Making Tracks. From point to pathway: the heritage of routes and journeys

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引言

"Making Tracks", a National Conference of Australia ICOMOS, explored the heritage of travel routes and journeys, with a particular focus on understanding the significance of routes in Australia and their relationship to the Australian landscape.

The conference was held in Alice Springs, from 23 to 27 May 2001. Alice Springs, the 'red centre' of Australia, is a favourite destination for Australian as well as overseas visitors. It is at the centre of many journeys - from Aboriginal dreaming tracks that cross central Australia, to the routes of explorers, the Central Australian (Ghan) Railway and the Overland Telegraph Line. And it's a place where the stories of these journeys intersect. What better place to meet and talk about journeys and routes with long histories and deep meanings, sacred and secular?

The purpose of the conference was to reach a better understanding of the cultural routes of the Australian and Asia-Pacific region as a contribution to broader research in the global context. Specifically, the conference was initiated by Australia ICOMOS as part of its participation in the International Scientific Committee (ISC) on Cultural Itineraries. This ISC is responsible for promoting the identification, study and enhancement of cultural routes and their significance. The Committee is interested in cultural routes as whole entities as well as in the significant features that are linked by cultural routes, and recognises that cultural routes contain both tangible and intangible heritage qualities.

The ISC was formed following the recommendations of a conference: The Canary Islands: a cultural crossroads between continents, held September 5-8, 1998, San Cristobal de la Laguna (Canary Islands, Spain).

The Making Tracks conference at Alice Springs mainly focused on Australia and was aimed at the range of people who are involved with heritage places - owners, managers, researchers, interpreters and visitors. However, overseas delegates presented case studies from Canada, the Middle East, Malaysia, South Africa and the United States and Australian delegates included examples from Vietnam, Nepal and China. Indigenous people from around Australia participated and several papers had an indigenous theme.

Making Tracks defined cultural routes as: a customary or regular line of travel for trade, social to cultural life, utilities, land management, tourism, or other cultural purpose.

The conference was designed to develop a broad understanding of Australian cultural routes, including their physical form, extent and patterning in the Australian landscape. As well, the conference looked at how routes are made and used, and their diverse social and cultural purposes.

The conference was focused around a number of key issues or topics which participants were invited to address in their paper.

These were:

1. The relationship between routes and the natural environment, including impacts on the natural environment;
2. Routes and cultural identity, the links between cultures and the impact of routes on cultural practices and territory;
3. The appreciation and understanding of land and culture through routes;
4. The distinctiveness of cultural routes in Australia compared with other countries, and links between Australia and the Asia-Pacific region; and
5. The relevance of cultural routes in today's world - recognition, interpretation and management.

会议日程

以一个系列活动为单位，五天的会议期间，与会者们经历了覆盖文化识别、管理和解释的多条文化路线。虽然最显著的实例是澳大利亚，但海外代表也展示了各种来自世界各地的案例，他们努力建立和分享有关在途旅程的精彩故事。

总的来说，这次会议展示了对文化路线的深度的理解，它们的复杂性，管理和保护的重要性，以及他们在政策和行政边界上的合作，以确保其长期性。

两个环节，结合论文和现场参观，专注于主题：在中心的路径。历史的堆叠和意义，这些路线在今天被揭示出来，提出了复杂的问题，关于不同的价值观和历史，以及管理安排的重要性，这些可以适应这种复杂性。因为文化路线跨越了文化，地理，社区和政治边界，合作和协调在他们的保护和管理中是最重要的。

另一个显著的主题是路线，身份和文化，在澳大利亚和其他地方。国际例证，如在南非和中非的龙舌兰路线，展示了文化路线概念的潜力，以连接文化和社区的途径跨越传统边界。例如，第一条高速公路在越南……
suggested as a place that represents too many stories, potentially creating great difficulties if it is to be used to interpret Vietnam's complex history. In Penang, understanding the layering of distinctive cultural identities was seen as an essential part of understanding and presenting Penang's history.

At the sessions on Australian tracks and journeys, many examples were presented, suggesting that methods of documenting cultural routes are advancing rapidly, and that there is keen interest in the topic from around Australia. Management issues raised included the impact of inappropriate development and risks to sites from uninformed visitors.

Two sessions looked at travel and tourism as part of the way people experience cultural routes. In Protecting and managing cultural routes, new Commonwealth guidelines on heritage tourism were presented. These guidelines - Successful Tourism at Heritage Places - have been designed primarily for tourism operators and heritage managers (copies can be obtained from the AHC or at www.ahc.gov.au). An important message from the session was that cultural routes need to be managed to ensure that users understand and show respect for the culture/s that created the route. Stories and story-telling are important ways of conveying a larger cultural message.

In the session on Promoting and interpreting tracks and journeys, the nature of the tourist experience was an important focus. Community involvement is a key element for successful promotion and interpretation, and can create positive opportunities for local community development. While cultural routes can be tourism products, care is needed to ensure that this does not conflict with their cultural (and in some cases spiritual) meaning.

For Australia ICOMOS, the conference was a watershed, opening new opportunities for exploration of cultural routes and journeys, and development of guidelines for their protection, management and interpretation.

**Conference Outcomes**

This issue of *Historic Environment*, edited by Sandy Blair, Sarah-Jane Brazil and Marilyn Truscott, includes only a small selection of the papers presented at the conference. The full set of papers as well as the conference resolutions are available on the Australia ICOMOS website at www.icomos.org/australia

The results of the conference informed Australia’s input into the meeting of the ISC on Cultural Itineraries held in Pamplona, Navarra, Spain, 21-23 June 2001. An extract from the Australian paper presented as the contribution to the ISC forms the conclusion to this volume.

**Conference Committee**

Sandy Blair, ACT Conference Convenor and Australia's representative on the ISC on Cultural Itineraries; Sarah-Jane Brazil, Australian Capital Territory (ACT); Hamish Angas, South Australia; Peter Forrest, Northern Territory; Laura Gray, Western Australia; Nicholas Hall, ACT; Amanda Jean, Victoria; Marilyn Truscott, ACT; Meredith Walker, New South Wales.

Thanks are due to Chris Johnston for her summary of conference sessions presented here.