

Minutes

Heritage Advisory Committee

Date: Monday, 24.06.2024

Venue/ Mode: MS Teams

Councillors: Cr Bridgid O'Brien (BOB), - Chair

Attendance: Alexis Arrowsmith (AAr), Eleni Courvisanos (ECo), Graeme Butler (GB), Greg Chenhall (GC), Ian Wight (IW), Jeffrey Atkinson (JA), Kristianna Scheffel (KS), Leo John Showell (LS), Malcolm MacDonald (MM), Michael Phillipson (MPH).

Council Officers: Richa Swarup (RS) - Principal Advisor City Heritage, Elizabeth Robertson (ER)- Project Manager Building Projects

Apologies: Mayor Edward Crossland (EC), Cr Michael Glynatsis (MG), Kate Yunken (KY), Manager City Strategy, Kirsteen Thomson (KT).

diverse

vibrant

exciting

inclusive

<p>1.0 <u>Acknowledgement, Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>BoB started the meeting with the <i>Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners</i>.</p> <p>HAC noted apologies (as stated above).</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>No action required.</i></p>
<p>2.0 <u>Aqua-Profonda Sign</u></p> <p>ER spoke about the social and historical significance of the Aqua Profonda sign.</p> <p>She outlined the current state of the sign, methodology and process proposed to be undertaken to restore it.</p> <p>ER explained that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located at the deep end of the main swimming pool, on the brick wall which runs along Young Street, are the words "DANGER DEEP WATER" and directly underneath is 'AQUA PROFONDA' painted in black. • The brickwork wall dates from the opening of the Fitzroy Swimming Pool 1908. The AQUA PROFONDA sign is understood to have been painted in red, c. 1953 – 1954. • The black AQUA PROFONDA sign has been present since before the 1994 - 1995 <i>Save the Pool campaign</i>. There is evidence that the sign was repainted as part of the 10-year anniversary of the successful <i>Save the Pool campaign</i>. 	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That RS circulate the consultation programme to the HAC when available.</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structural integrity of the wall on which the AQUA PROFONDA sign is located is sound. However, high moisture levels have adversely affected the painted finish and the legibility of the AQUA PROFONDA sign. • A Heritage Infrastructure Management Plan HIMP (2021) has been prepared by Conservation Studio. Grimwade Conservation Services undertook a visual assessment of paint samples. • The sign is listed under the Victorian Heritage Register - H1687 (i.e. Heritage Victoria's advice is sought on heritage aspects. • Heritage Victoria has recommended community engagement to determine community preference to retain the c1953 red lettering on blue-black background or retain the c1994-1995 <i>Save our Pool</i> black lettering on blue background. • A consultation programme is under preparation and officers will notify HAC when finalised. <p>The HAC appreciated the analysis and the work so far. HAC also desired that officers send the consultation programme when ready.</p>	
<p><u>3.0 Reinstatement of Heritage Lamp Post at the corner of Nicholson and Scotchmer Streets</u></p> <p>JA explained that a heritage lamp post base was removed from its location at the corner of Nicholson and Pigdon streets in 2019, as a part of the Accessible Tram Stop works. He mentioned that along with Terry Nott (a former HAC member) he had visited the site a few times, back then, and discussed various suitable locations for its reinstallation. There were many factors as underground services and safe clearances from the existing services and traffic etc. that have guided it's the new location.</p> <p>RS informed that the reinstatement of this lamp post base has been a coordinated effort of the strategic transport, heritage, open space, and infrastructure teams over the years. The project timing was impacted due to Covid 19's impacts.</p> <p>JA appreciated that the Lamp Post base has finally been installed at the corner of Nicholson and Scotchmer streets, close to its earlier location.</p> <p>He suggested that since a few of such old gas lamp posts can be seen around that area, it will be good for the Council to install a signage.</p> <p>GB mentioned that it is also important to note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not in its original location; • It is not its original colour; • It is not in its original context (now in a flower bed!) and • it is not in its original form, with perhaps a reference to surviving examples of gas lights in the city. 	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That RS convey HAC's appreciation as noted in the minutes to the other relevant departments.</i></p>

<p>HAC was appreciative of the outcome and recommended that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council installs a signage explaining the history of the lamp posts and a map locating the other such remaining lamp posts at the corner Nicholson and Scotchmer streets or another suitable site where a heritage lamp post/base exists. Regarding this, HAC also noted that while preparing a signage/ map the aspects such as its original location, colour, form and context should also be included. • RS convey HAC's appreciation to the relevant departments whose efforts have resulted in this positive outcome. 	
<p>4.0 <u>LGBTIQA+ Heritage Study</u></p> <p>RS provided a project update and key findings of the draft LGBTIQA+ Heritage Study.</p> <p>She explained that the LGBTIQA+ Heritage Study has been conducted in two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1: Initial investigation and recommendations • Part 2: Detailed review and assessment of places recommended for detailed assessment in Part 1 Study and preparation of heritage citations and Statements of Significance (SoS) <p>The study methodology included undertaking a preliminary and detailed research, site visits, targeted consultations, review of existing documentation and assessment against State nominated criteria for listing of heritage places as per the Planning Practice Note 1 (PPN1) and as per the criteria for Victorian Heritage Register's (VHR) listing.</p> <p>Part 1 Study (draft) has resulted in,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive list of places important to the LGBTIQA+ community. • Recommendations on mechanisms for their retention, planning protection, promotion, celebration and acknowledgment (through statutory or non-statutory mechanisms). • Preparation of succinct place histories for 30 places. • Recommendations for text additions that can be integrated into the existing Yarra Thematic Environmental History (1998) when it is reviewed and updated in the future. • Identification of 13 individual places and five precincts for a detailed analysis and assessment of their associated LGBTIQA+ heritage values and their suitability for planning protection. <p>Part 2 Study (draft) has analysed following precincts, identified associated LGBTIQA+ values, documented those values in the new format of Statement of Significance (based on the PPN1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HO334 South Fitzroy Precinct • HO333 Smith Street Precinct, Fitzroy/Collingwood 	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>No specific action was noted.</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HO311 Brunswick Street Precinct • HO318 Collingwood Slope Precinct • HO361 World Heritage Environs Area Precinct <p>Thirteen individual places were analysed. Out of these,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three places have the potential to be included as individual heritage overlay places in the Yarra Planning Scheme. Statements of Significance (SoS) have been prepared and a number of recommendations are made to include these places in the Yarra Planning Scheme. • Three existing individual heritage overlay places were reassessed. Recommendations are made to include revised SoS in the Yarra Planning Scheme and a number of other recommendations are also made to implement the findings. • Three places are recommended to be retained in the existing heritage overlay precincts. Two of these places were found to be of historical and/or social significance to the LGBTIQA+ community in Yarra. One place did not meet the thresholds for local heritage significance when compared to other similar places. • Four places included in the VHR were assessed to determine if their potential historical or social significance associated with the LGBTIQA+ community (identified in Part 1) would satisfy the threshold for state-level significance. These places were found not to satisfy the threshold for state-level significance. It is recommended that the place histories of these places prepared as part of this study are provided to Heritage Victoria so that updates to the VHR place histories can be considered (non-statutory process). <p>Officers will be presenting the study to council for consideration.</p> <p>HAC indicated their support to the draft Study.</p>	
---	--

<u>5.0 Members' Update</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p>Due to the lack of time, individual member's updates were not provided. The members discussed the following heritage matters/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Strategy: Concern were raised that, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the proposed Property Strategy in its current form would have a massive impact on heritage assets. There is no reference to the Framework for Managing Council's heritage assets. The strategy should include the preparation of CMPs for all significant heritage assets as a key recommendation. - The \$10 M delegation as suggested is not fair considering that these are public buildings. - Some of the properties are of heritage significance being civic buildings, selling them could result in these buildings losing its civic function which is a key historical aspect of these buildings. 	<p><i>That</i></p> <p><i>RS confirm from MPh regarding his presentation in the next HAC meeting prior to finalising the agenda for the next meeting.</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tall precast concrete walls adjoining a heritage property: There were concerns that tall (five storeys) precast concrete and blank walls should not be provided next to a heritage building. Specific design guidelines need to be included in the Planning Scheme to avoid such an interface. MPh suggested that he would like to make a presentation on the above aspect in the next HAC meeting, where he would like to present a few examples also. • Housing Statement's target and its impact on heritage in Yarra: HAC was concerned that the proposed housing targets may have an impact on the heritage character of Yarra's significant buildings, precincts and the municipality in general. Their view was that council should provide resources to prepare proper heritage documentation of heritage buildings as is recommended in the Heritage Strategy. The precinct development controls should be based on sound heritage information. • YIMBY's opposition to heritage protections/management: Members were concerned that YIMBY's are raging against HO's. In the last decade or so there is a constant push back to heritage sensitive approach for developments. 	
<p>6. <u>Other matters</u></p> <p>RS provided an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Awards: That awards for heritage can be made under the Arts and Culture category. • Housing Commission Tower: RS outlined that a community group in Yarra is working for saving the Housing Commission towers at South Fitzroy and are also working towards its potential nomination for State listing. The group would appreciate any research information or advice on this matter. <p>In this regard RS also informed that their proposal is an intent currently, and further work is being done by the group to firm up their proposal. She suggested that if the HAC members would like to provide/share any research or examples they can forward it to RS. GB informed that the paper prepared by him on this topic as a response to an earlier HAC meeting, can be forwarded to the community group as it may help their research.</p> <p>HAC also suggested that Peter Mills research may be a good document to refer to.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>No specific follow up action was noted.</i></p>
<p>7. <u>Meeting dates and agenda item</u></p> <p>BoB confirmed that next HAC Meeting will be held on 28 August 2024 and requested that members send the agenda items to RS a month in advance.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p> <p><i>That</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HAC members forward the agenda items for the next meeting to RS.</i>

