

SKILLS – LONGFORD ACADEMY

Northern Midlands LGA

Calling All Tasmanian Heritage Tradies

The traditional art of using lime mortars, putty, plasters and limewater will be showcased through a training program solely open to Tasmanian heritage trade specialists. The Longford Academy, a not-for-profit group works to increase building conservation skills among local tradespeople and in doing so, improve the quality of heritage works.

The Longford Academy has been operating for many years and its annual training programs have not been well subscribed by local tradespeople. The grant will enable the course to be run free of charge and will be available only to Tasmanian tradespeople, builders, architects and related consultants.

The four-day training course will cover all aspects of the use of traditional lime, including slaking quicklime mortars, making and using lime putty, repointing mortar joints, sand-lime plastering, harling, limewashing and limewater consolidation treatments.

COMMUNITY – DERWENT VALLEY COUNCIL

Derwent Valley LGA

Improving the Visitor Journey at historic Willow Court

Interpretation signage across the historic Willow Court precinct will be strengthened providing visitors with a more holistic story of Australia's oldest continually run asylum. The grant enables the Derwent Valley Council to implement best-practice interpretation signage across the entire site with a strong focus on honouring the experience of people who lived and worked at the controversial facility.

In part, the new signage will include a commemorative and memorial function – telling the story of how the site is now a place of healing, recognition and reconciliation while also acknowledging the past trauma of so many.

Site signage is an important part of the overall visitor experience and this grant ensures the Willow Court site will provide balanced interpretive content and wayfinding information for visitors to understand the site's dark history as well as its bright future.

COMMUNITY – INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

TBC (Regional Tas)

Open House Scheme to Expand to Regional Tasmania

Architecture fans, mystery lovers and general sticky beaks will benefit from an expansion of the free Open House program, which provides a behind-the-scenes look at the state's built heritage including quirky buildings, dormant industrial sites and hidden infrastructure.

The grant will expand the program into Tasmanian regional areas providing an opportunity for communities to actively promote their town while also encouraging fellow Tasmanians to make that Sunday drive and visit these beautiful rural towns.

Every town in Tasmania has an important story to tell and buildings, big and small, are an important component of our heritage story.

BUILDING

Activating Riversdale stables into a distillery

Glamorgan Spring Bay LGA

The stables and barn at the historic Riversdale property in Swansea on Tasmania's east coast will be repurposed into a cellar door and micro gin distillery. The Splendid Gin label will move from nearby Cranbrook to the property, activating the site as a potential tourist destination.

The grant will be used to repair and preserve the stables and barn, preserving many original details including sash windows and barn doors. Riversdale is a substantial colonial-Georgian style house and one of Tasmania's most notable historic mills, and the restoration and enhancement of the stables will complete an extensive program of works, conducted over the past 10 years. The works will also include the creation of a senses garden, of which plants will be used in the production of seasonally released spirits made on-site.

Restoring the tallest single lancet windows in Tasmania

Hobart LGA

Circa 1883 stained-glass windows at Hobart City Mission's homeless shelter in Hobart's Davey Street will receive long-overdue repair, preserving the panels in the chancel and nave for future generations.

The heritage-listed property has operated as an emergency accommodation facility for homeless people for over 50 years. The grant supports the Hobart City Mission to continue to provide safe, emergency accommodation for vulnerable Hobartians as well as offer access to basic amenities, hygiene facilities, and support services.

The property is the former Davey Street Congregational Church and Hall and has historical significance demonstrating characteristics of a Victorian Free Gothic church, as well as containing the tallest single lancet windows in Tasmania at 6.5 metres, and one of the tallest in Australia.

Avoca's Union Hotel is Back in Business

Northern Midlands LGA

The owners of the Union Hotel will be able to re-open the iconic Georgian style hotel and offer meals as a result of the Tasmanian Government built heritage grant. The hotel has suffered over many years from neglect and from some well-meaning but ill-conceived attempts at repair so when the current owners took possession in 2020 they threw themselves into the refurbishment. The grant will support work to return the kitchen to working order providing a much-needed lunch service in Tasmania's north east. The important community meeting place has been closed since late 2022 and locals are very keen to have the space open again, enabling the local darts club to have a home again as well as other community groups.

Revising Latrobe's Victorian Italianate commercial buildings

Latrobe LGA

The commercial use of the Kenworthy Building, located in the main street of Latrobe will be revived with support from a Tasmanian Government built heritage grant. Shop 82, which was originally the local watchmaker and the combined shoes, clothing and drapery shop next door will undergo significant repair and conservation work including to brickwork and timber finishes, restoration of plaster, replacement of wiring and plumbing and external re-cladding.

Owner, Wendy Kernan has already invested significant time and resources into partial renovation and the grant enables activation of the second phase to restore the building to its former glory for use as luxury accommodation and a proposed whiskey and wine bar. Preservation of this building was viewed as critical by the grant scheme's independent assessment panel due to its significance and importance to the town's general sense of place.

John Kenworthy opened his drapery store – the Mersey Boot Arcade – in the early 1890s and it continued to be operated by the family until it closed in May 1992. Through this grant, the contribution and efforts of John and generations of the Kenworthy family, will be celebrated.

Eloping to the Carlton Post Office

Sorell LGA

After nearly forty years of neglect, the former Carlton Post Office will be renovated to create a unique riverfront accommodation specialising in catering for elopements!

A Tasmanian Government built heritage grant will be used to support a transformation of the dilapidated 1840's building from chook shed to a highly sought after visitor accommodation. The unique heritage features of the building – one of the oldest remaining examples of primitive split slab construction in Australia – will be protected through the creation of multiple viewing windows. An authentic restoration of the kitchen's lath and plaster walls will be undertaken while the original hand-sawn ceiling battens and shingles will also be restored.

The restoration of the building, which served as a place of business and pillar of the southern beaches community for many years, will be enhanced by the presence of the last Postmaster's drawings on the walls

New lease of life for Campania General Store

Southern Midlands LGA

Opportunities abound for the two-storey Old Colonial Georgian building in Reeve Street, Campania following the allocation of a Tasmanian Government built heritage grant. Local builder, Nicholas Elliott has already invested significantly into renovation of the 1879 building and the grant activates it for future commercial use and short-term accommodation.

The building is one of very few properties available for public use in Tasmania that features Italianate architecture and the restoration works will include major internal and external repairs.

Recognising the Contribution of Nurses

Derwent Valley LGA

What was once bleak, cold quarters for nurses on the Royal Derwent Hospital site will be repurposed to provide boutique accommodation as part of a large, ongoing restoration project. A Tasmanian Government built heritage grant of \$100,000 will support the property owners to continue their significant investment on restoration and reactivation of the building. The funding will support the second phase of restoration – the big hall, which once served as a training space, will be converted into a function room, while the creation of a commercial kitchen and restoration of the upstairs bedrooms will enable future activation of the site as a community and visitor destination.

Truth telling at Wybalenna

Flinders Island LGA

The late 19th/early 20th Century colonial farmhouse on the sacred site of Wybalenna on Flinders Island will receive much needed maintenance and conservation as part of a broader program of remediation works. Due to its isolation, and the exposure of the site, remediation is now at a critical point for farmhouse. The Tasmanian Government built heritage grant will enable the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania to begin the building's reactivation process eventually opening it up for community and visitor use.

Generations of Aboriginal families, taken in custodial care, lived in the homestead and Wybalenna is the largest known mass burial place of Palawa, and remains an important place for community gathering, mourning and remembering.

Expanding Dining Options at Woolmers Estate

Northern Midlands LGA

World Heritage listed Woolmers Estate in Longford will receive funding to undertake restoration works on the original servant's kitchen to re-open the commercial kitchen and dining room. These works will improve food services options for visitors to the site and expand function capabilities.

Woolmers Estate is a key component of Australia's heritage, representing one of the most intact pioneer farm complexes in the nation. Founded in 1817 by Thomas Archer, it remained in the Archer family for six generations until 1994. Spanning 82 hectares, the estate comprises a collection of buildings that have preserved their 19th-century condition, including the main homestead, workers' cottages, a chapel, a blacksmith shop, stables, and notably, one of the oldest intact woolshed in Australia.