

Ms Natasha Exel, Committee Secretary  
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Friends of Frascati Community Garden thanks the Committee for the opportunity to make comment into the Inquiry into Built Heritage Assets in Tasmania.

Friends of Frascati Community Garden (FoFCG) is a special committee of the Derwent Valley Council made up of volunteers who regularly undertake works to preserve and maintain the gardens surrounding Frascati House in the Willow Court precinct at New Norfolk.

Frascati House, built by John Burnett in 1832, later became the home to the Medical Superintendents of Willow Court. Frascati House is now in a neglected state and requires works to stabilise and prevent further deterioration. There is huge potential for this house to be restored to its' former prestigious state. The gardens are home to a historic Hawthorn hedge, a grape vine which some experts have claimed to be the oldest grapevine in Australia and a historic Hornbeam tree.

Our comments are as follows:

*1. The current and future potential contribution that built heritage makes to tourism in Tasmania* – we believe that Tasmania's built heritage is unique and it will continue to draw tourists from interstate and overseas. Better preservation and management of our lesser known built heritage is needed. If this were to occur, more local involvement, pride and ownership would flow onto our regional communities. FoFCG suggest that more resources are required to promote and market our built heritage to both tourists and locals, particularly in regional communities.

*2. The role of Government* – Government has a role to set policies to protect our built heritage but there is a need to ensure that red tape is not too cumbersome and restrictive to works or investment. In our particular case, local government often does not have the expertise or resources to manage their built heritage assets adequately and State and Federal Governments need to play a greater role in assisting Local Government to achieve these aims. In our experience, government grants that are available for sites such as Frascati House are non-existent and we would encourage this Committee to highlight this as a significant impediment to the preservation of Tasmania's built heritage.

We wish to highlight the success of our local "Walking Through Time Project" a project funded from the Federal Government's "Our Community Heritage Program" in conjunction with the Derwent Valley Council. This successful project allows tourists to get a feel for some of our heritage (built and other) as they walk through our township, via storyboards and podcast. This model of Local Government and local volunteers working together with State or Federal Government funding is successful and should be expanded.

*3. The role of tourism organisations* – Tourism organisations need to be better briefed on Tasmania's built heritage so that they can better promote our diverse and rich built heritage. They need greater resources and training. There is a great opportunity to catalogue our unique and diverse lesser known built heritage and advertise it through

brochures, television and social media. Perhaps Heritage Tasmania has a role to play in this type of project as well as government and tourism organisations.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the management, preservation, tourist marketing and promotion of built heritage in Tasmania.

Friends of Frascati Community Garden