

# PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS



## List of Projects

During 2005-06 conservation work was carried out on the following projects and information sheets are available.

- Balmain Watch House
- Bondi Beach Public School
- Chief Secretary's Building
- Cleveland Street Intensive English High School
- Darlinghurst Court
- Government House
- Makesafes on a range of public schools and other projects
- Marrickville Public School
- Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
- Singleton Court
- State Library of NSW
- Sydney Hospital

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# Program Summary

The Centenary Stonework Program moved into its 15th year of operations consolidating the teamwork of a group of dedicated heritage professionals and tradespeople.

The result of this consolidation saw efforts focused on Sydney Hospital, Cleveland Street Intensive English High School and Court Houses at Darlinghurst and Singleton.

Whilst no new projects were commenced, the first major stone replacement at Government House for a decade occurred when cracked chimney stones were replaced.

The Program's objectives, apart from conservation work, include promoting awareness of its benefits to stakeholders and community groups. This year presented a range of opportunities relating to Yellowblock sandstone, culminating in publishing of 'Paradise Purgatory Hell Hole: The Story of the Saunders Sandstone Quarries Pymont'.

Once again, the contributory funding provided to the Program by agencies including Attorney General's Department and Department of Education and Training, enabled a greater range and extent of conservation work to be undertaken by the team.

Alan Marsh

Deputy Director-General, Office of Public Works and Services  
NSW Department of Commerce



# Attorney General's Department

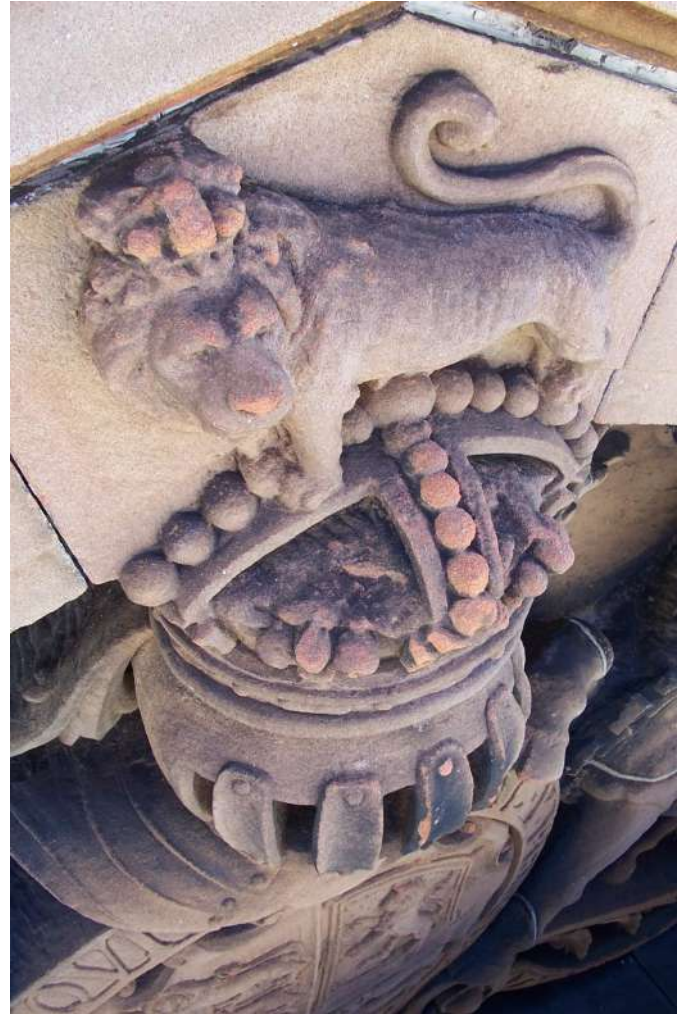
The Attorney Generals Department has jointly funded projects with the Centenary Stonework Program for the last 6 years. The projects have included Old Registry Building, Banco Court, Darlinghurst Court and Singleton Court.

## DARLINGHURST COURT

The Darlinghurst Court conservation works have been jointly funded over the past 5 years. Stages completed include the work to the pediment and highly sensitive tympanum. The next stage of works is scheduled to continue westward along the front facade of the building court between the main entrance and court 7. The Darlinghurst Court Fence has recently been documented and is in the process of being programmed for conservation works.

Darlinghurst Court is a fine architectural example of colonial neoclassical design and the subsequent additions to the court bear witness to the growth of the Criminal High Court legal system in New South Wales. The development of the building complex exhibits the work of four early Colonial Architects (Lewis:1834-49, Blackett: 1850, Barnet:1862-90 & George McRae:1901-20) each using a different interpretation of neo-classical architecture.

Construction works for this financial year included work to the main pediment designed by Lewis in 1835 and its two flanking elevations designed by Barnet in 1884. The entire blocking course and most of the cornice stones were replaced on these three elevations. The pediment was repaired including replacement of a very complex springer stone. Corroding metal birdproofing was removed from the coat-of-arms with subsequent synthetic stone repair. Lead covering was installed on all the cornice stones.



The apex stone is of a lion standing proudly atop a crown. The cornice stone above was covered in lead to provide a drip edge that projects past the elaborate carving below and into the tympanum. The lead will protect the carvings below for many years to come.



The springer stone is complex to remove, process and subsequently fix back into position. It requires the knowledge of skilled stonemasons to perform this challenging task.

## SINGLETON COURT

Singleton Court was the first jointly funded regional project. Following an inspection by a heritage architect from Heritage Design Services and a master stonemason from Heritage Services, it was assessed as requiring significant stabilisation and stone repair works.

The nature of the stone deterioration was such that relatively minor repairs and protection, if undertaken in the short to medium term period, could significantly extend the life of much of the sandstone and thus obviate far more costly repairs in the future.

Singleton Court is an elaborate and well crafted country court that is distinguished by finely dressed and worked sandstone elements to the facade. The building was constructed in 1868 and designed by Colonial architect James Barnet using brick construction with trimming elements of sandstone quarried locally at the Ravensfield Quarry. The stone elements of the Gullioche balustrades to the parapets were replaced and elements of the central double height pediment also had substantial repair and replacement works carried out.

The Centenary Stonework Program sourced and quarried stone from a property at North Rothbury providing an excellent match for the Ravensfield stone. Conservation works this financial year included structural strengthening and seismic stabilisation to the gables and chimneys, stone processing and replacement, repairs to the timber belltower and bell, leadwork and synthetic stone repair.



Completed pediment on Elizabeth Street.



Stabilisation works to chimney. Stainless steel tubes are attached to sound structure below the chimneys and concrete grout placed around the tube.



Completed stoneworks to western portico on Elizabeth Street including replaced Gullioche patterned balustrades.



# Health Department

## SYDNEY HOSPITAL

Conservation works at Sydney Hospital focus upon the four buildings erected between 1879 - 1894. This complex of buildings is a prominent element in the Macquarie Street urban landscape sitting at the top of Martin Place, and has associations with Florence Nightingale, displaying the principles she developed for the layout of hospital buildings.

An extensive program spanning several years, subdivided into 15 works areas, was commenced in 2002 using the McCafferey's replacement stone to match the original Pyrmont Yellowblock stone.

The work is focused upon the prevention of further deterioration of stone facades through the replacement of stone elements which have deteriorated and are in turn exposing otherwise protected stones. The stones which are replaced can generally be described as elements, such as cornices, which shed water from the building which have lost leading edges, drip grooves and pointing from joints. Lead work is also specified as part of conservation works to further prolong the life of replaced or otherwise sound original stones.

## ROYAL PRINCE ALFRED HOSPITAL

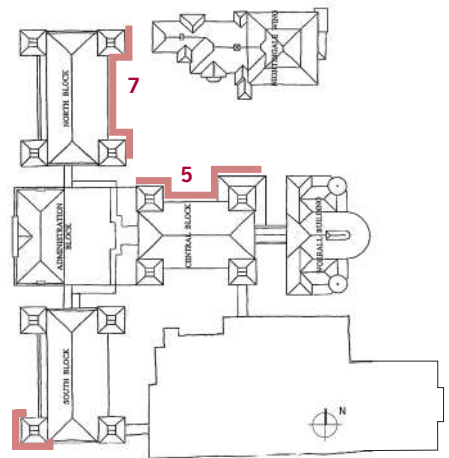
The main administration block of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital has recently been substantially upgraded and provides access to a new \$100M wing. These recently completed works now need to be complemented by conservation work to the 1876 heritage building.

The Health Department and the Department of Commerce are jointly funding the conservation works, commencing on the main administration block and are expected to take 4-5 financial years to complete.

The main administration block, commenced in 1876, was completed in 1882. It was designed by the Mansfield Brothers and was one of the first buildings on the site to be completed. The main administration block is of masonry and sandstone construction. The scope included for the conservation works includes:

- stone replacement
- stone repointing
- brick repointing
- leadwork
- replacing roof tiles with slate as originally constructed

The works will also include structural stabilisation to the acroterium, chimneys, roof turrets and pediment.



1b

Sydney Hospital 2005 - 2006  
conservation works



Acroterium placed over the apex of the classical pediment on main administration block - west elevation. The lower portion is highly weathered and is being replaced. Seismic stabilisation will follow.

## SYDNEY HOSPITAL



1.



2.



3.

1. The function of overhanging cornice courses is to provide protection to the ornate carvings at every level, of every corner, of the 4 major buildings in the complex. There are in excess of 90 significant carvings. The front sections of cornices need to be replaced where the protective properties fail due to heavy weathering of the sandstone.

This photo shows an intact cornice remaining with the weathered cornice sections having been cut back ready to receive new "indent" cornice units.

The loss of protection from cornices has led to some damage to carvings.

2. This example shows minor damage being repaired using epoxy based adhesives.

3. A completed section of work. New indent cornice sections have restored protection to the valuable carvings. Lead weatherings on top of the cornice provide an even more effective water shedding function as well as preventing water entry into the sandstone structure.

# Initiatives, Awards & Media

## PARADISE PURGATORY HELL HOLE

One of the Program’s objectives, that of promoting the Program’s benefits to the community, was met in four separate, but closely related, ‘events’ during the year.

## POWERHOUSE MUSEUM EXHIBITION

The exhibition focused on Pyrmont and Ultimo with a major emphasis on the district’s sandstone quarrying past.

The evocative names “Paradise”, “Purgatory” and “Hell Hole” were the nicknames given by the quarrymen in the mid to late 1800s, to the three major quarries which each produced different types of sandstone.

The Program provided interpretive material, a mason’s tools and sandstone objects for the exhibition.

## DISTILLERY HILL PARK

The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority developed an interpretation strategy for Pyrmont and Ultimo which included an ‘installation’ of three large blocks of stone to signify the three former major quarries.

As the Minister’s stockpile of sandstone used for stone conservation includes examples of each of the three types of stone, actual quarry blocks were supplied and carved by the Department’s stonemasons. Information plaques were affixed including a list of some of Sydney’s major heritage ‘icons’ constructed from Pyrmont sandstone.

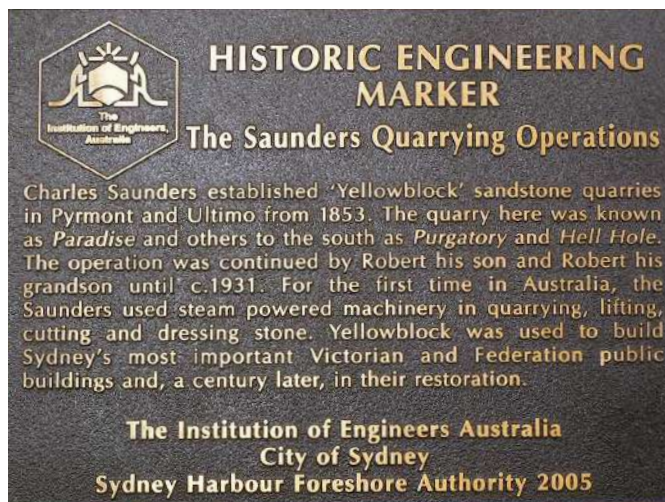
## INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS (ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA) HISTORIC MARKER PLAQUE

The former Saunder’s “Paradise” quarry face remains today as a man-made ‘cliff face’ forming a powerful ‘walled edge’ to a public walkway, which commences at the intersection of Saunders Street and Quarrymaster Drive, Pyrmont.

The Program prepared a nomination document to Engineers Australia that the former quarry face warranted an historic marker plaque. The Plaque was unveiled by Engineers Australia President and the Lord Mayor of Sydney.



Distillery Hill Park



Historic Marker Plaque



**“PARADISE PURGATORY HELL HOLE -  
The story of the Saunders Quarries Pyrmont”**

This book by Robert Irving was partly sponsored by the Program. It ‘grew’ from the Engineers Australia Historic Marker Plaque nomination document. Commerce Minister, The Hon. John Della Bosca, wrote in the book about the Program’s role in reviving the craft of stonemasonry so that “buildings like the Australian Museum and Sydney Hospital could be saved for generations to come”.

The Minister launched the book at Powerhouse Museum against the backdrop of the similarly named exhibition.

**EXPERT WITNESS**

The Program Manager and a Commerce geologist gave evidence in the Land and Environment Court for the benefit of Leichhardt Council. The Department’s expertise in winning sandstone in large blocks from building sites was recognised by the Court.

The amount of compensation for a development site resumed by Council was reduced as a result of the evidence.

**GEORGE PROUDMAN STONEMASONRY FELLOWSHIP**

The second Fellowship was awarded to Mr Daniel Feeney, a teacher of stonemasonry at Queensland TAFE.

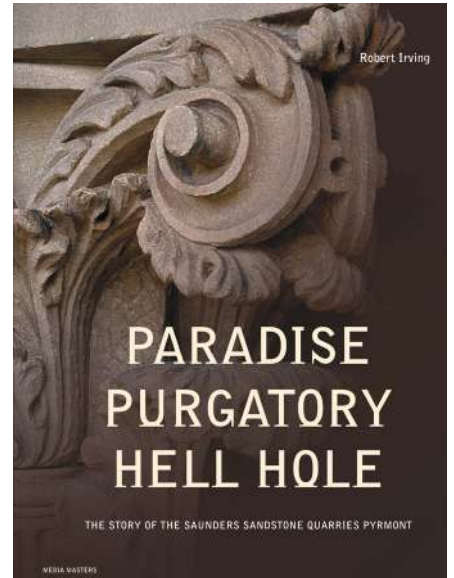
Mr Feeney’s proposal was to use the Fellowship to assist him to travel and study in America undertaking master classes in stone carving and stone conservation and to investigate the latest stone tool manufacturing.

**NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE AWARDS 2006**

A Commendation Award was received for “Sandcastle: Australian Museum”.

An extensive conservation project which commenced at the Museum in 2004, offered a wide range of conservation activities worthy of recording, initially in an ‘archival’ format. The information was seen to be suitable as the basis for a film catering to a wide general interest as well as offering sufficient detail to benefit heritage professionals.

*“The Centenary Stonework Program manager and conservation team sought to overcome this gap in knowledge by recording the works and discussing the tasks, considerations and outcomes of a suitable project with the intention of creating a documentary film about the process, the participants and the stakeholders. It was felt important to inform as many people as possible about the ‘sand(stone) castles’ of our city” (part of Award Jury’s citation).*



Book cover



The Hon. John Della Bosca presents the George Proudman Stonemasonry Fellowship Award to Daniel Feeney.



DVD cover

# Department of Education and Training

The Centenary Stonework Program has, as one of its most important components, an ongoing Stone Safety Program. Significant state government owned stone buildings are cyclically inspected to ensure public safety.

This year an evaluation of the condition of ninety Department of Education buildings was carried out by a heritage architect from Heritage Design Services and a master stonemason from Heritage Services who inspected all schools, located predominantly in the metropolitan area known to contain sandstone elements. The team identified schools that required 'makesafes', where loose and potentially dangerous stone was removed. The schools were prioritised for repairs that will significantly extend the life of the buildings' exteriors.

The evaluations are commenced by a visual inspection from the ground by the master stonemason and a heritage architect. Generally the deterioration of these buildings is the result of a lack of cyclic maintenance.

The evaluation identified 12 schools requiring a 'makesafe' where loose and potentially dangerous stone was removed. The schools that had makesafes carried out this financial year were:

- Kensington Public School
- Rozelle Public School
- Waverley Public School
- Darlinghurst Public School
- Arncliffe Public School
- Drummoyne Public School
- Green Square Public School
- Woollahra Public School
- Marrickville Public School
- Paddington Public School
- Bondi Beach Public School
- Concord Public School

Several of these schools have had documents prepared for conservation work to be undertaken in the near future. The schools documented include:

- Paddington Public School
- Bondi Beach Public School
- Marrickville Public School
- Concord Public School
- Glenmore Road Public School

Construction work has continued on Cleveland Street Intensive English High School and approached completion during 2005-06, after an intense internal and external refurbishment program.



Cleveland Street IEHS main entry to Chalmers Street.



Paddington Public School - Work Area 4 Chimney flue buttress delaminated and requiring replacing. Chimney flu plinth stone to be indented.



Marrickville Public School - pediment above main entry severely deteriorated.





Bondi Beach Public School - Entrance Portico



## CSP project team 2005 - 2006

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