

Heritage and the local quality of life

Tenterfield Shire has a rich and vibrant history containing a township of tree lined streets, beautiful historic homes and public buildings set amongst rolling countryside that dates from 1871. Villages located at Legume, Urbanville, Liston, Jennings, Mingoola, Torrington, Drake and Stannum complete the picture.

It is these qualities that make Tenterfield Shire a wonderful place for locals to live and an increasing magnet for jaded city dwellers to relocate / recharge and enjoy an ideal lifestyle.

Council Heritage policies are aimed at protecting these special qualities for all to enjoy while ensuring sound planning policies enable the community to thrive and grow economically.

How can a community help reserve its own heritage?

Since the 1960's heritage preservation bodies such as the National Trust have demonstrated that the heritage of a community can be protected if the following simple ideas are practiced.

- ❑ Identify what is important historically, socially or culturally and ensure it is listed on a Local, State or Commonwealth register.
- ❑ Owners properly maintain historical assets, protecting them from weather damage, vandalism and fire.
- ❑ Owners ensure when making changes to their property that they are sympathetic and respect the original design intent of the builder or architect.
- ❑ Developers, architects, builders and owners respect the integrity of historic areas, whether they are commercial or residential, when preparing new development proposals.

- ❑ Developers, when working in historic areas, actively consider the recycling or remodelling of older structures rather than their demolition.
- ❑ Owners adopt an "infill" strategy where modern buildings are sympathetically inserted into traditional streetscapes.
- ❑ The community, government bodies and owners adequately research and documentation historic areas before they are redeveloped. Common strategies include archaeological investigations and creation of Heritage Impact Statements.

Above all else, heritage policies adopted by community groups and government bodies, encourage those involved with making significant changes to structures to "look and think before they act."

While change is inevitable, evidence of where we come from is precious and, once lost, can never be regained.



A 1914 shop complex in Rouse St repainted in period colours enhances the main street

How is the Tenterfield Shire Council helping?

Over the last two decades Tenterfield Shire Council has introduced a number of policies in conjunction with the State Government that are designed to assist the community in preserving important heritage assets and to provide clear guidelines for individuals or companies

seeking to introduce new buildings in sensitive areas. These measures include:

- ❑ Identification and listing of historically significant buildings on the State Heritage Register or the Tenterfield Shire Local Environment Plan (LEP) listing.
- ❑ Outlined in the Tenterfield LEP and the NSW Heritage Act are guidelines for owners who are seeking to make **significant** changes to their properties.
- ❑ Creation of grant funding programs to assist property owners in maintaining their properties. These include the annual Tenterfield Shire Heritage Grants and the NSW Government biannual Grants for buildings of great significance.
- ❑ Appointment of a Tenterfield Shire Heritage Advisor who is available on a monthly basis to provide free advice concerning building maintenance and development applications.
- ❑ Ensuring the Tenterfield Shire Development Control plan contains adequate provisions designed to protect and enhance the heritage qualities of the Shire.
- ❑ Provide direct and indirect support for the Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts, the Tenterfield and District Historical Society and other groups committed to recording and presenting evidence of the Shire's heritage.
- ❑ Creation of a loan fund to assist property owners in the main street to care for their properties and reintroduce lost key or significant architectural elements such as verandas.

Rate payers interested in learning more about the services offered by Council should ph 02 6736 1744 and ask for the Tenterfield Shire Heritage Advisor.

Debunking a few heritage myths

Many myths exist about the impact of heritage policies in the community. Here are a few: