

Donovan News

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... keeping in touch with clients and other friends ...

Unity in Diversity

Donovan & Associates has long believed that companies and organisations with a significant history should be proud to draw peoples' attention to this. After all, any business that has existed for many years in the face of economic and industry changes has learned strategies to survive and thrive, and is undoubtedly successful at satisfying clients' wishes. D&A believes it is such a business as it approaches its 20th anniversary on 16 December 2000.

D&A began on the strength of a grant from the Northern Territory government to compile a history of the Territory from 1911 to 1978 to complement an earlier work by Peter Donovan.

Since 1980 D&A has broadened its scope considerably. The bulk of the firm's early work was associated with historic preservation in which it was a pioneer in providing professional history expertise in a field long dominated by architects. It continues to undertake heritage projects, but a large proportion of work is currently undertaken in the broader field of history, particularly with commissioned histories. This work has been diverse, but much of it has been associated with the growth and development of companies and other organisations, including government agencies. We appear to have developed a particular affinity for organisations involved in various branches of engineering.

D&A has also diversified its skill base. Twenty years ago the electric typewriter was our key piece of equipment and we were able to do little more than prepare manuscripts for publishers. Since then we have had several generations of computers which have enabled us to grow with computer technology and the Internet and, with associated skills, we are now able to take projects through to publication, if this is the wish of the client.

Yet for all the diversity we have remained focused on our core strengths and our crusade to promote the utility of history as a means of understanding the past and thereby enabling people to make better decisions concerning the future.

OH - WE CAN WRITE
YOUR HISTORY - WE
CAN PUBLISH IT FOR
YOU - AND WE CAN
EVEN EXPLAIN TO
YOU WHY HAVING
A HISTORY IS SUCH
A GREAT THING..



D&A's Scope of Work

Donovan & Associates has been successful over 20 years because of the diversity of the work it has undertaken and the professional manner in which it operates. It continues to be very busy and to broaden its experience thereby.

Work on the history of the De La Salle Brothers in Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand is virtually complete.

The history of Tip Top Bakeries continues, with visits soon to be made to bakeries in rural New South Wales, Brisbane and Perth.

Peter Donovan continues to tutor in two courses in history at the Adelaide Institute of TAFE. Both courses are conducted by correspondence. The Local History course has been offered for several years. The course in 'Writing History for Publication' forms part of the Advanced Diploma of Arts (Professional Writing).

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Our work for the planning study associated with the 'Parklands 21' project, which seeks to establish a ring of open space around metropolitan Adelaide, involved us identifying places included in the State Heritage Register that are found in the various reserves and parks to be incorporated in 'Parklands 21'. This work was included in the final report submitted to Planning SA in September.

New work since the previous *News* sees our return to the Department of Defence site at Salisbury. The consolidation of the Defence Science and Technology Organisation has rendered land there surplus to requirements. **Donovan & Associates** has been retained to provide a heritage assessment of the areas marked for disposal.

Donovan & Associates has been engaged by Hassell Pty Ltd to provide heritage advice in association with the development of the Maslin Quarry Management Plan.

We have also recommenced work on the history of the O'Neil family that for several generations has been engaged in quarrying and associated industries.

Please note: Following successive acquisitions of our original Internet server, **Donovan & Associates'** e-mail address is now:

p_donovan@optusnet.com.au

Defence Heritage

Donovan & Associates was delighted recently to be recalled to undertake work on the site of the wartime explosives factory at Salisbury in South Australia. The firm has had an association with the site since 1987 when its history of A.W. Baulderstone was published.

The site first attracted our attention when we learned that one of Bert Baulderstone's earliest construction jobs was involved in the building of the factory in 1941-42. At that time the South Australian government commandeered all bricks produced in Adelaide and the only building work available was at Salisbury. The construction of the factory represented South Australia's greatest construction work to that time. It involved the building of 1595 buildings linked by 41 miles of road, 34 miles of gritless cleanways, 27 miles of stormwater drains and 13 miles of water mains. Once completed it had a major influence on the social history of Adelaide, with the virtual conscription of thousands of women to work in the factory. The factory became the southern base for the Long Range Weapons Project that commenced after the war and which involved Woomera as the main test site. Since that time the Salisbury complex has been the centre for Australian defence research and development, most recently as part of the Defence Science and Technology Organisation.

We learned more about the site in 1991 when we undertook a heritage survey of the City of Salisbury and had occasion to enter the site to record the Sturton Church. We recommended that the site was sufficiently significant to be considered for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate. We returned in 1994 when we were asked to assess the heritage significance of the Laboratories Area, and later to record individual buildings there that were to be demolished as part of the redevelopment of the area.

The continued rationalisation of the site since that time has released areas for sale. **Donovan & Associates** has once again been called upon, this time to assess the impact of the proposed development on the heritage of the site—since included on the Interim List of the Register of the National Estate—and to make recommendations designed to minimise the adverse impact on its heritage significance.



Supporting the Olympic and the Paralympic Games

Donovan & Associates cannot claim to be an official sponsor of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games, but it has been a major supporter, nevertheless. Peter Donovan officiated as a Chief Judge of the long and triple jumps at the Olympic Games and as a Jumps and Throws Referee at the Paralympic Games. June Donovan officiated as both a Jumps Judge and a Callroom Judge at the Paralympic Games. Appointments to these positions followed years of preparation and attendance at major competitions in various parts of Australia, and for which there was minimal financial assistance.

The investment proved worthwhile, however, and the experiences unforgettable, with the opportunity to experience the events in a manner given to very few. Peter Donovan was in charge of the Men's Triple Jump final—won by world record holder, Jonathon Edwards—on the night when Cathy Freeman won gold in the Women's 400 m and Tatiana Grigorieva won silver in the Women's Pole Vault. He was involved in the Men's Long Jump when Jai Taurima won silver after breaking the Australian record on two occasions and being beaten by the final jump of the current world champion. Both nights were memorable.

However, there were other highlights such as the opportunity to experience with long jumper Peter Burge and triple jumper Andrew Murphy the frustration of being unable to reproduce their best on the occasion they had anticipated so long. Then there was the opportunity to renew acquaintances of sorts with Tereza Marinova of Bulgaria, the winner of the Women's Triple Jump, who had won the event at the World Junior Championships in Sydney four years earlier, when Peter Donovan had been the Board Judge. Marion Jones proved to be a very gracious champion, even though unable to win gold in the Women's Long Jump.

The Olympic Games were memorable for the excitement that they generated. The Paralympic Games, however, were more enjoyable from an official's point of view because of the chance to live in the Village with the athletes and to be within walking distance of Stadium Australia. The Paralympic Games were probably more challenging than the Olympics, too, because of



Top: Peter Donovan caught on the big screen while conducting the Men's Triple Jump Qualifying event.

Centre: Peter Donovan (centre) conducting the Men's Triple Jump Qualifying event.

Bottom: Peter Donovan at the Long Jump site between competition sessions.

The Games (continued)

WE'RE TAKING A BREAK
FROM WRITING HISTORY
TO BEING A PART OF
MAKING IT.



the need to accommodate the athletes. Attendance at other games for the disabled had prepared us for the need to tie down wheelchair athletes' throwing chairs. However, we had had no experience in insisting on quietness within a stadium to permit totally blind long and triple jumpers to hear their guides calling to give them the direction in which to run and jump.

We heard our national anthem played in Stadium Australia on two occasions only during the Olympic Games—for Cathy Freeman and Louise Sauvage. It was thus a particular treat to be on the field of play and to hear many thousands sing the national anthem, as happened on numerous occasions during the Paralympic Games.



June Donovan with another official in front of one of the officials' apartments in the Paralympic Village.

Copy editing of the *News* is by Bernard O'Neil
The cartoons are by Stephen Stanley.



DONOVAN & ASSOCIATES History & Historic Preservation Consultants

Donovan & Associates is a consulting firm which specialises in matters relating to aspects of historical research, writing and historic conservation. The firm undertakes a wide variety of tasks based upon these specialties. Major projects completed by the firm include large commissioned histories and heritage studies, recording of oral history and providing advice on records management.

Donovan & Associates was established in 1980 and has since undertaken work for clients throughout southeastern Australia on projects that have involved research and work in all parts of the country.

Donovan & Associates' services include:

- Corporate and institutional histories
- Regional and local histories
- Heritage surveys and assessments
- Land tenure research
- Oral history programs
- Advice on cultural tourism
- Advice on historical displays

PO Box 436, Blackwood, South Australia, 5051
Phone/Facsimile: (08) 8270 1770
e-mail: p_donovan@optusnet.com.au