

MEDIA STATEMENT



St Saviour's Cathedral



*Anglican Diocese
of Canberra and Goulburn*

Saving the Great East Window of Goulburn Cathedral

The Dean of the Cathedral, Phillip Saunders, has announced a \$250,000 program to restore the Great East Window of Saviour's Cathedral. Conservation work on the fabric of the 138-year-old Cathedral, to stabilise the foundations of the Window and repair cracking in the stone tracery and stained-glass, has become urgent.

The work has been made possible by a grant of \$120,000 from the New South Wales Government under the Caring for State Heritage category of the NSW Heritage Grants Program, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of NSW.

A matching co-contribution is being provided by the Cathedral's National Trust Heritage Restoration Fund.

The work requires excavation and stabilisation of the foundations of the East façade of the Cathedral to enable conservation of the Window stone tracery and stained-glass by skilled craftsmen.

This project continues the programme of restoration of this famous Edmund Blacket Cathedral which commenced in 2015 when the Cathedral received a NSW Heritage Grant of \$150,000 to assist in installing air drains and stone conservation to successfully eliminate serious rising damp.

The Great East Window is one of the earliest examples in Australia of the work of English stained-glass makers, the firm of Heaton, Butler and Bayne, who were known as 'the three stained-glass whiz kids'. Their work has been described as some of the world's greatest stained-glass masterpieces. They established their studio in Covent Garden, London and went on to become one of the leading manufacturers of Gothic revival stained-glass. Famous Victorian architects commissioned their work, and there is a Heaton, Butler and Bayne window in Westminster Abbey.

The Dean welcomed the New South Wales Heritage Grant to help preserve the integrity and safety of the Window, which is extremely important for the Cathedral, not only for the significance of its stained-glass beauty, but also its association with two notable pioneers.

The Window is dedicated to William Bradley, one of the trustees of the Cathedral, and his wife Emily Elizabeth. The dedication reads

Erected to the memory of William Bradley, born 1800, died 1868, and of Emily Elizabeth his wife, born 1812, died 1848, by their daughters Emily Jane Pearse, Kate Heard, Minnie Robinson, Alice Caroline Roberts in 1885.

Bradley was one of the first settlers on the Goulburn Plains and had substantial grazing interests on the Monaro. He was a landholder par excellence and a politician. In 1843 he was returned unopposed for Argyle to the legislative Council New South Wales and was an active promoter of railways, helping to finance the survey of the line to Goulburn. Emily Bradley was the only daughter of William Hovell, the explorer, who lived in Goulburn and is buried in the old St Saviour's cemetery.

28th May 2022

25 May 2022

St Saviour's Cathedral Great East Window



The current program in relation to the Great East Window is part of our ongoing heritage conservation of the magnificent Neo-Gothic St Saviour's Cathedral, designed by Edmund Blacket in 1874. The Cathedral is culturally significant to the Diocese of Goulburn, the history of the site and the history of Goulburn.

The Great East Window is a rare example of the work of Heaton, Butler & Bayne in Australia. This English organisation provided some of world's great stained glass masterpieces as leaders of the 19thC Gothic Revival style.

For several years Great East Window concerns have related to structural movement and settlement of the Window, including cracks in the stonework tracery, lancet windows and sandstone façade. Tell tales were installed in 2020 and the extent of movement resulted in a successful grant application to Heritage NSW.

The funding partnership with Heritage NSW enables the program to process in 3 parts. The first and current scope is investigating and underpinning the Great East Window. Subsequent stages include careful conservation of the Window, including replacement of external cover glazing, stained glass repair and cleaning, and stonework repairs, indents and pointing.

Local award winning construction company Jewell Builders are carrying out the underpinning scope. Heritage Decorative Glass and Stonemason & Artist have been selected to carry out window tracery, lancets and stonework conservation. Shreeji Consultants are our civil and structural engineers and GML Heritage Canberra are providing ongoing archaeological investigations and advice.

The current excavations provide a most interesting heritage investigation as research indicated that some unspecified underpinning was carried out in the 1940s. The excavation to date has revealed a concrete facing and brickwork over 5 metres below ground level. Brickwork cores are now being analysed and further excavation and investigations are planned – before proceeding with the underpinning and subsequent Great East Window and stonework conservation.

Michael Fox AM

Director Michael Fox Architects contact@michaelfoxarchitects.com 0417 402030
