

August, a new National Heritage Policy.

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From the Commonwealth website; a quick summation of some issues.

- First Nations: recognising and respecting the crucial place of these stories at the centre of our arts and culture.
- A place for every story: reflecting the diversity of our stories and the contribution of all Australians as the creators of culture.
- The centrality of the artist: supporting the artist as worker and celebrating their role as the creators of culture.
- Strong institutions: providing support across the spectrum of institutions which sustain our arts and culture.
- Reaching the audience: ensuring our stories reach the right people at home and abroad.

Pillar 1. Land, landscape(s), place(s) evolve and have done so, since the dawn of time. This will happen whether people occupy land or not.

The stories of the First Nations' People are vital and need to be told. It's more than that, *because destruction of land and First Nations' landscapes and places keep happening*. That has to stop; land does not just belong to people, organisations, corporate owners.

Landscape evolution belongs to us all through the place(s), landscapes, concerned and the stories that relate to those places.

Early years were brutal in New South Wales, and Tasmania, that is acknowledged and that cannot be denied.

Pillar 2. Yes, there has to be a place for every story. Stories told with energy, with feeling, imagination, memories, are all critical to how we live on the land that we live on.

Pillar 3. I believe First Nations' art is wonderful because it is so "alive", so creative, and it is telling the story. Yes, celebrate the artist, the stories, their role as creators of ancient culture.

Pillar 4. I don't want any changes to devolve into a "them" and "us" scenario. It must "flow" seamlessly across the occupation of land by all peoples. The challenge is to view heritage as an evolution of place, place(s), lands and landscapes across time.

As well to understand that land, landscapes, places need to be articulated as being "places" that are "alive." From the rocks in which creatures live, then geology, vegetation, soils, topography, flora, fauna, then people, it all lives. The illustration on page 3 gives a starting insight into how "place", land, landscapes might be approached, going forward.

Global warming and climate change hangs over all of this.

In 2006¹ it was announced that the Commonwealth would not handle heritage any longer. A five-year period 2007-2012 was given as the transition of heritage to the states.

New South Wales was settled by the British with its white occupants (1788), Tasmania followed, (1803). Tasmania has a considerable heritage of very early places, of landscapes, forms, buildings etc. with at the time (2006) some held on the Register of the National Estate. Most however were buildings, and most were located in either in Hobart and or Launceston. Rural landscapes, rural lands, historic villages fared badly. The state government here, largely passed heritage to local governments, who didn't have either the finances or people to "do" the requisite work. Thus, successive governments were either not interested in heritage, and certainly made no provision at the state level for a well-funded, adequately resourced Department of Planning and Heritage, (still doesn't have one in 2022).

Tasmania does not recognise what are called cultural landscapes, now acknowledged nationally and internationally. The TWWHA would be a cultural landscape, additional different landscapes within that area. Tasmania wants to allow development within this landscape. There is an increasing push by developers, who want more and more tourism.

As a part of enormous change(s), the Tasmania Government from 2014 instituted its one state planning scheme, (across the entire state) which will be a disaster for heritage, land and landscapes, place(s) if allowed to continue.

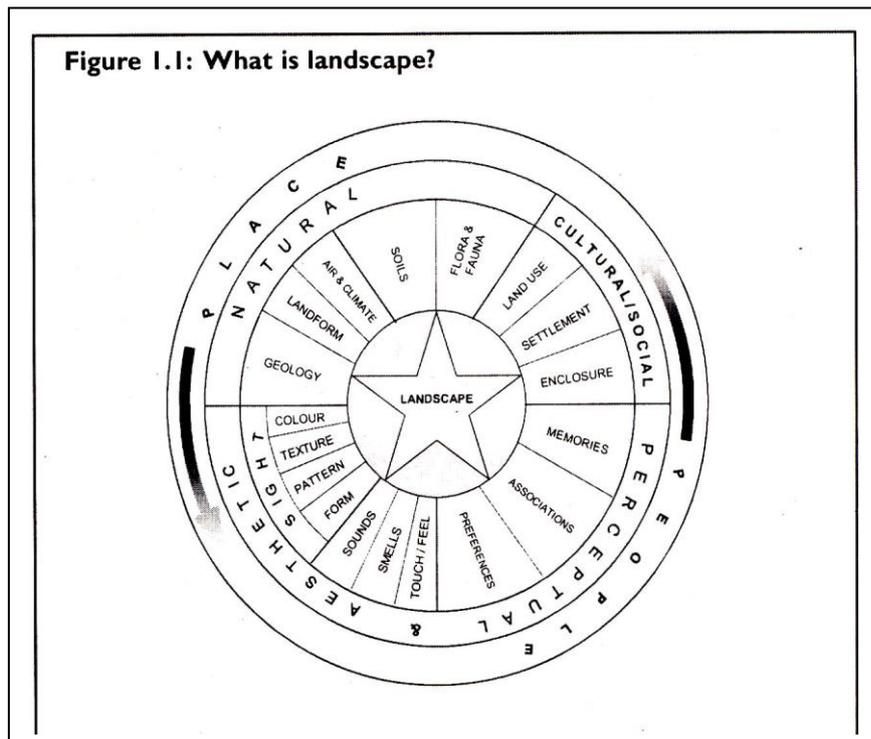
Australian Heritage should be devolved back to the Commonwealth as it was prior to 2006. It needs to be taken out of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act and have an Act of its own, as previously. If one Act is too complicated for both First Nations and for colonial and subsequent occupiers then have a second one. It would give back the voice for all Australian heritage that was lost in 2006 and there afterwards.

In heritage we talk about "place", character of place, sense of place, and "land" which is alive with its history. Innumerable parameters have to be considered. How these places are "managed" and regulated can be done by an efficient, well managed Department of Planning linked to Heritage. There is the Burra Charter and J.S. Kerr documents (ICOMOS, 2013) which are recognised nationally and internationally, but too often ignored these are ignored by those who ought to know better.

How the land is actually "used" is another most critical issue. Tasmania has a Land Use Planning and Approvals Act, 1993 and its Schedule 1 offered a clear schemata of how land was to be managed and regulated. However too many "land uses" remain outside of this Act; viz forestry, tourism, fishing.

In the absence of anything coming from the Government re landscape, in my work I have used the following: at least it offers some insights into the complexity, of how landscapes might be approached.

¹ Productivity Commission Inquiry Report. No 37, 6 April 2006. *Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places*. 430pp.



Adapted from: Carys Swanwick and Land Use Consultants. *Landscape Character Assessment. Guidance for England and Scotland*. Prepared for the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage. 2002. p. 2

For colonial history, the archives, museums, both at state and national level need to be funded appropriately by the Commonwealth. For the researcher, who comes in “cold” to appraise a development, and a place, these organisations are vital. It depends on the depth and richness of what the archive, museum has collected across time that is critical, this from documents, art work, and more.

- People and place are intertwined and interconnected. Ever since there have been people; the dictum above holds. There is a Life-World connected to place and to people. People “experience” place and landscape. This is well documented in the literature.
- Land, place, landscape cannot just be ignored as though it is not important.
- Going forward means that to understand "place", is a critical issue and cannot continue to be ignored. That is place(s) their evolved character, area(s) involved, their natural/cultural environments, heritage, stories, people(s); all must be integrated, interconnected and well understood in planning.
- Excellent research is a prerequisite, the forerunner of dimensions and meanings, and whole understandings, stories, which emerge from those places and areas.
- *Only then, can the regulation, management of those places be dealt with integrity, with strong insights, with legislation that the majority can understand, and use in ways moving forward.*

Pillar 5. Most people are not involved with heritage in an intimate way. And yet they are daily, given they live in a place, and place is intimately a part of all cultural heritage. It is vital to involve the public to a greater degree. For Australia to have a cultural heritage voice at the Federal level.

Very Brief Bio.

Full member International Council on Monuments and Sites, A-ICOMOS, ISC-CL, (International Scientific Committee, cultural landscapes). I am also a member of the Planning Institute of Australia, and the Australian Garden History Society. Appeared before the Commonwealth Land Use Policy debate in 1984. With others put places on the World Heritage List, (2006, 2007). I live in Tasmania; my working life (50 years) has been research; revolving around heritage-landscape-planning.