

# TIME & *place*



## LONELY AS A Lighthouse





# ISSUE No. 17

## LONELY AS A LIGHTHOUSE

Lighthouse keepers lived a remote and sometimes lonely lifestyle in some of the state's most remarkable settings. Though Australia's lighthouses now run automatically, the job of lighthouse keeper still has a romantic appeal even for those living in the modern age.

*A special thanks must go to conservation architect Peter Marquis-Kyle, who provided an article, photos and valuable expertise for this edition.*

**MAIN PHOTO:** Booby Island Lighthouse.

**INSET FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Aerial shot of North Reef Lighthouse; Cape Moreton Lighthouse in Moreton Bay; interior of Booby Island Lighthouse in Far North Queensland.

*All cover photos copyright Peter Marquis-Kyle.*

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# Chair's Comments

The last few months have been very busy for heritage in Queensland.. New heritage laws have been passed by the Queensland Parliament, funding has been handed out to heritage property owners, we have a new Minister and the Environmental Protection Agency has successfully prosecuted for unauthorised works at the Cairns Court House that occurred several years ago.

As the chair of Queensland's peak heritage body, it is pleasing to be so closely involved with such an important period for heritage management.

All members of the Council are committed to working with owners, government and the community to ensure that the future of our state is developed sensibly with respect and sensitivity to our history.

As always in Time & Place, the Heritage Council is interested in focusing on some of the themes and places which make the Queensland Heritage Register such a remarkable record of our state's history . This month the spotlight is on lighthouses if you pardon the pun!

From windswept coasts to remote islands, each of Queensland's lighthouses occupies its own unique place in our history, and there is strong competition for the most spectacular setting in the state.

Much has been made of the sea-change phenomenon, but lighthouse keepers and their families made the change to a simpler life long before it was fashionable. The role of lightkeeper still has a special romance about it, and even more so now that it has become an unreachable dream - Australia's lighthouses have long since been automated

and operate without assistance in the digital age. There is no longer the chance to be the one who keeps the light shining, helping passing ships to navigate, and stay off coastal hazards at night.

It was sometimes a lonely lifestyle, but one that was treasured by many. Stuart Buchanan is one who gave up his career as a city-based professional to be a lighthouse keeper, working on a variety of these important facilities across the state with his wife Shirley. His recent work to save the neglected Bustard Head lighthouse and buildings (near the historic Town of 1770) is nothing short of inspirational, and he has published a book about his experiences. We are lucky to have a My Favourite Place column from Stuart on page 8 of this edition.

Our feature article on page 4 conservation architect was written by historian Peter Marquis-Kyle, who recently completed a major survey of our state's lighthouses. Peter has been extremely generous in sharing his knowledge and photos with not only the Council but also the international heritage sector with his exhibition at the recent International Conference on Monuments and Sites held in Cairns. The quality of this issue would not have been possible without his and Stuart's contribution.



David Eades



## From the Minister

**I was pleased that one of my first acts as the new Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation was to take revised heritage legislation through State Parliament.**

While my portfolio has a focus on influencing and managing our future sustainability, it also has a responsibility to ensure the preservation of our significant past.

I see heritage as a very important part of the environmental management process.

Although Premier Anna Bligh's Cabinet has seen sustainability and climate change given increased importance within the government, cultural heritage will continue to enjoy a resurgent profile.

Over the last couple of years, the Queensland Government has given our state's heritage a huge boost in interest, initiatives and incentives.

The influx of new Queenslanders over the next two decades will require a large amount of new infrastructure.

The resulting development pressures make this the most important period for our state's heritage since the Queensland Heritage Act was first passed 15 years ago.

The amendments to the Queensland Heritage Act passed recently were the first changes to the legislation since it was introduced in 1992.

These changes will strengthen the existing framework and ensure greater protection for our special heritage

places in the years to come. They will also provide minimum maintenance requirements for heritage properties to ensure that property owners do not let our historic buildings fall into a state of disrepair.

Our heritage is often described as "priceless". However, as a government we recognise that significant funding needs to be invested to provide relief for property owners and to help with conservation projects.

The Queensland Government has recently opened applications for the second round of funding under the \$5 million Living Buildings and Places heritage grant program.

The program is aimed at private owners and community groups. The \$2.6 million in the first round was divided up between 108 places, providing significant assistance to owners from a wide geographical area.

It is a landmark time for Queensland's landmarks, and I look forward to working with the Queensland Heritage Council on further initiatives to safeguard our heritage for current and future Queenslanders.

**Top:** Family on Goode Island 1909. Image no. 55583. Image courtesy State Library of Queensland.

**Right:** Stairs in the lighthouse at Cape Moreton. Picture copyright Peter Marquis-Kyle.



Andrew McNamara  
Minister for Sustainability,  
Climate Change and Innovation





# Lonely as a **QUEENSLAND, THE SMART COLONY** Lighthouse

by Peter Marquis-Kyle, a Brisbane-based conservation architect and former Heritage Councillor. He has just completed a condition survey of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's heritage-listed lighthouses.

**BELOW TOP TO BOTTOM:** North Reef Lighthouse, about 100km east of Gladstone; Cape Moreton lighthouse in Brisbane's Moreton Bay. Images copyright Peter Marquis-Kyle.

## REMARKABLE INNOVATION IN AUSTRALIAN LIGHTHOUSE DESIGN

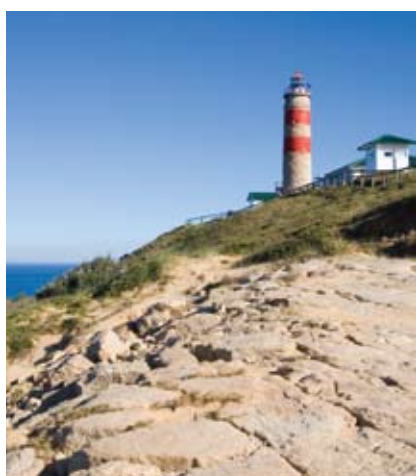
When Queensland separated from New South Wales in 1859 there was only one lighthouse in the new colony – the stone tower at Cape Moreton, at the southern end of a 5000km coastline dotted with reefs and shoals. In the 1860s the government allocated funds from its slender budget to build two new lighthouses at Bustard Head (1868) and Sandy Cape (1870). These were designed and prefabricated in England, and imported as kits of parts. The towers were made of cast-iron panels bolted together on the site. This method made it possible to build economical lighthouses in places that were short of building stone and skilled labour. Each was topped with a lantern house containing an oil wick burner and lens assembly rotated by clockwork.

But, with another dozen major lighthouses needed along the coast, an even more frugal solution was needed. Architects in the 'smart colony' worked out how to do it. The key was to combine the skills and materials of the carpenter with those of the boilermaker.

It was Robert Ferguson, a Queensland government clerk of works who had supervised the erection of the two cast-iron towers, who came up with the idea of wrapping a riveted iron skin around a timber frame. Colonial Architect F.D.G. Stanley backed the new design.

In 1872 Stanley, reporting on tenders for a new lighthouse at Lady Elliott Island, wrote ...

*as to construction and material, I would beg to remark that while the present design is more costly [than an entirely wooden tower] it is submitted that the increased strength and durability gained by using boiler plate casing, concrete foundation etc. will eventually more than compensate for the greater outlay in the first instance, the shrinkage and decay of timber sheeting in exposed situations such as the lighthouse will occupy, being so great, as to render it almost impossible to keep the buildings weatherproof.*





# use

**ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT:** Interior stairs in North Reef tower; Looking down in the Booby Island lighthouse; Base of the North Reef lighthouse.  
All photos on page 4 & 5 copyright Peter Marquis-Kyle.

The Lady Elliott Island lighthouse was first lit in 1873. It still stands today, although it is not operating. It was the prototype of a series of ten more, built between Double Island Point (first lit in 1884) near Noosa, and Booby Island (1890) in Torres Strait. The dimensions of the towers differed, and there were refinements in detail, but they all followed Ferguson's basic design.

Each of these towers had a robust conical timber frame, with hardwood studs, rails and floor frames, with timber stairs winding around a central timber duct built to contain the weights that drove the clockwork. On the top of the tower was a circular floor forming a balcony around the cast-iron lantern room. The tower was covered with a skin of curved galvanised iron plates, riveted together like a ship's hull, and screwed to the timber frame.

As Stanley predicted, these towers have proved durable and economical in service. One has been demolished, two have been dismantled and re-erected as museum displays, and six are still in service with modern lighting equipment. This type of lighthouse is unique to Queensland.

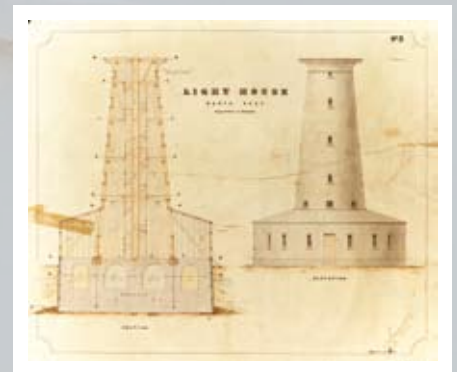
The outstanding example is North Reef lighthouse, built in 1878 near the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef, about 100km offshore from Gladstone. In 1875 Stanley reported that ...

*the reef consists of coral rock covered by about 6 feet of water at high tides and having in centre a bank of sand about 600 feet in length by 40 feet in width.*

The lighthouse is built on a cylindrical iron caisson, or watertight chamber (13m diameter, 4.5m high), sunk into the reef below sea level. The caisson was filled with concrete, with spaces left for rainwater storage. Since the 1870s the sand bank has shifted so that, at times, the caisson has been surrounded by water. At present the lighthouse is surrounded by sand and low trees, with the sand just a step below the floor of the quarters.

With no stable land available, the usual houses could not be built for lighthouse keepers and their families. So North Reef was usually

a 'bachelor' lightstation, with no accommodation for keepers' wives or children. Three keepers' bedrooms, two kitchens, two sitting rooms and a store room were provided in circular quarters around the base of the tower.



The tower is 24m high, the tallest of its type. On top of the tower is the usual lantern house, made by Chance Brothers & Co of Birmingham, with cast-iron base and copper-covered dome roof. At first it had a kerosene wick burner and catadioptric lens rotated by clockwork (a catadioptric system is one that contains both lenses and mirrors). In 1924 the lighthouse was converted to acetylene gas lighting. In 1977 it was converted to automatic diesel-electric operation, and the station was automated. The diesel generators were removed in 1987 and replaced by solar panels and batteries. The present optical apparatus is a self-contained Vega VRB-25 beacon installed on the old Chance Brothers mercury float pedestal. The operation of the beacon is monitored remotely by a satellite telephone link. Technicians make periodic visits by helicopter to replace batteries and service the equipment.

After 30 years of automatic operation the North Reef lighthouse is due for some repairs. AMSA (the Australian Maritime Safety Authority - the Commonwealth agency responsible for marine navigation aids) is planning a program of conservation work. Major items of work include repairs to the balcony floor and to the roof of the quarters to ensure that rainwater does not get into the timber structure, and repairs to rusted iron plating.



# [FOUNDATION STONES]

Our lighthouses occupy some of the most dramatic and beautiful spots up and down the Queensland coast. Those who used to keep the lights blazing will testify that the locations could also be among the most lonely, but for some the isolation was part of the attraction. Over the years the lights that have kept so many ships safe from reefs and rocks have become a symbol of hope in countless novels and movies.

Queensland officially became a separate colony in 1859, inheriting a vast coastline but only a single lighthouse – the stone tower at Cape Moreton, which was built in 1857 and shone as the sole, lonely light along its entire coast. Yet many more followed, with 12 major lighthouses built over the 30-year watch of Portmaster and Chairman of the Marine Board George Poynter Heath, who retired in 1890.

Today there are 10 lighthouses on the Queensland Heritage Register – Bustard Head, Booby Island, Cape Capricorn, Cape Cleveland, Cape Moreton, Double Island Point, the former Cleveland lighthouse, Grassy Hill, Sandy Cape and Woody Island.

## SPOTLIGHT ON QUEENSLAND'S HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSES

### HISTORIC GRAFFITI

As a windswept and barren crag west of Thursday Island in North Queensland, Booby Island is not exactly the most hospitable place imaginable. Yet the island served as a place of refuge for passing ships over many years, thanks to a small cave on its western side that was stocked with provisions.

The original idea was proposed by Captain Hobson of the Rattlesnake, after a crew shipwrecked in the Torres Strait was reportedly killed by tribesmen in the 1830s. With no inhabitants except the birds which gave the place its name, Booby Island could be relied upon as something of a safe haven for sailors.

It was also one of Australia's earliest post offices, with some ships leaving mail in the cave and others collecting it to post when they made it back to civilization.

The cave walls are covered in graffiti, mostly made up of the names of ships passing through and the year of their visit. More modern visitors often report an overwhelming sense of history in the small space, and a close association with the generations of seafarers who have passed through.

Captains of the ships passing by were careful to keep the cave stocked with fresh water, food, rum and other items, knowing they may one day find themselves relying on the island refuge if the weather turned unexpectedly nasty.

The light first shone from the lighthouse on Booby Island in June 1890, and houses were built on the site for keepers and their families. It was run by a team of three lightkeepers before the light was automated and the keepers removed in 1992.

The island was named by Captain James Cook in 1770. On Thursday, 23 August Cook's journal read: Mr Banks and I landed upon it, and found it, except a few patches of wood, to be a barren rock, the haunt of birds, which had frequented it in such numbers, as to make the surface almost uniformly white with their dung: of these birds, the greater part seemed to be boobies; and I therefore named the place Booby Island.

### BACHELORS WANTED: CRAMPED CONDITIONS, REMOTE LOCATION, OCEAN VIEWS.

Lightkeepers with families were generally preferred by the government at most lightstations, but North Reef's harsh conditions made it an exception. Its limited living space and recreation areas made it a destination perfect for bachelor lightkeepers. Given the remote nature of maintaining a lighthouse, those who signed up would have expected to remain bachelors until the end of their stay.

Unlike other lighthouses that were typically located on substantial islands or capes, North Reef Lightstation was embedded on a reef some 100km off the coast of Gladstone.

Around North Reef Lightstation was a shifting coral patch that sometimes formed a small island. The problem was that the patch was unpredictable, and it would often disappear completely only to and reappear at a later date. At times the lighthouse was a stark tower standing isolated and lonely against the sea. Life within it must have felt similar at times.

A poem carved into a whalebone at North Reef captured the mood. It was believed to be the work of A.J. (Jack Mitchell), who was a keeper there from 1949.

It read:

NORTH REEF ATOLL

NO BEER ATOLL

NO WOMEN ATOLL

NOTHING ATOLL

Over the years the island has stabilised into a more permanent affair.

In terms of technology, the lightstation was cutting edge stuff for its time. Colonial architect F.D.G. Stanley proposed to use an iron cylinder to penetrate the sand and rest on the coral. Inside, concrete was poured to form a hollow base for the tower and quarters encircling it. The hollow base allowed for a fresh water tank which supplied the lighthouse.

The Australian Marine Safety Authority published a tender for the repair and refurbishment of the lighthouse on 28 September this year.

**BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT:** Aerial shot of Booby Island in Torres Strait; Booby Island lighthouse. **BOTTOM:** Close-up of Cape Moreton in Moreton Bay. All photos copyright Peter Marquis-Kyle.



HOUSE



## LOVE AT FIRST LIGHT

Cape Moreton's distinctive stone lighthouse was well ahead of its time.

It was Queensland's first lighthouse, but was built before Queensland as a state even existed.

Commencing operations in 1857, the lighthouse was built by the government of New South Wales to mark the northern entrance into Moreton Bay. The Cape Moreton lighthouse was inherited by Queensland after separation two years later.

Winding back the clock even further, Brisbane residents had petitioned the Government for a lighthouse in 1850. The lighthouse was made of stone reportedly quarried by prisoners and is the only stone lighthouse in the state.

Its opening generated a lot of public interest, and saw the beginning of pleasure cruises and day trips from Ipswich and Brisbane into Moreton Bay.

Facilities at the lightstation included a telegraph office that opened in 1864, and this was followed by a school room 15 years later in 1879.

Around 1910 a Morse lamp for signalling was installed, with a recorded range of 20 miles. During the day, signal flags were used for communication.

The lighthouse is noted for its two distinctive red bands, though these were not painted on the tower until 1942.

At 23m high on an elevated site, the lighthouse is also the best place for uninterrupted views across Moreton Island.

SECTION

BELOW LANTERN



*Alfred Brunsell  
Architect  
General Building & Repairment  
September 1852*



# My Favourite Place

STUART BUCHANAN ON BUSTARD HEAD LIGHTSTATION, ABOUT 50KM SOUTH OF GLADSTONE.



Stuart is the author of *The Lighthouse Keepers*, *Lighthouse of Tragedy*, *The View From Pluto* and *Light of their Lives*. He and his wife gave up their professional careers to work as lightkeepers.



TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: Damage by vandals in lightkeeper's cottage at Bustard Head; Stuart works on repairs at the property; interior of Bustard Head lighthouse. All photos by Stuart Buchanan except interior of lighthouse, which is courtesy of Peter Marquis-Kyle.

What drives someone to work physically hard non-stop 12 hours a day, seven days a week for three years without payment? Is it madness or love? In the case of Bustard Head lightstation on the central Queensland coast, I think it was a combination of both.

After 118 years of continuous manned operation, Bustard Head lighthouse, established in 1868 and the first coast light built by the Queensland Government, was automated in 1986 and the lightkeepers withdrawn. For the next 16 years this National and State heritage-listed lightstation suffered at the hands of mindless vandals. The two cottages and auxiliary buildings were extensively damaged; most of the wall panels and all the windows were smashed, roofs were holed, campers burnt holes in the floors, the rainwater tanks were smashed and anything that could be unscrewed was stolen.

## Developments: Scales of justice tip against former courthouse owners

**Flaunting Queensland's heritage laws proved a costly exercise for its former owners, who were fined a total of \$110,000 for unauthorised works at the former Cairns Court House several years ago.**

The former courthouse is entered in the Queensland Heritage Register and is currently trading as the Courthouse Hotel, incorporating a restaurant named the Scales of Justice. Ironically, the scales of justice today tipped heavily against the courthouse's former owners in the Cairns Magistrates Court on 30 October.

Sanbar Holdings Pty Ltd, Dockside Investments Pty Ltd, director of these companies Bob Fransiscus Micola, and Cairns Courthouse Hotel manager Claudio Mangifesta each pleaded guilty to five charges of carrying out assessable development on a registered place under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* without the required development approvals.

In addition to the fine, the former owners will be required to rectify some of the damage, including a wall behind the original judge's bench which was cut to form a doorway to the street.

A series of unauthorised works were completed at the property, including:

- removal of and destruction of the original judge's bench;
- cutting a new doorway into the courtroom wall;
- the erection of a fence on the Abbott Street frontage;
- the erection of a sun shade and other development on the southern side of the building; and
- repainting part of the former courtroom interior



The place looked like a demolition site, to the extent that some people in authority recommended the buildings be bulldozed.

My wife Shirley and I thought otherwise. In the 1970s we spent five glorious years living at Bustard Head as lightkeepers. Apart from being a place of great natural beauty and an important part of Queensland's history, we thought that its tragic stories of murder, abduction, suicide, shipwrecks and drowning should never be forgotten. We had to do something about protecting this precious piece of heritage.

In 1999 Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) invited expressions of interest from the public in regards to four lighthouse properties. Bustard Head was one of them. We formed the Bustard Head Lighthouse Association Inc. and submitted an expression of interest. We had good intentions, but not the \$472,000 required to restore the site. What we did have was the use of an amphibian craft called a LARC. Des Mergard from 1770 Environmental Tours, the company that owned the LARC and ran tourist day trips to Bustard Head, assured us that if we could acquire a lease of Bustard Head, he would transport all building materials free of charge to the island lightstation.

Two years into negotiations with QPWS regarding the lease, I met with the then Minister for Environment and Heritage, Rod Welford.

"The major problem is, Stuart," he said, "the association doesn't appear to have the finances available to carry out the restoration work."

"That's right," I replied, "but we have the opportunity to apply for a \$250,000 Federal Government grant. However, we can't apply for the grant until we have the lease."

"Well, I'm prepared to give you a letter of support stating that if you're successful with the grant, there's every likelihood you'll get the lease," Rod said.

It seemed a strange statement for the Minister to make. What about all the other applicants who had applied for Bustard Head? I discovered later that it wasn't a strange statement at all – we had been the only applicants.

We succeeded in getting a federal grant of \$140,000 and a 20-year lease from QPWS. 1770 Environmental Tours donated \$40,000 and my wife Shirley lent the Association a \$120,000 interest-free loan.

It was full steam ahead. I lived on site, mainly by myself, for the first 12 months in semi-feral conditions. I was then joined by a retired lightkeeper, Dudley Fulton, who helped with the remainder of the project. Our toilet was a hole in the bush. Our shower was a bucket of water in the yard – an invigorating experience in winter, I can assure you. At one period, due to inclement weather, the LARC couldn't visit Bustard Head for a fortnight. We almost ran out of food, and for a week we lived on breakfast cereal and rice.

But it all paid off. Bustard Head is now fully restored. A site manager lives in one cottage, while the other is set up as a display cottage with lighthouse artefacts. Over 5000 LARC tourists a year pay to visit the site, which includes a guided tour through the cottage and a visit to the nearby cemetery. This covers our running costs. I doubt if Shirley will ever get the loan repaid, but as Shirley says:

"I don't care. It is worth every cent just to see Bustard back to what it is today."

Is that love or madness or what?

**Bustard Head Lighthouse Association is interested in hearing from fit, self-funded retiree couples who would like to spend a month or so as site managers at Bustard Head.**

**Contact: Bustard Head Lighthouse Association Inc,  
PO Box 90, Samford QLD 4520.  
Phone (07) 3289 1827 or 0427 002 861.**

**1770 Environmental Tours use amphibious vehicles to visit Bustard Head Lighthouse and the pristine beaches of Bustard Bay. The tours are certified by EcoTourism Australia.  
Visit [www.1770lartours.com.au](http://www.1770lartours.com.au)**

When it was discovered that the owners were conducting unauthorised work, they were asked to stop by the Environmental Protection Agency pending further investigation. The request was ignored and a Stop Order was issued by the former Environment Minister. The \$110,000 in fines was secured by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Queensland Heritage Council chair David Eades said prosecution was always a last resort, but the former owners of the courthouse had flaunted the rules that were in place for its protection.

"The Heritage Council encourages people to adapt heritage buildings for commercial enterprises, but this adaptation needs to be completed with respect to the buildings in question," Mr Eades said.

"The actions of the owners suggest that respect was about the last thing on their minds when they started this redevelopment.

"I can only hope that the fine awarded against Sanbar Holdings may make others think twice before causing such flagrant and irresponsible damage to such an important heritage place."

Mr Eades said he was satisfied with the judgement in the case of the Cairns Courthouse.

"It is a great shame that the state should have to pursue anyone through the courts for damaging a heritage building.

"My wish is that the damage had never occurred, but unfortunately that's simply not possible.

"Cairns has fewer heritage buildings than many other regional centres, making this breach even more disappointing.

"Heritage places help to define who we are. The laws in place for their preservation are fair and reasonable and should be taken into account in the early planning stages of any development."



# CULTURAL HERITAGE NEWS



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: Heritage Awards cocktail function at the Conrad Treasury, Brisbane; Jennie Ginger from Noorla Heritage Resort with friend Gaylyn Morgan.

## NEW LAWS TO IMPROVE PROTECTION OF QUEENSLAND'S HERITAGE

New heritage laws were passed by Queensland Parliament in mid-October. The Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment bill 2007 was supported by both sides of politics as a step forward for heritage preservation in Queensland.

The changes are designed to simplify heritage management and speed up the listing process, as well as offering better protection for the state's special heritage places.

One of the most significant changes was the introduction of minimum maintenance standards for heritage properties to prevent demolition by neglect.

Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation, Andrew McNamara, said the minimum maintenance provisions will bring Queensland into line with other states of Australia which have had them for some time.

"The Queensland Heritage Council, the property development industry and key heritage lobby groups had been consulted during the process and were supportive of the changes," the Minister said.

"The new Act provides a balance between ensuring better protection for heritage places while meeting the need for greater certainty from the development industry.

"This new process allows enough time for a heritage nomination to be properly investigated, while providing a short enough maximum timeframe in which the issue must be decided.

"It's a reflection that positive change was required to streamline the process and reduce red tape, and its support heralds the most important period for heritage in Queensland since the original legislation was passed 15 years ago."

## North Queensland tops state in Heritage Awards

Noorla Heritage Resort in North Queensland has been a winner of a tourism award – now it can add a couple of heritage awards to its trophy case as well.

The Queensland Heritage Awards was one of the final engagements for outgoing Environment Minister Lindy Nelson-Carr before she took up new Ministerial portfolios.

An initiative of the National Trust of Queensland, the awards are run in partnership with the Queensland Heritage Council and the Bendigo Bank. The ceremony was held at the Conrad Treasury Hotel, Brisbane.

Noorla picked up a gold award in the Bendigo Bank category, which covers conservation works on properties not in the Queensland Heritage Register.

The Ingham property – about an hour from Townsville – then went on to take out the night's overall honour, the John Herbert Memorial Award.

Jennie Ginger and Joe Sproats restored the property together and Jennie attended the awards on behalf of the couple. She described the night as "the best thing that could happen to me".

"Restoration is my thing, so the recognition from these awards is really important.

"We felt a bit like pioneers, because there's not much love for old buildings in this area.

"The restoration process was utterly exhausting. The things that came easily in other projects were more difficult, and the

bill just kept going up and up. Then you finish the restoration and you have to start running a business immediately," she said.

The Queensland Government-owned Roma House was the top award winner in the Queensland Heritage Council category, which recognises works on properties that are listed in the Queensland Heritage Register.

Heritage Council chair David Eades was on hand to present the award to the Roma House project team.

The former nurses' quarters has undergone major conservation work to transform it into a facility to give the city's homeless some shelter from the elements.

The judging panel noted the "sensitively controlled" project in the Lady Bowen Precinct in Wickham Terrace, which managed to balance restoration and reconstruction with modern facilities and a contemporary architectural style.

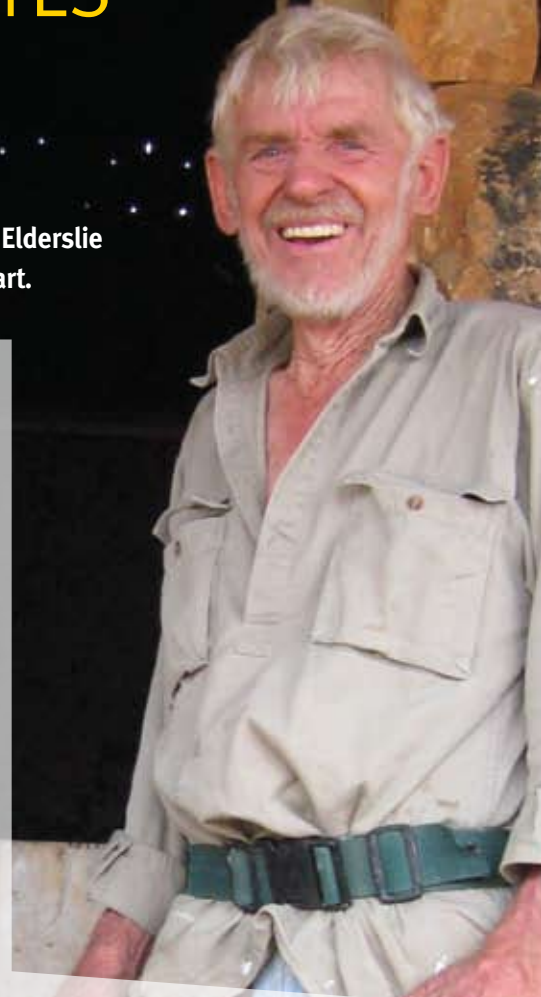
National Trust president Dr Diane Menghetti said the quality of entries in the 2007 Queensland Heritage Awards was "absolutely first class".

"As always, there is a legion of passionate people who have been working tirelessly all year to protect our state's heritage. Some of those have been completing conservation works on their properties, while others have been involved with special projects to promote and interpret Queensland's history."



# GOVERNMENT GRANT REUNITES BUILDER AND HOMESTEAD AFTER 50 YEARS

This year is the second time builder Sam Clarke has worked on the historic Elderslie homestead in North Queensland, but his two visits were a cool 50 years apart.



**MAIN SHOT:** Sam Clarke.  
**INSET:** Elderslie homestead.

The 70-year-old builder was employed by graziers Ian and Sandra Muir after receiving a grant to assist with repairs to their Winton property homestead under the Queensland Government's Living Buildings and Places heritage funding program.

The Muirs received \$46,000 for conservation works and \$4400 to update the existing conservation management plan in the first round of grants earlier this year. The second round has just opened and will close at the end of February 2008. The program is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Our builder is 70 years of age. When he finished his apprenticeship he re-did the roof of this property. That was in 1957," said Mr Muir.

"It's not easy to get tradespeople out to these more remote areas, and you can't just go to the local hardware store and get what you need.

"Sam is based in Caloundra. I met him when he was in Winton 10 years ago and he indicated a wish to be involved if anything needed to be done at the property.

"We are conscious of the fact that what needs to be done is our responsibility as well, but at the moment it would have been difficult to do the work without the grants. The money is of great assistance and is very gratefully received."

Mr Muir said the weather in Winton had been heating up rapidly, and had been as high as 42 degrees recently.

"We're going to get as much work done as we can by 18 November, then Sam will come back during the cooler months."

Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation Andrew McNamara said

\$2.6 million was awarded to 107 heritage properties earlier this year, and a further \$950,000 will be offered in the second round.

"Heritage buildings are best preserved when they continue to be used. The Queensland Government is committed to helping property owners and community groups to complete works on their heritage properties which will see them preserved for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

"The \$5 million Living Buildings and Places program is an important part of a large investment by the Queensland Government in the preservation of our state's heritage places."

The funding round is open from now until the end of February 2008. Application details and application forms can be found at [www.epa.qld.gov.au](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au)



## NEW LISTINGS IN THE QUEENSLAND HERITAGE REGISTER

The Queensland Heritage Register recognises and protects important heritage places throughout the state. The following is a selection of recently entered places. For information about nominating a place for heritage listing, contact (07) 3227 6499 or email [heritage.council@epa.qld.gov.au](mailto:heritage.council@epa.qld.gov.au)

### SOUTHEAST QLD



#### MT COOT-THA FOREST, BRISBANE

Generations of locals and tourists have visited the summit of Mt Coot-tha to make the most of the best view in Brisbane. Its name is thought to have derived from “ku-ta” the aboriginal word for wild honey. Over the years the area has been used as a timber reserve, a military depot during World War II and as a reference point for surveying. There is even evidence of some early gold prospecting.

### SOUTHEAST QLD



#### ORIGINAL MARYBOROUGH TOWN SITE

Established in 1848 and abandoned by 1856, the original Maryborough town site is a glimpse into the early days of settlement. The first town, about 4km north west of modern Maryborough, has remained in a relatively undeveloped state since it was abandoned. The original site was not very suitable as a port to service the area’s sheep runs, and the town was relocated following the advice of a government-appointed surveyor.

### NORTH QLD



#### KAIRI MAIZE SILOS, KAIRI (ATHERTON TABLELAND)

After a complex of 10 silos at Atherton was demolished in March, the four silos at Kairi became the last of three historic maize silo complexes on the Atherton Tableland. The silos were constructed in 1924 and, at 21m high, are a landmark of the local area. A Stop Order was issued by the Environment Minister to give the Environmental Protection Agency sufficient time to investigate the Kairi site.

If you would like to search for further information on these or other places listed in the Queensland Heritage Register please go to the Cultural Heritage page ‘Registers and Inventories’ on the EPA website at [www.epa.qld.gov.au](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au)



**TOP:** Queensland Heritage Council with officers from the Environmental Protection Agency.

**ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT:** Historian Berenice Wright, Heritage Council chair David Eades, Carl Porter from the EPA and Ruth Woods from the Heritage Council.

## HERITAGE COUNCIL MEETS IN MACKAY

The Queensland Heritage Council continued its regional visit program by paying a visit to Mackay earlier this year. While there members met with property owners and city officials, as well as visiting some of the places identified in the state-wide survey of heritage places.

Heritage Council chair David Eades acknowledged the Mackay region’s rich heritage, and said the visit strengthened relationships with the Mackay City Council while providing the opportunity to discuss the future of built heritage in the region.

“The visit was a great opportunity to hear how people in the region view their heritage, and for Heritage Council members to experience it for ourselves,” he said.

The Heritage Council held its monthly meeting while in Mackay as well as hosting its inaugural owners’ forum in the former Mackay Town Hall. Heritage property owners were provided with a chance to have their questions answered by the people who make the key decisions in Queensland.

The Mackay-Whitsunday region was chosen as the first stop for the Queensland Government’s \$2.7 million state-wide survey of heritage places, due to its heritage diversity. A tour run by staff from the EPA took councillors to some of the places identified by the first part of the survey. Stops included Eungella Chalet, the Sugar Research Institute building, and the former Pioneer Shire Council chambers.

Council members were guided on a walking tour of Mackay by well known local historian Berenice Wright. The town is well known for the Art Deco buildings that are a key feature of its CBD.

Mackay is also undergoing a development squeeze, as Queensland’s resources boom is putting upward pressure on property prices and increasing demand for housing. These factors are always a concern for heritage, as property developers in boom times have a tendency to pick out older buildings as fine places to swing a wrecking ball. Mackay’s Deputy Mayor Don Rolls gave his assurance that he was a passionate advocate of the city’s heritage and was interested in preserving it for the future.