

CENTRAL OTAGO HERITAGE STRATEGY 2018



Central Otago Heritage Strategy Vision Statement:

Central Otago's heritage is a living habitat that is to be respected, valued, protected, preserved, celebrated, promoted and community owned for present and future generations.

First Edition

1. Background

In 2012, following consultation with the Central Otago community, the Central Otago District Council and Central Otago Heritage Working Group published '*Towards Better Heritage Outcomes for Central Otago*' [TBHO]. The purpose of TBHO was to ensure better heritage outcomes in relation to the identification, preservation, protection, management, respect and celebration of Central Otago's heritage into the future.

Specifically, TBHO set out community inspired recommendations for the management of Central Otago's heritage. TBHO provides a comprehensive summary of what the Central Otago community values by way of heritage and proposes objectives and desired outcomes for its continued protection and preservation.

While TBHO acknowledged the efforts of volunteer groups who continue to strive for the preservation of important elements of the Central Otago heritage 'landscape', the report also recognised the growing threat posed by increasing population pressure and inappropriate development on Central Otago's heritage.

Despite providing valuable insights into the structure of the heritage community, identifying outcomes desired by the wider community, and recognising the requirement for coordination, TBHO falls short of allocating specific heritage responsibilities, establishing project priorities or determining how scarce resources might be secured and managed.

As a result, the Central Otago Heritage Trust (COHT), an umbrella body representing Central Otago's heritage community, was charged with coordinating an agreed strategy intended to identify, preserve and celebrate Central Otago's heritage.

2. Introduction

The purpose of the Central Otago Heritage Strategy is to provide a long-term solution to the sustainable identification, preservation, management and celebration of Central Otago's rich and diverse heritage. To achieve this, the Central Otago Heritage Plan has been developed as an action plan by which individual tasks can be undertaken by the heritage community and the status of these projects can be reviewed and measured on an ongoing basis.

3. Guiding principles of the Central Otago Heritage Strategy and Plan

In considering the issues surrounding heritage, setting objectives and making recommendations for action, the Heritage Strategy and Plan has been prepared on the same guiding principles as TBHO (page 7 of TBHO) and are set out as follows:

- *Community participation*
 - It is essential that the processes and initiatives (resulting from TBHO) are user-friendly and accessible to communities;
- *Cooperation*
 - Heritage has many stakeholders and is subject to a variety of legislation, regulations and protocols, interwoven into our regional identity, communities and personal lives. Cooperation is imperative to achieving heritage goals;
- *Best practice*
 - The ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value (revised 2010) provides a framework for best practice through an internationally recognised set of conservation principles that is widely used as a guide for heritage management; and

- *Financial responsibility*
 - Consideration to the ongoing affordability of respecting, celebrating and protecting heritage into the future underlies all decision making.

4. The community vision for heritage in Central Otago

As summarised at page 9 of TBHO, the Central Otago community views their vision for heritage as outlined below:

Central Otago's heritage is:

- *Respected and valued for its uniqueness and diversity:*
 - Gold-rush era
 - Maori history
 - Towns, architecture, structures and objects
 - Cultural landscapes
 - Early settlers, social, cultural influences
 - Pastoral, horticultural, and viticultural
 - Stories
 - European and non-European heritage
- *A living habitat:*
 - Ambience – buildings, structures, landscapes, events
 - Everyday use and reuse of heritage buildings and objects and skills
 - Intrinsic to our identity
- *Celebrated and promoted:*
 - Enjoyed by visitors and community
 - Museums
 - Libraries and their resources
 - Events
 - Community initiatives
- *Community owned:*
 - Commitment
 - Involvement
 - Responsibility
- *Protected and preserved for future generations:*
 - Cooperation between community, agencies and organisations towards common goals
 - Laws, regulations, policies and plans
 - Adequately funded and resourced.

The community vision for heritage has therefore informed the vision statement for both the Central Otago Heritage Strategy and Plan:

Central Otago's heritage is a living habitat that is to be respected, valued, protected, preserved, celebrated, promoted and community owned for present and future generations.

5. Definition of 'heritage'

For the purpose of this document, 'heritage' takes the meaning as defined at section 1.3 of TBHO (page 5, TBHO):

Heritage – a definition:

Heritage is that which is inherited from past and current generations, cared for in the present and handed on for the benefit of future generations, and includes:

- **Built heritage** – *the legacy of man-made buildings, structures, and objects and associated intangible attributes;*
- **Natural heritage** – *the legacy of natural places, objects and intangible attributes encompassing the rural and natural environment, including flora and fauna;*
- **Cultural heritage** – *made up of two components comprising: the tangible – artefacts, ecofacts, buildings, gardens, landscapes, historic places, relics of the past, material remains big and small; and intangible – folklore, language, music, dance, manners, memories, customs, traditions, histories and notions of identity.*