

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The ability of the Trust to contribute effectively to the conservation of Tasmania's cultural heritage relies upon the Trust being an efficient and effective organisation. This year further progress has been made both internally and in the development of productive working relationships with a range of communities and organisations both within and beyond Tasmania.

During the year the Trust signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens. A direct outcome from this has been the commencement of a program of surveys of Trust gardens by staff of the Botanic Gardens. These surveys have provided important data for the future management of our gardens.

Similarly the Trust is working closely with the Devonport City Council in planning for improved interpretation and visitor facilities at Home Hill and with the Northern Midlands Council in the development of the Norfolk Plains Heritage Centre in the former Lake Masonic Lodge at Longford. The relationship with the Launceston City Council has developed during the year with Trust representation on the City's newly established Heritage Advisory Committee and increased City Council support for Franklin House. The Latrobe Council continues to support the operation of the Court House Museum at Latrobe.

The launch of the Trust's new web site has further increased community awareness of the range of Trust programs and activities, in particular the many elements of the Community Heritage Program. This year has seen the expansion of this program to include the first thematic travelling exhibition which focused on Tasmania's aviation heritage. While the exhibition will tour the state it is also fully accessible on the Trust's increasingly content rich web site. Other additions to the web site included guides to the Runnymede scrimshaw collection, the Old Umbrella Shop Tasmanian wood souvenir collection and virtual tours of a number of Trust heritage properties.

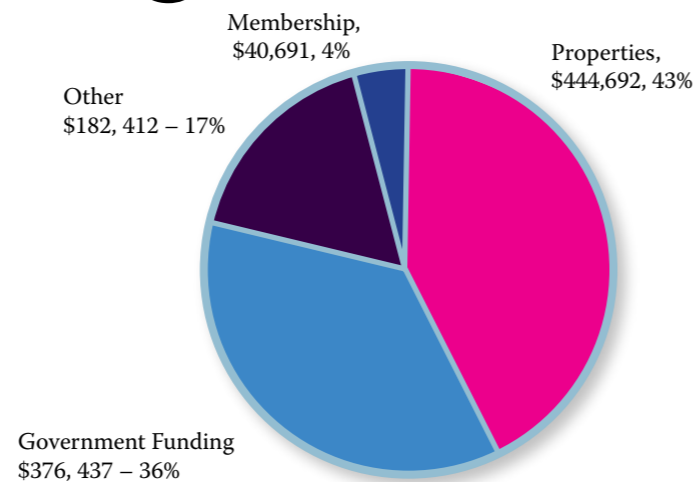
The Trust is responsible for the management of some of Tasmania's most significant heritage properties and during the year some progress has been made in reducing the accumulated maintenance backlog for buildings, gardens and collections. The Trust still has much to do to achieve the high professional standards it has set for itself and at present progress with these projects remains dependent upon external grant funding and the sustained support of the Trust's many property volunteers.

The year has seen a significant increase in the Trust's heritage advocacy activities throughout the state. In this context the establishment this year of the Friends of the Orphanage and St John's Park is particularly welcome as this site is one of the largest and most important surviving early colonial sites in Tasmania.

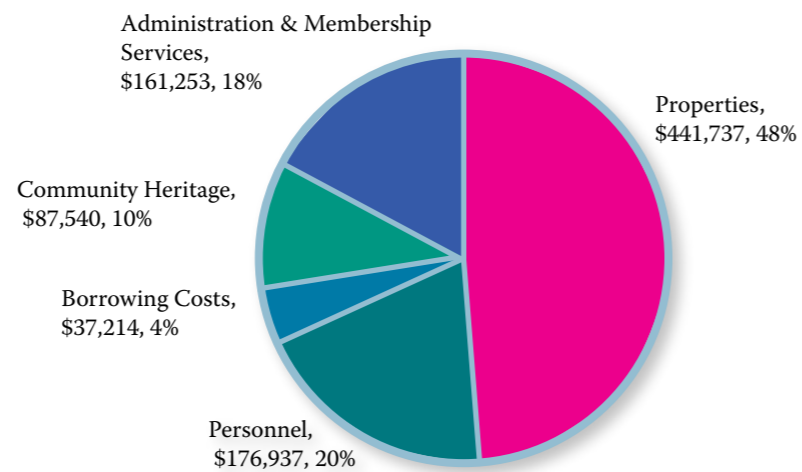
This year has been a most important one for the Trust and will enable the Trust through the continued support of its members and volunteers to better pursue its objective of conserving Tasmania's cultural heritage.

Chris Tassell AM
Managing Director

OPERATING REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENDITURE



Full Audited Figures are available on the National Trust website.

NATIONAL TRUST BOARD MEMBERS

Mr Ray Foley (Board Chair)
Mr. Andrew Kemp (Board Deputy Chair and Chair of the Audit Committee)
Miss Pamela Bartlett
Mr. Richard Hammond
Dr. Dianne Snowden
Mrs. Lynne Stacpoole
Mr. Chris Tassell (Managing Director)



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ANNUAL REPORT
2007 – 2008
NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (TASMANIA)



BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

The past year has been a very significant one in the history of the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania). Most importantly the year has been a successful one with considerable progress being made in reaffirming the National Trust's position as Tasmania's peak membership based, not-for-profit organisation supporting the preservation of the state's cultural heritage.

In the first full year of management of the Trust by the new Board appointed under the 2006 National Trust Act there were a number of notable achievements. These included:

- The achievement of a significant surplus in the Trust's operations,
- The continued growth in membership of nearly 9% over that of the preceding year. Memberships at June 30th totalled 1021 which equates to more than 1,500 members.
- Continued growth in visitation to the Trusts' properties with more than 50,000 people visiting the Trust's 8 major properties an increase of 8.5% on the previous year,
- The Tasmanian Heritage Festival with more than 90 events, a record number, was attended by more than 40,000 throughout the state,
- The launch of the Trust's website which has attracted more than 17,000 virtual visitors to the Trust in just 9 months,
- An active advocacy program which included representations on the future of Holy Trinity Church, the Portside Building and Holyman's Airways hangar,
- The launch of the Friends of the Orphanage and St John's Park Precinct, New Town auspiced by the Trust,
- The commencement of the development of the Norfolk Plains Heritage Centre in the former Lake Masonic Lodge building at Longford.

The Trust is very aware that for a small organisation it has a broad range of responsibilities that extend across the state including advocacy, heritage property management and the operation of its community heritage program.

In achieving all this the Trust is most appreciative of the core operational funding that it receives from the Tasmanian Government which has provided the financial certainty that has enabled us to continue to grow and develop our programs. Additional financial support has also been received from the Federal Government under its Trust Partnership Program.

Importantly this year has seen a growth in support for the Trust from the business and philanthropic sectors. The Tasmanian Community Fund has supported major building maintenance projects at Oak Lodge and Ellis House. Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees have supported the Trusts Income Support Initiative, while Rio Tinto – Alcan have supported the Trust's IT renewal program and the Victorian kitchen garden project at Franklin House while Becks Hardware have sponsored the disaster response bins now at each Trust property.

Underpinning the Trust's operations and activities throughout the state has been the enthusiastic, generous and capable support of the Trust's many volunteers. This support whether through Trust committees or groups, as individual Trust representatives, or as property or program volunteers has been central to the success of the Trust this year and is greatly appreciated by the Board and indeed the community at large.

The Board is looking forward to working more closely with the Trust's members, groups and committees, the Tasmanian Government as well as those in the wider community in meeting the opportunities and challenges that arise from the need to protect and conserve Tasmania's cultural heritage the years ahead.

Ray Foley
Board Chair

COMMUNITY HERITAGE

- Co-ordination of the Tasmanian Heritage Festival which was developed around the theme of Leisure and Recreation – Tasmania's Magical Landscapes. The largest Heritage Festival to date with more than 90 events throughout the state, it was attended by more than 40,000
- Launch of the Trust's touring exhibition Tasmanian Aviation Heritage which opened in Launceston and then commenced a state tour in Hobart,
- Launch of "The Wild Ride: Revolutions that shaped Tasmanian Black and White "Wilderness' Photography" by Nic Haygarth published by the National Trust
- Managed the heritage building tax deductible program and increased the number of appeals currently underway by 4 to 16.
- Schools Heritage Program – Tasmanian, Lachlan Phillips, was announced as the National winner of the Special Category "Australia's Heritage" for his essay on The Supply River in the National History Challenge.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Coal River Valley Historical Society for their continuing use of Oak Lodge, Richmond,
- Continued the program of providing support to heritage groups through the provision of heritage properties. Included in this program are the Mariners Cottage, Battery Point occupied by the Wooden Boat Guild of Tasmania, My Lyell Mine Managers Office occupied by West Coast Heritage and Oak Lodge which is used by the Coal River Valley Historical Society

HERITAGE PROPERTIES

- During the year more than 50,000 people visited the Trust's 8 properties which are regularly open to the public,
- Completion of major building maintenance works at the Umbrella Shop and Oak Lodge. This work was supported by the Tasmanian Community Fund,
- Expansion of the heritage property environmental monitoring program to include both Franklin House and Runnymede,
- Completion of a survey of frames at Franklin House, Home Hill, Clarendon and Runnymede. In addition, a seventeenth century frame at Franklin House was conserved.
- Commencement of management programs for the Umbrella Shop and Norfolk Plains collections with a collection guide to the Old Umbrella Shop's Tasmanian Wood Souvenirs collection being placed on the Trust website,
- Commencement of an oral history program to document the Lyons family recollections of life at Home Hill,
- Virtual tours of a number of Trust properties, including Franklin House, Runnymede and Home Hill included on the Trust web site,
- Significant donations were received during the year including 18 items of furniture from the National Gallery of Victoria which have been on display at Franklin House and Clarendon, a further five rosewood furniture pieces to Clarendon and 6 items of furniture to Runnymede.
- Important collection purchases included the clock presented to Joe Lyons as Prime Minister on the occasion of the opening the General Motors Holden factory at Fishermen's Bend in 1938 and of daguerreotypes of Robert Pitcairn first owner of Runnymede,
- Improvement and expansion of the Trust's IT system with new equipment being installed at the Old Umbrella Shop, Latrobe Court House Museum, Runnymede and the Penitentiary Chapel.

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

It is very pleasing to report that the surplus for the year ended 30 June 2008 is \$139,551.

Of this, \$67,832 was a refund of GST wrongly overpaid in prior years with some more to be refunded in the year ahead.

Excluding this as a one off, it is still very pleasing to be able to report a healthy surplus.

There has also been a revaluation of land and buildings giving an addition of \$1,525,238 in reserves with Total Equity going from \$3,028,341 to \$4,693,130.

On 1 May 2008, with the co-operation and support of the Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees, our Chairman, Ray Foley, launched the National Trust Income Support Initiative whereby National Trust supporters are encouraged to allocate an amount of capital to be placed in an investment account managed by Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees.

All interest earned on this account will be sent by Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees directly to the National Trust.

Early support of this Initiative suggests it will deliver excellent outcomes for the Trust.

Monies received will be used by the Trust in the following order of priority. Firstly to offset interest on debt, secondly to reduce debt and, finally, to contribute to the Trust's endowment.

During the year arrangements were put in place to ensure that the Restoration Appeal Funds liability is fully funded.

This matter ceases to be an audit issue.

Although the financial position of the Trust improved considerably this year, there is still an uncomfortable level of debt.

Total elimination of debt remains a priority issue for the Board of Directors.

It is clear that ongoing support from both the State and Commonwealth is necessary and important.

The Directors appreciate this support and believe the Trust is delivering a very good value in return.

The Directors have budgeted for a surplus for the year ended 30 June 2009 and with results achieved to date are confident it will be delivered.

GOVERNANCE

The Trust has developed a very significant number of policies in respect of operations and governance and these will greatly assist everyone involved with the Trust.

These policies will be regularly reviewed to ensure their relevance.

In February 2008 all Directors participated in a one-day course specially prepared and delivered by Mr. Ross Byrne from the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

This course covered all the relevant duties and responsibilities of Directors in a not-for-profit organisation.

Not only was the day beneficial, but it also gave great confidence to Directors that since the inception of the new Board of Directors the Trust is being well governed.

In April, Directors adopted an Interim Strategic Plan and agreed that it was appropriate to hold a Strategic Planning Day soon after the 2008 Annual General Meeting.

Andrew G. Kemp AM
Audit Committee Chair