

Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office update

May 2017



Showcasing the architectural glory of the CME Office

The first stages of work to restore the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office on Wilson Street are nearing completion. Earlier this month two sections of scaffold were removed to reveal the beautifully restored facade. From Wilson Street it is now possible to glimpse the former splendour of the heritage listed building, which was erected in 1887. The building is a fine example of a late Victorian railway office. Its grandeur reflects the important role senior engineers, industrial designers and draftsmen had overseeing the railway system, which was integral to the growth and development across the state.

Latest news

Heritage specialists OCP Architects are working closely with Carfax Constructions to reinstate the building's colour scheme. Architects guide the restoration process by taking paint scrapes to identify the earlier paints and finishes, which are then colour-matched to enhance the historical significance and complement the original architectural and decorative features.

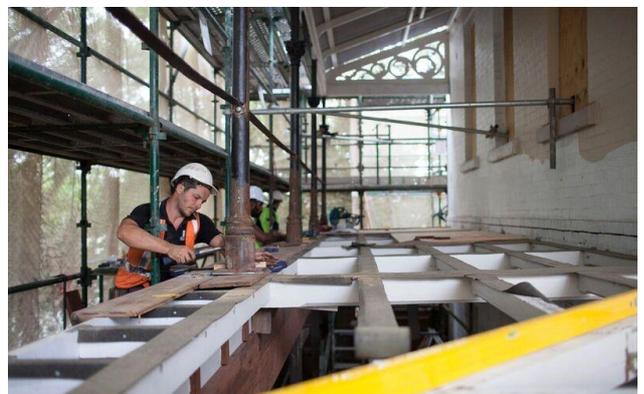
Wet weather has slowed the progress of painting, but over the next few weeks as more sections of scaffold are removed the meticulous painting detail will become evident.

The Office was once recognised for its attractive gardens with clipped shrubs, circular flower beds and manicured lawns. Upcoming landscaping works to recreate the garden are being considered by the City of Sydney and the Heritage Council. This will involve clearing some trees and dense vegetation around the building. The works will improve the visibility of the building and deter vandalism. Most of the trees to be removed are introduced, or exotic species and none are listed on the City of Sydney's Register of Significant Trees. New shrubs will be planted to help screen the railway lines behind the building until long term plans are identified in consultation with the community and other stakeholders.

Work in progress

In recent weeks the specialist construction team has restored six of the building's chimneys and completed the balcony truss - the timber framework and flooring supporting the main balcony. Downpipes have been installed and decorative timber mouldings have been fitted. Window repairs are underway and painting is continuing.

Specialist carpenter from Carfax fixing timber floor boards to the repaired verandah frame.





The Central to Eveleigh Urban Transformation Strategy will guide the transformation of government land along the rail corridor in the inner city over the next 30 years. New development will help to meet current and future needs for local residents and a growing global Sydney by providing new community facilities and open space, a mix of new housing and employment opportunities, and improved connections across the rail corridor.

Work coming up

Over coming weeks workers will repair and replace windows and chimneys and restore the front entry parapet, which is the detailed entry around the centre doorway. Repaired and re-cast wrought iron 'lacework' panels will be installed along the front balcony and painting will continue. We'll also start works on building services, including the upgrade of underground pipes and subfloor ventilation to protect the building from rising damp and termites.

Work continues between 7.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday, and 7.30am to 3.30pm on Saturdays.

Clothing Store opens as new community arts hub

Eight artists have set up workshops in the historic Clothing Store building in North Eveleigh to create a temporary arts and creative, community-focussed facility. The new cultural centre is being managed by Carriageworks which will run community arts and cultural programs and provide space in the Clothing Store to support established and emerging local artists.

Specialist roofer from Carfax installing lead flashing to waterproof the roof joints.



Celebration of heritage at Central to Eveleigh

The Central to Eveleigh Urban Transformation Strategy provides a framework to guide preparation of masterplans to redevelop 50ha of government land along the railway corridor.

The Strategy is a reference document for the district and local level planning and includes a direction to strengthen the area's arts, culture and heritage.

Downloaded the strategy: centraltoeveleigh.com.au

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