



Church of the Apostles, Launceston. Photography: Renee Hodskiss

Legislative reform update

Work on drafting the new legislation is progressing well but getting it right means being very methodical - which takes time. A recent meeting of the Local Government Reference Group helped to clarify a number of the details of the proposed listing and works processes. The input of this group, which represents up to 12 planning authorities, has been invaluable.

A major objective of the reform process is to develop a clear and consistent framework for the statutory management of historic heritage across the State. It also aims to ensure that, wherever possible, the system becomes easier to understand and engage with. This means refining and streamlining as many systems and processes as possible and reducing red tape. Local government input is helping us achieve these objectives.

As part of the preparation for the reforms, new listing and works guidelines have been developed to accompany the nomination and works application forms. Overviews of the current registration, works and funding programs, and answers to frequently asked questions, have also been prepared and are about to be uploaded onto our website. These will then be reviewed and updated to reflect the new provisions once the new Bill is proclaimed.

A number of people have continued to express interest in how cultural landscapes might be identified,

protected and managed in the future. The reform effort to date has focused on developing a more integrated approach, while landscapes were to be considered later. Recent developments have suggested that the proposed adoption of standard templates for planning schemes schedules may provide the best mechanism to recognise important landscapes. Further information will be provided in future editions of e-news so watch this space.

A snapshot of the proposed *Historic Environment Bill* is now on the website. It highlights the major features of the Bill, and is quite a useful summary paper. See it at:

http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au/act_reform.html

At this stage it is anticipated the draft Bill will be available for discussion with local government and the Heritage Council before the end of 2009.

The next edition of e-news will provide a summary of the proposed new provisions for works on heritage registered or listed places.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT



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Tasmania
Explore the possibilities

Colebrookdale on road to recovery

A sandstone farm building on the historic property of Colebrookdale at Campania, in Tasmania's south-east, was on the verge of falling when current owners Rob and Libby Sloane decided to repair it.

"We bought Colebrookdale in 2007 with the intention of restoring the main weatherboard farmhouse. Part of the attraction was two heritage listed sandstone outbuildings, although the smaller one was barely standing," Dr Sloane said.



The building before work commenced. Photography: Dr Rob Sloane.

"It was only partly covered by an iron roof. There were no gutters or downpipes, and in some places the existing roofing iron did not extend beyond the outside of the walls. Water damage and livestock had made the stonework unstable.

"The front wall was little more than a collapsed pile of rubble, and the northern side had a serious lean and a major structural fault which required partial re-building. It had at some time been used as a chook shed and rats had undermined the remnant flagstone floor," Dr Sloane said.



Roof completed but awaiting gutters. Photography: Dr Rob Sloane.

The Heritage Conservation Funding Program contributed towards some of the works that needed to be done. Working with experienced stonemason Les Kuliniski, the Sloanes photographed the damaged wall, partly pulled it down and reassembled it with each stone back in place.

Heritage officer Richard Hawson said the grant given to the Sloanes assisted them to fund the repair of the collapsed wall (using fallen material), re-point the stonework, strengthen the roof and repair the joinery.

"Among other works, they've repaired the northern wall, restored the original roof profile, re-sheeted parts of the roof and partially installed gutters and downpipes to prevent water damaging the walls, stabilised the floor space and where available have re-laid the flagstones," Mr Hawson said.

"They've left the rafters and remnant shingles exposed which is a nice touch and shows the evolution of the place.

"The works undertaken were essential for saving this building," Mr Hawson said.

The Heritage Conservation Funding Program has helped save this piece of history disappearing from the Tasmanian landscape.

Future of Willow Court

The Acting Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage David Llewellyn, announced earlier this month that negotiations have commenced to secure the future of the historic Willow Court site at New Norfolk.

Mr Llewellyn said a meeting was held with representatives from the Derwent Valley council and State Government to discuss proposals for future funding of Willow Court.

"The State Government is very aware of the issues relating to the conservation, security and management of the Willow Court site," Mr Llewellyn said.

"We want to see a successful outcome for the site, and for the Barracks and Bronte buildings in particular."

Derwent Valley Council Mayor, Tony Nicholson, said the Council was extremely pleased that the State Government was committed to the

reallocation of the original \$750,000 grant to the Willow Court site.

“Council is happy to work in partnership with the State Government on the future of the site,” Mayor Nicholson said.

Mayor Nicholson said an options paper was being prepared in the next couple of weeks for consideration by Council and the State Government to determine the best way forward with the site.

Mystery artefact unearthed

A mud-caked object unearthed from an old drain has caused much head-scratching and brainstorming at South Hobart’s Cascades Female Factory.

The mystery artefact, from the collection of the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston, complemented a collection of interesting family heirlooms brought to a community event by the factory’s neighbours and friends.

Beautiful Victorian jewellery, silk programs from the Royal Hobart Regatta, coins discovered in a shipwreck and a letter written from the trenches of France in 1918 were among the items produced by the visitors.

Arts Tasmania Roving Curator Jai Paterson was on hand to show how to care for the prized and delicate objects.



Roving Curator Jai Paterson examines some of the family heirlooms brought to the community event at the Cascades Female Factory. Photography: Allison Ryland

The enthusiastic group was initially baffled by the mystery object but after many intelligent guesses Huonville couple Jeanette and Garry Burdon combined their powers of deduction to identify it as a powder flask.

The flask and its squashed metal cap were found in an old drain, just outside what was once the Ross Female Factory’s “hiring class dormitory”.

Ms Paterson said the drain was installed in 1841 when the Ross site provided accommodation for male road gang convicts and it was still there when the female factory was established in 1847.

“Because of its position in the drain, it is obvious that the powder flask (that once hung from a soldier’s belt) was intentionally hidden; it didn’t just fall,” Ms Paterson said. “And that begs the question: who stole and hid what was government property, a serious crime for a convict already doing time at Ross.”

Ms Paterson said community events at the Cascades Female Factory provided a great opportunity to develop a wide appreciation for living heritage.

“Sharing information about the fabulous family treasures that were brought along was made even more enjoyable by doing the workshop within the context of the factory.

“It has such a colourful history. It was best known as a female factory for women serving a



Roving Curator Jai Patterson shows the mystery object to Jeanette Burdon and Ann Rau (back), Geoffrey Wood and Garry Burdon. Photography: Allison Ryland.

sentence, awaiting assignment/hiring or awaiting confinement. But it was originally a rum distillery and then a prison, hospital, asylum and reformatory.”

The Cascades Female Factory is among 11 convict sites across the country nominated by the Australian Government for World Heritage Listing. The other Tasmanian sites in the nomination are the Port Arthur and Coalmines historic sites on the Tasman Peninsula, Woolmers and Brickendon estates at Longford and the Darlington Probation Station on Maria Island.

The Cascades Female Factory, in Degraives St South Hobart, is open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. For more information, ph 03 6223 1559 or visit the website:

<http://www.femalefactory.com.au/>.

State archivist to retire

Tasmania's State Archivist, Ian Pearce, is retiring and leaving his position on 30 September 2009.

Mr Pearce has had a distinguished career in the State Service spanning 41 years. Among Mr Pearce's achievements are the addition of Tasmania's convict records to the International Memory of the World Register and the development of using computer based systems for archival management and internet searching.

The role of the State Archivist is critical for preserving and managing the State's archival records.

Heritage Tasmania and the Tasmanian Heritage Council wish Mr Pearce well in his retirement.

DIARY NOTES

Building relationships and securing donations workshop

30 September 2009

Royal Society Room, Tasmanian Museum and Arts Gallery, Hobart

The Australian Business Arts Foundation (ABAF) is hosting a building relationships and securing donations workshop in Hobart.

The purpose of the workshop is to develop strategies to connect with supporters, secure donations and develop and grow a giving program. The workshop is presented by Kenneth Park and costs \$155. To secure a place visit:

<http://www.abaf.org.au/index.php?sectionID=1350&pageID=4701>

Re-living: sustainable refurbishment of commercial and public architecture

Friday 9 October 2009, commencing 12.30pm
Australian Institute of Architects Tasmania Chapter,
1/19a Hunter Street, Hobart

Organised by the Institute of Architects for its National Seminar Series, this promises to be an interesting event. The guest speaker is Jeff Robinson who will address the role of architects in the sustainable re-development of existing buildings, how existing commercial buildings can compete with new sustainable buildings constructed in recent times, and the costs associated with re-living the buildings.

Mr Robinson is the Principal Engineer and Sustainable Buildings Group Leader for Aurecon, having worked as a consulting engineer for over 23 years in London, Ireland and Melbourne.

For further information and to book your place, contact the Institute of Architects (Tasmanian Chapter) by telephone: 6214 1519 or email tas@raia.com.au

Summer School in Cultural Heritage Management

17-23 January 1010
Canberra

The University of Canberra will host its seven-day Summer School in January. Co-ordinated by David Young, Adjunct Associate Professor in Cultural Heritage Management, the school is an intensive course looking at the broad issues of heritage management. It is intended for local government planners and heritage officers, state heritage officers, site and park managers, rangers, curators, others involved in heritage administration, and heritage practitioners such as archaeologists, architects, engineers and historians. Final details are yet to be finalised but for further information visit the website at:

<http://www.canberra.edu.au> or email David.Young@canberra.edu.au

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.