

Operating Heritage Australia

Minutes

Meeting Monday 4 February 2019

1. Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act

- Discussion on tactics for communications with government
 - o After some discussion about the best method of influencing decision-makers it was agreed that we would proceed to send letters to the politicians and government departments itemised on Neil Meyers' draft letter. This was considered to be low-risk and within our capabilities
 - o It was accepted that no action could be expected by government before the election and that we will need to follow up after the election
- Letter to politicians and departments
 - o Some changes to the draft were proposed
 - Jenny Fawbert proposed some additional recipients
 - Remove reference to "arts and heritage sector" to distinguish ourselves from the broader sector and refer to the 3.5 million visitors to operating heritage events alone
 - Mention "new" regulations enacted in December 2018 and state that these are not sufficient
- Letter to other heritage organisations
 - o A second, similar, letter will be sent encouraging them to ask for the implementation of the Simpson Review recommendations
- Further actions:
 - o Neil Meyers, Jenny Fawbert, Michael Hough and Neil Hogg will continue to refine the recipients list and letters for review at our next meeting.

2. Quantify benefit to society

- Agreed so far
 - o distribute through peak organisations where they exist
 - o re-word questions with multiple choice answers
 - o use on-line survey
 - o use SPSS program to collate responses
- Suggestions for conducting survey
 - o Provide alternative to on-line survey – eg. tear-out and post form for club magazines
 - o Use club listings in magazines to contact organisations – eg. Just Cars
 - o Advertise in specialist magazines (will probably be provided free)
 - o Media release
 - o Get quote from professional survey organisation to conduct survey with view to seeking grant money
 - o Trial survey with a limited number of recipients before widespread distribution
- Actions:
 - o Louise Meyers has offered to help design survey and analysis program
 - o Prepare paper version of survey for Mike Beale to trial at the NHMF event at Murray Bridge in March – **have ready by end of February**

3. Training in specialist heritage skills

- There was some unstructured discussion of heritage trades and experiences with different organisations

- Michael Hough reminded us that our role is not to solve individual issues – it is to develop policies and solutions that will benefit the whole operating heritage sector.
- Actions:
 - o Schedule discussion at future meeting to define issues and explore possible solutions

4. A name for this group

- Agreed to adopt **Operating Heritage Australia**
- Bruce Marich has registered the name

5. Next Meeting

- 18th February 2019

Appendix 1.

Campaign to Implement Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act Review (Borders of Culture) Recommendations

Letter to Government

Recipients:

- Minister for the Arts Mitch Fifield
- Shadow Minister for the Arts Tony Burke
- Minister for the Environment Melissa Price
- Shadow Minister for the Environment Tony Burke
- Department of Communications and the Arts
- Department of the Environment

Copy to:

- Shadow Attorney General Mark Dreyfus
- Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts Susan Templeman, Luke Howarth

Message:

Who we are and what we're asking

Letter to other heritage organisations

Recipients:

- Operating Heritage
- Engineers Australia
- National Trust
- Museums and Galleries (NSW & Qld already agreed)
- Archivists
- Aboriginal Arts Council (Vic)
- RAHS

Message:

Who we are and what we're doing.

Appendix 2.

Survey of operating heritage owners and custodians

If all survey questions are answered, we will know the following:

Organisations

Information collected	Questions answered		
	Scale	Demographics	Social contribution
Name			
Location		State & region	
Type of heritage			
Age of organisation			
Membership	Number of people actively involved	age ranges, gender, employment status, ethnic background	
Volunteer hours	Time contribution		Type of work
Visitors	Number of general public who spend time &/or money to experience	age ranges, gender, ethnic background, where from	Attendance at community events
Expenditure	Total and by category		\$ contribution
Income	Total and by category		
Skills	Range of skills possessed	Types of skills	Preserving intangible heritage
Needs			

Individuals

Information collected	Questions answered		
	Scale	Demographics	Social contribution
Name (optional)			
Location		State & region	
Type of heritage			
Personal		age range, gender, employment status, club member	
Time spent	Total and by category		Own collection Club & community events
Money spent	Total and by category		\$ contribution
Skills	Range of skills possessed	Types of skills	Preserving intangible heritage
Needs			

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Businesses

Information collected	Questions answered		
	Scale	Demographics	Social contribution
Name (optional)			
Location		State & region	
Type of business			
Type of heritage			
Economic value of heritage	\$ value and %		Employment Skills
Needs			Skills and other