

CREATING A NEW FUTURE FOR HEIDE'S HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Heide Museum of Modern Art has a rich, complex and diverse past. The history of Heide I, the original Victorian house on the 16.5 acre property, is a key element in understanding the origins of Heide as a centre of Australian modernist culture and to date has been an important component of the Heide experience.

The materials and artefacts that document Heide's extraordinary history and heritage as a private property and as a public institution will now be developed into an archive resource housed in Heide I. The Museum will offer public access through twice-weekly guided public tours and by appointment for education groups and specialist researchers.

The first home of John and Sunday Reed when they settled in Bulleen in 1934, and later Sweeney and Pamela Reed's residence, Heide I was the focus of significant and influential cultural moments and meetings. The Reeds offered an open approach to the collection of rare international and sometimes controversial books, journals, art and letters that comprised their extensive library in Heide I, which became an active archive for many visiting artists and writers.

During the 2005-06 redevelopment period, Museum staff collated a vast array of historical and heritage material from across Heide's site. A number of discoveries were made, which provide new insights into the lives of the Reeds and their support and promotion of modernism and artists involved with Heide.

Heide has also received important additional archival material and has developed a number of focused collections, including the Albert Tucker Archive, Sweeney Reed Archive, Concrete Poetry Archive, Danila Vassiliev papers, Mike Brown Archive, Sidney Nolan Archive and MOMADA Archive. The depth of these archives, alongside the important art Collection and Library, contributes substantially to Heide's role as a public art museum and national resource for research and scholarship.

Heide's archives comprise a rich and valuable resource entrusted to the Museum to ensure their conservation, safe-keeping and accessibility. Historically, Heide has not had the facilities to provide adequate housing or access for both visitor and staff research and inquiry.

'Conservation, cataloguing and utilising the Heide Archive', says Lesley Alway, Director, Heide Museum of Modern Art, 'provides the Museum with an important opportunity to increase the appreciation and understanding of Heide's heritage and history through new research and presentation of material as yet not fully documented or interpreted.'

Such research may be disseminated through a variety of projects including journal articles, the development of exhibitions, catalogues, education and public programs or external publications, for development by Heide or independent researchers. Some recent examples of the scope for using these archives include the 2006 McGlashan and Everist exhibition and catalogue, which uncovered previously unseen material, and *Bert & Ned: The Correspondence of Albert Tucker and Sidney Nolan*, edited by Patrick McCaughey, and co-published by the Miegunyah Press, State Library of Victoria and Heide Museum of Modern Art (2006).

'This makes for an increasingly diverse conversation and discussion about the influence of the Reeds' and Heide's legacy and provides further opportunities for innovative thought and critique about our history' explains Lesley Alway.

From **Thursday 5 July 2007**, the history of Heide will be brought to life through twice-weekly public tours of the new archival display *Heide: Making history*, incorporating photographs, documents and artefacts. Curated by Heide Curator, Kendrah Morgan, and led by Heide's Volunteer Guides, tours will be held every Thursday and Saturday at 2pm, providing visitors with a personalised historical overview of Heide from the Reeds' 1930s occupation to the opening of Heide Museum of Modern Art in 1981.

The display will illustrate key milestones in the Reeds' support for contemporary ideas, art and artists, such as the establishment of the Contemporary Art Society, the Museum of Modern Art and Design of Australia, the *Angry Penguins* journal and the Ern Malley Affair.

It will also present a more personal account of life at Heide including: family photographs of the Reeds and their adopted son Sweeney; images of major artists such as Sidney Nolan, Albert Tucker and Joy Hester; an exploration of the Reeds' domestic activities at Heide; and the history of Heide's gardens and grounds - from farmland to the extensive European planting undertaken by the Reeds and their eventual appreciation of native Australian flora.

The guided archival tour will include previously unseen photographs of rural life at Heide, a selection of inscribed books on gardening and cooking from the Reeds' personal library as well as items from the Reeds' material effects collection including furniture, kitchen items and decorative arts.

In addition to these public tours of Heide I, education groups will be able to book a specialised *Heide: Making history* tour, led by one of our dedicated Heide Education staff.

Heide I will also host a changing line-up of guest speakers, poetry readings and other happenings that specifically relate to Heide or the Museum's history, as part of the Museum's Public Programs. These will be scheduled every few months.

In addition, Heide will explore the potential for hosting visiting researchers, writers or artists-in-residence, who may utilise aspects of the archives for the development of new work in the future.

If you have any materials that you feel would be of interest to Heide Museum of Modern Art for inclusion in its archives, please email info@heide.com.au or call T 03 9850 1500.

Heide: Making history public tours

Every Thursday and Saturday, 2.00pm (starts 5 July 2007)

Tickets: Adult \$10, Heide Member / Concession \$8

Bookings required

Heide: Making history education tours

Available Tuesday – Friday by appointment only

Tickets: from \$4.00 per student (please refer to www.heide.com.au for Education bookings & information)

Heide Museum of Modern Art

7 Templestowe Road

Bulleen Victoria 3105 Australia

T 03 9850 1500

www.heide.com.au

Tue-Fri 10.00am – 5.00pm; Sat/Sun/Public Holidays 12.00noon – 5.00pm

Admission: Adult \$12, Senior \$10, Concession \$8; Gardens: free

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