



World premiere of 'Voices in the Dark' at State Cinema

Low Head Pilot Station. Photography: Renee Hodskiss

The world premiere of the documentary 'Voices in the Dark' was screened at the heritage-listed State Cinema at North Hobart last month.

This 30 minute film tells the story of Christina Henri's epic project, 'Roses from the Heart'TM, in which one bonnet is being created for each of the 25,566 convict women transported from Great Britain to Australia.

While they were transported for crimes of poverty and condemned by society as whores and wretches, Henri's project examines the true legacy female convicts have made to Australian society.

In this beautifully told documentary the viewer follows Henri as the project unfolds and she gathers the bonnets, while also discovering some of the stories about the participants who made them.



A bonnet made by
Hobart Deputy
Lord Mayor,
Alderman Eva
Ruzika.

Photography by
Josh McDonald
with digital
enhancement by
John Darcey

understand ourselves we need to trace our ancestry and know where we came from and from whom.

"One in four Australians has convict ancestry. Convict women have been maligned and their worth hidden under a veil of amnesia because of the 'convict stain'," Ms Henri said.

By showcasing some of the highly artistic bonnets created by thousands of participants worldwide, including hundreds of convict descendants, 'Voices in the Dark' articulates the spirit of Henri's project and the emotional impact such a significant public memorial is having around the globe.

At the documentary premiere in Hobart, Lord Mayor Alderman Rob Valentine announced the film had secured a five-year distribution deal throughout Australia and New Zealand through Video Education Australia. The filmmakers, Catherine Pettman and Andrew Wilson, also announced that the National Broadcaster will be acquiring 'Voices in the Dark' to screen on ABC1 and ABC2 later this year.

DVDs of the film, including extras, are available with profits going directly to the 'Roses from the Heart'TM project to ensure the creation, installation and tour of all 25,566 bonnets.

To purchase a copy visit: www.rosesfromtheheart.com.au.

Ms Henri said it was hoped the film would connect the contemporary public with the idea that to truly

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Aboriginal and historic heritage worth protecting

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania and Heritage Tasmania joined forces to update local government on proposed new legislation at the annual LGAT conference this month.

Both offices are drafting new legislation to manage Aboriginal heritage and historic heritage. Keeping local government up-to-date with the proposed changes is essential.



Heritage Tasmania's Anna Gurnhill and Ester Guerzoni talk to West Coast Council Mayor Daryl Gerrity. Photography: Jillian Mundy

Director of Heritage Tasmania Pete Smith said this is the fourth year Heritage Tasmania has had a display at the conference.

"Holding a display at the LGAT conference has proven to be a really worthwhile communications exercise for us," Mr Smith said.

"Having Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania with us this year was fantastic. It's great to present a joint approach on two important areas of reform.

"We know that local government is interested in knowing what is happening with both heritage legislative changes. With Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania and Heritage Tasmania staff both present we expect most participants' questions can be readily answered," Mr Smith said.

The joint display comes under the banner "Heritage - worth protecting" and includes information on what is Aboriginal and historic heritage; why different legislation is required; and the proposed changes for each piece of legislation.

Heritage Festival a success

Last month's Tasmanian Heritage Festival has proved to be the best yet, with events well attended around Tasmania

Managing Director of the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) Chris Tassell said he was delighted with public's response to the 140 events on offer at this year's festival.

"The extensive media coverage and large attendances for these events underlines the continually increasing community interest in Tasmania's heritage."

Events included book launches, films, talks, exhibitions, theatrical events and open homes, all supporting the festival theme of 'Water: Our island's life force'.

Heritage Tasmania organised four events for this year's festival which were all well-attended.

These included a function at Devonport's Home Hill acknowledging sector stakeholders and volunteers in the north west; an exhibition at the Landmark Gallery featuring three young Tasmanian photographers and a textile artist focused on the importance of heritage to Tasmanians; and a talk about Mawson's Huts at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery by Heritage Tasmania archaeologist Angie McGowan and private consultant archaeologist Anne McConnell to 60 TMAGgot members.

Heritage Tasmania also organised Open Doors for the festival.

This year, 10 'doors' and unique walking tours were on offer to tempt people to visit and experience lesser known aspects of Tasmania's historic heritage and were a great success.

Heritage Tasmania Director Pete Smith said almost 3,000 people came out on a cold winter weekend to participate in the Open Doors program demonstrating just how interested Tasmanians are in the historic environment.

"The Kangaroo Bluff Battery was a real winner with its underground passages opened especially for the occasion by the Parks and Wildlife Service," Mr Smith said.

"Over 2,300 people visited the battery and many visitors came so they could see the underground areas.

"Members of the Militaria Collectors of Tasmania were on-hand conducting tours of the site and underground passages in full military regalia adding to the sense of occasion."

Other 'Open Doors' activities included tours of historic Sullivans Cove and the Hobart Rivulet, Hill Street Reservoir in West Hobart, the Old Carlton Post Office at Carlton River, the Mountain Water Supply system and a behind the scenes tour of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery with commentary about the site's relationship to the rivulet and port.



People on the TMAG tour get a bird's-eye view of how Hobart co-exists with the waterfront from the rooftop of the Museum's 1966 building

In addition, the SS Cartela, Lisdillon Saltworks, and the Customs House and Bond Store at Strahan were open to the public.

"This was the final weekend of the month-long Tasmanian Heritage Festival organised by the National Trust. 'Open Doors' provided a fitting conclusion to this year's festival theme of 'Water: Our Island's Life Force,'" Mr Smith said.

Henry Hunter at All Saints Church

Tasmanian Heritage Council Member, Mary Ramsay, attended a fascinating talk on Henry Hunter as a church architect, and contributed the following article to e-news.

To mark the sesqui-centenary of this landmark church in Macquarie Street, South Hobart, a series of public lectures has been held. Brian Andrews, the Catholic Heritage Officer, contributed 'Henry Hunter as a Church Architect'. Hunter was the architect of the church and of its first addition. Henry Hunter was a most prolific Tasmanian architect of both ecclesiastical and lay buildings. He was much influenced by Augustus Pugin and used his books extensively. Many of our well loved buildings were designed by Henry Hunter.



The gothic revival All Saints Church, designed by Henry Hunter at Macquarie St, South Hobart

Although no book has been published on Henry Hunter's life, there is an article about him and his work in the [Australian Dictionary of Biography online](#). Hunter's influence is found in the work of his student Alan Cameron Walker, who recalled in a 1928 paper on Hunter his master's indebtedness to 'the teachings of Pugin, of whom he was a great admirer, and of whom he was ever fond of talking'.

Nominate for an award

The Community Achievement Awards have been launched and great prizes are available including television exposure on Southern Cross Television or a \$1,000 AwardSaver Account from the Commonwealth Bank.

Categories include:

- The Department of Economic Development and Tourism Business Enterprise Award
- Franklin Press Events and Tourism Award
- Volunteering Tasmania Volunteering Award
- MAIB Disability Achievement Award
- Nyrstar Environment and Sustainability Award
- Qew Orchards Outstanding Achiever Award
- Angove Family Winemakers Primary Industries and Agricultural Award
- Kleenheat Gas Community of the Year Award

Nominations close Friday 21 August and winners will be announced at a gala awards presentation dinner on 14 November at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart. For further information, including application guidelines, visit the website at www.awardsaustralia.com, phone 1300 556 265 or email caa@awardsaustralia.com.

New departmental name

From 1 July 2009 Heritage Tasmania will become part of the new Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE). It's business as usual for Heritage Tasmania and we will continue to be located at 103 Macquarie Street, Hobart and Level 1, Public Buildings, 53 St John Street, Launceston.

DIARY NOTES

2009 ICOMOS conference

7 July 2009 to 10 July 2009
Sydney, Australia

(Un)Loved Modern is the title of the 2009 Australia ICOMOS conference being held in association with DOCOMOMO Australia, the Association for Preservation Technology Australia Chapter, the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage, the Australian Institute of Architects and the International Union of Architects. The conference will provide a platform to discuss the latest developments and trends in the identification, conservation and management of 20th Century heritage places.

Registrations close on 30 June 2009. For further information visit: <http://www.aicomos.com/>

Women transported

9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday
31 July – 31 September 2009
Cascades Female Factory, South Hobart and The Penitentiary, Hobart

Touring nationally, this exhibition was developed by Parramatta Heritage Centre and the University of Western Sydney and reveals the stories of over 9,000 convict women who were in at least one of the 12 female factories spread around the Australian colonies. For further information contact the Cascades Female Factory Historic site on 6223 1559.

Islands of Memory: Navigating personal and public history

17-20 September 2009
Launceston

The national conference of the Oral History Association of Australia in Launceston will feature keynote speaker Richard Whiteing of Robben Island Museum, South Africa who will speak on 'Remembering Nelson Mandela on Robben Island'. Christobel Mattingley, Alison Alexander and Gwenda Beed Davey will be among 54 other speakers over four days.

Full details and registration at
www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/oralhistoryconference

Earlybird registrations close June 30.

Global Context: Australia's archaeological evidence of the globalisation process

24-26 September 2009
Inveresk, Launceston

The Australasian Association for Historical Archaeology and the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology will hold a national joint conference at Inveresk, Launceston, from 24-26 September. The theme is "In a Global Context: Australasia's archaeological evidence of the Globalisation process".

More information about the conference, on-line booking and accommodation options is available from the conference website:

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~jodysteele/index.htm>

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

Please ensure all submissions for inclusion in the e-bulletin are forwarded to Robyn Shaw by the 1st Friday of every month for publication by the 3rd Wednesday of every month.