Thompson Square
Windsor NSW

Interpretation Strategy

FINAL
February 2017
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1 Executive Summary

Thompson Square, in the centre of the NSW town of Windsor in the Hawkesbury region, is an important remnant of colonial town planning. Formalised by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1818, out of an informal town square for the town of Green Hills, it is the key feature of central Windsor. The Square and surrounds reflect the early colonial planning of Windsor, overlaid with later changes and alterations. The Square continues to serve an important civic function as a local place of recreation and amenity for the area. The Square has had repeated alterations throughout its existence, including substantial alterations in the 1850s (for the first bridge), the 1880s (for the second bridge) and the 1920s (for the current bridge). The buildings on the perimeter of Thompson Square reflect built fabric from the early 19th century through to the late 20th century.

Key among the modifications to Windsor and Thompson square has been the provision of a bridge over the Hawkesbury River, immediately to the north of the Square. The provision of a bridge has seen a number of major alterations to the Square, including the alienation of part of the Square from the main body of the public park. In 2013, the NSW Government approved a project to construct a new bridge and approaches to cross the Hawkesbury River, which formed the genesis for this document.

The new bridge represents the latest in a series of alterations to Windsor and Thompson Square, alterations which have not been without controversy or contention. Thompson Square is a complex historic landscape, with values relating to the early (Pleistocene) and pre-colonial use of the area by Aboriginal people, the environmental history of inundation and exploitation, the early settlement of the area for the town of Green Hills, the transformation of the town into Windsor by Governor Macquarie, and its progressive evolution throughout the 19th and 20th centuries into a major town on the periphery of Sydney.

The Windsor Bridge Replacement Project Interpretation Strategy has been prepared for Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), by the Austral AHMS Joint Venture (AAJV). The purpose of the report is to provide an overarching interpretation model to be used as part of the proposed replacement of Windsor Bridge from Macquarie Street (south) to Wilberforce Road (north). The project is located within the historically significant suburb of Windsor in the Hawkesbury City Council Local Government Area. Both Thompson Square and Windsor Bridge are state heritage listed items.

The Interpretation Strategy includes the following key sections to help address the interpretation requirements of the project:

- The value of heritage at Windsor’s Thompson Square.
- Themes associated with the sites heritage.
- The interpretive vision and key issues.
- Implementation.
- Conclusions and recommendations.

This Interpretation Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, the principles of the Burra and Ename Charters and best heritage practice.
2 Introduction

2.1 Brief

The purpose of the interpretation for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project is to make the archaeological, historical and cultural significance of Thompson Square, Windsor Bridge, and surrounds accessible and relevant to the wider community.

This Interpretation Strategy is part of a suite of heritage management documentation being prepared for the project, which includes a Strategic Conservation Management Plan, a Landscape and Urban Design Plan, and a separate Interpretation Plan. The Interpretation Strategy is the overarching framework that will guide and link to the other key components of the heritage management, differentiating it from the Interpretation Plan which discusses the implementation of interpretation. The Interpretation Strategy for an area such as Windsor Bridge and Thompson Square is required to cover the complexities of a precinct in which people live and work whilst also being an area for recreational gatherings and events. As such the Interpretation Strategy, must offer a robust yet flexible approach to meet with the changeable planning landscape but also be a well-defined, sympathetic and creative treatment to engage the public, offer meaningful insight and provide appropriate value to the heritage significance of the overall area and key nodes of interest. This report provides the necessary guidance and strategic solutions to meet these principles.

The use of interpretation within the urban landscape of Thompson Square and surrounds ultimately should enhance the visitor experience, provide marketable tourist opportunities for the community and provide a continuity of the historical and heritage values of the site. The Interpretation Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the published Office of Environment and Heritage, Heritage Interpretation Policy and related guidelines, the ICOMOS Burra and Ename Charters, and the RMS Heritage Interpretation Guideline. The Strategy identifies opportunities and constraints, broad aspects and scope for interpretation and addresses the overall outcomes to be further detailed in the Interpretation Plan for the site. This report has also been prepared in response to mitigation recommendations set out in the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project Environmental Impact Statement 2012, Chapter 10 Environmental Management Measures:

HH20. An interpretation strategy within the archaeological project plan and research design, will be developed to identify opportunities for public understanding and engagement with the archaeological investigation process. This will assess and recommend strategies.

HH21. An interpretation plan will be prepared based upon all of the heritage assessments to provide a framework for making information about the site's significance publicly accessible. The interpretive plan will be informed by the landscape masterplan that is proposed for Thompson Square.

These measures are reiterated in the Historic Heritage Assessment Working Paper 1, section 11.8.6, policies 24 and 25 which states:

24. Prepare an Interpretation Strategy as part of the Archaeological research design and project plan to maximise opportunities for people to visit and understand the process of archaeology and witness revelation of the site’s significance during the archaeological excavation programs.

25. Prepare an interpretation plan drawing on all of the heritage assessments to provide a framework for making information about the site's significance publicly accessible. Include provision for interpretation as follows:

a. Undertake interpretation prior to, during and after the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project to ensure that the community is kept informed of progress, can participate in the
act of revealing information about and understands the historical context of the project area.

b. Ensure that the interpretation plan provides a framework for a sustainable permanent interpretive legacy for the project.

c. Explore ways of communicating the significance of the project area to the broadest possible audience.

d. Consider naming the replacement bridge to reflect a particular aspect of its significance or the history of the site.

This report fulfils part of the requirement of the Minister’s Conditions of Approval for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project, Condition B1, paragraph 3 which states:

“The Applicant shall prepare and submit a detailed Interpretation Plan prior to the commencement of pre-construction and construction activities for the Thompson Square Conservation Area including individually listed sites, non-Aboriginal archaeology and Aboriginal archaeology for the approval of the Director-General. The detailed Interpretation Plan must be prepared in consultation with the OEH and include specific media design, content, location and materials, prepared in accordance with the Guidelines of the NSW Heritage Council.”

This condition will be fully fulfilled upon completion of the detailed Interpretation Plan for the study area.

2.2 Acknowledgements & Authorship

This Interpretation Strategy has been prepared by the Austral AHMS Joint Venture, in conjunction with a range of expert sub-consultants.

The Austral AHMS Joint Venture (AAJV) is an unincorporated joint venture of Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd and Extent Heritage Pty Ltd (a merger of Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions Pty Ltd and Futurepast Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd).

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Acknowledgements
The assistance of the following people in the preparation of this report is gratefully acknowledged:

Ian Jack Ian Jack Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd
Denis Gojak NSW Roads and Maritime Services
Suzette Graham NSW Roads and Maritime Services

It should be acknowledged that Hawkesbury City Council were approached for input regarding this Interpretation Strategy however at the time were unable to provide feedback. RMS advised that we would continue to proceed with the development of the Interpretation Strategy in the absence of the Council’s comments and that there may further opportunities for Council to comment in the future on the interpretation plan. They are considered key stakeholders in the Windsor Bridge
Replacement Project and therefore will have an opportunity to comment on the Interpretation Plan on completion of this Strategy and during the Implementation Process.

2.3 Definitions

The terminology in this report follows definitions presented in The Burra Charter and The Ename Charter.

The Burra Charter Definitions:

**Place** means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.

**Cultural significance** means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.

Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.

Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

**Fabric** means all the physical material of the place including components, fixtures, contents, and objects.

**Conservation** means all the processes of looking after a place so to retain its cultural significance.

**Maintenance** means the continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction.

**Preservation** means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

**Restoration** means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

**Reconstruction** means returning the place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material into the fabric.

**Adaptation** means modifying a place to suit the existing use or a proposed use. Use means the functions of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place.

**Compatible use** means a use that respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

**Setting** means the area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.

**Related place** means a place that contributes to the cultural significance of another place.

The Ename Charter Definitions:

**Interpretation** refers to the full range of potential activities intended to heighten public awareness and enhance understanding of cultural heritage site. These can include print and electronic publications, public lectures, on-site and directly related off-site installations, educational programmes, community activities, and ongoing research, training, and evaluation of the interpretation process itself.

**Presentation** more specifically denotes the carefully planned communication of interpretive content through the arrangement of interpretive information, physical access, and interpretive infrastructure at a cultural heritage site. It can be conveyed through a variety of technical means, including, yet not requiring, such elements as informational panels, museum-type displays, formalized walking tours, lectures and guided tours, and multimedia applications and websites.
Interpretive infrastructure refers to physical installations, facilities, and areas at, or connected with a cultural heritage site that may be specifically utilised for the purposes of interpretation and presentation including those supporting interpretation via new and existing technologies.

Site interpreters refer to staff or volunteers at a cultural heritage site who are permanently or temporarily engaged in the public communication of information relating to the values and significance of the site.

Cultural Heritage Site refers to a place, locality, natural landscape, settlement area, architectural complex, archaeological site, or standing structure that is recognized and often legally protected as a place of historical and cultural significance.
3 Statutory Context

3.1 Heritage Status

The subject site consists of two heritage items, listed on the following statutory registers:

- NSW State Heritage Register, item #00126 as Thompson Square Conservation Area
- RMS Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register (S. 170), item #4309589 as Hawkesbury River Bridge, Windsor.
- Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012, item #I00126 as Thompson Square and item #I276 as Windsor Bridge

The study area includes the following non-statutory heritage listings:

- National Trust of Australia (NSW) Register under ID’s S10510 and S11456 as Thompson Square Precinct.

The following Aboriginal heritage sites have been recorded in the vicinity of the Thompson Square precinct:

Table 1 AHIMS Web Services, accessed on 07/07/2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site ID</th>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Site status</th>
<th>Site features</th>
<th>Site types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45-5-2435</td>
<td>BEW 97 (Hawkesbury Hospital Artefact Scatter)</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Artfact : -</td>
<td>Open Camp Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-5-2936</td>
<td>Pad 4 (Hawkesbury District Hospital Artefact Scatter)</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-5-2938</td>
<td>Pad 6</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-5-3303</td>
<td>PAD MHCS</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-5-3011</td>
<td>Windsor Museum</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Partially Destroyed</td>
<td>Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-5-3548</td>
<td>WPS PAD</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-5-3580</td>
<td>North Bank PAD-W-NP (Windsor)</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-5-3581</td>
<td>South Bank PAD-W-SP (Windsor)</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-5-3582</td>
<td>Windsor 1-Isolated Find</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Artefact : -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-5-3583</td>
<td>Windsor 2-Isolated Find</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Artefact : -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-5-3584</td>
<td>Windsor 3-Isolated Find</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Artefact : -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-5-3585</td>
<td>Windsor 4-Isolated Find</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Artefact : -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-5-2865</td>
<td>Former Hawkesbury Hospital</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Artefact : -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-5-3118</td>
<td>Windsor Cemetery Scatter (formerly Windsor Cemetery PAD)</td>
<td>Open site</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Statutory Policies

The Windsor Bridge Replacement Project Environmental Impact Statement 2012 and Historic Heritage Assessment Working Paper 1 provide strategies and mitigations measures to enhance the community’s knowledge and appreciation of Windsor and Thompson Square (see these measures outlined in Section 2.1 above). It recommends that an interpretation strategy, to be undertaken prior to the development of an Interpretation Plan, should be prepared to suggest strategies to help engage the community with the archaeological process. It also suggests that interpretive strategies and programs can collaborate with other public initiatives and developments.

This report fulfils the expectation in the EIS that an Interpretation Strategy be produced to discuss and propose possible approaches to the interpretation of Thompson Square and the Windsor Bridge.

This report also fulfils part of the requirement of the Minister’s Conditions of Approval for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project, Condition B1, paragraph 3 which states:

“The Applicant shall prepare and submit a detailed Interpretation Plan prior to the commencement of pre-construction and construction activities for the Thompson Square Conservation Area including individually listed sites, non-Aboriginal archaeology and Aboriginal archaeology for the approval of the Director-General. The detailed Interpretation Plan must be prepared in consultation with the OEH and include specific media design, content, location and materials, prepared in accordance with the Guidelines of the NSW Heritage Council.”

3.3 Guiding Interpretation Policies

3.3.1 The Burra Charter

The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013 (Burra Charter) is considered the guiding document of best practice standards for the management of cultural and natural heritage within Australia.

The Charter states that it can be applied to all types of places of cultural significance including natural, Indigenous and historic places with cultural values. The Burra Charter Process outlines an approach of Understanding the Significance, Develop Policy, and Manage.

Articles of the Burra Charter that are appropriate and relevant to the interpretation of Windsor Bridge and the Thompson Square precinct include:

Article 3. Cautious Approach

3.1 Conservation is based on a respect for the existing fabric, use and associations and meanings. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.

3.2 Changes to a place should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture.

Article 5. Values

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5.1 Conservation of a place should identify and take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one value at the expense of others.

**Article 6. Burra Charter Process**

6.1 The cultural significance of a place and other issues affecting its future are best understood by a sequence of collecting and analysing information before making decisions. Understanding cultural significance comes first, then development of policy and finally management of the place in accordance with the policy. This is the Burra Charter Process.

6.2 Policy for managing a place must be based on an understanding of its cultural significance.

6.3 Policy development should also include consideration of other factors affecting the future of a place such as the owner’s needs, resources, external constraints and its physical condition.

6.4 In developing an effective policy, different ways to retain cultural significance and address other factors may need to be explored.

**Article 24. Retaining Associations and Meanings**

24.1 Significant associations between people and a place should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for the interpretation, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.

24.2 Significant meanings, including spiritual values, of a place should be respected. Opportunities for the continuation or revival of these meanings should be investigated and implemented.

**Article 25. Interpretation**

The cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and engagement, and be culturally appropriate.

3.3.2 The **Ename Charter**

*The ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites* is the most recent development in the guiding principles dealing with interpretation of cultural heritage sites. It sets forth seven cardinal principles upon which Interpretation and Presentation, in whatever form or medium deemed appropriate, should be based. Ratified in 2008 the international charter defines its purpose as being:

"to define the basic principles of Interpretation and Presentation as essential components of heritage conservation efforts and as a means of enhancing public appreciation and understanding of cultural heritage sites."

Principals of the **Ename Charter** that are appropriate and relevant to the interpretation of Windsor Bridge and the Thompson Square precinct include:

**Principle 1. Access and Understanding**

Interpretation and presentation programmes should facilitate physical and intellectual access by the public to cultural heritage sites.

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1.1 Effective interpretation and presentation should enhance personal experience, increase public respect and understanding, and communicate the importance of the conservation of cultural heritage sites.

1.2 Interpretation and presentation should encourage individuals and communities to reflect on their own perceptions of a site and assist them in establishing a meaningful connection to it. The aim should be to stimulate further interest, learning, experience, and exploration.

1.3 Interpretation and presentation programmes should identify and assess their audiences demographically and culturally. Every effort should be made to communicate the site’s values and significance to its varied audiences.

1.4 The diversity of language among visitors and associated communities connected with a heritage site should be taken into account in the interpretive infrastructure.

1.5 Interpretation and presentation activities should also be physically accessible to the public, in all its variety.

**Principle 2. Information Sources**

Interpretation and presentation should be based on evidence gathered through accepted scientific and scholarly methods as well as from living cultural traditions.

2.1 Interpretation should show the range of oral and written information, material remains, traditions, and meanings attributed to a site. The sources of this information should be documented, archived, and made accessible to the public.

2.2 Interpretation should be based on a well-researched, multidisciplinary study of the site and its surroundings. It should also acknowledge that meaningful interpretation necessarily includes reflection on alternative historical hypotheses, local traditions, and stories.

2.3 At cultural heritage sites where traditional storytelling or memories of historical participants provide an important source of information about the significance of the site, interpretive programmes should incorporate these oral testimonies—either indirectly, through the facilities of the interpretive infrastructure, or directly, through the active participation of members of associated communities as on-site interpreters.

2.4 Visual reconstructions, whether by artists, architects, or computer modellers, should be based upon detailed and systematic analysis of environmental, archaeological, architectural, and historical data, including analysis of written, oral and iconographic sources, and photography. The information sources on which such visual renderings are based should be clearly documented and alternative reconstructions based on the same evidence, when available, should be provided for comparison.

2.5 Interpretation and presentation programmes and activities should also be documented and archived for future reference and reflection.

**Principle 3. Context and Setting**

The Interpretation and Presentation of cultural heritage sites should relate to their wider social, cultural, historical, and natural contexts and settings.

3.1 Interpretation should explore the significance of a site in its multi-faceted historical, political,
spiritual, and artistic contexts. It should consider all aspects of the site’s cultural, social, and environmental significance and values.

3.2
The public interpretation of a cultural heritage site should clearly distinguish and date the successive phases and influences in its evolution. The contributions of all periods to the significance of a site should be respected.

3.3
Interpretation should also take into account all groups that have contributed to the historical and cultural significance of the site.

3.4
The surrounding landscape, natural environment, and geographical setting are integral parts of a site’s historical and cultural significance, and, as such, should be considered in its interpretation.

3.5
Intangible elements of a site’s heritage such as cultural and spiritual traditions, stories, music, dance, theatre, literature, visual arts, local customs and culinary heritage should be considered in its interpretation.

**Principle 4. Authenticity**

The Interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage sites must respect the basic tenets of authenticity in the spirit of the Nara Document (1994).

4.1
Authenticity is a concern relevant to human communities as well as material remains. The design of a heritage interpretation programme should respect the traditional social functions of the site and the cultural practices and dignity of local residents and associated communities.

4.2
Interpretation and presentation should contribute to the conservation of the authenticity of a cultural heritage site by communicating its significance without adversely impacting its cultural values or irreversibly altering its fabric.

4.3
All visible interpretive infrastructures (such as kiosks, walking paths, and information panels) must be sensitive to the character, setting and the cultural and natural significance of the site, while remaining easily identifiable.

**Principle 5. Sustainability**

The interpretation plan for a cultural heritage site must be sensitive to its natural and cultural environment, with social, financial, and environmental sustainability among its central goals.

**Principle 6. Inclusiveness**

The Interpretation and Presentation of cultural heritage site must be the result of meaningful collaboration between heritage professionals, hosts and associated communities, and other stakeholders.

**Principle 7. Research, Training, and Evaluation**

Continuing research, training, and evaluation are essential components of the interpretation of a cultural heritage site.

3.3.3  *Interpreting Heritage Places and Items*, Heritage Information Series guideline produced by the NSW Heritage Council, 2005

The *Interpreting Heritage Places and Items* guideline describes at a very broad level why it is important to interpret heritage, the responsibility of governments, heritage practitioners,
communities and audiences as people who receive the interpretive message, and how good interpretation can be achieved.

The primary principles from these guidelines are that interpretation strengthens the relationships between communities and its heritage. It is about different ways of communicating significance of an item to many people and a range of audiences. It can involve a range of medium from publications, events, public activities and controlled settings. It makes reference to the Heritage Interpretation Policy for the individual ingredients to achieve best practice in interpretation (see section 3.3.4 below).

3.3.4 Heritage Interpretation Policy, Heritage Information Series guideline produced by the NSW Heritage Council, 2005

The Heritage Interpretation Policy prepared by the NSW Heritage Council intends to guide heritage practitioners towards best practice heritage interpretation. They have listed the following “ingredients” towards achieving best practice interpretation for all types of heritage:

1. Respect for the special connections between people and items;
2. Understand the item and convey its significance;
3. Apply good research;
4. Explore, respect and respond to the identified audience;
5. Make reasoned choices about themes, ideas and stories to interpret;
6. Engage the audience, stimulate thought and dialogue, provoke response and enhance understanding;
7. Research and understand the physical, historical, spiritual and contemporary context of the item and related items; and respect local amenity and culture;
8. Develop interpretation that strengthens and sustains the significance of the item, its character and authenticity;
9. Integrate interpretation in conservation planning, and in all subsequent stages of a conservation project;
10. Include interpretation in the ongoing management of an item; provide for regular maintenance, evaluation and review.

3.3.5 The HCC Interpretive Signage and Public Art Policy 2010

Adopted in 2010, the Hawkesbury City Council Interpretive Signage and Public Art Policy: Telling Hawkesbury Stories was designed to unify the design, location and installation of interpretive signage and public art within the local government area. The Policy aims to:

- Support the creation of enriching and engaging public places which explore Hawkesbury themes and tell Hawkesbury stories;
- Encourage the development of well-researched interpretive trails which can most effectively promote understanding of the Hawkesbury’s significant sites and landscapes within their geographic and cultural context;
- Reinforce the meanings and appeal of interpretive trails through the use of public art and/or the incorporation of specific design elements to everyday objects within the public domain – public seating, footpaths, bridge railings, lighting - which may be located along these trails;
- Promote a consistent approach to the installation of interpretive and directional signs through the application of ‘good practice’ principles as they apply to the design, location and construction of these signs; having particular regard to the needs of people with disabilities.
Development of the Interpretation Plan should incorporate, where possible, the ideology of the policy and work with local stakeholders to develop ideas for content, design and implementation.

3.3.6 The *RMS Heritage Interpretation Guideline 2016* (draft)

The *RMS Interpretation Guideline* operates under the *Roads and Maritime Cultural Heritage Policy*, and aims to guide RMS Project Delivery teams to identify, assess, manage and plan for the appropriate inclusion and implementation of heritage interpretation for RMS cultural heritage sites. The guideline aims to ensure that significance is appropriately conveyed, interpretation is appropriately planned for and managed, and providing parameters for consistent graphic standards across interpretation in the organisation.
4 Site Identification

4.1 The Site

Thompson Square is located in the centre of the town of Windsor, immediately south of the Hawkesbury River. Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and notable for the large number of Colonial Georgian buildings which surround it. The site is made up of George Street, Bridge Street, Thompson Square and The Terrace, a series of roadways which surround a small turfed reserve. Directly north is Windsor Bridge, spanning across the Hawkesbury to connect with Wilberforce Road. Figure 1 below shows the project area (outlined in red), as well as the Thompson Square Heritage Conservation Area (shaded in orange). Figures 2 and 3 following show the existing built heritage items that are within the Conservation Area, and the construction period for each item.

Figure 1 Map showing the location of the Thompson Square Conservation Area, Hawkesbury Council LEP 2012.
Figure 2. Map showing the heritage items within Thompson Square Conservation Area.
Figure 3. Map showing the construction dates of the existing built heritage items within Thompson Square Conservation Area.
### 4.2 Analysis of Existing Interpretation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Interpretation</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Device: Signage&lt;br&gt;Location: Carpark area near Jetty&lt;br&gt;Comment: Device is difficult to read and provides limited information. Its location is primarily to identify a stop on the Hawkesbury Artists Trail, an annual event throughout the Hawkesbury region.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Device: Anchor installation and plaque&lt;br&gt;Location: Southern end of Thompson Square&lt;br&gt;Comment: Device is a tribute to the pioneers of the region. The anchor is symbolic only as a representation of the early district and its association and usage of the Hawkesbury River.&lt;br&gt;Local perspective is that this installation is of community value.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Existing Interpretation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Comment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Device: Boulder plinth and plaque  
Location: Centre of upper park  
Comment: The device is a commemorative stainless steel plaque fixed to large sandstone boulder. The plaque was installed in 1985 to commemorate 175 years since the proclamation of the township of Windsor by Governor Macquarie. The plaque itself is substantially smaller and discreet considering the size of the boulder. The ink within the inscribed lettering is faded.  
The plaque reads:  
“This plaque commemorates the 175th anniversary of the naming of Windsor, Richmond, Castlereagh, Pitt Town and Wilberforce on 6th December, 1810.  
Unveiled by D. G. Bowd, OAM.  
President, Hawkesbury Historical Society  
6th December, 1985.” | |
| Device: Concrete plinth with plaque  
Location: Entrance to east carpark, lower park, Old Bridge Road  
Comment: Plaque is a printed graphic on a stainless steel sheet, fixed to a concrete plinth. The plaque commemorates the provision of the “tourist facilities” by the Australian Government, likely in reference to the landscaping and carpark facilities. Both the plaque and the plinth are in poor condition and are not located in an easily accessible or noticeable area. | |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Interpretation</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Device**: Concrete plinth with plaque  
**Location**: Southeast approach to Windsor Bridge  
**Comment**: Cast metal plaque with painted background commemorating Windsor Bridge, installed as part of Australia’s Bicentenary 1988. Its location adjacent to the live lanes of traffic over the bridge make it inaccessible and dangerous for the public to easily view. |
| **Device**: Stainless steel plaques mounted on boundary wall.  
**Location**: Northeast corner of external boundary wall, Macquarie Arms Hotel.  
**Comment**: Thin sheet with inscribed and filled lettering describing historical events and persons in Windsor. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing Interpretation</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Device: Wall-mounted, cast bronze plaque  
Location: 7 Thompson Square Road  
Comment: Place-marking plaque identifying the building as an item of heritage significance. There are a number of properties in the immediate vicinity of Thompson Square that are signed with "Heritage Place" identifying plaques, put in place as part of the Hawkesbury Heritage initiative, and part of an existing Walking Tour of Thompson Square. |
| Device: Wall-mounted, cast bronze plaque  
Location: 7 Thompson Square Road  
Comment: Place-marking plaque identifying the building as an item of heritage significance. |
5 Historical Overview

The following historical overview is a summary of the historical development of the precinct. An extensive historical analysis has been researched and prepared by Extent Heritage as part of the “Thompson Square Strategic Conservation Management Plan” (SCMP). Further information on the development and significance of Thompson Square and the greater Windsor context should refer to the SCMP.

5.1 Brief Site History

There was extensive Aboriginal use of the study area for over a millennium before Europeans came to the upper Hawkesbury. Underlying the tertiary gravels of Thompson Square and Bridge Street there is an ancient Aeolian sand-dune, in which archaeological excavation between Baker Street, George St and Thompson Square in 2002 uncovered stone tools. Both the river and the quaternary alluvium down by the south bank of the river and over all the study area on the north side of the Hawkesbury constituted a useful source of indigenous food supply.

In the first years after European settlement of New South Wales began in 1788, there was a recurrent shortage of food in the colony and in 1794 grants were made along the upper Hawkesbury, where the soils of the flood-plain were superior to those already exploited around Sydney, Parramatta and Toongabbie. By the beginning of 1795, 85 of the 118 individuals initially promised land had established farms, the overwhelming majority of them ex-convicts.

A government presence was necessary and a site was established at the head of navigation, where stores could be brought in by boat and wheat and maize taken back to Sydney had been retained in crown hands. This Government Precinct of some 40 acres was bounded on the north-east by Samuel Wilcox’s grant, which ended at the present Arndell Street; on the south-east by South Creek; on the south-west by the present Baker Street, the approximate edge of a grant to Whitehouse, soon sold to William Baker, the government storekeeper; and on the north-west by the Hawkesbury River. Except for the strip of alluvial soil along the river bank, the new government area occupied higher and less fertile land than the local farms.

Within the Government Precinct the area known as Thompson Square after 1811 sloped conveniently down to the river. The slope was cleared of vegetation and a wharf was erected early in 1795, along with a store-house, housing a small guard. Other soldiers arrived in the winter and were accommodated close to the store in a barracks built late in 1795. A major flood in 1799 washed away the store and wharf, so both were replaced, with the store moved to higher ground. Better soldiers’ accommodation was constructed in 1796 on the western side of the Square and moved to higher ground by 1800. The settlement was known as Green Hills at this early stage.

The fourth basic facility was a granary for local cereal: the 1795 granary was replaced by Governor Hunter in 1796 by a more substantial wooden building in the middle of the eastern side of the present Square and a second similar granary was added by 1800.

In 1796 a cottage for the Commandant was erected near the north-eastern edge of the Government Precinct, adjacent to the study area. A small, thatched watch-house was built in the Square near the Commandant’s house by 1798.

Adjacent to the 1796 granary, to its east, was a small cottage built for the local constable. This was Andrew Thompson (a model citizen who was to become the first ex-convict to become a magistrate in the colony), on the cusp of an extraordinary career. In 1799 Thompson was given the exceptional right to have a lease within the government precinct: he held the cottage and an acre of surrounding land down to the river bank for a period of fourteen years, which had not lapsed when he died in 1810.

In 1803, under Governor King, the earlier log and thatch granaries were soon replaced by a three-storey brick building on top of the ridge to the south-east of the Square.
To the east of the new brick granary there was added in 1804-1805 a two-storey schoolhouse/chapel and schoolmaster’s residence, which also served as a court-house, and under Bligh in 1808 the chapel was refurbished. Slightly to the west of the brick granary around this time, Thompson, at the height of his prosperity, built his own three-storey store facing the Square (Figure 4).

The map prepared by Meehan in 1812 (detail in Figure 4), with the Hawkesbury at the bottom and South Creek at the top, shows only government buildings. No.1 is the schoolhouse/chapel, 2 the ‘Granary & Store’, occupying the adjacent rectangle, 3 the Government Cottage (far left) and 4 the replacement military barracks (on the right). Thompson lease and his former small cottage are clearly shown.

Figure 4. Windsor in 1812: the government precinct, Thompson lease and, in the upper section, the area round the later Bridge Street. North is at the bottom of the map (Source: James Meehan, surveyor, signed by Governor Macquarie, SRNSW Map SZ 529.)

From 1795 the Square was the place where community activities, such as assembling for musters and picking up provisions, took place. It is the oldest civic Square in Australia. In the paddock beside the barracks soldiers burnt an effigy of Governor Bligh when he was deposed in Sydney.

In December 1810 Governor Macquarie held a dinner in the Government Cottage where he announced the creation of five new towns on high land along the Hawkesbury-Nepean River. Windsor was to be the principal town. Unlike the other new towns, Pitt Town, Wilberforce, Richmond and Castlereagh, Windsor already had a rudimentary urban development. Macquarie recognised that there was already a civic Square in existence in Windsor. In 1811 he named this Square after his friend Andrew Thompson who had died in October 1810. Since Thompson Square was at one end of the elevated land on which the grid pattern of Windsor was laid out in 1811, a second Square was laid out closer to the centre of the new town, adjacent to the new
cemetery, where Thompson was already buried, and where St Matthew’s Anglican Church was built between 1817 and 1822.

Thompson Square remained the commercial and administrative focus of Windsor for another half century. The lease held by Thompson within the Square reverted to the Crown on his death, the area was tidied up and Macquarie redefined the south-west boundary of the civic space by making four town grants in 1811. The Macquarie Arms Inn (which is still extant) was built at once, and opened in 1815. No regular title-deeds seem to have been issued for these plots, where Howe’s House (no.7), no. 5 and the Doctors’ House (nos 1-3) were later built, but the private ownership of all the land abutting the square on the south-west was recognised from Macquarie’s time onwards.

The Thompson lease, shown in Meehan’s map (Figure 4) became the government garden in 1811. George Street did not extend north-east beyond Thompson Square. By 1831 (see plan figure 5), the old granary was known as the Commissariat Stores. Beside the government garden there were police and convict barracks, with stables behind. The schoolhouse/church of 1804-1805 was still standing just east of the Commissariat Stores, although St Matthew’s had since 1822 taken over its religious functions. A new watch-house had been built on Bridge Street close to the Store. Further south-east on Bridge Street the military barracks had been built in 1817-1818. Bridge Street itself had been created in 1814 to replace the road from the original South Creek crossing, further to the east. Bridge Street, however, ended at George Street: there was no defined road through early Thompson Square.

![Figure 5. The Government Domain (right) and Thompson Square in 1831. Government buildings are coloured red. The privately owned buildings which define the south-west side of Thompson Square are in blue. The beds of the government garden are carefully surveyed just south of the letters ‘IV’ in ‘River’. (Source: Surveyor Abbott, SRNSW, Map 1816, detail).](image)

The government presence on the eastern side of the Square diminished in the early Victorian period. The fully developed, privately owned western side of today’s Thompson Square, begun in 1811, was in place by the 1850s. Across the Square, the earlier buildings, shown in Figure 5, had disappeared and Government stables had been built at the northern corner of Bridge Street and
George Street. These stables were demolished after Lilburn Hall (10 Bridge Street) was built in the 1850s.

Below Lilburn Hall, the former government garden had been abandoned in 1852 so that the Presbyterian Church could build a manse. Although the church never built upon this flood-prone land, the realignment of the property boundaries straightened what is currently known (misleadingly) as Old Bridge Street, until the resumption of a triangle of land to enhance the vehicular turn into the wharf area in 1896. The sandstock brick wall which survives below the house at 4 Bridge Street (built in 1955) does not seem to have been accurately surveyed, but is likely to have been part of the garden delimitation of the government garden.

5.1.1 Statement of Significance

The existing Statement of Significance for Thompson Square Conservation Area as shown on the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage listing sheet for the item, is as follows:

Thompson Square is one of the oldest public squares in Australia and notable for the large number of Colonial Georgian buildings which surround it. It is the only public space remaining from the original town and has played an important part in the history of the town. It is the only remaining civic space as laid out by Governor Macquarie and is a vital precinct in the preservation of the early Colonial character of Windsor. The Square reflects Macquarie’s visionary schemes for town planning excellence in the infant colony (Sheedy 1975).

The existing Statement of Significance for Windsor Bridge, as shown on the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage listing sheet for the item, is as follows:

The Windsor Bridge has a high level of historic, technical, aesthetic and social significance as an important historical and physical landmark in one of the State’s pre-eminent historic towns, and in the wider Sydney region. It is the oldest extant crossing of the Hawkesbury River. Together with the successive crossings upstream at Richmond, this bridge has played a major role in shaping the history of the Hawkesbury area, functioning for well over a century as an all important link between the communities on either side of the River and as an essential component in a through route of importance in the development of the Sydney region. The series of major alterations to the structure since its construction articulate the continuing difficulties of negotiating a crossing of this major waterway with its frequent floods. The Windsor Bridge has landmark qualities as one of only two bridge crossings of the Hawkesbury River in the Hawkesbury area and as such it defines the surrounding network of roads. It is a large structure, and although simple in appearance, impressive. The bridge represents a major engineering project in the State for its time. The addition of a reinforced concrete beam deck to replace the timber deck in the 1920s is a relatively early use of this technology. The River and this crossing of it has defined the life of several generations of local inhabitants on both sides of the River. As the suburban outskirts of Sydney widen and come closer to the still distinct and distinctive Macquarie towns, the rich history of the area and its physical remains become increasingly important to the community’s sense of identity. The Windsor Bridge is thus an important part of Windsor's history and identity.
6 Interpretation Framework – Themes and Principles

6.1 ‘Best Practice’ Interpretation

Heritage is a cultural asset. As such it belongs and relates to all persons in a community and is linked to other aspects of a community's cultural traditions, physical environment and community life.

The heritage interpretation of a place should connect to audiences on all cultural levels and engage them in forming their own personal association to the site. It should be adaptable to audiences from all urban and regional backgrounds, whilst still respecting and appreciating the culture and values of the target audiences. Its ultimate aim is to share Australia's range of cultural heritage values through the effective and creative use of multi-faceted and dynamic platforms, installations and devices, as well as a wide variety of physical, face-to-face and digital media interfaces.

This heritage interpretation strategy has drawn from the various local and internationally endorsed interpretation guidelines to determine what principles will best represent the heritage of Thompson Square, the surrounding structures including the Windsor Bridge and the greater township of Windsor. The identified interpretation principles to be applied to Thompson Square are discussed below in section 6.3.

6.2 The Value of Heritage at Windsor’s Thompson Square

The heritage value that the Thompson Square precinct brings to the Windsor area consists of tangible heritage assets such as built fabric, archaeology and artefacts together with intangible cultural aspects such as histories, cultural values and stories associated with the site.

Redevelopment of the Thompson Square precinct will provide a mixed-usage site that will combine the built fabric of the historic buildings, both commercial and residential, with the community focused open space of the Square itself. This return to a larger open space that can be utilised by the public for meetings, gatherings, events and park-like community access will re-associate the Square with its origins and relink it with its heritage and community.

The linkage between both tangible and intangible heritage will provide the opportunity to fully engage with the community’s values and expectations whilst providing innovative and

Tangible Heritage

The legacy of physical artefacts, buildings and the archaeological record at Windsor is highly significant to both the region and the understanding of the development and growth of NSW. Communicating these stories through interpretation and conservation will provide a strong and continued link for the local Windsor community with its historic past. The wealth of extant built heritage at Thompson Square makes for more opportunities for simple, direct and effective interpretation.

Intangible Heritage

Intangible heritage is a term that encompasses a variety of ideas. These ideas or stories can be spiritual, historical, symbolic or simply representative of social values, which can be associated with Thompson Square. Incorporating and preserving these aspects of the site’s heritage is valuable not only to supplement but to enhance the tangible heritage in place. Intangible heritage, particularly in regards to the Aboriginal stories relating to the place, are an essential component of the story of Windsor and the settlement that developed at Thompson Square.
6.3 Interpretation Principles

Based on the guiding interpretation policies (see section 3.3 above), we have developed a small set of project specific interpretation principles appropriate to the Windsor Bridge and Thompson Square precinct:

- **Principle 1 – A Sense of Place**
  Interpretation will aim to enhance the sense of place that is one of the valuable historic aspects of Thompson Square. It will define the space, physically, visually, spiritually and experientially so that the original, ongoing, and current functions of the space are profoundly experienced.

- **Principle 2 – Tangible and Intangible Heritage**
  Interpretation will emphasise both the tangible and intangible heritage of the area to create a comprehensive approach to the site as a whole, its position within the wider community context. Both tangible and intangible heritage will be interpreted using direct and implicit nodes.

- **Principle 3 – Media**
  Interpretation will integrate a wide range of media and platforms to create sustainable and effective interpretation infrastructure. The mixed and innovative media will aid in effectively interpreting intangible heritage values and enhance the sense of place.

- **Principle 4 – Community Engagement**
  Interpretation will create a linkage and interaction between local residents, businesses and community whilst contributing to the experience of the visiting audiences. Interpretation development will engage and incorporate community aspects as appropriate to create a sense of community ownership.

- **Principle 5 – Collaboration with existing local heritage**
  Interpretation will explore and where possible facilitate opportunities to link/collaborate with other community interpretation and outreach programs. Interpretation development will endeavour to work closely with stakeholders to incorporate any new interpretation into existing interpretation, tourism and public programs.

6.4 Themes

The following table outlines the NSW Historical Themes\(^3\) that can be relevantly applied to the Thompson Square and Windsor Bridge site. Local themes identified in bold are themes that can present the strongest narrative due to its physical presence, extensive representation in the historic record, high historic significance or its level of local importance and appeal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australian Theme</th>
<th>NSW Themes</th>
<th>Local Themes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tracing the Natural Evolution of Australia</td>
<td>Environment – Naturally Evolved</td>
<td>• Alluvial Sand Deposits</td>
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<td>• Hawkesbury River</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Regular flooding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peopling Australia</td>
<td>Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures</td>
<td>• Early Occupation</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Contact between Aboriginal and European communities</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Australian Theme</th>
<th>NSW Themes</th>
<th>Local Themes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peopling Australia</td>
<td>Migration</td>
<td>• 1795 settlement at Windsor</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Military post from 1810</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing local, regional and national</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>• Granary</td>
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<tr>
<td>economies</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Colonial Food Supply</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing local, regional and national</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>• Military Post, Hospital – civic centre and commercial trade at Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>economies</td>
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<td>Square</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Colonial Food Supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing local, regional and national</td>
<td>Exploration</td>
<td>• Nepean and Hawkesbury Rivers</td>
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<td>economies</td>
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<td>• Maitland/Hunter Valley</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Early explorers</td>
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<td>Developing local, regional and national</td>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>• Punt</td>
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<td>economies</td>
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<td>• Wharf</td>
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<td>• Bridge</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• River transport of Colonial supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building settlements, towns and cities</td>
<td>Towns, suburbs and villages</td>
<td>• Settlement of Windsor Township and the 5 Macquarie Towns.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Oldest Macquarie building in Australia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building settlements, towns and cities</td>
<td>Land tenure</td>
<td>• Crown lands</td>
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<td>• Town Commons</td>
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<td>• Emancipist Land Grant – Andrew Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governing</td>
<td>Government and Administration</td>
<td>• One of the oldest government designated town squares extant.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Government interaction because of food supply.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing Australia’s cultural life</td>
<td>Leisure</td>
<td>• Town Commons</td>
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<td>• Public reserve</td>
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<td>Australian Theme</td>
<td>NSW Themes</td>
<td>Local Themes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marking the phases of life</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>• Andrew Thompson</td>
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<td>• Gov. Macquarie</td>
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<td>• William Cox</td>
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<td>• Margaret Catchpole</td>
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<td>• Dr Arndell</td>
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<td>• Captain J Brabyn</td>
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<td>• Lieutenant A Bell</td>
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</tbody>
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**NSW Themes**

- Persons
- Andrew Thompson
- Gov. Macquarie
- William Cox
- Margaret Catchpole
- Maria Lock
- John Howe
- Benjamin Singleton
- George Loder
- Richard Fitzgerald
- Dr Arndell
- Rev. Henry Fulton
- Rev. R Cartwright
- Captain J Brabyn
- Lieutenant A Bell
7 Interpretation Proposal

7.1 The Interpretive Vision

The significant heritage values and well-documented history associated with Windsor Bridge and Thompson Square mean that the site has some challenging and complex narratives associated with it. These complexities combined with community expectations, long-term sustainability/viability issues and the need to provide effective devices that assist in conveying the ‘story’ of the area; it is essential that a creative and innovative approach to interpretation be taken.

The Interpretation Strategy’s approach is to consider the whole of Thompson Square as being the interpretation canvas providing designated interpretation zones. These zones will assist in the understanding of the place whilst providing audiences with the ability to delve further into the sites heritage and history as they desire. Community involvement and consultation with the establishment of the appropriate interpretation will also be critical to the effectiveness of the site as a whole.

The interpretation will emphasise and reveal the tangible and intangible qualities of the site’s history through both archaeological and built heritage aspects. The stories of the people associated with the site, their relationships with the built fabric and archaeological record will be central to the narratives provided in the tangible media as well as digital record.

The stories told will be drawn from the abundance of extant records and will be imbued with interesting and engaging aspects that will challenge the audience’s understanding of the past whilst offering glimpses into the living memory of those who were instrumental in the area’s development, to the changes that occurred and allowing the audience to imagine history for themselves.

The aim of the interpretation will be to have audiences leave the site with:

- An understanding of the natural history and significance of the Hawkesbury River system both from an Aboriginal and European perspective.
- An understanding of the tidal conditions and constraints that formed part of the significant history of the site and still has impacts today, ie. Flooding.
- An understanding of Windsor’s role in Colonial expansion and the choices made for the settlement of ‘Green Hills’, the significance of Thompson Square and the extant built fabric.
- An understanding of the role of locals, such as Andrew Thompson, the military and government had on the development of the area.
- A greater knowledge of the history and respect for the heritage of the site including those who lived and worked there, but also of the continued generational aspect of the community that still lives and works there today.
- A personal connection to the site.
- A view of the heritage of the site as a living, ongoing aspect of daily life.

7.2 Target Audience

A critical pathway in the establishment of effective interpretation is undertaking the necessary research into the target audience for the site. As part of the Interpretation Plan design, detailed and extensive research should be done to fully understand the audience for the intended interpretation and to ensure that the desired outcomes can be satisfactorily achieved.

The target audiences associated with the site include:

- Residents and Locals
• Aboriginal Audiences
• Visitors (Family & Friends)
• Consumers, Shoppers and General Public
• Working Professionals
• Tourists

As with all sustainable endeavours reaching your target audience is critical to the success of any heritage or interpretative installation. For heritage this success can be gauged in a number of ways – for example those that can be evidenced, ie. visitor attendance or local spend value; as well as ways that are harder to substantiate such as value-added or ‘living memory’ experiences.

Perhaps the most important aspect in the development of the interpretation process is that of understanding your audience and where they are coming from. In order to fully assess the target audience for the Thompson Square interpretation the following should be considered:

1. Where is the audience coming from? (Digital, tourism, visiting friends and relatives, locals)
2. What are their age groups and other socio-economic backgrounds?
3. How long does the average visit last?
4. What are the interpretation components and how will they draw visitors through the experience?
5. What experiences will the audience leave with?
6. What are the most powerful or strongest impressions that the audience will have from their visit?
7. Does the interpretation provide a suitable cross-section of information within the broader context to make it accessible to all audiences?
8. Does the interpretation respect the connections between people and place and provide the audience an opportunity to form their own connection?

Thompson Square has associations that exceed it locale, that are recognised at a local, state and national level. The current and potential audience for the site consists of a vast array of people drawn to the area for a multitude of reasons. It is important that the interpretation responds to these “users” of the site but also challenges their perceptions and resonates with them as providing authentic, reliable and informative content that can be access both physically at the site as well as digitally, consolidating and exceeding the audiences expectations.
7.3 SWOT Analysis of Heritage for Thompson Square

**STRENGTHS**
- Proximity to Hawkesbury River
- Large number of extant Built Heritage assets
- Strong community following
- Vast array of documented history of the site

**WEAKNESSES**
- Location of Fluvial flooding
- Limitation of tourism infrastructure
- Limited space within Thompson Square available for activities

**OPPORTUNITIES**
- Expansion and integration with existing interpretation, trails, tours, events and activities
- Creative and innovative interpretation zones and infrastructure that integrate with existing landscapes.
- Greater engagement with community
- Mixed usage area

**THREATS**
- Distance from Sydney CBD
- Heritage tourism management is limited
- Reliant on the strength of the Windsor business community
7.4 Response to the key site issues

The following statements are responses to the approach recommended for interpreting the site. Each response provides a rationale, response and cross-reference to interpretation solutions for each issue.

7.4.1 Retention of Original Use

Rationale
The most important aspect of Thompson Square’s heritage significance is its historical function. Thompson Square is one of the oldest town squares reserved for community use in Australia. Since its allocation as a commons in the late 1790s, it has remained a largely undeveloped community precinct for over 200 years.

Response
Retention of this historical use and allocation should be an imperative goal for any conservation management planning regarding the site. The interpretive strategy has identified with this significance and plans to highlight it by developing the interpretive installations around the existing “open” landscape, rather than seeing the square as an opportunity for new urban development.

Interpretation Solution
- Utilise the urban landscape design to emphasise the natural interpretation zones.
- Interpretation should have a sense of transparency so that the sense of open space is not obscured.
- Use historic sources (artwork and photographs) to make the visual connection between the Square as a historic open space, as well as a transition space.

Implications for Interpretation
- Sense of connection with the places heritage.
- Continued use of the area by the general public for recreation and as a meeting place.
- Tourism opportunities.
- Sense of ownership and involvement by stakeholders.
- May segregate community as to “period of history” being represented.
- Concern that all stakeholders are represented.

7.4.2 Integration into the Urban Design

Rationale
The interpretation strategy is designed to integrate seamlessly into the existing urban landscape, as well as still yield opportunities for new and dynamic interpretation as that landscape changes and evolves in the future.

Response
The strategy incorporates sophisticated interpretative device concepts, more often multi-functional in design, so as to be relevant and progressive in its engagement. It will then have longevity to its applicability within the space. The strategy also recognises the importance of utilising a range of interpretive media that both naturally connects with the urban landscape as well as projecting forward from the environment to amplify the significance of the space. It aims to utilise as many opportunities as possible within the urban environment for audience engagement, without becoming overwhelming or appearing haphazard.

This strategy will also demonstrate how the integrated use of interpretation types will provide ‘best practice’ for the site including a range of outcomes such as increasing the tourist-based value of the area, providing a sense of place and understanding of the site for residents and visitors, re-
establishing a social and civil hub within the township and provide opportunities for community engagement that will strengthen cultural ownership and responsibility values.

**Interpretation Solution**

- Creatively integrate interpretation infrastructure and devices within the landscape and urban design framework.
- Ensure interpretive devices do not impede other uses/values of the place.
- Interpretation should consider the transitory nature of the space to inform the design of devices.
- Potential to reuse bridge elements as part of the new design, especially the iron piers and concrete girders.

**Implications for Interpretation**

- Provide a range and depth of information throughout the site to satisfy a variety of audience groups.
- Accessible landscape features – physically and visually.
- Integration and reuse of bridge elements will create a connection with the community and visitors.
- Creation of a trail through the site linking it with other areas of Windsor expanding the visitor experience and destination appeal.
- Ensure that the site is not over-interpreted.
- Limited areas available – interpretation infrastructure needs to be site specific and well designed to provide innovative and engaging experience.

### 7.4.3 Community Engagement

**Rationale**

It is clear that Thompson Square is an integral historical landscape for the local community. It is therefore important that the interpretation strategy addresses this critical importance. The strategy highlights the site’s significance through interpretive devices and installations, and therefore increasing awareness of importance to a range of audiences, including the local citizen, the occasional visitor to passing audiences with limited opportunity to engage. The range of interpretive devices will aim to engage with all these audience regardless of their level of engagement, whether it be passing interest or with focused intent.

**Response**

The interpretation strategy also identifies greater community initiatives such as the reinstatement and enhancement of existing heritage programs in the Square (i.e. heritage walks), integration of the local Museum space and public art programs that encourage another level of community engagement with the site physically as well as with its heritage significance.

**Interpretation Solution**

- Recognise and celebrate the multiple community values for the place.
- Undertake community consultation and cultural values research. Incorporate community input to harness their knowledge and passion for the site and its heritage.
- Ensure that community feedback, values and input are incorporated into the final Interpretation Plan.
- Use a “Public Competition” within the public art program to value add to the community’s sense of ownership and interest in the site.
- Establish and grow mutually beneficial relationships with historically-linked establishments, such as the Museum, to create interpretation opportunities.
• Work in conjunction with current operators within the precinct to further community involvement.

**Implications for Interpretation**

• Create a community ownership and responsibility for the site.
• Incorporate a community spirit into the longevity of the space through public art installation.
• Incorporate all stakeholder and community values and histories into the site, creating a sense of co-operation and recognition.
• May encounter focused and/or biased attitudes.
• Possibility of community being fractured and divisive.

### 7.4.4 Sustainability within Flood Prone Areas

**Rationale**

Given that Thompson Square has relatively limited physical opportunities for interpretive installations, and taking into account that one of the critical outcomes of this interpretive strategy is to maintain the historic “Open space” function of the Square, the river foreshore area yields opportunities for redevelopment and use as an interpretive precinct. However, this proposal is fraught with environmental issues, namely the inherent risks to interpretation from natural events like flooding and foreshore weathering. Interpretation in flood-prone areas is a critical issue that the strategy needs to address and overcome in order to be successful.

**Response**

Innovative and resourceful design of interpretive devices in regards to materials, design, construction and engineering will be vital in producing effective, economical and durable installations that are sustainable in disaster-prone areas. The interpretation strategy proposes to utilise masonry, metal and heavily engineered structures, either already in the urban environment or new elements, as part of new interpretive installations.

**Interpretation Solution**

• Interpretation should consider the flood-prone nature of the space to inform the design of devices and materials used.
• Ensure that features, fixtures and devices are appropriate to the various locations throughout the site that are affected by flooding.

**Implications for Interpretation**

• Need for robust and appropriate design.
• Need for innovative options.
• Potential management issues for maintenance and restoration after flooding.

### 7.4.5 Comprehensive Inclusion of Archaeology (Non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal) and Windsor Bridge into the Interpretation Plan

**Rationale**

Thompson Square, as with the town of Windsor, developed from the Colonial period. While the Square is an important focal point of the community, there are heritage sites within the immediate vicinity of Thompson Square that contribute, if not elevate, the significance of the Square itself. For example, the Windsor Bridge connecting Thompson’s Square to Macquarie Park on the north side of the Hawkesbury River is a NSW State significant historic road bridge dating from the 1880s. The insertion of the Bridge at that time dramatically shaped the face, function and public engagement with the Square, making their stories inextricably tied. Additionally, archaeological and historic records all demonstrate that Aboriginal activity was present within Thompson Square and the Hawkesbury River foreshore.
Response
The archaeological testing program has uncovered that Aboriginal occupation in the area of Thompson Square can be evidenced to as early as 23,000 years ago. From 1790 to 1830s there is evidence of contact between the Indigenous and Europeans communities. The test excavations have revealed that there are clearly some highly significant narratives about the communication between the groups.

The extent of activity and evidence available is unclear without further archaeological and historic research, however this is a valuable element in the story of Thompson Square, as it demonstrates its use beyond the Colonial period.

Interpretation Solution
- Identify opportunities during the archaeological excavation process to engage with the local community, and facilitate their interest and support. This could include initiatives like open days, tours, etc.
- Incorporate the findings from the test excavations into any future interpretative elements, with potential both for displays or signage.
- For sensitive materials, may be best interpreted throughout audio-visual multimedia devices.

Implications for Interpretation
- Huge potential for community engagement.
- Opportunities to engage with local operators such as the Museum to create outstanding public programs.
- Tourism potential.
- Requires extensive planning and preparation.
- Requires trained personnel.

7.4.6 Partner with existing tourist and interpretation schemes

Rationale
There are a number of public programs, heritage walks, public landscape and recreation precincts in place in the vicinity of Thompson Square.

Response
New interpretation can relate or partner with these existing schemes, further emphasising the sense of place and create cohesiveness in public installations.

Interpretation Solution
- Add to, or renew the existing heritage walks programs, to be in line with new designs and aesthetics. This includes potential to integrate into the Hawkesbury Heritage Walk and the Great River Walk.
- Work closely with the local museum to include elements of the Thompson Square archaeological record.

Implications for Interpretation
- Expanded business and tourism opportunities – need for extensive interpretation engagement.
- Existing range of trails and walks can feed into the site’s interpretation.
- Digital and online based interpretation and integration with local businesses.
7.4.7 Utilise Key Interpretation Nodes and Zones

**Rationale**
Thompson Square provides a vast number of stories and locations of interest that all compete for exposure when assessing interpretation value.

**Response**
By isolating key areas throughout the Thompson Square Conservation Area we will ensure that a comprehensive and logical flow can be established to enhance the value of the interpretation devices – both physical and digital.

**Interpretation Solution**
- Determine the most effective and least impeding interpretation infrastructure for each of the identified nodes or zones.
- Design the content for each area in accordance with the intended outcome and corporate it into an appropriate design solution for the area.
- Identify nodes that target school groups/audiences specifically. Integrate this with potential to collaborate with local museums.

**Implications for Interpretation**
- Opportunity to provide an overall site approach to the interpretation – telling the story as a whole approach.
- Various locations providing a range of accessibility opportunities.
- Potential to “over-sell” the interpretation, ie over interpret the site.
Figure 6. Potential interpretation zones and nodes within the Thompson Square area.
7.4.8 Address interpretation project suggestions as per the Windsor Bridge EIS

Rationale
The 2012 Windsor Bridge EIS and associated specialist working papers identified that interpretation would be a key mitigation to the impacts of the development. The EIS made suggestion of a number of devices and interpretive projects that may have some place within the project precinct given wealth of information that has been obtained through the historical, Aboriginal and maritime archaeological research results.

Response
We have addressed the suggestions and opportunities in the following table, giving some justification as to whether the proposal is able to be implemented. We have addressed all points made from

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interpretation Opportunity</th>
<th>Interpretation Opportunities and Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guided tours during archaeological excavations.</td>
<td>Opportunity here during the salvage excavation phase. Some limitations however to access and safety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-extraction artefact sorting in a controlled museum environment, potentially with some public involvement.</td>
<td>Little potential of using the museum for this task due to the type of works involved (wet sieving) and the lack of storage capacity. There are also limitations to public involvement during the artefact sorting exercise due to security reasons and depending on the nature and condition of the artefacts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify and maintain particular vistas of significance.</td>
<td>We have identified certain interpretive precincts, some of which have opportunities for viewing platforms or interpretive devices that can positively frame and enhance certain vistas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporating interpretation about Thompson Square, Windsor Bridge and Freemans Reach into the Great River Walk.</td>
<td>There is opportunity to integrate new interpretation into the existing Great River Walk and expand on the existing interpretation through new and innovative mediums.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary and permanent interpretive displays in the Hawkesbury Museum.</td>
<td>There is certainly opportunity to collaborate with the museum in order to achieve and integrated, cohesive, complete and holistic narrative of the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Also, opportunity to use artefacts from excavations in Museum workshops.</td>
<td>This opportunity is dependent on the significance of the artefact assemblage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication of research papers on the results of the investigation.</td>
<td>Research papers and publications are a form of heritage interpretation targeted at academics and industry professionals. This interpretation strategy is focused on the public level interpretation only and would not build on the process of developing academic research, but will certainly use the research to inform content for the interpretation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A virtual reality walk through the project alignment at different periods of time.</td>
<td>There is opportunity to utilise modern technologies into the interpretation, including oral histories, digital apps, virtual tours, etc. The media would need to support both the theme and the precinct/space.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Incorporating elements of the site like shells and flood levels into landscape features and finishes.

We have identified this opportunity also and intend to run themes like nature and the River throughout the precincts where thematically appropriate.

7.5 Proposed implementation

Using the framework set out in this document, the following process will be used in the development and eventual implementation of the Interpretation Plan. This process is further explained in Figure 7 below.

7.5.1 Phase 1 – Community Consultation

- Facilitate stakeholder and community consultation to understand the local values and expectations understood from the project. As a key stakeholder, Hawkesbury City Council should be included in the consultation process. This would be done following the adoption of the Strategy and in conjunction with the Urban Design and Landscaping Plan consultation process.
- Identify opportunities where interpretation can be integrated with existing public programs i.e. heritage walks and tours, school programs, etc.

7.5.2 Phase 2 – Community involvement programme

- Involve the archaeological excavation work as component of developing the interpretation, giving the community an opportunity to engage with the archaeological significance of the site.
- Involve the local historical societies, museums and interest groups to promote the sense of township that the redevelopment and interpretation projects are focused on.

7.5.3 Phase 3 – Options Analysis and Development

- Identify opportunities and constraints within the project area for interpretation.
- Preliminary content and design development, including preliminary research and presentation of historic interpretive themes.
- Prepare a report the presents a suite of interpretation options, either to be presented and analysed as a groups of elements, or as individual elements.
- Review based on stakeholder and community feedback.

7.5.4 Phase 4 – Develop the Interpretation Plan

- The above phases will inform and guide the development of the Interpretation Plan. As per the Conditions of Approval for the project, the plan needs to include detailed design, content, location and materials specifications. Once the interpretation plan is finalised, approval and endorsement will need to be sought by the project stakeholders, before the Plan can commence implementation.

7.5.5 Phase 5 – Interpretation Infrastructure, Detailed Device design, production and installation

- Using the approved detailed specifications, produce production-ready artwork.
- Fabrication and installation phase.
7.5.6 Phase 6 – Integrated interpretation and tourism program

- Once installation of interpretation program has been completed, launch the program as community event.
- The integration phase should tie in with existing heritage and tourism programs to enlarge the greater function of local interpretation in Windsor.
Figure 7 Interpreting strategy as overarching framework to guide the community consultation, preparation of the interpretation plan, design documentation and eventual implementation program.
8 Potential Interpretation Elements

8.1 Interpretive Concept Elements

Interpretation in Thompson Square at present is quite sparse and under-utilised. The existing elements are discussed in Section 2.5 above, and it is quite clear from this that the historic significance of the site and its importance as part of the township of Windsor over 200 years ago is lost. This almost blank canvas fortunately gives us the opportunity to develop a diverse and varied catalogue of interpretive device options for innovative and active engagement with the public.

Often in new heritage interpretation, there is a swift temptation to utilise a range of options, maximising the interpretive experience, activating as many spaces and taking advantage of as many new technologies and installations as possible. However well-meaning, this approach can result in a very overwhelming and busy explosion of information. Rather, Thompson Square, being such a limited space in regards to size and physical opportunities for public interaction, would likely be an ideal space for a simple but sophisticated interpretive output with an integrated and well-connected expression of the few critical interpretive themes and principles.

That said, it is still imperative that the interpretation on site effectively conveys the heritage significance of Thompson Square as a historically significant, designated community space. Combinations of interpretive media such as informative and commemorative signage, commissioned public art pieces, digital media installations, viewing platforms that take advantage of the picturesque landscape, and multi-functional installations that combines interpretation with practical applications all have the potential to enhance the user-experience of even small spaces within the urban landscape.

Examples of interpretive device options are set out below with reference to potential locations and themes.

8.1.1 Interpretive Signage

Interpretive signs can take a number of forms, ranging from small scale identification plaques through to large scale information boards. All forms have their merits but its function in amongst the greater interpretive installation program must be clear. Whilst still being consistent and cohesive in style and branding, wayfinding signage must be clear in its function compared to informative panels that warrant more focussed attention from audiences. Signage that discusses intangible heritage elements will need to display information differently compared to that which discusses built and extant heritage items in the immediate vicinity.

Place-identifying signage

Signage schemes such as the British Blue Plaques (Figure 8) are a low visual impact but highly effective means of communicating historical events and places. There are a number of properties in the immediate vicinity of Thompson Square that are signed with “heritage place” identifying plaques. These were put in place as part of the Hawkesbury Heritage initiative, and part of an existing walking tour of Thompson Square, also developed by the same initiative. Considering a large part of the heritage significance of the Square is its intact built Colonial environment, an update or elaboration of these plaques to include more historic information would be beneficial. Furthermore, the Hawkesbury Heritage initiative might no longer be an active program, and there is potential to revive it to include more structures within the Square, including the Windsor Bridge itself and some of the monuments within the Square. As a number of these properties are in private ownership, place-identifying signage can also effectively be placed within the public domain, as footpath paving or through utilising historic images and art as an overlaid translucent panorama over the modern, existing landscape.
Other more interactive forms of signage that help identify places can allow a user to engage with beyond its physical interface. For example, installations that allow audiences to visually “superimpose” the historic against the existing gives an additional level of audience appreciation towards the development of the place over time (Figure 9 to Figure 12). There are opportunities for this type of signage from the existing lookout platform on the south riverbank, west of Thompson Square. Opportunities for devices of this type are also on the north riverbank, or from the abutments of the existing bridge looking south towards the Square, to interpret elements such as the punt, former bridge alignment and the earlier configuration of Thompson Square.
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Figure 10. Interpretation of Slettnes Lighthouse, Norway. (Source: https://www.reddit.com/r/ArtefactPorn/comments/34xdlz/an_outline_overlay_reconstructs_the_damaged/)

Figure 11. View-master style interpretive installation showing historic imagery of site through the viewfinder. (Source: Interpretation Australia)
Figure 12. The rich history of river transport along the Darling River is depicted through signage. (Source: http://www.gml.com.au/droughts-flooding-rains-heritage-interpretation-toorale-national-park/)

**Information signage**

Fortunately, Thompson Square is well represented in the historical record through artwork, historic photographs, maps and plans, public records and most importantly, through the existing built heritage in the vicinity. Informative signage should utilise a range of all of these resources, to produce a dynamic, highly informed, accurate panel. Informative text do not need to be “text-heavy”, and can convey the sense of intent through a mixture of image and text (Figure 13).

Ideally, this type of signage would be best positioned in areas of intended high-traffic, perhaps along footpaths or near buildings with a high public interest factor. It would also benefit in areas where groups of people are to likely congregate, such as at lookouts or areas where public facilities like tables and benches are available. Signage with serves multiple functions can provide an additional level of interaction (Figure 14).
Figure 13. Information signage that takes cues from the highly intact built fabric at Ecclefechan. (Source: [http://www.differentia.co.uk/journal/2015/4/10/the-ecclefechan-heritage-trail](http://www.differentia.co.uk/journal/2015/4/10/the-ecclefechan-heritage-trail))

Figure 14. Informative plaques on concrete plinths in front of seating bench at Fort Scratchley, Newcastle. This installation option may be appropriate along the foreshore where substantial structural foundations are necessary to combat issues with flooding. (Source: [http://www.differentia.co.uk/journal/2015/4/10/the-ecclefechan-heritage-trail](http://www.differentia.co.uk/journal/2015/4/10/the-ecclefechan-heritage-trail))

**Esoteric signage**

As opposed to informative signage which is direct in its delivery of information, interpretive signage can also be quite ambiguous and indirect in meaning. In most instances, this style of signage can often be quite artistic and sculptural, as the audience engages with it at a far more spiritual and emotional level (Figure 15 to Figure 18).

Installations of this type can be located along bridge abutments and structural walls (Figure 17), where there is sufficient space to allow for monumental interpretation, making it a more spiritual experience rather than devices where information is distributed and digested in a strict form.
Figure 15. Bronze ground inlays acknowledge Kurnu-Baakandji heritage. (Source: http://www.gml.com.au/droughts-flooding-rains-heritage-interpretation-toorale-national-park/)

Figure 16. Laser cut steel sheets in large format, mounted to walls at Cascades Womens Factory, Hobart. Single words etched are selected from the historical records of descriptions of the female convicts. (Source: Extent Heritage)

Figure 17. Large scale concrete retaining wall, Parramatta Railway Station, being utilised for as a public art element. (Source: Extent Heritage)
Figure 18. Story motifs incorporated to architectural features such as stainless shade awning.

Public Art
Thompson Square has a strong connection to the local community, who both appreciate and embrace the Square’s status as one of the oldest Town Squares in NSW. As such, while the spatial opportunities are limited, there is potential for engagement with the community through local art installations. Public art installations can either be permanent through specialist artist commissions, or temporary such as annual art prizes or transient sculptural installations (Figure 19). As its function doubles as part interpretive device, the themes and outcomes of the public art should be in keeping with the principle historic themes of the permanent interpretive devices, so that a cohesive sense of place is still achieved.

Figure 19. Lucy Humphries, “Horizon”, Sculpture by the Sea 2013, using the surrounding natural landscape as art. Sculpture by the Sea is a temporary public sculpture installation that attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors over a period of three weeks. (Source: http://sculpturebythesea.com/about/)

Self-guided tours
There are currently several self-guided walking tours that focus on history in Windsor and the wider Hawkesbury District in many formats; day trips, heritage drives and heritage walks. More specifically, Hawkesbury Heritage Tours, an initiative by Hawkesbury City Council, has prepared a heritage walk through the Thompson Square Precinct. The heritage walk is supplemented by a downloadable, printable guide that maps out sites along the walk, giving some basic information.

This is a positive start, though there is opportunity to further elaborate or expand on the information given in the guide, particularly were there are historic sites that should be added to the itinerary.
Furthermore, in regards to accessibility of information, the walking tour guide appears to only be available by Council’s website. There are no printed copies immediately available to visitors onsite; this may present some accessibility issues for some people. Vice versa, interpretive devices and installations should allude to the availability of these supplementary materials.

Self-guided tours have generally remained in the domain of adult audiences. A way to engage younger audiences can be through giving tours a playful spin, creating passport checkpoints where young audiences must actively seek devices and are encouraged to complete the entire tour. This is done very successfully at zoos, and is a very effective way of keeping children attentive throughout the experience (Figure 21).

This can be done through printed material such as a map, footpath markers that guide people through the space, or interactive media such as a smartphone app.

![Life along the Riverbank supplementary brochure](image)

**Figure 20.** Life along the Riverbank supplementary brochure to the interpretive installations. Without this brochure, information about the installations, and the existence of a further supplementary podcast, is lost.

![Featherdale Wildlife Park map and passport](image)

**Figure 21.** Featherdale Wildlife Park map and passport.
Website and Digital media applications

Building a high-level of technology into interpretive devices expands the reach and interaction exponentially. It allows for a wealth of information to be accessed immediately by audiences, whereas before interpretation was limited to the size of an informative panel or A4 printable page.

Digital technology

Accessing digital information encouraging immediate engagement online with historical and interpretive resources as well as interactive maps and way finding devices. QR (Quick Response) Codes and GPS locating systems built into interpretive devices will allow for an immediately interactive and engaging experience by audiences. Providing infrastructure to allow for free wireless internet access will provide for many opportunities to maximise the interpretation that has been prepared. Possibilities for utilising digital media for interpretation include:

- Specialised travel apps with GPS tracking (Figure 24);
- QR coded interpretive installations;
- Audio tours – downloadable in multiple languages (Figure 22)

Figure 22.  izi-TRAVEL, a downloadable app available on iPhone and Android, is utilised by museums, city councils, community groups, etc. who can build and upload walking tours and audio guides. The files can be downloaded prior to a visit and accessed without the use of internet data. It also has GPS tracking capabilities.

Figure 23.  Digital Loupes, which are a very good way of engaging youth and younger audiences because of the hands-on nature.
Figure 24. Augmented reality digital applications that are custom-designed for each site, using a combination of GPS location and historic sources to automatically access location-specific information.

DigiMacq is a purpose-built app interpreting 19th Century Parramatta Park. The app can be downloaded onto personal devices or loan devices are available to the public. This is a good example of a local application of heritage interpretation using digital media. Given the subject matter has some relationship (through the Governor Macquarie theme) to Thompson Square, there may be opportunities to collaborate with the DigiMacq app developers to integrate content and styles.

Figure 25. Walking tour of Parramatta Park with a focus on the story of Parramatta and Governor Macquarie. A similar interpretive theme to the narrative that could be utilised at Windsor and Thompson Square.

Archaeological installations
Archaeological interpretation installations are a tangible way of exhibiting remains that are generally not accessible in the public domain. This can include built remains as well as the display of artefact assemblages. While it is uncertain what elements of the archaeological record remains
in order to be physically interpreted, there is certainly an opportunity to enter discussions with the local history museums and Council on appropriate ways to interpret archaeological finds.

There is evidence of the use of Thompson Square from the pre-Colonial period through to the 1920s. Here, the common theme is the vitality of the river to provide food and resources, and later as a means to trade with European settlers. There are opportunities to interpret this significance through every medium, from signage, public art, to landscaping (Figure 26).

Figure 26. Lartelare Aboriginal Heritage Park, Port Adelaide uses landscaping and interpretive devices to create a meaningful design that acknowledges the cultural significance of the site.
9 Conclusions and Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- This Interpretation Strategy be accepted as a basis for the development of the Interpretation Plan for the concept, design and implementation of the interpretation infrastructure for the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project in Thompson Square.

- Community consultation is undertaken to ensure that community values and expectations are understood. This can be done in conjunction with the Urban Design and Landscaping Plan consultation process. Consultation should be well structured to positively channel constructive and informative feedback is received.

- Consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders should be undertaken and expanded to ensure that only appropriate and effective information, imagery and designs depicting the indigenous interpretive elements are utilised.

- The interpretive locations and nodes identified in the Interpretation Strategy are considered to be the most appropriate locations; however, these can and should be flexible to suit the urban design and operational requirements of the site.

- The interpretation should provide good overall context to the site as a whole – covering its stories, periods of evolution and change as well as the extant build fabric.

- Innovative, modern and well-designed interpretation infrastructure and devices be used to fully engage all prospective and target audiences to help maintain and develop an awareness of the site’s heritage and cultural value.