



# Italian link to building's facelift

**FACELIFT:** Australian Heritage Restorations project manager Christopher Bart outside the Centrelink building, which is undergoing restoration.

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A method used to restore Italy's Sistine Chapel, Leaning Tower of Pisa and St Peter's Basilica is being used to repair one of Maitland's most historic High Street buildings.

The city's 141-year-old Centrelink building - formerly

known as Cohen's Warehouse - is being coated in an Australian product to restore the facade's stonework to its former glory.

"We've started calling the building the wedding cake because of its white exterior

during the process but really everything is moving along nicely and we are right on schedule," Australian Heritage Restorations project manager Christopher Bart said.

The restoration process is expected to take 11 weeks with

workers now in the fourth week of operation. The product is applied twice to the building and on completion it will return to its original light grey colour.

The Hunter restoration business was called in to

restore the building after pieces of stone began falling from the Centrelink building.

"Basically the building had started to fall apart because of the drought, which was drawing moisture from the building but leaving the salt behind to

destroy the brick and stone work," Mr Bart said.

"Like most old buildings in Maitland this place had rising damp and as the moisture has evaporated over the years the building has suffered.

**continued page 2**