



Cultural Heritage Program NEWSLETTER



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This has been an exciting year for Hydro Tasmania's Cultural Heritage Program. Some of the highlights have been the Back to Lake Margaret Day held in March; the completion of the final draft of Hydro Tasmania's oral history book, which is due for release early next year; and the development of an Aboriginal heritage agreement with TALSC. Staff of the Cultural Heritage Program would like to take this opportunity to wish all our friends a very happy festive season and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Lake Margaret Power Scheme

Latest developments

Engineering Heritage Marker

The Lake Margaret power scheme was established in 1914 by the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company to provide a cheaper alternative to wood fuel to power the smelting operations at Mt Lyell mine at Queenstown. The scheme was sold to the State Government owned Hydro Electric Commission in 1985. It is one of the oldest and most historically significant power generation systems in Tasmania and Australia.

The significant engineering heritage of the Lake Margaret power scheme has been recognised by Engineering Australia's Heritage Group, which has awarded it an Engineering Heritage Marker. Hydro Tasmania is assisting Engineers' Australia with organising a ceremony in Queenstown and Lake Margaret on 23 February 2008. The Governor will unveil the plaque and the CEO, Vince Hawksworth, will accept the plaque on behalf of Hydro Tasmania.



Original generator fit out, Lake Margaret power station

Proposed re-development

A constructive and positive meeting of the Lake Margaret Community Liaison Group (CLG) was held on 16 October - the main focus being progress towards the business case for re-development. The Hydro Tasmania Board will make a decision about the business case in December. Approval is being sought for the design and tender phase (including applications for planning and heritage approvals) to commence immediately.

Woodstave pipeline study

The issue of ageing woodstave pipelines has been highlighted by the recent announcement to decommission the 68 year old Lake Margaret pipeline. Final year civil engineering student Andrew Simmons will undertake a project to research the management of our ageing woodstave pipelines for his honours thesis. His study will report on risks, options analysis and financial analysis and will provide recommendations for managing Hydro Tasmania's ageing woodstave pipelines. The results will be important for future asset management planning and conservation practices.



Lake Margaret woodstave pipeline preserved section 2007

Hydro Tasmania Oral History Project Book

This exciting project is nearing completion. A final draft of the Hydro Tasmania Oral History Book is now complete, with indexing and final proofing underway. The book is due to be released in March 2008. As well as providing an important record of the personal stories of Hydro workers and their families from the HEC's formative years to the present, it is abundantly illustrated with photographs.



Pay day in 1935 at one of the worksites near Tarraleah



The cookhouse, Camp Number 1, Tarraleah, February 1935

Catagunya

Cultural Heritage Program staff have been involved in an Environmental Impact Assessment for remediation works to the Catagunya Dam. The dam has been assessed as part of Hydro Tasmania's heritage project as having high heritage values. In 2001 the dam was awarded a Heritage Engineering Marker from the Institution of Engineers (now Engineers' Australia).

During May, consultation was undertaken with Engineers' Australia Heritage Committee to review the proposed works.

Aboriginal heritage

News from TALSC

Since our last newsletter there have been some changes at TALSC. The new Manager is Hank Horton; Senior Heritage Officer is Colin Hughes and Project Manager is Andry Sculthorpe. There is also a new Committee, with Jim Everett as Chair, and Aaron Everett and Vernon Graham as members. Both Aaron and Vernon have worked with Hydro Tasmania as Aboriginal Heritage Officers on projects involving Aboriginal heritage. We look forward to working together with the new staff and committee on our Aboriginal heritage program.

TALSC Agreement

An Aboriginal Heritage Agreement was signed by the manager of TALSC, Hank Horton and the CEO of Hydro Tasmania, Vince Hawkworth, on 12 December. This agreement establishes protocols for Aboriginal heritage monitoring and surveys on HT land.

Mossy Marsh siphon

An intriguing rock inscription was discovered by an ex-Hydro employee at the Mossy Marsh siphon near Tarraleah. It says 'IN MEMORY OF 80th GARRISON'. Further research found that a large army garrison was established at Tarraleah during WWII to patrol the pipeline, canal and power station, watching for saboteurs and looking out for air raids. The garrison consisted of an officer, eight N.C.O.'s and 35 other ranks. Needless to say they had little to occupy themselves.

Other projects/events

Staff from the Hydro Tasmania's cultural heritage program, have been involved in a variety of projects and communications. These have included:

- A response to Heritage Tasmania's position paper on the proposed new historic heritage legislation.
- A presentation on Lake Margaret by Sarah Waight in Heritage Tasmania's lunch time seminar series in October.
- A presentation by Sandra Hogue on Lake Margaret at an Engineering Heritage conference in Perth, Western Australia in November.

Upcoming events in 2008 at Hydro Tasmania

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| February | Engineers' Australia engineering heritage plaque unveiling ceremony for Lake Margaret Power Scheme. |
| March | Hydro Tasmania's oral history book due for release.
Re-naming ceremony of the Gordon Power Station to the Alan Knight Power Station. |
| April | Display on leisure and recreation in Tasmania's Hydro villages 1910s – 1980s, to be staged in Hydro Tasmania's Elizabeth Street offices foyer as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival. |

Staff news

There have been a few staff changes in recent months. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Sandra Hogue's long-standing commitment and dedication in setting up and developing the cultural heritage program since 2004. Sandra is now working as Hydro Tasmania's Environmental Programs Manager, but still maintains an ongoing involvement in the cultural heritage program in her new role. Sarah Waight has taken over the role of Cultural Heritage Program Manager, and Ruth Painter continues in her role as Senior Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant. With the final draft of the Oral History book completed, Hydro Tasmania has farewelled Heather Felton as she returned to her role at the Treasury Department. Kathryn Evans has recently joined the team to assist with the ongoing development of the cultural heritage program.



Lake Margaret dam crest raising August 2007

Would you like to know more about the Program?

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