

Operating Heritage Australia

Minutes

Meeting Monday 25 March 2019

Present: Neil Myers, Michael Hough, Mike Beale, Chris Martin, Neil Hogg

Apologies: Jemmy Fawbert,

1. Review of previous Minutes

- Approved

2. Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act

- Letter to politicians and departments
 - o No word from Bruce (address of OHA) on any response to the letters
 - o Suggested that peak organisations (eg. NHMA, NHMF, ATHRA) place copy of letter on their websites to inform members of activity
 - o Suggested that direct contact with local members, particularly in marginal seats, could be useful
- Letter to other heritage organisations
 - o Letter requesting support – explain situation, explain what we're doing (with copy of our letter) and asking them to participate if they agree.
 - ICOM, National Trust, Aviation Museum National Network have made submissions
 - o **Action: Neil H to arrange others**

3. Survey to quantify benefit to society

- General agreement that latest version is acceptable – 2 pages for organisations, 1 page for individuals. Consider shortening introduction (currently 2 pages of text).
- Neil M to ask Louise Myers to advise on format of survey to simplify responses and collation of results.
- Peter Garnham reported that response to the pilot survey at the NHMA Rally at Murray Bridge was positive. Some of the organisations (clubs) commented that they found it difficult to answer the detailed questions on expenditure and membership as they are not required to produce detailed yearly reports. Peter expects to receive around 20 completed surveys.
- Agreed to conduct additional pilot surveys with a small number of NHMF organisations and individuals and ATHRA organisations.
- Agreed to finalise survey questions by end of April 2019
- 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

- Continued discussion on following VET framework:
 - o Agreed three main types of training – high-risk work licences, other regulatory requirements, non-licensed skills
 - o Jenny has started a register of priority training courses (attached)
 - everyone to add skills required different heritage types

- send updated sheets to Glenn for consolidation
- Agreed to build a coherent proposal to discuss with potential partners and decision-makers
 - o Select two sectors to pilot strategies – decided to choose those currently most advanced:
 - Rail (boiler, train driving, fireman, maybe track and rolling stock)
 - Aviation (wood, fabric, flight engineer)
 - o Select range of RTOs to approach to gauge interest in partnering
 - University of Tasmania (for rail)
 - Tamworth TAFE? (for heritage aviation)
 - NSW TAFE or RTO (for rail)
 - o Select heritage organisations prepared to provide practical training
 - HARS (aviation)
 - NSWRTM (rail)
 - o Aim is to test viability of model for use by individual sectors or as framework for range of OHA skills

5. Principles for Operating Heritage Australia

- Operating Heritage Definition
 - o Agreed to use a simplified definition when talking to people not familiar with the term “operating heritage”
 - *Operating heritage is any type of man-made heritage over 30 years old that is used regularly to demonstrate its original form and function.*
 - o The fuller definition will be used with familiar with heritage principles
- Operating Heritage Australia Vision
 - o Michael expressed his personal objectives relating to OHA
 - Prefers to expend his efforts in establishing a continuing and self-sustaining organisation by the end of 2019, preferably with a secretariat and sustainable income.
 - He does not wish to be heavily involved in the administration of the continuing organisation
 - o There was a range of other views and general agreement that:
 - There is a need to establish a continuing organisation with appropriate resources and skills
 - We are currently performing the role of that future organisation
 - We need to decide what the continuing organisation will be / do
 - We can then decide what level of personal involvement we wish to have (if any).
 - o It was noted that there are a number of alternative paths for OHA to take
 - Stand-alone organisation
 - Advisory body to government
 - o Aligned with larger heritage organisation to capitalise on established administrative structure (for example only, Museums and Galleries Australia)
 - o **Michael has offered to prepare a proposal for discussion at the next meeting describing what a permanent and self-sustaining OHA could be/do and how it could be set up.**

6. Next Meeting

- Monday 10th April at 7:00pm