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HERITAGE LISTINGS DOUBT

It seems nothing is sacred nowadays, as the old adage of a verbal agreement is not worth the paper it is written on.

We now have a new one where the paper agreement is not worth the paper it's written on.

This places doubt on all heritage listings as to what are they worth.

We had four submissions for demolition and eight to retain the Missions building. This in itself is confusing, perhaps this is a new voting system with preferential voting.

The Messenger's front page ("Demolition mission", April 6) was the first our society had heard of this since our submission to the heritage authority, which is very poor public relations, and I think we should be privy to the surveyors' report and the submissions.

DOUG WEST
President
Port Adelaide Historical Society

Irreplaceable asset lost?

Is there nothing we can do to save the Missions to Seamen Hall at Outer Harbor?

It seems that the listing of significant buildings such as this on the State Heritage list is useless, as it can be removed with little public consultation or consideration for the cultural and historical significance of the building to the local community.

Yet again we are to lose an irreplaceable asset _ why? Yes, of course _ money.

The commercial interests of a few again override what is in the best interest of the community.

Down at the council they bicker and bitch over petty issues and personality clashes, while the local community is being robbed blind of its heritage assets, trees and buildings.

Of course the building is still standing. If anyone has a plan to prevent this act of vandalism please let me know, and I will assist as able.

WENDY PRYOR
Alberton

Little respect for history

How much more damage will big business be allowed to inflict upon our precious heritage?

I wonder if the news that the Missions to Seamen Hall, at Outer Harbor, has been de-listed from the State heritage register will bring a flush of adrenalin to Flinders Ports chief executive and would-be ironman, Vincent Tremaine, as he pushes his treddy to work? ("`Taking it to the extreme", Portside Messenger, March 31)

For the rest of us, the forthcoming demolition of the Lakeman Institute _ the original name I believe of the Missions hall _ confirms that the community seems virtually powerless to defend its heritage in the face of massive vested business interests and a dormant, if not actively compliant, State heritage authority.

Sadly this travesty is part of an emerging pattern on the part of those local and state instrumentalities charged with protecting our heritage.

I believe there is a deep rooted problem with the advice local and state government receives on heritage matters in general. Just imagine how our heritage will fare under the wrecking-ball of Newport Quays and the Land Management Trust once the Port Waterfront redevelopment gets under way.

I would have hoped the millions of dollars that we the ratepayers and taxpayers have provided to subsidise big business investment in the Port and peninsula would have bought us and our living history a little respect.

ASHLEY TURNER
Birkenhead