



# Cultural Heritage Program ★ NEWSLETTER

Number 20 • December 2009



2009 has seen continuing activity for Hydro Tasmania on the Cultural Heritage front. A major focus during the year has been the redevelopment of the Lake Margaret Power Station, culminating in the reopening in November. Other activities have included the ongoing development of an Interpretation Strategy for Hydro Tasmania's cultural heritage sites, and the launching of the Aboriginal Heritage Map Viewer application. 2010 promises to be another busy year, with the continuation of some of these projects, and the start of new ones. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest throughout the year, and to wish you a very happy and safe Christmas.

## Lake Margaret Opening

The \$14.7 million redevelopment of the Upper Lake Margaret Power Station has been completed, and the station was officially re-opened on 12<sup>th</sup> November by Premier David Bartlett.

The station was shut down in 2006 due to safety concerns about the original King Billy pine woodstave pipeline. Retaining the heritage values of the site was a major focus of the redevelopment, including the construction of a replacement woodstave pipeline, and the retention of three sections of the original pipeline *in situ*. A further three sections have been donated to the Queenstown Galley Museum, the West Coast Pioneers Memorial Museum at Zeehan, and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

The redevelopment has been done in such a way that the upper Lake Margaret Power Station has been returned to service with much the same configuration as when it was commissioned and began delivering electricity to the Mt Lyell Copper Mine in 1914.

Work has just commenced on the \$13.2 million Lower Lake Margaret Power Station redevelopment which will include the installation of a mini hydro. Heritage values are again an important consideration in the redevelopment, which will be completed and operational by mid 2010.



*Premier David Bartlett tours the Lake Margaret Power Station with Member for Braddon Brenton Best*



*Hydro Tasmania Chairman, Dr David Crean presents the West Coast Mayor Darryl Gerrity with a watercolour painted by German artist Elizabeth Weckes when she undertook a residency recently at Lake Margaret*

During the opening, Hydro Tasmania Chairman, Dr David Crean acknowledged the West Coast Community Liaison Group led by Darryl Gerrity, the Heritage Council Works Assessment

Committee led by Michael Lynch and Roger Howlett and the Hydro Tasmania Working Committee led by Andrew Scanlon and Tony Field, who were all able to agree on a solution that met each Group's objectives and enabled the revitalisation of the Lake Margaret Scheme.

## Hydro Tasmania Interpretation Strategy

Hydro Tasmania Consulting together with communications consultant Anna Housego ran two workshops at Cambridge and Queenstown in early December as part of a process to develop an Interpretation Strategy for Hydro Tasmania's cultural heritage sites. The strategy is being developed using "Thematic Interpretation", which focuses on revealing the meaning and significance of places and things by connecting them with whole ideas rather than disembodied facts and figures.

The aim of the workshops was to canvas a broad range of views and develop initial interpretive themes.

Fourteen participants attended the Cambridge workshop, ranging in interests from architecture and design to history and historical writing, tourism, engineering, life in former Hydro villages, contemporary Hydro Tasmania operations including environmental management and past and present links between Hydro Tasmania and the University of Tasmania.

Six participants attended the Queenstown workshop, representing local government, tourism, arts, business and community interests.

A broad range of topics was covered, leading to the preliminary development of themes under broad headings of community, innovation, conservation and the wider role of the Hydro in Tasmania. Following feedback on the draft workshops report, the interpretive themes will be finalised and a strategy developed for places with heritage interpretation potential.

## Aboriginal heritage risk assessment surveys and map viewer

Work is continuing on identifying the Aboriginal heritage values of land owned or managed by Hydro Tasmania. Understanding the location and nature of Aboriginal cultural heritage around lake shores and other places assists us in developing management policies to protect these values. Hydro Tasmania's geographic information system currently indicates areas where there is high potential for Aboriginal sites to be found, and can be used as a tool to guide project managers. Further work on refining our predictive model for site location is planned for the New Year.

## Cataract Gorge – Environmental flow review and Aboriginal heritage



Cataract Gorge below First Basin

Hydro Tasmania is currently undertaking research into the environmental and social values of the Cataract Gorge region. As part of these investigations, a desktop assessment of the Aboriginal values in the area, and some consultation with the Aboriginal community has been carried out. A questionnaire was sent to a range of Aboriginal organisations, and the responses will be incorporated into a final report. There are many known

Aboriginal sites in and around

Cataract Gorge, and the place remains significant to the Aboriginal community. No work is planned that will impact on Aboriginal heritage values. It is valuable to have increased our understanding of the importance of this area to Aboriginal people both in the past, and continuing to the present day.

### Name that Thing

The CHP news-desk was veritably overwhelmed by responses to the invitation to ‘Name That Thing’ which appeared in the September newsletter. Congratulations to Cameron Smith, Production Engineering Manager Generation, for the first and most comprehensive response. Thanks also to everyone else who called in with the correct answer. The objects were of course wedge cappsels, used to cap the end of wire winding ropes, such as were used on the Lake Margaret Haulage.

This month we have set a more cryptic task, again from the trawl of unidentified items at Lake Margaret. If you think you know what this item might be, the challenge is yours to once again Name That Thing. Send your thoughts to Greg Jackman ([greg.jackman@hydro.com.au](mailto:greg.jackman@hydro.com.au)) and be in the running for a chocolate frog and temporary immortalisation through publication of your name in the March edition of the newsletter.



## South West Trip

By Jessie Digney



Jessie Digney surveying at Kingston

As Hydro Tasmania’s Environment and Heritage Trainee, I was invited to attend an Aboriginal cultural trip to South West Tasmania in late November. The trip was run jointly by Palawa and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (TALSC) and included several TALSC trainees as well as other community representatives.

The expedition took five days and involved visiting some of the most secluded parts of Tasmania. As the group was travelling by helicopter, the weather – especially the wild winds – prevented us from reaching some of the Aboriginal sites we had planned to visit.

I was, however, able to explore the beaches and inland areas of Lousia Bay. This included learning about middens, stone tools, burials and geology, and exploring caves in the area that have Aboriginal art work that could date back to over 300,000 years ago

Having had such an amazing time, I can’t wait to get back over the Ironbounds and onto the Lousia plains to explore this part of country in more detail – hopefully when the weather is better!

I have also been working on other projects, including surveys in the Midlands and at Kingston, as well as completing several of my Certificate III study units.



Looking west onto the Lousia Plains and the coast towards Lousia Bay

## Would you like to know more about the Program?

Please feel free to contact:

Sandra Hogue  
Environmental Programs Manager  
Phone: 6230 5248  
[culturalheritage@hydro.com.au](mailto:culturalheritage@hydro.com.au)

Helga Grant  
Consulting Cultural Heritage Manager  
Phone: 03 6245 4581  
[culturalheritage@hydro.com.au](mailto:culturalheritage@hydro.com.au)

