The Minister for Environment and Heritage, Dr Chris Burns, has announced the addition of two new sites in Alice Springs to the Northern Territory Register of Heritage Places.

The Araluen Homestead Precinct and the Catholic Church Precinct in Alice Springs have been declared as heritage places under Section 24 of the NT *Heritage Conservation Act 1991*, and have been listed on the NT Heritage Register.

The Araluen Homestead Precinct includes the former Araluen Homestead (now the Director’s Residence), Folk Cottage (former gardener’s residence), former Staff Flats (also known as the old Messhouse) and old Office/Residence (currently the Alice Springs Steiner School). These buildings were all constructed between c.1948 and 1955.

The Catholic Church Precinct includes the former Catholic Church, Gemma House and Marist Brothers Residence.

The former Church was constructed in 1929, Marist Brothers Residence in 1939-40 (extensions in 1945), and Gemma House in 1946.

Members of the Public may inspect the Register at the Office of Environment and Heritage in Darwin during normal office hours.

Further information about these sites:

**Araluen Homestead Precinct**

The Precinct includes the former Araluen Homestead (now the Director’s Residence), Folk Cottage (former gardener’s residence), former Staff Flats (also known as the old Messhouse) and old Office/Residence (currently the Steiner School). These buildings were all constructed between c.1948 and 1955.

E.J. Connellan, who established Connellan Airways in 1939, took up an agricultural lease adjacent to the aerodrome during the war years.
Connellan commissioned an extremely elaborate house design from B.C.G. Burnett, who was the Government Architect for the NT between 1935 – 1945. The building was Italianate in concept but Bungalow in its features and included three main wings enclosing a colonaded ‘foundation court’ with the fourth side formed by a large pergola and chapel leading off one corner of the court. The existing Araluen Homestead represents a modified version of the eastern wing of this grand, U-shaped design. It was constructed by Steve Kilgariff around 1948.

Araluen served as the main residence for the Connellan family until about 1955 when they began to live on a regular basis at Narwietooma. In 1968 a new homestead was built at Narwietooma and from this time on Araluen was seldom occupied.

In 1958 Araluen was used as the location for filming the movie ‘Dust in the Sun’, produced by a company owned by Chips Rafferty and Lee Robinson. The film premiered at the Sydney Film Festival in October 1958.

The Commonwealth Government resumed the property in 1975 so that the homestead could be demolished and land subdivided. However public pressure ensured that the homestead and later Folk Cottage, were retained and incorporated into the Araluen Complex.

The group of buildings comprising the Araluen Homestead Precinct are important for their historical and social associations with pioneer aviator and pastoralist E.J. Connellan. Collectively the buildings are testimony to his grand visions. Although modified, the homestead building also derives some significance as a Burnett design.

The Precinct is also associated with the growth of Alice Springs during the war years and subsequent years, which saw increasing provision of services in the region. Additionally, the Precinct is important to the community; were it not for the public pressure of the late 1970s the Homestead and Folk Cottage would almost certainly have been demolished.

**The Catholic Church Precinct – Alice Springs**

The Precinct includes the former Catholic Church, Gemma House and Marist Brothers Residence.

The former Church was constructed in 1929, Marist Brothers Residence in 1939-40 (extensions in 1945), and Gemma House in 1946.

Among those people that helped construct the former Church were Father James Long MSC, the first Catholic priest permanently based in Alice Springs, Joe Kilgariff, Arthur Long and Stan Cawood. Father Long, together with Stan Cawood and an Aboriginal assistant made the concrete blocks by hand using patterned moulds.
The Marist Brothers Residence was built by Steve Kilgariff, Gordon Lines, Father Eather and Brother Bennett.

As a group these buildings are significant as they are relatively intact examples of 1930s and 1940s architecture of Central Australia. Together they possess a uniformity of architectural style and complementary functional purposes not seen elsewhere in Central Alice Springs.

They are also important as they directly reflect not only the establishment and growth of the Catholic Church in central Australia, but the growth of Alice Springs, particularly during WWII and in the post-war years. Additionally, the Precinct is associated with Father Patrick Maloney who established the Little Flower Mission.