

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

Management Philosophy

Donovan & Associates is constantly alert for new projects and opportunities. Recently, when responding to an expression of interest, the firm was asked to outline its management philosophy. We often take this for granted, so it was an interesting exercise to think about this again and to put it in writing. It is featured below:

The key business management philosophy of **Donovan & Associates** is to maximise the benefits deriving from its small size, specialist skills and niche position.

So the firm aims to be close to the client by having the managing partner closely involved in all projects. This means that **Donovan & Associates** is responsive to client needs and demands and strives to provide a personal service.

Our small size – with access to a broad range of professionals with complementary skills – also provides us with the flexibility to be able to respond rapidly to the wishes of clients and to provide the best expertise appropriate to any particular project.

Our small size also provides us with the incentive to ensure a successful outcome to any project. Our future depends on the success of each project.

The continuing membership of relevant professional organisations ensures that the principals remain conversant with current developments in their areas of expertise.

This philosophy has sustained D&A since 1980.

AN HISTORIAN
ASSUMING THE
NICHE POSITION..



D&A's Scope of Work

Several projects have kept **Donovan & Associates** busy during the past six months.

Additional research continued into aspects of the Edinburgh Defence Precinct's history in association with redevelopment work there.

June Donovan continued her work as the cultural heritage officer with the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) at Edinburgh.

Peter Donovan was awarded a grant from the Australian Army's History Unit to research and write about the Australian field bakeries during World War I. So far, research has been undertaken in Canberra and Sydney.

D&A began work for Snowy Hydro Ltd to assist with the preparation of a Management Plan for company's assets within the Kosciuszko National Park. A report appears on page 3.

Peter Donovan spoke at a seminar on stained glass conservation in April. June Donovan presented a paper on what historians expect from archives at a seminar on archives in July.

Baker Companies

Australian Field Bakeries in World War I

Food supplies to sustain troops are as essential as ordnance when waging a war, particularly when the conflict extends over a lengthy period. So it was that Australia's field bakeries played an important role in World War I.

Five field bakeries were raised during the war. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd were raised in Australia; the 4th and 5th were formed in Egypt in 1916.

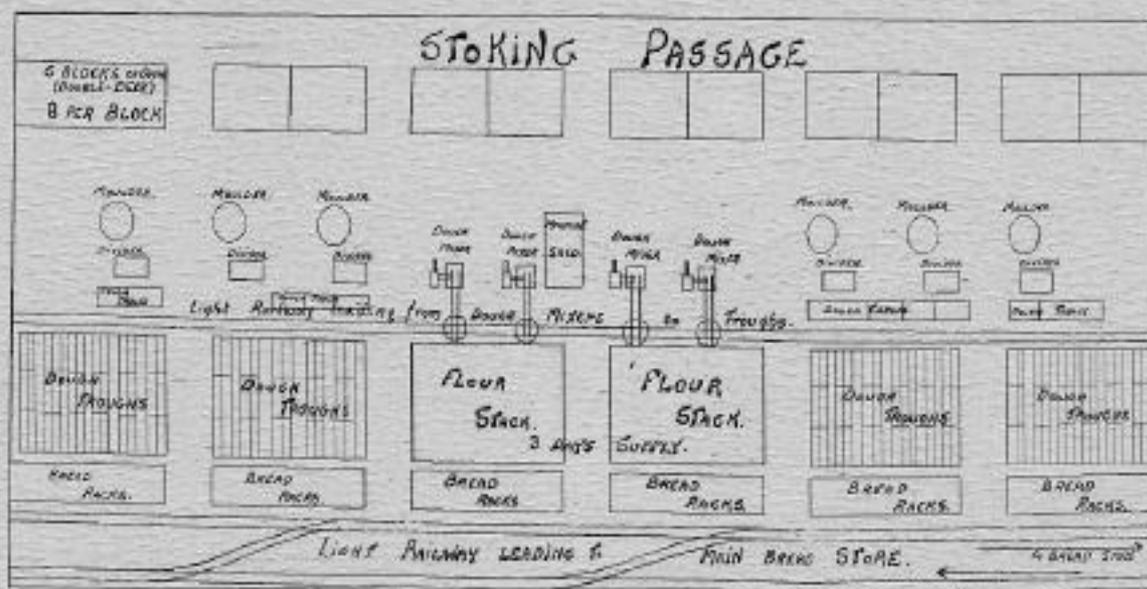
The 1st Australian Field Bakery was formed in December 1914 and embarked with the second contingent of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). The unit reflected the composition of the AIF at that time with bakers drawn from most states of Australia. During the Gallipoli campaign, the unit was stationed on the island of Imbros, which was about 17 km from Anzac Cove. Here bread was baked in outdoor Aldershot ovens and taken daily to the troops at Anzac Cove – weather permitting. The daily bake was in the order of 10,000 two-pound loaves.

The unit followed the evacuating troops to Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, where it was joined by the 2nd Field Bakery. Here, in early 1916, these two bakeries were split, to form the nucleus of the 4th and 5th Field Bakeries. Each was brought up to strength with recruits from Australia and bakers who transferred from other units in Egypt.

Soon after the additional units were formed, all were sent to France, where they were later joined by the 3rd Field Bakery. The 1st, 4th and 5th Field Bakeries were sent to Rouen; the 2nd and 3rd Field Bakeries were sent to Calais. The British Army had established bakeries in both of these cities – and others besides – and all flour and yeast was supplied by the British. Similarly, the bread was transported to forward supply depots by the British Army Service Corps.

The Australian bakers earned an enviable reputation for competence that reflected that of their fighting colleagues. Following a re-organisation in August 1918 each of the units was based in Rouen with Australian Major John Prior in charge of the two bakeries there. From time to time, Prior was asked to report on locations for other bakeries and to supervise their establishment. On one occasions a British unit was sent to one of the Rouen bakeries to learn from the Australians how to operate the Aldershot ovens before establishing a new bakery.

The arrangement set in place in August 1918 continued until the end of the war. Demand declined as troops were repatriated, along with the strength of the various units as the longest serving men returned to Australia. The Rouen bakery ceased operations on 26 May 1919 when the last of the Australian bakers marched out.



A plan of the North Bakery at Rouen, France, in which Australian bakers worked.

The Man to Snowy River

Work has taken Donovan & Associates from one iconic Australian landscape to another in the space of six months, from the region of the 'parched Paroo' to the Australian high country that includes the source of the Snowy River. In both instances, however, the work has involved national parks.

The Snowy project is concerned with assisting officers of Snowy Hydro Ltd to prepare a management plan for assets within the Kosciuszko National Park. The challenge is to provide a conservation management plan for major engineering works that will continue to have an economic and commercial viability into the foreseeable future.

The Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme, as a whole, is entered in the Register of the National Estate and has been recognised internationally as one of the seven engineering wonders of the modern world. It comprises 16 large dams, seven power stations – two of them deep underground – 12 major tunnels extending more than 140 km in total, 80 km of aqueduct pipelines and a host of other features,

including substations and switching yards, many kilometres of power lines and roads, along with other ancillary features.

The Scheme's inclusion in the Register of the National Estate recognises its immense social heritage value. The Scheme stands as a monument to a virtual United Nations of refugees and migrants to Australia after World War II who worked in extremely harsh conditions to provide a major national asset.

The need for the heritage management plan arises from the location of many Snowy Hydro assets, including dams and power stations, within the Kosciuszko National Park. While commercial operations must continue, with the need to maintain and upgrade assets regularly, the state government insists on the need to maintain the heritage value of these assets and also safeguard other cultural and environmental values of the national park.

The fieldwork has involved visits to all major assets. It has meant a return to the Snowy Scheme which Peter Donovan visited as a young lad with a school party in 1961, when it was still a work in progress.



Above: Staff checking the instrumentation in the gallery of Tantangara Dam.

Top left: Guhega Dam on the Snowy River.

Bottom left: The interior of the underground Tumut 2 Power Station.

Stanley's View

Stephen Stanley, in his inimitable way, has provided cartoon comments on most of D&A's projects over the years. Here are his latest observations.

YES-I'M AN EXPERT ON SUCH THINGS.. THIS IS A WORLD WAR I WHOLEMEAL TWO POUNDER WITH A TOUCH OF RYE..



Baker Companies

'T WAS THE HISTORIAN FROM SNOWY RIVER..



Snowy Hydro Ltd

Copy editing of *Donovan 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

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