

Australia ICOMOS E-Mail News No. 19

An information service provided by the Australia ICOMOS Secretariat

(17 April 2002)

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Register today for the *Islands of Vanishment Conference 7-10 June 2002 Port Arthur Tasmania.*

ICOMOS General Assembly Moves to Madrid

In view of the current situation in Zimbabwe the International ICOMOS Bureau has decided to hold its 2002 General Assembly in Madrid, Spain. The dates have also changes slightly and it will now take place from **30 November 2002 to 4 December 2002**. The General Assembly also includes a three-day scientific symposium. There is a 25% discount on bookings made before 31 July 2002. For further information check the Events section of the Australia ICOMOS website: <http://www.icomos.org/australia>

Employment openings at the Australian Heritage Commission

The following positions are available at the Australian Heritage Commission:

Historic Environment Advice Section

Senior Conservation Officers

EA Level 6

\$48,127 - \$55,697

Reference Numbers: 2388 & 2599

TWO NON-ONGOING (TEMPORARY) POSITIONS (8-10 months)

The key duties of the positions are: Provide technical advice on the conservation of heritage places, manage projects and carry out research related to the activities of Environment Australia and the Australian Heritage Commission.

To successfully fulfil this role, you will need: Technical, strategic and project management skills relevant to the historic environment.

Special requirements: Appropriate qualifications related to the

professional/technical duties of the positions would be an advantage.

Selection documentation may be obtained from: Eric Tierney on (02) 6274 2131 or via the internet at www.ea.gov.au/jobs

Information regarding the position may be obtained from: Lynden Ayliffe on (02) 6274 2128

Closing date for applications: COB Monday 29 April 2002

Applications should be forwarded to:

Ms Lynden Ayliffe
Historic Environment Advice Section
Department of the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Historic Environment Assessment Section

Conservation Officer

EA Level 6

\$48,127 - \$55,697

Reference Number: 1419

ONGOING POSITION

The key duties of the positions are: Provide technical advice on the assessment and conservation of historic heritage places, manage projects and carry out research related to the activities of Environment Australia and the Australian Heritage Commission.

To successfully fulfil this role, you will need: Technical skills in the assessment of heritage values as well as research, strategic and project management skills.

Special requirements: Appropriate qualifications related to the professional/technical duties of the positions would be an advantage.

Selection documentation may be obtained from: Eric Tierney on (02) 6274 2131 or via the internet at www.ea.gov.au/jobs

Further information may be obtained from: Richard Morrison on (02) 6274 2133

Closing date for applications: COB Thursday 2 May 2002

Applications should be forwarded to:

Mr Richard Morrison

Historic Environment Assessment Section
Australian Heritage Commission
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

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**Historic Environment Assessment Section**  
**Conservation Officer**  
EA Level 4  
\$40,319 - \$43,509  
Reference Number: 2397

**NON-ONGOING (TEMPORARY) POSITION (11 months)**

**The key duties of the positions are:** Provide technical advice on the assessment and conservation of historic heritage places, assist in the management of projects and carry out research related to the activities of the Australian Heritage Commission.

**To successfully fulfil this role, you will need:** Technical skills in the assessment of heritage values, project management skills and ability to work in a small team.

**Special requirements:** Appropriate qualifications related to the professional/technical duties of the positions would be an advantage.

**Selection documentation may be obtained from:** Eric Tierney on (02) 6274 2131 or via the internet at [www.ea.gov.au/jobs](http://www.ea.gov.au/jobs)

**Further information may be obtained from:** Richard Morrison on (02) 6274 2133

**Closing date for applications:** COB Thursday 2 May 2002

**Applications should be forwarded to:**

Mr Richard Morrison  
Historic Environment Assessment Section  
Australian Heritage Commission  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Indigenous Australians are encouraged to apply.

Additional information about the Department may be accessed via the Internet address: <http://www.ea.gov.au>

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Cultural Destruction in the Middle East

The Palestinian National Committee of ICOMOS, established in February 2002, has, as its first official communication to its fellow national committees, the sad task to inform you of the ongoing obliteration of the architectural heritage in the West Bank's largest city, Nablus, by Israeli occupation forces.

The Israeli reoccupation of Palestinian towns and villages, which began on March 29 and is still ongoing, has brought havoc to the urban cores of Palestinian towns, including their culturally rich historic old cities which date back two millennia. The vast majority of the damage has not been the result of crossfire or war "collateral damage." The destruction, which can best be described as **cultural vandalism**, has been a major military objective, similar to the practices of ethnic cleansing carried out in other parts of the world. Israeli forces have made no distinction between new and historic buildings, businesses, homes or places of worship in their rage of systematic destruction in Nablus, Bethlehem, Ramallah and Jenin over the past two weeks.

The greatest damage to Palestinian cultural heritage has been in Nablus and Bethlehem, where even the movement of cars and heavy machinery had been banned inside the old cities to prevent vibrations from damaging the architecture. Israeli military forces have used tanks and bulldozers to cut pathways into the 2-3 meter wide streets, and to remove buildings in their way. F-16 fighters and Apache helicopters have made pinpointed missile assaults from the air on Nablus's Ottoman-era structures such as *khans*, an 18th century *hammam* (public bath), a traditional soap factory and a number of exceptional historic family palaces. A side door of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, regarded as Christ's birthplace, was blown out and mosaics shattered by snipers. Jamal Abdul Nasser mosque, on Manger Square, was burned. (at right: Nablus under attack; ruins of a 3-story building.)

Both old cities are well-preserved and together are home to about 40,000 persons. The international community has donated millions of dollars for restoration efforts in Manger Square and elsewhere in Bethlehem to coincide with the millennium celebrations. Nablus, the commercial hub of the West Bank in continuous use since Roman times, had recently carried out repaving, infrastructure renovation and restorations with international and local funds. Most of this careful cultural heritage preservation work has been undone over the past two weeks.

"The destruction of existing buildings is the destruction of multiple cultural layers of civilization. It is not just a crime against Palestine but a crime against world culture," said Palestinian historian and preservation activist Nazmi Ju'abi. "Large swathes of destruction have been 'cleaned' by bulldozers to remove traces of what was once there."

The press, particularly photographers, have been effectively barred from the

West Bank, and cities are still under round-the-clock curfews, enforced by Israeli snipers. A handful of relief workers have reported scenes of “flattening,” similar to a large-scale war.

The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) clearly calls for “refraining from any act of hostility directed against such [cultural] property.” We urge you to protest to your government this robbing of cultural heritage from the Palestinian people and from the world community, in 2002, United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, for which UNESCO has been designated the UN lead agency.

Palestinian National Committee of ICOMOS
c/o Riwaq@palnet.com / jrp@palnet.com

Celebrating Mountains Conference

An Australian Alps Conference & Events 23 – 28 November 2002

The Australian Alps Liaison Committee (AALC) is hosting a conference and events as part of International Year of Mountains (IYM), to be held in **Jindabyne** (NSW) from Saturday 23rd November through to Thursday 28th November 2002

It is anticipated up to 300 participants will attend the conference which will include major field visits; plenary sessions; concurrent sessions; concurrent site visits; and an industry/ trade exhibition & poster displays. Sessions will be presented by speakers from Australia and overseas, from both within and external to the Australian Alps agencies, and will include land managers from environment and related agencies, scientists, cultural heritage specialists, researchers and other professionals and practitioners in relevant fields. **ICOMOS will assist with the development of the cultural heritage program.**

What is International Year of Mountains?

The United Nations has declared 2002 the International Year of Mountains (IYM2002). The aim of the declaration is to increase awareness of the importance of mountain regions including sustainable development.

Australian mountains play a very important role in the quality of life for Australians. They are a major source of water, hydroelectric energy, biodiversity and recreation. Their cultural and heritage values have been considered outstanding, and are on a par with many world heritage listed areas.

For more information about International Year of the Mountains visit the IYM website at www.mountains2002.org.

What are the themes?

The conference will showcase natural & cultural heritage and recreation and tourism issues relevant to the Australian Alps and other mountainous protected areas. It will also seek to provide an opportunity to present best practice management examples from other mountain regions around the world. The conference will cover three main themes and the links between them:

Mountains for the Future ...a theme relating to the conservation and restoration of mountain landscapes

- Developing a scientific base for identifying the thresholds to change and impacts
- Identifying emerging threats to mountain landscapes

Mountains for Tourism ...a theme relating to sustainable mountain tourism and recreation

- Tourism and recreation use and management
- Social and economic benefits of mountain tourism
- Identification and opportunities for sustainable ecological tourism

Mountains of Meaning ...a cultural heritage theme

- Inspirational and spiritual values of mountains to the community
- Incorporation of cultural heritage values into natural resource management and tourism and recreation

Conference scope & outcomes

The conference aims to increase awareness of all aspects of the Australian Alps national parks: science, environmental management, cultural heritage, sustainable tourism and recreation, visitor management and community participation.

Conference Coordinator

For all registrations, accommodation and post conference enquiries contact:

Janet Mackay & Associates

43 James Street, Berridale NSW 2628 Australia

Telephone: 61-(02) 64563876

Facsimile: 61-(02) 64564022

Email: IYM@bigpond.com.au

You can download a brochure from the Australia ICOMOS website at :

<http://www.icomos.org/australia>

No E-Mail News Next Week

The Australia ICOMOS Secretariat will be closed next week.

The next E-Mail News will appear on Wednesday 1 May 2002.

Employment Openings

Details of the following jobs are currently listed on the Australia ICOMOS website:

- **Archaeologist**
- **Heritage Practitioner / Conservation Architect**
- **Senior Conservation Officers Two positions (Australian Heritage Commission)**
- **Conservation Officer. Two positions (Australian Heritage Commission)**
- **Conservator at the City of Adelaide**
- **Museum Assistant (Lilydale VIC)**

- Heritage Consultant/architect
- Manager, Guiding (Port Arthur Historic Site, Tasmania)
- Apprentice Stonemason

Diary

18 April: ICOMOS World Heritage Day. Further info:

<http://www.international.icomos.org/18april.htm>

19-20 April: Course: Protecting Local Heritage Places: Practical Tools & Techniques (RMIT Melbourne) For more information, an outline of the program and to register please look at

<http://www.rmit.edu.au/tce/ssp/ap/shortcourses> or contact RMIT Training on 1800 067 117

If you would like to suggest an event, story, course etc for the Australia ICOMOS E-Mail News or submit an article, send an e-mail to the Australia ICOMOS Secretariat at: austicomos@deakin.edu.au

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2002 is the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage

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