



Cultural Heritage Program NEWSLETTER

Number 22 • June 2010



Cultural Heritage Program Staff Changes

Sadly we are farewelling Helga Grant and Jess Digney from the Cultural Heritage Program. Helga has very efficiently and effectively coordinated the Program for around 3 years now and will be greatly missed. Jess is completing her 12 month Environment and Heritage Aboriginal traineeship. We wish both Helga and Jess all the best in their new endeavours.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Hasanthi Kingsley as our new Consulting Cultural Heritage Manager. Hasanthi has been assisting the program for a number of years now and will be a great asset in her new role.

Lower Lake Margaret Power Station

The Lake Margaret Power Scheme has featured in this newsletter over recent months mainly due to the successful refurbishment of the main (upper) station. Over the last 12 months a second project to redevelop the associated Lower Lake Margaret power station has been successfully designed and completed.

The original Lower Lake Margaret Power Station was originally built and operated by the Mt. Lyell Mining & Railway Co. in 1930. It was taken out of service in 1995 due to a corroded penstock, and the buildings and other assets have remained largely untouched since.

A new woodstave pipeline has been constructed which connects into the original weir and runs along the same path along the side of the Yolande River Valley as the original woodstave pipeline. A small realignment at the top of the penstock has allowed the original winder house, tramway track, surge tower, hill top valve and penstock to be left in situ for posterity.

A new fibreglass penstock runs down the hill to the new power house which is an extension of the old power house, built to match the old power house and using similar materials. The power house incorporates a high level viewing gallery from which visitors will be able to view the original preserved 1930 machine and the new 2010 machine in their respective power houses.

The two power stations will contribute around 0.7% of Tasmania's electricity needs, the energy will be delivered to the original copper mine switchyard in Queenstown.



New Plan for Bye's Hut

The histories of hydro-electricity generation and rural life in Tasmania's central highlands are closely intertwined. A current CHP project aims to explore some of the shared history and cultural heritage of the Great Lake area. The former Sandbanks farm, on the northwest edge of Great Lake, is undergoing a conservation assessment as part of developing a Plan of Management.

Originally home to the Luggemairrerneppairrer band of the Big River Tribe, one of the most formidable groups of the 1830s Aboriginal resistance and the last people to be removed from their homeland, the area known as the Sandbanks has an official history of European settlement dating back to the 1840s. By this stage the earlier pattern of opportunistic summer grazing of sheep from the lowland estates had been replaced by an established lifestyle based around seasonal grazing, hunting and trapping. In 1847 Surveyor James Calder recorded at least eleven huts around the Great Lake shore.

An area of 6408 acres encompassing Sandbanks Creek was owned by Francis Flexmore between 1859 and 1885, but by the turn of the century had been acquired by H Oldmeadow, who it seems constructed the first permanent dwelling on the property.



Site of Bye's Hut, Central Highlands, Tasmania

With the completion of the dam at Miena in 1922, the government purchased 831 acres from Oldmeadow including the hut site. In apparent compensation for the loss of the building, the Department built a new hut further to the north overlooking Sandbanks Creek. By 1928 the Sandbanks property was owned by the Gatenby family, and the hut tenanted by various families including the Daveys, Johns and Hayes.

The property was sold to Cressy brothers Bill and Alf Bye in 1956. A noted shearer and bushman, Alf Bye took up residence, running sheep on the property all year round, along with horses and upwards of 25 dogs.

With the advent of the Poatina power development, the property was compulsorily acquired by the HEC in 1971. Alf Bye was given a 99 year lease and remained on the land until his death in 1995.

Austral Tasmania is currently preparing a Plan of Management for the Sandbanks farm complex in order to help Hydro Tasmania better understand the development of the site and chart a direction for its future management and use. The complex, incorporating the relocated Sandbanks homestead otherwise known as Bye's hut, tells an interesting story about the interrelationships and linked fortunes of the Hydro and shepherding families of the Central Plateau. ¹ Information in this article reproduced from the draft Austral Tasmania report

Engineering Heritage Conference 2011

An engineering heritage conference has been held every second year in Australia or New Zealand since 1982. The last conference was held in Dunedin last year. As the last Hobart conference was in 1992, we are very happy to see it rolling around again for Hobart in November next year. The conference will be held at Wrest Point Convention Centre on the, 13-16 November 2011. There will be a four day pre-conference tour to the north and west of the State. If you are interested in receiving information about this conference you can contact us on culturalheritage@hydro.com.au and we will pass your details on to the organising committee.

Aboriginal Heritage Awareness

Cultural Heritage Program staff ran a one-hour session on Aboriginal heritage management for Hydro Tasmania's southern region field staff, as part of their monthly 'toolbox talks', coordinated by Bev Armstrong. An Aboriginal heritage component was included to ensure that staff are aware of what Aboriginal heritage means and the processes Hydro Tasmania uses to recognise and manage heritage assets. The session provided a brief introduction to the main issues, and was run as part of Hydro Tasmania's commitment to good cultural heritage management practices.

Tarraleah Power Station Tours

Recently around 60 people attended tours of Hydro Tasmania's Tarraleah Power Station. The tours were part of the Tasmanian Heritage Festival in May. Groups were taken through the power station by Bruce Hill who did an exceptional job of informing and entertaining the visitors. Thanks also go to Elvin Gleeson,



Bruce Hill with one of the tour groups at Tarraleah Power Station

Rod Vogel and Eleni Taylor-Wood for their assistance on the day. With high interest in the tours, we hope to provide more opportunities to visit the power station.

Hydro Tasmania's Art-Deco Architecture

A second heritage festival event was held by Hydro Tasmania in Hobart with Sarah Waight from the Hobart City Council (and former Hydro Tasmania employee) presenting on Hydro Tasmania's Art-Deco Architecture. The talk featured an overview of art deco architecture and specific Hydro Tasmania buildings including Tarraleah Power Station, the former head office in Davey Street, and several substations around Hobart.



Sarah Waight presenting on Hydro Tasmania's Art-deco architecture

Tasmanian Tribal Territories

By Jessie Digney

Prior to European influence, Tasmania held a complex social organisation of tribes. There were three distinct levels of these tribal territories: The domestic unit or family group which usually consisted of close knit immediate families. The social unit or band which had a self-defining name (listed below) with 40 to 50 people these were like distant family members, and collections of bands comprising tribes which owned territories. It is believed that the 9 tribes had different languages which now come together to form the current Tasmanian Aboriginal language, *palaw-kani*. It is understood that there were nine tribal territories in the state: North, North West, North Midlands, Big River, Oyster Bay, Ben Lomond, North East, South West and South East, with some tribes moving between inland and coastal areas at different times of the year.

Tribe	Band
Oyster Bay	Leetermairremener, Linetermairrener, Loontermairrehoinner, Toornomirremener, Poredareeme, Laremairremener, Tyreddeme, Portmairremener, Pydairreme, Moomairremener
North East	Peeberrangner, Leenerterter, Pinterrairer, Trawlwoolway, Pyemmairenerpairrener, Leenethmairrener, Panpekanner
North	Punnilerpanner, Pallitorre, Noeteeler, Plairhekehillerplue
Big River	Leenowwenne, Pangerninghe, Braylwunyer, Larmairremener, Luggemairremerpairrer
North Midlands	Leterremairrener, Panninher, Tyerrernotepanner
Ben Lomond	Plangermaireener, Plindermairhemener, Tonenerweenerlarmenne
North West	Tommeeginer, Parperloihener, Pennemukeer, Pendowte, Peerapper, Manegin, Tarkinener, Peternidic
South West	Mimegin, Lowreenne, Ninene, Needwonnee
South East	Mouheneenner, Nuenonne, Mellukerdee, Lyluequonny



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

Hasanthi Kingsley
Consulting Cultural Heritage Manager
Phone: 03 6245 4387
culturalheritage@hydro.com.au

