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CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT – APPLICATION FORM

NAME OF PRESENTER:	Chris Richards
TITLE OF PAPER:	THE FORMER COLONIAL SUGAR REFINING COMPANY LTD. (CSR) AND THE FIJI SUGAR CORPORATION'S (FSC) VULNERABLE HERITAGE IN FIJI
THEME:	<i>Theme 1: Heritage at Risk – Climate Change and Disasters</i>
PAPER ABSTRACT:	
<p>The Colonial Sugar Refining Company Ltd (CSR) was formed in Sydney in 1855. The company was a pioneer in the Australian and Fiji sugar industries. CSR became the largest sugar producer in Australia and Fiji. The company grew to become one of the largest companies in Australia and one of the largest sugar producing companies in the world. CSR opened six mills in Fiji between 1882 and 1902. These mills included accompanying infrastructure, such as company towns to house their Australian employees, and a network of over 490 miles of two-foot (609.16mm) gauge railways to take sugar cane from the fields to the mills and including passenger and goods services. The company had a major influence on the government of Fiji and the country's economy. CSR was Fiji's major source of finance and exports. CSR railways opened up the country where there was no land transport. Most of Fiji's major towns and ports owe their existence to CSR's railway development. CSR developed its mills and cane fields in remote and undeveloped areas of Fiji.</p> <p>CSR's subsidiary Fijian management company, South Pacific Sugar Mills (SPSM), withdrew its operations in Fiji in 1972 and sold its interests, land, buildings and railways infrastructure to the Fijian Government, who set up Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC). Much of the original infrastructure from CSR's Fijian enterprise remains. Four of six mills, established by CSR, their company towns, railway networks and infrastructure are now owned by FSC. FSC precarious financial position and other factors such as hurricane damage, threaten the survival of these mills and their related infrastructure. There has never previously been an assessment of CSR & FSC's industrial heritage, while Fiji has some heritage legislation and listed sites, this legislation gives no legal protection for the protection of heritage items in Fiji. The author has fully assessed CSR and FSC heritage assets. This paper briefly outlines the history of CSR in Australia and Fiji and highlights CSR & FSC's heritage assets and</p>	



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significance of CSR's Fijian sugar mills, the sugar mill's company towns, railway networks infrastructure, its future importance to world heritage and recommendations,

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:

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