internal budgets have been allocated for Heritage Projects Program staffing, managerial & admin staffing, general maintenance of heritage properties, Callington Mill and Oatlands Gaol projects, and general streetscape and research projects consistent with the Strategic Plan.
	c	Plan heritage project timelines with the aim of predicting external funding opportunities, but with 'Plan B' contingencies factored into the plan.	The Southern Midlands Historic Heritage Strategy 2009-13 continues to guide the overall heritage program. That document is to be reviewed in late 2013.

	d	Maintain a high level of business planning to ensure feasibility, accountability and sustainability of heritage projects	<p>Business planning for projects such as Callington Mill, the Centre for Heritage at Oatlands and the Oatlands Gaol have been included in the overall plans for those projects.</p> <p>Further business planning is required for the Oatlands Gaol, Supreme Court House and Commissariat.</p>
	e	Seek suitable partnerships for value-adding to heritage projects	<p>Partnership programs are ongoing with heritage projects. In particular, partnerships with Heritage Tasmania, Arts Tasmania, Tourism Tasmania, various universities and the Tasmanian Heritage Council have provided invaluable assistance to Council's Heritage Programs.</p>
	f	Pursue opportunities for resource sharing with other government (local or state) agencies	<p>As per initiative 5.11 (e) continue to be pursued wherever possible.</p> <p>Regional partnerships have been pursued through the planning reform process.</p> <p>Collaborative projects with Clarence City Council have been ongoing. Such projects include U3A lectures and School for Seniors.</p>

5.12 Heritage & tourism	a	Better identify those places within Southern Midlands which have the potential for integration into heritage tourism initiatives – both geographically and thematically, with a particular focus on publicly owned sites.	An interpretive trail with some on-site installations is being planned for Southern Midlands convict sites.
	b	Develop a heritage place interpretation strategy, coupled with guidelines for physical branding of installations/publications in order to create a uniform and unique feel for heritage places in the Southern Midlands. This must be aligned with tourism strategies arising from the PA.	Interpretation at the Oatlands Gaol, and forthcoming convict sites project has drawn from previous interpretation strategy documents (developed in 2010).
	c	Continue to foster an alignment to statewide heritage tourism strategies and principles.	Sub regional heritage linkages are promoted by Council's involvement in the <i>Heritage Highway Region Tourism Association</i> .
	d	Ensure that the interpretation of Southern Midlands heritage places is modern, dynamic, unique and memorable.	Public heritage programs, open days and exhibitions also work towards this objective.
	e	Seek linkages and cooperative projects with other Councils within the sub-region.	Further linkages to be pursued through the planning scheme review process. Sub regional heritage linkages are promoted by Council's involvement in the <i>Heritage Highway Region Tourism Association</i> .

<p>5.13 Heritage & education</p>	<p>a</p>	<p>Continue to develop and stage education programs attached to heritage projects</p>	<p>Twelve students from the, Flinders University and LaTrobe University participated in the Oatlands summer archaeological excavation season.</p> <p>Support has been provided to several postgraduate students who are undertaking heritage projects on Southern Midlands sites/themes.</p> <p>Partnerships with the UTAS School of Architecture have been fostered.</p> <p><i>An Artist in Residence</i> through Arts Tasmania's grants program has been initiated.</p> <p>Several high school work experience students have spent time working in the Heritage Projects Program.</p> <p>The Heritage Projects team have a high degree of involvement in facilitating <i>Heritage Education and Skills Centre</i> initiatives.</p>
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	b	Explore opportunities to develop a heritage skills training centre at Oatlands, in collaboration with other institute and industry partners.	The <i>Centre for Heritage at Oatlands – Heritage Education and Skills Centre</i> continues to operate. This organisation is a not-for-profit company established by Council to address shortages in heritage trades skills in Tasmania. Several courses have been successfully run at Oatlands and in other areas.
	c	Where possible, assist students and researchers investigate and promote the heritage of the Southern Midlands	The Heritage Projects Program has provided support to several students, authors and researchers who have an interest in Oatlands see initiative 5.13a).
	d	Continue to stage regular community heritage workshops such as the annual trade days.	These trade days have been incorporated into the larger <i>Heritage Education and Skills Centre</i> initiative.

<p>5.14 Community heritage interest groups</p>	<p>a</p>	<p>Encourage liaison and seek to provide assistance to community heritage groups where possible.</p>	<p>Liaison with groups such as the various historical societies of the district, the Pugin Foundation etc. is ongoing.</p> <p>A program of U3A lectures featuring the history/heritage of the Southern Midlands has been facilitated in conjunction with Clarence City Council.</p>
<p>5.15 State government partnerships</p>	<p>a</p>	<p>Continue to liaise and encourage collaboration with State Government agencies and the Tasmanian Heritage Council on development of heritage policy and projects.</p>	<p>Very positive ongoing partnerships have continued to be fostered with Heritage Tasmania, Arts Tasmania, Tourism Tasmania, the Tasmanian Skills institute and the Tasmanian Heritage Council. The benefits of these partnerships have filtered throughout Council's Heritage Program.</p>

5.16 Heritage promotion & public consultation	a	Continue to foster community involvement with heritage projects whenever possible	<p>Community involvement is ongoing, through regular stakeholder forums and volunteer programs.</p> <p>An archaeology open day was held at the completion of the summer archaeology program which attracted over 600 visitors.</p> <p>The <i>Southern Midlands Community Heritage Archive Project</i> involved collection and documentation of community heritage at twelve sites through the district culminating in two exhibitions and a heritage collection deriving from the project.</p>
	b	Continue to stage heritage events as part of wider state and national programs whenever possible	Callington Mill participated in the National Trust Heritage Festival 2013.



Good
Mrs

Strathelie, Broadmarsh c1910 Photograph collected as part of the Southern Midlands Community Heritage Archive Project, courtesy of Henry Jones.