



National
Trust
Tasmania

Annual Report

Prepared By :

Chair - Catherine Walker

**Managing Director -
Scott Carlin**

2023-24

Acknowledgement of Country

The National Trust pays its respects to Tasmania's First People and elders past and present. We acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal community as the traditional custodians of lutruwita (Tasmania)



This Year's Highlights

1

Opening of the Convict Memorial at the Hobart Penitentiary

2

Aquittal of grant programs including completion of much-needed maintenance works at Clarendon and the Hobart Penitentiary

3

Some fine additions to our collections from generous donors

4

Steady improvement in visitor numbers post COVID-19 downturn

5

Modest growth in volunteer numbers

6

Fundraising and community events are increasing public support

7

Increased digital presence with E-newsletters and social media posts reaching new audiences

Chair's Message

I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2023-24 of the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania).

There have been some notable achievements in the past year. The Board, Managing Director, staff and volunteers have worked hard to get on top of the key challenges we face. We continue to be supported in our endeavours by the Tasmanian Government with funding through our triennial grant agreement, the Built Heritage Grants Scheme and the substantial grant which delivered the Convict Memorial Hub at the Hobart Penitentiary. The former Minister for Heritage, the Hon Nick Duigan MP, and current Minister for Arts & Heritage, the Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP, have underlined the importance of the Trust's custodianship of heritage assets and their contribution to Tasmania's tourism economy.

The Trust has also been supported this year by a grant from the Federal Government through the National Cultural Heritage Account as well as generous donations from private individuals. These have enhanced our properties' ability to tell their stories.

We are indebted to the contribution of volunteers to the management and presentation of our properties. We couldn't operate without them, and I thank them all for their dedication.

We are also indebted to our staff. Our Managing Director provides strong leadership to a small but dynamic team of creative thinkers and problem solvers. The Board acknowledges their willingness to 'go above and beyond' to keep the organisation prospering.

We continue to strengthen partnerships with organisations engaged in the heritage sector including the Tasmanian Heritage Council, Heritage Tasmania, Tasmanian local government, Digital History Tasmania, and National Trust Australia.

We are pleased our membership has remained stable at nearly 700 members and to have seen modest growth in our volunteer numbers. Membership subscriptions provide much needed untied income and increasing the number of our members is an important goal for the Trust.

Our membership fees have remained the same for several years and represent excellent value, especially for those able to travel and take advantage of the reciprocal rights with other National Trusts both in Australia and overseas. The Board is keen to examine other ways in which the Trust can add value to being a member of the organisation.

Our Governance

The Board reached its full complement of members with the appointment by the Minister for Arts and Heritage in January 2023 of Harriett England and Dr Peter Tucker. The Board has met on seven occasions since June 2023 and held its meetings at Franklin House, the Hobart Penitentiary, Runnymede, Home Hill and Clarendon.

We have a professional skills-based Board with representation from the North, North-West and the South of the State. Members also volunteer for Board committees, principally, the Audit and Risk Committee, Convict Memorial Business Development Committee and the Digital and Information Strategy Committee.

I would like to thank them all for their commitment, enthusiasm and hard work.

- Catherine Walker



Catherine Walker

Chair,
Member Elected - 20 October 2019



Jude Franks

Deputy Chair, Chair of Audit & Risk Committee
Minister Appointed - 30 May 2023



Alistair Scott

Non-executive director
Member Elected - 22 October 2023



Kerry Houston

Non-executive director
Member Elected - 22 October 2023



Dr Peter Tucker

Non-executive director
Minister Appointed - 8 January 2024



Harriett England

Non-executive director
Minister Appointed - 8 January 2024



Scott Carlin

Managing Director
Board Appointed - 14 February 2022

Key Challenges

Volunteers

The impact of COVID-19 saw our revenue plummet and the number of our volunteers reduce, echoing the national trend in the reduction of volunteers across many sectors. Volunteer recruitment and training is a priority for the Trust as a means of building community support, including by extending property opening hours.

Volunteering covers a range of roles - visitor reception, running education programs, organising events, gardening, research, collection management and conservation housekeeping. Projects such as the Convict Memorial at the Hobart Penitentiary are powered by Digital History Tasmania volunteers (who are registered as National Trust Tasmania volunteers). These volunteers have transcribed and coded over one million convict records over the past 20 years. The Trust is aiming to grow the volunteer team at all its properties by creating a welcoming environment for new recruits and social hubs for each region.

Financial Sustainability

The Board is focused on building the financial sustainability of the organisation. The presentation of our properties is key to attracting visitors and to generating revenue from commercial ventures, including venue hire for events.

We have made some important first steps through the Convict Memorial, to increase the revenue from visitors, with stronger marketing efforts as well as continuing to address the substantial maintenance needs at Clarendon and other properties, and in examining the feasibility of refurbishing cottages at Runnymede and Clarendon to expand opportunities.

Maintenance of assets

The maintenance of our property portfolio is a key challenge. Given the scale of the investment required, we have relied on government grants to undertake essential works. As noted above, the Trust is seeking to diversify our funding sources and to leverage co-investment in our properties from the Australian and Tasmanian Governments, potential business partners, private foundations, philanthropists, and the Trust's earned income.

We will endeavour to boost our fundraising efforts in 2024-25 with events that will attract new supporters and contribute to a stronger financial position.

Managing Director's Message

The Trust cares for twelve properties across Tasmania and runs conservation appeals for more than twenty properties in community ownership.

In December 2023, the Trust reviewed its Conservation Appeal Guidelines and renewed contact with recipients which led to the reactivation of some appeals. The University of Tasmania will reactivate the National Trust Martin Davies Memorial Scholarship as an annual prize and St Andrew's Anglican Church at Evandale opened an appeal to replace the infrastructure lost in a fire in June 2023. The Trust supported the Church of Apostles, Launceston and All Saints Anglican Church, South Hobart in their successful applications for Built Heritage Grants Scheme funding announced in July 2024.



Our Properties

The Convict Memorial

The launch of the Convict Memorial at the Hobart Penitentiary by the Hon Nick Duigan MP, Minister for Heritage, on 29 November 2023 was the culmination of two years' work and undoubtedly the most significant achievement of the year. This outstanding public history project was achieved through Tasmanian Government funding of \$1.25 million and undertaken in collaboration with Heritage Tasmania and the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority. The Convict Memorial is a ground-breaking digital history presentation that allows visitors to explore the records of 75,000 convicts who came to Tasmania in 1803-1853.

The Trust would like to thank the team who delivered the project - Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, who conceptualised the project, Robert Morris-Nunn of Circa Morris-Nunn Chua, Craig Dow Sainter, Stephen Thomas and Matt Daniels of Roar Film and James Dwyer and Dylan Banks of MONA Technology Services. Heritage works were carried out by RB Edwards Builders of Woodbridge, Michael Bremer-Trainor and Young's Decorating Services. The Trust's project management team included Managing Director, Scott Carlin, Property Manager-South, Jim Ward, and State Office Manager, Emma Boyce.

The Convict Memorial will continue to evolve through an Australian Research Council grant awarded in 2023 to the University of New England for the project 'Making Crime Pay'. The Trust thanks Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart for securing this funding.



Hobart Penitentiary

A Tasmanian Government Built Heritage Grants Scheme Activation grant prepared the Hobart Penitentiary for the launch of the Convict Memorial. Work included repainting Court 1, the Campbell and Brisbane Street facades and the 1850s legal offices as the setting for the Rogues Gallery and visitor services. We expect the Hobart Penitentiary to become an increasing source of income for the Trust as visitor numbers grow and opening hours are extended to six days into summer 2024.

Architects, Circa Morris-Nunn Chua, received the Small Project Architecture Award at the 2024 Tasmanian Institute of Architects Awards for the Convict Memorial and Hobart Penitentiary. It has been entered for the Tasmanian Tourism Awards which will be announced in November 2024.

The Hobart Penitentiary rose to be TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice Best of the Best Award No. 1 attraction for Hobart, improving its ranking from 2023 when it was second to MONA.

The revised Tasmanian Heritage Register entry for the Hobart Penitentiary and Criminal Courts Complex recognised its national significance and unique contribution to understanding the Australian convict story through the themes of incarceration and reform. With the support of the Minister responsible for Heritage, Heritage Tasmania, Tourism Tasmania and other sponsors, the Trust nominated the Hobart Penitentiary for inclusion in Australia's National Heritage List in July 2024. We are yet to learn the outcome of this nomination.



Runnymede

We acquired a portrait of Dorothea Pitcairn, the wife of Robert Pitcairn, the builder of Runnymede through the Australian Government's National Cultural Heritage Account. The portrait is firmly attributed to peripatetic British artist, Conway Hart who was active in Hobart and Victoria from 1850-61. Robert Pitcairn spearheaded the movement to end Convict transportation to Van Diemen's Land in 1853 and the achievement of Responsible Government for Tasmania in 1856. Dorothea Pitcairn supported her husband's legislative reform and was a lively diarist, her writings describing the family's domestic and social life and intellectual pursuits.



She is the first of a series of strong women who lived at Runnymede including Anna Maria Nixon and women of the Bayly and Bayley families. Her portrait will anchor the interpretation of women's history at Runnymede.

Runnymede Cottage, a freestanding building in the grounds of Runnymede (possibly the original kitchen wing) requires major roof works, foundation work and external surface drains. Having Runnymede Cottage in good condition opens other income-generating uses, including long and short-term rental and hosting artist/composer in residence programs.

Oak Lodge

Oak Lodge is operated by the Coal Valley Historical Society. The Trust has worked with CVHS President, Kimbra Cresswell to promote Oak Lodge, address aspects of its maintenance backlog (including attempted Clarence Council funding) and lending items from the Trust's collection to strengthen its interpretative program.

The Trust was pleased to see Oak Lodge play an active role in the Richmond [Bridge] bicentenary in 2024. In 2023/24, Clarence Council commissioned a masterplan for Richmond from a Melbourne design firm. The Trust advocated for the retention of Richmond's unique historic landscape qualities including the setting of Oak Lodge.



Clarendon Estate

A Tasmanian Government Built Heritage Grants Scheme Activation grant has allowed the Trust to address a range of damp and structural issues including:

- Addressing the house's stormwater disposal
- Relaying uneven basement stone paving
- Stabilising the stairs on Clarendon's garden front
- Upgrading down pipes on outbuildings to cope with more frequent storms.
- Obtaining engineering advice for the windload on the barn and stables rooves.

Clarendon has been steadily drying out since these works were completed. As well as addressing the serious maintenance backlog for both the buildings and grounds, collection storage has been relocated to the house, the Norfolk Plains Collection has been relocated to the Longford Library and the Fly Fishing Museum has relocated to another building in the grounds.

The events program at Clarendon is being revitalised. The Trust has been actively considering compatible commercial activities at Clarendon including increased venue hire, filming and a limited café service.

Franklin House

A strong and committed team of volunteers at the Trust's first property, Franklin House, have opened the property seven days a week throughout the year. Of the Trust's properties, it receives the second highest number of visitors annually. Many of Franklin House's social and fundraising activities are embedded in Launceston's annual calendar of community events.

The Trust continues to seek grant funding for the stables block which has serious structural issues.



Old Umbrella Shop

The Old Umbrella Shop is a Launceston institution. The Trust continues to develop its retail operations across the property portfolio as a means of increasing revenue and contributing to the Trust's financial sustainability.

Launceston Synagogue

In 2023, the Trust invited Rabbi Joseph Gutnick to be a co-Trustee of the Launceston Synagogue. Rabbi Gutnick has funded works to the Synagogue including external painting, paving of the forecourt and interpretative signage.

Rabbi Joseph Gutnick has commissioned plans to extend the Synagogue with an area for *kiddish* - food, drink, meetings, and conversation. Developing facilities to enhance community involvement at the Synagogue will help to ensure its sustainability.

The Nile Chapel at Deddington

The Trust is working with the local community on a range of essential maintenance works to safeguard this historic building, which is also the burial place of colonial painter, John Glover (1769-1849). Essential maintenance includes:

- Roof plumbing
- Repair of window frames and external joinery
- Removal of plastic cladding over fascias
- Removal of plastic paint and repainting with permeable limewash
- Drainage at the Chapel's (liturgical) east end
- Tree and weed removal including blackwoods, acacias and gorse

Attorney-General, the Hon Guy Barnett MP, visited Nile Chapel and met with community representatives during its opening for the Glover Prize weekend in March 2024. He announced a very welcome contribution of \$90,000 from the Premier's Discretionary Fund for maintenance works at the Chapel.



Home Hill

The Trust is working with the Devonport City Council on Home Hill's future development including enhancing the visitor experience through construction of a new visitor services pavilion. Through film, exhibitions and education programming, the pavilion will contextualise Home Hill in terms of Joseph and Dame Enid Lyons' role in Australian political life. There is further potential to attract visitors to the site with the restoration of Dame Enid's Garden design. The Home Hill visitor services pavilion may be the focus for a future Australian Government Growing Regions grant application.

Home Hill is TripAdvisor's No. 1 attraction for Devonport and Tasmania's North-West. Visitor numbers are set to increase with the arrival of cruise ships through the Burnie port. As with other Trust properties, we are seeking to increase our volunteer numbers to cater for increased visitation, particularly as Home Hill has original (but fragile) Lyons family interiors.

Latrobe Court House Museum

The Latrobe Court House Museum lent its star collection item, a silver cup c1857 presented to Chartist, Zephaniah Williams (1795-1874) to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery exhibition - *Unshackled - The True Convict Story*, (March - July 2024).



Mt Lyell Mine Manager's Offices

The Trust sought funding through the Australian Government's Growing Regions Program to undertake essential maintenance works at both Penghana and the Mine Manager's Offices. The application was highly ranked but unsuccessful. The Trust submitted a second application in Round 2 of the program in October 2024. We continue to engage with the mining companies based in Queenstown but are yet to gain corporate interest in supporting the maintenance works.

Penghana, Queenstown

The exhibition, *The Hands that Shaped the Balusters*, was launched in Penghana's ballroom in October 2023 to celebrate Penghana's 125th anniversary. Former Mt Lyell Mine Managers and their families attended the celebration.

The ABC comedy drama, *Bay of Fires*, was filmed in Queenstown in May - August 2024 with lead actors staying at Penghana. For the second year running, TripAdvisor has recognised Penghana in the world's top one per cent of bed and breakfast accommodation. Penghana maintained a place in the top ten in Australia and was also rated number 16 in the top 25 properties for the South Pacific region taking in Australia, New Zealand and Polynesia).

Penghana and the Mine Manager's Offices continue to be venues for the Unconformity Festival. In October 2023, Tasmanian jeweller, Emma Bugg, found inspiration in the tale of Marion Sticht's charm necklace, creating a contemporary response to it for the Unconformity Festival.



Our Collections

The Trust's heritage collection continues to grow and be refined to interpret the cultural significance of its properties. The Trust adopted a Collections Management Policy covering acquisitions and deaccessions in 2023. Under the policy, the proceeds from collection items which are sold are re-invested in new acquisitions or conservation works.

The Tasmanian Audit Office (TAO) includes the value of the Trust's heritage collection in its annual audit. The Trust's Digital and Information Strategy Committee will oversee the development of a new heritage collection information system to recognise and record the heritage collection. By agreement with the TAO, the top tier of collection items was revalued by an independent valuer for the 2023-24 audit. Collection valuations property by property will recommence when the collection data has migrated to the new system.

Through the generosity of donors, we have been able to acquire some outstanding additions to our collections:

- Portrait of Dorothea Pitcairn by Conway Hart for Runnymede through the Federal Government's National Cultural Heritage Account
- Cox Family christening robe and pair of engravings, were donated by a Cox descendant
- Rosewood flower table c1840 for Clarendon's drawing room
- A rare, large pair of cast iron fire dogs c1830 with a provenance to Longford House which acquired items from the sale of Clarendon's contents in 1869
- A pair of mahogany hall chairs c1835 for Franklin House



Our Public Programs,

October 2023 - October 2024

The Trust hosted a range of public programs throughout the year, mostly generated by property committees. We collaborated with National Trusts across Australia for the National Trust Heritage Festival with the theme, *Connections* in April - May 2024. The Trust continues to strengthen its annual events program, to raise funds and as an incentive for National Trust membership.

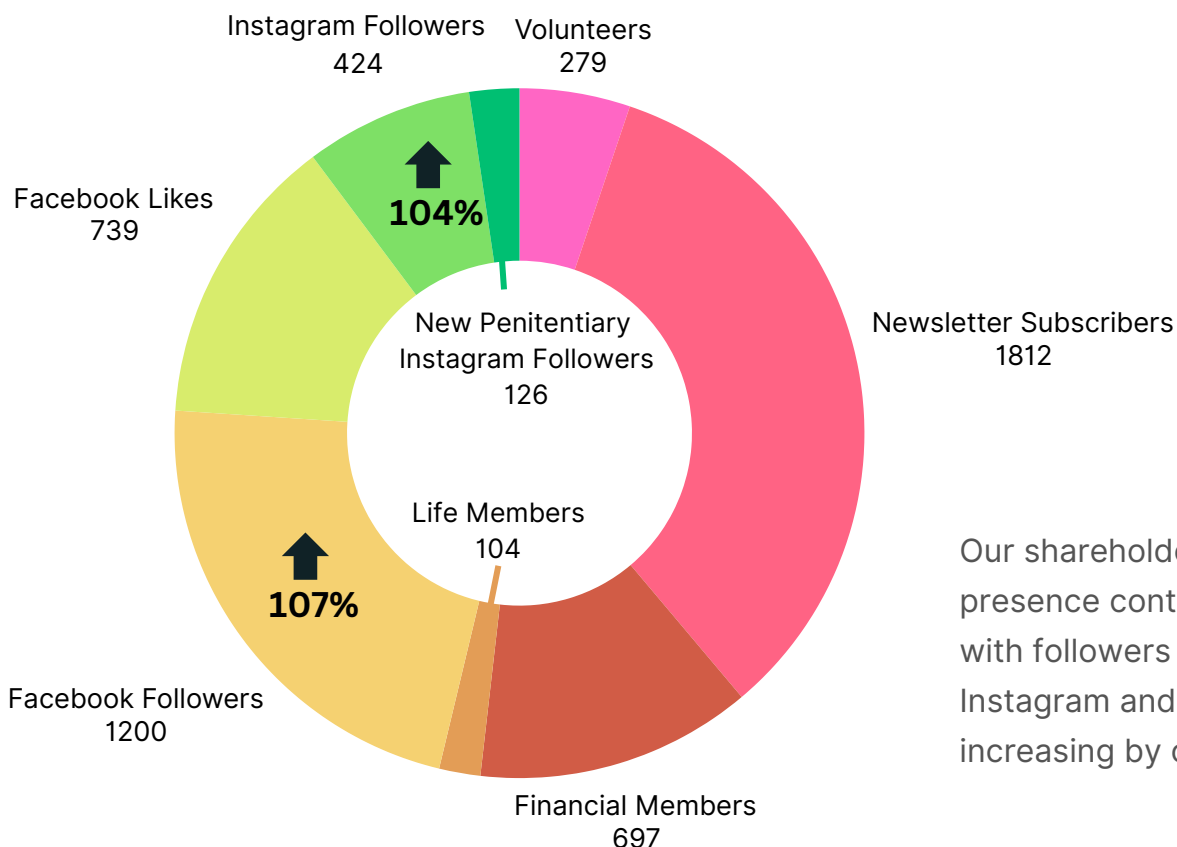
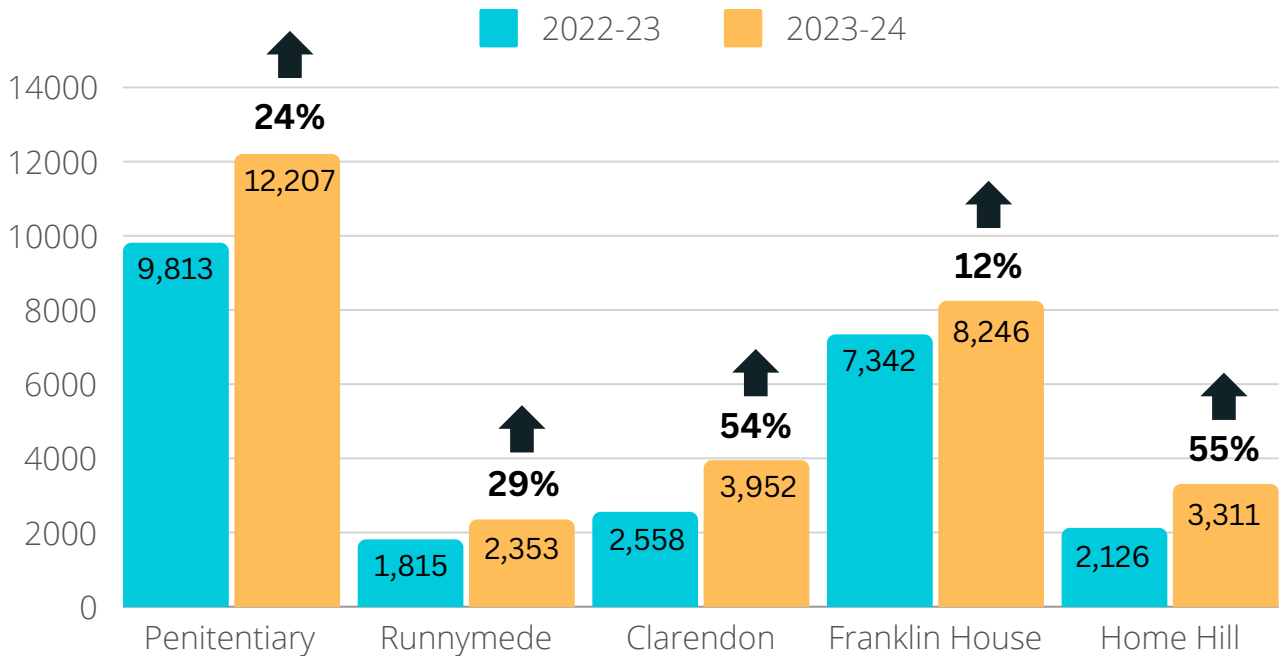
Highlights include:

- National Trust Tasmania Christmas cocktail party hosted at Clairville - November 23
- Napoleon, Josephine and *Terre van Dieman* exhibition at Clarendon - May 24
- Franklin House's program of Markets, Christmas events and High Teas
- The Victorian Picnic at Clarendon - tipped to become an annual event - February 24
- Runnymede's bi-annual garden fair, and calendar of Devonshire Teas.
- Double Entendre's Jazz Concert at Home Hill in collaboration with Devonport Jazz - July 24
- 'The Hands that Shaped the Bannisters' celebrating Penghana's 125th anniversary - Oct 23
- Launch of Open House Hobart festival at the Hobart Penitentiary - October 24



A Year in Review

Visitation at our five major properties has significantly increased from the previous financial year



Our shareholder and online presence continues to grow, with followers on both Instagram and Facebook increasing by over 100%.

Advocacy

The Trust provided advocacy in the following areas in 2023-24:

- Membership of the Launceston Heritage Committee, supporting development of local heritage precincts within the Launceston Local Government Area.
- Inviting community representations on the Richmond Masterplan commissioned by Clarence City Council from Melbourne based landscape and urban design firm, Realm Studio.
- Representation to Hobart City Council on the St John's Park New Town precinct and development at 65 Bay Road New Town.
- Representation to Launceston City Council on the 7NT/7EX television and radio studios, South Launceston and James Nelson Fabric Weavers Building in Mowbray, Launceston.

The Trust provided input into the Heritage Tasmania revision of Tasmanian Heritage Register entries for the Hobart Penitentiary, Runnymede and Oak Lodge.

National Trust Tasmania participated in the second Historic Heritage Summit in Launceston in May 2024 convened by the Minister responsible for Heritage, the Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP. The Board of the Trust met with Minister Ogilvie on 26 July 2024 and underscored our willingness to contribute to improved coordination in the cultural heritage tourism sector and to work with Tourism Tasmania, Brand Tasmania, PAHSMA and other industry partners to achieve this.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the vital contribution of all our staff, including the regional property managers - Jim Ward, Ken Richards and Ann Teesdale - and State Office Manager, Emma Boyce, whose collective efforts have kept the Trust's extremely busy agenda moving forward. I would also like to thank our volunteers, the unsung heroes of the whole operation. The Board has provided invaluable oversight over the course of the year, and I look forward to another productive year.

- Scott Carlin