

Cultural Heritage Program NEWSLETTER

Recent news

Lake Margaret

Hydro Tasmania has announced that the historic Lake Margaret Power Station on the West Coast will close from 1 July this year. The closure will mean the decommissioning of the 68-year old wooden pipeline that takes the water from Lake Margaret to the turbines in the power station.

The original pipeline was constructed by the Australian Wood Pipe Company from Sydney in 1914. It was made of Oregon Pine, also known as Douglas Fir, specially imported from America for the job. This timber only lasted 24 years and was replaced in 1938 with local King Billy pine. With a lifespan of 68 years it has demonstrated how durable our local timbers are. These days, many splits and holes cause water to shower the ground in a spectacular fashion. To make minor repairs is a complex process and involves shutting off the flow of water and repairing it with wooden wedges, rubber and metal plates. Even restarting the flow of water has a detrimental effect on the pipeline.

A conservation management plan prepared by Paul Davies Pty Ltd has been finalised and is currently under review within the HT Energy Business Group. It will help inform future options for the site.



The wooden pipeline at Lake Margaret

Back to Lake Margaret Day

To celebrate Lake Margaret's spectacular and long history, plans are underway to have a public open day. The Lake Margaret Community Liaison Group with members from the West Coast Community and Hydro Tasmania are backing the project. The Group includes Tony Harrison, Darryl Gerrity, Phil Evans, John Halton, Greg Astell, Terry Dooley, Ross Giles, Brett Schultz, David Metcalfe and Andrew Scanlon. Some members of the group are shown below outside the Lake Margaret Power Station. A date for the event will be announced shortly.



Lake Margaret Community Liaison Group at Lake Margaret in December

Lake Margaret interpretation strategy and oral history project

Hydro Tasmania has employed Ian Terry, heritage consultant and Travis Tiddy, interpretation consultant to prepare a general interpretation strategy for Lake Margaret and to develop ideas for the creative interpretation of the site. This will provide a framework for a series of oral history interviews as well as options for future on-site interpretation.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

There have been a number of recent projects involving Aboriginal cultural heritage, both within the Hydro and for other organisations. Cultural heritage staff have completed a review of Aboriginal cultural values for a seismic drilling program off the Gippsland coast. Aboriginal heritage assessments have also been prepared for projects at Bell Bay, Studland Bay, Musellroe Bay, Liawenee canal upgrade, Liffey canal upgrade, and have contributed to a forest practices plan at Poatina.

Waddamana Power Station Museum

Sydney firm Godden Mackay Logan have been selected to start work on a Conservation Management Plan for the Waddamana A and Waddamana B Power stations. Waddamana Power Station was Hydro Tasmania's first power station built with public funding and marks the beginning of power generation in the State. It now operates as a museum of a 1920s power station. The work will be completed in June.

Cultural Heritage Awareness Training

Staff from the Cultural Heritage Program are currently conducting training for HT staff at Gowrie Park, Liapootah, Trevallyn, Moonah and Head Office. The training covers an introduction to general principles of heritage conservation; the Burra Charter; heritage significance; conservation management plans, the specifics of the HT Heritage Program and a HT case study as well as an introduction to the new cultural heritage procedures. It has been great to get out and meet so many people.



HT Staff in training at Liaopootah

Other projects

- Aboriginal heritage awareness training program is scheduled for May for HT staff. It is a joint program between HT, the Tasmanian Land and Sea Council (TALSC) and the Aboriginal Heritage Office.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between HT and TALSC will be finalised over the next month. We are looking forward to this new phase of a productive working relationship with the Aboriginal community.
- Further work has occurred on the houses at Lake Margaret including restumping of footings, roofing repairs and the fixing of downpipes and gutters. Site drainage work and vegetation removal has also been done.
- Liawenee Canal Upgrade Project. The canal was identified as being of high cultural heritage significance during the statewide survey of all HT owned and managed assets. As a result, a Heritage Impact Assessment is being prepared by Austral Archaeology.
- Work on the oral history project continues with Heather Felton working on the preparation of the first draft of the book. She is currently researching and putting together stories about life in HT villages as well as people working on transmission lines.

Mailing List update

We are continuing to update our mailing list for the next issue of the Cultural Heritage Program Newsletter. If your details have changed or you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please contact us.

Would you like to know more about the Program?

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