“Our heritage provides an enduring golden thread that binds our diverse past with our life today and the stories of tomorrow.”

Anonymous
The places in Australia’s National Heritage List, with their wonderful stories, have laid the foundations for what will become a truly magnificent list of our outstanding heritage places.

The National Heritage List recognises and protects the exceptional natural historic and Indigenous places that help shape our national identity. They are the places and stories that, as a society, we wish to pass on to future generations.

The List is truly representative, reflecting the achievements, joys and sorrows in our lives. The places in the List may represent part of Australia’s extraordinary national heritage, or we may value them for how they inspire us, what they tell us or how they reflect our beliefs.

Through the National Heritage List all Australians can help conserve the places that are of outstanding significance to our nation. For once they are destroyed they cannot be replaced.

We must acknowledge and appreciate our heritage for its importance in both our past and our future. Looking back, our heritage brings us a deeper understanding and respect for what binds us, and for our future we must celebrate our heritage in the places that will continue to grow with us.

Protecting Australia’s heritage will bring economic, social and environmental benefits to our communities. I hope this book inspires you to become involved in caring for our nation’s living heritage.

Malcolm Turnbull MP
Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water Resources
There are few more exciting or stimulating tasks than to identify the natural, historic and Indigenous places that are significant to all Australians.

The Australian Heritage Council’s task is to assess nominated places against the National Heritage criteria to determine if they are of outstanding value to our nation.

When the Council embarks on the listing process it is an intriguing journey through the issues that define us as a country and a people.

We are relishing the challenges of our role and are inspired by the passion, care and concern we have seen for heritage in the community.

Despite being relatively new, having only been instigated in 2004, the National Heritage List is growing rapidly. Places have been nominated by private citizens, heritage bodies and state, federal and local governments.

The List links familiar and iconic places such as the Sydney Opera House and the Melbourne Cricket Ground with lesser known places such as Budj Bim, which is the site of one of the oldest aquaculture systems in Australia. It links sites of some great national celebrations, such as Melbourne’s Royal Exhibition Building, with places of sorrow and disquiet such as Tasmania’s Port Arthur.

It also links places of great historic moments such as Captain Cook’s Landing Place and events that have taken mythological standing such as the site of Ned Kelly’s last stand at Glenrowan.

These and other places comprise the Australian story. Identifying them, telling their tales and providing a framework for their protection is the purpose of the National Heritage List. I hope that what we manage to do with the National Heritage List will inspire a greater awareness and support for heritage throughout Australia.

Tom Harley
Chairman of the Australian Heritage Council
PLAN du
PORT DU NORD,
DE LA BAIE DE LA RECHERCHE
vue à Terre-Meridiennale
du Canal Denfrocasteaux,
levé
Parlementaire de Brauer-Benjamin
en 1792.
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Introduction

Australia is a complex and diverse nation composed of both Indigenous and immigrant peoples from nearly 200 countries. But it is our common heritage that makes us distinctively Australian. By recognising our heritage – our past, our places and the source of our values – we can better understand our special place in the world.

Heritage can be something you can touch and see but it can also be things you can’t, like music, stories, spoken history and traditions. Heritage represents all the things that make Australia and Australians unique. It helps us remember where we came from and where we belong. Heritage is all the things that make up our story, tangible and intangible, and as we value them we must protect them.

Through conservation, recognition and promotion of the cultural identity of all Australians we can contribute to greater understanding and acceptance of our diversity. Ultimately this will contribute to strengthening our community and our place in the world.

The aim of this publication is to provide a glimpse of the places in the National Heritage List and why they were listed. The guide illustrates the great diversity of outstanding heritage places within Australia.

Heritage: what is or may be inherited; that which belongs to one by reason of birth; inheritance; something passed down to future generations

This publication contains information on the first 42 places in the National Heritage List. As more places are added, information will be available at www.heritage.gov.au
From the places that define who we are and tell the story of our country’s past, to the places that reflect our evolving heritage and where we are going, the National Heritage List is representative of Australia.

The National Heritage List is Australia’s list of places with outstanding heritage value to our nation.

The places in the National Heritage List are those that are so special to us all that they are considered to have National Heritage value. To qualify for this they must meet one or more statutory criteria. The List comprises natural, historic and Indigenous places that are of outstanding significance to Australians.

Only information on a place’s National Heritage values is recorded in the list, and only these values are protected by the Australian Government. A place may have natural, Indigenous or historic values, or a combination of all three.

The Australian Heritage Council assesses the values of nominated places against the National Heritage criteria and makes recommendations to the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources about listing. The final decision on listing is made by the Minister.

So important are the heritage values of these places that they will be protected by Australian Government laws and through special agreements with state and territory governments and with private owners.

The National Heritage List was established through amending the existing Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and by establishing the Australian Heritage Council, which assesses nominations and advises the Minister on National Heritage values.

### Australia’s National Heritage Places

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Budj Bim

Date of inscription: 20 July 2004
For thousands of years the Gunditjmara people flourished through their ingenious methods of channelling water flows and systematically harvesting eels to ensure a year round supply. Here the Gunditjmara lived in permanent settlements, dispelling the myth that Australia’s Indigenous people were all nomadic.

Dating back thousands of years, the area shows evidence of a large, settled Aboriginal community systematically farming and smoking eels for food and trade in what is considered to be one of Australia’s earliest and largest aquaculture ventures. This complex enterprise took place in a landscape carved by natural forces and full of meaning to the Gunditjmara people.

More than 30,000 years ago the Gunditjmara witnessed Budj Bim, an important creation being, reveal himself in the landscape. Budj Bim (known today as Mount Eccles) is the source of the Tyrendarra lava flow, which as it flowed to the sea changed the drainage pattern in this part of western Victoria, creating large wetlands.

The Gunditjmara people developed this landscape by digging channels to bring water and young eels from Darlots Creek to low lying areas. They created ponds and wetlands linked by channels containing weirs. Woven baskets were placed in the weirs to harvest mature eels.

These engineered wetlands provided the economic basis for the development of a settled society with villages of stone huts, built using stones from the lava flow. Early European accounts of Gunditjmara describe how they were ruled by hereditary chiefs.

As this conflict drew to an end in the 1860s, many Aboriginal people were displaced and the Victorian government began to develop reserves to house them. Some Aboriginal people refused to move from their ancestral land and eventually the government agreed to build a mission at Lake Condah, close to some of the eel traps and within sight of Budj Bim.

The mission was destroyed in the 1950s but the Gunditjmara continued to live in the area and protect their heritage.

The mission lands were returned to the Gunditjmara in 1987.

The Gunditjmara manage the Indigenous heritage values of the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape through the Windamara Aboriginal Corporation and other Aboriginal organisations. A large part of the area is the Mount Eccles National Park, managed by Parks Victoria.
Royal Exhibition

Date of inscription: 20 July 2004
Melbourne’s Royal Exhibition Building is one of a group of grand monuments and buildings born from the world exhibition movement of the 1800s, which includes the Eiffel Tower and London’s Crystal Palace.

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens were designed and built to host an international exhibition in 1880. In the decades before this event, Victoria had been experiencing a period of marked economic growth resulting from the discovery of vast goldfields in the colony. Wealth from this booming economy was being directed to grand and symbolic projects intended to reflect the status and position of Victoria, and the Australian colonies, on the world stage. Hosting the 1880 Melbourne International Exhibition was an expression of this.

In Australia, as in other countries, the international exhibitions were always matters of pride and an important mechanism for introducing the world to the wealth, capacity and culture of the city and country. Exhibitions were particularly important to countries trying to establish a global profile, to open the door to trade and closer international relations with others, and were often a symbol of the host’s aspirations for nationhood.

Most exhibitions had a ‘Palace of Industry’ or ‘Great Hall’. The Exhibition Building, as we now know it, was the Great Hall for the 1880 and 1888 international exhibitions.

The design of the Great Hall included many features reminiscent of churches and basilicas at the time, such as naves, aisles, a dome and a cruciform floor plan. It was, in effect, designed to be a ‘temple’ to industry.

The Carlton Gardens were designed as a ‘pleasure garden’ setting for the building, and also to reflect the scientific interest in gardens at the time.

Three decades later when soon-to-be Prime Minister Edmund Barton expressed a desire to have as many Australians as possible attend the opening of Australia’s first Federal Parliament, he turned to the nation’s largest and arguably grandest building – the Royal Exhibition Building.

On 9 May 1901 more than 12 000 people listened to speeches, sang a hymn and the national anthem and watched as politicians were sworn in and a new nation was born.

It would be another four months before the national flag was flown at the Exhibition Building on 3 September 1901, following a national flag designing competition, which attracted over 32 000 entries.

The Royal Exhibition Building has had a varied role in the life of the nation, from housing war memorabilia for the Australian War Memorial, to becoming a migrant reception centre and even a venue for weightlifting and basketball during the Melbourne Olympic Games. In between these diverse uses, exhibitions continued to be held in the Royal Exhibition Building and are still held today.

Management of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens is shared by the Museums Board of Victoria and the City of Melbourne. The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens had its role in the world exhibition movement of the 1800s recognised in 2004 when it was inscribed on the World Heritage List.
Dinosaur Stampede

Date of inscription: 20 July 2004
About 95 million years ago in central Queensland several moments of frantic activity were preserved in stone.

Located at Lark Quarry Conservation Park, 110 kilometres south west of Winton in central Queensland, the Dinosaur Stampede National Monument features unique evidence of a dinosaur stampede with almost 4000 dinosaur footprints clearly visible in an area of just 210 square metres.

The footprints and their interpretation provide scientific underpinning for the famous stampede scenes in Steven Spielberg’s 1993 blockbuster Jurassic Park and the BBC’s award-winning series Walking with Dinosaurs (1999).

A mixed group of perhaps 180 chicken-size carnivorous theropods known as Coelurosaurs (Skartopus species) and Bantam to emu-sizes herbivorous ornithopods (Wintonopus species) were distributed by the arrival of a single much larger carnivore: a theropod named Tyrannosauropus, which may have been as much as 10 metres long with 50cm footprints.

Fleeing the larger dinosaur, Skartopus and Wintonopus are thought to have stampeded past Tyrannosauropus, leaving thousands of footprints in the surrounding mudflat.

Not long after the incident, the water level began to rise, covering the tracks with sandy sediments before the mud had dried.

Over time, the footprints were buried beneath sand and mud as the lake and river levels continued to rise and fall. Over thousands of millennia, this rich river plain with its sandy channels, swamps and lush lowland forest dried up. The sediment covering the footprints was compressed to form rock.

Today, Lark Quarry is a dry landscape of spinifex and lancewood dotted across gullies and steep escarpments.

In the 1960s while fossicking for opals, a local station manager, Glen Seymour, discovered what he thought were fossilised bird tracks, but it wasn’t until scientists visited the area in 1971 that the footprints began to reveal their true story.

It is a rare snapshot of a few seconds of activity during the age of the dinosaurs preserved against all probability for 95 million years, which has become the benchmark for study of dinosaur footprints and behaviour. The arid setting where we find these sediments that reveal lowland riparian forests of the past evoke thousands of millennia of landscape evolution in Australia.

Today this outstanding site is covered by a modern centre which was completed in 2002 as a Centenary of Federation project.

The new building features ecologically sustainable design elements and protects the main collection of footprints from damage by stabilising temperature and humidity fluctuations, stopping water running over the footprints and keeping people and wildlife off the footprints themselves.

Cook's Landing

Date of inscription: 20 September 2004
When Lieutenant (later Captain) James Cook first set foot on Australian soil at Kurnell Peninsula Headland in Botany Bay, New South Wales, he made history.

This moment led to the British settlement of the Australian continent. It altered forever the way of life for Indigenous Australians, dramatically expanded the world’s scientific understanding of the continent’s unique flora and fauna and ultimately led to the creation of a new nation – Australia.

Originally sent by the British Admiralty to the south-seas to observe the transit of the planet Venus across the face of the sun, Cook spent several months circling and surveying New Zealand’s North and South Islands, before the *Endeavour* set sail for Van Diemen’s Land, which he believed to be the south-eastern tip of New Holland. Southerly gales propelled the ship north and, on 19 April 1770, Lieutenant Zachary Hicks, Cook’s second in command, sighted land. This was the ‘East Coast of New Holland’, first named Point Hicks and now Cape Everard, on the east coast of Victoria.

The *Endeavour* sailed north, close to land in the Illawarra region (near Wollongong), but the surf was too rough for them to get ashore.

Sailing northwards along the coast, Cook found the first safe harbour to drop anchor on 29 April 1770. In addition to observing the land, Cook was searching for fresh water to sustain the crew on its voyage.

Approaching the shore by longboat, the crew noted, on what is now known as Kurnell Peninsula, the presence of a ‘small village consisting of about six or eight houses’. With no means of understanding each other’s language, confusion marked the initial contact between the landing party and the local people.

“I thought that they beckoned us to come ashore, but in this we were mistaken, for as soon as we put the boat in they again came to oppose us… I fired a musket between the two which had no effect… one of them took up a stone and threw at us…”

(Cook’s journal, 29 April 1770)

Cook’s party explored the area over the next eight days, gathering food, collecting scientific samples and observing this new land. Despite several encounters, Cook was not able to establish effective communication with the local people, who maintained a wary distance. The crew noted local activities such as camping, fishing, using trees for bark and food, collecting shells and cooking fish.

The Europeans were not the only ones recording first impressions. ‘Captain Cook stories’ exist in parts of Aboriginal Australia the explorer never visited. In some Aboriginal stories, Kurnell Peninsula is called ‘The Foot’, the place where Cook’s foot first connected with Australian land.
Gold Strike

The Eureka Stockade Gardens
Date of inscription: 8 December 2004

Castlemaine Diggings
Date of inscription: 27 January 2005
The Eureka Stockade Gardens
“We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other and fight to defend our rights and liberties”

At daybreak on 3 December 1854 a government force of British soldiers and Victorian police attacked an entrenchment of 120 aggrieved gold miners at Ballarat. The Eureka Rebellion became one of Australia’s defining moments.

The Eureka Stockade Gardens mark the site set aside in the late 1800s to acknowledge the Eureka Rebellion of 1854, an event that gave rise to Australia’s unique tradition of a ‘fair go’.

Events like the Eureka Stockade have shaped Australia’s political and social development. The small band of 120 miners, made up of more than 16 nationalities gathered in a wooden stockade, were attacked at dawn by around 400 soldiers and police officers. By the end of the conflict 33 miners and five soldiers were dead.

The rebellion was fuelled by discontent with the mining licence, which the diggers claimed was taxation without representation and a tax upon labour. More generally, the uprising was sparked by a desire for fair treatment for all. The rebellion led to a fairer goldfields system with the licence replaced by the cheaper Miners Right, giving miners the right to vote. Many see this act as the first steps on the path to Australia’s democracy.

In addition to helping build an egalitarian and diverse nation made up of people from different backgrounds, the legacy of the gold rush has been far reaching and continues to be felt today.

Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park

In 1851 the burning intensity of gold fever lured tens of thousands of immigrants to Australia from all over the world, eager to strike it rich. Within 10 years, Australia’s population trebled to more than one million people.

Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park in Victoria is the most outstanding gold rush era site in Australia in terms of the diversity of types, integrity and time-depth of its collection of mining sites. The miners huts, Chinese market gardens, mine headframes, stone footings and shallow shafts in a bush environment gives us a rare snapshot of how people lived and worked in the harsh environment of the gold fields.

Gold and the search for this precious metal, has played a major role in how our nation has developed. Its influence has left us with the enduring legacy of exploration, immigration, research, and industrial booms. The Eureka Stockade uprising was also an important influence on the development of our democratic system.

The gold seekers who came to this part of the world brought an enormous range of skills, professions and cultures. The work they did in places such as Ballarat and Bendigo ushered in a long period of prosperity and the development of a modern industrial base in Australia.

The first major gold rushes took place in 1851 near Bathurst in New South Wales and at Ballarat in Victoria.

A sheep station hut keeper, Christopher Thomas Peters, had also found gold in Castlemaine, Victoria but kept his discovery quiet. He and three friends earned a year’s pay in a month by chipping gold from rocks with a hammer and chisel. However, word of the fabulous richness of the diggings soon got out and thousands of people started to explore the creeks around the area, finding gold close to the surface.

Major gold rushes followed in Queensland from 1866 and Western Australia from 1892, with thousands of hopeful prospectors joining the hunt each time.
Mawson Huts

Date of inscription: 27 January 2005
Mawson Huts and Mawson Hut’s Historic Site, Antarctica

Even the world’s most ferocious winds and coldest temperatures, formidable mountains and crevasses could not destroy the incredible spirit and courage of Sir Douglas Mawson during his epic treks in Antarctica.

This spirit is epitomised in Mawson’s huts which can still be found standing in this hostile environment. Thanks to the ingenuity and determination of pioneering Australian explorers and scientists, like Sir Douglas Mawson, the mysteries of this vast, remote land continue to be revealed, and answers to some of the world’s most pressing environmental problems sought.

As international scientific interest in Antarctica grew in the late 1800s, it sparked the interest of notable Australian scientists including mining engineer and geologist Sir Douglas Mawson, who was a man with a singular passion for the Antarctic environment. His plans to explore the continent caught the nation’s imagination, and when he set off in 1911 into a largely unknown environment, Australians rallied behind him, confident that his explorations of the continent would help enrich Australia’s scientific knowledge.

Sir Douglas Mawson established Australia’s first base for scientific and geographical discovery in Antarctica at Cape Denison on the continent’s northern coast, 3000 kilometres south of Hobart.

He and his team designed and built five simple huts (one hut, now presumed destroyed, was located at the Western Base, on Shackleton Ice Shelf on Queen Mary Land Station) and from them he set out to learn as much as he could about the forces that carved out Antarctica. His work on that trip and survey work on subsequent trips to the continent were instrumental in Australia later claiming 42 per cent of Antarctica as Australian Territory.

Between 1912 and 1913 Mawson’s huts provided the basis for his team’s heroic exploration of the Antarctic landscape, the study of weather, geology and magnetics, and the pioneering use of wireless communication on the Antarctic Continent. They battled intense winds, icy conditions and long periods of isolation to gather this material.

In 1947 the Australian Government established the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions with Sir Douglas Mawson as one of the key advisers to the Government on Antarctic policy. He recommended the establishment of a permanent base on the continent and in 1954 Mawson Station was built and still operates.

Today, Australian scientists, who enjoy an impressive international reputation, are at the forefront of Antarctic research and their investigations and ongoing work on the frozen continent promise exciting future discoveries.

In coming years it is anticipated that Australian research will reveal important data about climate change, space, weather, ocean productivity and ice cap thickness, following on from discoveries in the last 50 years about Antarctica’s vital role in the generation of much of Australia’s weather. Importantly, Australia will continue to work to clean up and contain abandoned work sites in Antarctica.
Date of inscription: 3 June 2005
Long before Europeans came to Australia, Aboriginal communities were applying advanced knowledge of engineering, physics, water ecology and animal migration to catch large numbers of fish in traps like the Brewarrina Aboriginal Fish Traps.

The significance of these early Aboriginal technologies that demonstrate the sophisticated understanding of Aboriginal people of the land and its natural resources are steeped in legend.

The story of the Brewarrina Aboriginal Fish Traps, known as the Ngunnhu to the local Ngemba people, shows how an ancestral creation being designed and created an important fishing venture that supported many Aboriginal communities in the Brewarrina region in north-west New South Wales.

According to Aboriginal history, the Ngemba people were facing famine after a major drought had dried the river. Baiame, a creation being who saw their plight, designed a gift for the Ngemba – an intricate series of fish traps in the dry river bed.

Baiame produced the design for the Ngunnhu by casting his net over the river course. His two sons built the fish traps to Baiame's design.

Baiame then showed the old men of the Ngemba how to call the rain through dance and song. Days of rain followed and filled the river course, flooding Baiame’s net and bringing with it thousands of fish. The old men rushed to block the entry of the stone traps, herding fish through the pens.

Baiame instructed that although the Ngemba people were to be custodians of the fishery, maintenance and use of the traps should be shared with other tribes in the area.

Over time, the Ngemba people studied fish migration in relation to season and river flows to apply innovative new methods of working the fish traps more efficiently and to ensure that the river was not overfished.

Baiame wanted the other tribes in the region, including the Morowari, Paarkinji, Weilwan, Barabinja, Ualarai and Kamilaroi to use the Ngunnhu.

He allocated particular traps to each family group and made them responsible under Aboriginal law for their use and maintenance. Neighbouring tribes were invited to the fish traps to join in great corroborees, initiation ceremonies, and meetings for trade and barter.

The Ngunnhu was, and continues to be, a significant meeting place to Aboriginal people with connections to the area.
Port Arthur

Date of inscription: 3 June 2005

AUSTRALIA’S NATIONAL HERITAGE
At once beautiful and darkly tragic, Tasmania’s Port Arthur Historic Site is a place of contradictions that has helped shape Australia’s colonial past.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors each year are drawn to experience the paradox of this brutal penal settlement which sits quietly on the Tasman Peninsula surrounded by verdant lawns and English oaks.

Part of the public fascination with Port Arthur is its many-layered history and the role it has played in shaping aspects of Australian society from the 1830s to the present day.

It was here that many transported and re-offending convicts spent their days. Its isolation and formidable geography gave it a feared reputation.

Over time, and after transportation of convicts ended, the buildings were used for many years to accommodate convict invalids, paupers and ‘lunatics’. The site has continued to evolve through phases of significant development, decline and change, bushfires, demolitions, constructions, major landscape alterations and restoration work.

The buildings, ruins and other site features that remain today are now a major tourist attraction and Australia’s most vivid and well-known reminder of its convict beginnings. The tragic loss of 35 people at a gunman’s hand in 1996 added another emotionally powerful layer to the history of the place and gave it a new national significance as the place that led to Australia’s tightened gun laws.

Port Arthur remains a physical chronicle of a dramatic part of Australia’s history. Its 60 or so buildings and picturesque landscape offer visitors a challenging mix of both beauty and horror and have helped the site to become Tasmania’s most popular tourist destination.

The legacy of this place affects us all today via our convict heritage, and the lessons we have learnt from its eventful history. Port Arthur Historic Site will continue to enable future generations to experience, research and explore their inheritance.
Glenrowan

Date of inscription: 3 July 2005
Glenrowan Heritage Precinct, Victoria

With his blackened armour made from ploughshares, Ned Kelly has been an enduring presence in the Australian psyche for more than 125 years. Ned Kelly: bushranger, larrikin, and to some, hero, is one of Australia’s best-known historical figures.

He is also part of the nation’s mythology, repeatedly re-emerging through Australia’s art, literature and music.

Ned Kelly’s famous last stand in the small northern Victorian town of Glenrowan on 28 June 1880, brought to an end his bushranging crusade.

This is the most famous moment in the flamboyant history of bushranging. It has come to represent the anti-authoritarian and risk-taking bushranger that is now a part of Australian folklore.

Glenrowan is a tangible link with this important event and the vivid strand of Australia’s national identity that it represents.

It has been said that the formation of the Kelly Gang was the result of police harassment combined with the rural discontent caused by inequity of land tenure between the poor selectors and rich squatters in the north-east of Victoria and in parts of southern New South Wales.

Whatever the reasons for its creation, the Kelly Gang was involved in bushranger activities, from robbing banks and holding people hostage to exchanging gunfire with police. The point of no return came in 1878 when Ned Kelly shot three police officers who had tried to capture them at Stringybark Creek, near Mansfield in Victoria. Their names were Constables Lonigan and Scanlon, and Sergeant Kennedy. For almost two years after the shootings police, in ever-increasing numbers, tried to capture the infamous band.

Using the evocative language of protest, Ned Kelly tried to tap into the underlying resentment of the day. For many, he was the champion of the underdog – the son of a poor and persecuted Irish family in search of equality for all. To others Kelly was a murderer, a common criminal. His stand against authority and injustice is part of the larger story of political unrest and protest which includes the Castle Hill convict rebellion in 1804 and the Eureka Stockade gold protest in 1854.

Today the spirit of the man, and the power of his defiant faceless armour, still stirs the creativity of some of Australia’s best-known artists, writers and musicians. Sidney Nolan created his well-known Kelly series of paintings, Peter Carey won a Booker Prize for his novel, *The True History of the Kelly Gang*. Multiple Kelly feature films have been made including what is believed to be the world’s first feature film (*The Story of the Kelly Gang*, 1906) and a myriad of Ned Kellys paraded in the opening ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Glenrowan is the place most identifiable with the Kelly story and with that of bushrangers in general. The eight hectare Glenrowan Heritage Precinct, includes the key sites of the final Kelly conflict, such as the original railway platform, the site of Anne Jones’s Glenrowan Inn (which police burnt to the ground) and the site of Ned Kelly’s fall and capture (the ‘Kelly Log’ site). The site allows visitors access to the actual location where the pivotal siege events unfolded and an insight into a moment which helped to shape our nation.
Opera House

Date of inscription: 12 July 2005
For most observers, the white billowing silhouette, harbour-side location and proximity to the curves of the Sydney Harbour Bridge create an unforgettable panorama.

Today, over 30 years since its doors opened to the public, the Opera House is the nation’s most recognisable building and an icon synonymous with Australia’s independent cultural spirit.

The story of the construction of this remarkable and improbable building is one of controversy and debate. Escalating costs and complex engineering problems made it a source of constant public debate, which only subsided when the beauty and technical achievement of the finished product placed the Opera House in the centre of the world’s architectural stage. Today, it is one of the busiest performing arts centres in the world, each year staging more than 2000 events and drawing around two million patrons.

In 1956, the New South Wales Government ran an international competition for the design of a ‘National Opera House’. Out of 233 entries from 33 countries the judges chose the drawings of 38-year-old Danish architect, Jørn Utzon, stating: ‘we are convinced that they present a concept of an opera house which is capable of being one of the great buildings of the world’.

Utzon has explained that the two ideas which inspired his Opera House design were the organic forms of nature, and the desire to create sensory experiences to bring pleasure to the building’s patrons. He used shapes and materials in an unprecedented way to make this happen. The white Swedish tiles covering the shells give the Opera House its own vitality and moods. Professor of Architecture at Cardiff University, Richard Weston, described them as ‘some of the most alive surfaces in architecture, by turn flaring with diamonds of light; sheer dazzling white in full sun, pearlescent… in shadow; or glowing cream, pink or ochre as they return the ambient light’.

The engineering company Ove Arup and Partners accepted the challenge to construct the building. It took 16 years to build, and in the process, pushed architectural and engineering knowledge to its limits. Throughout these years, delays and mounting costs dogged development. A creative solution was found to fund the venture, and the revenue-raising Opera House Lottery was established, collecting some $101 million from 496 lotteries. This was almost the cost of the Opera House.

The technical challenge of how to construct the sculptural sail-like roof shells took Utzon and Ove Arup and Partners more than four years to solve. When they found the solution, they then had to revisit some of their earlier construction work and rebuild and strengthen the foundations so that they could support the revised structures. Issues such as this fuelled controversy and took their toll on the troubled relationship between the New South Wales Government and the architect. In 1966, this relationship shattered beyond repair and Jørn Utzon resigned. Architects Todd, Hall and Littlemore completed the job over the next seven years.

In every respect, the Sydney Opera House is a leading edge structure. Its construction, at a time of experimentation in modern architecture internationally, led to a number of technical and creative solutions that were pioneering in the history of building design and construction in Australia. Such was the cutting edge nature of the technology used for the Opera House, that it led to the establishment of a testing laboratory at the University of New South Wales, making it one of the first organisations in the world to commercialise university research.

The Opera House was built as a performance venue and includes a concert hall, opera and drama theatres, a playhouse and studio. In the years since its opening by Queen Elizabeth II on 20 October 1973, it has provided a fitting showcase for some of the world’s most renowned artists including Ella Fitzgerald, Miriam Makeba, kd lang, Billy Connolly, John Williams, Dame Joan Sutherland, Bryn Terfel, Mel Gibson, Philip Glass, Luciano Pavarotti, and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

The Sydney Opera House is the extraordinary expression of an architect’s vision, a government’s will, engineering and public hopes. Above all, it is now a vibrant entity in the Australian psyche — a reflection of what this nation is, and what it aspires to be.
Fremantle Prison

Date of inscription: 1 August 2005
After months sailing across the world, on 1 June 1850, a ship arrived at Fremantle, Western Australia, carrying 75 convicts. Banished from their homeland and sent to a harsh foreign land, these convicts played an important role in building the nation.

In the mid 1800s gold fever had struck eastern Australia, but in the west a shrinking population of settlers was struggling to make a living from the inhospitable land. With few hands available to build and expand the colony south of the Swan River the solution was sought in convict labour.

A striking landmark on a small hill, Fremantle Prison is a physical reminder of the contribution made by Australia’s convicts to building this nation. It provides insights into a difficult and formative part of Australia’s history.

Fremantle Prison’s six hectares contain remarkably preserved remnants of the earliest phase of European settlement of Western Australia – a time when convict labour was used to develop the fledgling colonies. The transportation of convicts to Australia, while relieving England of the pressure on its own overcrowded prisons, also benefited those settlers who were struggling with their new environment on this distant continent.

Convicts were seen as the solution to the lack of resources and infrastructure that thwarted the settlers’ progress. They could supply the physical labour needed to construct roads, bridges, houses, lighthouses, jetties, footpaths and public buildings, like the Perth Town Hall.

When Fremantle Prison was built between 1851 and 1859, its structure reflected the less physically violent approach to convict management. This had an impact on the design of the prison. It was built along the same lines of Pentonville Prison in London, one of England’s first Model Prisons to focus on reform.

The Model Prison operated on the theory that complete isolation was an effective form of rehabilitation. Prisoners were not allowed contact with each other and were held in cells in complete isolation and absolute silence. Port Arthur also opened this type of prison in 1852.

Fremantle Prison contains fascinating structures which reflect changes that have taken place over the 133 year period it operated as a prison. Perhaps the most striking is the austere Main Cell Block which is Australia’s largest and longest, measuring some 145 metres long and four storeys high. It could accommodate up to 1000 men. The prison also contains a chapel, a two-storey limestone gatehouse, workshops, cottages, guardhouses, a hospital, an underground reservoir, a kilometre-long tunnel network, limestone perimeter walls, a refractory block and gallows.

Some of these structures have been embellished by their human occupants through graffiti, murals, signs and notices, all of which create a vivid and layered insight into prison life.

Over time, Fremantle Prison has had an evolving role. It has been a public works prison, a convict distribution depot, the state’s only place of execution, an internment camp for ‘aliens’ and POWs during two World Wars, and, after being decommissioned in 1991, a popular tourist and cultural venue.

As many of the prison’s structures have been preserved from convict times, their integrity and authenticity provide a rich resource for researchers, archaeologists and the education sector. Many appreciate the prison as a place to connect with colonial roots, or to search for family links to this now-recognised part of Australia’s history.
Government House

Date of inscription: 19 August 2005
Australia’s First Government House was the earliest major building to be constructed on the Australian mainland.

Started only months after the 11 ships of the First Fleet sailed through Sydney Heads in early 1788, it sat on the most prominent site on Sydney Cove just back from Circular Quay and on what is now the corner of Bridge and Phillip Streets in Sydney.

Although Governor Phillip moved the fledgling colony to Parramatta in November 1788 and established a new Government House there, merchants, soldiers, Aboriginals, foreign visitors, explorers, settlers and statesmen all passed through its doors, making it the hub of a new antipodean world.

It remained one of the centres of power through the terms of nine governors until its state of disrepair, and the growing pressures of expanding waterfront activities, forced its demolition in 1845. Some 217 years after its foundations were laid, the remains of some of its structures have been preserved and illustrated on site at the Museum of Sydney in Sydney’s central business district.

Using convict labour the construction of the new home and headquarters of Australia’s first Governor, Arthur Phillip, took just over a year. Built with 5000 bricks imported from England, the site also used bricks made locally from clay, imported lime and shellfish from Darling Harbour.

The First Government House was a centre of power and decision making for the developing New South Wales colony, which, at that time, covered two thirds of the continent. It witnessed major milestones such as printing of the colony’s first Government Orders in 1795 and Australia’s first newspaper, the Sydney Gazette, in 1803; Governor Bligh’s arrest during the Rum Rebellion in 1808; and the first Legislative Council meeting in 1824.

Once the first Government House was demolished, the site was used variously as a carter’s yard, a fruit shop, a confectioner’s and tobacconist’s shop, government offices, accommodation for nurses during the Second World War and a car park. At one stage it was to become the site of the city’s town hall and later was mooted as the location for a multi-storey office block.

In 1983, before commencing construction on the multi-storey building, remains of the First Government House were discovered in an archaeological excavation, sparking debate on the future of the site. Following public protest to save the area, planning approval for the development was rejected. Soon after, an international architectural design competition was announced to create a development that would conserve and present the archaeological remains of the site while still enabling the construction of office buildings.

Following the discovery of the remains, further high-profile archaeological exploration – the largest urban excavation undertaken at the time in Australia – uncovered the vestiges of drains, privies, foundations, walls and cuttings. In addition, excavations also revealed artefacts including Australia’s first locally made bricks, window glass, roof tiling, china, bottles, broken tobacco pipes, printing remnants and dog bones.

Although mostly covered today, the archaeological remains of the building still have the potential to reveal much about the earliest efforts to build a nation.
Newman College
Date of inscription: 21 September 2005

ICI Building (former)/Orica House
Date of inscription: 21 September 2005
20th Century Architecture, 
Australian Capital Territory and Victoria

Architecture has contributed to Australia’s cultural identity since colonial times. The nation’s fashions in architecture and engineering have been influenced by overseas trends since 1788, a pattern reflected in the 20th century in both private and government sectors.

At the international level, traditional architectural boundaries were challenged in the 20th century and new ways of doing things explored with enthusiasm. Twentieth century architecture both in Australia and overseas bears testament to this time of experimentation.

Architects, engineers and planners in the capital cities were among the first to challenge the norms in late 20th century Australia and to find and introduce innovative architectural ways of expressing community, corporate and business optimism. This transformation gained momentum in the capital cities, including the nation’s capital Canberra, as Australia emerged from a crushing Depression and two World Wars.

For Australia, twentieth century architecture’s most celebrated technical and creative innovation is the Sydney Opera House, completed in 1973 following an international competition in 1956. Its unconventional and inspiring form pushed the bounds of contemporary engineering know-how. Today it is Australia’s most widely-recognised building, both nationally and internationally, and in the National Heritage List. Other outstanding examples of this period of architectural and engineering achievement include the following places.

Newman College
Walter Burley Griffin’s sculpted college

Newman College, in the grounds of Melbourne University, is considered to be one of the best buildings ever designed by Chicago architect Walter Burley Griffin. Griffin, who once worked for the internationally renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, was a notable exponent of Chicago’s Prairie architectural style. He came to Australia in 1914 after winning an international competition to design Australia’s new capital city, Canberra.

ICI Building (former)/Orica House
Formerly Australia’s tallest building

Once Australia’s tallest building, the former ICI Building in East Melbourne, now Orica House, was at the forefront of the high-rise boom in Australia’s cities in the second half of the 20th century. Its design followed the international trend for multi-storey buildings which was particularly evident in the United States. The move from low to high-rise office buildings changed the profile, shape and landscape of Australia’s major urban centres forever.

Built between 1955 and 1958 the ICI Building was one of 22 major new multi-storey office buildings which sprang up in Melbourne in the second half of the 1950s. Its 21 storeys broke through the previous legal limit of 11 to 12 storeys, resulting in Melbourne becoming the first Australian city to change its height limits. It was not until 1962 that the first tall building was completed in Sydney.
Australian Academy of Science Building
Date of inscription: 21 September 2005

Sidney Meyer Music Bowl
Date of inscription: 21 September 2005
In earlier times most Australian office buildings occupied their entire blocks. However, the modern free-standing high-rise and its surrounding landscaped gardens and car park introduced the idea of creating a balance between a building's height and public amenities.

**Australian Academy of Science Building**

*Modernist dome – an architectural landmark*

The low-slung copper dome of the Australian Academy of Science near the centre of Canberra created a milestone in the Australian construction industry when it was built in 1959. Its seemingly weightless shape provided a striking contrast to the heavy concrete buildings of the same period and has become a landmark in the national capital.

The dome’s innovative structure, designed by one of the most prominent Australian architects of the time, Sir Roy Grounds, reflects the bold modernism of the period. When constructed, it was large by world standards and larger than any dome in Australia. Its weight is anchored by the surrounding water-filled moat making it an extremely stable structure. The selection of materials and the design and finish of its interior contribute to the impact and importance of this award-winning building.

The building is believed to be the only true example in Australia of Geometric Structuralism – an architectural movement which used tension to maximise the function of the structure. When constructed, the dome made a confident statement about the post Second World War development of Australia’s scientific community. This community included such luminaries as the distinguished scientist, Sir Marcus Oliphant, veterinary scientist, Dr Ian Clunies Ross, and explorer, Sir Douglas Mawson.

**Sidney Myer Music Bowl**

*A magnificent sound and architecture experiment*

Almost floating above the ground as if weightless, the Sidney Myer Music Bowl is one of Melbourne’s best-known and most visited landmarks. When it was built in the late 1950s this entertainment venue was a world first, an engineering experiment that stretched the bounds of what was thought possible. The technical and creative achievement of this construction lies in the structural system that suspends the large, wave-like roof above the stage.

Architect Barry Patten, a member of the leading Australian architectural firm, Yuncken Freeman Brothers, Griffiths and Simpson, is responsible for creating this excellent example of the late 20th Century style. This style is characterised by its large-scale, free, sculptural curved spaces which float above the site. The design and structural achievement of the Sidney Myer Music Bowl was nearly 10 years ahead of similar work by German architect/engineer, Frei Otto, and his experiments in using lightweight tensile and membrane structures.

To make the soundshell both watertight and aerodynamically stable and flexible, new construction techniques were developed.

Aluminium-covered plywood panels were suspended between a framework of steel wire ropes. An enormous main cable was stretched between the two masts to support 27 cables before being buried deep in the ground on either side. It supported a 4055 square metre acoustically accurate canopy. When built, it was one of a small number of structures in Australia to combine a tensile structural system with a free-form roof and was the most important of these in terms of scale, sophistication and structural expression.

The music bowl was named after its benefactor, Sidney Myer, a Russian immigrant who arrived in Victoria in 1899 and went on to establish one of Australia’s largest retail businesses and to become one of the nation’s most significant philanthropists. Prime Minister Robert Menzies opened the venue in February 1959. Since then, Melbourne’s first major purpose-built, live outdoor cultural venue has been drawing both artists and crowds of up to 200,000 patrons.
Recherche Bay

Date of inscription: 7 October 2005
During the late 18th century Britain and France were competing to chart and explore new worlds. Speculation in Europe was rampant about Terra Australis Incognita, ‘the unknown southern land’.

In 1642 Captain Abel Tasman sailed around and roughly charted the south western and eastern coastline of the area he named Van Diemen’s Land and we now know as Tasmania. In 1644 Tasman was sent to establish the relationship between northern Australia and Papua New Guinea. Although he missed the opening of the Torres Strait, Tasman was able to complete the first accurate charting of the coast of northern Australia from Cape York in the east to North West Cape in the west.

In 1770 James Cook changed the world’s understanding of Terra Australis Incognita with his exploration aboard the Endeavour, charting around 3200 kilometres of coastline. His voyage dramatically expanded the world’s scientific understanding of the continent’s unique flora and fauna and led to increased interest from Europe.

Guided by Cook’s notes, French explorer, Comte de La Perouse, arrived in Botany Bay just days after the First Fleet, anchoring on 24 January 1788, and then sailed north with his two ships, disappearing without a trace.

Three years later, an expedition led by Bruni d’Entrecasteaux left France under orders from Louis XVI to try to find La Perouse and also to complete charts of the southern land. The expedition set sail in two 350-ton frigates, the Recherche and the Esperance. Arriving in April 1792, the landing in this part of Van Diemen’s Land was the result of an accident. Following a violent storm, the French vessels mistook what was later named Recherche Bay for Adventure Bay, a safe harbour observed by Tasman, as a place to recuperate.

An extended search for La Perouse followed their departure from Recherche Bay and took them to New Caledonia, the Admiralty Islands, the Solomons, Bougainville and around New Guinea to the Moluccas. From there they sailed down the west coast of the Australian mainland, around the Great Australian Bight, stopping for repairs at St Francis Isle, before limping back to Recherche Bay in 1793 to repair the Esperance and to replenish water and other supplies.

Here they returned to the garden planted by Felix Lahaie in May 1792. It was the practice of European crews to plant gardens in destinations they visited to provide sustenance for other maritime adventurers. However, the French were also under instructions to establish European plants for the benefit of Indigenous people – a gift from the French people to the natives of the new land.

Their observations about contact with the Indigenous inhabitants – particularly in the journals of botanist Jacques Julien de Labillardiere later published in France – today remain the best accounts of Tasmanian Aboriginal society prior to European settlement.

Their observations were not limited to the Indigenous inhabitants. The physicist Elisabeth Paul Edouard de Rossel carried out pioneering work of worldwide importance in the field of geomagnetism, proving geomagnetism varied with latitude.

In 1804–06 Labillardiere also identified about 100 new plant species including the blue gum, *Eucalyptus globulus*, now Tasmania’s floral emblem, the flag iris, *Diplarrena moraea*, and the native cherry, *Exocarpus cupressiformis*. The publication of the botanical material collected by the d’Entrecasteaux expedition represented the first general publication extensively covering Australia’s flora to this extent. Much of Labillardiere’s Australian material came from Recherche Bay.

Following his return to France in 1800, Lahaie was appointed Head Gardener for Empress Josephine Bonaparte’s palace estate of Malmaison, just outside Paris. Here he planted a Tasmanian garden for the Empress.

The legacy of French explorers is with us today in Australian places named after La Perouse, Freycinet, Bougainville, Esperance and others. Reminders of the d’Entrecasteaux expedition live on in names such as Recherche Bay, Tasmania; the Archipelago of the Recherche, Western Australia; and Bruny Island, Tasmania.
Richmond Bridge

Date of inscription: 25 November 2005
The sandstone arches of the Richmond Bridge have straddled the hills of Tasmania’s Coal River since their completion in 1825. Built by convict labour the Richmond Bridge represents an important element of our convict past and the forced migration that lead to the development of the Australian society.

The Richmond Bridge has been recognised as having outstanding heritage value to the nation because of its rarity as Australia’s oldest known large stone arch bridge. It has also been recognised due to its outstanding condition surviving with few significant changes since it was first constructed.

The bridge is a lasting symbol of Tasmania’s convict heritage. Tasmania, also known as Van Diemen’s Land, was established in 1803 as a British penal colony. Convicts were forced to migrate to Tasmania as the British Government’s ‘solution’ to the issue of serious overcrowding in their prison system. Over the next 50 years, 73,500 convicts were transported to Tasmania for crimes ranging from minor misdemeanours to political activities. Convicts skills and hard labour were utilised to build what would become the infrastructure of Australian society.

The Richmond area was one of the first areas to be discovered in 1803. A small party led by Lieutenant John Bowen crossed the hills from the Derwent Valley to explore the valley where the Coal River and Richmond are now located. The Coal River was appropriately named by the party when small deposits of coal were found in the river.

Richmond had been used as a crossing point for people traveling by land to the Tasman and Fleurieu Peninsulas for some years. When the Coal River flooded, access to the east coast was greatly restricted and the need for a bridge connecting the peninsulas was obvious from as early as 1820. Construction of the bridge began in 1823, with convicts constructing the bridge by hand from local sandstone. The bridge was completed after 17 months in 1825.

The construction of the bridge saw the town of Richmond expand rapidly. By 1830 Richmond was Van Diemen Land’s third largest town and had grown into an important military outpost and convict station.

For most of the nineteenth century, the Coal River enabled considerable trade with Hobart, this saw Richmond become the major staging post on the way from Hobart to Port Arthur. However, this all changed with the opening of the Sorell causeway in 1872 causing Richmond to be bypassed, resulting in the town remaining relatively unchanged and untouched over the next hundred years.

The Richmond Bridge and other elements of built heritage throughout the regions and towns of Tasmania remain significant landmarks today, reflecting the convict and colonial heritage that is so abundant in the region.

Today the Richmond Bridge is widely recognised across the nation featuring in numerous publications, tourist and historic literature and in the work of major Australian artists. Images of the Richmond Bridge have also appeared on postage stamps.

The fame of the bridge has magnified the status of Richmond far beyond its size and population. The bridge and its surrounds draw almost 200,000 visitors annually to Richmond’s idyllic setting to be a part of the convict heritage that we now celebrate. Through National Heritage listing the Richmond Bridge will be protected, enabling generations ahead to experience this important part of Australia’s convict past.
Date of inscription: 14 December 2005
Named after the three-headed mythological guard dog, Australia’s HMVS *Cerberus* was purpose built for the Victorian Colonial Navy in 1868.

The prototype of modern steam-powered battleships, her unique design laid the foundations for all surface, gun-armed warships for a century, until the advent of guided missiles of the late 1960s. The heavy iron superstructure and lighter iron hull were a radical departure from the wooden warships that had previously dominated world navies.

In the 1860s, the Victorian government was in the market for a powerful warship. Britain and Russia prepared to face each other in battle again as the threat of a second Crimean War became very real. The Australian colonies, half a world away from Britain, faced the possibility of hostile attack by a Russian flotilla.

HMVS *Cerberus* was the flagship of the Victorian Colonial Navy, protecting Melbourne and Victoria’s rich gold resources from foreign attack. Upon Federation in 1901 she was transferred to the Commonwealth naval forces and then became an inaugural unit of the Royal Australian Navy in 1911.

By 1924 she was declared surplus to the Navy and was sold to a salvage company. Stripped of any fixtures of value, the remaining hulk was purchased for 150 pounds by the then Sandringham Council. She was eventually scuttled as a breakwater in 1926 at her current location, a few hundred metres off the beach at Half Moon Bay, Black Rock.

HMVS *Cerberus* was the first iron hulled British warship to be designed without masts and to be powered purely by steam. She was distinguished by a low freeboard, breastwork armour, and a central superstructure with turrets above deck both fore and aft.

Her main armament consisted of four 10-inch muzzle loading guns mounted in two turrets. *Cerberus’* guns were capable of firing a round every 1.5 minutes; exceptionally fast for the standards of the day.

She also had ballast tanks that could be filled to sink the hull and lower her freeboard to further reduce her profile in battle.

Throughout her 53 years of service, HMVS *Cerberus* was never required to fire a shell at an enemy.

Although in her prime *Cerberus* was an outstanding example of technical achievement and ingenuity, she was an experimental and transitional model that was not suited to ocean-going and was soon superseded.

Today, this unique relic of our naval heritage continues to be hailed for her place in the evolution of the battleship.
Date of inscription: 26 December 2005
Few people ever forget their first visit to the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the MCG, or ‘the G’, as it is also known. As one steps into the vast stadium the magnetic atmosphere, left by the thrills and excitement of thousands of games and events, is almost tangible.

Widely recognised as the home of Australian sport, the MCG has contributed to Australia’s cultural history through strong social links for the sporting community, its key role in the development and history of Australia’s two most popular spectator sports, cricket and Australian Rules Football, and its special association with sportsmen and women who have excelled there.

It is one of Australia’s most significant sporting stadiums, dating back to September 1853, when Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe made a grant of the ‘Police Paddock’ to the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC).

The association of the MCG with the MCC, the Melbourne Football Club, cricket and Australian Rules football, has extended over more than 150 years.

The MCC hosted the inaugural Victoria versus New South Wales first-class cricket match at the MCG in March 1856. The first appearance by an English cricket team on Australian soil occurred when HH Stephenson’s XI played Victoria, beginning at the MCG on New Year’s Day 1862. Tom Wills, secretary of the MCC and Victorian cricket captain, led an Aboriginal team against an MCC team at the MCG before 11 000 spectators in December 1866.

The first test match between Australia and England began at the MCG on 15 March 1877, with Australian batsman Charles Bannerman scoring the first century in test cricket in Australia’s first innings.

Sir Donald Bradman, Australia’s greatest cricketer and generally regarded as the best player of all time, had a truly remarkable record at the MCG. In the 11 tests he played there he scored nine test centuries in 17 innings, averaging 128 runs-per-innings. He also made 19 centuries in domestic first-class cricket at the MCG.

The MCG also witnessed the birth of Australian Rules Football when cricketer, Tom Wills, conceived the game with the aim of keeping cricketers fit during the winter season. In the mid-19th century Wills, who at the age of 24 was both Victorian cricket and Melbourne Football Club captain, was the most influential sportsman of his time.

The MCG is the home ground of the Melbourne Football Club. Ron Barassi played for this club from 1953 to 1964, and is widely regarded as the club’s greatest player. He was inducted into the AFL Hall of Fame in 1996 and elevated to the status of ‘Legend’ of the game.

As well as international and domestic cricket and Australian Rules football, the MCG was the centrepiece of the 1956 Olympic Games, the first Olympics held in the southern hemisphere. The Melbourne Olympics were held during a period of extreme international tension yet became known as the ‘Friendly Games’ and left an enduring legacy not only for Melbourne and Australia but for the Olympic movement as well. At the Melbourne Olympics, thousands of spectators cheered legendary sprinter, Betty Cuthbert, as she won three gold medals at the MCG.

The MCG has assumed an identity beyond that of a sporting venue. Its importance to the community lies in experiencing the place through the events it hosts.

The MCG embodies Australia’s love of sport and its inclusion in the National Heritage List ensures its unique values will be protected for the future.
SA Parliament

Date of inscription: 26 January 2006
Australia’s democratic system is unique in many ways. When we vote at ballot stations in state, territory and Federal elections many of the processes we today take for granted, such as everyone 18 years and over having the right to vote, secret ballots and one person/one vote, were unknown in Australia more than 150 years ago.

These ideas were political reforms that were first introduced in South Australia’s Old and New Parliament Houses, making these buildings important to Australia’s democratic history.

When Australia’s colonies were first established, each was administered by a colonial governor, appointed by the British Government. Each colony gradually achieved self-government, however voting rights were often determined by a person’s wealth and property status.

South Australia’s Parliament was a world leader in establishing democracy during the 19th century. In 1856 it was the first Australian colony to grant full adult male suffrage, that is, the right to vote to males over the age of 21. This decision also gave Aboriginal men the right to vote.

Another significant Australian and international first occurred in 1894, when women, including Aboriginal women, were given the right to vote and from 1886 were able to stand for Parliament in South Australia. These rights were later introduced in other parts of Australia and from the beginning of Federation in 1901. Many of world’s largest democracies lagged behind Australia. Women in the United Kingdom did not receive the right to vote until 1918 (for women over the age of 30), the United States of America in 1919 and France in 1945.

Despite winning the right to sit in Parliament in 1894, it was 1918 before a woman stood for Parliament in South Australia, and a further 41 years before women were first elected to the South Australian Parliament.

In 1959 Jessie Cooper (House of Assembly) and Joyce Steele (Legislative Council) were the first women to be elected to South Australia’s Parliament.

The secret ballot is a voting method that today is used around the world and is one of the most important democratic freedoms. Election choices are confidential to protect voters from intimidation or bribery.

In many parts of the world it is known as the ‘Australian ballot’, as the system was first used to vote in South Australia’s 1856 Parliamentary election.

The parliamentary buildings themselves have gone through many metamorphoses. Parliament House as it stands today was eventually completed to commemorate the centenary of the State in 1936.

New Parliament House is located on one of Adelaide’s major intersections (North Terrace and King William Street) and is a major civic landmark with a very strong presence.
Tree of Knowledge

Date of inscription: 26 January 2006
The Tree of Knowledge, Queensland

A 10 metre, 150-year-old Ghost Gum, opposite the hotel in the centre of Barcaldine in Central West Queensland, symbolised an important time in Australia’s political development as the meeting place for shearers during their unsuccessful strike of 1891.

The shearsers’ strike, in conjunction with the maritime strike of 1890, played a crucial role in the historical connection between unions and what eventually became the Australian Labor Party.

The linking of May Day with Labour Day in Queensland began in Barcaldine on 1 May 1891, when striking shearers and bush workers marched through the streets.

The strike was broken five days later with the backing of the New South Wales and Queensland Governments when, on 6 May 1891, the colonial administration ordered the arrest of the shearer’s leaders on a number of charges including sedition and conspiracy.

Thirteen ringleaders were found guilty of conspiracy on 20 May 1891 at Rockhampton, and sentenced to three years hard labour in the gaol on Saint Helena Island in Moreton Bay.

The strike committee issued its final manifesto on 20 June 1891, calling for unionists to register on the electoral rolls.

As a result of losing the strike, the unions, and others in Queensland, formed ‘Labour Electoral Leagues’, which later became the ‘Labour Party’ and eventually the ‘Australian Labor Party’.

The formation of the ‘Labour Electoral Leagues’ led to the election in 1892, in Queensland, of a shearer, T. J. Ryan, who became the first ‘Labour’ representative in any government, anywhere in the world.

The Tree of Knowledge symbolised the culmination in Queensland of social tensions, which, by the 1880s, were widespread in the pastoral districts of the eastern colonies. The attitudes of squatters and property owners, the introduction of mechanical shearing and the influence of labour unions all played a part. In April 2006 the Tree of Knowledge was poisoned and did not recover. However the site will always remain an important place of National Heritage.
Cape Inscription

Date of inscription: 6 April 2006
Captain Dirk Hartog of the Dutch East India Company’s ship, *Eendracht*, had been following the faster southern route to the port of Batavia in the East Indies (Indonesia). Sailing too far east, on 25 October 1616 Hartog landed at what is now known as Cape Inscription.

Cape Inscription lies at the north western tip of Dirk Hartog Island, surrounded by steep limestone cliffs, white sandy beaches and the Indian Ocean. It forms the western edge of Shark Bay.

Hartog and his crew became the first Europeans to land on the west coast of Australia and during the next 250 years a series of landings and surveys were conducted by many notable explorers.

He then left a pewter plate inscribed with a record of his visit nailed to a post in a rock cleft. Now preserved in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the plate is the oldest physical record of a European landing in Australia.

Hartog sailed north to chart part of the Western Australia coastline. As a result, this part of the coastline appeared on world maps for the first time, replacing the mythical southern continent of Terra Australis Incognita.

Hartog’s plate was discovered 81 years later when Willem de Vlamingh landed at Dirk Hartog Island on 4 February 1697. Also with the Dutch East India Company, Vlamingh’s mission was to chart the south-west coast of New Holland to aid navigation on the route to the East Indies. Vlamingh replaced Hartog’s pewter plate with another one inscribed with a record of his own visit.

Vlamingh’s plate was found in 1801 by Baron Emanuel Hamelin, a member of Nicholas Baudin’s French expedition, who added his own inscription on a piece of lead sheet nailed to the post.

Vlamingh’s plate was removed by Louis de Freycinet, one of Hamelin’s junior officer’s, who had returned to Cape Inscription in his own ship in 1818. The plate was subsequently returned to Australia by the French Government in 1947.

British navigator and son of a former Governor of New South Wales, Philip Parker King, also left a record of his visit to Cape Inscription in 1822. King was attempting to complete the charting of the Australian coastline commenced by Matthew Flinders’ 1801 voyage in HMS *Investigator*.

Captain Henry Mangles Denham, an experienced Naval hydrographic survey officer, also visited Cape Inscription and Shark Bay in 1858 in HMS *Herald* to complete the first naval hydrographic charts of the Western Australian coastline.

The charting of the Australian coastline by these navigators had a profound effect on cartography and added to the growing pool of knowledge about the great southern continent.

In addition to Cape Inscription, two sites on Dirk Hartog Island – Dampier Landing and Turtle Bay – are among the most important historical locations in Australia.

In 1699 British navigator and naturalist, William Dampier, landed on the north-western side of the island at the place now known as Dampier Landing. Dampier named Shark Bay, and made the first scientific collection of Australian plants, marking the beginnings of scientific interest in Australian botany.

In 1772 French navigator, Francois de Saint-Allouarn, landed at Turtle Bay. He buried two bottles, one containing a parchment claiming the west coast of New Holland for France. Each bottle was sealed with a silver French coin under a lead cap. In 1998 one of the bottles together with its coin and lead cap was recovered, but contained no parchment.

In 1991, Dirk Hartog Island was included in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area in recognition of its outstanding natural universal values.
Batavia Shipwreck

Date of inscription: 6 April 2006
The story of how the Dutch merchant vessel Batavia became wrecked off the coast of Western Australia in June 1629 and the bloody aftermath is a fascinating tale of maritime treachery, murder and ultimately, heroism.

The wreck and others like her prompted further discovery of the Western Australia coastline by convincing the Dutch East India Company of the necessity for more accurate charts. The Dutch East India Company was the dominant trading company in the East Indies during the 17th and 18th centuries, with its headquarters in Batavia (known today as Jakarta).

In October 1628, one of the company’s ships, the Batavia, set out from Holland on her maiden journey to Batavia carrying vast wealth in silver coins and jewels. On 4 June 1629, the Batavia struck a coral reef in the Houtman Abrolhos Islands, 40 kilometres off the Western Australian coast, and sank.

Survivors managed to reach a nearby island, later known as ‘Batavia’s Graveyard’. The ship’s Commander, Francisco Pelsaert, landed on a nearby, smaller island. Stranded on barren and virtually waterless islands, panic set in. Pelsaert set sail in a long boat to fetch help, taking with him the skipper, Jacobsz, and 35 others. A second boat carrying 10 others followed. Unable to find water on the mainland they set sail for Batavia, more than 900 nautical miles away along a largely unknown coast.

During the voyage Undermerchant Jeronimus Cornelisz had conspired with other officers to mutiny and seize the ship for its cargo and the purpose of piracy, but the vessel sank before his plans could be realised. He then formed a select band of men and devised a new mutiny plan.

Those who might oppose the mutineers were sent to surrounding islands and instructed to find water. A reign of terror ensued as Cornelisz’s men began murdering those remaining, beginning with the sick and the injured. Eventually, as numbers dwindled and bloodlust took hold, wholesale slaughter took place with little secrecy. Survivors sent to the other islands were hunted down and killed if they hadn’t already succumbed to thirst or hunger.

The men Cornelisz had sent to perish on Wallabi Island unexpectedly found water. Led by a mercenary soldier, Wiebbe Hayes, they learned of the murders when one man managed to escape and swim across to join Hayes. After fighting off two attacks by the mutineers, Hayes raised the alarm with Pelsaert when he returned from Batavia in a rescue ship.

The mutineers were tried on the island for the murder of over 120 people. Interrogated and tortured for 10 days until they signed their confessions, seven were hanged. Two of the youngest mutineers, Wouter Loos and Jan Pelgrom de Bye, were sentenced to be marooned on the Australian mainland, where they became the first known European residents of Australia. No further contact with them was ever recorded.

In June 1963, the Batavia was discovered relatively intact when lobster fisherman, Dave Johnson, showed two Geraldton divers, Max and Graeme Cramer, bronze cannons and anchors in the waters off Morning Reef.

Two ruined huts found on West Wallabi Island, thought to have been built by Wiebbe Hayes and his soldiers, are believed to be the oldest structures built by Europeans on the Australian continent.

Sections of the ship’s hull have been reconstructed and are on display at the Western Australian Maritime Museum. Other artefacts are on display at the Western Australian Museum in Geraldton.
Hermannsburg

Date of inscription: 13 April 2006
The Hermannsburg Historic Precinct, dating from 1877, is the last surviving mission developed by the Hermannsburg Missionary Society. It shows the influence of the German Lutherans on Aboriginal people in central Australia.

Hermannsburg Mission was managed by the Lutherans continuously from 1877 to 1982. The structures and landscaping of the Hermannsburg Historic Precinct reflect the changing phases of missionary and government policy towards Aboriginal people over this period.

The mission functioned as a refuge for Aboriginal people during the violent frontier conflict that was a feature of early pastoral settlement in central Australia. The Lutheran missionaries helped mediate conflict between pastoralists, the police and Aboriginal people, and spoke out publicly about the violence, sparking heated national debate.

The influence of German pastors and tradesmen of German origin in South Australia is clearly visible in the planning and layout of the mission, and in the design and construction of the masonry buildings. Residential buildings incorporate features of traditional German farmhouses, also seen in German Lutheran settlements in South Australia. These features illustrate common themes of Aboriginal mission life in the late 1800s and early 1900s such as the distribution of rations, communal meals for Aboriginal people, the separation of Aboriginal children from their parents, and a strong emphasis by the missionaries, in particular the Lutherans, on church, schooling, work and self-sufficiency.

Hermannsburg Historic Precinct has a special association with Albert Namatjira and his distinctive Aboriginal school of central Australian landscape painting. Namatjira grew up at Hermannsburg and the mission was pivotal to his development as an artist. He was the first Aboriginal artist to be commercially exhibited nationally and internationally. Namatjira’s work became widely acclaimed and a national symbol for Aboriginal achievement.

Lutheran missionaries based at Hermannsburg Mission made a singular contribution to the record of Aboriginal traditions through their work in this region. This was principally through the early research of Pastor Carl Strehlow and his son, Professor T.G.H. Strehlow. T.G.H. Strehlow spent his early years with Aboriginal people at Hermannsburg and became the leading anthropologist of central Australia in the 20th century.
War Memorial

Date of inscription: 20 April 2006
The Australian War Memorial and Anzac Parade are at the heart of the nation’s tribute to the courage and sacrifice of the men and women who have helped defend our nation. They are important national landmarks that help us understand and commemorate the contribution and loss of Australians during times of armed conflict.

Designed as both a shrine and a museum the Australian War Memorial also includes a collection of relics, personal and public records, art and media. This collection tells the story of a nation’s experience in world wars, regional conflicts and international peacekeeping.

The sandstone Australian War Memorial, with its coppersheathed dome is the site of national ANZAC Day Services.

C.E.W. Bean, Australia’s official First World War correspondent, began thinking about commemorating the sacrifice of Australians while he was serving at Gallipoli in 1915. Bean’s idea was to set aside a place in Australia where families and friends could grieve for those buried in places far away and difficult to visit.

The Australian Government agreed to Bean’s proposal and in 1917, while the war continued to rage in Europe, announced that it would create a national war memorial. Its foundation stone was laid on ANZAC Day 1919, but work on the building was delayed by the Depression and the Second World War and it was not opened until 11 November 1941.

The Australian War Memorial was originally planned to commemorate only the First World War, yet it soon became apparent that the new war raging overseas was comparable in scale and affect. In 1941 the Australian Government extended the Memorial’s charter to include the Second World War; in 1952 it was extended again to include all armed conflicts that Australia was involved in – the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the Gulf Wars and peacekeeping operations.

Close to one million people visit the Australian War Memorial each year to pay their respects and gain an understanding of Australia’s experience in armed conflicts. The collection covers artefacts and relics, film, photographs, oral and written records of personal experiences.

The Australian War Memorial’s collection contains unique objects such as a Lancaster bomber and the largest collection of Victoria Crosses in the world. Visitors to the building first see two medieval stone lions that that were presented by the city of Ypres (one of the First World War battlefields) to the Australian War Memorial in 1936.

The Sculpture Garden includes works such as Simpson and his donkey who rescued wounded servicemen on the battlefields of Gallipoli, Australian serviceman, and Sir Edward ‘Weary’ Dunlop, in commemoration of the medical staff who came to the aid of Australian prisoners of war in South East Asia in the Second World War.
Date of inscription: 20 April 2006
Anzac Parade pays tribute to Australians who have died in war with memorials along each side of the dual-carriage road. The Parade was officially opened on 25 April 1965 to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the ANZAC landing in Gallipoli and various memorials have been added over time.

Memorials on each side of Anzac Parade include:

**Australian Hellenic Memorial** – in honour of the 6th Australian Division which joined an Allied force resisting German advancement in mainland Greece.

**Australian Army National Memorial** – whose seven cylindrical pillars recall the seven major conflicts in which the Australian Army has been involved in the 20th century.

**Australian National Korean War Memorial** – remembering the 17,000 Australians who fought under the United Nations Command until the armistice in July 1953.

**Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial** – honouring the 50,000 Australians who served in South Vietnam as part of a composite force from 1962 to 1973.

**Desert Mounted Corps Memorial** – the first Memorial to be constructed on Anzac Parade, it commemorates the Australian Mounted Divisions, the Australian Flying Corps and every other Australian and New Zealand unit and formation that served in Egypt, Palestine and Syria from 1916 to 1918.

**New Zealand Memorial** – standing 11 metres high and flanks both sides of Anzac Parade, the design consists of a bronze representation of the handles of a traditional Maori flax basket.

**Rats of Tobruk Memorial** – a replica memorial based on the 1941 memorial in the Tobruk War Cemetery, built by Australian soldiers during the siege that began 10 April 1941.

**Royal Australian Air Force Memorial** – featuring three upsurging wing shapes in stainless steel representing the endurance, strength and courage of RAAF personnel.

**Australian Service Nurses National Memorial** – honouring the nurses who have served by caring for the sick and wounded in every conflict to which Australia has committed troops.

**Royal Australian Navy Memorial** – bronze figures convey the daily activities associated with naval life, while the geometric forms, such as an anchor chain, depict elements of a ship; and moving water represents the ocean’s waves.

**Kemal Ataturk Memorial** – honouring the man who both commanded the Turkish troops in Gallipoli and founded the modern Turkey, the memorial reflects the vision and compassion of Ataturk, who paid tribute to his former adversaries, “After having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well.”
North Head

Date of inscription: 12 May 2006
Since the time of European settlement in Australia, the towering sandstone cliffs of North Head have witnessed the arrival of a variety of ships sailing into Sydney Harbour.

North Head has long been recognised as the entrance to one of the world’s most picturesque harbours, Port Jackson, and has been portrayed by artists such as Augustus Earle from as early as 1825.

In particular, the Manly headland marks the site where ships carrying passengers with infectious diseases were isolated; an important means of defence for an island-nation.

North Head was the first site in Australia to be used for quarantine purposes when the *Bussorah Merchant* was detained in Spring Cove in 1828. Its passengers were found to have both smallpox and whooping cough and were contained onboard the ship while the healthier voyagers were housed in tents on shore.

Soon afterward, in 1832, the whole area of North Head was set aside for a permanent quarantine station by order of the Governor of New South Wales. The move was in response to the cholera epidemic in Europe at the time, as authorities feared the disease gaining a foothold in the Australian colonies.

For almost 150 years North Head Quarantine Station helped protect Australia’s island nation from disease. Returning soldiers during both World Wars, prisoners of war, evacuees from Cyclone Tracy in 1974 and refugees from Vietnam in 1975 all passed through the station.

From its beginning until 1977 when the facility was closed, a total of 580 ships were detained and about 13 000 passengers, including generations of free immigrants, convicts and war veterans, were quarantined for periods of up to 40 days.

Like the Point Nepean Quarantine Station, the facility at North Head is situated in a strategically isolated location at the entrance to Port Jackson Harbour.

The major groups of buildings, although of a similar age as surviving complexes in other states, are rare in terms of their range and relative integrity. For instance, the Superintendent’s Residence at North Head, built in 1854, appears to be the earliest surviving, purpose-built, quarantine-related structure in Australia.

The layout of the station, including its buildings, roads, fences and cemeteries, was designed to separate the quarantined passengers on the grounds of health, as well as social and cultural background. For example, the first, second and third class passengers were separated into barracks-style accommodation in different areas.

Separate areas were also developed for Asians and in this respect North Head is an expression of the gradual implementation during the 1880s of the White-Australia Policy.

The station’s facilities show how the area developed according to scientific responses to disease outbreaks. The smallpox epidemic of 1881, for example, resulted in new facilities such as a hospital, and stricter zoning by fences.

The Quarantine Station was added to the Sydney Harbour National Park in 1984. The facility is today used as a centre for events and conferences and as a tourist attraction.
Point Nepean

Date of inscription: 16 June 2006
Situated at the tip of the Mornington Peninsula at the entrance to Port Phillip Bay, Point Nepean is the site of two historic 19th century landmarks that defended the Colony of Victoria against disease and foreign attack.

With the discovery of gold in 1851 the steady flow of immigrants sailing into the Port Phillip District became a flood. Within a year nearly 100 000 people had arrived in Melbourne by sea.

Due to the crowded conditions on board ships were breeding grounds for disease. Cholera, smallpox, typhoid, influenza and measles occurred in epidemics in the 1800s and caused many deaths.

A number of ships suffered significant outbreaks of disease on the voyage to the colony. A notorious example, the Ticonderoga, carrying scarlet fever and typhoid, lost 100 people by the time it anchored off Portsea.

To control and prevent the spread of these diseases Point Nepean was opened in 1852 as a maritime quarantine reserve. Ships carrying passengers with infectious diseases were required to land all cases there along with those at risk of contracting the disease. Passengers’ luggage was taken ashore to be fumigated with formaldehyde gas and passengers were required to take baths using antiseptic soap.

The quarantine station contains the oldest barracks-style accommodation built for quarantine purposes in Australia, pre-dating the oldest intact quarantine-related structures at North Head, Sydney by 16 years.

The isolation hospital and ward constructed from 1916 to 1920 and the emergency influenza huts, illustrate the bathing and disinfecting standards set by the Commonwealth during the First World War. Many soldiers returning home from overseas duty were required to be quarantined in these buildings at Point Nepean after falling victim to the Spanish influenza pandemic.

During the 19th century the colonies of Australia were concerned about their external security. There were few resources for the protection of individual colonies once the British Imperial troops left in 1870, leaving defence in the hands of the colonial governments.

Officers from the British armed forces prepared reports into the ability of the colonies to provide for their defence which included recommendations and plans for possible fortifications. The most significant of these reports were prepared in the late 1870s by British fortifications experts and formed the basis of defence planning in Australia for the next 30 years.

The reports suggested that Port Phillip Bay should be defended by a battery and keep at Queenscliffe, a fort at Point Nepean and batteries at Swan Channel Island.

Fortifications on Point Nepean were built from the late 1870s and included Fort Nepean, Eagles Nest, Fort Pearce and Pearce Barracks.

The purpose of this string of forts was to ensure that any attacking ships attempting to enter the bay would be under fire from a series of guns from the time they passed through the South and West Channels.

By 1886 guns were in place at Fort Nepean and in 1888 the battery at Eagles Nest was erected as well as the new barracks at Fort Nepean.

Fort Nepean was known in the 1880s as Victoria’s ‘Gibraltar’ and in 1890 it was reported that Melbourne was the best-defended commercial city of the British Empire.

The value of these defences was demonstrated on the declaration of the First World War when the German steamer, Pfalz, attempted to depart Port Phillip Bay but was forced to turn back after being fired upon by the batteries at Fort Nepean. It was the first shot fired by Australian forces in the conflict.

In 1980 the Point Nepean Quarantine Station was officially closed.

Today the fortifications on Point Nepean and Fort Nepean in particular, are regarded as unique examples of the crucial role coastal defence played in protecting the Australian colonies of the British Empire.
Old Parliament

Date of inscription: 20 June 2006
Old Parliament House and Curtilage, Australian Capital Territory

It is steeped in history, significance and drama – an iconic Australian landmark and the seat of political power for over six decades.

Old Parliament House is the symbol of the nation’s political heritage, where the bedrock traditions of Australian democracy were formalised by the country’s political founders.

Its impressive walls housed the debates that have shaped our nation, on reforms such as constitutional change, welfare and Aboriginal rights.

Australia was governed from this landmark through conflict and enormous social change – a building that stands for Australians’ right to argue and dissent.

Its story began with the opening as the provisional parliament in Canberra, on 9 May 1927 by the Duke and Duchess of York.

Occupying just 2.5 hectares, Old Parliament House sits in the cultural landscape known as the Parliamentary Triangle, reflecting the design for Canberra by Walter Burley Griffin in which Kurrajong Hill (now Capital Hill) was the focal point.

The central positioning of Old Parliament House symbolises the primacy of the parliament over the executive and its architectural style of symmetry and simple grace – known as ‘Inter War Stripped Classical’ – lends the building a modest but dignified presence.

The King’s Hall, Senate and House of Representatives chambers reflect the austerity of the time. The interior exudes a proud formality in details such as decorative skylights, elegant pendant lights, parquet flooring, high ceilings, raked galleries and timber wall panelling.

Yet the simple spaces and restrained aesthetics belie the building’s many turbulent and momentous times – all rich in debate over the nation’s future.

One of the defining events in Australian political history took place on the front steps with the address by former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam after his dismissal by the Governor-General Sir John Kerr on 11 November 1975.

Old Parliament House was the site of seven changes of government; where national legislation for the advancement of social processes was passed; and where the 1967 referendum to remove discriminatory measures against Australia’s Indigenous population was developed.

The entrance portico and nearby lawns of Parkes Place have been the settings for countless gatherings, protests, celebrations and demonstrations, including the Aboriginal Tent Embassy established in January 1972.

It is the place where Sir Robert Menzies served his record term as Prime Minister and where Prime Ministers John Curtin and Ben Chifley lay in state.

But as the number of politicians, their staff and media increased so too did demand for space within Old Parliament House. Alterations and additions helped to improve the physical functioning of parliament but by 1988 it was vacated for the new House.

Pressure from various bodies persuaded the government to restore and return it to the public realm and it was reopened by former Prime Ministers, John Gorton and Gough Whitlam, on 15 December 1992.

Thousands of tourists explore the close confines of this important time capsule every year. Its rich collection of original furniture, art, signs and equipment help illustrate the story of Australia’s political customs and functions.

Old Parliament House remains a proud vestige of yesteryear that lives on under the gaze of its modern successor, Parliament House. In this way, the past and the present stand together – forever linked – symbolising how far Australia has come.
Glass House

Date of inscription: 3 August 2006
Rising from the low lying Sunshine Coast landscape, the domes, cones and spires of the Glass House Mountains fascinate geologists and artists alike.

Often described as awesome and picturesque, the Glass House Mountains are a defining image of south-east Queensland. The mountains are rich in natural history and form a breathtaking landscape that is important for many Australian people, plants and animals.

Captain James Cook first recorded and named the Glass House Mountains when sailing up the eastern coast of Australia in 1770.

In his Journal of 17 May 1770, Cook wrote:

‘These hills lie but a little way inland, and not far from each other: they are remarkable for the singular form of their elevation, which very much resembles a glass house, and for this reason I called them the Glass Houses: the northern most of the three is the highest and largest; there are several other peaked hills inland to the northward of these, but these are not nearly so remarkable…’.

A series of volcanic eruptions active 24–27 million years ago led to the formation of at least 12 peaks. They range in height from the southern-most peak of Saddleback (Mount Elimbah) at 109 metres, to the highest peak, Mt Beerwah, at 556 metres.

The mountains provide a glimpse into the volcanic history of the eastern Australia mainland. Recent research has also led to better understanding of the dynamic processes and evolution of rock types making up these volcanic centres.

A diverse range of vegetation, from rainforest gullies to heaths on the summits, provides homes for a variety of animals, including around 170 species of birds. Koalas, lace monitors, echidnas and eastern-grey kangaroos are also found in the landscape.

The inspirational landscape has evoked emotional responses in many artists and has resulted in a number of works by significant Australians such as Lawrence Daws, Judith Wright, Conrad Martens, Peter Kennedy, David Malouf and Fred Williams, in a range of media including music, painting, poetry, photography and film.

From summit lookouts visitors are treated to panoramic views of the family of mountains with their massive jagged peaks arising from an extensive plain with forested foothill reserves, agricultural land, small village roads, highways and coastal urban developments.

The mountains and surrounding area are well known to Aboriginal people in south-east Queensland. Numerous sites have been recorded in the Glass House Mountains area that show varied aspects of Aboriginal ways of life and the ancient occupation of this landscape. These include axe grinding grooves, quarries, physical signs of past camping places and other activities, burial places and rock art sites. The mountains lie close to traditional pathways and the peaks are individually important in Aboriginal traditions.

The Glass House Mountains continue to be of spiritual significance to the Aboriginal people of the region. The Gubbi Gubbi and Jinibara maintain strong links with the area and this important landscape.

The subtropical climate of south-east Queensland combined with the fertile volcanic soils has made the region a very popular place to live and visit.

Today the area around the mountains produces tropical fruits such as papaws, strawberries, avocados and passionfruit, as well as vegetables and macadamia nuts.

The Glass House Mountains National Park attracts large numbers of visitors – the steep geological formations make the park attractive to rock climbers, and the peaks and surrounding lands continue to be popular destinations for visitors wanting to bushwalk, picnic, and enjoy the volcanic scenery.
Rippon Lea

Date of inscription: 11 August 2006
Situated in the eastern Melbourne suburb of Elsternwick, Rippon Lea House and Gardens extends over almost six hectares.

Rippon Lea is an outstanding late 19th century urban estate. It was constructed at a time when there was considerable wealth in Victoria which led to the development of numerous ornate mansions in Melbourne and in rural areas, known as ‘Boom’ style or ‘Victorian Italianate’.

In 1868 Frederick Thomas Sargood bought 27 hectares of scrub land at Elsternwick on which to establish his dream home and garden. He named the property after his mother, Emma Rippon, adding ‘lea’, an old English word for meadow.

In 1869 construction began on the two-storey, 15 room house, designed by Joseph Reed of Reed & Barnes, Melbourne’s most important architect of the time. The house was made from polychrome brickwork, a new material in Australia where most of the important buildings were in stone or stuccoed brick. Rippon Lea was among the finest polychrome buildings in Victoria.

The ground floor consisted of the drawing and dining rooms, study and breakfast room. An unusual design feature was an outdoor pavilion or piazza adjacent to the dining room. On the first floor were six bedrooms, a dressing room, a nursery, an earth closet and, also remarkable for the time, two bathrooms.

In an adjacent single storey wing was a gun room, a maid’s room and a day nursery for Sargood’s 12 children. The service rooms were all in the basement, uncommon in 19th century Australia, and the area around these was excavated to provide natural light.

Sargood made substantial alterations and additions to Rippon Lea, reflecting his increased wealth, from 1882 until 1903. Although he used different architects over the 30 year period, the style used was unusually consistent.

Rippon Lea was sold by Sargood’s widow after his death in 1903. The property then passed into the hands of a succession of wealthy Melbourne families, who altered the house and garden in ways that demonstrate the extravagant lifestyles of wealthy society of the period.

Magnificent ornamental gardens surround the house with features including a large lawn, extensive shrubberies, flower gardens and a lake. Hedges separate the ornamental gardens from the more practical areas, which included a large attractive kitchen garden, an orchard of historically significant fruit varieties, farm paddocks and a stable complex.

Sargood was ahead of his time in devising a sophisticated system for water self-sufficiency for the house and garden. An underground water collection, irrigation and drainage system, with water pumped by a windmill, ensured that the garden flourished. This system – one of the earliest, most complex and relatively intact examples of 19th century underground engineering works to maintain a private garden – is now being reinstated at Rippon Lea.

Today Rippon Lea House is in a very good condition. The form of the main part of the house is largely as it was in the 19th century, and adjoining it is the intact 1930s ballroom and pool complex. The dining room was redecorated in the 1930s and is intact from this period. Since 1972 the National Trust has reinstated the drawing room to its 1930s appearance, redecorated the nursery and a first floor bedroom, changed a bedroom into an art gallery and installed a new kitchen on the ground floor.

The estate has been open to the public for over 30 years. It is a popular function venue and picnic spot, and offers a respected educational program for students.
Flemington Racecourse, Victoria

‘Nowhere in the world have I encountered a festival... that has such a magnificent appeal to the whole nation. The Cup astonishes me.’

– Mark Twain, 1895

Flemington is one of the world’s premier racecourses. During the last 160 years since the flats beside the Maribyrnong River were first used for racing, Flemington has been transformed from a long path in long grass which had been roughly scythed down, into a richly grassed acreage supporting one of the finest racing surfaces in the world.

Set on 125 hectares of river flats, it is one of the longest race tracks in Australia. The track has changed from the first Melbourne Cup race in 1861, and today is famous for the ‘Straight Six’ – the six furlong (1200 metre) length of straight track that makes Flemington one of the most challenging tracks in the world. This long run down the Straight Six, a favourite with both Australian and international jockeys, gives horses a chance to come from well back in the field to make it first past the post.

In the hearts and minds of Australians, Flemington Racecourse is synonymous with the Melbourne Cup. Since it began in 1861, the Melbourne Cup has been the ‘race that stops the nation’.

Run on the first Tuesday in November, the Melbourne Cup is one of the world’s most challenging horse races, taking more than three minutes. Kingston Rule holds the record for the fastest run, winning in 1990, in three minutes 16.3 seconds.

The Melbourne Cup is recognised as Australia’s premier horse race. Along with the English Derby, its American counterpart the Kentucky Derby and the Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe, it is one of the world’s great horse races.

The first Melbourne Cup recorded on film was also the first cinematographic newsreel film shot in Australia. Shot by Maurice Sestier, the film was taken at Flemington on Cup Day in 1896, when 95 000 people saw Newhaven win the Cup.

Flemington Racecourse has long been associated with the names of horses, jockeys, trainers, breeders and owners who have been at the forefront of Australia’s racing culture. Many of Australia’s greatest racing champions have won the Cup, including Carbine in 1890, and the legendary Phar Lap in 1930.

The Flemington Spring Carnival and the Melbourne Cup are also a major venue – and stimulus – for Australian fashion. The tradition of Oaks Day as ‘ladies day’ dates from 1885, when a group of fashionably dressed ladies complained of the damage to their elegant gowns by the crush of people on Cup Day. Within two years of its inception as ladies day, Oaks Day had become the fashion event of the Melbourne calendar and by 2005 visitors to Flemington for the Spring Carnival and the Melbourne Cup spent more than $20.1 million on fashion purchases in Victoria alone.

In 1965 there was more interest in a drama being played out off the track and the eyes of the world were turned towards Flemington’s special guest, British model Jean Shrimpton who had caused a scandal on Derby Day by wearing a sleeveless white mini-dress with a hemline four inches above the knee. Disapproving eyes were quick to note she was not wearing the expected Flemington fashion accessories – hat, gloves and stockings. The outfit shocked the conservative Melbourne establishment and was reported in the media around the world.

What became known as the ‘Miniskirt Affair’ inspired young women around the country to take up the new fashion.

Today the fun and glamour at Flemington on Melbourne Cup Day has entrenched the first Tuesday in November as an important part of Australia’s heritage, culture and identity.
Ku-Ring-Gai

Date of inscription: 15 December 2006
Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island Nature Reserves, New South Wales

A centre for biodiversity within the Sydney metropolitan area, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and adjacent island nature reserves are home to many plants and animals and provide a bush retreat for many Australians.

Covering an area of approximately 15,000 hectares, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park with its diverse vegetation, sandstone escarpments and picturesque waterways welcomes over two million visitors a year. The National Park has been a conservation area since 1894 and includes Barrenjoey Head and West Head. Nearby in the lower reaches of the Hawkesbury River are the Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island Nature Reserves, which contribute to the national heritage significance of the area through their outstanding biodiversity.

A diverse range of vegetation, from open forest and woodland to swamps and warm temperate rainforest, provides homes for a variety of plants and animals, including over 1000 native plant species, 100 moths and butterflies and native animals such as the spotted-tailed quoll, the southern brown bandicoot, the koala and the eastern bent-wing bat.

Lion Island, adjoining the National Park, supports a large breeding colony of little penguins. Almost all breeding little penguins in the Sydney region are found on Lion Island, and research has shown this colony to be more successful and stable than populations at other locations.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park gives Australians a strong sense of our cultural history, with sites that display rich evidence of Indigenous occupation over at least the last 7,400 years.

Ku-ring-gai fell within the boundaries of two local clans, the Garrigal people who occupied the area around Broken Bay and the Terramerragal people who occupied an area around the Turramurra area.

Traditional rock engravings and paintings dating back 600 years, grinding grooves, stone arrangements and over 800 documented burial and occupational sites within the Park provide a significant cultural and spiritual connection to our Indigenous heritage.

In the early 19th century, European settlers used the Ku-ring-gai area for timber extraction and boat building. They also collected materials for producing important resources such as soda ash, salt and shell lime.

The section of Pittwater within Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park was closely associated with the writing of the Australian constitution. In March 1891 the Drafting Committee of the first Constitutional Convention, which included significant figures such as Samuel Griffith, Edmund Barton, Charles Kingston and John Downer, revised the draft constitution aboard the paddle steamer Lucinda when it lay at anchor in the basin. Although this 1891 draft was not implemented, it later served as the starting point for the Constitutional Convention of 1897–98.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is where the Hawkesbury River meets the sea – it holds secretive, winding creeks, sheltered beaches, hidden coves and wide expanses of deep blue water. Stunning landscapes including drowned river valley estuaries, steep sandstone cliffs and plateaus dominate the geology of the area. These landforms date back to the early Jurassic and late Triassic periods making them approximately 190 to 225 million years old. Long, Lion and Spectacle Islands are remnant peaks of the rugged landscape that existed before water levels rose. The islands display outcrops of the oldest rocks in the region, Narrabeen sandstone and shale.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park is the earliest reserve established primarily for nature conservation. In the 1880s Eccleston Du Faur successfully lobbied the New South Wales Government to protect its native flowers from the threat of expanding settlement.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park attracts a large number of visitors each year. The park’s steep-sided, river valleys create a spectacular and rugged landscape combined with rich flora and fauna. Its close proximity to the Sydney Central Business District ensures that Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park continues to be a popular destination for visitors wanting to escape the hustle and bustle of city life and indulge in the natural beauty of Australia.
Warrumbungles

Date of inscription: 15 December 2006
Warrumbungle National Park, New South Wales

The distinctive and unusual jagged skyline of the Warrumbungle National Park, with its domes and spires separated by forested ridges and deep gorges, rises boldly from the surrounding plains and tablelands.

The name ‘Warrumbungle’ comes from the Kamilaroi language, and is believed to mean ‘crooked mountains’. The dramatic Warrumbungles are often described as a place where east meets west. The moist, vibrantly green eastern landscape gradually merges into the dry plains of the west. The range of landscape features provides important habitat for a rich diversity of plants and animals.

The Warrumbungle National Park is approximately 500 kilometres north-west of Sydney and can be reached from the east via Coonabarabran, from the west via Coonamble and from the south through Gilgandra and Tooraweenah.

The shield volcano that made the Warrumbungles was active about 13 to 17 million years ago and represents one of the larger volcanoes that form a north-south line stretching from northern Queensland to southern Victoria.

Ninety per cent of the volcanic cone has since been eroded away, leaving the uncommonly bold volcanic landforms, some reaching heights of more than 700 metres.

Some of the best known landmarks are Belougery Spire, Belougery Split Rock, Crater Bluff, Bluff Mountain, the Breadknife and Mount Exmouth.

The Breadknife, a 90 metre high blade that stretches for half a kilometre, was formed when volcanic processes and subsequent erosion sculpted a spectacular ‘knife’ of rock that cuts through the landscape. Bluff Mountain is the largest lava dome of the Warrumbungle volcano and has a near-vertical 250 metre high face.

Renowned Australian photographers Frank Hurley and Max Dupain are among the artists and photographers who have been inspired by the raw beauty of the natural sculptures.

The combination of the arid western plains, moist eastern slopes and elevation above the surrounding plains, means the Warrumbungles provide a haven for an exceptionally high number of species, particularly when compared with most other inland sites in southern Australia.

Wattles and small inland trees dominate the drier western slopes while the lush, cooler conditions of the sheltered southern and eastern areas are perfect for forests of taller trees with other moisture loving vegetation, such as ferns and orchids, found in the gullies.

The eastern grey kangaroo is seen in abundance and emus, wallabies and koalas are also seen regularly. Other animals frequently spotted in the area are the pobblebonk burrowing frog, wedge-tailed eagle, sulphur crested cockatoo and red-rumped parrot. Sometimes visitors are lucky enough to see rare animals like the brush tailed rock wallaby, superb parrot and regent honeyeater.

Archaeological evidence indicates that Indigenous people have occupied the Warrumbungles for at least the last 5000 years. The first European record for the Warrumbungles was by Surveyor-General Oxley in 1818 on his second inland expedition:

‘To the west the land was level, but to the east a most stupendous range of mountains, lifting their blue heads above the horizon, bounded the view in that direction, and were distant at least seventy miles, the country appearing a perfect plain between us and them.’

Explorers that came after Oxley were Mitchell and Sturt, who in turn were followed by bushrangers and settlers. The central valley and edges of the park hold historic relics and evidence of past uses of the area, which included grazing.

Due to the rugged landscape the Warrumbungles were largely left alone, with the exception of selective logging by the early settlers, and much of the Warrumbungles continue to retain their original character.

The first proposal for a Warrumbungle National Park of about 2500 hectares was made in 1936, and the park area has since grown to 21 534 hectares.

The distinctively rugged landscape and rich biodiversity has attracted bushwalkers and rock climbers to the area for over 70 years. Today approximately 80 000 people from Australia and around the world visit the park annually.
National Park

Date of inscription: 15 December 2006
Within 40 kilometres of the centre of Australia’s largest and most populous city, Sydney, lies a landscape of sparkling beaches, wild heathlands and windswept woodlands that host a glorious diversity of plant and animal life.

Australia’s first national park, Royal National Park, together with the adjacent Garawarra State Conservation Area, have one of the richest concentrations of plant species in temperate Australia with more than 1000 species. This diverse vegetation supports a rich array of birds, reptiles and butterflies.

Royal National Park was the second national park to be established in the world after Yellowstone in America. Its declaration in 1879 marked the beginning of Australia’s conservation movement and the development of Australia’s national park system.

Following the gold rush of the mid-1800s Sydney expanded rapidly to become one of the world’s larger cities. During the 1870s demand grew for the creation of open spaces and recreation areas to relieve crowded, polluted inner city areas. The New South Wales Government reserved an area (18 000 acres including an ocean frontage) from sale and on 26 April 1879 the area was dedicated as a reserve for the use of the public as the National Park. During the visit to Australia by Queen Elizabeth II in 1954, the park was renamed Royal National Park.

Although the park was established as a recreation area it also marked a time when the Australian public began developing a greater appreciation for the natural environment. Social changes, such as improvements in working conditions and increased leisure time, better rail transport and the arrival of the motor car, enabled more people to visit the park. Royal National Park contains many features developed for recreation, such as the boating area, causeway and picnic lawns at Audley and Lady Carrington Drive.

Greater access to and use of this beautiful area contributed to the emerging interest in conserving Australia’s natural places. The natural environment was now appreciated for its recreation potential, not just its economic value. The establishment of Royal National Park can be seen as the beginning of the Australian conservation movement.

This interest was further demonstrated by an increase in nature writing and painting, in the popularity of activities such as bushwalking and early nature tourism, and in the popular picturesque style of landscape painting.

The conservation movement was timely for the long term survival of the region’s rainforest and wet eucalypt forests, which contain red cedar and other valuable timbers. It is estimated that 75 per cent of the rainforest of the Illawarra has been cleared since European settlement. As a result, regional reserves such as Royal National Park and Garawarra State Conservation Area are especially important for conservation purposes.

The eastern side of Royal National Park is covered in heathlands rich in plants and animals. The sandstone plateau contains over 500 species of flowering plants, many of which bloom from July to November. Prominent among the wildflowers are heaths, peas, wattles, orchids, grevilleas, banksias, waratahs and the spectacular Gymea lily. The cliff top dunes to the east and south of Bundeena support a wide variety of large shrub species which once covered the eastern suburbs of Sydney.

The abundant and diverse plant life supports a tremendous variety of insects, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. The area is especially rich in birds with 231 species including many honeyeaters and a variety of rainforest birds particularly in the Garawarra State Conservation Area.

The two reserves provide a haven for reptiles and frogs, including 40 species of reptiles and 30 species of amphibians. There are at least 43 species of mammals recorded in the reserves of which 16 are bats.

Royal National Park is one of only four coastal national parks in New South Wales that protect land below high water mark and associated estuarine habitats. South West Arm and Cabbage Tree Basin are sheltered bodies of water which support juvenile fish and invertebrates, seagrass beds and a diverse seabed fauna. The mangrove community at Cabbage Tree Basin is frequented by migratory birds.

In Australia in 2007 there are 558 national parks which form 40 per cent of our protected area system.
Grampians

Date of inscription: 15 December 2006
Grampians National Park (Gariwerd), Victoria

Blanketed with delicate spring flowers, striking escarpments rise abruptly from the surrounding plains. Grampians National Park is a place of spectacular natural beauty and is the site of a major Aboriginal rock art region of south-eastern Australia.

Renowned for its rugged beauty and fabulous spring wildflowers, Grampians National Park (also known as Gariwerd by local Indigenous people) in central-western Victoria, attracts more than 800,000 visitors each year.

Aboriginal people have lived in Gariwerd for thousands of years and it is one of the richest Indigenous rock art sites in south-eastern Australia.

European settlers arrived following favourable reports of potential grazing land by Major Thomas Mitchell, who scaled the highest peak in the Grampians, Mt Duwil (Mt William), with a small group of explorers in 1836. Mitchell named the mountains the Grampians after the rugged region in his native Scotland.

The Grampians soon became a centre for farming, mining and timber production, and a source of water for surrounding farmland. The Grampians were designated as State Forest in 1872 and declared a National Park in 1984.

The Grampians boast a beautiful landscape – high rocky plateaus and sheltered gullies contrast with the surrounding flat and open farmland adjoining the park. The drama of the landscape is enhanced by numerous rock formations, waterfalls and clear streams, lookouts with panoramic views over the forests, woodlands, wetlands, fern gullies, and spectacular spring flowers. Geological processes have sculpted sweeping slopes, craggy peaks and massive sandstone cliffs.

The strength of the dramatic landforms has inspired numerous works by significant Australian artists in a range of media including painting, poetry, literature, photography and film.

As an island of bushland in a largely cleared agricultural landscape, the Grampians support over 975 native plant species, representing over one third of the total Victorian flora. Many of these species are found nowhere else.

During spring the park bursts into a rich and colourful display of wildflowers, including Grampians boronia, blue pin-cushion lily, Grampians parrot-pea, and Grampians thryptomene. The area is abundant in ‘bacon and eggs’ pea flowers, and also has more than 75 orchid species. This incredible biodiversity is due to the wide variety of rock and soil types and environmental niches.

The variety of vegetation, topography and habitats provides shelter and food for at least 230 bird species. The low open shrubby woodlands in the park support many different nectar-feeding birds, and the tall open forests are important for hollow-dependent species such as the powerful owl.

The Grampians wetlands, particularly those in the south of the park, support a diverse community of waterbirds, including the great egret. The numerous cliff faces provide nesting sites for the peregrine falcon, and large populations of emus are found throughout the lowland areas. The diverse habitats throughout the park also support a wide range of animals, reptiles, amphibians, native fish, huntsmen spiders and butterflies. The richness in water beetles is indicative of the region’s health and its broad biodiversity.

Many threatened species of plants and animals are found in the Grampians, including the Grampians pincushion lily and the southern pipewort. Nationally threatened animals recorded in the Park include the endangered red-tailed black cockatoo, and smoky mouse. There is also the vulnerable swift parrot, warty bell frog, brush-tailed rock wallaby, long-nosed potoroo, and heath rat.

The Grampians have an extraordinarily rich array of Aboriginal rock art sites, with motifs that include depictions of human figures, animal tracks and birds. Notable rock art sites are: Billimina (Glenisla shelter), Jananginj Njani (Camp of the Emu’s Foot), Manja (Cave of Hands), Laragibunja (Cave of Fishes), Ngamadjidj (Cave of Ghosts) and Gulgurn Manja (Flat Rock).
Stirling Range

Date of inscription: 15 December 2006
‘The irregular shaped mountains still in sight being seven leagues inland, and these entirely distinct, are beginning to shew themselves. Except these we see nothing inland…’

Matthew Flinders recorded the first European sighting of the inland mountain range he named Mount Rugged, in January 1802 during his exploration of the southern coast of Australia in the Investigator. Known as Koi Kyeunu-ruff by the Mineng and Goreng people, the Stirling Range was named by John Septimus Roe on 4 November 1835 after Captain James Stirling, the first Governor of Western Australia.

Today the range dominates the landscape as an island for native flora and fauna among a patchwork of highly productive farmland. The park receives thousands of visitors each year, drawn by the beautiful carpets of spring wildflowers and the challenge of climbing the distinctive peak, Bluff Knoll.

Formed over millions of years of weathering and erosion, the Stirling Range of south-west Western Australia is regarded as an area of great biogeographic and evolutionary interest and displays one of the richest floras in the world.

The range stretches for 65 kilometres from east to west and the tallest peak Bluff Knoll stands at 1059 metres above sea level.

At 2500–2900 million years old the bedrock of the Stirling Range is composed of metamorphosed sandstones and shales, believed to have originated from an ancient sea. This historic bedrock is the remains of part of the original continental landmass when Australia was part of the super-continent Pangaea and provides important evidence of the formation of the stunning Stirling Range.

The Mineng and Goreng people are believed to have originally lived in and around the mountains. Many Creation stories reflect the mystery and danger of the jagged peaks of the Stirling Range. Of particular focus is the imposing peak Bluff Knoll. The Nyoongar people of the area referred to Bluff Knoll as Bular Mial (many eyes) or Bala Mial (his eyes), as they believed the rocks on the bluff were shaped like the eyes of an ancestral master spirit that are visible on the mountain.

The south-west of Western Australia is internationally recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, and represents one of only 34 sites in the world that is exceptionally rich in species. Despite the low soil fertility the Stirling Range National Park provides an important refuge for an outstanding diversity of Australia’s native plants and animals. The area supports 1500 plant species, which is more than in the entire British Isles. At least 87 of these plant species are found nowhere else in the world.

The park hosts five major vegetation communities namely thicket and mallee-heath on the higher ground; with woodlands, wetlands and salt lake communities on the lower slopes and plains. During spring the park is a breathtaking garden of wildflowers.

The beautiful and diverse vegetation of the Stirling Range National Park provides valuable shelter for many bird species including parrots, honeyeaters and thornbills. The range is also a haven for many native Australian mammals including the western pygmy-possum and the western grey kangaroo.

The deeply incised south-facing gullies provide a thriving sanctuary for a diverse range of ancient species including land snails, trapdoor spiders and giant earthworms. These species date back millions of years to the time when Australia was part of the Gondwanaland super-continent and they provide valuable information about Australia’s natural history.

The combination of mountains, wildflowers, bird and animal life, and its proximity to regional centres makes the Stirling Range a popular destination for a variety of visitors. Listed as one of Australia’s 25 best hikes, Bluff Knoll provides an admirable and rewarding challenge for bushwalkers, rock climbers and abseilers of all levels.

The imposing jagged peaks of the Stirling Range combined with serene 360 degree views and the breathtaking beauty of the Stirling Range National Park ensures a truly memorable experience for all visitors.
Flora Fossil

Date of inscription: 11 January 2007
An ordinary roadside cutting on Limestone Road, Yea, Victoria marks a place that overturned long held scientific understanding of how and when plants evolved.

The significance of the Yea flora fossils, although first discovered in 1875, was not realised until 60 years later when they were studied by pioneering scientist Dr Isabel Cookson in 1935.

Dr Cookson identified the remains as ancient vascular land plants. Her findings were significant around the world as they suggested that not only did complex land plants develop much earlier than previously thought, but that they also first evolved in the Southern Hemisphere.

Further work has shown the Yea flora fossils to be about 415 million years old and the oldest of their kind in the world.

The plant, known today as Baragwanathia, first appeared around 415 million years ago, at a time when Australia was still part of the Gondwanaland supercontinent, and long before dinosaurs walked the Earth.

The name, Baragwanathia, was in honour of William Baragwanath, Director of the Geological Survey and Chief Mining Surveyor in Victoria in the 1920s and 1930s who collected many of the samples.

The plant would have resembled today’s club mosses or tassel ferns. It had a vascular system, with sap-carrying veins, leaves roots and woody tissue, and was more complex than other forms of vegetation from this period, such as marine algae.

Baragwanathia plants are large in form with long narrow leaves and branches up to one metre long. They are quite unlike other land plants occurring at the time which featured small, naked stems.

The Yea site has yielded several different plant fossils. Some of the most interesting are the extremely well-preserved samples of the fossil identified as Baragwanathia longifolia.

The Yea plant fossils found in siltstone rock date to the late Silurian period. It was during the Silurian that life adapted from the sea to the land.

Fossil scientists are able to determine the age of rocks by identifying the type of graptolite fossils present. Graptolites were ancient free-floating colonial marine organisms and are particularly important for dating rocks during the Silurian period, when they flourished.

The Yea site provides the earliest record of the vascular land plants in Australia. The plants show remarkable adaptations that helped them to make the difficult transition from the marine environment to life on land. For this reason, and because the Yea Baragwanathia fossils are considerably older than any similar ones found in the Northern Hemisphere, the Yea Fossil Site is of international significance.

The site is listed in the National Heritage List for its significant contribution to the world’s understanding of our ancient earth’s secrets.

It is also listed for its association with Dr Cookson, one of the most eminent palaeobotanists of the 20th century.

Known around the world by admiring colleagues as ‘the indefatigable Cookie’, Dr Cookson was one of the first professional women scientists in Australia, graduating from the University of Melbourne in 1916, where she also tutored and lectured in botany and later became a research fellow.

Her work took her to London and Manchester in the 1920s, where she worked closely with, and influenced, other leading scientists of the day. Her published research, spanning 1921–1970, and often self-funded, produced great insights into the history and evolution of the continent’s flora.

The Cooksonia plant genus, containing the oldest known land plants was named in her honour, and the Botanical Society of America’s Isabel Cookson Award commemorates her work. The Cooksonia fossils, found mainly in Europe, are older than the Yea flora fossils. However, Cooksonia was a smaller and simpler plant than Baragwanathia, its Southern Hemisphere relative, and had no leaves.
Ediacara Fossils

Date of inscription: 11 January 2007
Today Australia is a hot, dry continent but hundreds of millions of years ago the landscape was very different – most of eastern Australia lay under shallow, warm seas.

Between 570 and 540 million years ago (long before dinosaurs roamed the Earth) these warm seas were inhabited by soft bodied organisms, similar to jellyfish. Some of these organisms became trapped in fine silt in tidal flats and were fossilised as the silt turned to stone. As sea levels changed, the seafloor became part of what we today know as the Flinders Ranges in South Australia, and the fossils found there formed part of a period known today as the Ediacaran Period. Examples of these unusual and fragile fossils, including *Dickinsonia* and *Spriggina* can be seen at the South Australian Museum.

In 1946, while exploring for minerals, geologist Reginald Sprigg discovered fossil imprints in rocks around the low hills of the western Flinders Ranges at the old Ediacara minefield. Sprigg’s discovery was extremely important as it was the first time the fossilised remains of an entire community of soft bodied creatures had been found in such abundance anywhere in the world. Sprigg’s discovery was so significant that fossils were named after him and the Ediacaran Period was named after the location where the fossils were found.

The fossils preserved in the ancient seafloor at Ediacara record the first known multicellular animal life on Earth that predates the Cambrian. This diverse and exquisitely preserved community of ancient organisms represents a significant snapshot of our geological heritage.

Up until their discovery scientists believed that only organisms with hard parts, such as shells or skeletons, could be preserved in the fossil record. This discovery gave scientists a new understanding of the evolution of life on earth, as well as a better understanding of how fossils of organisms with soft tissue can become preserved in the fossil record.

Some scientists believe many of the organisms found at Ediacara may represent early algae, lichens or even multicellular ‘experiments’, which bear little resemblance to organisms existing anywhere in the world today. There are many questions that surrounding these ancient organisms; how they lived, how they evolved and what creatures alive today are their descendents.

The fossils of this period resemble the flatworms, soft corals and jellyfish we know today and range in size from a few centimetres up to a metre long. This diverse array of fossil specimens includes anemones, annelid worms, crustaceans, echinoderms and possible ancestors of trilobites. Other forms resemble modern sea-pens and worms.

Impressions of the largest early known animals, *Dickinsonia rex*, have also been recorded at Ediacara, as well as fossils of what may be the earliest known ancestor of animals with backbones (vertebrates). *Dickinsonia* is interpreted as a worm-like creature, and fossils of these organisms consist of a flat impression, circular to ribbon-shaped with fine segmentation.

The Ediacaran Period is the first geological period to be declared in 120 years and the first to be named after a location in the Southern Hemisphere. Covering an interval of around 88 million years from 630 to 542 million years ago, the start of the Ediacaran Period corresponds to the end of a world wide glaciation known as ‘Snowball Earth’ as well as significant changes in carbon levels.

The rapid increase in abundance, size, complexity and diversity of life forms during this time shows that the earth underwent a period of major evolutionary change. Around 30 other Ediacara localities are now known globally including sites in Namibia, Russia, Newfoundland, Canada, UK and Siberia. Some of the greatest examples of this ancient biodiversity are found in Australia and Russia.
Harbour Bridge

Date of inscription: 19 March 2007
The Sydney Harbour Bridge is considered the world’s greatest arch bridge and is one of Australia’s best known and photographed landmarks. An engineering masterpiece, the bridge represented a pivotal step in the development of modern Sydney and an important part of the technical revolution of the 1930s.

Known by locals as the ‘Coathanger’, the bridge celebrated its 75th birthday in 2007, with its official opening in March 1932.

Discussions of building a bridge from the northern to the southern shore of Sydney Harbour had started as early as 1815.

It took some time for this to become a reality with design submissions invited in 1900. All designs were deemed inappropriate or unsatisfactory for one reason or another and the idea eventually lost momentum.

However, after the First World War more serious plans were made, with a general design for the Sydney Harbour Bridge prepared by Dr JJC Bradfield. The New South Wales Government invited worldwide tenders for the construction of the Bridge in 1922 and the contract was awarded to English firm Dorman Long and Co of Middlesbrough.

Bradfield’s design involved more than the bridge, it was the key element in an integrated transport system including an extensive network of rail and roadways leading to the bridge, these in turn were incorporated into the broader Sydney road, rail and tram system.

The Sydney Harbour Bridge construction started in 1924 and took 1400 men eight years to build at a cost of £4.2 million. Six million hand driven rivets and 53 000 tonnes of steel were used in its construction.

The construction of the bridge represented a new era for Australians. An important part of the technical revolution of the 1930s, the bridge was seen as evidence of Australia’s industrial maturity.

The opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge was a momentous occasion, drawing remarkable crowds estimated at nearly one million people. The ceremony was attended by almost the entire population of Sydney, as well as huge numbers from around New South Wales and thousands from interstate.

The NSW Premier at the time, the Honourable John T. Lang, officiated at the opening and officially declared the bridge open, however before he could cut the ribbon to open the bridge, Captain Francis de Groot of the New Guard, disguised as a military horseman, slashed it with his sword, believing the only person to open the bridge should be a member of the royal family. The incident has become a part of Australian folklore and a symbol of the perceived national character trait of rebellion against authority.

It was part of JCC Bradfield’s vision for the bridge that it be used “at times of national rejoicing”. Over the years since its opening community ceremonial and celebratory occasions have regularly centred on Sydney Harbour Bridge.

From the bridge visitors can also enjoy breathtaking views of the Sydney Opera House. These two outstanding examples of our national heritage represent Australia’s most renowned iconic landmarks.

The Bridge Climb started in 1998 and attracts tourists and locals alike, eager to climb this magnificent monument for both the challenge and breathtaking views. Every ten minutes a group of twelve climbers head off on their challenging trek, with celebrity climbers including Prince Frederik and Princess Mary of Denmark, Matt Damon, Kylie Minogue and Kostya Tszyu. By all reports, ‘BridgeClimb’ is fantastic and one of the ‘must dos’ while on a trip to Sydney.
The Australian Heritage Council

The Australian Heritage Council is an independent body of heritage experts established through the Australian Heritage Council Act 2003.

The Council’s role is to assess the values of places nominated for the National Heritage List and the Commonwealth Heritage List, and to advise the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water Resources on conserving and protecting places included, or being considered for inclusion, in the National Heritage List and Commonwealth Heritage List.

The Council’s functions include the identification, assessment and monitoring of heritage and to advise the Minister on a range of matters relating to heritage. It also engages in research and promotional activities.

The National Heritage List helps protect our special places

When a place is included in the National Heritage List it is officially recognised as an outstanding part of our heritage. While listed places are protected by law, they may also add value to local communities by drawing visitors who are eager to learn more about Australia and Australians. Protection by law means we can sustain these places for future generations by paying better attention to them.

It is the National Heritage values of a place that are recorded in the list and it is these values, and not necessarily the entire place itself, that are protected through listing.

This means that a person cannot take an action that has, will have or is likely to have, a significant impact on the National Heritage values of a listed place without the approval of the Minister. It is a criminal offence not to comply with this legislation.

The Australian Government also works with state and territory governments to protect National Heritage values under state and territory legislation and with private owners through conservation agreements. These values are protected by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

Choosing the places

Only places with outstanding natural, historic and Indigenous heritage values that contribute to Australia’s national story are added to the National Heritage List.

Anyone can nominate a place to the National Heritage List.

The Australian Heritage Council assesses whether or not a nominated place has heritage values against the relevant criteria and makes a recommendation to the Minister on that basis. In making its assessment, the Council must only consider whether the place has outstanding heritage value to our nation.

The Minister must also publish a notice inviting comments from the public in relation to a proposed listing. The Minister makes the final decision on listing.
Nominations must set out the qualities or values of the place that make it significant to the nation and must meet one or more of the National Heritage significance criteria. The Minister may also call for nominations against selected themes which he or she will announce.

Grants and funding

Communities that have National Heritage List places benefit from promotional activities and increasing numbers of visitors. Site managers may also apply for funding and grants available from the Australian Government.

In order to help communities with the financial costs of managing their heritage places the Government has established the National Heritage Investment Initiative. Between 2005–06 and 2008–09 $10.5 million will be provided for financial incentives to restore and conserve Australia’s most important historic heritage.

Application information can be found at www.heritage.gov.au or by contacting the Community Information Unit via email ciu@environment.gov.au or phone 1800 803 772.

Further information

This book will be revised regularly to include information on the new listings and will be available from the Department of the Environment and Water Resources either by visiting www.heritage.gov.au or by contacting the Community Information Unit by email ciu@environment.gov.au or telephone 1800 803 772.

Australia’s heritage lists

Throughout Australia there are places with varying degrees of heritage significance, which are included in a number of lists or registers of natural and cultural heritage places. These are not comprehensive lists of heritage places, but lists of the places that have been identified and recorded up to the present time.

The World Heritage List – Places that are important to all the peoples of the world in that they possess outstanding universal values above and beyond the values they hold for a particular nation. Australia currently has 16 properties on the World Heritage List.

The National Heritage List – Australia’s list of places with outstanding heritage value to our nation. A place may be listed for its natural, Indigenous or historic values, or a combination of all three.

The Commonwealth Heritage List – Places owned or controlled by the Australian Government that have natural, Indigenous or historic values, or a combination of all three, with significance to Australia, such as lighthouses, memorials, customs houses, and marine parks.

The Register of the National Estate – A list of important natural, Indigenous and historic places throughout Australia.

State and territory heritage lists – States and territories maintain statutory lists or registers of heritage places that have particular importance to the people of a particular state or territory.

Local government lists – In most states and territories local government authorities keep heritage registers or lists often attached to the local or municipal planning scheme.

The National Trust list – The National Trust of Australia is a community-based organisation with independently constituted Trusts in each state and territory. The National Trust maintains its own list of heritage places.

Indigenous site registers – Lists of recorded Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander places which include religious or ‘dreaming’ sites, burial sites, rock art places, traditional camping sites and historic sites such as Aboriginal missions and massacre sites.

Historic shipwrecks register – This is a register of historic shipwrecks in Australian waters, which is administered by the Department of the Environment and Water Resources.

Other lists – Some specialist organisations, such as the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and Engineers Australia, keep lists of important historic places, for example, Art Deco buildings, gardens and bridges.
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