

Operating Heritage Peak Organisations

Minutes

Monday 21 January 2019

Present: Chris Martin, Jenny Fawbert, Glenn Rigden, Neil Meyers, Michael Hough, Bruce Marich (part)

Apologies: Mike Beale, Peter Garnham (both provided comments before meeting)

1. Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act (Refer attached [Paper 1](#))

- Agreed strategy and plan described in Paper 1 below.
 - o Keep message simple
 - o Mention that Movable Cultural Heritage not mentioned in Australian Heritage Strategy
 - o Letters to be sent by peak bodies
 - o Find key influencers with government and departments and communicate with them
 - o Additions to original paper are shown in **green** text.
- **Actions:**
 - o Draft letters to politicians, government departments and other heritage organisations for distribution to this group for sign-off (Neil Meyers)*
 - o Contact other heritage organisations to coordinate activity (Neil Hogg)*
 - o Find key influencers in government and departments (Michael Hough)*

2. Quantify benefit to society

- Discussed and commented on draft survey questions (additions in **green** text) (Refer attachment [Paper 2](#))
 - o Need to consider legal and privacy requirements
 - o Action: Jenny to summarise and distribute*
 - o Need expert advice on survey structure and wording of questions
 - o Action: Michael to consult university and other contacts*
 - o Agreed that web survey platform (eg. SurveyMonkey) will likely be the best way to collect information

3. Training in specialist heritage skills

- NH explained potential opportunity to accredit archived NSW TAFE courses for re-use.
Action: NH to distribute information
- We need to identify skills we need

4. A name for this group

- Current options
 - o Peak Body for Operating Heritage (PBFOH or PBOH); Operating Heritage Australia (OHA); Heritage Operation Australia (HOA); Heritage Operations Alliance Australia (HOAA); Heritage Equipment Operators Alliance Australia (HEOAA)
- Deferred to next meeting

Next meeting 7:00pm to 9:00pm Monday 4th February 2019

Paper 1.

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

Participants:

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

Action:

Letters to politicians. Aim to have both parties commit to implement recommendations.

- Letters from peak bodies.
- Letters from individual clubs – arranged by peak bodies
 - o and club members???

Recipients:

- Minister for the Arts **Mitch Fifield**
- Senate **Paul Fletcher**
- 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 **Secretary is Mr Mike Mrdak AO**
Deputy Secretary for the Arts section is Richard Eccles – this section handle cultural property matters **Assistant Secretary Collections and Cultural Heritage - Ann Campton**
- Department of the Environment
- Australian Heritage Council (no movable heritage expert)

Copy to:

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

Key messages from operating heritage:

- Who we are
 - o 300,000 members and individual owners
 - o 3,000,000 paid visits per year
 - o Billion-dollar economic contribution
 - o Completely self-funded
 - o Sufficiently organised to mount this campaign
- What we want
 - o Implement PMCH Review recommendations (protect Australia's movable heritage from export)

Paper 2.

Who cares about Australia's operating heritage?

Introduction:

Our aim is to develop strategies and structures which will assist to preserve Australia's operating cultural heritage in operating condition for the benefit of future generations.

DEFINITION

Operating Heritage - manufactured objects of heritage significance that are at least 30 years old, including vehicles such as cars, trucks, motorcycles, buses, trams, ships and boat, trains and planes, and their related machinery, equipment, appliances, implements or tools.

Operating heritage is often relatively portable, and easily sold, relocated or discarded. Operating heritage is vulnerable to damage, theft or dispersal, especially when its heritage significance is not understood or acknowledged, or loss through its removal from its context - the place where it belongs or the culture, community or region with which it is associated.

RATIONALE

We believe that this type of heritage has been largely overlooked by institutional and government sponsored museums and galleries and by governments in general.

THE CURRENT SITUATION IN BRIEF

The overwhelming majority of Australia's operating heritage is cared for by individuals or community organisations at their own expense.

We believe that all forms of operating heritage need:

1. Appropriate regulations for the sector which will support and enhance positive approaches to operating and/or preserving heritage
 - a. Stricter rules controlling export of movable heritage – and enforcement
 - b. Recognition that heritage equipment is different from 21st technology and that appropriate regulation (just as strict but different!) is required. Ultimately, we aim for professionally administered self-regulation
2. Support for preservation of all forms of knowledge and skills required for the continued operation of heritage equipment
 - a. Record knowledge in many forms
 - b. Facilitate the passing of knowledge from experienced experts to new generations through practical formal and informal training programmes
3. A fair share of cultural funding to support restoration and continuing care of equipment
4. To demonstrate that heritage has commercial as well as sentimental value and benefits

We want to demonstrate to decision-makers:

1. How many people are currently prepared to spend their own time and money restoring and operating heritage collections.
2. How many other people are prepared to spend time and money to visit museums or events to experience operating collections.
3. The extent of involvement in this overlooked sector of Australian society by identifying and quantifying the non-tangible social benefits as well as the economic benefits
4. The benefits to the economy and the community - financially and in community wellbeing

5. The almost total lack of government funding or other support, especially but not only, in developing supportive rather than punitive regulatory environments
6. The potential for greater benefits if the sector receives additional support

We consider that a very important first step is to gain factual information about selected aspects of the operating heritage sector and so:-

Could you please answer a series of questions that will allow us to quantify the level of interest and benefit to Australian society and economy? We will consolidate the results from all types of operating heritage and produce a report for use in discussions with decision-makers. You will receive a copy of the report.

We would also welcome your additional views and information about ways that we have not yet identified that could assist to achieve the above outcome(s).

Thank you

Questions for organisations: (on behalf of organisation)

Respondents:

- Club President or Secretary with access to membership and financial information
- Special event organiser with access to attendance information
- Others?

1. Firstly, we'd like to know who you are:
 - a. Name of organisation
 - b. Location (at least postcode)
 - c. Type of heritage
 - d. ~~Period of interest – pre-1900, 1900-18, 1919-39, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s – may be relevant to some areas and not others~~
 - e. Age of organisation (to demonstrate long-term commitment)

2. How many members does your organisation have? (Estimates are acceptable)
 - a. Total
 - ~~b. Active participants~~
 - c. Age profile
 - i. Under 15
 - ii. 15-29
 - iii. 30 to 39
 - iv. 40-49
 - v. 50-59
 - vi. 60-69
 - vii. 70-80
 - viii. Over 80
 - d. Percentages employed, retired, not working
 - e. Gender
 - f. Ethnic community profile (Australian born vs. overseas born)
 - g. ~~Skills~~

3. How many volunteer hours do your members contribute on-site and off-site? (estimates are acceptable)
 - a. Total Hours
 - b. Type of work? (estimate percentage of each of the following categories)
 - i. Restoration

- ii. Operation and maintenance
 - iii. Archives
 - iv. Public relations (visitor relations, shop, café)
 - v. Communications (website, blogs, magazines)
 - vi. "Backroom" (accounts, cleaning, marketing)
 - vii. Other - please identify
4. How many people visit your organisation to experience operating heritage? (Estimates are acceptable – please indicate if number is exact)
- a. Regular opening hours (home base)
 - i. Number of visitors who are not members or volunteers
 - o Total
 - o Local
 - o Visiting area (overnight stay),
 - o Overseas visitor
 - o Ages (estimate)
 - o Gender (estimate)
 - o Ethnic background
 - o Other comments (eg. family groups, enthusiasts, organised tour groups etc.)
 - b. Special events (including those supporting charities) (away from home base)
 - i. How many special public events do you run per year
 - ii. How many paying visitors attend these events? (to your organisation or as part of larger event – not including members or exhibitors)
 - o Total
 - o Local
 - o Visitors to area (stay overnight)
 - o Overseas visitors
 - o Gender (estimate)
 - o Other comments (eg. family groups, enthusiasts, etc.)
 - c. As part of general community events (not organised by you)
 - o How many community events do you participate in where visitors don't pay?
 - o What is the estimated attendance at these events
 - o What other benefits do you offer to your community beside economic?
5. How much money does your organisation spend each year?
- a. Total
 - b. Insurance
 - c. Compliance (certification, etc.)
 - d. Restoration
 - e. Equipment running costs including maintenance and fuel
 - f. Paid personnel (if any)
 - g. Facilities
 - h. Communications
 - i. Other
6. Where does the money come from?
- a. Membership fees
 - b. Visitor entry fees
 - c. Sponsorships
 - d. Donations
 - e. Grants
 - f. Other
7. What special skills does your organisation need to continue to operate? (Identify skills gaps)
- a. What key skills do you currently have?

- i. Technical – eg. restoration, maintenance, operation, training
 - ii. Managerial – eg. financial, marketing, business planning, regulatory compliance, record-keeping, other
 - b. What key skills do you need to continue to operate your heritage collection?
 - c. What key skills will you need to acquire or replace in the short to medium time?
8. If you and your successors are to keep this equipment operating for the next fifty years, what will you need? Choose the most important **and at least tell us the top three**.
- a. Reduced insurance costs
 - b. More appropriate compliance
 - c. More appropriate regulation
 - d. Continuing recruitment of younger members
 - e. Access to skilled tradespeople and other specialist knowledge
 - f. Access to replacement parts
 - g. Government support to amend regulations, provide training and some funding
 - h. Help with marketing and promotion
 - i. **Involving younger generations in the heritage field**
 - j. Other

Questions for individuals (“lone rangers”)

Respondents:

- Owners of individual items, particularly:
 - o Motor vehicles
 - o Boats
 - o Aircraft
 - o Machinery
 - o Others?
 - May or may not be members of organisations
 - Aim is to measure individual contribution
1. Firstly, we'd like to know who you are:
- a. Name (optional)
 - b. Location
 - c. Type of **operating heritage you care for**
 - ~~d. Period of interest – pre 1900, 1900-18, 1919-39, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s~~
 - e. Age profile:
 - i. Under 15
 - ii. 15-29
 - iii. 30 to 39
 - iv. 40-49
 - v. 50-59
 - vi. 60-69
 - vii. 70-80
 - viii. Over 80
 - f. Gender
 - g. **Employed, retired, not working?**
 - ~~h. Skills that you have~~
 - i. Do you belong to a club? If so, which one?
2. How much money do you spend on your own **heritage collection equipment?**

- a. Insurance
 - b. Compliance (registration, licences, etc.)
 - c. Restoration
 - d. Equipment running costs including maintenance and fuel
 - e. Personal cost of participation in club and community events (accommodation, fuel, food, etc.)
 - f. Purchasing new items (averaged per year)
3. How much time do you spend on your own collection?
- a. Restoration, maintenance, operation (also include time spent by others)
 - b. Attendance at club and community events (also include time spent by others)
 - i. How many events?
4. What special skills do you need to access to keep your heritage collection operating?
- a. Technical (restoration, maintenance, operation)
 - b. Other support
5. If you and your successors are to keep this heritage collection operating for the next fifty years, what will you need? Choose the most important three. Please rank the following and at least give us the top 3
- a. Reduced insurance costs
 - b. More appropriate compliance
 - c. More appropriate regulation
 - d. Continuing recruitment of younger members
 - e. Access to skilled tradespeople and other specialist knowledge
 - f. Access to replacement parts
 - g. Government support to amend regulations, provide training and some funding
 - h. Other
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For Businesses

Sample:

- Insurers – Shannons, QBE
- Re-sales (Auctioneers and Dealers) – Shannons, Rainsfords,
- Restorers
- Parts – Rare Spares, Marathon Spares
- Publishers – Bookworks
- Local Councils & Chambers of Commerce
- Others?

1. Firstly, we'd like to know who you are:
 - Name (optional)
 - Location
 - Type of business
 - Type of **operating** heritage **you are associated with**
2. How important is the heritage sector to your business?
 - a. Estimate the value of heritage work to your business?
 - i. In dollars
 - ii. As a percentage
 - b. Is the value of heritage work increasing, decreasing or staying the same?
 - c. How many people depend on heritage work for employment?
 - d. How easy is it for you to recruit skilled workers?
 - e. What skills will you require in the future?
3. What will you need to be able to provide services to the heritage sector for the next fifty years?

Questions for the General Population

To be discussed

General Comments

- Include tick box for "estimate" or "accurate"
- Include "doesn't apply" where appropriate
- Distribute through peak bodies
- Also publicise survey to encourage people not associated with clubs to respond