



OUR HERITAGE – THEIR STORIES

Telling Tales of Heritage Places

The Department for Environment and Heritage introduced the Schools Heritage Competition in 2003 as one initiative to improve South Australian students' understanding of the diversity and significance of our State's built heritage. This annual competition encourages students to identify with their heritage and to appreciate their local history, community and built environment. It also provides opportunities for students to link school curricula to a meaningful and rewarding project, and to apply modern information and communications technologies to promote important heritage concepts.

2005 THEME – THE RATIONALE

Built heritage is valued and conserved as the physical evidence of the stories of our past. In some cases it is the architectural or technological significance that is important, but more often it is the place's associations with people or events that make it special. Some of these connections date from South Australia's 'early days', but others are part of living memory.

Some stories are significant to just an individual or family, while others are part of a community's identity, or relate more broadly to the State's history. These stories may be individual, for example of achievement, hardship, triumph, disaster, joy, sorrow or daily life, or they may be community stories of settlement, celebration, shared experiences or joint use.

Simply stated, this year's theme, *OUR HERITAGE – THEIR STORIES: Telling Tales of Heritage Places*, encourages students to discover the stories of local heritage places and to share those stories with others. It is anticipated that students will utilise a variety of community resources, such as local reference and photographic collections, but that they will also value their own associations with a place and appreciate the memories of family and community members.

INTERPRETING THE 2005 THEME

The 2005 Schools Heritage Competition theme offers a wide choice of activities and interpretation for students and teachers. For example,

- **'Our Heritage'** can relate to individual families, to a local community, or more widely across the State.
- **'Their Stories'** might be interpreted as the story of the place, but it might also refer to the people associated with that place, or even to the students' own memories and associations.
- **'Telling Tales'** asks students to seek out and retell the stories (accounts, anecdotes, yarns or narratives) associated with a place. These might be commonly-known tales, perhaps of accepted historical importance, but they could also be the 'secret' personal stories of people's reminiscences. The word 'telling' is itself open to interpretation – as a verb it is synonymous with informing and narrating, but as an adjective it can mean important, powerful, impressive or revealing.
- **'Heritage Places'** are often viewed as grand buildings, but this is not necessarily the case. Built heritage includes a diverse assortment of buildings, structures and features of State, local or personal significance.

Possible projects could involve:

- creating an electronic storybook
- oral history presentations (through video, PowerPoint, etc)
- comparing the stories and significance of places for different generations
- photo essays of the use and significance of places over time
- creating trails or walking tours that tell the 'secrets' or little known stories of places

- designing an interpretation panel or brochure to share the stories of significant places
- tracking neighbourhood change over time, through people's stories and memories of places
- identifying potentially significant heritage places
- establishing the significance of sensitive or threatened community places
- highlighting significant places in newly established neighbourhoods ('heritage' doesn't necessarily mean 'old')
- investigating graves at cemeteries
- mapping significant places or streetscapes related to community stories
- identifying places with personal stories for students.
- ... and many other possible activities that relate to people's memories of places!

The challenge is to use the stories of heritage places **to deliver a heritage message to a target audience**, such as other students, senior citizens or the local council. The message may be as general as '*why this place is valued*', or '*our heritage is important*', but it might also aim to promote discussion, to change the perception of an area, to challenge accepted practice or to influence decision-makers.

FORMAT & STYLE

- **All entries must be developed using ICT (Information and Communications Technologies) format.**
- The choices of style and software are open
- Possibilities include
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - iMovies
 - webpages or websites.
 - brochures or interpretive signs using desktop publishing programs.
 - interactive multimedia productions
 - linking digital images to text or other data
 - scanning and inserting maps, photographs and hand-drawn images

CATEGORIES & PRIZES

- Individual or small group entries are invited in four year-group categories:
 - Years R – 3
 - Years 4 – 5
 - Years 6 – 7
 - Years 8 – 10
- For each category there will be two winning entries
 - *MOST OUTSTANDING* – \$200 cash prize
 - *HIGHLY COMMENDED* – \$100 cash prize

JUDGING

The members of the judging panel may vary, depending on the year level category, but each panel will comprise four judges representing the SA State Heritage Authority, the Heritage Branch (DEH), the Technology School of the Future and practising class teachers

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- While the format of the competition highlights the use of Information and Communications Technologies, the **main focus is the students' key message related to the theme.**
- The main considerations re content will be
 - an understanding of **built heritage**, its associations with community and its value for the future.

- clear and logical presentation of key ideas and information.
- appropriate language and choice of media for the target audience.
- the quality and accuracy of the entry in regard to grammar, spelling and presentation.
- Assessment will not be influenced by the type of entry, such as linear or interactive, although interesting and unusual applications of software will be noted.

ENTRY GUIDELINES

- **It is a condition of entry that the Heritage Branch of the Department for Environment and Heritage has permission to display or otherwise use the presentation for promotional and education purposes.**
- If the program used to create the entry is limited or unique, then the school must agree to provide a copy of the software (if requested).
- Some entry types have restrictions
 - videos should not exceed **three minutes**.
 - PowerPoint presentations are limited to **12 slides** and, if used, **special effects should add meaning to the message being conveyed**. Students should be encouraged to consider their use of sound and visual effects.
- Entries should be submitted on disc (preferably CD, but floppy discs will also be accepted) together with any necessary instructions for viewing the presentation.
- If appropriate a hard-copy version of the entry should also be included.
- A completed entry form should accompany each entry. This form will be emailed to participating schools in August.
- **Up to three (3) entries only per class will be accepted for judging**. It is therefore essential that students and teachers pre-select which entries will represent their class.
- If group entries include students from different year levels, the entry will be judged in the category appropriate to the oldest student.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

- All teachers are encouraged to contact the Heritage Branch for advice and further information. The Heritage Education Officer can discuss topics most appropriate to your students and assist with programming and information about local heritage
- A PowerPoint presentation, ***Understanding South Australia's Built Heritage*** (Parts 1 & 2) was developed in 2004 to provide teachers with an understanding of the diversity of the State's built heritage. It is recommended as essential viewing for teachers and may be either appropriate or adapted for students (depending on the year levels). The PowerPoint is available on the *Education & Research* page of the Heritage Branch website (www.heritage.sa.gov.au).
- Past competitions have attracted many quality entries from across the State. Winning entries for both the 2003 and 2004 competitions can also be viewed from *the Education & Research* page of the Heritage Branch website (www.heritage.sa.gov.au). These entries are excellent examples of the diversity of approaches that classes have used in the past.

TIMELINE

- registration of interest by **Friday 27 May**
- closing date for entries **Friday 9 September**
- announcement of winners **on 2 November 2005** at Urrbrae House

**For further information about either the competition or South Australia's built heritage, or to discuss ideas or projects suitable for your students and community, contact
Robyn Hartell – phone 8124 4957.**