

Chairman's Report

This year sees the expiry of my term of office and I have indicated to the Board that I will not be continuing as a director next year as I have to juggle a number of work and personal matters.

The Board was pleased to appoint Matthew Smithies as the Managing Director from amongst a very competitive field December last. Matthew has brought a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to the role and has managed to achieve many of the objectives set by the Board in spite of being severely under-resourced, exacerbated through staff illness and leave. At one time during the year we had three key members of staff simultaneously absent for a period of six weeks due to illness and other family matters. Nevertheless, Matthew managed through that period and with the help of many volunteers was able to keep projects moving forward.

As a community organisation, we rely on our volunteers to open our properties and to help present the grounds and buildings to a credible standard. The Board introduced a new membership policy whereby any volunteer undertaking 50 hours of service to the Trust would receive free membership in the subsequent year. As I meet volunteers in so many of our activities, I am always amazed by the depth of dedication and passion that they show to their contributions to the Trust, so this policy is a very small token of our appreciation for all that effort.

The Trust is continuing to go through a significant level of change, the most noticeable has been at the Penitentiary Chapel Historic Site which has changed its name to "the Tench" adopting the term used by the convicts for the site. Brian Rieusset who for decades performed the role of site manager and curator in a voluntary capacity decided to leave the role in January. On behalf of all at the Trust I want to thank Brian sincerely for his contribution. I hope that in the not too distant future Brian may again volunteer his extensive skills at the site.

The retirement of Susan Hansen in December left a gaping hole in the corporate memory. Susan's interaction with and service to the Board over many decades was marked with a level of good humour and a willingness to help. There aren't enough superlatives to describe how appreciative we all were of Susan's competence and degree of organisation she brought to the organisation. We wish Susan a long and happy retirement.

Karin Eastoe now fills the role of secretary to the Board in a volunteer capacity.

Another great loss to the Trust's team of professionals was Hilary Keeley who announced that she was looking to enjoy more time with her husband now that he had entered retirement. Hilary was a marvellous asset in helping to organise volunteers and arrange for many events at Franklin House. For the past couple of years she took on the added challenges of organising the Tasmanian Heritage Festival. Over the past two years the Tasmanian Heritage Festival has grown in quality reaching out to many participants. The events this year reflected the theme of "Conflict and Compassion". The quality of the program and the quality of the events was positively commented upon by the other state National Trust organisations. The Board records to Hilary and her family our best wishes.

During the year, the Trust received a generous bequest of over \$68,000 from the estate of Margaret Langford.

SUSTAINABILITY:

The Board's business strategy is focussed on the Trust being a sustainable business. This is a big challenge financially, as to help grow to being sustainable takes investment. Over the past year the Board made a series of investments to address a range of risks. Hopefully, the Trust will see rewards for those risks over the next few years.

A range of legacy issues have had to be dealt with, including concluding and acquitting a number of outstanding grants. I want to thank Matthew for the hard work he and the team at head office put in to successfully conclude these matters. As the cash received for the grants had in many instances been expended in prior years without the projects being progressed to completion, there was an impact on our cash position in completing this work.

The Board has implemented a more rigorous project management approach which now tracks progress and expenditure on all grants and ensures that the grant funds are identified separately to the general operating account.

The Board is grateful for the continued support for our initiatives through, Heritage Tasmania, the Tasmanian Community Fund, the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development Community Development Program, and Arts Tasmania.

OUTLOOK:

Support in the form of membership and visitation by the community is vital for the Trust to fulfil its role as a community based cultural heritage organisation. Work continues to improve the relevance and the quality of experiences provided to engage the community.

The completion of the re-roofing project at Clarendon requires a significant fund raising effort to top up the \$70,000 final tranche of funds needed to complete the project. We are trialling a crowd funding approach as part of the fund raising drive. But, the Board views this fund raising effort as a litmus test for the community's support for the preservation of our built heritage.

Our staff have had to manage a difficult and, for some, a stressful period arising from personal circumstances. To all of our staff the Board extends its heartfelt thanks for their contribution, in particular the untiring efforts that Gemma Webberley provides in support of Runnymede.

We have made some important decisions about getting the right people for the development needs of the organisation. We were pleased to welcome Becky Shrimpton, Sophie Bleach, Di Carter and Olga Stack.

YOUR BOARD:

This year, we were fortunate to welcome James Reynolds and Warwick Oakman as new members of the Board. Warwick replaced Jo Archer who stepped down from the Board at the end of last year while James filled the ministerial-appointed position vacated by Ian Cordiner. I would like to record the Board's thanks for the efforts put in by Jo and Ian.

I wish to acknowledge the efforts of my fellow Directors over the period that I have been privileged to chair the organisation. All of the members of the Board put in a lot of work to help keeping the Trust running in all cases as volunteers.

My fellow director Philip Tyrell has also indicated he will not seek re-appointment to the Board following the completion of his term this year. Both Philip and I will continue to volunteer at Trust properties in Hobart and with the Macquarie Group.

Dario Tomat
Chairman

Managing Director's Report

It is with great optimism that we look forward to the new financial year as the Trust moves into the next phase of its life, providing new opportunities to engage in a relevant and contemporary manner. This is not to say that the past year has been without its challenges, however, our aim is to transform the National Trust into a leading heritage management organisation, developing and benchmarking contemporary heritage practices and in so doing, becoming a model that others can look to as an example of excellence in heritage management.

To many this may seem to be a quest for achieving the Holy Grail. However, within Tasmania this is achievable due to the incredible support the National Trust has from a wide range of stakeholders and the accessibility to some extraordinary talent within our state who have consistently supported the National Trust in our endeavours over the past year as well as supporting our future plans.

In my role as Managing Director, I would like to thank the Chairman and Board of the National Trust for their ongoing support. Chairman Dario Tomat has always been available and willing to provide assistance whenever and wherever needed. This support has been vital throughout the past year as we managed a wide range of issues. It is rare to find a Board that is so cohesive and focused on assisting in any way they can for the benefit of the Trust. The staff, myself and volunteers acknowledge the efforts of the Board and it has been a privilege to work alongside such a professional group of people.

There is a long list of people and organisations to thank (far too many to mention here); however, the support of Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, Dr Louise Zarmati and Dr Peter Brett, all from UTAS, have been instrumental in working with the National Trust team on several projects which have achieved international standard. Peta Newman and Sue Overton provided a huge number of hours and due to their professional and extraordinary dedication pieced together our most successful Tasmanian Heritage Festival. This year's festival program looked absolutely marvellous due to the photographs by Thomas Ryan and graphic artistry by Colin King from Foot and Playsted. The festival, however, would not be the success that it is without the incredible contribution of all of those organisations and individuals throughout our state passionate about heritage and their continued support of the festival.

The Tasmanian Heritage Festival is made possible through the support of the Tasmanian State Government. This year's festival was supported by Foot and Playsted, The Examiner, Southern Cross Television, Josef Chromy and Cascade Brewery.

There were numerous highlights throughout the festival, including projection installations throughout all regions of the state and a discussion evening with Dan Mori. The festival was launched by Minister Matthew Groom at the Gunpowder Magazine in Hobart, receiving fantastic media coverage and broad community support, highlighting the interest we as Tasmanians have in our heritage.

The National Trust would not exist without our volunteers and I am always conscious and incredibly humbled by the contribution all volunteers make towards the National Trust. Throughout the past year as the organisation has gone through necessary change to secure its future, not all volunteers have found this an easy process. I understand these difficulties and have always attempted to communicate the reasons behind the changes, why they are essential for our future and what the expected outcomes are of the changes that we make. Having said this, there is

acknowledgement throughout our volunteer team that the changes we are making are positive and provide the framework for a great future. With this support, it is with great optimism that I look forward to the coming year, where we will be rolling out some very exciting programs.

An effort has been made to review all management systems the Trust has been working on and an assessment made as to their ongoing suitability and effectiveness. Many systems were either antiquated or not suitable for the requirements of the organisation in pursuing good governance and financial responsibility. With this we have moved over to Xero Accounting System, introduced Rezdi Booking System and currently migrating to a state of the art member management system, Nation Builder. All of these systems have been well-researched and specifically chosen due to their ability to integrate data, providing a high level of accuracy and time-based data. Nation Builder will provide a much better capacity for us to communicate on a regular basis with all volunteers and members of the National Trust through e-news and email streams.

The state government continues to provide much needed support to the National Trust and it is pleasing and with some relief that the state government renewed our tri-annual funding agreement. This funding is essential for the ongoing future of the National Trust.

Following a successful application to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development a grant was secured for the re-roofing of Clarendon. This is a project identified as one that needed to be done for the past 25 years, so it is an exciting time for Clarendon, as this essential work is now in the process of being completed. Heritage Tasmania throughout the planning of this major project, along with Northern Midlands Council, provided much valued support and expertise in assisting us to achieve the very highest of heritage management standards.

Funding has also been secured through the generosity of the Tasmanian Community Fund for the Pandemonium Interpretation Project at the Tench. This project promises to be a major heritage-based activity for visitors and Tasmanians, highlighting our complex, fascinating and sometimes gruesome convict history.

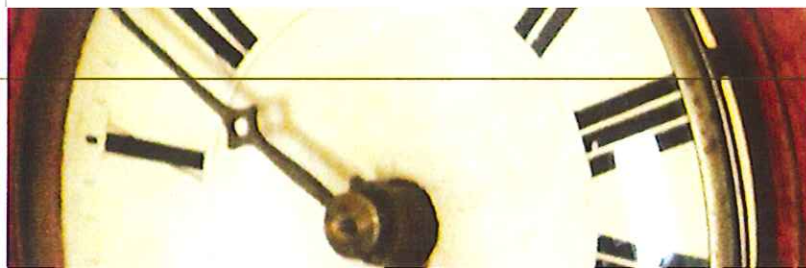
Our renewed dedication for completing projects at the very highest of standards is demonstrated through two major projects recently completed; Home from the War booklet and touring exhibition by Peta Newman and the publishing of a Home Hill e-book by Ben Whitely. The high calibre of these projects has attracted national attention. The National Trust presented to the Legislative Council a well-researched document that was collectively compiled by the National Trust Board, staff and volunteers.

The National Trust Tasmania over the past year has implemented activity with a strong focus on attracting younger generations to the organisation. This has included employing the very talented Sophie Bleach and Ted Dobrotn who bring new and exciting perspectives and who have been instrumental in project planning.

Over the next year many of our buildings will require urgent maintenance and conservation work and this, along with developing long term interpretation plans and the introduction of new experience product into all of our sites, will be a main focus for the coming year. There is much to be done and the support of our members and volunteers is probably more vital than it has ever been. The National Trust as we move into a new era promises to be a heritage leader with strong community ties and links, creating dynamic environments within heritage spaces that have relevance and meaning.

The National Trust is once again an exciting organisation and we encourage people who in the past may not have been involved in heritage, to join us on our journey.

Matthew Smithies
Managing Director



Audit Committee Annual Report

The Audit Committee comprises Amanda Roberts, Chairman and Dario Tomat. The Managing Director attends the Audit Committee meetings.

The Audit Committee meet on a regular basis to monitor the financial management, risk management and compliance of the Trust and report to the Board.

The 2014/15 financial year was a more positive year financially from the previous year for the National Trust in Tasmania. The additional government support we received in 2013/14 enabled us to progress a reconstruction strategy for the business. The improved liquidity enabled the Trust to plan and take forward necessary product development with more confidence. There are still many more matters that have to be addressed to achieve a sustainable operating position, but we have laid the foundations for improvement.

As a consequence of greater information needs and to provide visibility of the operations in real time, there has been a complete review of reporting systems and controls covering operations, maintenance projects, grant acquittals, sponsorship arrangements and the oversight of various trust funds administered by the State Office.

The implementation of this systems review will occur early in the 2015/16 financial year and will allow our property managers and various committees to get timelier and more relevant management information. It will lead to consolidation of our wide ranging activities and provide more confidence in financial forecasts.

As part of the review our current banking and funding arrangements were considered and in turn this will lead to revised arrangements in the near future.

The support of the Tasmanian Audit Office (TAO) is always welcome. The Committee has welcomed and acted on the inputs provided by the TAO.

The Board thanks Ruddicks Chartered Accountants for their diligent service.

National Trust Board Members

Mr Dario Tomat	(Board Chairman)
Dr Marion Myhill	(Board Deputy Chair)
Mr James Reynolds	
Mr Warwick Oakman	
Ms Amanda Roberts	(Chairman Audit & Risk Committee)
Mr Phillip Tyrell	
Mr Matthew Smithies	(Managing Director)



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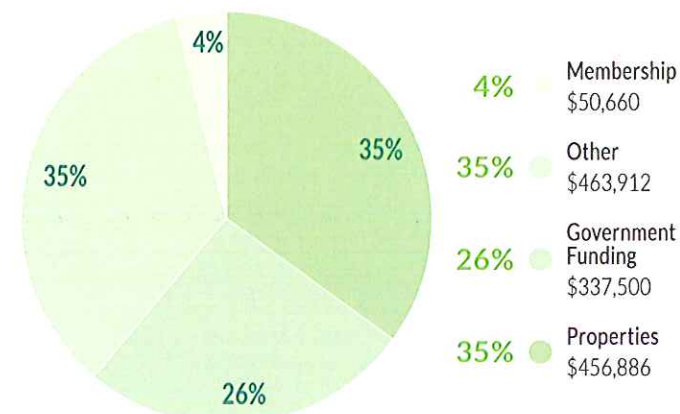
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Operating Revenue 2014-2015



Operating Expenditure 2014-2015

