

Newsletter

Australian and New Zealand Chapter of The Building Limes Forum

Comments and articles published in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the membership or the editor.

The Building Limes Forum is a 'community of lime enthusiasts and practitioners, most of whom are producers, suppliers, specifiers or users of lime' which exists to encourage expertise and understanding in the appropriate use of building limes and education in the standards of production, preparation, application and after-care. The Building Limes Forum hosts a page for the Australian and New Zealand Chapter on the website www.buildinglimesforum.org.uk which includes copies of this Newsletter and information about our events.

2018 Gathering and Conference in Canterbury - A report by Maurie Potzreba

This year's Gathering and Conference was held in Canterbury, England from 7-9 September on the theme of 'Early Cements and Pozzolans.' Janelle and I arrived in the UK a few days beforehand and we enjoyed the hospitality of Dr Lynch and his wife, Fiona, for a few days. They always make us very welcome and I went and looked at the rebuilding of a heritage listed stone wall that their son Liam was doing a great job on. We arrived in Canterbury on the Thursday afternoon to get our bearings for Friday and stayed at the Adobe hotel in the main street of the old town, which was in easy walking distance to the conference.



There was a dinner at the Dolphin for members on the Thursday night, but, we somehow ended up at the Parrot, which had a very good menu and some of the best food we've had for a while. We later made our way to the Dolphin to catch-up with members before heading back to our hotel.



Friday morning was registration and sign-up for the activities. Of course, you can't see it all. Janelle and I both booked in for the stone carving shop and drawing office and for the guided cathedral tour later that afternoon, but we had to split up for the scaffolding tours, with Janelle taking the interior scaffold in the nave and I choose the external. The 120 metres height helped Janelle make up her mind to take the interior.



Canterbury Cathedral Images Maurie Potzreba

After the welcome from James Simpson, John Stewart spoke on early pozzolana in England and Bill Revie also spoke on pozzolans and additives. Michael O'Reilly and Michael Wolf gave a very interesting talk, with supporting photos, on restoration and the conservation of a lime-haired ceiling that they had repaired.

After lunch, we went on our previously mentioned tours of the scaffolding and carving workshop. I certainly envy people in these countries, as in Norway last year, where they can actually get funding to undertake works, let alone to do it traditionally. We just don't see that here in Australia



The gentleman who spoke to us in the carving room had been there for about 23 years, lucky. After the tour of the cathedral, we had some refreshments in the garden followed by the Baker Memorial Lecture delivered by Chris Pennock, which was informative, amusing and memorable. I just wish I could retain all this information. This was followed by dinner in the Cathedral Lodge.



The Saturday morning consisted of talks covering natural cement in Europe, the use of fly-ash, early cements and identifying binders. In the afternoon, we collected our packed lunch and went on three different buses to various locations. The bus we picked took us to an early Norman church in Barfreston. It was only a small church, but with many features and interesting stone carvings. From here we went on to Maison Dieu, which is the oldest public building, dating from 1235. It is located in the town centre at Dover where we were given a tour by guides from the town council.

Dinner in the evening was of a high standard, but the best was the auction to raise money for the Bursary, with Cliff Blundell acting as auctioneer. It was a lot of fun with some very spirited bidding and eventually raised £2,100. Well done to all involved.

Sunday saw some sore heads and short presentations from members about works they were undertaking. After lunch, we went on a walking tour of Canterbury for a few hours, which I must say was great. The next morning we headed back to the Lynch's to catch up before we went on our travels in mainland Europe.



2019 Earth Building Association of New Zealand Conference

The 2019 EBANZ Conference will be held over the weekend 1st and 2nd November in Cromwell, Central Otago

The organising team is currently putting the conference together and calls for expressions of interest from anyone who would like to present or demonstrate.

Contact Pat Mawson – pat@earthbuilding.co.nz

The conference will be making the most of the wealth of historic and new natural buildings in the area.

2019 Gathering - Stirling, Scotland - lime finishes and lime in extreme climates

The 2019 Gathering and Conference will be held from 20-22 September 2019 in the Historic Environment Scotland Conservation Centre at the Engine Shed, Stirling.

The themes will be Lime Finishes and Lime in Extreme Climates with papers on these topics interspersed with contributions from members. Lime in extreme climates is a great topic for Australian and New Zealand delegates so if you would like to give a paper please contact the Building Limes Forum Administrator at admin@buildinglimesforum.org.uk

There is an informal pre-conference visit to Duart Castle on Mull - if you are interested contact the BLF administrator - admin@buildinglimesforum.org.uk

Members' contributions will be given throughout the conference - a great opportunity to how people what you are up to.



There will be hands-on activities at nearby Doune Castle, (where Game of Thrones, Monty Python and the Holy Grail and Outlander were filmed) where it is proposed to build and fire two small-scale limekilns.

A highlight will be a dinner in the Great Hall of Stirling Castle. The Great Hall was built for James IV and completed in 1503. The Hall was converted into barracks in the eighteenth century and housed soldiers until the late twentieth century. The Great Hall has been recreated in a meticulous restoration involving much research, investigation of surviving original features, and testing of traditional methods, including re-liming. The Great Hall now shines in its yellow cost, a colour known as 'King's Gold'. The Baker Memorial Lecture will be presented by Tim Meek who worked on the project to restore the Great Hall of Stirling Castle.

There will also be visits to see the stunning interiors of Kinneil House (wall- and ceiling-paintings of the 16th and 17th centuries), Bannockburn House (a 17th century mansion house with sumptuous plaster ceilings), and Charlestown, the largest lime burning complex of historic lime kilns in the whole of the UK, recently consolidated by HES and made more accessible for visitors.

Booking will open soon. See <https://www.buildinglimesforum.org.uk/events/2019-conference/> for details.



Practical Building Conservation Courses at Longford Academy, Tasmania

This year the Longford Academy will celebrate its tenth year of running hands-on building conservation courses at the World Heritage Sites of Woolmers and Brickendon Estates in Longford, Tasmania. Moreover, the Academy, supported by APT Australasia, is planning for an exciting future.

Donald Ellsmore has been the driving force in initiating and coordinating the Academy for a decade, but now wants to focus on other passions in his life and gently lessen his commitments to LA. So others, equally passionate about what can be achieved in the field, met before last August's Master Classes for a 2 day planning exercise to review the past and plan for the future. The outcome is the formation of the Longford Academy Board with Greg Owen as Chair and Coordinator of the 2019 courses, with Donald Ellsmore, David Young, Elisha Long, Brian Maxwell, Anthony Mitchell, Marty Passingham, Gary Waller and Ray Wiltshire working together as a Board.

David Young is proposing to begin a Summer School in Building Conservation from 9-15 February 2020 similar to those he formerly ran at the University of Canberra.

If you have any questions in the meantime contact Greg Owen on +61 3 5728 6694 or grego@pbcau.com.

The Longford Academy now offers three separate week-long courses each year:

Summer: Summer School in Building Conservation — theory, site visits;

Autumn: Practical Building Conservation — practical sessions plus theory, discussions;

Spring: Specialist Masterclasses — practical work on individual topics, discussions.

All courses are based at the World Heritage inscribed Brickendon and Woolmers Estates at Longford, Tasmania, twenty minutes from Launceston airport.

Course Outlines

Summer: Summer School in Building Conservation

This seven-day course focuses on traditional building materials including stone, brick, mortar, plaster, wood, metals and finishes. It covers their properties, how they weather and decay, and how they are best conserved. Topics include salt attack and rising damp, repointing of mortar joints, timber decay and termites, and galvanic corrosion of metals. Theory sessions are supported by inspections on the Brickendon and Woolmers Estates.

Autumn: Practical Building Conservation

This six-day course introduces participants to the practical aspects of building conservation. Topics covered include documentation of works, dealing with damp and extracting salts, lime-based materials, diagnosing timber decay and repair needs, roofing and metals. Practical activities are reinforced by theory sessions and discussions.

Spring: Specialist Masterclasses

A number of masterclasses are run concurrently, focusing on particular aspects of conservation practice. In recent years these have included:

- lime mortars and plasters in conservation practice
- carpentry and joinery conservation techniques
- roofing and roof plumbing repair & reproduction methods
- traditional and decorative finishing techniques.

Participants choose one masterclass stream, but are able to 'cross' streams for certain sessions to view other class activities.

The 2019 Practical Building Conservation has now been released and is open for registrations. Once the course is full it's full.

Practical Building Conservation is a 1, 2, 6 or 9 day program in the conservation of traditional buildings, structures & fabric, held at the World Heritage inscribed Woolmers & Brickendon Estates in Longford, Tasmania. It offers a unique mix of theory, demonstrations & involvement in practical conservation works, benefiting both the participants & the sites.

Participants can attend the 6 day program, which includes structured face-to-face workshops on Days 3 & 6 on the subjects of Lime Mortars & Plastering and Roofing, extend the program to 9 days, by staying on with the expert facilitators, furthering their physical contribution to the site conservation works, or attend one or both of the specialist one-day structured workshops.

Investigate significant building fabric, structures & sites. Learn how to obtain long term sustainable conservation outcomes in real life situations. Share knowledge & experience with conservation practitioners. Understand environmental impacts, deterioration & how to deal with complex challenges. Participate in hands-on activities with experienced practitioners. Relax & learn in an outstanding cultural landscape..

Nathan Colgan - Rottnest Island sea wall repair and restoration

A visit to Rottnest Island, west of Fremantle in Western Australia, begins with the sight of a 3m high limestone sea wall when you get off the ferry. In 2018 this wall was the subject of a \$950,000 collaborative engineering and conservation effort.

The wall was bulging, and in places was cracking. It was under pressure from the soil it was retaining and the roots of nearby Moreton Bay fig trees were simultaneously holding the soil together and pushing out the wall.

The sea wall is located within the State Heritage listed precinct of Thomson Bay Settlement constructed between 1840 and 1860. The settlement is described as 'A unified group of 19th century buildings, simple in form and construction derived from local materials and conditions, in harmony with the landscape setting of Moreton Bay fig trees and olive trees. The settlement is also of historical significance and is associated with Governors Fitzgerald and Kennedy and the early days of settlement.' [Heritage Council of WA Register of Heritage Places Entry Number 0516]. This meant that the fig trees were also an important part of the significance of the place.

Several specialists were involved in protecting the wall from potential collapse, and the restoration of its distinctive face. Specialists included Rottnest staff, an architect, archaeologist, engineers, arborist and stone layer.

The first stage was the 'engineering solution' which involved an injected cement grout to create, in effect, a second sea wall behind the original. The second stage involved root trimming by the arborist Jason Royal. Colgan Industries Pty Ltd dug a two-metre deep trench behind the wall and installed a root barrier.

Colgan Industries Pty Ltd was established in 1966 as a stone and brick masonry company by Martin Colgan. In 1997 it became a general contracting firm with a specialisation in heritage. In 2005 his sons Nathan and Daniel became directors of the firm and have continued the firms traditions winning awards for conservation and, importantly, for training young tradespeople.



Mixing set up and freshly lime washed sea wall – Roan Spence recently completed his Stone Mason Apprenticeship and won The ICOMOS Young Heritage Practitioner of the year in 2018. Roan was the 2019 HIA Australian Finalist for Apprentice of the Year. He has been using and studying Limes for the past four years. Photo Colgan Industries Pty Ltd

The third stage was the restoration of the wall itself. The wall is about 150 years old, runs about 300m and is a single block of limestone thick. Many repairs had been attempted over previous decades and the height had been increased by about a metre. Part of these 'repairs' had been the application of an acrylic paint which caused the wall to swell in winter when moist and contract in summer.



Removal of acrylic paint and cement render, the raking out of the joints to take new lime pointing. Note: the wall was extended approximately 800 mm in the 1960s Picture Colgan Industries Pty Ltd



Cement render being removed Photo Colgan Industries Pty Ltd



Friendly skink, freshly applied hot mixed lime and a Helical Bar Tie on delaminating on skin of outer facing wall. Photo Colgan Industries Pty Ltd

John Kelly, a head stone mason with Colgan Industries, led a team of four others which cleaned away cement render that had been applied in recent years and the acrylic paint. They then repointed using a hot-mix lime which Kelly believed was the way the wall was originally constructed. It was then finished with a 'home-made' limewash tinted with ochres.



John Kelly, one of Colgan Industries Head Stone Masons replacing deteriorated stone with new facing. Photo Colgan Industries Pty Ltd



Apprentice Stone Mason – Matt Taft: on some completed work of his own. Photo Colgan Industries Pty Ltd



Freshly applied limewash. You can see that the salts are already getting drawn to the surface with the lime mix Photo Colgan Industries Pty Ltd

Building Limes Forum Traditional Mortars Symposium, York, 10-12 June 2019

For those of you who might be in the UK in June the BLF is holding a symposium on traditional mortars on 10,11 and 12 June at St Anthony's Hall, Jewbury, York.

This includes sessions on earth and earth-lime mortars, hot mixed lime mortars and a day of practical workshops at the York Minster stoneyard.

The York Symposium will present recent research outcomes, revised heritage agency guidance and case studies from around the UK, Ireland, Spain and Canada. The speakers will be drawing upon long and more recent experience using traditional mortars for the repair and conservation of historic fabric, sharing their insights and knowledge in theory and in practice.

The Symposium is intended to allow the informed specification, mixing and confident use of earth-lime and hot mixed lime mortars, as well as demonstrating their historic prevalence, usefulness and enhanced performance characteristics. It is aimed at conservation professionals and practitioners, as well as homeowners and general builders.

See www.buildinglimesforum.org.uk for details.

The cost of the symposium is £100 a day for BLF members (£110 for others) or £300 for all three days (£330 for others). Morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and materials and PPE on the practical day are all included.

Bursaries are available for those in the early years of their conservation/lime career, those who are self-employed, and those on a low income. Contact the BLF administrator for details admin@buildinglimesforum.org.uk



Kyneton Lost Trades Fair - A report by Brian Maxwell

Kyneton is a town of 7,000 people in the Macedon Ranges region, 89 km from Melbourne. The first British settlers arrived in the area in 1836, the Post Office opened in 1843 and a town was established in 1850. Heritage listings in the town include Kyneton railway station, Mechanics Institute and library, Post Office, Botanical Gardens, Freemasons Hall, Stonemasons Yard and Willis Flour Mill. Various Farmers Markets and festivals throughout the year make the town popular as a day trip destination.

The Lost and Rare Trades Fair was established in 2013 with a vision of acknowledging and promoting fine craftsmanship, traditional skills, rare trades and decorative arts. The event provides the opportunity for artisans to share their knowledge, and to educate and demonstrate their skills. With popularity increasing each year the event has moved from the Kyneton Museum to the racecourse because this year ticket sales were apparently capped at 8,000 per day. With over 100 exhibitors there is a wonderful range of noise produced to engage the audience.

Greg Owen is a Engineer, Builder and Plumber. With his extensive knowledge and machinery collection, Greg was displaying metal roof plumbing conservation techniques. While manufacturing a rain head from a sheet of metal, the crowd was captivated to see materials transformed into a useful product traditionally made by the plumber for each project. Even soldering metal has become a rare skill but there was many in the crowds that could recall doing it or watching others perform this basic task in the past. Reviving the traditional plumbing skills has increased Greg's abilities to conserve, retain and replicate the rain water goods that display the quality workmanship of the past. Greg is also the new Chair of Longford Academy, Tasmania. Part of his stall was dedicated to the promotion of the Building Conservation training offered at Longford.

Also on display was a Hempcrete builder. After construction of a timber frame, formwork is erected and a mixture of Hemp shiv and Tradical provides the filling. Tradical is the Lhoist brand name for dedicated air lime products for the construction industry. Tradical H composition is Calcium Hydroxide >95%, small quantities of calcium carbonate, silica, oxides of magnesium, aluminium, iron and other trace elements. Lhoist is a private group, with more than 90 plants in 20 countries, specialising in the production and commercialisation of lime and dolime.

Toowoomba is preparing to host Lost Trades Fair for a third time and Hawkesbury will host its first event later in the year. In 2017 I was a exhibitor in Toowoomba. As a board member of Longford Academy, I was attempting to assist Greg and Lyndee with their stall in Kyneton but it was also an opportunity to discover the excitement around Kyneton and experience the artisans and their passion.

The list of exhibitors so you can be equally fascinated:

Armourer	Instrument Maker
Basket Weaver	Jeweller
Blacksmith	Joiner
Bell Maker	Leadlighter
Bladesmith	Locksmith
Bodging	Luthier
Bookbinder	Leather Platter
Bowyer (longbow)	Letterpress Setter
Bootmaker	Milliners
Bridle Maker	Mechanical Organs
Cabinet Maker	Penny Farthing Maker
Calligrapher	Puppet Maker
Cane Weaver	Rocking Horse Maker
Carriage Builder	Saori Weaver
Ceramicist	Saw Sharpener
Chair Maker	Silhouette Artist
Chandler (candle maker)	Silversmith
Corn Dollie Maker	Sock Maker
Cricket Bat Maker	Spoonsmith
Cutler and Horner	Stonemason
Cuttlefish Caster	Tailor
Decorative Painter	Tatter
Felters	Tinsmith
Fletcher (arrow maker)	Toolmaker
Fly Rod Maker	Travisher
French Polisher	Trug Maker
Glass Artists	Umbrella Maker
Goldsmith	Upholsterer
Harp Maker	Violin Maker
Hedgelaye	Weaver
Horologists	Wheelwright
Hemp Builder	Whipmaker
Indigenous Crafts	Woodfire Potter
Indigo Dying	Woodturners

Fair Dates 2019

Toowoomba, Queensland - 4 & 5 May

Hawkesbury, NSW - 5 & 6 October 2019 Hawkesbury Showgrounds, Clarendon.

Committee of the Australian and New Zealand Chapter of the Building Limes Forum

Currently the Committee of the Australian and New Zealand Chapter is self appointed and anyone willing to put their hand up for a job will be most welcome!

Nicola Ashurst, NSW

Marc Beattie, Western Australia

Nathan Colgan, Perth

Jacqui Goddard, NSW, Convenor and Editor

Mark Goodchild, NSW

Bill Jordan, NSW

Brian Maxwell, Queensland

Maurie Potrzeba, Queensland

Gary Waller, NSW

If you are interested in taking part please don't hesitate to be in touch.

Contributions to the Newsletter and Journal

Please send contributions to the **Australian and New Zealand Chapter Newsletter** to Jacqui Goddard at jacquig@mac.com

Please send contributions to **The Journal of the Building Limes Forum** to Alison Henry c/o admin@buildinglimesforum.org.uk

The intent of the Newsletter is to inform but also to encourage debate and discussion. There will no doubt be differences of opinion and while we seek to cover a wide range of topics and opinions we will not publish personal criticisms. Please note that as it says on page 1 *'Comments and articles published in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the membership or the editor'* and comments and articles that appear are not a recommendation or endorsement.

The next Newsletter will be issued in October 2019 Please submit contributions by 30 September 2019.

Letters to the Editor

A number of people have suggested that a 'letters to the editor' section should be included in the Newsletter so if anyone wants to comment on articles in here or in the Journal please forward them and they will be included in the next issue.

Areas of Research

As has been highlighted in previous issues of this Newsletter and in various articles and discussions research is needed in determining our past and current sources of lime and what were our traditional mixes for plasters, renders and mortars and what the regional variations were (and are) across Australia and New Zealand.

Please forward any information you might have and encourage these investigations!

Membership

Please encourage others to join!

Membership of the Building Limes Forum offers:

- the opportunity to participate in conferences, courses, workshops, demonstrations and visits organised by the Forum;
- an informal network of contacts who are prepared to share information and to discuss matters relating to building limes with other members. The list of members is on-line (password protected and encrypted for security) and details are available to members at a few clicks of a mouse;
- the annual Journal and regular newsletters;
- discounts on training courses at West Dean College and the Scottish Lime Centre;
- membership of the Australian and New Zealand Chapter;
- a means of supporting the stated aims.

There are four categories of membership:

Individual (£50, £45 if paying by standing order*). Members have access to the on-line list of members and receive the regular newsletter, the annual Journal of the Building Limes Forum and can attend the annual conference and other BLF events at preferential rates.

Corporate (£125, £115 if paying by standing order*). Corporate members have access to the on-line list of members and receive the regular newsletter, two copies of the annual Journal of the Building Limes Forum, additional copies of the Journal at a discount, and can send people working for the organisation to the annual conference and other BLF events at preferential rates. For organisations with more than one office, additional addresses can be added for £30 each. Each additional address has access to the on-line list of members and receive the regular newsletter, the annual Journal of the Building Limes Forum and can send people working for the organisation to the annual conference and other BLF events at preferential rates.

Concession (£25, £20 if paying by standing order*). Anybody in full-time education, scholarship, internship or apprenticeship, anybody aged 25 or under and anyone unwaged is eligible for concession membership. Concession members receive the same benefits as Individual members.

Institutional (£50, £55 if paying by standing order*). Institutional members, who are usually libraries of universities or similar, receive the annual Journal of the Building Limes Forum.

**Note that you may only pay by standing order if you have an account with a UK bank.*

The membership form may be downloaded by clicking on the link in the right-hand column under 'Useful Documents'.

Pay on-line!

You may join the Building Limes Forum or pay your annual subscription on-line using the secure site workwithus.org which will accept payments to the BLF by PayPal, credit or debit card

Join Today - www.buildinglimesforum.org.uk or www.buildinglimesforumireland.com and follow the links.