

## MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The challenge facing the Trust in the conservation of Tasmania's cultural heritage is an enormous one. In order for the Trust to be able to make an effective contribution in meeting this challenge there is an urgent need to refine our operations so that they are as efficient and effective as possible.

The past year has been one of reviewing and consolidating our organisation and its operations as well as beginning the process of establishing productive working relationships with a range of communities and organisations within and beyond Tasmania. During the year the Trust has been invited to join the Tasmanian Cultural Collections Sector and the University Cultural Environment & Heritage Honours Scheme.

The launch in April of the Great Colonial Homes marketing initiative involving Clarendon, Woolmers and Entally reflects the Trust's belief that Tasmania's heritage will be better served through effective co-operative relationships. These will enable the heritage sector to be seen as a significant state asset that warrants greater attention from all levels of government. Complimenting this initiative has been the Trust's participation in a variety of other marketing programs including Hobart City Council's Advantage Card, the Tasmanian Government's Carer's Card and the RACT "Show & Save" Card.

As well as managing a significant heritage property portfolio for the benefit of the Tasmanian community the Trust is also responsible for the management of one of the four largest publicly owned heritage collections in Tasmania. During the year a program has been commenced for the better management of both the Trust's properties and its collections. Initially this program will be largely dependent upon external grant funding and some progress in this direction was made during the year.

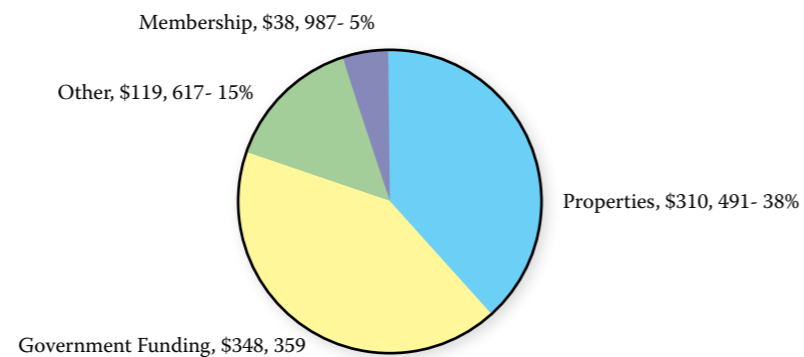
During the year the Trust has implemented a new IT system at the State Office which will enable the organisation to more properly manage its administrative operations. Complimenting this has been the up-grading of IT support for Trust properties and preparation for a new Trust web site.

A review of the Trust's operational procedures and policies was commenced to align them with the new Trust legislation, other relevant state and federal legislation and the current needs of the Trust. An integral part of this has been the development of more effective communications within the Trust between committees, groups and those officially representing the Trust on other committees through the preparation of a quarterly newsletter. This is also available electronically to all members interested in these operational aspects of the Trust.

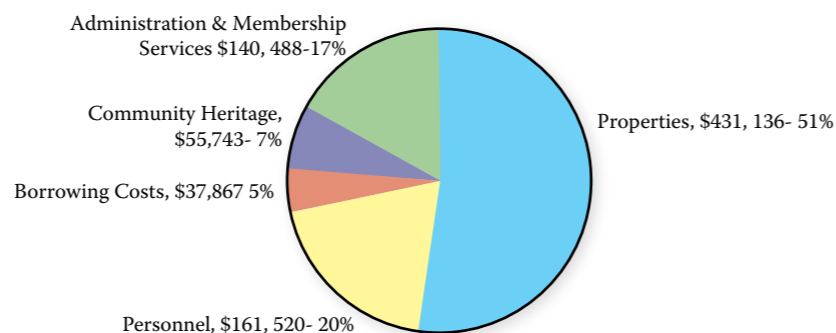
That the Trust has managed to achieve so much so soon after leaving administration speaks greatly of the commitment and support of the Trust's members.

Chris Tassell AM

## OPERATING REVENUE\*



## OPERATING EXPENDITURE\*



\* Full Audited Figures are available on the National Trust website.



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ANNUAL REPORT  
2006 - 2007  
NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (TASMANIA)



## BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

2006 was a watershed in the history of the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) with the proclamation of the new National Trust Act. This has provided the Trust with very necessary contemporary legislation that will enable the Trust to be the state's leading independent, community based membership organisation supporting the conservation of Tasmania's cultural heritage. The legislation requires of the Trust a high level of corporate governance as it pursues the very broad objectives set for the Trust by Parliament.

The appointment of the Trust's new Board in March 2007 marked the beginning of a process of reviewing the Trust's operations and developing its capacity. The members of the Board are:

Although a small organisation the Trust has a broad range of responsibilities that extends throughout the state including advocacy, education, property management and the support of community heritage initiatives.

Accompanying the new legislation was a funding agreement with the State Government that has provided the Trust with the financial security for its core operational activities that has been absent for so long. This certainty of funding for essential operational and administrative activities will allow the Trust to begin the massive project of rebuilding our organisation so that it is a powerful voice for Tasmania's cultural heritage and a sought after partner in this endeavour.

In August the Trust welcomed the appointment of Chris Tassell as Managing Director. With considerable experience in heritage management at both state and national levels he is well qualified to lead the Trust as it enters this exciting new stage in its development.

The Board is very appreciative of the commitment of the members of the Trust's groups and committees as well as the many individual members who have played such a vital role in ensuring the Trust's continued relevance and ability to continue to contribute to the conservation of Tasmania's cultural heritage in recent years. In particular their dedication, through the challenging years the Trust faced during and in the lead up to the organisation being placed in administration by the State Government in December 2004, speaks greatly of their dedication.

The continuing development of the membership of the Trust is a key to our future success. During the year we have seen a growth of more than 9% in Trust membership over the preceding year. Memberships at June 30th totalled 940 which equates to approximately 1,300 members. The Trust also greatly appreciates the support of the many volunteers who have contributed so much to the Trust's success during the year.

The Board is looking forward to working more closely with our members, groups and committees, the Tasmanian Government and many of its agencies as well as those in the wider community as it meets both the opportunities and the challenges of ensuring the conservation of Tasmania's cultural heritage in the forthcoming year.

Ray Foley

## HERITAGE PROPERTIES

During the year more than 46,000 people visited the Trust's 8 properties which are regularly open to the public.

New house interpretation was prepared for Franklin House with support from the Tasmanian Community Fund. The Great Colonial Houses joint marketing initiative linking Clarendon with Woolmers and Entally was launched during the Tasmanian Heritage Festival.

A new property guide funded by the Federal Department of Environment & Water was prepared for the Penitentiary Chapel Historic Site and launched during the Tasmanian Heritage Festival by the Hon Paula Wriedt, Minister for Tourism, Arts and the Environment.

A revised edition of "Home Hill – Some Reflections by Dame Enid Lyons" was launched at the property by Mr. Peter Lyons during the Tasmanian Heritage Festival.

A review of electronic collection management systems compatible with the State Library's E-heritage initiative was undertaken and an interim standard adopted for the Trust.

A program of environmental monitoring of the Trust's properties was commenced with the receipt of a grant from the Devonport City Council for the purchase of equipment for Home Hill.

The lease of the former Marine Board building at Devonport was not renewed as it was no longer required by the Trust for its programs.

A review of operations at Clarendon following a staffing restructure has significantly reduced the operational deficit of this property by more than \$40,000.

## COMMUNITY HERITAGE

A review of the Trust's range of activities that provide support to the Tasmanian community for heritage activities was undertaken. These activities have now consolidated within the Trust's Community Heritage Program.

Coordinated the 2007 Tasmanian Heritage Festival which was developed around the theme of "The Australian Spirit". The largest Heritage Festival to date with more than 75 events throughout the state which was attended by more than 10,000 people, it saw a broadening of the community participation. As part of this year's Festival a consultant was engaged to review the operation of the Festival and make recommendations about its future development.

Reviewed the heritage building tax deductible program administered by the Trust which has 16 appeals currently underway.

Co-ordinated the National Heritage @ Risk initiative in Tasmania which saw Holy Trinity Church, Lauderdale and the Lady Franklin Museum precinct being put forward for consideration nationally as part of the 10 Most at Risk Heritage Sites in Australia.

Commenced the review of the Trust 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, Mt Lyell Mine Offices occupied by West Coast Heritage and Oak Lodge which is used by the Coal River Valley Historical Society.

## AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

The Board of Directors is very disappointed to report a small deficit for the year ending 30 June 2007 of \$9270 as we wished to see a surplus.

The first six months of the year however was the responsibility of the Administrator and the next three months, at least technically, of the Managing Director, who was not given a Board of Directors by the Minister until April, the first formal meeting of which was not until 22 June 2007.

The Audit Committee has given great care to ensuring that the accounts represent a true and fair view of the state of the finances of the Trust as at 30 June 2007.

Depending upon how you look at it the Trust's debt is between \$400,000 and \$600,000.

Considerable attention is being given to implementing a debt reduction strategy which has the objective of making the Trust interest free and then debt free as soon as possible.

Removal of the burden of interest will make it much easier to operate at a surplus which will also make it much easier for the Trust to attract future financial support from the community.

The State Government has undertaken to make an annual grant of \$300,000 for the next three years and our Federal Government grant of approximately \$80,000 per year will continue.

This has enabled us to budget with confidence.

The Directors have budgeted for a small surplus for the year ended 30 June 2008 and have every confidence this surplus will be delivered and hopefully bettered.

Andrew Kemp AM

## 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)