

Program 2003
2004 **Achievements**
centenary stonework program



All rights reserved

copyright - Centenary Stone Work Program NSW
McKell Building 2-24 Rawson Place Sydney NSW
2000 Tel: 02 9372 8526 Fax: 02 9372 8544
www.commerce.nsw.gov.au

editor - Ron Powell, Joy Singh

contributors - Ron Powell, Joy Singh

Vivian Sioutas, Catherine Macarthur, Desmond Corby,
Angus Donald, Mark Adamson

graphic designer - Helen Andronis

assistant designer - Marietta Sioutas

printing - Allied Reprographics

Cover image - Sandstone Column and 'Sunrise' Porecelain statue
Villeroy & Boch 1889 located in Centennial Park

Cover Photography - Michael Nicholson

“We need a relationship with our past.....

*These buildings are like members of an
extended family”*

George Proudman OAM (1925-2000),
Master Stonemason for Public Works Department, 1976-1989



CONTENTS

FOREWORD	5
ABOUT THE PROGRAM	7
What is the program?	7
What is stone conservation?	7
WORK GENERATED	9
INITIATIVES FOR 2003 - 2004	13
Research	
- Stone Testing	13
- Biocides	13
- Zinc Trials	13
- Birdproofing	13
- Stone Institute of Australasia & Seminar	13
- Photographic/Filming Recording	13
AWARDS & MEDIA	19
PROJECT TEAM	19
PROGRAM SUMMARY	26
LIST OF PROJECTS	27
INFORMATION SHEETS	28



al

FOREWORD

During 2003-2004, the Government's Centenary Stonework Program undertook major conservation work on the oldest part of Australia's first major Museum building in College Street Sydney.

I was pleased to be able to visit the job and view at close quarters, some really excellent examples of the Stonemason's art of intricately carved shapes and mouldings on some very large stones that replaced some of the original work.

After 150 years of weathering some of the old stone was in a very poor state and posed a potential threat to public safety. It is most gratifying to me to know that today we can call upon stonemasons whose skill matches those of the finest 19th century tradesmen.

The Department's team of Heritage professionals and tradespeople were able to improve on the structural adequacy of the Museum's College Street pediment using large stones especially quarried for this job and through the use of modern cranes to lift them into place.

The Program also commenced an extensive program of work on the Cleveland Street Intensive English Language Centre. Originally Cleveland Street Public School, built in 1867, was also suffering from the stonework being in quite a poor state.

The Department of Education and Training is undertaking a major re-fit as part of the government's Revitalisation of Inner Sydney Schools (RISS) program.

The close coordination of the stonework conservation with the re-fit continues the tradition of Centenary Stonework Program working with other government agencies to achieve best value from the funds available for heritage conservation.



John Della Bosca MLC
Minister for Commerce

waiting on approval....



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

what is the program?

Sydney is enhanced by golden coloured sandstone, which is its foundation and building material. From the simplicity of the Colony's first buildings, to the exuberance of the gold rush and boom-time era Victoriana buildings and on to the stylish Art Deco fashion of the thirties, our loftiest aspirations have been embodied in sandstone.

New South Wales possesses a large stock of significant stone buildings and monuments that bear comparison with any of their kind in the world. They form the kernel of the State's portfolio of over 600 stone structures of national cultural significance.

The Centenary Stonework Program acknowledges the significance of these heritage buildings to the community and the need to ensure their care and maintenance as well as the future of the traditional craft of stonemasonry.

The Centenary Stonework Program has now been in operation for 13 years. It is funded by Treasury as a planned program to address the substantial 'catch-up' maintenance required.

Specifically, the funds are made available to the Department of Commerce to apply to the conservation of buildings occupied by agencies classified by Treasury as "Budget Dependent".

Selection criteria that are considered when determining priority for funding include:

- heritage significance
- condition
- location
- multi or single level, full or part stone construction
- partnering opportunities with agencies that occupy the building

The work is predominantly carried out by the Department's day labour force of over 30 stonemasons and apprentices and heritage roofers, plumbers, carpenters and painters. The work is directed by the Department's expert team of heritage professionals.

Each year, 3 to 4 major Projects are undertaken as well as a project in a regional or country centre. In addition, allocations are made to sub-programs including:

Stone Safety Inspections - in which buildings in the Sydney Metropolitan area are reinspected. Any loose or dangerous stone is removed and a review of the condition of the stone provides information on conservation costs for fund allocations.

Monuments - Conservation of State owned monuments and sculptures in locations like Royal Botanic Gardens and Centennial Park.

Research - into stone properties, stone consolidant materials, cleaning methods etc.

Recording - of stone carvings or structures using photographic drawings and other visual techniques.



what is stone conservation?

Stone conservation in NSW is not a recent phenomenon. It is possible to trace specific methods of stone conservation and repair over the history of a building.

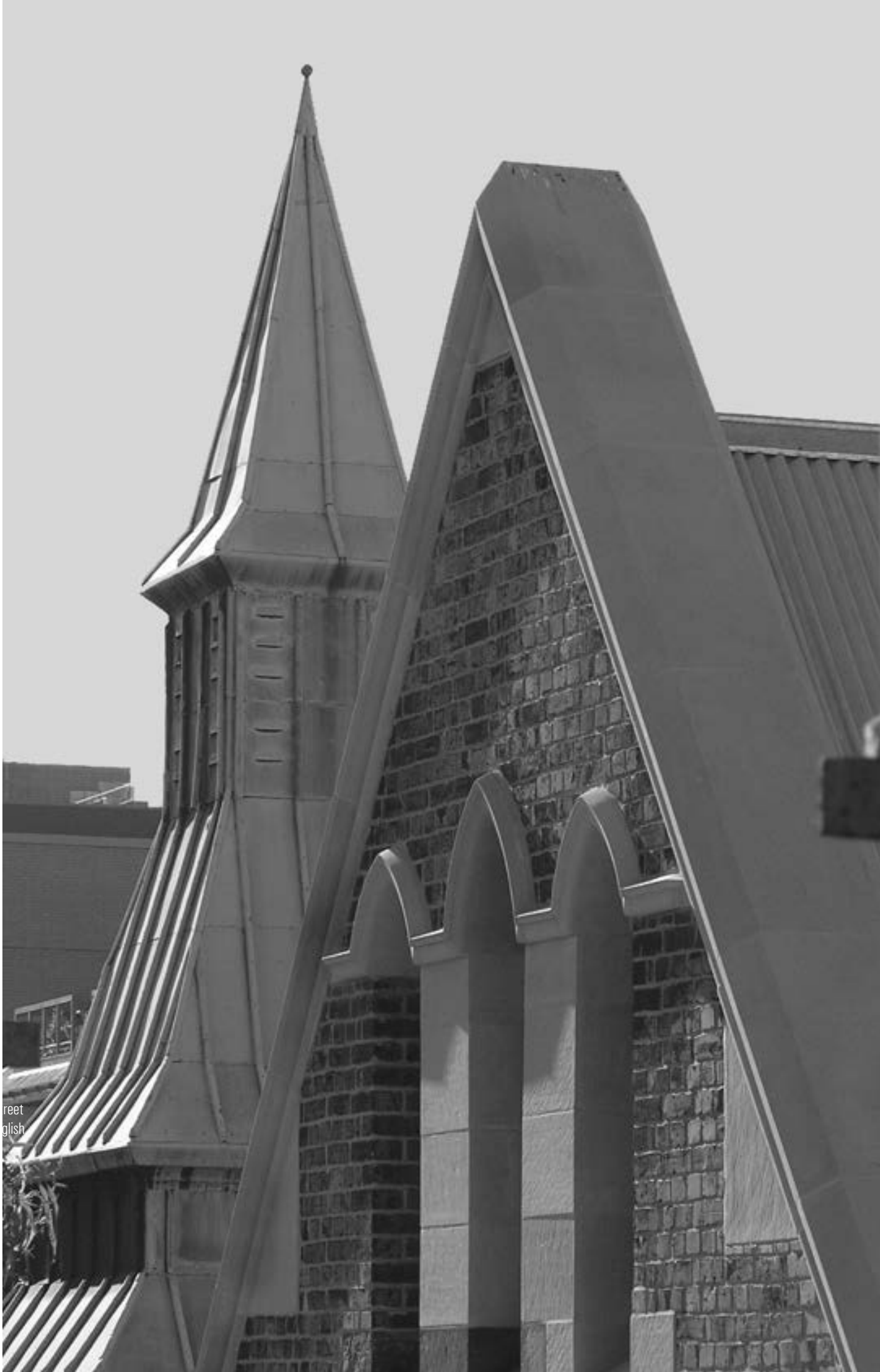
The Department's approach follows the accepted conservation philosophy of the Burra Charter, The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 1999. The Burra Charter is widely accepted and adopted as the standard for heritage conservation practice in Australia.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may, according to circumstance, include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaption and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these' (Burra Charter, article 1.4).

The aim is to carry out work that will prevent further deterioration to stone facades and ensure the prolonged life of the stonework with minimal intervention. Stone elements are replaced when they are structurally unsound and/or fundamental to the building's ongoing care, survival and interpretation.

Stone decay mechanisms are varied, often the result of lack of regular maintenance. Causes of stone deterioration include water penetration through open stone joints, salt attack, stone cracking caused by corroded iron dowels, problems associated with the build-up of bird droppings, organic growth and soiling by atmospheric pollutants.

The State's heritage buildings are evidence of the great skill of masons, builders, carpenters and metalworkers to realise the architect's vision. The Department of Commerce acknowledges the specialised skill required to conserve these assets. The Department's in-house training is a national benchmark. Training activities include a Stonemasonry Apprenticeship scheme, Stonemason's travelling Fellowship, conservation architects training with Master Mason and stone cleaning research.



reet
glish

WORK GENERATED

The Centenary Stonework Program generated, or was the catalyst for other stonework projects funded by clients, separate from its Treasury allocation.

This outcome is a reflection of the beneficial effect the program has in “marketing”, the department’s heritage expertise and services.

The additional work included:

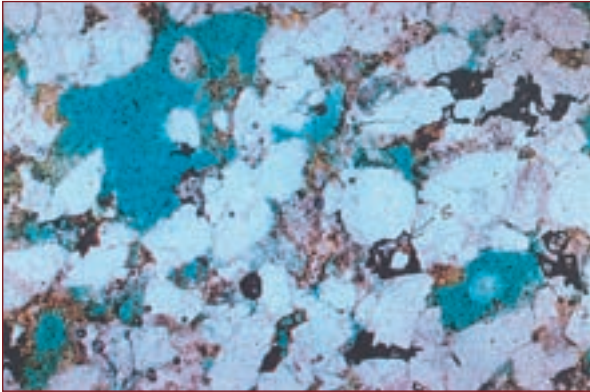
- East Sydney TAFE - Building 28
- Cleveland Street Intensive English Centre High School
- Darlinghurst Courthouse
- Darlinghurst Firestation - Roof works
- Centennial Park
- St. Andrews Cathedral
- Cricketer’s Memorial
- National Art School
- Bathurst Courthouse
- Central Local Court
- Circular Quay
- SIT Makesafe
- Susannah Place Museum
- Dubbo Courthouse
- Coonabarrabran Courthouse
- Plough Inn



Moore Park Piers - Gommage



Centennial Park Biocide Trial



Geotech research of sandstone assessed under a microscope



Centennial Park Biocide Trial

INITIATIVES FOR 2003-2004

In 2003-4 we continued our commitment to undertake research into a wide range of issues related to stone conservation.

RESEARCH- Stone Testing

Perhaps the most fundamental principle in stone conservation is to achieve the best possible match of new stone into an existing structure when a simpler repair is not possible.

Properties which are considered when choosing a replacement stone are grouped into physical and visual/aesthetic.

Physical properties can be examined scientifically and often provide a strong pointer to likely aesthetic suitability.

Potential sources of stone are tested by the Department's Geotechnical Laboratory for properties including wet and dry compressive strengths, modulus of rupture water absorption and sodium, sulphate resistance.

A microscopic examination is conducted to achieve a petrographic analysis. The composition of a sandstone can indicate likely durability and other important characteristics

RESEARCH- cleaning methods

The project team continues to research cleaning methods for sandstone and other heritage fabric in association with other conservation specialists. Important considerations include the success of pollutants and biological growth removal methods without causing damage to the stone. Cleaning should not necessarily clean so extensively as to remove the patina of age which may be a significant characteristic of the building.

FACADE GOMMAGE

Gommage cleaning has also been used this year on a number of projects including Moore Park Piers on sandstone and on Cleveland St Intensive English High School on brickwork. At the stoneyard trials were carried out on redundant sandstone elements using air-borne abrasive cleaning methods. While abrasive cleaning methods are not generally recommended for repeated use on sandstone, cleaning was found to cause minimal damage on harder types of stone, and in some cases, these methods may be considered for use in the future.

RESEARCH- Biocide

In the past year, the team has undertaken a preliminary trial of the use of a biocide on sandstone to inhibit the return of biological growth.

The biocide trial was initiated to investigate the effect of using a biocide on sandstone to inhibit the return of biological growth. A sandstone pier at Centennial Park was selected for the trial as it was easily accessible from the ground and displayed a range of growth types including lichen and algae, particularly on the south facing aspects.

The trial involved cleaning of the pier and application of Boracol 100 to wet stone. The stone has been monitored over a 12 month period, and a brief report prepared. After the trial it was concluded that the biocide appeared to have a positive effect on the stone by reducing the rate of biological regrowth. The work was carried out by the Department of Commerce stonemasons. Broader testing is now proposed.



Photo left & right: Birdproofing to the capitals of the Australian Museum



Birdproofing not visible from street



Sydney Hospital Zinc Trials

Zinc Trials - Sydney Hospital

While assessing the condition of sandstone at Sydney Hospital for the Condition Report approximately 80 carvings on the four main sandstone buildings were identified to be potentially vulnerable to water damage.

The poor condition of the cornice stone profile and joints typically allows water to travel down the face of the stone, and accelerates damage to stone below. A trial, fixing 4 temporary zinc weatherings to selected damaged cornices, was carried out in 2003 on the South Elevation of the South Block.

This trial has identified that zinc weatherings reduce water run off on the face of the building by recreating a 'drip' at the leading edge of the stone. The zinc has been considered suitable as a temporary measure where the cornice is in poor condition, and requires replacement.

Since the trial, a program of installing approximately 20 temporary zinc weatherings to selected cornices has commenced. This work aims to provide greater protection to vulnerable carvings and other stone elements until the cornices are repaired or replaced in the future and protected by the standard long-term lead weathering detail.

Bird Proofing

In 2003/2004 the Centenary Stonework Program team developed an effective bird proofing system for our sandstone buildings with an experienced specialised bird control company. It is evident that the effect of birds, predominantly pigeons, is not only aesthetically intrusive to our sandstone facades, but is also detrimental to the condition of ornate and delicately carved surfaces.

A bird deterrent system has been devised that uses bird-proofing controls such as spikes and wires, however the fixing methods have been revised to be low impact and reversible.

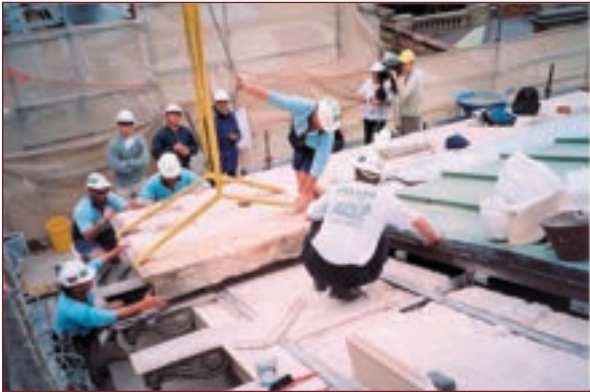
The Australian Museum was the first project to use this approach. The significant capitals were protected from birds by the installation of mesh, fixed with stainless steel pins in the mortar joints rather than directly drilling into the stone.

The wire bird control along the string course was also fixed into the joints and the end brackets were profiled to the edge of the stone with a neoprene rubber between the stone and the stainless steel and then tightened into place. A similar method was placed on top of the capitals and window heads.

Based on the success of this project, Darlinghurst Fire Station and Chief Secretaries' Building will have birdproofing installed.



"Heritage professionals for Local Government and the private sector inspect work on the Australian Museum"



Filming of documentary at the Australian Museum



Recording - photography of carvings at Sydney Hospital



Historians recording details of capitals at the Australian Museum



XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

STONE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALASIA

The Department is a member of the Institute. The SIA represents and works with the whole of the Stone Industry, its specifiers and service providers to ensure a collaborative approach is taken to improve the quality and standards of our industry. Two industry forums were held at the Department's Stone processing facility for NSW members. The George Proudman Fellow, Paul Thurloe made a presentation of his travel and studies at the first forum. Private sector heritage architects from Tanner and Associates gave a presentation of the work of that office at the second forum.

Stone Institute of Australasia Seminar

Melbourne 21, 22 June 2004.

A group of stonemasons, architects and managers attended a seminar in Melbourne held by the Stone Institute of Australasia. The seminar ran concurrently with Designbuild, a building expo located in the Exhibition Building.

The seminar included two separate forums. The first forum was the development of standard forms to certify stone for architects; designers; and Property developers. The certification sheets are envisaged to be used as stone selection tools to assist in correctly selecting the most appropriate stone for the project.

The second seminar was a Stone Industry National Education Forum. The forum discussed future needs the stone industry requires. It discussed current training and assessment arrangements, room for improvement and expertise, formulating a national consistent training scheme and future licensing requirements for all sectors of the industry. The forum was a valuable opportunity for the Department to be a part of these discussions and have a formal input in the direction stone certification and training is to take place in Australia.

FILMING

Recording of the work of our stonemasons has been done by filming works in various sites. The work recorded will be used for archival and promotional purposes. The focus of the recording during 2003-04 has been on the Australian Museum with further recording of interesting and unusual work in other projects including Darlinghurst Fire Station and the State Library.

photographic recording

Sydney Hospital

Scaffold access to the Administration building at Sydney Hospital following stone conservation work, provided an opportunity to undertake a recording project of the carved capitals and other features. Research identified some important faces among the carvings including Florence Nightingale, political figures of the time and symbolic masks. Professional photography of over 35 carvings provides future community access to these carvings and is a good record of their condition today. The project is intended to include enough information to recarve these elements in the future if required, and as an interpretative and educational tool.

Australian Museum

Due to the placement of scaffolding on the façade of the Australian Museum for the purposes of sandstone conservation and repair, a rare opportunity became available to photographically record the capitals.

The capitals are a fine example of acanthus leaves carved by the stonemason Walter McGill who also carved the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates in the Royal Botanic Gardens. The photography of the pediment and roof took place on 9 March 2004. The photography of the birdproofing on the capitals was also photographed on this occasion.



pital

AWARDS & MEDIA

National Trust Heritage Awards

received in 2004 for the Sydney Hospital Banner

The scaffold fabric and hoarding panels designed for the 2003 Sydney Hospital Administration Building stone conservation scaffold won a commendation in the 2004 Energy Australia National Trust Heritage Awards.

The scaffold fabric and hoarding panels were designed as an interpretative and attractive contribution to the public domain during the construction phase of the stone conservation work. The inspiration for this project comes from a similar approach to restoration work on historic buildings in Europe.

The central scaffold fabric banner, 12m x 18m in size, was printed with a large scale 'exploded' perspective of the entrance porch highlighting its architectural details including the beautiful sandstone carvings. Two flanking banners were printed with a bold interpretation of the pilasters and carved capitals. These banners were visible from the approach from Martin Place as well as along Macquarie Street. These banners were designed to be reused around the building in future stages of conservation work.

The hoarding panels below were designed to explain the stone conservation works, as well as the general work of the Minister's Centenary Stonework Program, to the many people who pass by at the street level on their way to work and the domain each day.

By raising public awareness of the importance of the hospital buildings the interpretative scaffold design assists with the future maintenance and care.

Sydney loves its sandstone buildings

During the year, Program Manager Ron Powell was interviewed for a second time by Angela Catterns on the high rating ABC radio breakfast program.

- The interview followed a Sydney Morning Herald article (February 2, 2004) on the Hunter Baillie Church at Annandale.
 - The Sydney Morning Herald also had an article on December 13-14, 2003 entitled "Sands of Time"
 - Other print media included the Wentworth Courier's article (September 3, 2003) on the Moore Park Piers and articles on awards won by the Department's female stonemasons (S.M.H. July 20, 2003, the Balmain and Rozelle Village Voice, August 2003).
- Television coverage was also quite extensive Channel 7's "Big Arvo" program re-screened an item called "Cool Job" where Ron Powell was filmed both at Pyrmont and at the Department's workshops at Alexandria with stonemasons.
- Channel 10 also rescreened an item in its "Totally Wild" program of a similar nature to Channel 7's.
 - Channel 7's "Girl TV" also filmed and screened another item centred on stonemason Katie Hicks.
 - ABC's George Negus Tonight show used an earlier interview with Ron Powell and the City Historian, Shirley Fitzgerald as part of a widely watched program "Moments in Time".

Australian Museum

When completed in the 1860s, the Australian Museum, in College Street, Sydney, was considered to be the most significant public building in the country. Now, more than 140 years later, the building has been conserved by the talented stonemasons at the NSW Department of Commerce to ensure that it will be admired and enjoyed by many generations to come.

The conservation project was undertaken as part of the NSW Government's Centenary Stonework Program, which is managed by the Department of Commerce.



The Australian Museum circa 1860s.

"The important buildings in world cities like Paris, London, and Rome were built of limestone, marble or granite and because the Australian Museum was built of sandstone, it was possibly the most significant sandstone public building in the nineteenth century world," said Ron Powell, Manager of the Centenary Stonework Program.

Over the years the impressive building, with its ornate pediment and elaborately carved capitals, suffered from lack of maintenance. By the 1960s the distinctive stone rosettes had been removed because of concerns that they may fall and hurt passers by.

"For a long time there were no stonemasons with the skill to do the work and we didn't have the quality of stone needed," said Ron.

With the introduction of apprenticeships for stonemasons in the late 1970s the pool of skilled stonemasons grew and modest conservation work was started at the Museum in the early 1980s.

However, the nearly completed phase of the work is the most extensive stone replacement project ever undertaken by the NSW Government's Centenary Stonework Program.

"The project is only possible because we acquired over 4,000 cubic metres of Pyrmont yellowblock sandstone in 2001. Before that there was no sandstone available in the world that was considered as suitable," said Ron.



Ruben Varfi carving a rosette, at the Department's stone yards.



Lifting a new coping stone from College Street.



Above: Lowering a section of the pediment into place. The steel straps hold the pediment together.

Conserving our heritage

Vivian Sioutas, a heritage architect with the Department of Commerce, has been supervising the major conservation project.

"The challenge of this project was to dismantle structural stone units and replace deteriorated stone. We carefully dismantled the top two stone courses of the College Street pediment

that had lost their mouldings, and had their ornate carvings removed," said Vivian.

"This was the first time heritage architects, masons and engineers had been able to get right under the 'skin' of a classic nineteenth century portico to see first hand the original construction method, so we now have a better understanding of the techniques that were applied.

"We took the opportunity to supplement the original techniques where it was appropriate. For instance, we have now put stainless straps in place so that every stone is secured. Before that the corner stones were pinned but not the whole pediment. We have also introduced lead coverings with appropriate drip details to steer water away from the significant carvings."

George Proudman, the master stonemason who reinvigorated the craft in NSW, took a pragmatic approach to the conservation of significant stone buildings.

"George always said that no mason ever wants to tamper with another mason's work, but he had no qualms about replacing stone if the stone had decayed or lost its details, provided you could get stone that was up to the job. And of course you need masons who could carve as well as they did then," said Ron.

The replacement of stones was the major task but a lot of other work was done while the scaffolding was in place. Before work could start, an environmental cleaner had to remove years of bird droppings. During the eight months of the project epoxy repairs, bird proofing, repointing and desalination were all carried out and seismic and structural strengthening in the roof space mean the building is safer.

For Vivian Sioutas the most exciting aspect of the project was the work of the stonemasons.

"The size of the stones and watching the masons carve them was just amazing."

Men of stone

The Department of Commerce stonemasons worked on stone specially quarried for the Museum by Stratti Contracting Pty. Ltd. This is rare in conservation work, although it was a common practice when the building was constructed.

"We were able to ask Troy Stratti for eight 2.4 metre square blocks of yellow block, about 20 tonnes each," said Ron.

The stones were cut into slabs by machine then hand carved at Commerce's Alexandria stone yards and lifted into position on site by crane.

"Our job was much easier because of modern cranes. I think the original stones were probably hoisted up with a block and tackle and teams of Clydesdale horses. This meant they had to use smaller blocks than we did," said stonemason Glen Fuller, who was site foreman.

Each of the eight stones has two carved rosettes, which required about 30 days of hand carving.

"It gave our stonemasons a rare chance to do some challenging, free form work which really elevates stonemasonry from a craft to an art," said Ron.

Australian Museum

When completed in the 1860s, the Australian Museum, in College Street, Sydney, was considered to be the most significant public building in the country. Now, more than 140 years later, the building has been conserved by the talented stonemasons at the NSW Department of Commerce to ensure that it will be admired and enjoyed by many generations to come.

The conservation project was undertaken as part of the NSW Government's Centenary Stonework Program, which is managed by the Department of Commerce.



The Australian Museum circa 1860s.

"The important buildings in world cities like Paris, London, and Rome were built of limestone, marble or granite and because the Australian Museum was built of sandstone, it was possibly the most significant sandstone public building in the nineteenth century world," said Ron Powell, Manager of the Centenary Stonework Program.

Over the years the impressive building, with its ornate pediment and elaborately carved capitals, suffered from lack of maintenance. By the 1960s the distinctive stone rosettes had been removed because of concerns that they may fall and hurt passers by.

"For a long time there were no stonemasons with the skill to do the work and we didn't have the quality of stone needed," said Ron.

With the introduction of apprenticeships for stonemasons in the late 1970s the pool of skilled stonemasons grew and modest conservation work was started at the Museum in the early 1980s.

However, the nearly completed phase of the work is the most extensive stone replacement project ever undertaken by the NSW Government's Centenary Stonework Program.

"The project is only possible because we acquired over 4,000 cubic metres of Pyrmont yellowblock sandstone in 2001. Before that there was no sandstone available in the world that was considered as suitable," said Ron.



Ruben Varfi carving a rosette, at the Department's stone yards.



Lifting a new coping stone from College Street.



Above: Lowering a section of the pediment into place. The steel straps hold the pediment together.

Conserving our heritage

Vivian Sioutas, a heritage architect with the Department of Commerce, has been supervising the major conservation project.

"The challenge of this project was to dismantle structural stone units and replace deteriorated stone. We carefully dismantled the top two stone courses of the College Street pediment

that had lost their mouldings, and had their ornate carvings removed," said Vivian.

"This was the first time heritage architects, masons and engineers had been able to get right under the 'skin' of a classic nineteenth century portico to see first hand the original construction method, so we now have a better understanding of the techniques that were applied.

"We took the opportunity to supplement the original techniques where it was appropriate. For instance, we have now put stainless straps in place so that every stone is secured. Before that the corner stones were pinned but not the whole pediment. We have also introduced lead coverings with appropriate drip details to steer water away from the significant carvings."

George Proudman, the master stonemason who reinvigorated the craft in NSW, took a pragmatic approach to the conservation of significant stone buildings.

"George always said that no mason ever wants to tamper with another mason's work, but he had no qualms about replacing stone if the stone had decayed or lost its details, provided you could get stone that was up to the job. And of course you need masons who could carve as well as they did then," said Ron.

The replacement of stones was the major task but a lot of other work was done while the scaffolding was in place. Before work could start, an environmental cleaner had to remove years of bird droppings. During the eight months of the project epoxy repairs, bird proofing, repointing and desalination were all carried out and seismic and structural strengthening in the roof space mean the building is safer.

For Vivian Sioutas the most exciting aspect of the project was the work of the stonemasons.

"The size of the stones and watching the masons carve them was just amazing."

Men of stone

The Department of Commerce stonemasons worked on stone specially quarried for the Museum by Stratti Contracting Pty. Ltd. This is rare in conservation work, although it was a common practice when the building was constructed.

"We were able to ask Troy Stratti for eight 2.4 metre square blocks of yellow block, about 20 tonnes each," said Ron.

The stones were cut into slabs by machine then hand carved at Commerce's Alexandria stone yards and lifted into position on site by crane.

"Our job was much easier because of modern cranes. I think the original stones were probably hoisted up with a block and tackle and teams of Clydesdale horses. This meant they had to use smaller blocks than we did," said stonemason Glen Fuller, who was site foreman.

Each of the eight stones has two carved rosettes, which required about 30 days of hand carving.

"It gave our stonemasons a rare chance to do some challenging, free form work which really elevates stonemasonry from a craft to an art," said Ron.



Project team names listed in alphabetical order: Lee Adamou, Mark Adamson, Kiko Andonovski, Helen Andronis, Michele Anello, Matthew Barnes, Paul Connell, Angus Donald, Fernando Ferreira, Glen Fuller, Ben Gardner, James Gardner, Katie Hicks, Phillip Hilder, Darren Hurst, Bob Kavanagh, James Lees, Chris Louguman, Catherine Macarthur, Lew McDonnell, Craig Miller, Greg Paul, Warren Pearson, Bruce Pettman, Manuel Pereira, Ron Powell, Gary Rimmer, Andrew Seeto, Keith Shaw, Joy Singh, Marietta Sioutas, Vivian Sioutas, Merv Spowart, Peter Stelzer, Adam Stewart, Mark Stevens, Adam Taylor, Bill Thomas, Paul Thurloe, Peter Trick, Ruben Varfi, Louke Witjes.

Project Team



The Program is undertaken for government using predominantly in-house Department of Commerce resources from the following groups which work closely as a team:

- Program Management,
- Heritage Consulting: including architects, conservators, engineers, archaeologists.
- Project Construction and Management.
- Heritage trades including: stonemasonry, banker and stone carving and stone fixing, heritage roofing, carpentry and painting.

1280



PROGRAM SUMMARY

I am pleased to report on another successful year of the Centenary Stonework Program.

Perhaps a little “too successful” in that the Program’s \$4.5M allocation had been achieved by late April 2004.

When there is an indication that Treasury will allocate funds for a following year, the Program sets a target to achieve 10% ‘over budget expenditure’, as a contingency against any unforeseen delays to avoid the Program achieving less than full expenditure.

The project highlights of the year for me were our two major projects on the Australian Museum’s College Street portico where we spent nearly \$1.5M and the 1867 Cleveland Street Primary School.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) has a program to “Revitalise Inner Sydney Schools” (RISS) and in a wonderful partnership between DET and the Program, over \$2M was spent on heritage conservation and fitout for the school’s use as an Intensive English Language Centre.

In a smaller budget project, it was very pleasing to be able to make a start on Darlinghurst (King’s Cross) Fire Station where over the years, several “makesafes” had removed loose stone resulting in disfigured, non-functioning sandstone elements.

The Firestation was possibly Government Architect, Walter Liberty Vernon’s last work (and one of his finest) and this project will enable the building to proudly display a “happier face” to the soon to be upgraded William Street.

Other highlights, included our work on the State Library, Government House and Sydney Hospital, particularly the recording of the splendid carvings that face Macquarie Street of Sydney Hospital.

The major challenge for the program in 2004-2005 and coming years is to find more cost effective methods to arrest or slow deterioration of stone so that when funds eventually become available for the repairs, the cost of that work will not have escalated beyond control.

Ron Powell
Program Manager



INFORMATION SHEETS

- Art Gallery of NSW
- Australian Museum
- Chief Secretary's Building
- Cleveland St IEHS
- Darlinghurst Courthouse
- Darlinghurst Fire Station
- Government House
- Makesafe
- Moore Park Piers
- Nicholson St PS
- Prince of Wales Hospital
- Singleton Courthouse
- State Library of NSW
- Sydney Hospital

