

Tenterfield Shire Council Heritage Strategy

2018-2021



April 2018

Introduction

Tenterfield Council has operated an active heritage conservation program for 17 years, provided free heritage advice and support for conservation projects with assistance from a Heritage Advisor and strongly recognised and promoted the heritage values of the shire through a gamut of cultural events and tourism and economic development.

A Heritage Strategy was first adopted by Council in 2008 and has been regularly reviewed. This strategy has been prepared in accordance with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage: *Recommendations for Local Council Heritage Management* and has been prepared in consultation with Tenterfield Shire Council's Heritage Specific Purpose Committee and Heritage Advisor; Ms Deborah Wray.

The strategy is linked in its structure to the annual reporting template which is a requirement of the Heritage Branch as part of its support of local government heritage advisor and grant funding arrangements. This strategy will be reviewed again in 2021 to monitor progress and guide future directions for heritage management in the Tenterfield Shire Council.

Background

Tenterfield Shire Council is responsible for a 713,439 hectare rural area which straddles the Great Dividing Range. Tenterfield township is 770 km north of Sydney and has a population of 6,628 (ABS 2016). In addition to the main township of Tenterfield, there are eight other smaller population centres spread across the shire including the villages of Torrington, Bolivia, Mingoola, Legume, Liston, Drake, Jennings and Urbenville.

Well known for associations with Sir Henry Parkes and the birth of Federation, Tenterfield Shire also boasts an outstanding natural environment, a four season climate, and a picturesque landscape setting for the historic township of Tenterfield and outlying rural villages.

The Shire contains a wide range of heritage assets, both tangible and intangible, which require special consideration, ranging from Indigenous sites on private land to Bald Rock National Park, items of heritage on the State Heritage Register and Local Environmental Plan and many other sites/buildings which are potentially significant but are not currently covered by formal listing.

The purpose of this document is to provide a heritage strategy to be used by Council and linked to its overall strategic planning. The strategy aims to protect, properly manage and promote a greater understanding and awareness of the cultural, economic and social and value of heritage in the wider community and for future generations.

1. Operate a Heritage Committee to raise awareness of heritage matters in the Tenterfield Shire Council area.

Aim: To promote the conservation and maintenance of Tenterfield Shire's heritage.

Actions:

- Support and promote the operation of the Tenterfield Shire Heritage Special Purposes Committee in highlighting community concerns and providing an information sharing forum and link to Council staff and elected officials.
- Continue to enable the Heritage Special Purposes Panel to provide input into local heritage assistance grants community heritage initiatives, events and actions.
- Ensure that heritage grant opportunities are utilised and made known to the community.

2. Identify Heritage Items in the Tenterfield shire area and list them in the Local Environmental Plan

Aim To identify all places of heritage significance (buildings, sites, and moveable items) in the Tenterfield Shire and implement measures to protect their integrity and significance.

Actions

- To undertake regular reviews and amendments to the Tenterfield LEP 2013, to reflect identification of additional places of significance.
- Continue to develop and expand data available on individual properties identified in the LEP listings. Update the State Heritage Inventory with historical information, physical descriptions and assessments of heritage significance for each item and upload the information to the State Heritage Inventory database.
- Identify additional items or precincts of heritage character which would benefit from statutory heritage protection, and consider the impacts of NSW SEPP Codes for Exempt and Complying Development 2008 on non-protected areas with heritage character and significance.
- Utilise the findings of the Tenterfield Main Street Heritage Study 1997.
- Work with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to review potential sites for consideration of State Heritage Register listing status, such as Tenterfield Station.
- Support community heritage groups including National Trust of Australia (NSW) and local Historical Societies and groups to articulate concerns about development which could impact on heritage items and their context or assist with grant applications.

3. Appoint a Heritage Advisor to assist Council, the community and owners of listed items and places of heritage significance.

Aim To achieve enhanced awareness and understanding of the importance of heritage conservation in Tenterfield Shire, and the need for new development to be sympathetic to these values.

Actions:

- Make the community aware of the Heritage Advisory service through local media and social media, council newsletters, pamphlets, and council web pages.
- Provide free heritage advice to the community through Council's Heritage Advisor.
- Utilise the advice of the Heritage Advisor in the assessment of Development Applications, pre development proposals, and other works likely to impact on heritage items or places of significance.
- Utilise the advice of the Heritage Advisor to assist Council with the preparation of other related planning and development documents and initiatives.

4. Manage heritage in the Tenterfield area in a positive manner

Aim To take a pro-active approach to the management of heritage in the Shire

Actions

- Link wider Council strategic land use planning and corporate council policies to achieving heritage conservation goals, e.g. community vision plans, budgetary planning and consideration of land use zoning provisions.
- Continue to apply The ICOMOS Burra Charter, Tenterfield LEP and DCP heritage provisions to the assessment of proposals which potentially impact upon heritage values.
- Consider how the recommendations of the Tenterfield Main Street Study can be implemented and integrated with the Main Street Masterplan.
- Manage historic cemeteries and provide interpretation to enhance understanding of these sites.
- Develop further understanding of the heritage significance of rural villages and settlements and engage with Hall Committees to document history and significant elements.
- Monitor signage across the shire.

- Adopt a flexible and performance based approach to dealing with issues in development proposals such as car parking and building requirements, to maximise heritage conservation outcomes.

5. Operate a Local Places Heritage Fund to provide a small grants program to encourage local heritage conservation projects.

Aim To increase community participation and pro-active conservation works to heritage assets in the local area.

Actions

- Continue to operate the Tenterfield Local Places Heritage Fund to provide assistance and support to owners of heritage assets.
- Allocate Council funds to run the programme and optimise grant funding opportunities.
- Consider how the grant programme might also be supplemented through additional sponsorship to meet potential increased future demand from additional heritage listings.

6. Run a Main Street Program

Aim To develop measures for the protection, enhancement and promotion of Tenterfield Main Street and provide opportunities for Council to work with business owners and the community to achieve this.

Actions

- Work with property and business owners to achieve recommendations for conservation works identified in the Tenterfield Main Street Heritage Study by Sutera Architects Snell Pty Ltd February 1997.
- Consider methods to increase participation in conservation works to properties in the business centre. Consider how works could be supplemented through other grant streams and sponsorship.
- Explore any Council incentives for carrying out conservation works which enhance historic properties in the main street, for example rate rebates from heritage restricted valuation
- Require a very high standard of design for any new or infill developments that respect the context of the precinct.
- Identify buildings which are considered vulnerable or a high priority for restoration or maintenance works and liaise with property owners to ensure that they are aware of grant incentives and heritage advisory services. Contact non resident landlords to make them aware of the initiatives.

- Develop and co-ordinate heritage interpretation for the main street precinct such as plaques, pavement plaques and digital media information.
- Implement and enforce the provisions of Councils Signage and outdoor Advertising Policy (28 August 2013). Monitor signage and develop strategies to deal with any non compliance and signage which is unsympathetic within the precinct.
- Work closely with tourism providers and other agencies to ensure that the Main Street heritage values are actively promoted and include business owners in this initiative.

7. Present Educational and Promotional Programs

Aim To actively assist and promote cultural heritage projects and awareness in the shire.

Actions

- Continue to develop Council's web pages to include local history and the cultural heritage of the Tenterfield area, heritage listings, and information on conservation. Provide for links between tourism and heritage planning pages including tourist trails and supporting information.
- Continue to maintain strong links with museums in the shire on joint promotions and activities to promote cultural tourism.
- Work with the Tenterfield School of Arts and the Tourist Association to maintain a strong awareness of Tenterfield as the "Birthplace of Our Nation" and to participate in community events associated with this theme and other nationally recognised historical and social associations.
- Upgrade interpretative material with particular emphasis on street signage and the website.
- Promote the heritage facilities operating in the shire and assist in pursuing funding opportunities.
- Send relevant Council staff to heritage conservation courses when possible.
- Consider running a heritage maintenance course for owners of heritage properties using skilled local builders/and artisans.
- Produce a comprehensive history of the Tenterfield Shire in printed and electronic versions.
- Prepare a column with historical photos and information for the local press in relation to local heritage items on an as needs basis.
- Identify opportunities for partnerships with TAFE and heritage trades training.

8. Set a good example to the community by properly managing places owned or operated by Tenterfield Shire Council

Aim To maintain a register of Council Heritage Assets and to ensure adequate funds to be allocated to enable proper maintenance and long term protection.

Actions

- Maintain an asset register of all items/places/trees of heritage significance which are in Council's ownership.
- Assess long term maintenance requirements and provide for these costs to be identified in Council budgetary planning.
- Ensure that Council staff who are responsible for these assets are aware of heritage conservation legal requirements and best practice issues for maintenance and management.
- Ensure that any works requiring consent are dealt with in the correct manner to set an example to the community. Carry out Statements of Heritage Impact where required as part of the infrastructure planning process where heritage assets are likely to be impacted upon.
- Prioritise the preparation of Conservation Management Plans for significant Council owned or managed heritage buildings.
- Prepare a Plan of Management for historic cemeteries, and gravesites, covering broad aspects of care and conservation.
- Identify, record and catalogue any significant historic equipment, relics, documents, photographs, and paintings etc that are owned by or are under the care of Council. Prepare a simple plan of management for the particularly significant items. Utilise expertise of Councils Museums Advisor in collection management and conservation.
- Prepare interpretative material where appropriate in liaison with the RSL.
- Identify all War Memorials and Honour Boards and ensure that they are appropriately and carefully conserved.

9. Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage conservation

Aim to promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage conservation

Actions:

- Promote and encourage adaptive re-use, infill or sympathetic additions to historic buildings in accordance with the articles of the ICOMOS Burra Charter. Use the pre DA process to actively support this policy.
 - Consider providing a 'heritage rebate' on DA charges and fees for positive projects that support those principles in Tenterfield Shire, e.g. changes of use.
 - Encourage owners to adopt sustainable building principles including the provision of water tanks, solar panels and solar hot water and other emerging technologies and work with the heritage advisor to find sensitive solutions to any installations on heritage buildings or sites.
 - Retain Councils commitment to the purchase, stock piling and re-sale of historic building materials in particular 'Tenterfield' Bricks and salvageable architectural detailing.
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