

Operating Heritage Australia

Minutes

Meeting Wednesday 10 April 2019

Present: Bruce Marich, Jenny Fawbert, Richard Clarke, Peter Abbott, Mike Beale, Neil Myers, Michael Hough, Neil Hogg

Apologies: Peter Garnham, Chris Martin

Peter Abbott, CEO Bendigo Heritage Attractions, was welcomed and introduced himself.

1. Review of previous Minutes

- Approved

2. Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act

- Letter to politicians and departments
 - o Bruce (address of OHA) has received one acknowledgement of receipt of the letter – government department – [Bruce to scan and distribute to group](#).
- Letter to other heritage organisations
 - o Neil H reported that the following organisations have been contacted and have undertaken to support the implementation of the Simpson Review recommendations.
 - National Trust
 - Royal Australian Heritage Society
 - Engineers Australia
 - Museums and Galleries – national and various states
 - Museums and Galleries NSW (separate from above)
 - Red Cross (looting in conflicts)
 - National Cultural Heritage Committee
 - Australian Carriage Driving Society
 - Australian Aviation Museums National Network
 - o Many of these organisations meet regularly with and are consulted by policy-makers. Operating Heritage Australia should expect to be included in this advisory process.
 - o Unsure which organisations affiliated with OHA convenors have sent letters

3. Survey to quantify benefit to society

- Survey changed to include horse-drawn vehicles in description
- General agreement that latest version is acceptable – 2 pages for organisations, 1 page for individuals. Consider shortening introduction (currently 2 pages of text).
- Louise Myers is currently reviewing the format and commenting on questions. [Neil Meyers to report when this is complete](#). Some changes may be required.
- Awaiting responses from test organisations to evaluate the quality of responses – should indicate whether the information we're seeking is readily obtainable and if the respondents are having trouble completing the survey.
- Australian Aviation Museums National Network is also planning to survey their members again (last done in 2015) and have asked if they can include the OHA questions. Group agreed.
- It was agreed that we will seek professional help to conduct the survey. [Michael Hough will obtain costed proposals from organisations experienced in conducting surveys](#).
- [Agreed to finalise survey questions by end of next meeting](#).
- Proposed process:

- o Finalise questions and format – all
- o Obtain quote from professional survey organisation to conduct survey
- o Apply for funding to conduct survey – Michael has volunteered to lead this action
- o Publicise results

4. Training in specialist heritage skills

- Michael Hough described the process lately introduced at HARS for training licensed heritage aviation roles
 - o Civil Aviation Safety Authority has delegated authority to the Warbirds Association to license heritage operators
 - Receive licence to operate only on HARS equipment
 - HARS was required to set up accredited training facility
 - Courses are VET / ASQA accredited
 - A registered RTO provides course and trainers
 - “Classroom” training can be delivered on-line
 - Fees charged reflect contribution by HARS
 - o A private RTO and NSW TAFE were approached. NSW TAFE were bureaucratic and not willing to be flexible. Partnership established with private RTO.
 - o Warbirds receives grants to train and maintain accreditors’ currency.
- Agreed to test this model for application to other types of heritage
- Option 2 - continue ATHRA’s proposal to involve University of Tasmania
- Option 3 – approach NSW TAFE with support public museums (NSW transport Heritage, Powerhouse Museum)
- Jenny has started a register of priority training courses
 - o Response so far poor – suggests that no-one needs any skills training
 - o Please nominate at least three skills each that you will need in the coming years – reply to Jenny and Glenn

5. Future of Operating Heritage Australia (Proposal from Michael Hough)

- We have agreed that the Mission of OHA is to:
 - o To be the influence group of choice for the development and implementation of policies and procedures for operating (engineering?) Heritage in Australia
- With objectives to:
 - o Develop policies and procedures that enhance and support operating heritage in Australia
 - o Be the preferred source of advice for all levels of government and regulatory bodies wishing to develop or change policies that affect operating heritage in Australia
 - o Be the body that any level of government or bureaucracy will consult with, before developing or implementing any proposed changes to relevant legislation or administrative procedures affecting operating heritage
 - o Consult widely with front line operating organisations to identify their concerns and requirements in promoting the effective running of operating heritage in Australia
 - o Translate these concerns and requirements into appropriate policy(ies), procedures, and support systems
 - o Promote the merits and advantages of heritage operating systems for the following purposes:-
 - Educate politicians and relevant bureaucrats of the (sometimes) unique nature of heritage operations and the need (at times) for special legislation that supports rather than blocks operating heritage
 - Educate the tourism and business sector of the economic and social values of promoting and supporting operating heritage
 - Encourage investment in operating heritage organisations

- Lobby and influence to promote the growth and well-being of the operating heritage sector. We have formally contacted the relevant Ministers and Depts regarding the implementation of the PMCH (Simpson) Review reforms, and garnered support for this action from major national heritage organisations
- Michael Hough has suggested the following (open for comment):
 - o Implement current projects to :
 - Develop and conduct a major survey to establish a credible data base illustrating the range, scope and contribution to Australian Society of operating heritage in Australia
 - Develop exemplars of how vanishing skill bases and required operating heritage qualifications can be revived and developed to support future operating heritage
 - Plan methods of influencing governments at all levels, along with relevant regulatory /decision bodies e.g. CASA - to establish safe but relevant to operating heritage the legislative and regulatory environments to support and enhance operating heritage.
 - Develop mechanisms for consulting and establishing the views of constituent operating heritage sectors, and then providing effective representation of those views and requirements to governments and regulatory bodies
 - Develop mechanisms for consulting with other heritage organisations to undertake joint programmes. (added by NH)
 - Develop a plan with defined activities and a realistic milestones and budget, to implement these above priority actions
 - o Based on outcomes of these projects and by a defined deadline (April 2010?), we will prepare a firm proposal for a future structure for OHA which could be (for example):
 - Cease to exist – job complete or decide that we don't have the resources to achieve our aims
 - Become a professional organisation (eg. similar to ICOMOS, Museums & Galleries Association or National Trust) with paid employees providing services to governments and heritage organisations.
 - Continue as a volunteer organisation
 - Other ideas
 - o People can then decide what level of involvement they wish to have in the new structure.
 - o There was general agreement that a deadline was a good idea but not yet on what form the future OHA would take
 - It was stated that the current national heritage bodies are seen to be working – don't need replacing, just supplementing
 - A stand-alone organisation will need money
 - Aligning with an existing organisation may be more practical
 - Whatever structure is adopted must be capable of demonstrating the importance of the sector

- We don't want to lose the operating heritage identity and recognition of its unique needs if align with another organisation

6. Next Meeting

- Monday 20th May at 7:00pm