

TALKING HERITAGE

" Giving our historic past a sustainable future"



SPRING 2008

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HERITAGE PROGRAM AWARDED

The City of Perth was delighted to have its Heritage Program recognised and awarded by the WA branch of the Planning Institute of Australia at a recent gala event at Government House. The Program received an Award of Excellence for Urban Planning Achievement, the highest level of recognition offered. In their citation, the judges referred to the Program as "an outstanding ongoing program created to address the issue of conserving WA's capital city heritage." The Heritage Program now goes forward to the national award, to be announced in March 2009.



HERITAGE GRANTS 2008/09

For the first time, the City of Perth is offering a second round of grants for heritage places. 23 January may seem a long way off, but if you are interested in seeking funding of up to \$40,000 for conservation works, a conservation plan or other eligible project, now is the time to start. It's always a good idea to talk to us first to outline your plan, and leave yourself plenty of time to get quotes.

DATES TO WATCH

23 January 2009
Deadline for applications for a City of Perth Heritage Grant.

IT'S OFFICIAL – HERITAGE IS GOOD FOR YOU!

A paper in the trade publication for property valuers and agents gives further evidence that heritage listings 'does not have a negative impact on the property value'. The paper, for the Australian and New Zealand Property Journal, also notes that in many cases there is 'a significant heritage premium' that buyers are willing to pay in return for the special character and unique qualities of heritage places. (Warwick Iles, Heritage legislation – does it increase or decrease the value of property; Australian and New Zealand Property Journal, June 2008)

EVERYONE'S GOT A PLAN

2008 seems to be the year for forward planning, with new strategic plans emerging from the City of Perth and the Heritage Council of WA. The City released its 'Purple Paper' as a short term plan, with a full 20-year strategy in development. The Heritage Council's three-year plan states its purpose as being 'To recognise, protect, promote and celebrate heritage for the benefit of the Western Australian community'.

Here at the Heritage Team we have our own plan, through which we hope to achieve our vision 'that Perth's cultural heritage is respected and valued and is an active part of the city'.

"a thread of timelessness running through a rapidly changing environment" *T Darvill*



Lawson Flats by James Russell, 1936.

CONSERVATION PLANS

Those of you who have talked with the Heritage Team will probably have been told about Conservation Plans. We're trying hard to get one of these for each of Perth's heritage places and thought we should explain a bit more.

A Conservation Plan is the operating manual for a heritage property. It explores the history of the place and explains why it's considered to have 'heritage significance'. It also gives current information about the state of repair of the property: what needs fixing now, what may need doing in a few years and what would be good to do when you have some time and money. The Plan for your property is something you can refer to when you are thinking about a renovation or a change of use. A good Conservation Plan will give you all the information you need to decide what changes can be made to the property without spoiling its special character.

The Heritage Council have a good guide that explains what a Conservation Plan should cover, and how it should be used. 'Conservation Plans; A Standard Brief for Consultants' can be downloaded from the publications section of the Heritage Council website (www.heritage.wa.gov.au) or contact 9221 4177 to order a copy.

If you are put off by the cost of a Conservation Plan then don't panic. The Heritage Grants Program may well be able to assist. Once you have your Plan, further funding for conservation works may be available.

BALTHAZAR'S WINNER

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who returned a Heritage Incentives questionnaire to us. We're going through the responses now, so if you have asked for further information you will either be receiving it soon, or it will be included with this newsletter. Our prize draw winner was very elegantly picked out of the hat (or bowl, to be precise) by the Lord Mayor. Mr Robert Carpenter will be enjoying a meal for two at Balthazar's Restaurant in the wonderful Lawson building on the Esplanade. Happy eating!

STILL TALKING

Now that we've had your initial responses on the incentives, follow-up sessions will take place to explore issues in more detail. Those of you who have stated your willingness to take part in further consultation may be invited to a workshop or asked to take part in a phone survey. Any assistance you can offer will help us to ensure that information on heritage incentives reaches the right people in the most efficient way.

If you still have your copy of the questionnaire on your 'to do' list we would welcome any further submissions.

CONTACTS

Information on heritage can be found on the City of Perth website at www.perth.wa.gov.au/heritage
For advice and enquiries please email heritage@cityofperth.wa.gov.au
or telephone: 9461 3249 or 9461 3113

