



## NEWS FROM THE PORT OF ADELAIDE BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL TRUST DECEMBER QUARTER 2015

### **CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE:**

Karen James	Co-Chairperson
Pat Netschitowsky	Co-Chairperson/Treasurer
Fiona McConchie	Secretary/Fort Largs contact
Michael Weir	Principal Research Officer
Sandra Elms	Principal Designer
Sharon Holmes	Membership Liaison/Website development/Facebook Co-ordinator
Andrew Winkler	Friends of Torrens Island/Quarantine Station contact/Port Adelaide Wiki
Michelle Hogan	Port Adelaide Enfield Council contact

### **RESIGNATION:**

Ann Lavender                      Resigned December 2015

Committee meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month and Members are welcome to attend as Observers. Please contact Pat on 0402 008 589 if you would like to attend.

**PoANT is a busy Committee and if you have energy and interest in our Committee, please contact Pat for further information.**

**Thanks to Ann Lavender for her contribution to PoANT**

PoANT continues to be involved across a range of areas and issues which we usually talk about in this Newsletter. However, we have decided to dedicate this issue of the Missive to Robert Morris-Nunn who has so generously given of his time and expertise, both in 2014 to be the key-note speaker at the PoANT AGM and again in early October 2015 to speak to all manner of people connected to and concerned about the rich heritage of Port Adelaide. He came to talk about adaptive re-use projects in Tasmania, possible funding models and to reflect on his time in the Port.

**Robert is a visionary and looks and sees not only what is, but what could be.**



**Robert at Fort Largs. He and Fiona McConchie had an unplanned 'visit' to Fort Largs and Robert immediately saw the potential of this historic place. He immediately put pen to paper and came up with a rough plan which PoANT will use to influence decision makers.**

As well as motivating Port Adelaide residents about the potential for the Port's waterfront redevelopment Professor Morris-Nunn also stimulated Adelaide University Architecture students on a range of architectural topics that related to the work he has conducted in Hobart, Tasmania. Robert has met with local business and State and Local Government representatives and his **enthusiasm and optimism for the Port are an inspiration that for many highlighted and reinforced what can be achieved here in Port Adelaide.**

Professor Robert Morris-Nunn has practised as an Architect in Tasmania for over 25 years, taking a special interest in the social impact of architecture. His firm, Morris-Nunn Associates, has recently gained critical acclaim both here, in the US and Europe for the redevelopment of the IXL warehouses on Hobart's docks (2005), and the Forest ecoCentre in Scottsdale (2003).



Located on Hobart's waterfront, the Henry Jones site dates back to 1804 and was once the location of one of Australia's most successful companies—H. Jones and Co. Pty. Ltd. IXL. By the late 1990s, the property was abandoned and languishing in neglect, until award-winning architects Morris-Nunn & Associates won the right to revive the historic site. By 2004, this former jam factory had been transformed into a sensitively re-imagined, distinctive, five-star hotel.

Both designs used an ingenious encasing structure to direct air flows and moderate the thermal environment of their interiors. His firm's other works since then have effectively made use of such cutting-edge ecological features as key elements of their structures. Robert has won numerous State and several National architectural awards; his work has been illustrated in international publications such Architectural Review. He has been invited to lecture at many Australian and International Conferences about his work. In the IXL warehouses development, we see some of the breadth and range of Morris-Nunn's vision in the recycling of the historic architectural elements of Hobart's oldest waterfront warehouses with innovative contemporary design and creativity. The result is a new cultural precinct for Hobart.

'The basic ideas which underpinned our thinking throughout all aspects of the project', outlined Morris-Nunn, 'were always towards the retention of the unique quality of the warehouses with the most absolutely minimal alteration of their original historic character; the inclusion of the latest techniques in order to achieve long term sustainable environmental design solutions, and the collaboration of various arts groups, especially the Hobart Art School, as partners in enhancing the overall quality throughout the buildings'. Due to the use of the unique thermal properties of the old warehouses Morris-Nunn was able to create a toroidal shaped atrium roof that covered an open plaza at the rear of the old warehouses under which could be held a wide variety of arts related and corporate events. The design solution to hosting such events is a sustainable environmental design over the long term. 'The result is cutting edge

environmental design, and the integration of passively heated air, sophisticated air flow monitoring techniques and the innate thermal properties of the historic urban fabric, is truly unique’.

Robert has spoken at length of his Princes Wharf No. 1 shed which is part of the on-going development of the Hobart waterfront. The new space that was created allows for multi-purpose functionality where people can enjoy a variety of activities and events. The Master plan for the Salamanca Place links the revamped Princes Wharf No.1 shed with the other side of Salamanca Square using new pedestrian ramps and paths which align with existing lanes to integrate the whole area into a new pedestrian urban precinct. The 1938 Princes Wharf Shed, as the oldest of Hobart's waterfront storage sheds, has been largely retained as is, with improvements to accessibility, infrastructure, activation, flexibility and environmental management capabilities. The 'Shed' had been home to the Taste Festival over the Christmas and New Year period for 20 years, but for the remainder of the year was under-used and not easily accessible. The renewal of the site has focused on the support of a wide range of public uses and now it is capable of hosting small to large scale events from rock concerts to formal theatre and 1000 seat banquets.

Central to the adjacent Forecourt design is a new 28m by 28m formal square capable of use for a wide variety of events with banks of retractable seats being able to be placed to create an outdoor auditorium seating 700 with several different layouts. Overhead, a curved catenary structure comprising an interactive coloured LED light sculpture with fabric shade cloth sails provides a dramatic backdrop.

A wide variety of changing uses in the Forecourt complimenting the Shed has been designed to activate the space day and night. The work for this area was completed in 2011 and has won AIA awards Urban Design and a Public Architecture commendation.

**Follow the hyperlink below and you will see that the Princes Wharf No. 1 shed is very reminiscent of the Fisherman's Wharf Market near the Lighthouse in Port Adelaide**

<http://www.circamorrisnunn.com.au/princes-wharf-no1-shed/>

**Thanks to Karen James for making Robert's 2015 visit possible, to Renewal SA for financial support, to Port Adelaide Enfield Council for facilitating workshops and to Helen Macilwain and Michael Weir for generously hosting Robert.**

The PoANT Committee has had fabulous support from local businesses, (British Hotel, Port Dock Hotel, Argos Greek Restaurant, Semaphore RSL), by allowing us to meet in their premises without charge. Please support them with your patronage.

We were fortunate to have the use of the Maritime Union of Australia (Port Adelaide) building for meetings during 2015. We thank them for their support.



# MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA

## FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE:

Just a reminder to check out our Facebook page for updates.

<http://www.facebook.com/PortofAdelaideNationalTrust?fref=ts>

<http://portofadelaident.wix.com/portofadelaident>



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION PLEASE CONTACT ME:**  
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**PAT NETSCHITOWSKY  
CO-CHAIR/TREASURER**