



## **NATIONAL TRUST TASMANIA**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

I am pleased to present the National Trust Tasmania Annual Report for 2022-23. This has been a productive year for the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania).

#### **Tasmanian State Government Funding**

The National Trust of Australia (Tasmania, NTT) receives Tasmanian State Government triennial grant funding of \$312,350 per annum. I would particularly like to thank the Tasmanian State Government for a second COVID-19 Business Recovery Grant of \$300,000.

#### **Staff Restructure**

In 2021/22 the NTT received an additional grant of \$130,000 to fund the salary of a Managing Director, (Scott Carlin) who commenced in February 2022. That funding was fully expended in the 2022/23. The NTT restructured, recruiting a State Office Manager (Emma Boyce) and three property managers, who oversee groups of properties, together with infrastructure projects and the Trust's volunteer and public programs:

- Property Manager – North-West and West, Ann Teesdale overseeing Home Hill, Penghana and the Mt Lyell Mine Manager's Offices, Queenstown
- Property Manager – North, Ken Richards overseeing Franklin House, Clarendon and the Old Umbrella Shop. The Trust is also a Trustee of the Launceston Synagogue and the Deddington Chapel.
- Property Manager – South, James Ward overseeing the Penitentiary Chapel & Criminal Courts Complex (PCHS) in Hobart, Runnymede and Oak Lodge at Richmond.

#### **Strategic Plan**

In May 2023, the NTT Board adopted a Strategic Plan and Business Plan 2023/24 to 2025/26. Key objectives under the Strategic Plan are:

##### Our Purpose

[To] connect and promote Tasmania's heritage sector as a driver of social and economic and opportunities for Tasmanians

##### Our Values

Enthusiasm: We embrace Tasmania's Heritage with a dynamic and passionate attitude.

Engagement and inclusiveness: We place people at the centre of everything we do and respect and welcome all.

Innovation: We lead by ideas and welcome partnerships.

Sustainability: We are committed to ensuring our heritage properties have greater capacity to generate income for a more sustainable operation. We are committed to developing our staff and volunteers.

#### Our Aspirations and Expectations

- We are an organization with a 'can do' attitude, agile, confident and innovative
- We demonstrate innovation
- We demonstrate sustainability through developing capacity-building projects at key properties through our earned resources, grant funding and industry partnerships

#### ***Unshackled / the Convict Memorial Hub***

The Trust Board has a focus on ensuring the financial sustainability of its properties, including the introduction of new infrastructure to increase their income generation. The Trust's first such project is *Unshackled / the Convict Memorial Hub* at the Penitentiary Chapel & Criminal Courts Complex (PCHS) in Hobart. The Convict Memorial Hub Project was funded by a Tasmanian State Government 2021 election commitment. The Government has provided \$1.25m for the project through Heritage Tasmania. The project is being undertaken in collaboration with the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority.

The scaffolding has just come down to reveal an outstanding result. It has been an intricate project involving the conservation of an 1860 court interior, the installation (by MONA Technology Services) of a well-engineered column of screens and commissioned content from Roar Film.

*Unshackled / the Convict Memorial Hub* allows the visitor to explore the life stories of each of the 75,000 convicts who came to Tasmania. Roar Film's work has been innovative in generating a 'portrait' for each convict based on the convict indent descriptions and 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs.

Of the 62,500 male convicts came to Tasmania from 1803 to 1853, all those who arrived after 1821 were processed through the Convict Prison Barracks courtyard adjacent to the Penitentiary Chapel. Tasmania's convict records were housed in the Gaoler's House. Now part of the Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office collection and inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register, this project has seen the digitized data derived from these records returned to the site.

*Unshackled / the Convict Memorial Hub* will send tourists on journeys of discovery to convict sites across Tasmania, which range from UNESCO World Heritage Sites; to sites of convict industry and roadbuilding; to accommodation located in convict era buildings. Tourism dispersal to Tasmanian convict sites will provide income to support their conservation while maintaining Tasmania's unique digital heritage.

In Feb 2023 the Australian Research Council (ARC) announced a grant of \$541,000 to the University of New England to collaborate with the Trust on the project 'Making Crime Pay' which will support ongoing content generation for the Convict Memorial Hub. The Trust is indebted to its Board Member, Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart for the vision that secured this funding. Prof Maxwell-Stewart has worked with Digital History Tasmania (and its 25 volunteers) on the transcription and coding of more than two million convict records that underpin the Hub. Regretably, Hamish retires from the NTT Board at this AGM but will continue his association with the NTT through its Digital Committee.

As part of the development of the Convict Memorial Hub, the Project Steering Group commissioned a Business Plan from SMA Tourism (Simon Macarthur and Associates). The Hub Business Plan has set a course for ongoing content development, extensive promotion and sound visitation statistics. This will give the NTT the income and confidence to grow across the state.

### **Runnymede**

A pair of figures with lamps by London modeler, Henry Hopper (1765-1844) c1806 were acquired for Runnymede's entrance hall niches. The acquisition marked 60 years of the National Trust in southern Tasmania. The Trust acknowledges the support of the Copland Foundation and Lauder & Howard Antiques for their assistance with this significant acquisition.

A Friends of Runnymede Committee has formed with a focus on fundraising through concerts, high teas and the ever-popular Runnymede plant fairs. The Trust is in discussions with the Peggy Glanville Hicks House in Paddington Sydney regarding extending its Australia Council-funded composer-in-residence program to Tasmania through a residency at Runnymede (with accommodation at Runnymede Cottage). This is particularly appropriate given the music room and its suitability for small recitals. Australia Council funding was not forthcoming for the program in 2023/24.

### **Oak Lodge**

Oak Lodge, built c1832 was gifted to the National Trust by Muriel Horsfall in 1998. In 2001, the then cash-strapped National Trust attempted to sell the Georgian house and was faced with community opposition. The Coal Valley Historical Society, with Lois Green as President, became Oak Lodge's tenant, managing public access and countless school tours. The Trust was saddened to hear of the passing of (Eileen) Lois Green OAM (1948-2022) only a few days after Christmas 2022.

The Trust has sought to build closer relations with the Coal Valley Historical Society, integrating it further into the Trust's promotional program, dealing with aspects of its maintenance backlog, lending items from the Trust's collection to extend its interpretative program and preparing for the Richmond [Bridge] bicentenary in 2024.

### **Franklin House**

The National Trust's first Tasmanian property, Franklin House, operates smoothly under the capable management of Julie Dineen and her volunteer committee. Franklin House remained open seven days per week throughout the year and has hosted many high teas, a market and Carols & Cake. A stand-out public program was the contemporary artwork, *Homecoming* by Soma Lumia and artist Samantha Dennis, offered as part of the annual Beaker Street science festival in August 2022.

### **Clarendon**

On 21 December 2022 Premier, Jeremy Rockliff, launched the ReAssigned Program, funded by the Australian Government through Northern Midlands Council. ReAssigned provides augmented reality content developed by Roar Film, at Clarendon, Woolmers, Brickendon, Glover Country and the Clarendon Arms in Evandale. These properties will collaborate and cross-promote on an ongoing basis.

Clarendon's service wing roof sustained damage through severe winds in 2022. Repair was delayed by difficulties in achieving an engineering solution that achieved ideal heritage outcomes. The Trust would like to thank Ian Boersma at Heritage Tasmania for his assistance. It was difficult to attract building trades to a reasonably minor repair job while Tasmania was in the midst of a major building boom. Repairs were completed by RB Edwards Builders of Woodbridge in early 2023.

Clarendon's slate roof was overhauled by the Trust in 2017-18. In May 2023 the Trust engaged engineer, Peter Spratt, to advise on Clarendon's structural engineering issues. Additional Tasmanian Government funding (via Heritage Tasmania) of \$200,000 in 2023/24 will allow the Trust to replace rainwater goods, relay the basement paving, activate the basement air drains and replace Clarendon's moat pumps.

The Trust received a Tasmanian Government Flood Relief Grant of \$16,900 related to the South Esk floods. This covered a range of tasks (including pump replacement) that fell below our insurance premium excess. Clarendon's grounds have benefited from the employment of Nick Brady in addition to long-standing groundsman, Pete Long. Through this, Clarendon has had a renewed focus on maintaining hedges and clearing the riverbank of self-seeded trees.

The Trust also undertook a deaccessions program, selling items that had previously been deemed surplus to requirements and offered on the market in 2018. These items had been stored in Clarendon's basement and became affected by mould following the October 2022 South Esk floods.

Under the Trust's Collections Management Policy, the proceeds of deaccessions are invested into the collection. The proceeds of the sale will be invested into the repair of a pair of table candelabra c1840, provenanced to the Cox family and donated to Clarendon by former Deputy, Chair Warwick Oakman. Another project will be the commissioning of the smaller bowls of a table epergne c1820 donated by Peter Woof of Evandale Antiques and Kevin Dayha of Grange Antiques. The Trust has also acquired Waterford table glass for dining table settings.

### **Home Hill**

When Dame Enid Lyons left her home to the people of Tasmania, she gave the house to Devonport City Council, and sold the collection to National Trust Tasmania. National Trust Tasmania manages Home Hill's visitor experience. In 2022 Devonport City Council (DCC) was the recipient of Tasmanian Premier's Discretionary Funding of \$30,000 to commission a report on the future of the property. National Trust Tasmania input into the document was not directly sought. The SGS Economics and Planning Report contains the NTT recommendation of a pavilion for the Home Hill landholding to enable further public programming, a film, exhibition, collection storage and café. The Council has since requested NTT input so that a revised report may form the basis of an Australian Government Growing Regions funding application.

In 2020 the NTT commissioned a Home Hill Landscape Management Plan from consultants, Prue Slatyer and Sue Small. The Australian Garden History Society has expressed interest in supporting the implementation of the plan.

### **Queenstown**

National Trust Tasmania's West Coast properties, Penghana and the Mt Lyell Mine Manager's Offices were the subject of an Australian Government Growing Regions funding application (with the result yet to be notified). Penghana tenancy issues have been resolved leading to a more productive relationship and further building maintenance being carried out. Penghana and the Mt Lyell Mine Manager's Offices continue to be venues for the Unconformity Festival.

### **Launceston Synagogue**

The Launceston Synagogue was built in 1844-46 is a highly significant element of Tasmania's architectural legacy and cultural and social history. It was designed by Richard Lambeth in the

Egypto-Revival style, the style chosen for 1840s synagogues in Hobart (1843, extant) and Sydney (demolished).

The National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) became a co-Trustee for the Launceston Synagogue at the invitation of Trustee, John Sandor in September 2008. John and Beth Sandor died in 2022. In 2023, National Trust Tasmania invited noted philanthropist, Joseph Gutnick to become its co-Trustee. Rabbi Gutnick is seeking to rebuild the congregation and has undertaken to assist with the Launceston Synagogue Restoration Appeal deficit and operational costs going forward.

### **National Trust Conservation Appeals**

The National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission and all donations \$2 and above are tax-deductible. With the approval of the Australian Taxation Office, the Trust makes its Deductible Gifts Recipients status available to custodians of important heritage buildings. The Trust currently operates over twenty such restoration appeals. The appeals can also 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 funds are released by the Trust for works that are consistent with the conservation management plan.

In 2022 the National Trust opened a conservation appeals to support the work of the Friends of Bruny Island Quarantine Station (FOBIQS) and Macquarie Island Lighthouse. These two Wildcare groups work in conjunction with Parks Tasmania to preserve, interpret and open the sites to the public.

In 2022-23, the Friends of Buckland Church Inc. raised funds to purchase the Church of St John the Baptist, Buckland together with its moveable cultural heritage.

St. Matthew's, New Norfolk's Restoration Appeal funded the restoration of its double east window, commissioned by the Shoobridge family in memory of the seven-year-old Nancy Hope Shoobridge who died in 1898, and made by Mayer of Munich. Conservation was undertaken by Gavin Merrington Stained Glass.

The NTT Conservation Appeal for the Nile Chapel, Deddington, of which National Trust Tasmania is a trustee received a \$20,000 bequest from the estate of late Alan Jacobs.

### **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 work with Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania (PMAT) on the Tasmanian Planning Commission's (TPC) rollout of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS), to replace the interim and older planning schemes. The Trust also works with the Australian Garden History Society to advocate for landscapes and significant trees 'Trust Trees' across Tasmania.

On 24 February 2023 the Trust and approximately 120 people from tourism, heritage and local government attended the Minister for Heritage, the Hon Madeleine Ogilvie's Summit, held in the

Callington Mill distillery at Oatlands. It was a great event with abundant expertise and passion amongst the speakers and attendees.

### **Lenah Valley Land Sale**

In 2023 the Trust sold land it owned at Lenah Valley adjacent to Ancanthe Park. The Trust had been given the land in 2013 by David Crean who had initiated a subdivision in the area. There had been community opposition to the subdivision which severed the visual connection between Lady Franklin's Museum, the bush and kunanyi / Mt Wellington. The trust offered the land at the Valuer-General's valuation to Hobart City Council in 2018 and 2022. Council declined the offer, having purchased land along Bushy Creek for a linear park and having defined the present Ancanthe Park boundaries.

By 2022, with most of the subdivision blocks built upon, it was clear that the Trust's block – an undeveloped subdivision block for which we were paying rates – could not 'retrieve' the vision of Lady Franklin's Museum as a temple in a 'wilderness' setting. The Trust sold the undeveloped subdivision block on the open market. The proceeds of the sale have been invested, with the interest used for Trust conservation projects. The Trust would like to thank Kim Morgan of Petrusma for Property for handling this sale *probono*.

### **Volunteer program**

Volunteering for the National Trust enables people to give back to their community, while meeting like-minded visitors from around the world. Volunteer support at the National Trust's eight museum properties is across a range of roles including visitor services, running education tours, events, gardening, research, transcription of historic documents, collection management and conservation housekeeping. COVID-19 caused a loss of volunteers at most community organisations. The Trust is aiming to grow the volunteer team at all its properties by creating a welcoming environment for new recruits and social hub for each region.

Through volunteer support, Hobart's Penitentiary Chapel Historic Site was able to extend its open hours Wednesday to Sunday each week. We anticipate a further increase with the opening of the Convict Memorial Hub. We are also seeking to increase opening hours at properties such as Clarendon, which will open Thursday to Sunday over Summer 2023/24.

### **Public Programs**

The Trust hosted a range of public programs across the year. We collaborated with National Trusts across Australia for the National Trust Heritage Festival with the theme, *Shared Stories*, 10 April – 14 May 2023.

A major initiative was the return of the Trust's Christmas Cocktail Party at 'Claremont,' the historic home of Mrs Franki Birrell on 2 December 2022; a perfect early Summer evening attended by 110 members. Through a charity auction, this post-COVID relaunch of the Trust raised \$14,000 for the Trust's valuable conservation work. Special thanks to Franki Birrell, Andy Birrell, Catherine Walker, Dorothy Dehais and Annabel Tyson.

[This year's end of year party will be hosted at Clairville, Western Junction, the home of Robert Henley and Michael McWilliams, on Wednesday 29 November 2023.]

Another major event was the National Trust Tasmania tour to Bothwell, 23-26 January 2023. Bothwell historian, Mary Ramsay, hosted a three-day fully-guided tour of privately-owned historic

houses and gardens in the Bothwell district, not usually open to the public. The tour was based at Ratho with hearty meals and entertaining after-dinner speeches from Greg Ramsay and Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart. The tour visited places reflecting Tasmania's rich and varied history, two associated with Tasmania's Black War of the 1820s. The concluding lunch was in the shearing shed at Rathmore, Hollow Tree.

### **Bequests**

The late John Richard Lawrence of Devonport bequeathed a pair of kerosene lamps c1900 via the Public Trustee. These have found a home at Runnymede.

### **Concluding thanks**

As I step down at the end of my six years as Chair of the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania), 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 prospering (despite great odds). In particular I must congratulate Managing Director, Scott Carlin; South Property Manager Jim Ward, North West and West Property Manager Ann Teesdale and State Office Manager Emma Boyce. I would also like to acknowledge the extraordinary work of my colleagues on the Board; those who are retiring – Hamish Maxwell-Stewart and Claire Baker; to Philip Mussared who recently retired as a Tasmanian Government appointee. I would also like to thank continuing Board members, Catherine Walker and Jude Franks. Jude joined our number earlier this year. Thank you all!

Nicholas Heyward AM  
Chairman  
National Trust of Australia (Tasmania)  
27 October 2023