

Siobhán Lavelle, OAM MA PhD FRHistS M. ICOMOS MPHA
Historical Archaeologist • Historian • Heritage Specialist



CONTACT DETAILS

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CAREER SUMMARY

A professional and highly experienced Historical Archaeologist, Historian and Heritage Specialist approaching four decades of experience in the community, public and private sectors.

Career began in the 1980s at the NSW National Trust, a membership-based organisation. Ran an archaeology and heritage consultancy practice for 15+ years (1989-2004) before working for government. Peer recognition and best practice recognised by numerous heritage awards and honours obtained in the 1990s and 2000s. Worked in Heritage NSW and its predecessor agencies from 2004 to 2021. Left the government sector at the end of 2021, resumed consultancy in 2023.

A positive and empathetic leader with a passion for sharing knowledge, developing and sustaining internal and external relationships for the delivery of both operational priorities and strategic objectives. Highly competent in managing complex heritage issues, with strong interpersonal skills, and proven ability to provide expert technical advice.

My major strengths include:

- Project management for the delivery of organisational strategic priorities.
- Communication skills for translating complex information to staff and stakeholders in both oral and written format. Author of several Heritage Council Guidelines.
- Stakeholder management and ability to develop and sustain professional relationships.

Recent Key Roles held:

- 2016 – 2021 Board Member (Heritage Specialist) Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW
- 2015 – 2022 Judge for the annual National Trust Heritage Awards NSW
- 2022 – (ongoing) Member, Heritage Advisory Committee, Blue Mountains City Council
- 2023 – (ongoing) President, Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology
- 2024 – (ongoing) Chair, National Trust (NSW) Cemeteries Conservation Committee
- 2024 – (ongoing) Member, Heritage Advisory Committee, Metropolitan Memorial Parks

Other Professional Memberships: Royal Australian Historical Society, Australia ICOMOS, Association for Gravestone Studies (US), National Trust Cemeteries Conservation Committee, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (UK), Professional Historians Association (NSW).
Insurances Held: Public Liability, Professional Indemnity



EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Organisation/Department

Office of Environment & Heritage, became
Heritage, Dept. Premier & Cabinet from July 2019

Role/Title

Senior Team Leader (EO 12) Archaeological Heritage, became Specialist Services (from January 2018) with addition of the maritime archaeologists to the land-based archaeology team.

Area/Branch

Heritage Division - Conservation Section, then Heritage Operations (from January 2018)

Responsibilities

- Managed and led a specialist archaeology team in the successful assessment of applications and permits.

Dates

March 2017 – November 2021

RESUME - 2024

- Maritime archaeology team added from January 2018, with responsibilities including the Delivery of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Program under statutory Delegation from the Commonwealth government.
- Qualitative assessment of submitted research design and methodology that had a direct impact on state significant archaeology in accordance with the Heritage Council's policies and guidelines.
- Developed and provided complex advice and reports on statutory approvals required under the NSW Heritage Act, 1977 and the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979.
- Provided expert archaeological advice into the design, development and state-wide implementation of strategic archaeological conservation initiatives, plans and programs to meet and deliver on priority heritage outcomes.
- Drafted complex high level written reports, submissions, briefing notes and ministerial correspondence on a range of archaeological and heritage issues.
- Managed Heritage Council projects.
 - Re-writing of the HC Excavation Director Criteria in 2019. Prepared Project Plan, Organised Expert Working Group, taking Minutes, etc., prepared the text for the updated Guidance document and the Heritage Council papers.
- Management of the Maritime Heritage Program and the Historic Shipwrecks Program and necessary referrals and approvals for UCH matters under the NSW Heritage Act, 1977.

Organisation/Department Office of Environment & Heritage

Dates

August 2014 - February 2017

Role/Title Manager, Listings Section (Grade EO 14)

Area/Branch Heritage Division

Responsibilities

- Led the Listings Section responsible for delivery of the Listings Program (SHR and APs).
- Managed the State wide Listings team and associated teams such as Maritime team and Heritage Databases in the successful development, implementation and delivery of state wide heritage initiatives, programs and services, including a robust, timely and effective listings program throughout the state of NSW. This included State Heritage Register listings, Aboriginal Places and Aboriginal Thematic listings, Maritime heritage and Heritage database management functions, including the State Heritage Inventory and S170 Registers.
- Collaborated with OEH Regional managers to ensure the successful delivery of the Listings program across the state. Including coordinating and delivering Listings training across all OEH Regions in NSW.
- Developed complex reports on listings matters for the Heritage Council of NSW.
- Provided complex advice and information to Applicants and other stakeholders relevant to the understanding of, and agreement about, State Register Listings.
- Managed Listings Section budget, team administration, HR and recruitment.
- Met annual Listings Program Targets for the two years and six months (50 Listings achieved, plus an additional 8 at Recommendation to List stage when I left the role and 5 Aboriginal Place Gazettals out of target 10 for 2016-17 also achieved as at Feb 2017).
- Ensured appropriate project documentation, planning and evaluation occurred.
- Developed Executive Indicators for the Listings Program (March 2016, including under-represented LGAs, Themes and other criteria).
- Completed the SHR Gap Analysis and SHR Review Projects (2016).

Accomplishments

- Received an **OEH Exceptional Performance Award - Individual highly commended** in November 2015 for work in this role.

Note: Role was removed due to a restructure process and change to a "Regional Delivery" model.

Organisation/Department Office of Environment & Heritage

Dates

December 2013 - July 2014

Role/Title Senior Team Leader, Archaeological Heritage

Area/Branch

Heritage Division

Responsibilities

- As listed for same role above (2017, before addition of the Maritime archaeologists).
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Organisation/Department

NSW Heritage Office – Heritage Branch– Heritage Division

Role/Title

Senior Heritage Officer (Archaeologist)

Area/Branch

Heritage Branch (Planning) – Heritage Division (OEH) from 2011

Dates

October 2005 - November 2013

Responsibilities

- Led the sub- team in the Conservation Team responsible for a range of approvals which included the direct supervision of a multi-disciplinary team (Archaeologist, Planner, Architect), and supervision of additional and temporary staff.
- Executive Officer for the Archaeology Advisory Panel to the Heritage Council of NSW.
- Provided leadership to the Conservation Team on historical archaeology and related matters.
- Provided advice and developed comprehensive reports on statutory approvals required under the NSW Heritage Act, 1977. Facilitated the successful negotiation of outcomes relevant to in-situ conservation of archaeological heritage derived from issued Conditions of Approval, by liaising with Applicants, Excavation Directors and other stakeholders including the community.
- Prepared strategically focussed Archaeology Work Plans across a 10-year planning cycle on behalf of the Heritage Council of NSW. Subsequently utilising these planning tools to generate the identification of priority areas for Policy areas and the Archaeology Panel.

Accomplishments:

Guidelines produced during my appointment as Senior Officer (Archaeology) included:

- *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice (Revised) (2006)*
- *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and 'Relics' (2009)*
- *Criteria for the Assessment of Excavation Directors (Revised) (2011)*
- *Guidelines for the preparation of Archaeological Management Plans (2009)*



ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Cert IV	University/School Environment Protection Authority/TAFE NSW	Date Completed 2019
	Qualification Title Certificate IV in Government Investigations	
PhD	University/School University of Newcastle	Date Completed 2004
	Qualification Title PhD (History/School of Humanities)	
MA	University/School University of Sydney	Date Completed 1989
	Qualification Title Master of Arts (Pass) with Merit. Historical Archaeology	
BA	University/School University of Sydney	Date Completed 1986
	Qualification Title BA (Archaeology/Prehistory)	



Excellence awards (select list only)

- 2015 - OEH Exceptional Performance Award - Individual, highly commended
- 2014 - National Trust Heritage Award, Education and Interpretation Community/Individual category for the 'RAHS Western Crossings project'
- 2013 - Blue Mountains Lithgow and Oberon Tourism Awards of Excellence 2013 Dr Siobhán Lavelle OAM for Contribution to the Blue Mountains Bicentenary
- **2009 - Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)** Granted on 08 June 2009
Citation:
For service to historical archaeology and heritage conservation, particularly the preservation of colonial roads and cemeteries.
- **2008 - National Trust Commendation** (Bronze Medal)
For continuous service and work with the National Trust since 1990 as a staff member and a volunteer member of the Cemeteries Committee.



Publications (select list only)

- 'Waverley Cemetery, Sydney, Australia' *AGS QUARTERLY International Cemeteries* (Part 2 of 2 issues) VOL. 45.1, Spring 2021, p.39-44.
- 'Archaeology Down Under: Management and Outcomes in the First State in Australia' (Chapter 8, pp 137-160) Baugher, S, D Appler & W Moss (Eds) *Urban Archaeology, Municipal Government and Local Planning: Preserving Heritage Within the Commonwealth of Nations and the United States*, Springer, 2017
- *1813 A Tale That Grew in the Telling* Feb 2013, WriteLight Pty Ltd
- 'The Great North Road: A Physical Testament to Great Expectations' Jan 2013
Proceedings of the International Conference: Tourism, Roads and Cultural Itineraries: Meaning, Memory and Development (June 2012, Québec City, Canada) Presses de l'Université Laval, eds: Laurent Bourdeau, Pascale Marcotte and Mohamed Habib Saidi
- *History* Number 115 (Guest Editor) Mar 2013, Royal Australian Historical Society
- 'More Names on Stone: some lesser known monuments to the 1813 Crossing', Dec 2012 *History* Number 114, pp. 18-19.
- "Patriotic and powerful historians": commemorating the First Crossing of the Blue Mountains', Jun 2012 *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Vol. 98, Pt 1, pp. 28-51.

Since 1988 I have published 25 written works including scholarly articles in refereed Journals, book chapters and in 2013, a book which was a more accessible version of my 2004 PhD thesis. My publications (author) also include several Heritage Council guidelines.



IT SKILLS

Program	Highly Proficient	Competent	Familiar With
Microsoft Word		●	
Microsoft Excel			●
Microsoft Outlook		●	
Microsoft PowerPoint		●	