Thursday 9 October 2014

**New appointments to Heritage Council**

* **New Chair of Heritage Council appointed**
* **Award winning architect joins council**
* **Appointments bring passion and expertise to heritage matters**

Planning Minister Matthew Guy has announced the appointment of a new chair, one new member and the appointment of two formerly alternate members as full members to the Heritage Council of Victoria.

Mr Guy said the new appointments, made under the *Heritage Act*, ensured the council would be guided by highly qualified professionals with a demonstrated interest in heritage and planning.

The ten member Heritage Council of Victoria is appointed by the Governor in Council upon the recommendation of the Planning Minister.

Legal member Mary Urquhart has been appointed the new Chair of the Heritage Council, replacing architect Daryl Jackson AO who retired in June after six years as Chair.

New member Callum Fraser has been appointed as a full member with expertise in architectural conservation or architectural history. Alternate member Tony Darvall has been appointed a full Member of the Heritage Council with legal expertise, and alternate member Trish Vejby has been appointed a full Member in the General Member category.

Ms Urquhart has recognised skills in law and governance that will be well utilised in her role as Chair of the Heritage Council. A barrister and solicitor, she is currently a part time member of the Refugee Review Tribunal, and a member of the Migration Review Tribunal. Ms Urquhart was previously Deputy President of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Deputy Commissioner, Victorian Liquor Licensing Commission.

Callum Fraser is director of the prominent Melbourne firm Elenberg Fraser. He is a registered architect and previous Chapter Councillor of the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA).

Mr Tony Darvall has more than 35 years’ experience as a partner of law firm Corrs Chambers Westgarth. He is currently the chairman of the Audit Committee of VicRoads and deputy chairman of Linking Melbourne Authority and has previously served as chairman of VicUrban and the Werribee Park Advisory Board.

General member Trish Vejby has a demonstrated understanding of and interest in Victoria’s heritage. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Western Health and has substantial governance experience on many community committees and boards of management including the Board of Commissioners of Legal Aid.

“These new appointments bring specialist skills and great passion to the task of protecting and conserving places and objects of cultural heritage significance to the state,” Mr Guy said.

**Media contact: Rochelle Jackson 0419 986 643** rochelle.jackson@minstaff.vic.gov.au