**General**

A Heritage strategy is an excellent idea but it will not be possible to implement it without substantial funding. Volunteers of all ages make a significant contribution to the success of any strategy but their expertise and time need the backing of other resources. Action to assist in persuading the various governments to fund the identification and protection of sites seems vital.

**Comment on strategy proposed**

At present there does not seem to be a focused strategy for achieving World Heritage status and your draft does not indicate how it will be developed. There are only two items in the World Heritage under consideration listing, neither of which exactly fits the heritage objectives you set out of producing a ‘greater sense of belonging. Cultural and natural heritage contributes significantly to our national story and sense of who we are’

If the sites we put up to UNESCO are to fit this claim there needs to be a clearer listing of cultural areas and assistance and encouragement for those prepared to do the preliminary work before the submission is made.

The Chinese *Tracking the Dragon* series that is on your website is promising but it is not so far as I can find out widely known in NSW where I have been involved in recording Chinese women’s stories and other interests. Would it not be a good idea to get a small team from different states together to identify possible sites— Lambing Flats for instance.

As two of the committee are indigenous experts I am also surprised that there has been no suggestion that human archaeological sites like Lake Mungo have not been considered. Is this the result of the recording process? When one enters a term for a place where doubtless for good reason the process must be halted should one not be able to discover when and why this came about?

Should there not be advice and assistance for other ethnic minorities who have made their mark on the multicultural society

**Themes**

Amongst the themes that should surely be carried further is the way in which human activity has modified the landscape. The Snowy Mountains scheme is on a list but could surely be developed for submission to UNESCO from a number of angles —as a remarkable engineering feat; as a major undertaking drawing in migrants from many backgrounds; as a significant interference with the landscape and so on.

There seems little attention to the major agricultural activities in Australia. Could there not be a focus on a major undertaking like the Rabbit Proof Fence?

Another possible focus would be the Botanic gardens of the various colonies that played such a vital part in the structuring of the plant kingdom in Australia.

What plans are there to upgrade and make the Forest initiative more widely known?

**Priorities**

Keeping the tourist trade informed of what is important in the various areas should surely be of high priority.

Your statement that there are 19 properties on the World Heritage list is correct in one way and totally misleading in another — one can count at least 44 separate sites because Port Arthur, which seems to dominate this draft, is only one of a number of very geographically distant sites that are grouped together . The same is true for some other listings so that clarifying the position for the community at large and perhaps providing plaques might be vital if there is to be understanding of what we have.

Also involving local schools and other institutions in learning and researching their area is surely critical in building community pride.

Should the Council not have a list (I couldn’t find one) of all the local festivals that already exist so that they are aware of what is already important to people in different areas?

**Actions**

It is my experience that ‘the heritage community, comprising organisations such as local historical societies and groups, the National Trusts and other organisations, and private owners of heritage places,’ may be potential leaders of our collective heritage efforts but at present there is little or no co-ordination between these organizations in many areas and it would be a high priority for the strategy to establish appropriate links through which they could come together.

 Yours

Sybil M Ungar