THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY INC

## **RESEARCH BULLETIN**

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## HERITAGE AND THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS

Geoff Feasey

The Australian Institution of Engineers has in recent years taken an increasing interest in heritage activities, mainly through its National Panel on Engineering Heritage

The Aim of the Institution's heritage activities is:

'To enhance the public image of the profession by drawing to its attention the benefits Engineers have provided to mankind and on which modern society depends - for example, water supply, power supply, transport, communications, sanitation, buildings, fuel and mineral supplies etc.'

Heritage activities, like most others of the Institution, are organised by panels representing its nine regional divisions: ACT, Newcastle, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Sydney, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. These panels meet four to eight times a year.

A National Panel consisting of the Chairpersons of the regional panels plus expert supernumeraries meets twice a year and provides a forum for national planning and information exchange.

The major activities are as follows:

- 1. Placing plaques on National Engineering Landmarks. So far three have been placed Sydney Harbour Bridge, Busby's Bore and the Coolgardie Water Supply Scheme.
- 2. Placing Historic Engineering Markers commemorating other engineering achievements. Eight had been placed by June 1988, the Stump Jump plough being one example.

- 3. Arranging Heritage Conferences every two years, sometimes in collaboration with kindred organisations. The next will be in Perth in 1990, and provisionally in Hobart in 1992.
- 4. Inviting eminent speakers to Australia. The 1988 speaker, for example, was Dr. Neil Cossens, Director of the Science Museum, London.
- 5. Publishing books and papers. Three divisions have completed books recording the engineering heritage of their areas, and another book and various papers have been published on specialised aspects.
- 6. Maintaining links with kindred organisations such as the National Trust, museums, the Royal Australian Historical Society, the Australian Institute of Metallurgy and Mining and the Australian Post Office.

Lobbying for the preservation of threatened engineering works such as Pyrmont Bridge and Busby's Bore.

Providing for the reporting of the nature and location of engineering heritage items and the systematic retention of information on reported items.

The Institution's heritage organisation is also alert for new opportunities such as the promotion of cultural tourism in the engineering field.

It would be good to report that the Institution's enthusiasts are also heavily involved in a large number of preservation projects. The reality is that our scope for such projects is limited: a pump is being restored here, a sawmill there. The basic problem is simply the high cost of restoring, and thereafter maintaining, major works such as the early examples of electric cranes at Newcastle.

However, even if money could be found for all the projects which heritage enthusiasts would like to undertake, the Institution faces the perennial problem of finding, from the ranks of its professional engineers, most of whom are still working, sufficient volunteer effort for its many activities in the heritage field and elsewhere.

Included for the information of members of the Society is a sample of the Institution's Engineering Heritage Report Form and the contact details of the current members of the National Panel on Engineering Heritage.

(This information was presented in a short address to the Eighth Annual ASHA Conference, September 1988 by Geoff Feasey of the Canberra Division of the Australian Institution of Engineers. - Eds)

		THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, AUSTRALIA FNGINEERING HERITAGE REPORT FORM			1. REGISTER No.: (for office use)	
2.	NATURE OF SITE/OBJECT: (Engine House, Generator etc					
	NAME OF SITE/OBJECT:		4. INDUSTRY:	5. IN DANGER OF DAMAGE OR	6. STATE OF REPAIR:	
				DEMOLITION YES/NO		
7.	LOCATION: Map and Grid Ref. Address			8. POSTCODE	9. LOCAL GOVT. AREA OF LOCATION	
10.	DESCRIPTION: (Dimensions, Special Features, Particulars or Please attach one or more photographs if possible.	of Construction, Purpose)	an manana mangkan kanangkan sa sa mangkan sa		Construction of the second straight provide the second straight provide the second straight provide strai	
11.	NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER: 12. TELEPHONE NO; OF OWNER:					
13.	DATE OF MANUFACTURE/CONSTRUCTION/DESTRUCTION 14. MAKE/MANUFACTURER/DESIGNER/SER No./MODEL/PATENT No./COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE/ TOWN OF MANUFACTURE					
15.	PRINCIPAL MATERIAL/S OF CONSTRUCTION OR MANUF.					
16,	PURPOSE FOR WHICH NOW USED:					
17.	EXTENSIONS/RENOVATIONS/MODIFICATIONS EXTENT/DATES					
18.	IMPORTANCE/SIGNIFICANCE OF SITE/OBJECT: (See of	verleaf)				
21	REPORTED BY: 19. PUBLISHED REFS:			20. LOCATION OF ANY PLANS, REPORTS ETC.		
	ADDRESS:					
22.	DATE			23. CLASSIFICATION: (for office use)		
44.						
24.	OTHER LISTINGS: (for office use) (e.g. National Estate Register, National Trust Classification, State Heritage List)		of ENGINE	PLEASE RETURN TO:	1. REGISTER No.: (for office use)	
	negister, National Frust Classification, State Heritage List)		The second secon	The Institution of Engineers, Australia, Engineering Heritade Sub-Committee		

## NATIONAL PANEL ON ENGINEERING HERITAGE CONTACT SHEET

367: 3/6/13 23 August 1988

TITLE	NAME Initials, preferred name in brackets	ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	BUSINESS PHONE incl STD and Telex Number	HOME PHONE
Chairman Mr	for 1988. J I (John) MUIRHEAD Remains a Sydney Division rep. in 1989.	PO Box 439 5 Northcliff Street MILSONS POINT NSW 2061	(02) 959 3255 Fax (02) 922 3289	(02) 489 6248
Mr	K.C. (Keith) DREWITT	9 Senator Street NEWTOWN TAS 7008		(002) 283 700
Mr	G.C. (Geoff) FEASEY	4 Yampi Place FISHER ACT 2611	(062) 499 243	(062) 888 963
Dr	D J (Don) FRASER	School of Civil Engineering The University of NSW PO Box 1 KENSINGTON NSW 2033	(02) 697 5029 Fax (02) 663 2188	(02) 337 4867
Mr	D C (Deane) KEMP	33 Fullarton Road KENT TOWN SA 5062	(08) 363 1000 Fax (08) 363 0110	(08) 276 7293
Mr	K G (Ken) MCINNES 1989 Chairman Elect	53 Aurum Crescent RINGWOOD VIC 3134	(03) 651 2944 Fax (03) 651 1744	(03) 870 2541
Mr	A (Tony) MOULDS	8 Warrigal Way GREENWOOD W A 6024	(09) 420 2196 Telex AA95140 Fax (09) 328 2619	(09) 447 0105
m Prof	I McC (Ian) STEWART	7 Anzac Parade NEWCASTLE NSW 2300		(049) 293 357
Em.Pro	f R L (Ray) WHITMORE	Dept. of Mining & Metal Engg. University of Queensland ST LUCIA QLD 4067	(07) 377 3737 Telex 40315 Fax (07) 371 5896	(07) 371 2537
orrespo	nding Member			
Mr	D A (Denis) CUMMING	Senior Lecturer Department of Civil Engineering University of Adelaide GPO 498 ADELAIDE SA 5001	(08) 228 5485 Telex 89141	(08) 271 7347
Mr	D J (David) FREEMAN	J (David) FREEMAN 19 Clarke Street ALICE SPRINGS N T 5750		
Mr	J C (Jim) WHITEHEAD	Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy 191 Royal Parade PARKVILLE VIC 3052	(03) 347 3166	

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