



**Heritage is about culture. Not only the things we want to keep, but a much deeper reflection of who we are and what we value in our lives and communities.**

## Leah Tepper

### Associate / Manager, Archaeology (Victoria)

Leah is a heritage specialist and archaeologist. Her expertise lies in the preparation and delivery of cultural heritage management plans, cultural heritage due diligence assessments, cultural values assessments, salvage reports and heritage assessments. Leah is a listed Heritage Advisor under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic) and is passionate about supporting and working with First Peoples towards the protection of their cultural heritage. She also specialises in historical archaeological assessments.

Leah has over 11 years' experience in the cultural heritage industry in Australia. She has coordinated a variety of large and complex cultural heritage projects throughout Victoria. Leah has consulted with federal, state and local stakeholders, as well as private and commercial clients.

Leah has an excellent understanding of heritage legislation, particularly the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Heritage Act 2017* and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Leah has extensive experience with site surveys and assessments; hand and mechanical subsurface testing and salvage programs; Indigenous and historic artefact analysis; and recording of Indigenous places, historical sites and built sites. She specialises in contributing robust advice to masterplanning projects.

### Qualifications

Honours (First Class), La Trobe University  
Bachelor of Archaeology, La Trobe University  
Summer School in Building Conservation

### Key experience

#### Aboriginal cultural heritage

- Battery Energy Storage System, Heywood, Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: Atmos Renewables, 2024–2025. Role: Project Director
- Battery Energy Storage System, Portland, Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: Pacific Green, 2023–2025. Role: Project Manager
- Billilla Mansion, Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: Bayside City Council, 2024–2025. Role: Project Director
- Two Bays Walking Trail, Cultural Heritage Permit—Client: Parks Victoria, 2024–2025. Role: Project Director
- Jells Park Sports Field, Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: Parks Victoria, 2023–2025. Role: Project Director
- Redwood Forest, Warburton, Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: Parks Victoria, 2023–2024. Role: Project Manager
- Adaptive Wastewater Pilot Program, Peshurst, Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: Wannon Water, 2023. Role: Project Director
- Jells Park Shared User Trail, Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: Parks Victoria, 2023. Role: Project Director
- Health Centre, Hunter Street, Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, 2023. Role: Project Director
- 8 Mair Street, Ballarat, Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: Urbis Pty Ltd, 2022. Role: Project Manager
- Freeway Golf Course, Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment—Client: City of Boroondara, 2021. Role: Project Manager
- Palais Theatre and Luna Park, Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: City of Port Phillip, 2021. Role: Project Manager
- Wyndham Park Redevelopment, Cultural Heritage Management Plan and Amendment and Salvage—Client: Wyndham City Council, 2020. Role: Project Manager
- Western Outer Ring Main, Complex Assessment Cultural Heritage Management Plans—Client: APA, 2020. Role: Project Manager
- Education Centre, Narre Warren East, Complex Assessment Cultural Heritage Management Plan and Amendment—Client: Muhammadiyah Australia College, 2019
- NBN Optical Fibre Cable (various locations), Complex Assessment Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: NBN Co, 2019. Role: Project Manager

- Aspendale Surf Life Saving Club Redevelopment, Complex Assessment Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: City of Kingston, 2019. Role: Project Manager
- Chisholm Prison Expansion, Complex Assessment Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: Department of Justice and Regulation, 2018. Role: Project Manager
- Aurora Estate Sewer and Sound Walls, Standard Assessment Cultural Heritage Management Plan and Advice—Client: Lendlease, 2018. Role: Project Manager
- Flood Levee Construction, Quambatook, Complex Assessment Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: Gannawarra Shire Council, 2018. Role: Archaeologist
- Youth Justice Centre, Cultural Heritage Management Plan Archaeological Salvage—Client: Department of Justice and Regulation, 2017. Role: Project Manager
- Puffing Billy Railway, Cultural Heritage Management Plan Conservation Management Plan—Client: Puffing Billy, 2017. Role: Project Manager
- Ararat to Maryborough Line Upgrade, Complex Assessment Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: V/LINE, 2017. Role: Archaeologist
- Flood Levee, Boort, Standard Assessment and Cultural Heritage Management Plan—Client: Loddon Shire Council, 2017. Role: Project Manager

### Aboriginal cultural values assessment

- Australia Felix Strategic Aboriginal Heritage Assessment—Client: Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, 2025–present. Role: Project Director
- Dandenong Police Paddocks Masterplan, Cultural Heritage Report—Client: Parks Victoria, 2023–2024. Role: Project Manager
- Parkville Heritage Review—Client: City of Melbourne, 2023–2024. Role: Heritage Consultant
- Yarra Park Masterplan, Cultural Heritage Advisory Services—Client: The Melbourne Cricket Club, 2023–2024. Role: Project Manager
- Royal Park, Conservation Management Plan, Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment—Client: City of Melbourne, 2023. Role: Facilitator
- Ridgewalk/Ngurak Barring, Interpretation Content Plan—Client: Yarra Ranges City Council, 2023. Role: Project Manager
- Grassdale Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment—Client: Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, 2022. Role: Project Manager
- First Peoples Engagement, Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Heritage Management Plan—Client: Museums Victoria, 2023. Role: Project Manager
- Shrine to Sea, History/Heritage Report—Client: DELWP, 2022. Role: Project Manager

### Heritage management plans

- Simpson Barracks, Heritage Management Plan—Client: Department of Defence, 2020. Role: Archaeologist
- HMAS Cerberus and West Head Gunnery Range, Heritage Management Plan—Client: Department of Defence, 2020. Role: Project Manager
- Garden Island Defence Precinct, Heritage Management Plan—Client: Department of Defence, 2020. Role: Project Manager
- North and South Jervis Bay, Heritage Management Plans—Client: Department of Defence, 2020. Role: Archaeologist

### Heritage impact assessments

- RAAF Edinburgh, Heritage Impact Assessment and Contractor Inductions—Client: JBS & G, 2023. Role: Project Manager
- Victoria Barracks, Heritage Impact Assessment and Contractor Inductions—Client: Department of Defence, 2019. Role: Project Manager
- RAAF Williams Point Cook, Heritage Impact Assessment and Photographic Archival Recording—Client: Aurecon, 2019. Role: Project Manager
- RAAF Amberley, Heritage Impact Assessment and Photographic Archival Recording—Client: Stantec, 2019. Role: Project Manager
- Bandiana, Heritage Impact Assessment—Client: Stantec, 2019. Role: Project Manager
- HMAS Cerberus, Heritage Impact Assessment—Client: Aurecon, 2019. Role: Project Manager

### Heritage assessments

- Inland Rail Benalla Railway Station—Client: John Holland Group, 2025–present. Role: Project Manager
- Wonthaggi State Coal Mine, Historical Archaeological Assessment—Client: Parks Victoria, 2024–2025. Role: Project Director
- Inland Rail Glenrowan Railway Station—Client: McConnell Dowell, 2022–2025. Role: Project Manager
- Inland Rail Wangaratta Railway Station—Client: McConnell Dowell, 2022–2025. Role: Project Manager
- Yan Yean Pipe Track, Historical Archaeological Assessment—Client: City of Whittlesea, 2023–2025. Role: Project Manager
- Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Light Up Nature into Art, Aboriginal and Historical Heritage—Client: Urban Enterprise, 2023. Role: Project Manager
- Aradale Asylum, Heritage Constraints and Opportunities—Client: Tract, 2022. Role: Project Manager
- Fishermans Bend, Photographic Archival Recording—Client: Barpa Pty Ltd, 2021. Role: Project Manager

### Professional background

Associate/Manager, Archaeology (Victoria), GML Heritage Victoria (formerly Context), 2024–present  
 Senior Heritage Consultant/Team Leader, Archaeology (Victoria), GML Heritage Victoria (formerly Context), 2022–2024  
 Heritage Consultant, GML Heritage Victoria (formerly Context), 2021–2022  
 Heritage Consultant, Biosis, 2014–2020  
 Archaeologist—subcontractor, Ochre Imprints, 2015–2016  
 Archaeologist—subcontractor, Heritage Insight, 2010–2012

### Professional affiliations

Member, International Council of Monuments and Sites (Australia ICOMOS)  
 Full Member, Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc. (AACAI)  
 Member, National Trust of Australia (Victoria)  
 Secretary, Victorian Chapter of Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc. (AACAI)  
 Steering Committee Member for the 22626VIC Certificate IV in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management (ACHM)

## Publications

Tepper, Leah M 2013, 'Smoke Signals: A Study of 19th Century Clay Pipe Consumption in Victoria, Australia', unpublished Honours thesis, Archaeology Department, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia

## Presentations

'Roadmaps to zero harm under Section 61: A different perspective'  
Victorian Archaeology Colloquium (2025)

'Don't Fence Me In! Managing Dry Stone Walls in Victoria', online webinar, Melbourne (2020)

'Evolving knowledge along Bendigo Creek, Epsom', Victorian Archaeology Colloquium (2018)

## Professional development

CPCCWHS1001 Work Safely in the Construction Industry (White Card)

First Aid, Accredited First Aid Courses Australia

Working with Children Check (WWCC)

Intermediate 4WD Course certification

Victorian Level 1 Train Track Safety Awareness (Rail Industry Worker)

Introduction to Built Heritage (Urban Design)