



Narryna Heritage Museum Incorporated
103 Hampden Road, Battery Point, Hobart, 7004
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From the President

Dear Supporter of Narryna,

Narryna is a gem of Australian colonial architecture perfectly located between key Hobart tourist attractions Battery Point and Salamanca Place.

Narryna had 4,600 visitors in 2012/13, but we feel we can do a lot better. In fact, we need to do a lot better as visitation equals income – which is needed to simply open our doors. We have a draft marketing plan in place which identifies a range of strategies and have embarked on a significant works program to refresh and renew what we are presenting to the public.

This involves not only curating temporary shows from the permanent collection for the upstairs exhibition, but also thorough investigating and recreating Narryna's early 19th century decoration so that the house itself becomes a leading attraction.

In 2013/14 we will be:

- completing the redecoration of the drawing room with curtains and other soft furnishings;
- continuing to work as part of a coalition of seven Hobart small museums to secure better tourism profile, particularly through joint programming and cross promotion;
- embarking on a Narryna Landscape Master Plan with the aim to improve the site's capacity for revenue raising activities, make the forecourt garden a major drawcard for the house and prepare for fence replacement and stonework conservation;
- moving certain 'back of house' and costume collection items to better storage at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery's air-conditioned storage facilities; and
- seeking grants to refurbish the hall and dining room.

We need your support to make Narryna a significant tourism asset for Hobart. Your membership and donations will help us to undertake projects to develop and improve the visitor experience at Narryna. Importantly, it will also give you access to Narryna without paying an entry fee for the next 12 months.

We are seeking volunteers to assist at Narryna across a range of areas from administrative assistance, to collection cataloguing and research, to guiding and assisting with events. If you are able to contribute your time to any of these activities, please contact the House Museums Manager Scott Carlin.

Lastly, we do need your financial support. Narryna is funded from an Arts Tasmania grant, donations, bequests, entry fees and support from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. This support only allows us to undertake basic maintenance to keep the doors open.

While we seek grants for specific projects, there is no additional funding to allow us to pursue a longer-term vision for Narryna. We do want to make this wonderful cultural asset available to Tasmanians and visitors to our beautiful state for future years, and we can only do this with strong community support. Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

I thank you for your interest and look forward to maybe seeing you at the annual general meeting at Narryna Heritage Museum on Friday 20 September 2013 at 4:00 pm, or at our re-launch morning tea party at 11:00 am on Saturday 21 September 2013.

Dr Tony (A. V.) Brown
Chairman
Spring 2013





About Narryna

Narryna is a gem of Australian colonial architecture containing a rich collection of Tasmanian fine and decorative arts. The fine Greek Revival town house was built by Captain Andrew Haig in 1837-40. Haig purchased the land-holding in 1824 during a trading voyage between Calcutta, Canton, Hobart and Valparaiso.

Haig built warehouses facing Salamanca Place in 1834 and set up as a merchant and shipbuilder. He was forced to sell in 1842 when economic depression hit the Australian colonies.

Narryna was later home to businessmen and women, lawyers, politicians and bankers. In 1955 local residents including Dr William Crowther, Captain Harry O'May, and the Rowntree sisters established Narryna as Australia's first folk museum with a collection redolent of the mercantile and maritime histories of Salamanca Place and Battery Point.

We invite you to join us for a look around the historic house and gardens at our re-launch morning tea party at 11:00 am on Saturday 21 September 2013.



Volunteer program

Volunteers Rosie Severs, Chris Burbury, Belinda Casey, Pamela Shepherd, Jan Jefferys, Judith Elridge, Fay Harding and Robin Allington Maguire have made an immense contribution to preparing the house for its relaunch.

These tireless volunteers have worked across many areas – selecting and arranging displays, research, label writing, cleaning (including washing nursery curtains, bedcovers and doll clothes), bringing specialist knowledge to cataloguing a collection of weapons sent off site to secure storage, to the 1840s 'room reveal' installation of pictures and decorative arts in the drawing room. Many hands make light(er) work.

On Monday 14 October there will be a working bee to sort out collections from other material in the stables.

Thank you one and all.





Maintenance program

Heritage carpenter Paul Colegrave assisted with jobs such as installing picture hanging points per the drawing room's 19th century evidence and swapping formal and 'bedroom quality' fire-grates between the upstairs exhibition room and drawing room.

In the course of lifting off the exhibition room chimneypiece a series of documents were revealed dating from the early 1880s onwards. The cache confirmed that the room, which became subsumed into the larger exhibition room by the removal of walls after 1946 had been Narryna's principal bedroom. A story on the discovery was printed in the Mercury Sunday Tasmanian and Melbourne Herald Sun on 8 September 2013 (images on the right)



Recent work

In July 2012 Narryna Heritage Museum received a Hobart City Council grant of \$5,000 for the reproduction of a wallpaper for the Narryna drawing room. The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) then contributed a similar amount to enable the painting of the drawing room as the setting for the wallpaper and a collection of huon pine furniture.

The drawing room wallpaper is being recreated by Alan Townsend and copies the original drawing room paper of *Summerhome*, Moonah (1844) one of Tasmania's intact historic properties and a veritable archive of Tasmanian domestic life.



Investigation of the Narryna drawing room's joinery and plaster cornices revealed a wealth of historic evidence. Between c. 1840 and c. 1925, the joinery –which is a combination of pine and cedar, and so intended to be painted –had been grained. This is a faux finish, emulating timbers such as oak and bird's eye maple, both of which treatments were found in the

drawing room. The Narryna graining has been carried out by master painter, John Murphy, otherwise known as "The Trompe", working with Scott Pelham Painters.

The restoration of Narryna's drawing room also involved recreating a mantelpiece guided by physical evidence relating to the original. This was removed in c. 1946 when an Art Deco model was installed. The original fireplace was constructed from marble, and when it was installed in c. 1840 the uneven floor had been cut away to accommodate it. This gave us the profile of the design where the hearth was flanked by pillars mounted on blocks, an echo of the engaged portico at the front of the house.

The new mantelpiece has been made in pine by Tony Colman, a long-standing furniture restorer and artisan for the museum. The new fireplace will be marbled (i.e. painted to resemble marble) by John Murphy, which is also a traditional practice.

Narryna's refurbished drawing room will be a gallery of faux finishes from marbling and graining to the wallpaper resembling a silk held in place by cords and decorative rosettes.



Exhibition rooms

Narryna's upper floor front rooms have been refurbished as the venue for temporary exhibitions through repainting and installing light and picture tracks. One of these rooms, used for storage over many years, has been opened to the public. It has a doorway providing a second viewing point to the nursery which showcases reflect childhood, education, toys and leisure.

Portraits are a feature of the Van Diemen's Land Folk Museum collection and so the main exhibition room has been filled with works by Frederick Strange, W. P. Dowling, Knut Bull, T. J. Lempriere and Tom Midwood. We are raising funds for the conservation of our rare naïve 1840s portrait by John Woodcock Graves, put on show in "before" condition. If you would like to contribute please contact House Museums Manager, Scott Carlin.



Supported by



Grants

We are grateful for Arts Tasmania's continued support of Narryna Heritage Museum through their small museums recurrent funding program.

We were fortunate in receiving a Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF) grant of \$28,000 for development of a Narryna landscape master plan and stage one works. As stated in the President's introduction, the landscape master plan will address both restoration of the garden as a tourism asset for the site and reviewing and increasing compatible uses of the grounds for income generation.

Consultant, Ann Cripps, will develop a report and landscape design:

- analyzing historic photographs of the Narryna garden;
- planning for replacement of fences to period detail;
- planning for replanting the garden informed by historic photographs; and
- identifying strategies for Narryna's stone degradation problems – the house's rising damp, delaminating stone piers on the Hampden Road frontage and other locations.

Stage one works will encompass moving the outdoors collection to storage and undertaking conservation of the coach house and stables for historical interpretation and wet weather contingency for site activities.

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

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

Adults \$10 / Concession \$8 / Child \$4 (not part of a school group)

Ask about our group booking rates, joint ticket with Markree House Museum and Garden, school education programs, events and membership.

We invite you to become a member. Please call in to the museum or contact us for a membership form.