

**THE RESTORATION OF
ST THOMAS'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
WILLIAM STREET
PORT MACQUARIE
THE PROJECT TEAM**

**PREPARED BY KUHN MANAGEMENT PTY LTD
PROJECT MANAGERS FOR STAGE 1**

INTRODUCTION

Kuhn Management has had the pleasure of managing Stage 1 of the restoration of St. Thomas's Anglican Church Port Macquarie during the period of July 2003 to February 2004. During this time we arranged for specialised trades to carry out critical works required to maintain the structural integrity and aesthetics of a building' of which is 180yrs old. The expenditure on trades and consultants during this period was in the order of \$500,000.00 and such was an intense co-ordination and management process to achieve the results required by the consultants, authorities and the Church as owner of the property.

The trades employed for this work were mainly local contractors working under the direction of the consultants through Kuhn Management. These local contractors have shown an ability to grasp new concepts in materials and application, and transfer these concepts to the workface to achieve the desired finishes required by all concerned. Testament to this application are the reports and recommendations received from the consultants; in particular Ed Clode of Sutera Architects; and the client on their total satisfaction of the works as completed.

As there will be approximately a further \$800,000.00 to expend (when funds are made available) on St Thomas's to complete the full restoration of this magnificent building and that there are several other regional restoration projects on buildings similar in age and condition to St. Thomas's, we believe it necessary to put on record the full team of trades involved in the works.

Unfortunately Kuhn Management can no longer provide the support required to the restoration committee in assisting them to the final completion of the project but will act in an "Advisory" role as required and at no charge to the committee. We have researched the local area to assist in finding a replacement Project Manager suitable for this work and

our nominated “Project Team” will include the selected Manager, Mr. Chris Bart of Australian Heritage Restorations Pty Ltd.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

As previously mentioned, Kuhn Management is recommending to St. Thomas’s that they accept the services offered by Chris Bart of Australian Heritage Restorations Pty Ltd to carry out the management of the completion of St. Thomas’s and any other restoration work that may be required for similar projects within regional New South Wales. Chris will travel to remote locations to assess, advise and propose works on restoration projects.

Chris has extensive experience in the construction industry being the principal of a design and management Fit Out company in North Sydney for the period of 1994 to 2001, during that period Chris was the project manager for corporate firms such as Macquarie Bank, Shark Enterprises (Greg Norman) Yahoo, to name very few, at which time Chris decided to relocate his family to the Mid North Coast of New South Wales. Since relocating to the district Chris was employed by The Lahey Group (TLG) in Kempsey through which he was introduced to the restoration of the Church when TLG were contracted to remove and restore the cedar Wainscoting in the Church. At this time Chris showed a professional manner in both his site behaviour and his knowledge of the restoration industry.

During the past 18 months Chris was the senior estimator and at times project manager of Heritage projects in Sydney such as, Sydney Opera House Main Entrance Hall, Bond Building, Quadrant on Broadway, Customs House and Victoria Barracks in the consulting and project management of these projects. Chris would bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to any restoration project he was appointed to.

TRADES

Several trades were contracted during the first stage of St. Thomas’s with the Brickwork being the most prominent and labour intensive. Other critical trades were the installation and removal of moisture reducing “Cocoons”, chemical injected Damp Proof Courses, Root Barrier installations, Joinery works for the restoration of the cedar Wainscoting, electrical works, stormwater repairs and installations of sealed areas to assist in the moisture stabilization of the surrounds of the Church.

BRICKWORK, COCOONS AND DAMP PROOF

This trade was given the task to restore the “Bell Tower” and the “North Wall” of the Church using materials and methods that were sympathetic of the form of construction they were dealing with. This trade was ably assisted by several skilled labourers for the purpose of providing Workcover approved scaffold, removal of existing cement based external render, removal of existing weathered bricks and mortars, care and maintenance of heritage bricks sourced for the works, protection of existing heritage items within the Church, the installation of new mortar to the joints and the laying of the salvaged bricks to areas where damaged bricks were removed, all under the direction of the supervising Bricklayer, Stephen Kuwert.

During the works all of the team were introduced to the installation of Injected Damp Proof Coursing and Brickwork Cocoons and we have been advised that they will be approved for the distribution and installation of these products by the manufacturer, Westox Pty Ltd, whenever these products are next required in restoration works.

Stephen Kuwert commenced his brick and masons trade in 1981 and proceeded to full trade qualifications with 3 years of TAFE complimenting his on site experience. Stephen then proceeded to the status of one of the largest bricklaying firms in the Mid North Coast area employing up to 30 men at any one time. Due to personal problems, Stephen decided to downsize his team to sole trader status undertaking small works for private clients, which included some restoration works on residences in Port Macquarie. Stephen was offered the position of head bricklayer for the St. Thomas’s restoration, which he gladly accepted, as this type of work is the direction Stephen would like to continue his career. During the restoration works Stephen showed great skill in assisting the management team and consultants solving problems encountered in this difficult form of work. This assistance included preparing templates for “new” bricks to match old, detailing damaged corbel areas, resolving problems with the usage of several new products from Westox, mortaring to the joints and generally managing and programming 4-5 staff to the successful completion of the project.

Stephen has shown enormous pride and interest in this form of restoration both during and on completion of this work and would be an asset to any organisation requiring brick restoration works.

SCAFFOLDING AND GENERAL LABOUR

To assist Stephen we contracted several multi-skilled labourers to carry out the general labour duties on the site. These men were required to erect and dismantle scaffold, assist in the application of Cocoons, assist in the installation of the new Injected Damp Proof Course, removal of old renders, detailed demolition of existing brickwork trying to retain as much as possible of the existing building fabric, removal of existing mortar joints, mixing of specialised products from Westox and the application of new, mortar joints under the instruction of Stephen Kuwert.

We now list the preferred labour team and their qualifications.

Paul Forster

20 years as an experienced scaffolder that has included High Rise city works, major industrial sites and general installation and removal of scaffold. Paul has also had experience in labouring for bricklayers, concreters and landscaper contractors. He has tickets for Rigging, Scaffolding, and Confined Space work and has a Construction Industry Green Card.

Stephen Hodges

25 Years experience in the construction and mining industry mainly as a scaffolder who has also carried out high-rise and industrial scaffolding works. Stephen has obtained competency tickets in Rigging, Scaffolding, brickies labourer refractory, Rigger Trades Assistance to Boiler Makers, fork lift ticket, Occupational Health and Safety Ticket, Confined Space Ticket and traffic control. Stephen has also gained experience in concreting and general building works and is a competent assistant hand at most trades in the industry.

Terry Lakeman

Following completion of a Chefs trade Terry has since worked in the construction industry for the last 12 years as general labourer including concreting, landscaping, paving, brickies labourer, assisting in scaffold works and maintenance works. Terry assisted the restoration works by carrying out every aspect of the labour duties attributed to the project and is also a competent and hard working individual.

The above team of skilled labour would, under the supervision of Stephen Kuwert, handle all the wet trade work of a restoration project.

RENDER AND WHITE SET

This trade was probably the most important finishing trade within the interior of the church as it replaced previously applied “cement” render and white set with non cement lime based products as produced by Westox. We contracted Mark Debonis to carry out this work and with his small crew of 3 men completed this difficult work in a time frame that was critical to the completion of the project. Mark and his crew would often commence work at 6.00pm and complete his day at midnight or later. This was to assist us in the completion but also in the management of the interior usage of the church as it was still being used daily for funerals, services, tours and weddings. His workmanship was nothing short of outstanding which can be evidenced in the final report of Ed Clode of Suters. Mark and his crew worked in well with the general site staff and was a pleasure to deal with.

We would be more than happy to recommend Mark and his team to carry out similar works to any restoration project.

JOINERY

Tony Davis and Bruce Crawford have followed Chris Bart from Lahey Detailed Joinery, where they have worked for the past 30 years. Both have been used on heritage joinery projects throughout Australia, they are highly skilled and well respected in their field in all aspects of the older carpentry and joinery techniques used back over a hundred years ago. They have set up a basic joinery shop that is mobile to go from site to site.

TRAVELLING

It should be noted that discussions have been held with all the previously mentioned workers and all have stated both their availability and desire to travel to participate in similar projects as the restoration of St. Thomas’s Church. All the trades and labourers are genuinely excited at the prospect of forming a small, specialised group to carry out restoration works.

CONTACT POINTS

In the first instance we suggest that all contact with the trades is channelled through Chris Bart of Australian Heritage Restorations Pty Ltd at the following locations.

MOBILE: 0427 249 259

Fax: 02 – 49610087

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