



Bathurst 2036 Heritage Action Network

Bathurst Heritage Matters Newsletter #1 - May 2013



Launch of the Bathurst 2036 Heritage Action Network

More than 100 people packed the hall at historic Holy Trinity in Kelso for the launch of the Bathurst 2036 Heritage Action Network on Monday 6 May 2013.

The meeting identified key issues to protect, enhance and promote the heritage of Bathurst.

To achieve better heritage outcomes, the Network is committed to working closely with Bathurst Regional Council.

The development of a long term Bathurst Heritage Management Plan will be a real focus for co-operation.

The meeting identified that heritage tourism has untapped economic potential for Bathurst. The Network will support the development of a Destination Bathurst Tourism Strategy which embraces heritage.

The underlying theme of the meeting was that our heritage is a unique asset. Key themes emerged, including enhancement, promotion,

compliance, protection, education, collaboration, and transparency,

Dr Robin McLachlan's entertaining and informative presentation 'Postcards from Bathurst' highlighted the importance of

Bathurst in Australia's history as Australia's oldest inland European settlement.

It also brought to our attention the loss of buildings with a significant association with the history of Bathurst. For example the School of Arts, which was demolished in 1975, and the land on which it stood still lies vacant today as a carpark. It was in this building that the only community based people's convention for Federation was held in Australia.

The economic potential of heritage as a tourism asset was the theme of the talk by Christine Le Fevre of Bishops Court.

A passionate presentation from Wayne Febrey captured the mood of the audience. A life-long resident of Bathurst, Wayne said "Heritage does not have a use by date. It is our past, our present and our future."

Thank you to those councillors who attended the Forum: Councillors Morse, Rush, Bourke, Jennings and Hanger.

The councillors could not help but notice the commitment and enthusiasm for heritage of those present.

Many thanks also to all those who participated, those who helped with catering, and those who donated a total of \$205 on the night to help with room hire and advertising.

The talks were followed by workshops for the community to express their ideas about heritage.

The key questions they talked about were:

- What are the built, natural, cultural and historic heritage assets of Bathurst region that we value and want to protect, enhance and promote?
- What are our concerns about our built, natural and cultural heritage?
- What could make a difference?

What issues were identified?

- Importance of preserving and maintaining our heritage streetscapes and buildings
- Importance of heritage as an element of lifestyle that we value
- Importance of heritage in our sense of place
- Impact of inappropriate development on the vistas
- No promotion of Bathurst as Australia's oldest inland European settlement
- Lack of understanding of quality, purpose and vision of original town plan.
- Failure to create attractive gateways and entry points to our city
- Non complying garish colours of commercial buildings in the heritage conservation area.
- Negative impact of ever larger signage in the commercial precinct within the heritage conservation area
- Potential for tourism/visitation and heritage promotion
- Importance of recognition of the Bathurst Town Square

- Importance of natural heritage – Trees, parks and green spaces
- Cultural heritage - Aboriginal, European, Chinese, migrant camp etc history, our heritage story, A Bathurst Heritage Centre ?
- TAFE buildings & precinct
- Demolition by deliberate neglect
- Poor standards for medium density and infill development

What could make a difference?

- Develop and implement a Heritage Management Plan in collaboration with Bathurst Regional Council - with annual reporting and clearly described processes for community participation
- An overall vision for Bathurst and its heritage
- Civic leadership for heritage
- Meaningful long term heritage planning
- Embracing and capitalising on heritage tourism
- Encouraging people to value our heritage buildings and streetscapes
- Heritage awards and recognition strategies
- Build community engagement
- Foster engagement of young people, make Bathurst history come alive for youth
- Educate people about the planning regulations
- Future impact of changes to State Planning. Participate in the community consultation in new State planning processes
- Making sure new people to Bathurst have the opportunity to learn the rich history of Bathurst region
- Bring places back to life and utilise what we have - promoting and supporting adaptive re-use
- Promote community support

- Use Bathurst car races as a drawcard to promote heritage to visitors
- Promote Bathurst as Australia's oldest inland European settlement with a unique history and heritage
- Develop a history of built industrial heritage
- Provide better financial and other incentives to preserve heritage items
- Promote trades and tradesmen with proven skills for heritage work
- Take advantage of Bathurst 200 to promote heritage
- Work with Bathurst Regional Council on addressing problems with commercial signage.
- Conduct design workshops
- Publication of history
- A state of the art Bathurst Heritage Centre .



Miss Traill's House

Suggested areas for future action

- State Planning and Bathurst Regional Council
- Heritage Management Plan
- Residential Streetscapes
- Commercial streetscapes including signage and painting
- Gateways and entry points
- Tourism/visitation and heritage promotion
- Natural heritage - Trees and green spaces - vistas
- Cultural heritage- our heritage story

In partnership with other key organisations such as the Bathurst District Historical Society and Greening Bathurst.

www.heritagebathurst.com

Bathurst 2036 Heritage Action Network

is a community action group.

It brings together interested community members who are passionate about Bathurst's unique heritage character.

It focuses on how we as a community can do a better job on protecting, enhancing and promoting our heritage.

Heritage is an asset, which if managed well, will enhance the economic and social wellbeing of Bathurst, consistent with the objectives of Council's Bathurst 2036 Community StrategiPlan.

Expressions of Interest

Bathurst 2036 Heritage Action Network

Thank you to those people who filled in their Expression of Interest forms and returned them to us.

We encourage you and your friends to fill in the forms as they are a vital way of us having a register of people and what they are interested in becoming involved in.

How to obtain and complete the form:

1. Print off the form at the end of the newsletter and email it to heritagebathurst@gmail.com or post it to PO Box 830, Bathurst, 2795.
2. Save the file attached with this email to your computer, complete and email back to us heritagebathurst@gmail.com
3. Phone Fran on 6337 5737 and request a copy be mailed to you.

Bathurst 2036 Community Strategic Plan

Heritage related objectives

To market Bathurst as a great place to live, work, study, invest, play (objective 5)

To protect and enhance the region's landscapes, views, vistas, open spaces, the Macquarie River (objective 9)

To protect the region's unique heritage and history. To protect a unique identity (objective 11)

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