
MEDIA RELEASE

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our best crop'*

HISTORIC LEADLIGHT CEILING RESTORED

A mammoth restoration project was completed today at the heritage-listed Catholic Agricultural College Bindoon when a 10 by 6 metre leadlight ceiling was reinstalled.

The \$20,000 project, funded by the Heritage Council of Western Australia, involved the dismantling, restoration and reinstallation of a 50-year-old ceiling that sits above an eight metre high gallery in the foyer of the Main Building.

Kim Fitzpatrick, Managing Director of Traditions Stained Glass, said it was a privilege to work on the project due to the historical nature of the building.

"As the ceiling was in a fragile state due to the deterioration of the cement holding the glass pieces in place, we needed to remove all 33 panels, clean and restore them, replace any broken glass and then re-cement the panels. It was a challenge to adapt our modern leadlighting methods to suit the original construction," he said.

Mr Fitzpatrick said replacing the broken glass proved to be a headache, as some such as the pyramid glass was last made in the 1940s and was no longer available. Various salvage yards were scrounged and he managed to find just enough to substitute the broken and cracked glass authentically. The restoration process took four weeks.

Principal Mr Peter Bothe said the restored ceiling looked magnificent.

"There is much more natural light flooding the foyer due to the clean glass panels and the removal of decades of dust. More importantly, the ceiling has been stabilised and is no longer in danger of collapsing," he said.

"We are indebted to the Heritage Council of WA for funding this project to ensure this valuable and unusual ceiling remains part of our architectural history. Kim Fitzpatrick and Traditions Stained Glass are also commended for the way they have completed this intricate and difficult project."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION or PHOTOGRAPHS:

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