



The Heritage Centre

I have hesitated to put out a bulletin updating the situation with the Braidwood Heritage Centre. This is because of the complexity and difficulties involved and the swings and roundabouts entailed, but the time has come for the update.

Stage 1. Very little construction has happened since October. So far, we have a shell for the Homestay accommodation, a slab for the blacksmith shop, a lot of trenching and plumbing, some very extensive archeological studies and a messy construction site. In fact, very little to show for a lot of money spent.

A power pole is supposed to be erected in the street in early February to enable an increased electricity supply to the site, but this has been postponed because it needs to connect to the new museum entrance which has not been started.

The internal lining of the homestay cannot be started until the air conditioning is in place. The builder says he cannot find an air conditioning company to undertake the fit out. Therefore, progress is at a standstill.

Still waiting for a contractor to be engaged to fit the lift to the museum.

If Stage 1 is not completed by June there will be no funding to continue as this is when all the Bushfire Recovery Grant money closes.

To contemplate Stage 2, we must assume Stage 1 can be finished, as we find the funding for stage 2.

Stage 2. This remains unfunded as the full \$3.75M from the Bushfire Recovery Grant is required to complete Stage 1.

We are very grateful to our Community Bank for the pledge of \$520k on the condition we find additional funding to complete the project. That pledge is now under review due to current circumstances and the unexpected failure to find additional funding.

To date we have made little progress with that task as we were unsuccessful in our grant application from Clubs NSW for \$200k and more recently unsuccessful in our application for Growing Regions Program Round 2 for \$944k. These applications are very competitive, time-consuming, exhausting and so far, disappointing.



Site for new entrance to the museum with the unfinished accommodation building at the rear.

January 2025

Braidwood & District Historical Society

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COMMITTEE

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The Inside Story

We have requested assistance from QPRC, and they have provided their Grants Officer to assist with a grant called Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program. We are trying every avenue rather than just waiting for the Government to fix the problem- a position inflicted on us by the conditions imposed by the Bushfire Recovery Grant.

The condition of the Bushfire Recovery Grant was that the funds were allocated to QPRC as the principal, with the construction project management by NSW Public Works. We believe if the funds were given directly to us the project would be completed and operational. It seems to us the Government got us into this situation therefore they should find the funding to complete the project and not leave it up to us as volunteers.

We have had direct meetings with Kristy McBain our Federal Member, Steve Whan State Member, John Anderson Senior Director of Public Works, Kendrick Winchester QPRC Mayor, Rebecca Ryan QPRC General Manager, Senior Staff of Minister for Regional NSW Tara Moriarty, Megan Cleary Director, Recovery & Resilience Programs Dept. Primary Industries and have expressed our disappointment with the Government mismanagement and waste.

They appear to understand, and all agree the Braidwood Heritage Centre is a great project that will deliver substantial benefits not only for Braidwood but for New South Wales. However, they need to do more and provide the funding to complete the project, otherwise we end up with a Monument to Government Waste.



Slab for the blacksmith shop

January 2025

Our thanks to

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and

**Community Bank
Braidwood**

Bendigo Bank

Museum Opening Hours

Friday and Saturday 11am—2pm

Our resources are available for researchers and family historians in our reading room during museum opening hours or by appointment. This service is free but, as we are a volunteer organisation entirely dependent on the generosity of the community, we hope for your supportive donations.

Write to us at
help@braidwoodmuseum.org.au

We will let you know if we hold any relevant information. If you are unable to come to our reading room personally we have professional researchers who can help.

The charge for this service is \$50 per hour.