



Cultural Heritage Program NEWSLETTER

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2008 has once again been a busy year for the Cultural Heritage Program. A major highlight has been the May launch of Hydro Tasmania's oral history book, *Ticklebelly Tales and other Stories from the People of the Hydro* which hit the bestseller list in Tasmania for a number of weeks. Other major items include planning to redevelop the Lake Margaret Power Scheme, heritage impact assessments for Lake St Clair weir, parts of the Tarraleah No. 1 canal and Tungatinah modernisation. There have also been continued communications with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, and the development of a predictive model for the Aboriginal Heritage Risk Assessment Project.

We are sad to report that Senior Heritage Consultant Sarah Waight will be leaving Hydro Tasmania Consulting early next year, to take up a position with the Hobart City Council. Sarah has contributed enormously to the Cultural Heritage Program since 2005, particularly in the area of managing our historic heritage assets, and was recently awarded an *Ability Award* by Hydro Tasmania Consulting in recognition of her efforts. While Sarah will be missed by all of us involved in the program, we wish her the very best in her new position.

With the Christmas break upon us, the staff of the Cultural Heritage Program would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our friends a very happy festive season and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Lake Margaret Redevelopment Update

Redevelopment work at Lake Margaret is progressing according to plan. Three sections of the 1937 woodstave pipeline have been preserved on site for interpretation purposes and a further three sections were lifted out intact by helicopter for display at local museums and the power station. The remainder of the pipeline has been removed and will be replaced by a new pipeline to be constructed from Alaskan yellow cedar.

Where possible, the 1937 concrete footings are being re-used. Many were undermined as a result of leakage from the old pipe, and a significant number of these have been realigned and underpinned ready for the new steel pipe support structure. The wood for the replacement pipeline is being steadily manufactured and shipped from the USA, and construction is expected to commence in January 2009.

In the power house, cleaning and refurbishment of the 95 year old generators and turbines is in progress; the machines are proving to be in remarkably good condition for their age. The target return to service date remains 30th June 2009.



Woodstave pipeline and land slippage at Lake Margaret



A preserved section of the 1938 woodstave pipeline at Lake Margaret

Aboriginal Heritage

There has been a lot of change in Aboriginal heritage management processes across the State over this past year, with a new Manager and Committee at the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (TALSC) as well as a new Manager and new name for the Aboriginal Heritage Office – now known as Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT). A draft 'Brief for Consultants' has been developed by AHT, which sets out the processes for undertaking survey and recording of Aboriginal heritage. The Cultural Heritage Program will continue to work closely with both AHT and the TALSC to ensure that Aboriginal heritage values on Hydro Tasmania land are protected and managed in accordance with current best practice, and the wishes of the Aboriginal community. Please contact CHP staff for further information on Aboriginal heritage management. A series of 1-hour information sessions will be held around the State in the new year, and all staff are welcome to attend.

Work is continuing on the Risk Assessment project, with some low lake level survey work completed around Lake King William and Lake Echo by consultant Anne McConnell.



Ground exposed by low lake levels at Lake King William

Anne has also provided a report on a predictive modelling system for identifying areas requiring specific management processes to be developed, and this will be included in the Hydro Tasmania Environment and Heritage Map Viewer (GIS). Recent survey work around Brady's Lake identified two new Aboriginal quarry sites, where people had obtained fine-grained stone (chert-hornfels) for manufacturing stone tools. Some Aboriginal campsites (artefact scatters) were also located. Interestingly, these were invariably found in areas where more recent camping activity had taken place. The requirements for a comfortable campsite – shelter, fresh water, access to food sources – haven't changed in many thousands of years!



Quarried pieces of chert-hornfels on the shore of Brady's Lake

Other Heritage News

Lake Margaret shed

Often something completely out of the blue occurs. In November, strong winds on the west coast shifted a garage and lean-to shed off its footings and into a precarious and dangerous position. The shed is associated with a c.1960s house at Lake Margaret. After discussions with Heritage Tasmania, demolition was seen as the only option and, with all the paperwork in place, crews took on the task to pull it down. While demolition is not always seen as an ideal heritage outcome, the reality of the situation meant there was no alternative.



The garage that was dislodged by strong winds at Lake Margaret

Wayatinah woodstave pipeline



The pipeline at Wayatinah

Near Wayatinah Power Station is another example of a woodstave pipeline in Hydro Tasmania ownership. This short length of low pressure pipeline was constructed in 1957 by Norwegian company Tubus A/S Trerorfabinkk using a northern pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). The twin pipes are 13.5 feet in diameter and wrapped in steel bands, the closeness of the bands obscuring the fact that timber is underneath. The pipeline is shown below.



A close-up showing the steel bands encircling the wooden pipeline

Moveable heritage

In 2009, a new project will be underway to document items of movable cultural heritage at Lake Margaret. The project aims to provide guidelines for the future management of items that are often overlooked. As Lake Margaret is listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, movable items are also heritage listed. This work will give both Hydro Tasmania and Heritage Tasmania a way forward to ensure appropriate decisions made about items within this industrial setting.

Conferences and Events

Archaeological Forum February 2009

There will be a half-day forum (sponsored and facilitated by Glenorchy City Council, Hobart City Council & Wellington Park Management Trust) on archaeological zoning and data management, held in February 2009. The aim of the forum would be to discuss recent advances in archaeological data management, and to look at the ways that GIS may be used to manage archaeological spatial data. Further information will be provided in the next newsletter.

2009 Tasmanian Heritage Festival

The 2009 Tasmanian Heritage Festival run by National Trust Australia (Tasmania) will be held in May next year. The theme for the 2009 festival is "Water: Our island's life force" and given the relevance of the theme to Hydro Tasmania, we are planning a special activity in a number of locations around the State. More details on the event will be included in the March 2009 edition of the newsletter.

Engineering Australia National Heritage Conference 2011

Coming up in 2011, is the next Engineering Australia National Heritage Conference which will be held in Hobart, Tasmania. The preliminary dates for the conference are 21-23 November. Themes for the conference have not been set at this early stage, however it is anticipated that hydro electric generation will form a key platform. There will be a major pre-conference tour around the State, which will take in a number of Hydro Tasmania and related sites. Watch this space for more information as the conference date approaches.

After five years of newsletters from the Hydro Tasmania Cultural Heritage Program... we'd like to hear from you!

Do you like receiving the CHP newsletter? Would you like to see it done differently or have more information about your favourite topic? Let us know if you have any feedback by emailing us at culturalheritage@hydro.com.au, or by contacting Helga Grant on 03 6245 4581.



Would you like to know more about the Program?

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