

# Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office update

November 2016



## What's happening at the CME?

Restoration of the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office exterior continues as the balcony, balcony roof, and iron latticework are removed in segments for restoration. Specialist workers are carefully removing paint, rotten wood, and corroded iron lattice.

Additional measures have been put in place to improve safety at the construction site outside the standard work hours of 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, and 7.30am to 3.30pm on Saturdays. Residents will notice additional security including motion activated lights and security staff.



Barry from Bespoke Carpentry chiseling salvaged timber

## Latest news

After careful consideration, a timber has been selected for the balcony restoration. Australian Blue Gum hardwood has been salvaged from a hotel in Taree, a workers club near Hexham, and the old Hornsby Hospital. This will be recycled in the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office. It is both sensitive to the building's heritage, and will help prolong the building's life.

Some of the tools and techniques used by Eveleigh Railway carpenters in 1887 will also be used by the team. Much of the timber salvaged across New South Wales will be chiseled by hand.

## Work in progress

Fretwork and tracery continue to be removed and tagged while each section is restored. The brick window lintels will be rectified and the remaining 5% of exterior paint in the section will be removed.

## Work coming up

The team is planning for the iron supports and lattice work from the balcony to be taken to a working foundry for restoration. A clear protective coating will also be tested for potential application to the exterior brick walls.



The Central to Eveleigh Urban Transformation and Transport Program aims to progressively transform government-owned land along the rail corridor in the inner city over the next 30 years. It 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.

### Central to Eveleigh program news

Local heritage supporters will be interested in the Australian Technology Park's draft report, *Interpretation Strategy for Australian Technology Park (ATP)*, published in September 2016.

The report identifies the opportunity to expand the existing heritage interpretation at ATP.

The draft report can be downloaded from [www.atp.com.au](http://www.atp.com.au)

### Eveleigh Stories

In more positive news for the Eveleigh rail yards community and local residents, the online interpretation platform, *Eveleigh Stories*, received national recognition by Interpretation Australia. The platform received the Best in Excellence Award in Canberra this month.

The website contains a collection of historic archive material and stories from people who worked at the Eveleigh Railway Workshops.

Take a self-guided historical tour on the mobile friendly website or contribute your story to [www.eveleighstories.com.au](http://www.eveleighstories.com.au)

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### About the CME Office

The Chief Mechanical Engineer (CME) of the New South Wales Government Railway was a very important position that was highly respected.

The CME managed the Mechanical Branch from the office on Wilson Street. The CME was responsible for the supply, rebuilding and maintenance of 1,000 steam locomotives, thousands of passenger carriages, and freight wagons throughout the NSW railway network.

Over 10,000 employees worked in the Mechanical Branch office on the hill overlooking the rail yards, known locally as "The Citadel".



Mr E.E. Lucy, Chief Mechanical Engineer (left) and Mr Forster, Senior Officer, travelling with the comfort of free standing wicker chairs, in October 1930  
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