



The Cultural Heritage of Water

Kei te ora te wai, kei te ora te whenua, kei te ora te tāngata .

The water is healthy, the land and the people are nourished

The theme for the ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites, the world heritage day, 18 April 2011 is *The Cultural Heritage of Water*.

The Cultural Heritage of Water provides not just an opportunity to look at engineering heritage but also to examine the ways water has influenced the lives of both Maori and Pakeha in the settlement of New Zealand.

Some sub-themes that could be explored include:

- The Maori view that water and waterways are taonga and are fundamental to the health of the earth and the people
- The spiritual significance of water to tangata whenua
- The role of water in the exploration and early settlement of the country
- Water and food production: pastoralism, agriculture, irrigation schemes, aquaculture
- The supply of fresh water and sewerage systems to settlements
- Water transport and communications engineering: canals, docks, lighthouses, port towns, harbour installations and development of port facilities
- The development of boat building & coastal shipping
- Regulating water: flood protection schemes
- The development of drainage schemes to facilitate urban settlement and farming
- Recreation and tourism uses of water
- The medicinal uses of water: development and use of spas and springs
- Water and raw material extraction such as gold sluicing and dredging
- Water and electric power production: hydro dams and canals
- Landscape change resulting from manipulation of natural water courses
- The role of water in powering industry
- Coastal erosion and its effects on cultural heritage sites

What can you do to mark this event?

- Showcase recent successful conservation projects
- Celebrate the opening of a recently restored historic place
- Promote visits to historic places and sites, possibly with free admission for the day
- Produce articles in newspapers and magazines, as well as television and radio
- Publicise the day in local media

- Invite local and foreign experts and personalities for conferences and interviews
- Organise meetings and seminars on a building or site conservation theme
- Organise exhibitions (photos, paintings, etc)
- Make awards to organisations or persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the conservation and promotion of cultural heritage
- Organise special awareness-raising activities amongst school children and youth

As in past years, ICOMOS recognises that not everyone manages places that fit this year's theme and is always pleased to see places of other heritage significance promoted. We also encourage participants to run events on the weekend closest to April 18 in order to appeal to a wider audience – in this case on the weekend of 16 - 17 April.

Let us know ...

Should you decide to run an event to celebrate International Day for Monuments and Sites - the world heritage day, we'd be grateful if you'd let us know in ICOMOS NZ so that we can forward details to the ICOMOS Secretariat for inclusion in their 18 April programme website.

You can do that by contacting David Reynolds at reynolds@ihug.co.nz

About the day

Proposed by ICOMOS, 18 April was endorsed as *The International Day for Monuments and Sites* by UNESCO in 1983. This special day offers an opportunity to raise public awareness concerning the diversity of the world's heritage and the efforts that are required to protect and conserve it, as well as to draw attention to its vulnerability. For several years now, ICOMOS suggests a topic to be highlighted on this occasion. This has allowed our members and our committees to hold activities, conferences, colloquia or other events to raise awareness on this cultural heritage among the public, the owners or the public authorities by linking a global theme to local or national realities.

18 April is a major celebration for ICOMOS worldwide and provides an opportunity to invite the participation of other organisations who manage or promote the conservation of cultural heritage by organising their own heritage activities.

International Day for Monuments and Sites seeks to raise public awareness of the full diversity of cultural heritage places and landscapes whether they be of international, national or local significance.



ICOMOS New Zealand



The International Council on Monuments and Sites is an association of professionals throughout the world that currently brings together more than 9500 members in 110 countries. ICOMOS works for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places. It is the only global non-government organisation of this kind, which is dedicated to promoting the application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques to the conservation of the architectural and archaeological heritage. Its work is based on the principles enshrined in the 1964 International Charter on the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (the Venice Charter).

ICOMOS is a network of experts that benefits from the interdisciplinary exchange of its members, among which are architects, historians, archaeologists, art historians, geographers, anthropologists, engineers and town planners. The members of ICOMOS contribute to improving the preservation of heritage, the standards and the techniques for each type of cultural heritage property: buildings, historic cities, cultural landscapes and archaeological sites.

ICOMOS New Zealand Inc/Te Mana o Nga Pouwhenua o Te Ao, established in 1987, serves as the professional organisation for the support and advancement of individuals and organisations engaged in the conservation of places of cultural heritage value in New Zealand. It has produced The ICOMOS New Zealand Charter - Te Pumanawa o ICOMOS o Aotearoa Hei Tiaki I Nga Taonga Whenua Heke Iho o Nehe-a set of guidelines on cultural heritage conservation, which is widely used in the New Zealand heritage sector and forms a recognised benchmark for conservation standards and practice.

Mission

Objectives

- to bring together conservation specialists from all over the world and serve as a forum for professional dialogue and exchange;
- to collect, evaluate and disseminate information on conservation principles, techniques and policies;
- to co-operate with national and international authorities on the establishment of documentation centres specialising in conservation;
- to work for the adoption and implementation of international conventions on the conservation and enhancement of architectural heritage;
- to participate in the organisation of training programmes for conservation specialists on a world-wide scale;
- to put expertise of highly qualified professionals and specialists at the service of the international community.

Initiatives

- the strengthening of its presence world-wide by encouraging the creation and growth of ICOMOS National Committees;
- extending the influence of the Venice Charter by creating flexible doctrinal texts for specific sectors of architectural heritage;
- defining adaptable management techniques for cultural properties;
- developing training programmes on a multilateral basis involving the collaboration of National and International Committees;
- enriching ICOMOS International Documentation Centre in Paris and setting up video and slide libraries devoted to architectural heritage;
- organising and managing expert missions at the request of heritage administration and legal entities which judge necessary the intervention of a consultant for a particular conservation question;
- playing a vital role in counselling UNESCO on those cultural properties to be included on the World Heritage List and on the reporting of the state of conservation of the properties already listed;
- reaching specialists by means of wide distribution of the organisation's quarterly newsletter, ICOMOS News, its Scientific Journal, the publication series "Monuments and Sites" on the heritage of particular countries and the publishing of conference proceedings;
- awaking public interest in conservation by encouraging media coverage and the celebration of the International Day for Monuments and Sites (18 April).

For more information visit <http://www.icomos.org.nz/>

