



## Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of ICS' online newsletter.

We started life in the 1980s as a materials conservation company, and that service remains a core function of the business. Over the years we have responded to a range of conservation challenges, and as a result, our business has grown and diversified to provide services in architectural conservation, collection management, interpretation and exhibition management as well. In all these areas, we bring together a unique mix of experience and expertise in Australia.

So do please have a look at some of our current projects below, check out our updated web site at [www.icssydney.com](http://www.icssydney.com) and give us a call if we can help or advise on your conservation challenges.

## ANTARCTIC HERITAGE TRUST OF NEW ZEALAND – Disaster Plans for the historic huts

ICS has been working with the AHT for over ten years, with various members of staff undertaking conservation work at the historic huts of Scott and Shackleton in the Ross Sea Region. Most recently, Managing Director, Julian Bickersteth spent the summer of 2004 there, developing strategies for the conservation of the 15,000 surviving artefacts. Upon his return to Australia, ICS developed a collection management policy, and disaster preparedness plans, for the huts. The latter came immediately into use this season (summer 2005), when a melt water flood that had turned to ice was discovered in Scott's hut at Cape Evans. We are currently working on housekeeping manuals for each hut.

For further details contact [Julian Bickersteth](#)

## PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA – Outdoor artworks

ICS has won a second 3 year contract to conserve the outdoor artworks at Parliament House. This collection of over 40 artworks range from Chinese lanterns in the Prime Minister's courtyard and the bronze "Mingarri, the little Olgas" by Marea Gazzard, to the stainless steel coat of arms over the front entrance by Robin Blau and the granite mosaic on the forecourt designed by Michael Nelson Tjakamarra. The collection is cleaned twice a year, with more in depth conservation works happening as required. The recording of the works is now being undertaken on a conservation template, developed by ICS under a separate contract for Parliament House Art Services. This allows the various contract conservators who work on the art collection to be able to report in a consistent manner and in a form which can be directly uploaded into the art collection KE EMu database conservation module.

For further details contact [Julian Bickersteth](#)

## ST JOHNS COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY – Portrait of Archbishop Polding

The full length portrait of Archbishop Polding painted by Eugene Montagu Scott in 1866 dominates the dining hall at St Johns College. Archbishop Polding was the first Catholic bishop of Sydney, and the founder of the College. The painting is dirty and has various tears and deformations in it, and the frame has been over-painted with gold paint (ie bronze powder), which has tarnished. Supported by Cardinal George Pell's office, both painting and frame are to be conserved by ICS, including the regilding of the frame. Removal from the Hall proved to be a logistical exercise in itself, involving eight men and scaffolding to unhook the vast painting from the wall, removal of a doorway to get the painting out of the hall, and then slinging from a crane to lift it to the ground. The Daily Telegraph and ABC TV news managed to capture the prelate in mid air as he winged his way to a cleaner future.

For further details contact [Julian Bickersteth](#)

## HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST (NSW) – Textiles for the Caroline Simpson Library and Research Collection

The textile department has spent the last 12 months working closely with HHT staff, conserving textiles from the Caroline Simpson Library and Research Collection (formerly the Conservation

Resource Centre), in preparation for its relocation to the newly refurbished Mint building on Macquarie Street, Sydney. The new space has been specifically designed to allow greater access for staff and the public to view and research these exceptional examples of soft furnishings from heritage interiors of NSW buildings. Several hundred soft furnishing items have been cleaned and rehoused in storage systems that allow viewing without overhandling, ensuring the long term safety and preservation of the collection.

For further details contact [Fiona Tennant](#)

### 97 KING WILLIAM ST, ADELAIDE – Conservation of Façade Stonework

Conservation works to the limestone façade of the 10 storey Bank SA head office building at 97 King William Street in Adelaide are approaching completion. Works have included removal and reconstruction of parts of projecting limestone features necessitated by corrosion of steel fixing cramps. In addition, the limestone cladding has been cleaned and repointed. An historic quarry of the Waikerie limestone was reopened for this project. ICS provided specialist architectural conservation advice during preparation of contract documents and performance of the conservation works. This work was undertaken as a subconsultant to Hyder Consulting, the principal consultant and façade engineers for the project commissioned by St George Bank, owners of the building.

For further details contact [David West](#)

### OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA – Collection Management Policy

ICS was commissioned to assist with the preparation of a new Collection Management Policy for the heritage collections at Old Parliament House. This included the preparation of detailed policies for managing the collections, including acquisitions, documentation, access, research, storage and deaccessioning. A particular challenge was the question of how to preserve leather-bound heritage furniture in public areas (such as the House of Representatives Chamber). Workshop discussions concluded the best compromise was to use sacrificial colour-matched leather covers. These covers will significantly lengthen the life of the heritage leather beneath and enable the heritage item to continue to be used by the visiting public. The CMP document is now being actively used to manage the collections, and ICS is currently finalising detailed procedures and guidelines to accompany the policies.

For further details contact [Doug Rogan](#)

**STOP PRESS:** At the [Energy Australia National Trust Heritage Awards](#) in Sydney on 14 April 2005, ICS was awarded a Commendation in Category B2 Conservation of Built Heritage for its work in restoring the chancel of St Mark's Anglican Church, Darling Point.

internationalconservationservices

53 Victoria Avenue  
Chatswood NSW 2067

T: (02) 9417 3311  
F: (02) 9417 3102

conservation&managementofculturalmaterial

### Our Email Policy

International Conservation Services has sent you this online newsletter as your email address is recorded in our database. We only record your email address and contact details if you: are a client, consultant, subcontractor or supplier working with ICS; have sent us an email message; have requested information online; or have filled out a form on our web site (eg: subscribing to our Newsletter). If you have supplied your email address and contact details to us, we use it to send you the information you have requested and we may also contact you to update you on our services and provide you with other information we think you may be interested in. You can remove your email address from our online newsletter mailing list at any time by emailing [newsletter@icssydney.com](mailto:newsletter@icssydney.com) with the text "Unsubscribe" as the Subject heading. We will not use your email address or contact details for any purpose other than sending you information about International Conservation Services, and will not disclose this information to any other company or third party without your consent.

This email may contain links to other sites. ICS is not responsible for the privacy practices or the content of such web sites.