

Attachment C

Scope of Works: Stained Glass

Attachment C - Scope of Works: Stained Glass

General Scope

The recommendations in the report "Conservation of Stained Glass Windows in Sydney Town Hall" (G Wallace 2013) are being adopted in full.

Background

The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) of the Sydney Town Hall ranks the stained glass windows as being of 'Exceptional Heritage Significance'. The windows contain early use of Australian motifs and allegorical scenes.

Following a number of stained glass window repairs undertaken in 1996, the 2002 edition of the CMP recommended the investigation of all the stained glass windows and further remedial repairs be undertaken as a matter of urgency. The City commissioned Tanner and Associates (Heritage Architects) to prepare a conditions report to ascertain the extent of deterioration and repairs potentially required.

The City then engaged a stained glass specialist (Geoffrey Wallace) to prepare a report on the conservation recommendations of the stained glass windows in Sydney Town Hall. This report noted that most of the Centennial Hall windows have been reconstructed in five interventions since sustaining extensive damage after a major storm in 1947. The interventions were generally of a poor standard with many mistakes in colour and pattern being made. Double glazing for acoustic reasons was introduced in the 1970's which is believed to have contributed to the slumping of the lead comes in the stained glass windows.

A stained glass windows workshop was conducted in January 2018 with industry experts and City staff. It was agreed unanimously that the conservation work recommended in the report "Conservation of Stained Glass Windows in Sydney Town Hall" by G Wallace, March 2013, should be adopted.

It is highly likely that the stained glass conservation work will proceed over an extended four to five year period with a couple of specialists working on one window at a time.

The estimates for the stained glass conservation include a sum for the engagement of an apprentice for three to four years in support of this important and diminishing heritage trade in Australia. There appears to be no formal training in NSW in the trade of Stained Glass.

Detailed Scope

1. Centennial Hall

There are 21 large stained glass clerestory windows in Centennial Hall designed by the French artist Lucien Henry and manufactured and installed by Goodlet and Smith between 1886 and 1889. Henry is renowned as the populariser of an Australian style of decorative arts.

Each window comprises five separate stained glass panels, three fixed and two openable iron framed sashes, in timber framing.

The Condition Report by Tanner + Associates in January 1999 stated, 14 years ago, that the windows are in 'generally stable condition' and in the 'long term' will require re-leading.

As Part of the Stage 2 Conservation Works project, detailed inspections by Stained Glass specialist consultant Geoffrey Wallace reconfirmed the Tanner diagnosis and in addition determined that all windows have been subjected to considerable alteration, including poorly executed repairs, the effect of which has significantly diminish the aesthetic qualities and visual impact of the windows.

Principal major changes are:

1940's: Installation of an external layer of clear textured glass against the stained glass panels with the aim of providing support to slumping, bulging panels. This layer is ineffective and is the cause of some of the deterioration of the stained glass panels and will accordingly be removed.

1970's: Installation of another external layer of clear glass as an acoustic barrier, separated from the stained glass panels by an unvented void. This layer is effective and is not causing stained glass problems, therefore it will be retained and modified. However the void will need to be vented to prevent the slumping of lead comes.

Problems with the previous repairs include:

- colour mismatched replacement glass;
- methods of repair of cracked glass;
- mismatched painting technique/colour for replacement glass; and
- variable sizes of replacement lead comes.

Proposed conservation treatments are:

- removal of clear textured glass layer;
- removal of panels from framing for repairs in workshop;
- replacement of deteriorating and/or incorrectly sized lead come;
- removal of colour mismatched glass and replacement with new glass matching the original;
- repair or replacement of mismatched painted glass;
- reinstatement of repaired panels in framing;
- painting of framing;
- reconfiguration of outer glass acoustic layer to allow cleaning of interior surfaces of glass; and
- permanent venting of voids between outer glass acoustic layer and stained glass panel.

2. Stained Glass at the north, south and east stairs

As Part of the Stage 2 Conservation Works, detailed inspections by specialist stained glass consultant Geoffrey Wallace noted:

North and South Stairs

The 'Captain Cook' and 'Oceania' stained glass windows in the north and south stairs into Centennial Hall were designed by Lucien Henry and manufactured and installed by Goodlet and Smith between 1886 and 1889. The Conservation Management Plan ranks the windows as being of 'Exceptional Heritage Significance'.

Conservation works to the 'Captain Cook' window have occurred in the past 10 years and the window is in good condition although no work was done to alleviate the heat build up in the void between the north facing double glazing.

The 'Oceania' window is the only Goodlet and Smith window in the Town Hall still contained within its original lead matrix. It has had some minor in situ repairs in the past and is sitting straight in its frame. It is apparent that water has entered the space between the window and the protective glazing creating a corrosive environment that is causing water staining of the glass and corrosion of the lead comes. The leadlight cement that bonds and waterproofs the window has deteriorated and is no longer performing its function.

Grand Staircase

The windows in the Grand Staircase were designed and manufactured by Lyon and Cottier c1880s-90s. They have received conservation works in the past 10 years and are in good condition and no additional work is required as part of this project.

Council Chamber Gallery Staircase

This decorative window was manufactured and installed by Goodlet and Smith between 1886 and 1889 and is ranked as 'High Heritage Significance' in the CMP. The window is unstable and suffering from severe bulging and buckling that has caused the lower panel to sag in its sash, exposing daylight at the upper edges. The bulging has probably been exacerbated by heat build up in the void between the north facing double glazing.

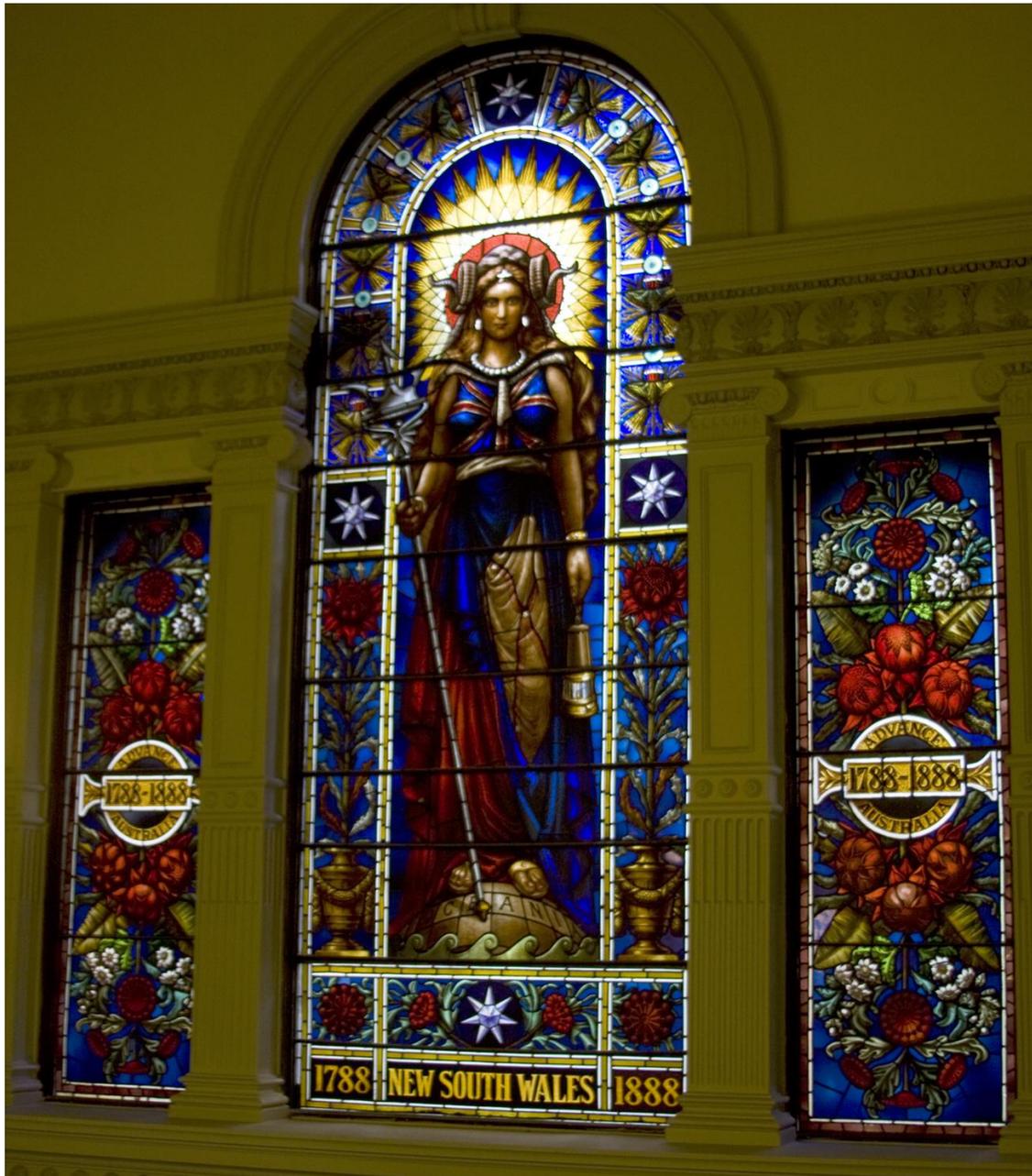
Proposed conservation treatments are:

- Removal of gallery and lower ground floor windows to the workshop for straightening, repairs and preventive conservation works.
- In situ preventive conservation works to the Oceania window.
- Reconfiguration of outer glass protective layer to allow venting of interstitial space on Oceania, Captain Cook and gallery windows.
- Preventive conservation works include cleaning of interior and exterior surfaces, repair of broken glass, repair of cracked solder joints, re-cementing of lead/ glass structure, replacement of broken or stressed wire ties to saddle bars, rust treatment and painting of saddle bars.

Surveys

Detailed surveys recently completed are:

"Conservation of Stained Glass Windows in Sydney Town Hall (G Wallace 2013)
"Condition Report on STH Stained Glass Windows" – (Tanner and Associates 2009)



“Oceania” at the south stair of the Centennial Hall.