

# Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office update

February 2017



## Restoring the CME Office

Works to restore the exterior of the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office are progressing well. A specialist team of trades is working in sections to carefully remove paint and replace rotten wood and corroded iron lacework around the building.

Work is being overseen by OCP Architects, an expert heritage architect to ensure the historic values of the state heritage listed building are conserved through the restoration process. This means that much of the work is being done by hand in much the same way as the original builders would have done.

Work hours are 7.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday, and 7.30am to 3.30pm on Saturdays.



Eastern elevation of the CME Office circa 1950 showing the building which was once noted for its extensive and elaborate grounds. Source: CME Conservation Management Plan 1997.

## Latest news

We have nearly finished works to the building and are now progressing plans for the garden area. We will soon lodge applications with the Heritage Council and the City of Sydney to remove a number of trees and clear the shrubs and dense undergrowth vegetation from the site. This will help to improve the visibility of the building and deter graffiti and vandalism. Most of the trees identified for removal are exotic species and none are listed on the City of Sydney's Register of Significant Trees. New hedge shrubs will be planted to provide a temporary screen of the railway lines behind the site.

Long term plans for the CME Office and the garden will be identified when a masterplan for the area is prepared in consultation with the community and other stakeholders.

We are pleased to report there has been less vandalism and graffiti since we installed motion activated lights and security cameras and arranged extra security patrols. Please let us know if you see any anti-social behaviour happening around the building.



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.

## Work in progress

Over recent weeks works have included replacing the structural supports for the main verandah, patching sections of brickwork, finishing stripping works to remove old lead paint, repainting parts of the facade and restoring chimneys.



Jacob from Carfax repairing the first floor verandah frame.

## Work coming up

In coming weeks works will include laying flooring for the main verandah, continuing to remove and replace window lintels, installing decorative timber mouldings, bird proofing the chimneys and painting.

Works are being undertaken in sections. The scaffolding to the first section of the building will soon be removed and will move to the next section so works can progress.

## About the CME Office

For around 100 years, the CME Office was the headquarters of the Eveleigh Railway Yards, which employed over 10,000 people to manufacture, maintain and repair steam locomotives, passenger carriages and freight wagons. The building reflects the significance of engineers in the development of the NSW railway network.

## Central to Eveleigh program news

The Urban Transformation Strategy has been finalised as 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](http://centraltoeveleigh.com.au)

## Eveleigh Stories

Want to learn more about the history of Sydney's railway network? Visit the award winning Eveleigh Stories website and take a self-guided historical tour.

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

Visit: [eveleighstories.com.au](http://eveleighstories.com.au)

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