



Narryna Heritage Museum

News Summer 2014

From the President

On Saturday 7 December 2013, Hobart Lord Mayor Damon Thomas launched the restored Narryna drawing room. The project had been made possible by a Hobart City Council heritage grant which attracted a similar amount of funding from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG). The Lord Mayor described Narryna as a credit to the city. "Restoration works to the house are an investment in tourism to Hobart." Alderman Thomas said. "The heritage trades seen in the Narryna restoration are rare Australia-wide. They have been carried out at projects across Tasmania. This project has brought them together into a Hobart 'shopfront.'" The Lord Mayor invited people at the launch to contribute their ideas for Narryna's promotion. Alderman Thomas will be working with the new Narryna Council on our strategic and marketing plans.

For more information on the drawing room restoration see the Museums Australia – Tasmania blog: <http://tassiemuseums.edublogs.org/>

Narryna opened to the public in 1957. Fifty-six years later the displays need refurbishment and many artworks and other collection items need conservation. To carry out this work Narryna Heritage Museum has applied for several grants recently with a focus on continuing our work on the house's interiors.

If you are in a position to make a tax-deductible donation we will acknowledge your contribution. Please contact House Museums Manager, Scott Carlin, on 6234 2791 if you are interested in becoming a Narryna benefactor.

I would like to pay tribute to Bill Bleathman, TMAG Director for the past 12 years and a member of the Narryna Heritage Museum Council since 2010. Bill framed the 2010 Memorandum of Understanding between NHM and TMAG which saw the two institutions move closer together. Narryna's partnership with TMAG has brought much needed support in terms of staffing, access to professional expertise, maintenance and a financial safety net (owing to Narryna's operating deficit) while we move to a more sustainable mode of operation.

I have always admire Bill's ability to develop his museums and staff based on calm advice, myriad personal associations and a 30 year career as one of Tasmania's most capable administrators.

He exemplified public service and his retirement will be a great loss to the Tasmanian museum sector. Thankfully he will remain a Narryna Councillor.

I would also like to welcome Jennifer Storer, Acting Director of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery to the Narryna Council.

Dr Tony (A. V.) Brown
President, Narryna Heritage Museum Inc.



Lord Mayor Damon Thomas launches the Narryna drawing room with Narryna Heritage Museum President Tony Brown. Photograph by Mike Severs



Lady Franklin's piano and Henry Mundy's quadrilles

Lady Franklin's piano, ordered from John Broadwood & Sons of London in c. 1837, has been loaned to the Narryna drawing room by a private collector. The piano is believed to be the instrument on which colonial artist and composer, Henry Mundy (c. 1798-1848, active in Tasmania from 1831) wrote music for the ballroom dance, the quadrilles.

Peter Sims OAM has written a biography of Henry Mundy which will be launched at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG), Launceston, in March 2014. The biography will feature a reproduction of the Narryna Mundy portrait of Francis Aubin. This portrait has become closely associated with Kate Cebrano as a result of the SBS *Who Do You Think You Are?* story which revealed her to be a Mundy descendant.

Mundy's quadrille music, composed when he was drawing and dancing master at Ellenthorpe Hall, Ross, has recently been discovered. Lady Franklin's piano will travel to QVMAG for a concert associated with the launch, which will be recorded by the ABC. Soon a recording of Mundy's music will enliven Narryna's drawing room.



Lady Franklin's piano, manufactured by John Broadwood & Sons of London c. 1837. Private collection, on loan to Narryna Heritage Museum. Photograph by Scott Carlin

Narryna House Committee re-union

On 15 December 2013 Narryna hosted a reunion for members of the House Committee which was attended by Mrs Roma Blackwood, Mrs Naomi Canning, and Mrs Joyce Mackey (former curator of the costume collection).

The new Narryna Council wished to acknowledge the work of the house committee over many decades – from Narryna Heritage Museum's opening to the public as the Van Diemen's Land Memorial Folk Museum in 1957, to 2010 when the committee disbanded. The Committee contributed many hours of voluntary service (also 'roping in' their husbands and families), contributed funds and donations to the collections, strengthened Narryna's community networks and served countless afternoon teas as a means of fund raising.

Councillor, Amanda Roberts, who delivered the thanks, recalled the old saying "if we achieve greatness, it is because we have stood on the shoulders of those who came before".



Members of the former Narryna Heritage Museum House Committee Mrs Roma Blackwood (centre), Mrs Joyce Mackey and Mrs Naomi Canning with Robin Blackwood, Narryna Councillor Amanda Roberts and (standing) Narryna custodians Betty McMeekin and Carmel Logan. Photograph by Scott Carlin



Volunteer program

From August to October eight volunteers prepared Narryna for relaunch for the Spring – Summer high visitation period, with a focus on the exhibition rooms, drawing room and nursery. Averaging one day per week the volunteers worked across many areas including research, exhibition text writing, cleaning and display creation.

The volunteers have continue to meet on Tuesdays between 10.00am and 1.00pm to catalogue items in Narryna's back of house areas prior to their removal to off-site storage. Volunteers work in pairs, with some firm friendships formed as a result.

Volunteers are also sought to assist Narryna with digital media such as our Facebook page. We plan to upload material on our interior refurbishments and volunteer programs so that the 'museum process' is an active of our profile. Contact House Museums Manager Scott Carlin if you can help.



Faye Harding and Judith Elridge dress Miss Hookey's Victorian doll in freshly laundered clothes, Narryna nursery. Photograph by Scott Carlin.

Donations

Mrs Betty Suerth donated \$5,000 for future restoration work at Narryna. The donation reflects Mrs Suerth's support for programs 'that make a visible difference'. Pamela Taylor has also donated \$5,000 for interior restoration work at Narryna as she was impressed by the drawing room project.

The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery has agreed to fund the consolidation of Narryna's hall ceiling. Mrs Suerth and Pamela Taylor's donations will allow painting of the hall's ceiling and joinery. The joinery will be grained to the standard of Narryna's newly restored drawing room as the setting for a reproduced historic wallpaper.



The restored Narryna drawing room. Photograph by Simon Cuthbert.

Bequests

Marjorie Paige of Grove bequeathed her porcelain collection to Narryna. The collection includes Georgian and Chinese export pieces c. 1770-1840. Two framed sampler embroideries were bequeathed to Narryna by the late Winsome Joy Fraser. Narryna Heritage Museum is a fitting place for items that represent the collecting passions of these two women.



Grants update

Narryna received a \$4,000 Maritime Museums of Australia Project Support Scheme (MMAPPS) grant for the conservation of the Sir John Rae Reid ship's portrait which currently hangs in Narryna's hall. This will let the oil painting conservation proceed. We are still short of approximately \$1,200, so if you are in a position to 'top up' this grant with a contribution please contact Scott Carlin.

Consultant, Ann Cripps has begun work on the Tasmanian Community Fund-sponsored Narryna Landscape Master Plan. We are seeking further historic photographs of the Narryna grounds. If you are able to assist please contact Scott Carlin.



Artist unknown, Captain Haig's ship the Sir John Rae Reid c. 1835 before restoration. Photograph by Simon Cuthbert

Events

Recent events at Narryna have included:

- 21 September 2013 Australian Open Garden Scheme 2013 season launch, 80 visitors.
- 1 December 2013 combined Hobart Garden Clubs Christmas Party, 50 visitors.
- 19 December ICOMOS (International Conference on Monuments and Sites, A UNESCO heritage committee), Hobart branch Christmas party at Narryna, 20 visitors

When planning your community group's 2014 program, why not consider Narryna?



Volunteer Rosie Severs dispenses hospitality at Bill Bleathman's farewell, held in the Narryna grounds. Photograph by Mike Severs

Narryna Heritage Museum

Experience the lifestyle of early 19th century merchant, Captain Andrew Haig, and his family. Narryna, an elegant Georgian town house built in 1835-40, contains a rich colonial collection reflecting the maritime and trade associations of Salamanca Place and Battery Point.

**Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:30 am – 5:00 pm
and Sunday 12:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

Monday group bookings only.

Closed Good Friday, ANZAC Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day

103 Hampden Road, Battery Point
(03) 6234 2791

narryna@tmag.tas.gov.au

www.tmag.tas.gov.au/narryna

Adult \$10

Concession \$8

Child (non-student) \$4

Enquire about our special group booking rate, combined ticket with Markree House Museum and Garden, school education programs and events.

We invite you to become a member. Please contact us for a membership form.

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