



External wall at the Female Factory, South Hobart. Photo: Den Robin

World Heritage listing for convict sites

Eleven sites that combine to tell the epic story of Australia's convict heritage were inscribed on the World Heritage Register on 31 July 2010.

Federal Minister for Environment Protection and Heritage, Peter Garrett, and Tasmanian Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, David O'Byrne welcomed the addition of 11 convict sites across Australia to the World Heritage List.

Five of the 11 convict sites in the World Heritage listing are located in Tasmania. They include:

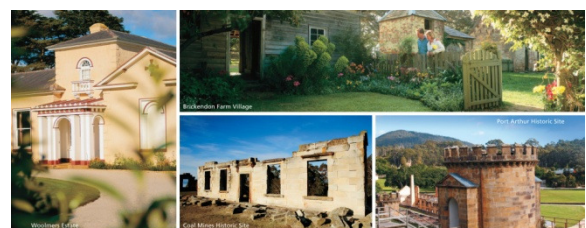
- The Cascades Female Factory, in South Hobart - a self-contained, purpose-built institution intended to reform female convicts. The inmates did laundry and needlework services, offsetting some of the colony's penal costs.
- The Port Arthur Historic Site - operated as a penal station for secondary offenders until 1877, and developed into a major industrial complex.
- The Coal Mines Historic Site - located on the north side of the Tasman peninsula, played an important role in the development of the colony, and held up to 500 convicts. It was regarded as a particularly severe place of punishment.
- Brickendon and Woolmers Estates - located near Longford, were private farms that utilised assigned convicts, both male and female, who worked

largely in agricultural jobs and contributed to the development of Tasmania's pastoral industry.

- Darlington Probation Station - located on Maria Island off Tasmania's East Coast, where there are some 16 surviving sites dating in some cases to the 1820s.

(For technical reasons, Woolmers and Brickendon Estates are counted as a single site within the listing.)

"Australia is a relatively new country in terms of its European history. However, our early history coincided with one of the great historical phenomena, penal migration. This is reflected in the pre-eminence of our convict sites and their worldwide relevance and interest," Peter Garrett said.



Tasmanian convict sites among the 11 that together form the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property



DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT



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Tasmania
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Woolshed, Woolmers Estate. Photo DPIPWE

Mr O'Byrne said obtaining World Heritage recognition of Australia's convict past is a significant milestone.

"Forced penal migration had a particular impact on Tasmania because of its sheer scale in relation to the general population. It's not surprising that nearly half of the listed sites are in this State," David O'Byrne said.

"This is a major part of the Tasmanian story.

"I'm quite proud to own up to some convict ancestry - my family is descended from four brothers, the O'Byrnes, who were convicted in Ireland and transported. Three of them survived the crossing and came to Tasmania, and went on to become free settlers. Many Tasmanians share similar stories.

"I think most people find it fascinating to look back in time and connect with their ancestors, even visit the actual places where they lived and worked.

"We are at a particular point in time, not just here but right around the world, where people can acknowledge convict heritage and feel comfortable to explore that heritage.

"Regardless of ancestry, we can all get a sense of perspective of the past by visiting Port Arthur, the Female Factory and Coal Mines in the south of the State or Woolmers and Brickendon in the North, even Darlington on Maria Island.

"Visiting the actual places gives us tremendous insight into the lives and conditions that convicts endured and how they came through that adversity."

Both Ministers said the World Heritage nomination was a thorough process, and involved considerable cooperation and liaison between Federal, State, Territory and local Governments.

"The listing reflects well on Australia's commitment at every level to conserving our heritage," said Peter Garrett.

"A strong case had to be made to convince the World Heritage Committee that inclusion on the prestigious World Heritage List would hold relevance beyond Australia and for the world."

Mr O'Byrne credited communities around the sites with helping enable the listings, which are expected to generate environmental, social and economic benefits for Tasmania.

The other sites that make up Australia's 18th World Heritage listing are:

- Old Government House and Domain, Hyde Park Barracks, Cockatoo Island Convict Site and Old Great North Road in New South Wales.
- Fremantle Prison in Western Australia.
- Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area in Norfolk Island.

The 11 sites are also included on the National Heritage List, are protected under national environment law and entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

Further details on the listing are available at: www.heritage.tas.gov.au

The next edition of the e-bulletin will contain in-depth detail about the listing, including responses from each of the five sites, to this fantastic news.



Darlington Probation Station, Maria Island. Photo Jody Steele

New slate for an old place

A circa 1900 Queen Anne Style house has had a substantial facelift thanks to the tender loving care provided by its owners and some funding assistance from the Tasmanian Heritage Council.

Owners of Woodbine, Louise and Marcus Donnelly, applied for funding from the Heritage Conservation Funding Program administered by the Tasmanian Heritage Council to assist with re-pointing the brick chimneys and re-slating the roof of their home North Hobart home.

Louise Donnelly said that they've had to do significant restorative work to Woodbine.



Woodbine in North Hobart. Photo: Robyn Shaw

"The roof was leaking in a couple of spots and needed re-slating. The three chimneys needed to be fixed as they were loose, and there were lots of broken bricks in them," Mrs Donnelly said.

Re-slating the roof involved removal of the existing roof then re-slating the front roof with the existing welsh slates, or replacing those that were broken or missing with good quality second hand welsh slates.

"We got Ray Ashford from Sydney to fix the slate roof, and the replacement slates were recycled from the North Hobart Post Office."



The new slate roof. Photo: Robyn Shaw

These activities have been part of a much bigger project on their home to build an extension, shed, pergola and install solar panels, so care had to be taken with the order of works so that the roof was not damaged by other building works.

"Originally we were going to have the work done on the roof first, but to prevent the risk of damage, we did the chimneys first and then did the slate roof at the same time as our renovation," Mrs Donnelly said.

Funding from the Heritage Conservation Funding Program administered by the Heritage Council provided a helping hand.

"The money was very useful, and the process for applying for funding was pretty straight forward, especially with everything else we were doing to the place," Mrs Donnelly said.

The results are there for all to see. Woodbine's roof and chimneys are now repaired and have given the place a facelift, as well as a watertight roof, which will last for many years to come.

Financial assistance for priceless historic heritage places

The latest Heritage Conservation Funding Program grant-round is helping to conserve some of Tasmania's priceless historic heritage places.

Tasmanian Heritage Council Chairperson, Michael Lynch, said today that 31 owners will receive assistance through the latest funding round for their heritage-listed property.

"There are a variety of heritage places that will receive assistance including private residences, churches, a barn, warehouse and former rectory," Mr Lynch said.

"The Heritage Council is delighted to be able to contribute to the future of these places and to provide money to owners who are conserving their piece of Tasmania's historic heritage.

"The funding round itself was quite modest with a total budget allocation of \$158,000, however it contributes to some fantastic heritage outcomes while providing assistance to owners who need to undertake emergency and essential works to their place."

Richard and Melissa Wood-Baker, have received just over \$9,000 to assist with stiffening the roof, repairing brickwork including chimneys, and weatherproofing and repairing a bay window of their home in West Hobart.

"We were very pleased to receive this funding, as it will assist with the prevention of further damage to

this historic dwelling which was designed by notable early Tasmanian architect, Henry Hunter.

“This home is actually the former rectory for the St John the Baptist Church on Goulburn Street and is a very well known landmark in the local community,” Mr Wood-Baker said.



The former rectory on Goulburn Street, West Hobart

Mr Lynch said the Heritage Conservation Funding Program is designed to make money available for owners of places entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register to undertake urgent and essential works.

Urgent and essential works are those that are absolutely necessary to prevent major and irreversible loss, or further degradation of the heritage values of heritage-listed properties.

Legislative reform update

Feedback on the selected release of the draft Historic Heritage Bill has been collated and is now being discussed with the Minister, as there are a number of policy decisions that it has raised. Feedback confirmed the merits of undertaking a selective release of the Bill to those stakeholders directly involved in its implementation, as it also highlighted a number of areas where greater alignment with planning legislation is desirable.

The recent World Heritage decision on the Australian Convict Sites has been very useful in reinforcing the importance and value of the tiered and more integrated approach to statutory heritage management. A wider sector and public consultation process is expected on the revised Bill, transition arrangements and an Historic Heritage Strategy before the proposed legislation is forwarded to Parliament for its consideration.

If you would like to contribute information, advertise an upcoming event, subscribe to receive this bulletin via email or cancel your subscription, please contact Robyn Shaw (Communications Co-ordinator) on 6233 2067 or email robyn.shaw@heritage.tas.gov.au

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Celebrate Tasmania Day Grants Program

Mark 7 November on your calendar and start thinking about hosting or planning a **Celebrate Tasmania Day** event!

This year's celebrations are again dedicated to thanking volunteers. All volunteer-based organisations that host an event on **Celebrate Tasmania Day** for their community are eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$3 000 through the Celebrate Tasmania Day Grants Program.

Applications close on **Friday 17 September 2010**.

Guidelines and application forms are available at www.celebratetasmaniaday.tas.gov.au

For more information phone 1800 204 224.

Naturally Inspired Grants – Spring 2010 Now Open

Applications are invited for NRM South's Naturally Inspired Grants, a program designed to deliver positive environmental change across Southern Tasmania.

Grants of up to \$3000 are available to assist community groups and not-for-profit organisations working in natural resource management.

Eligible activities include but are not limited to; site remediation including clean-up days, weeding/revegetation/fencing, purchase of tools and equipment, contractor/short-term project officer, interpretative signage, improving stormwater management, action planning/review existing plans, and new group start-up support.

An information kit including grant application forms and guidelines is available on the NRM South website at www.nrmsouth.org.au or by phoning 03 6221 6111 emailing admin@nrmsouth.org.au

Applications close 5PM EST 20 September 2010.