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NATIONAL TRUST TASMANIA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 30 OCTOBER 2022

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to present the National Trust Tasmania Annual Report for 2021-22.

This has been a year when National Trust of Australia (Tasmania), together with the Tasmanian economy, has been recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. I would particularly like to thank the Tasmanian State Government for significant additional funding that has assisted the Trust in its recovery. As I reported last year the Trust faces significant challenges brought about, or exacerbated by the pandemic.

The biggest challenge has been financial. The National Trust Tasmania has for many years been asset rich and cash poor. The magnificent buildings which we present to the public, including many visitors to Tasmania, are extremely expensive to operate and maintain.

Another major challenge thrown up by the epidemic has been the retirement of many long-serving volunteers. The Trust is extremely grateful to all those volunteers who work year in year out and I can't thank them enough for everything they do. As our properties reopen, some older and more vulnerable folk decided not to take the risk of going out in public. We quite understand and would just like to say thank you for your years of service. We hope you will stay in touch as members and come and visit some of our beautiful properties when the pandemic has finally passed. The Trust is already recruiting more volunteers and hopefully will continue to do so.

The additional Tasmanian Government funding gave the Board the confidence to seek a new Managing Director and continue its priority of developing adaptive reuse plans for its properties to increase their financial sustainability. The Trust's first such project is the Convict Memorial Hub (CMH) at the PCHS. The Convict Memorial Hub Project has come about through a Tasmanian State Government 2021 election commitment. The Government has provided \$1.25m for the project through Heritage Tasmania in the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRET), which is being undertaken in collaboration with the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority.

In February 2022 the Trust welcomed a new Managing Director, Scott Carlin. Scott has a thirty year+ career in managing museums and historic sites with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and Historic Houses Trust of NSW (now Sydney Living Museums). Scott became a National Trust member in his teen years and first came to Tasmania in 1988 for a Museum Studies internship at Port Arthur. He was a frequent visitor in subsequent years and drew on evidence from Trust properties for Sydney restoration projects.

Following Scott's appointment the Board endorsed a staff restructure and the move of the State Office to Hobart.

National Trust Conservation Appeals

The National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) receives tax-deductible gifts from the public. With the approval of the Australian Taxation Office, the Trust has made its capacity to receive tax-deductible donations available to custodians of important heritage buildings. We currently operate over twenty such restoration appeals. The appeals can be used by community organizations seeking to purchase historic buildings (e.g. historic churches) for community use. A conservation management plan must be developed for the historic building(s) and can be funded from the restoration appeal. Funds are released by the Trust for works that are consistent with the conservation management plan.

In 2021-22, the National Trust's restoration appeals were particularly successful in relation to All Saints Anglican Church South Hobart. The Trust also supported the Friends of Buckland Church Inc. in its appeal to raise funds to purchase the Church of St John the Baptist, Buckland together with its moveable cultural heritage. This historic church was identified by the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania as one of the properties to be sold as part of the Redress Scheme. The appeal aims to keep the church – together its vestments, original church plate and burial ground – in community ownership for future generations. St John the Baptist at Buckland is significant as an outcome of the Oxford Movement and the earliest documented *ecclesiologically* correct Anglican place of worship in Australia. In lay terms, it was the first Gothic Revival church built in Australia that was an archaeologically correct interpretation of the early medieval English village church.

The National Trust was also approached by Wildcare to establish restoration funds for Tasman Island - Lighthouse Station and Bruny Island Quarantine Station.

National Trust Advocacy

Over its sixty two-year history National Trust Tasmania has advocated for the protection of Tasmania's built heritage and cultural landscapes including classifying properties. During the 1970s – 90s the Trust had branches in many Tasmanian towns (from New Norfolk to Deloraine) and advocated for the protection of their streetscapes. The Trust's classification lists became the basis for the Commonwealth Government's Register of the National Estate (1975) and the Tasmanian Heritage Register with the passing of the Tasmanian *Historic Cultural Heritage Act* in 1995.

The Trust continues to rebuild post COVID-19 and so has not yet reconvened its Advocacy groups. The Trust has promoted the Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania (PMAT) as a kindred organization. PMAT advocates for improvements to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme which is currently under review.

The Trust has revived its collaboration with the Australian Garden History Society to advocate for significant trees 'Trust Trees' across Tasmania.

In 2020, the then Minister for Heritage, Minister Roger Jaensch, commissioned a report from Stenning & Associates on the Tasmanian heritage ecosystem. The Trust is keen to advocate for the contribution of heritage to Tasmania's tourism economy. The Trust planned a conference on cultural heritage tourism for 2020 that had to be cancelled owing to COVID-19. The Trust aims to revive this proposal following the completion of Convict Memorial Hub phase II in 2024.

Bequests

The late John Desmond Daly of Evandale bequeathed \$10,000 to the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) with a request that it be directed to the Clarendon garden and grounds. This bequest will allow the Trust to undertake essential work to safeguard Clarendon's elm avenue, planted c1870 and now threatened by the Elm Leaf Beetle.

Membership

Members are the lifeblood of the Trust. National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) Members were given six months free membership to December 2021 owing to Trust properties having been closed in response to COVID-19. The Trust embarked on a membership drive in May 2022. Please renew your membership and encourage your friends and relations to join.

Vale Joan Green

The Trust honours the memory of one of its founders and greatest supporters, Joan Green OAM (1923-2022), the widow of Richard Martin (Dick) Green. The National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) was formed officially at a meeting on 14 May 1960 at the home of Joan and Dick Green at 22 York Street Launceston. Joan Green as public officer took the minutes of this first meeting. Lawyer, Dick Green became the Trust's first Chairman. The Trust's first project was the purchase and restoration of the Hollies (now known as Franklin House) in Franklin Village, Launceston. The Greens' house, with its gracious reception rooms over two floors was to be the venue for fundraising for the Trust and numerous cultural organizations and charities for nigh on 60 years.

Joan Green was an inspiring administrator and fundraiser for the Trust. She served on the State Council, Northern Regional Committee and was at times Chairman of the Franklin House and Clarendon Committees. The Trust remembers Joan's enormous life-long voluntary dedication with appreciation and gratitude. No-one has made a more important contribution to conserving Tasmania's built heritage.

Vale Michael Court

The National Trust also honours the memory and contribution of architect, conservationist and long-term member, Michael Court (1926-2022). Michael studied architecture under Walter Gropius in the USA, practicing in Sydney, Canada and the US before coming to Tasmania in 1963 to take up the role of Principal Architect (design) with the State Construction Division. Michael was to become Tasmanian National Trust Southern Regional Chair and the Trust's honorary architect.

The National Trust grew out of a love of Tasmania's Georgian architecture. Michael Court pioneered a reappraisal of High Victorian buildings and extended the Trust's interests into industrial buildings. Thus

the Trust's classification program would encompass much of Tasmania's North West and West. Michael drove the Trust to be "both forceful and thoroughly professional" in dealing with Government and in advising the public. Michael worked simultaneously in public and private practice, providing the first guidelines for the use and conservation of Salamanca Place, Penitentiary Chapel and Criminal Courts, Glebe House and many others.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to all the Trust staff and volunteers who have gone to remarkable lengths to keep the organisation operating and to acknowledge the extraordinary work of my colleagues on the Board. Thank you all!

Nicholas Heyward AM
Chairman
National Trust of Australia (Tasmania)
20 October 2022