

# Heritage (Decision about Registration of Woden Library and Phillip Health Centre, Phillip) Notice 2009 (No 1)

Notifiable Instrument NI 2009 - 89

made under the

*Heritage Act 2004* section 42 Notice of decision about registration

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**1. Revocation**

This instrument replaces NI2008 – 300

**2. Name of instrument**

This instrument is the Heritage (Decision about Registration for Woden Library and Phillip Health Centre, Phillip) Notice 2009 (No 1).

**3. Registration details of the place**

Registration details of the place are at Attachment A: Register entry for Woden Library and Phillip Health Centre, Phillip.

**4. Reason for decision**

The ACT Heritage Council has decided that the Woden Library and Phillip Health Centre, Phillip, meets one or more of the heritage significance criteria at s 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*. The register entry is at Attachment A.

**5. Date of Registration**

6 March 2009.

The Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
GPO Box 158  
CANBERRA ACT 2602

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**Gerhard Zatschler**  
Secretary ACT Heritage Council  
GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2602

6 March 2009



ACT Heritage Council

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**HERITAGE REGISTER  
(Registration Details)**

**Place No.**

For the purposes of s. 41 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, an entry to the heritage register has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council for the following place:

- **WODEN LIBRARY AND PHILLIP HEALTH CENTRE at Phillip, District of Woden Valley**

**DATE OF REGISTRATION**

Notified: 10 March 2009

Notifiable Instrument: NI2009–89

Copies of the Register Entry are available for inspection at the ACT Heritage Unit. For further information please contact:

The Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
GPO Box 158, Canberra, ACT 2601

Telephone: 132281 Facsimile: (02) 6207 2229

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## IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLACE

- Woden Library, Section 8 Block 27 and Phillip Health Centre, Section 8 Block 21, Suburb of Phillip, District of Woden Valley. ACT
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## STATEMENT ABOUT THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE

The Woden Valley Library and Phillip Health Centre are significant as finely designed buildings of the Late Twentieth Century Brutalist style by Ancher Mortlock and Woolley, one of Australia's leading architectural firms. Its strong shapes, exposed concrete and large areas of blank wall are strong examples of this style, whilst being more refined than the expression of this style at the Cameron Offices.

The entry pergola creates an innovative and important entry space and links the Library to a major public space and the Phillip Health Centre. The buildings were built together with the Library and providing a similar public function.

The Woden Valley Tapestry by Belinda Ransom especially commissioned for the Library, is an integral part of its significance as well as a fine creative and aesthetically pleasing artwork.

The Woden Library and Phillip Health Centre have social significance, functioning as important facilities for the Woden Valley community since 1977.

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## FEATURES INTRINSIC TO HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The physical features of the Woden Library and Phillip Health Centre that particularly reflect its heritage significance are:

- The exterior of the buildings;
- The concrete pergola between the Library and Health Centre;
- The concrete pergola on north side;
- The Woden Valley Tapestry by Belinda Ransom displayed in the Library.

Intangible aspects that reflect its heritage significance are:

- The public use of the buildings
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## APPLICABLE HERITAGE GUIDELINES

The Heritage Guidelines adopted under s27 of the *Heritage Act 2004* are applicable to the conservation of the Woden Library and Phillip Health Centre, Phillip.

The guiding conservation objective is that the Woden Library and Phillip Health Centre, Phillip, shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance and the features intrinsic to that heritage significance, and consistent with a sympathetic and viable use or uses. A conservation management plan (CMP) would help to guide conservation and future use. Any works that have a potential impact on significant fabric (and/or other heritage values) which are necessary prior to

the development of a CMP shall be guided by a professionally documented interim assessment and conservation policy relevant to that area or component (i.e. a Statement of Heritage Effects - SHE).

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## REASON FOR REGISTRATION

*The Woden Library and Phillip Health Centre, Phillip, have been assessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to have heritage significance against 4 of the heritage criteria under the ACT Heritage Act.*

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## ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Pursuant to s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, a place or object has heritage significance if it satisfies one or more of the following criteria:

- (a) it demonstrates a high degree of technical or creative achievement (or both), by showing qualities of innovation, discovery, invention or an exceptionally fine level of application of existing techniques or approaches;**

The buildings are finely designed and demonstrate a high degree of creative achievement. The link between the Library and the Health Centre with the giant concrete pergola creates an innovative and important space between the two buildings by the same architect. This space is able to be appreciated from inside and outside the building by the use of the void within the Library and Health Centre entry.

- (d) it is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations;**

As a public library and health centre the buildings have been a valued and vital part of the Woden community since 1977.

- (f) it is a rare or unique example of its kind, or is rare or unique in its comparative intactness**

The integration of the Library and Health Centre is the only one in Canberra. Belconnen and Tuggeranong facilities are relatively close to each other but have no integrated design. Dickson has a library and health centre adjacent and by the same architect (Taglietti) but designed many years apart and separated by a road which effectively removes them from an integrated urban space.

Despite the upgrade and minor alterations to the Health Centre, the two buildings retain a high degree of intactness.

- (h) it has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase in local or national history**

The buildings were designed by Ancher Mortlock and Woolley, one of Australia's leading architectural firms. Ken Woolley was awarded the RAI Gold Medal in 1993, Harold Mortlock in 1979 and Sidney Ancher in 1975.

The following criteria were found not to be applicable: (b), (c), (e), (g), (i), (j), (k), (l).

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## CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Draft provisional registration entry was released for public comment on 21 July 2008 and period for public comment closed on 18 August 2008.

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## SUMMARY OF THE PLACE'S HISTORY AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

### History

The Woden Library was built in 1976, and is integrally linked with the Phillip Health Centre by its design and concrete pergola over the public space, all designed by the same architects (Ancher Mortlock and Woolley) for the National Capital Development Commission in 1975. All three architects have been recognised by the Royal Australian Institute of Architecture as some of Australia's leading architects: Ken Woolley was awarded the RAI Gold Medal in 1993, Harold Mortlock in 1979 and Sidney Ancher in 1975.

### Description

The Library is located on the corner of Corinna and Furzer Streets Phillip within the Woden Town Centre and provides an important community facility. Built in 1976 the building is integrally linked by its design, construction form, and concrete pergola over the public space with the Phillip Health Centre which was designed by the same architects (Ancher Mortlock and Woolley) for the National Capital Development Commission in 1975, and with which it forms an integrated public function.

Both buildings are two storey buildings (The Health Centre also has a basement car-park) in the Late Twentieth Century Brutalist style with cream painted concrete block with expressed (sandblasted) concrete columns, wall sections (entry and stair), fascia panel, spandrel panel to balcony and external stairs. The Library links with the Phillip Health Centre of similar design by a concrete pergola and the public space that provides access to the entrances of both buildings; a smaller concrete pergola is over a first floor verandah on the north side of the Library. The Library and Health Centre are an integrated design and provide a strong communal space between covered by the grant concrete trellis.

The library contains a woven tapestry by Belinda Ransom title 'Woden Valley' (1984) which is an important art work representing the history of the Woden Valley. The tapestry depicts a slab hut, Yarralumla Woodshed, the original Yarralumla Homestead and the new Woden TAFE College. The top and bottom panels are panoramas of the valley as grazing land and the modern town. (NCDC 1986).

The Health Centre was upgraded by May and Russell Architects in 1999 which included a small extension to the south east, the south and a change to the Corinna Street entry. However this more recent work occurred away from the communal space between the two buildings and has not substantially affected the relationship between them.

The buildings are in good condition with only some minor maintenance required. Light posts were inserted into the space beneath the pergola in May/June 2008.

### References

'CASL Libraries 2003 – A Snapshot of their History, Services and Key Facts' in *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, Vol 34, No 4, December 2003.

Eric Martin and Associates 2002 *Woden Heritage Study*, undertaken for ACT Planning and Land Management.

NCDC 1986 *Works of Art in Canberra – Volume 2*, NCDC, Canberra.

RAIA 1988 *Architects of Australia*, The Bicentennial Edition, Images Australia Pty Ltd, Melbourne.

Trickett, Graeme 2004 'Nomination of Callum Offices to ACT interim Heritage Register'

### PHOTOGRAPHS AND PLANS



Figure 1. Woden Library and Phillip Health Centre Site Plan.



Figure 2. View from SW toward entry (EMA 2004)



Figure 3. View from SW along Corinna Street (EMA 2004)



Figure 4. View toward Entry (EMA 2004)



Figure 5. View from SW toward Entry (EMA 2004)



Figure 6. View from SW toward Entry (EMA 2004)



Figure 7. View from NW (EMA 2004)



Figure 8. Phillip Health Centre and pergola link to Library (Truscott April 2008)



Figure 9. Woden Valley Tapestry by weaver Belinda Ransom (photograph by Michael Porter, 1984, Image No 000106, ACT Heritage Library, Picture Australia)