

EXPLORE

The Charles Sturt Memorial Museum Trust Inc.

CHARLES STURT MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

ISSUE NO. 34

A lot has changed in the world since January 2020. We welcomed you to the new year of 2020 full of hope and anticipation for the coming year. Yet by mid February we soon became aware of the spread of COVID-19 across the world. Initially we considered our personal protection during overseas holidays, a week later plans were being cancelled. In Australia, we hoped as an island, there would be some protection for our population. We halted most flights into Australia, set up quarantine hotels, urged the community to self isolate if symptomatic, get tested, hand wash, use hand sanitizers, keep your distance and wear a mask. Still COVID infiltrated our community from overseas. State border closures were implemented, restrictions placed on entry, 14 day quarantine applied to new arrivals, and lockdowns of towns and cities enforced. We had to learn to adjust to the 'new normal'. Australia was successful in comparison to many other countries in containing and tracking the disease, we weren't afraid to close the economy down in favour of public health.

For the museum, we essentially were closed for four months and our State Government authorised COVID plan meant we had to limit visitor numbers once re-opened. All group tours were cancelled and seniors are still unwilling to venture out for group activities. While our operations were scaled back, the Board of Trustees continued to plan for the future.

NEW VISITOR CENTRE

In April 2015 Life Member and former Trust Chairperson, the late John Howland, offered the Trust \$200,000 as a bequest, for the purposes of constructing a Visitor Centre. Concept plans were drawn up in 2016 with an estimated cost of \$690,000. Unfortunately we were unable to secure additional funding for a stand alone building.

In 2020 the Board reviewed the concept plans especially in terms of our operations, that a stand alone centre some distance from Sturt's home and the exhibition gallery were not conducive to efficient and effective service to visitors. A brief was provided to Khab Architects for new concept plan which would adapt our existing gallery wing to a Visitor Centre. John and Shirley Howland loved to visit museums whenever travelling and their desire was to establish a centre that would offer modern facilities, easy access, delicious foods and a creative and imaginative museum experience.

Khab have now developed new concept plans which will fulfil John's most earnest desires. The Plans have been submitted to Council for Planning Consent and Heritage SA have confirmed their support for the initial design. The Visitor Centre will increase our gallery space, provide a new modern kitchen, archive room and unisex toilet amenities. French doors will offer north and south exposures, enabling a flow of visitors from the Park to the Heritage Garden, increasing our ability to host more visitors. Moveable wall spaces will link the four galleries and create more flexible exhibition spaces. Denise Schumann & Associates, Heritage Consultants are working with the architects in order to develop the new Gallery layout. Schumann & Associates have been funded

by the History Trust of South Australia to develop a new exhibition plan for implementation at the completion of construction.

The Trust is seeking funds from government agencies and private benefactors to cover the additional cost of \$285,000 for construction with additional funds sought for the implementation of the exhibition plan. It is hoped that Members and Friends of the Trust will contribute to the Building Fund to support this initiative. The Trust is a Tax Deductible Charity.

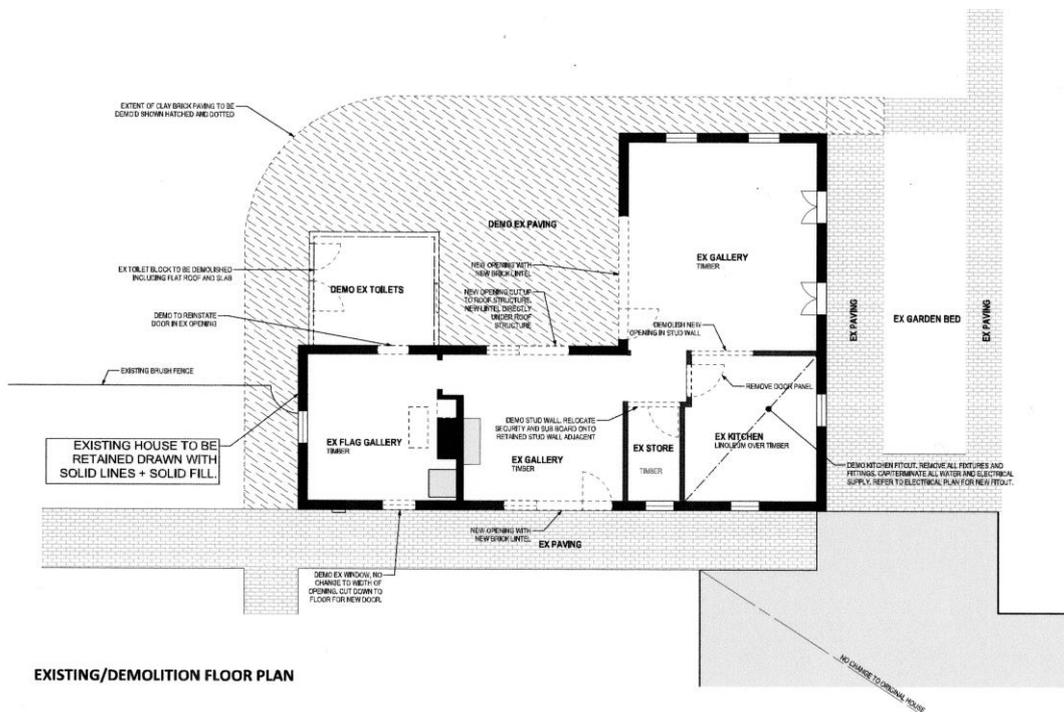
This is the most significant endeavour the Trust has undertaken since the Grange was restored in the 1960s. The Visitor Centre will make the museum a magnet for visitors to the western region, expand our community connections and delivery on strategic goals to conserve, manage and promote, with imagination, creativity and excellence, the life and times of one of Australia's greatest colonial explorers, Captain Charles Sturt.(1795-1869).

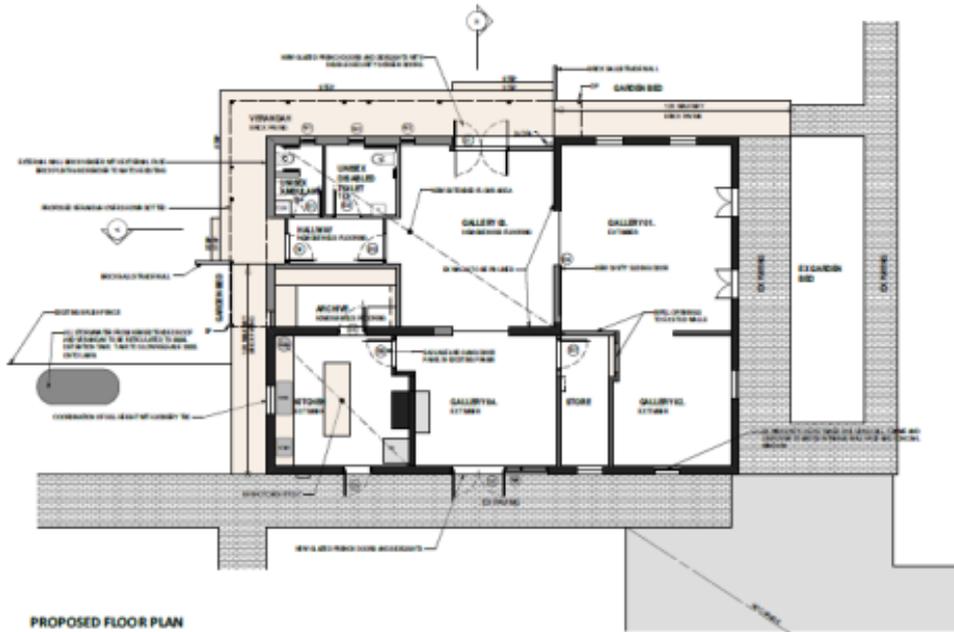
If you would like to make a donation please contact our Hon. Treasurer, Margaret Phillips on 0422 434 403, or post cheques to Charles Sturt Museum PO Box 132 Fulham Gardens SA 5024. Your contribution – large, smaller or even tiny - would be very welcome.

Alternatively an EFT to Bendigo Bank 633 000 Account 160636544 is possible. Please include your family name in the description and email the Hon. Treasurer on markethistory@bigpond.com to arrange a receipt. All donations greater than \$2.00 are tax deductible.



Current northern view of courtyard staff entrance to the museum gallery and toilets. Under the new concept plans, the old toilets will be demolished, a cement slab poured to construct the Visitor Centre, comprising of multi-purpose space, new toilets, new kitchen and archive room.





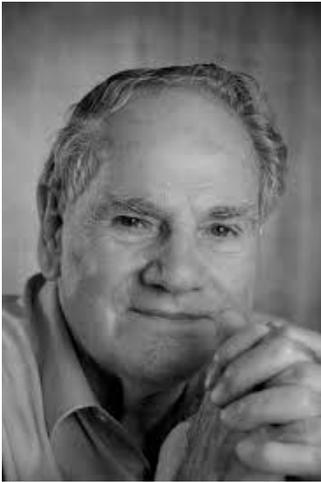
PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN

HOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

<p>DATE: 15/08/2024 DRAWN: [Name] CHECKED: [Name] APPROVED: [Name]</p>					Name: Charles Sturt Museum Water Centre No: Charles Sturt Museum Memorial Trust	Drawing: PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN Scale: 1:100 Date: Dec 2020	Page: 8/12 Ref: A02
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Two concepts have been developed for the northern elevation – with and without a verandah. This provided an option for Heritage SA to approve.





A Life Membership was awarded on 12 August 2020 to Dr Robert Edwards AO in recognition of his long service and support of the Charles Sturt Memorial Museum Trust. Dr Edwards was one of the early members of the Trust Board and served as Chairman in the 1970s.

“Edwards grew up in Adelaide, studied at Monash University and worked as an anthropologist in Arnhem Land during the 1950s and 1960s. From 1965 to 1973 he worked as a curator at the South Australian Museum; from 1973 to 1975 he was the deputy Principal of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies; for the next five years he was the Founding Director of the Aboriginal Arts Board of the Australia Council. His extensive experience with Indigenous Australians and his close associations with cultural institutions led to his becoming the Founding Director of Museum Victoria in 1984. As Chief Executive and Director of Art Exhibitions Australia Limited, he was responsible for coordinating the highly successful Entombed Warriors exhibition - one of the first in the world to build on a new relationship with the Chinese government - and many 'blockbuster' touring exhibitions during the 1980s and 1990s. As first Chair of the Board of the National Portrait Gallery from 1997 to 2000, Edwards was responsible for setting the direction of the Gallery, determining what, and for whom, it was for, and overseeing its Collection Development policy. Edwards has continued his cultural corporate involvement with terms on the Boards of the Ian Potter Museum, the South Australian Museum and the Stockman's Hall of Fame; he is an Honorary Fellow of both the National Museum of Australia and Museum Victoria”. www.portrait.gov.au

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Trust's Annual General Meeting was held on 28th November 2020. Rod Lang, as Returning Officer declared all positions vacant and validated the nominations for positions. There were no challengers for any positions, so he declared that the following members were elected to the Board for 2020-2022

Leila Merle Weston	President
Paul Hilbig	Vice President
Graham Pike	Vice President
Anthony Botten	Chair
Anne McCutcheon	Hon. Secretary
Margaret Phillips	Hon. Treasurer
Bill Parry	Trustee
Sally Pentland	Trustee
Scott Smith	Trustee
Trevor Moore	Trustee

Tony Botten thanked David Duffner for his years of service to the Board. Although retiring from the Board, he will still volunteer as a tour guide and continue to promote museum activities. Tony welcomed new board members Professor Scott Smith, a decedent of the Tumut (NSW) Sturts and Anne McCutcheon, local resident and garden volunteer who will assume the role of Hon. Secretary.



Merle Weston, thanked Richard Nolan for his leadership and dependability in leading the Heritage Garden Project. His achievements can be seen in our stunning garden. Craig Robertson should be recognised for his hard work in the garden, particularly the heavy lifting work, by assisting in the preparation and laying paths, moving bricks, spreading compost and cleaning the lichen from the slate roof tiles. Anne McCutcheon has been a fine contributor to the garden team, not only assisting in garden planting and maintenance but by adding a new dimension to our museum tours by giving garden tours. A barbecue lunch was held in the garden on completion of the meeting to celebrate our 2019/20 achievements.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

While researching the Provenance of the Sturt sword and sheath we have in our Collection, I came across an item of interest. In March 1860 four Wentworth citizens purchased two blocks of land at Wentworth for Charles Sturt as a tribute to the great man. The blocks are on Cadell Street on the north-west corner with Beverley Streets. Lands titles suggest the purchase of Allot 9 and 10 were purchased on 16th March for three pounds five shillings each by Messrs E.B. Scott, Fletcher, Parry and Crozier. Mr Scott sent a letter to Sturt dated 20 October 1860 advising him of the purchase and said he could collect the title deeds at the Lands Office in Sydney. In 1879 Sturt was still the registered owner and was indeed still owing rates on the properties but by 1880 he was recorded in the Government Gazette as having paid the outstanding fees. Presumably at the same time as Lady Sturt was resolving Sturt's affairs in South Australia through the sale of the Grange property. The two blocks still pay tribute to Captain Sturt as a lawn picnic area and children's playground known as the Charles Sturt Memorial Park.

SYDNEY HERALD 1831-1842 Thursday 14 December 1837 page 4

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION on Monday, the 18th instant

The Estates lately occupied by Captain Sturt, forming the north east slope of Mittagong Range. This Property is so well known that it is unnecessary to enter late detail; the present Proprietor, who has added thirteen hundred acres to it, has decided on selling it in detached Farms, to enable men of moderate means to establish themselves in a district the most favourable for agriculture within its distance from Sydney, and where experience has proved that the settler can do so well.

The Estate, which is divided by the Bong Bong Road, contains nineteen hundred and fifty acres, (1,950) more or less; twelve hundred and ninety lying to the right stretches to the Berrima new line of road, from which town it is distant eleven miles and six from the former. There is a good house upon it containing thirteen rooms, with kitchen, a detached house of fives rooms and a store, stables, out-offices, a well of the purest water, an excellent garden, and other conveniences; the soil is a rich and deep whinstone, and the finest timber for building is on the property – which, lying between the two roads and ready for immediate occupation, is in every way eligible for a Homestead as for a Farm.

The Property to the left of the road is composed of several distinct Farms.

No. 1, one of sixty acres, the greater part cleared, has an excellent four stone windmill in complete repair, for which the Proprietor was offered a rental of 70 pounds per annum, a hut, large barn, stockyards, milling sheds etc are likewise upon it, with a small hut promising paddock of wheat.

No. 2, one of three hundred acres, about forty-five of which are cleared and a considerable portion under cultivation; it has a neat six roomed verandah cottage, with an excellent garden, outhouses, and other conveniences for the residence of a small family, and is most delightfully situated.

No. 3 is a Farm of three hundred acres on the near summit of the Range, called the First Springs, which is most eligibly situated for any public purposes.

Offers will be received for the larger portion of the Property should any gentleman be desirous of securing a place of daily increasing value. It will otherwise be divided into five distinct Farms, with a right of road to each, and will be sold in separate divisions. A map of the property will be ready in a few days for inspection.

For further particulars apply to James Norton, Esq., Elizabeth Street or to the Proprietor at Varroville, near Liverpool.

