

2014

BLAND HERITAGE STRATEGY
2014-2017



Introduction

This document has been prepared to set the future direction for heritage initiatives in the Bland Shire. It is also prepared to meet the requirements of the NSW Heritage Office in association with the Three Year funding agreement to support local government heritage management in NSW.

Bland Shire Council includes the villages of Wyalong, Tallimba, Ungarie, Weethalle, Mirool, Barmedman as well as a substantial rural area focussed on those villages and West Wyalong.

The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the strategies Bland Shire Council will employ to guide heritage management for the financial years 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17. The NSW Heritage Office publications *Recommendations for Local Government Heritage Management and Eight suggestions on how local councils can promote heritage conservation* have been reviewed and utilised in the preparation of this summary heritage strategy.

1.0 The Bland Shire Council Heritage Committee

Aim:

To promote the conservation and maintenance of Bland's heritage.

Actions:

- The Heritage Committee to provide advice to full Council, with the Committee including members of the local community as well as Councillors and Council staff
- The Heritage Committee to recommend the listing of places with heritage significance on the LEP
- The Heritage Committee to initiate and assist with the Annual Heritage Festival
- The heritage Committee to direct and assist in delivering heritage projects

2.0 List Heritage items in the LEP

Aim:

To identify and protect all buildings and places within the Bland local government area that are considered to be of heritage significance.

Actions:

- Progressively update the Heritage Inventory with assessment of further site nominations from the general community
- Provide assistance to the NSW Department of Planning, Heritage Branch in the identification and listing of state significant buildings/places on the State Heritage Register.

- Provide ongoing support to and liaison with community based heritage groups.
- Develop a strategy to deal with lower priority local listings that furthers their protection in a cooperative positive process involving the owners.
- Conserve the character and integrity of the Conservation Area.

3.0 The Heritage Advisory Service

Aim:

To provide policies and plans appropriate to the assessment of applications within the Main Street Conservation Area and listed heritage places and other places with potential heritage significance.

Actions:

- Continue to seek the input of Council's Heritage Adviser in the assessment of applications likely to impact on the heritage significance of buildings/places.
- Promote the external advertising and sign policy for the Conservation Area.
- Provide advice within the Main Street for the implementation of the Main Street study

4.0 Manage local Heritage in a positive manner

Aim:

To be proactive in managing heritage and urban design matters

Actions:

- Flag all items of heritage consideration on the Council property data base, so that heritage issues are noted when development applications are first lodged, or during pre-lodgement meetings
- Investigate the most appropriate manner of protecting heritage streetscapes within Bland Shire and the Main Street Conservation area
- Encourage Council and community participation with the Central West Heritage Network.
- Provide ongoing support to and liaison with community based heritage groups. In particular the Aboriginal Elders in identifying and protecting heritage places.

5.0 Run a local Heritage Fund

Aim:

Increase community participation in the management and conservation of heritage places and Conservation Areas

Actions:

- Continue to offer small Incentive Heritage Grants to encourage owners to undertake conservation and maintenance works.
- Support Council in assisting heritage projects with the funds for heritage interpretation plaques, panels and history publications.

6.0 Run a Main Street Programme

Aim:

To review and implement the recommendations of the Main Street study for the Conservation Area

Actions:

- Encourage property owners and tenants to seek local and associated funds for projects which are consistent with Main Street study recommendations.
- Encourage and support the verandah reinstatement programme for major projects in the Conservation Area

7.0 Present educational and promotional programmes

Aim:

To increase awareness of heritage issues by Council, community and owners, in liaison with the relevant Bland Shire Council department

Actions:

- Participate in the annual Heritage Week celebrations
- Continue to promote and identify new opportunities for cultural heritage tourism through the ongoing promotion and identification of sites and tours.
- Develop Heritage Trail Brochures for key locations in particular the Main Street and Conservation Area
- Maintain heritage walking trails and identify opportunities to expand these trails.
- Develop a Shire wide Cemetery Brochure.

- Develop a Cemetery Identification Program, which includes consistent signage, clear row identification, maps and useful interpretation.
- Maintain network links with the area's schools through improved liaison.
- Utilise the services of a Museum Advisor and other specialist Advisors as required
- Liaise with and involve community groups, such as the Business community, National Trust, Bland Museum, Family History Group and Aboriginal Elder Groups in issues affecting heritage conservation in Bland.
- Promote the Heritage inventory throughout the community
- Facilitate related heritage training courses and seminars for relevant Bland Council staff and community representatives.
- Assist in developing strategies through community consultation for the conservation and protection of specialist places such as Lake Cowal.
- Support the production of heritage publications and web based heritage information including the Conservation Area walking trails in Wyalong and West Wyalong and where relevant across the Shire.
- Continue to provide support to community and tourism groups in the development of cultural heritage tourism projects and programs, in particular the Vanishing Villages Project with the Bland District Historical Society.
- Assist local village groups in recording and publishing their history.

8.0 Management of Council's Assets

Aim:

To ensure that Council's Asset Register identifies all heritage issues and that there are appropriate plans to conserve those properties into the future.

Actions:

- Prepare an inventory and mapping of historic structures and items within the Local Government Area, including minor elements such as street trees, parks, street furniture and bridges.
- Identify sites where interpretive signage should be prepared to convey the historic significance of the Council owned site or place.

9.0 Promote sustainable development

Aim:

To promote heritage and sustainable development opportunities.

Actions:

- Promote energy efficiency and water saving measures within Conservation areas and heritage places;
- Encourage the adaptive re-use of existing redundant heritage sites and buildings and places within Conservation Areas;
- Promote appropriate endemic and other landscape planting within heritage places and the Conservation area;
- Encourage regeneration of places within Conservation Areas and to discourage development which may detract from the viability of Conservation areas and listed heritage places.