



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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MINISTER WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO PEAK HERITAGE BODY

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett today appointed three heritage specialists to join Australia's peak heritage body, the Australian Heritage Council.

"I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Adjunct Professor Sharon Sullivan AO, Associate Professor Peter Valentine and Dr Jackie Huggins AM FAHA to the Australian Heritage Council. Each is an eminent expert in their field, and each will bring a wealth of experience to their new role on the Australian Heritage Council," Mr Garrett said.

"Professor Sullivan has extensive experience in archaeology and cultural heritage management developed over a career spanning three decades. An Adjunct Professor at three Australian universities, Professor Sullivan was awarded an AO in the Australia Day Honours List for services to local and international cultural heritage conservation.

"Professor Valentine is a researcher and lecturer in Environmental Science at James Cook University. He has worked extensively on World Heritage matters and has published works on sustainability science, biogeography, ecology and conservation.

"Dr Huggins is an Indigenous author and honorary Doctor of the University of Queensland. In 2000 she received the Premier's Millennium Award for Excellence in Indigenous Affairs, followed by a Centenary Medal in 2001 for her work with Indigenous communities. She was also a member of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation from 1995 to 2000 and co-chair of Reconciliation Australia from 2002 to 2008. Dr Huggins is of the Bidjara and Birri-Gubba Juru people.

"I greatly appreciate the valuable contribution the Australian Heritage Council has made over the past four years and I look forward to continuing to work with the new and remaining members of the Council to identify, protect and promote Australia's outstanding national heritage.

"I would like to thank the three retiring members Dr Jane Lennon, Dr Denis Saunders, and Dr Gaye Sculthorpe, and associate member the Hon Richard Lewis, for their expertise and untiring efforts in the protection of our special heritage places.

"With their specialist heritage expertise in historic, natural and Indigenous heritage, these members have played a key role in the development of the National Heritage List, which currently includes 81 unique places that are of outstanding heritage value to the nation.

"These include iconic places such as the Australian Alps and Bondi Beach, through to less well known but equally significant places such as Myall Creek Massacre and Memorial Site.

For more information on the Australian Heritage Council visit www.heritage.gov.au