

Cultural Heritage Program NEWSLETTER

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Heritage Festival 2009

During May, over 180 people attended a short production based on Hydro Tasmania's book *Ticklebelly Tales: and other stories from the people of the Hydro*, which was produced by Hydro Tasmania in conjunction with theatrical company Live! History, as part of the 2009 Tasmanian Heritage Festival.

The play was a series of short scenes depicting various historical events from the concept of harnessing Tasmania's water for electricity production, to anecdotal events and comical happenings drawn from the book, and finally a modern-day explanation of how the married quarters at Tarraleah came to be called "Ticklebelly Flat".

It was rewarding to see so many ex-Hydro employees who worked on the schemes and lived in the villages, coming to experience the production.

The play was written by Chris Cornish and featured actors Judith Cornish, Andrew Casey, Rhys Johnson and James Casey, and the voices of Chris Wisbey and Wayne Smith. We extend our thanks to these people and the audiences at each show, for making the event such a success. The play travelled to Hobart, Tarraleah and Queenstown.

The Tasmanian Heritage Festival is run annually by the Tasmanian branch of National Trust Australia, and the theme for 2009 was "Water: Our Island's Life Force"



Scenes from "Ticklebelly Tales", May 2009 (Photos by David Jamrozik)

Upper Lake Margaret refurbishment update

In what is likely to be the final progress instalment prior to completion, we are pleased to report that this complex and significant project is proceeding apace towards an excellent heritage management outcome.

At the top of the scheme, construction of the woodstave pipeline is advancing well, although slower than originally planned, and will be finished in late July. The new pipe work and valve have been installed at the dam, together with vent

pipes which replicate the 1937 design and re-use the existing braces.

Work is also well advanced in the power house with mechanical refurbishment of the turbines and governors nearing completion and electrical cleaning and testing in progress. Planning is well advanced for the pilot installation of instrumentation on the machines to allow unattended operation into the future.

The commissioning of the power station has been rescheduled until late August/September, so stay tuned for the Spring newsletter.



Woodstave pipeline under construction within mobile working platform

Catagunya Dam Restoration Project Update

The restoration of Hydro Tasmania's Catagunya Dam is well underway. The innovative project involves installing 91 post-tensioned anchors to restore the stability of the 49m high dam, which was constructed in the early 1960's using 412 post-tensioned anchors. At the time it was the highest post-tensioned dam in the world and an engineering heritage plaque observes this.

The aim of the current restoration project is to cease reliance on the original anchors by installing 91 new post-tensioned anchors. These will have a world record-breaking working load of 1700 tonnes each. It was not possible to test the original anchors and therefore have confidence that no erosion had occurred.

Work on the spillway in particular has been a highly complex exercise, requiring extensive temporary bridging to provide access for drilling and anchor installation. As at the time of writing, 15% of the holes had been drilled and four anchors stressed.

The \$40M project is on track for completion in June 2010.



Work in progress at Catagunya Dam

Update to heritage impact assessment procedures

As part of our efforts to continually maintain and improve our cultural heritage management, Hydro Tasmania's Cultural Heritage Management procedure (EP14) was recently reviewed, along with associated forms used to guide Heritage Impact Assessments. The procedure is contained within Hydro Tasmania's Environment and Sustainability Management System (ESMS). It aims to ensure that Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage values are effectively identified, assessed, protected and conserved in accordance with company values and relevant legislation.

Aboriginal Heritage Risk Assessment Project

Further Aboriginal heritage work has been undertaken as part of this project, including surveys of Lake Meadowbank and Bronte and Cluny Lagoons. No Aboriginal cultural material was located at Cluny Lagoon, despite the presence of environments often associated with Aboriginal sites. Artefacts were found around some of the other storages surveyed. This information has been combined with that from earlier surveys across several of the highland lakes. This is being used to assist with the development of a predictive model for the nature and distribution of Aboriginal sites on HT land. This project will be finalised during July this year.

Aboriginal sites have been found to occur around the foreshores of almost all surveyed Hydro storages. A major part of CHP work in coming months will be to develop ways to protect these sites, and ensure that Aboriginal heritage values are considered during ground disturbing works. Such works may include routine maintenance and upgrades, as well as construction of new infrastructure.



Lake Meadowbank



Aboriginal artefact from Lake Meadowbank



Aboriginal site at Bronte Lagoon

Aboriginal Heritage Management – new standards and guideline package

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) in the Department of Primary Industry, Parks Water and the Environment (DPIPWE), has released new guidelines detailing the requirements for Aboriginal heritage assessments. AHT's two major roles are the management of Aboriginal heritage, including maintaining the Tasmanian Aboriginal Sites Index (TASI) and administering the *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975*. AHT are currently working on improving ways to identify, protect, and promote Aboriginal heritage, and the new guidelines are an integral part of this work. The guidelines are part of a package which includes details on requirements for surveys and reports, Practice Notes, a Consultant's Brief to advise developers on the processes involved in employing archaeologists to undertake assessment work, and updated site recording forms. The site recording forms now have two versions, one for heritage professionals working in the field, and another for any member of the public who believes they may have located an Aboriginal site. The forms, guidelines and other information are available through AHT's web site (<http://www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au>).

New team member

We look forward to welcoming Jess Digney in July, who will join Hydro Tasmania Consulting as an Environment and Heritage Trainee. A key focus for Jess will be assisting the Cultural Heritage Program with field survey work and community liaison. Jess will also have involvement in other areas of Hydro Tasmania's environmental management work.

Would you like to know more about the Program?

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