



Friday, 27 August 2010

Heritage Council to visit Eurobodalla next week

The NSW Government's peak heritage body – the NSW Heritage Council – will handover a historic lathe as part of its two-day tour of the Eurobodalla local government area next week.

Heritage Council Chair Gabrielle Kibble said the visit to townships in the Eurobodalla area would also be an opportunity to meet with the local council and communities to discuss heritage issues.

"Every year for the past ten years, the Heritage Council of NSW has undertaken a regional visit and this year we have chosen Eurobodalla Shire," Mrs Kibble said.

"These regional tours are a very important aspect of our role, as they allow Heritage Council members to better understand some of the complex heritage issues facing local regional communities.

"A highlight of the visit will be the official handing over of the 130-year-old Abernethy Lathe, which was owned by the Heritage Council and has now been given to Eurobodalla Shire Council.

"The 10m long lathe, which turned the granite columns adorning some of Sydney's finest buildings and historic sites, has moved from a theme park in Forbes to Moruya.

"The lathe, the only item of its type known to have survived in Australia, will be an important addition to the heritage of Moruya – known for its important role supplying granite for the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

"It was bought by the Heritage Council in the 1980s amid fears that the lathe would be scrapped. We are happy to see it now have a permanent secure home."

Mrs Kibble said the tour provides a great opportunity for the local council and the community to showcase the fine work they have achieved in the conservation of heritage in their area.

"Eurobodalla is rich in heritage, with the Bodalla area in particular known for its association with the leading colonial businessman Thomas Mort and its historic dairies," she said.

"During the tour, the Heritage Council members will also learn about the area's indigenous history, including the importance of 'Barangooba' – also known as Montague Island – to the local Aboriginal community."

At this year's visit to the Eurobodalla Shire Council, they will be visiting the townships of Moruya, Narooma, Bodalla, and Central Tilba. A formal Heritage Council meeting will be also held at Moruya on Friday morning.

Media are invited to the following events:

Thursday 2 September:

10.30am – visit to All Saints Anglican Church, Bodalla (1880 church also associated with Thomas Mort, with a pipe organ which is still operational) – 48 Princes Highway, Bodalla

Friday 3 September:

12 noon – Formal handover of the State heritage-listed Abernethy Lathe from the Heritage Council to Moruya. Handover to take place at the Moruya District Historical Society, 85 Campbell Street, Moruya

Media unit contact: Mark Skelsey 02 9228 6275 or 0439 931 098