# Template FOR INPUT INTO THE

**AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE STRATEGY**

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| Overview  This template should be used to provide comments on the content of the Australian Heritage Strategy. | |
| Contact Details | |
| **Name of Organisation:** | The Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee Inc. |
| **Name of Author:** | **John Adams** |
| **Date:** | **17th May 2014** |
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| Questions  Please add your comments for some or all of the questions provided with the Strategy’s three high level themes below. If you have other information you wish to provide, please add this in the “Other comments” field. | |
| 1. **Improve National Leadership**   What are the most important things the Australian Government should be doing to offer leadership in heritage? Giving more emphasis on the early work of Australia’s pioneers.  How can the Australian Government provide guidance and support for our national heritage—while still empowering other government, industry and community members to take responsibility and get involved? By opening up a means of partnership between Australia’s heritage groups using a web site and forums where we could talk to each other.  What priority areas are important to you, your organisation or group? More help in our care for monuments and grave sites.  What practical actions would you suggest to improve national heritage leadership? More recognition for the pioneers who laid the foundations for Literature and the Arts in Australia. | |
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| 1. **Pursue Innovative Partnerships**   What partnerships are most needed within the heritage sector? Partnerships to easily share knowledge of pioneers and early events.  What heritage roles and responsibilities should be led by governments, peak heritage organisations or community groups in the 21st century? Bring them all together to effectively share knowledge. The Pioneers of Australia should be given more recognition than they are now, with the view that we are about to be swamped with ANZAC stories which motivate our youth to walk around wrapped in Australian flags.  How should resources be shared through heritage partnerships to ensure the greatest return on agreed priorities? By having all interested parties registered by the Commonwealth on one web site.  Can you provide examples of successful innovative partnerships you or your organisation have established? We are in partnership with Dingley Dell Cottage, Port MacDonnell SA. Which is a museum to Adam Lindsay Gordon. | |
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| 1. **Enable encourage communities to understand and care for their heritage**   What should the Australian heritage sector be doing to help the Australian community better engage in heritage activities? By including the upkeep of monuments and grave sites as priorities for preservation. Past committees have worked long and hard to raise money to erect these monuments and to keep grave sites in perpetuity. Also bring State Heritage websites together under the one umbrella. We are with “Victorian Collections.”  How can a shared understanding of our national heritage be developed and best celebrated together? By having an Australian Heritage Centre in Canberra like the Australian War Memorial.  Do you have any examples of activities that have been successful in promoting local heritage to a broader audience? Use of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinetrest, Google Plus and Tumblr.  What is the role of technology and new media in providing greater community access to heritage? We need one central Commonwealth web site. | |
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| **Other comments** | |
| Submission:  FOR PUBLIC VIEWING  **SUBMISSION BY THE ADAM LINDSAY GORDON COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE INC.**  **Background.**  Our committee was formed on Australia Day 2006 when some friends came together with the  same ambition, to publicise Adam Lindsay Gordon, Australia’s first poet of note.  We were at the grave of the poet in the Brighton General Cemetery, Melbourne, and, to our  disgust, found that all of the marble tablets secured to the four sides of his  Monument were in the process of falling off. One tablet had actually fallen to the ground. This  is the man who has his Bust and Memorial in The Poets’ Corner of Westminster Abbey.  The man who was idolised as Australia’s sporting hero in the 19th and early 20th centuries and  brought the first bush ballads to the Australian public, the for-runner of the likes of Paterson  and Lawson . The man who laid the foundations for Literature and The Arts in Australia.  His poems were used by painters such as McCubbin, Streeton and Condor, for their paintings in the open air. They went on to form The Heidelberg School. His poems were the inspiration for A.H.Davis (Steele Rudd) to launch his "On Our Selection".  We decided there and then to form a committee to raise money to keep the grave in perpetuity.  We have done just that in the last 8 years and now have $10,000 in the bank  on term deposit for just this purpose. In addition we are raising the public profile of the poet  which has long been neglected.  **The Present**  In our discussions with people we find that all are of the opinion that Australian History is not  being properly taught in Australian Schools.  That too much emphasis is being placed on exploits from wars where Australians have taken  part and are made out to be heroes to the exclusion of everyone else. The work of our pioneers is largely forgotten.  Most school children now have never even heard of Adam Lindsay Gordon.  **The Future**  Perhaps a building could be erected in Canberra called The Australian Heritage Centre, on the  scale of the Australian War Memorial.  We need some big centre in Canberra to act as a focus for the whole of Australia, which can  also act as a giant depository and focal point.  At present there is no ‘one’ place that schools and the public can turn to.  At present all of our hard records are kept in our own garages, which we suspect would be the case of many similar groups.  Wouldn't it be nice if we could have a room in a dedicated building in Canberra which could be used as a focal point for visitors? | |