

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The National Trust is Tasmania's leading community based organisation advocating for and managing Tasmania's built and moveable heritage. This is a challenging task given the increasingly difficult economic environment facing Tasmania and State Government support for the National Trust remaining unchanged since 2006.

Despite this the National Trust has during the year been able to launch two new projects which will contribute to the visitor appeal and educational value of Runnymede and Clarendon. The new whaling exhibition at Runnymede considered Tasmania's involvement in whaling both past and present and documented the activities of *Sea Shepherd* in the Southern Ocean. The exhibition is accompanied by an "app" providing much more information and photographs than is possible to include in an exhibition.

The Australian Fly Fishing Museum at Clarendon is a community based project drawing support from throughout the Australian fly fishing community. The exhibition documents the story of fly fishing not just in Tasmania but across Australia. The enthusiastic support of the fly fishing community and the Museum committee and volunteers underlines the strength of the National Trust model based as it is on community support.

Both projects received support through grants. In the case of Runnymede from the Tasmanian Community Fund and the Fly Fishing Museum from the Commonwealth Government through its *Your Community Heritage Program*.

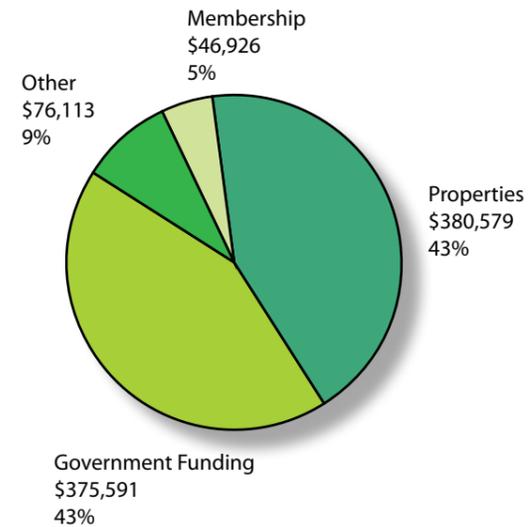
Considerable time this year was committed to initiatives under the Commonwealth Government's National Trust Partnership Program. This saw new education programs developed for Runnymede, Franklin House and Home Hill, as well as a sustained level of Tasmanian contributions to the national magazine. There were also three projects centered on the National Trust's collections lead by Tasmania. These included a pilot project to document the extent and significance of the National Trusts' fine art collections which was supported by the Gordon Darling Foundation, an overview of the character of the National Trusts' collections and their significance to major themes in Australian history and a more detailed assessment of the National Trusts' properties and collections directly related to Australia's mining history.

The significant achievements of the National Trust during the past year in an increasingly challenging environment have been made possible by the enthusiasm and sustained commitment of the National Trust's members, volunteers, supporters and staff.

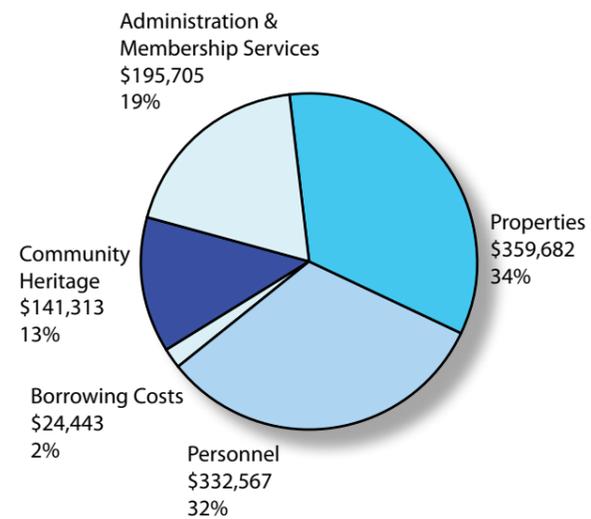
As this will be my last Managing Director's report I would like to acknowledge the great pleasure I have had working with the National Trust's staff, volunteers and members during the past seven years. Thank you for your support.

Mr Chris Tassell AM
Managing Director

OPERATING REVENUE 2012-2013



OPERATING EXPENDITURE 2012-2013



NATIONAL TRUST BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Dario Tomat (Board Chair)
Dr. Marion Myhill (Board Deputy Chair)
Mr. Ian Cordiner
Mr. Dan Norton
Mrs. Lynne Stacpoole
Mr. Chris Tassell (Managing Director)
Mr. Philip Tyrell



ANNUAL REPORT

2012 - 2013



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National Trust Tasmania

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In opening, I would like to acknowledge the significant contributions made to the National Trust by Ray Foley our past Chairman, Mr Andrew Kemp, Chair of the Audit Committee who retired early due to ill-health and Dr Diane Snowden who also stepped down from the Board but continues to serve the heritage sector as Chairman of the Tasmanian Heritage Council.

It is with mixed feelings that I report to you at the end of my first year as Chairman. While we have seen continuing sustained efforts by the Trust's committed volunteers and staff, the Board has been grappling with a deteriorating financial position. The revenue sources that the Trust enjoyed prior to the Global Financial Crisis have significantly declined while costs continue to rise.

A decision to sell Oak Lodge to help stabilise your Trust's finances was made by the previous Board. Implementing that decision met with significant community resistance in Richmond so the process of divestment is taking longer than planned. The property will be offered for sale by expression of interest in November with offers to close in February. In the interim the Board is working with the Coal River Valley Historical Society, the long term occupants of Oak Lodge, to find a way to retain the property in a different form of community ownership.

Repositioning the Trust

Your Board has responded to these disappointing circumstances and repositioned the Trust for a brighter future. This transformation resulted in a number of initiatives during the year, including a revised strategy, resulting in a decision to reposition Trust's properties as community experience places rather than just conventional house museums. You will see that we are slowly removing "Do Not Touch" signage, moving fragile items to display cases while allowing the public to enjoy the artefacts in the rest of the property.

Sustainability

A key element of the Board's business strategy is to ensure the Trust has a sustainable business, particularly in relation to community engagement and management of heritage. Your Board understands that the management and performance of the Trust's heritage properties are critical to our future business success. Our properties have to be relevant to the community not just another collection of house museums

A review of the Trust's property assets, including an independent review of our properties to identify repositioning opportunities, a comprehensive review undertaken with the assistance of the State Government, is still in progress at the time of writing.

New Property Initiatives

Two new significant attractions were added to our properties during the year:

- The Australian Fly Fishing Museum which opened with a Gala event in May this year.
- The Whaling Exhibition developed at Runnymede showing the evolution of the industry in a house that saw the benefits of pelagic whaling at the end of the 19th Century.

The Board is looking for opportunities to further enhance the presentation and attraction of the Penitentiary Chapel Historic Site to make this a must visit place for both locals and tourists.

Outlook

The Trust's strategy will include greater emphasis on technical and commercial discipline. The Board recognises that it has to broaden the appeal of membership of the Trust as well as engaging with a time-poor younger generation. Adopting new communication technologies, developing virtual internet-based property visits and having a structured series of events that attract the community to the properties are all contributions to positioning your Trust for a brighter future.

The Board is grateful for the financial support and interest that parliamentarians show for the Trust. The State Government provides a sizeable recurrent grant while the Australian Government support is provided in a tied manner to projects through the National Trust Partnership Program. Tasmania has benefited with support for development of educational programs, web site and collections.

The Tasmanian Heritage Festival this year was run with the financial support of the Tasmanian and Australian Governments. This year's theme *Community Milestones* recognised and showcased community endeavour in protecting Tasmania's historic heritage. It shows that we are all responsible for, and benefit from, our heritage places.

The Board would like to record the invaluable contribution that Chris Tassell, our Managing Director, has made to positioning the Trust and contributing to the regard in which it is held by the heritage movement in



Australia. Chris' intimate professional knowledge and connections guided the development of the Trust over the past seven years. His contribution will remain a hallmark of the dedication that all the Trust's staff bring to our movement.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the long contribution of our retiring Board member Lynne Stacpoole to the Trust Board. We are fortunate that Lynne will continue to chair the Clarendon House Committee and assist in crafting an exciting experience at that property. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution made by Dr Dan Norton who filled the vacancy created by Andrew Kemp's retirement.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the efforts of my fellow Directors. This last year has been a challenging one, but they have not deviated in their drive to restore the Trust's fortunes. On behalf of the members, I thank them.

Mr. Dario Tomat
Board Chair

COMMUNITY HERITAGE

- Coordinated the Tasmanian Heritage Festival which was developed around the theme of *Community Milestones*, The Festival, with 3816 events around the state, attracted more than 67,000 people. This year's Festival was supported by the State and Federal Governments and was opened by the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, Mr. Brian Wightman at Parliament House on 17 April 2013.
- Continued to develop and promote the National Trust's Community Heritage Program with its 10 separate initiatives.
- Managed the Heritage Conservation Appeals Program which enables community groups to establish tax deductible gift programs for heritage conservation projects. During the year the number of appeals increased to 24 and more than \$435,000 was raised.
- Maintained the Heritage Travelling Exhibition Program under which exhibitions toured to 13 venues during the year.
- Supported the biennial Queenstown Arts and Heritage Festival through hosting an exhibition of 16 works by prominent Australian artist Jan Senbergs on his time in Queenstown and an installation work by Victorian artist Ruth Johnstone entitled *"The Jewelled House of Art in Nature"* at the Mt Lyell Mine Managers Office.
- Continued to strengthen our relationships with local government including new initiatives with Hobart City Council and the Southern Midlands Council.
- Throughout the year the National Trust have provided professional support to a number of community based organisations and local government authorities.



HERITAGE PROPERTIES AND COLLECTIONS

- Opening of the Australian Fly Fishing Museum at Clarendon in May. This project was supported by the Australian fly fishing community and the Commonwealth Government through the *Your Community Heritage Program*. As part of the project the Museum received many significant donations of material related to the history of fly fishing in Australia including the Northern Tasmanian Fishing Association Library from the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office.
- Opening of the Whaling exhibition at Runnymede in May. The exhibition places Runnymede in the context of the story of whaling in Tasmania to the present day and includes significant material relating to the activities of Sea Shepherd in the Southern Ocean. This project was supported by the Tasmanian Community Fund and the *Sea Shepherd* organisation and enabled the National Trust to develop its first "app" which provides visitors with access to much more heritage material than was possible to include in the exhibition itself.
- Installation of interpretative displays and conservation of heritage rooms at the Mt Lyell General Managers Offices, Queenstown supported with funding from the *Tasmanian Community Fund* and the Commonwealth Government through the *Your Community Heritage Program*.
- Established the Tasmanian Decorated Interiors Collection. This on-line resource documents furnishings in Tasmanian properties up until the mid twentieth century.
- Commenced preparation of material from the Royal Hobart Graduate Nurses Collection for exhibition in the new University of Tasmania School of Nursing facility on the Domain, Hobart.
- Continued progress in the documentation and digitisation of the National Trust's photographic and archival collections.
- Completed the conservation of the important portrait of Lady de Carteret by Sir Peter Lely at Franklin House.
- Received a number of significant donations throughout the year including portraits by George Richmond of Bishop Francis Nixon and Maria Nixon, stereo photographs by Bishop Nixon and further donations to the Gregg collection of maritime artworks.
- During the year more than 37,000 people visited the National Trust's nine properties that are regularly open to the public.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The accounting deficit for the year ended 30 June 2013 is \$25,393 (last year \$82,786 surplus).

Following the approach previously adopted in the presentation of the National Trust's Statement of Comprehensive Income, the following are the components which contribute to the comprehensive result:

	2013	2012
Surplus (deficit) before non-cash expenses	(\$78,708)	(\$128,597)
Non cash expenses	(\$95,793)	(\$80,519)
Underlying result	(\$174,501)	(\$209,116)
Specific purpose grants:		
Revenue from other Funding Programs	\$144,813	\$311,609
Expenses from other Funding Programs	(\$208,205)	(\$219,707)
	(\$63,392)	\$91,902
Property Transfer	\$147,500	\$200,000
Surplus (deficit)	(\$90,393)	\$82,786
Revaluation of properties	\$65,000	-
Comprehensive result	(\$25,393)	\$82,786

Expenditure associated with the operation and maintenance of the National Trust's properties continues to be extremely challenging with the difficult trading conditions arising from the general economic climate. Moreover the long term decline in visitor numbers to Tasmanian heritage sites generally continues to be of concern.

At this stage the National Trust cannot realistically budget for a surplus for FY14, however every effort will be made to improve this outcome.

The National Trust is most appreciative of last years' decision by the State Government to return to a triennial funding agreement in the forthcoming financial year albeit at the same level of funding that has prevailed since 2006.

Mr Ian Cordiner
Audit Committee Chairman