



GET THE FACTS - HERITAGE INFORMATION SERIES

23. HERITAGE INTERPRETATION

Heritage interpretation is any communication process designed to reveal meanings and relationships of cultural and natural heritage to the public, through first hand involvement with an object, artefact, landscape, monument or site. It is a communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource. Heritage interpretation may be performed at dedicated interpretation centres or at museums, historic sites, parks, nature

centres, zoos, aquaria, botanical gardens, and a host of other heritage sites. Its modalities can be extremely varied and may include guided walks, talks, drama, staffed stations, displays, signs, brochures and electronic media. Those who practice this form of interpretation may be called guides, communicators, educators or visitor services staff. The heritage of New South Wales is identified and protected as a means of securing and maintaining landscape, places and objects valued as part of Australian culture and history.

Heritage is a cultural asset. It forms part of the identity of NSW, its regions and communities. It is linked with other aspects of culture and tradition and is part of the environment and community life. Heritage conservation seeks to sustain the values of heritage landscapes, places and objects both individually and collectively so that the community and visitors can continue to appreciate, experience and learn from them and about them. This facilitates the passing of cultural heritage significance to successive generations.