



Cultural Heritage Program NEWSLETTER

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Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Update

The main focus of recent Aboriginal heritage work has been to develop a report on the location, nature and condition of Aboriginal heritage on Hydro Tasmania land. Ongoing consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council resulted in a field visit to Lake Augusta with a group of Green Corps volunteers, who are currently working with the TALSC to gain an understanding of Aboriginal heritage issues. Lake Augusta is at an unusually high elevation. Unfortunately, due to the work being done on the Liawenee Canal, the team was not able to visit the planned areas despite low rainfalls. However, other sites were inspected, and we are developing an excellent record of artefact exposure and movement - recorded over a period of 12 months - as water levels drop at the Great Lake. The photo below shows an artefact from the Great Lake which has split apart through frost shatter, after being exposed by low water levels. Further visits are planned for Lake Echo, Lake King William and the Lagoon of Islands.



Aboriginal stone artefact, showing frost shatter, from the Great Lake

Staff from the TALSC, working with the Green Corps volunteers, have also been involved in planning the return of artefacts from the Studland Bay wind farm in the state's north west to an area of Preminghana (formerly Mt Cameron West), adjoining the wind farm. The artefact relocation was an important part of managing the Aboriginal heritage issues at Studland Bay.

Mailing List update

We are continuing to update our mailing list for the next issue of the Cultural Heritage Program Newsletter. If your details have changed or you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please contact us.

Back to Lake Margaret Day

On the 18th March former workers and residents gathered at a Back to Lake Margaret Day reunion. Around 180 people were bused into Lake Margaret for the opportunity to visit their old homes, share stories and photos and meet up with old friends, many who hadn't seen each other for years.

The day required staff in the Cultural Heritage Program, Sandra Hogue and Sarah Waight, to hone their event management skills. *"We are grateful for the input of a lot of people including West Coast Council, the operators at Lake Margaret, Hydro Tasmania staff, local community groups including the Lions Ladies and the Queenstown Lions Club, not to mention so many generous members of the community."* said Sandra Hogue, Cultural Heritage Program Manager. *"Their input has been immense and made the day run smoothly and a great success".*



Hydro Tasmania's Andrew Catchpole welcoming visitors in the Lake Margaret Community Hall

Feedback from visitors was very positive. One person wrote:

"We have just returned from our holiday in Tassie and could not wait to send you an email to say thank you for giving us such a great time out at the lake, we could not believe the amount of people that attended. We can't thank you enough"



Cake for all to enjoy!

Lake Margaret Woodstave Pipeline Update

On 10 December 2006 the Tasmanian Heritage Council issued a permit for the removal of the woodstave pipeline subject to a number of conditions. These conditions have been the subject of discussion over the past few months. Staff of Hydro Tasmania have worked closely with the Heritage Council to ensure the signing of a workable agreement in April 2007. In summary, Hydro Tasmania will endeavour to undertake further feasibility work to recommission the Lake Margaret Power Station with a woodstave pipeline unless recommissioning is not economic or practical or if funding is unavailable to implement the recommissioning or redevelopment. A decision must be made by Hydro Tasmania by September 2008 with the installation of a woodstave pipeline within three years.

On 12 June 2007 the Resource Planning and Management Tribunal ratified an agreement between Hydro Tasmania and West Coast Council for removal of the pipeline subject to similar conditions agreed with the Tasmanian Heritage Council.

The Lake Margaret site was fully listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register on 28 February 2007.

Heritage Festival Display on Lake Margaret

During April photographs showing family life and the construction of Lake Margaret were on display in the foyer of Hydro Tasmania's Elizabeth St building. Many of the photographs were donated or lent to the Cultural Heritage Program for the Back to Lake Margaret Day (see previous article) event. One donation included copies taken from glass plate images from about 1914 showing Lake Margaret in all its finished and shiny glory. Another set of photographs showed the second King Billy woodstave pipeline being built alongside the original and disintegrating woodstave pipeline in 1938.

The Heritage Festival is an annual event organized by the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania)

Oral History Projects

Hydro Tasmania Oral History

The Oral History Project is reaching its final stages, as the final production of the book approaches. The author, Heather Felton is currently working with the editor to finalise the stories developed from the many interviews she has completed over the past two years. The book comprises fascinating first hand accounts that include world leading engineering feats, personal stories of migration and the rich lives of Hydro families in the early Hydro settlements. The book will provide a rich historical resource for the people of Tasmania, telling of the significant contribution Hydro Tasmania has made to the social, cultural and economic development of Tasmania over the past 100 years.

The book is currently in production. It is expected that the book will be launched publicly later in the year, ready for sale in local bookshops before Christmas. The book will make an ideal Christmas gift, so be sure to reserve your copy before they sell out.

Lake Margaret Oral History

Travis Tiddy, interpretation consultant and graphic designer, has recently submitted a report on the Lake Margaret Oral History Project. He interviewed 26 former residents and workers of Lake Margaret including those who lived there as children. His interviews cover the period between the two world wars, the periods prior to and after the construction of the road and the later era with the sale of the station to the HEC. The interviews are a rich source material about the social history of Lake Margaret.



The Lake Margaret display in the foyer of 4 Elizabeth St Hobart

Would you like to know more about the Program?

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