Are we finished?

PEOPLE GROUNDED IN THE TRADITIONS THAT MADE MELBOURNE MARVELLOUS

MELBOURNE, 4-5 OCTOBER 2016

A two-day exploration of decorative finishing trades, techniques and conservation at National Trust properties Labassa and Rippon Lea. Presented as a satellite event to the People’s Ground Conference.

The theme of the 2016 conference presented jointly by the National Trusts of Australia and ICOMOS Australia is The People’s Ground. The theme highlights the intangibility of heritage practice, and the intangibility but significance of key trade skills. The loss of skills and diminishing resources for the conservation of heritage places is an issue of growing concern.

This two-day practical exploration of key traditional finishing trades brings together skilled artists, tradesmen and heritage practitioners in an interactive program of sharing, learning and planning for the future of the heritage trades.

Specialists in brick staining and tuck pointing, lime and cement stucco work, decorative plasterwork, decorative painting and wallpapering will demonstrate and share their knowledge with interactive practical sessions. The program will finish with a forum on the quality of heritage practice and pathways for a secure future for the specialist trades and skills. Labassa in Caulfield is the principal venue for this workshop. This spectacular late-nineteenth century mansion’s elaborate interiors remain largely intact and is amongst the best assemblage in Australia of European style nineteenth- and early-twentieth century interior decorative treatments.

Finishes include painted ceilings with scenic panels, simulated shading, arabesques and treillage; embossed imitation leather and other equally ornate wallpapers; neo-rococo chimney pieces, ceramic tile work, oak parquetry and stained glass.

Labassa’s lavish treatments are also apparent in its external features which include panels of real and artificial marble, caryatids at the entrance, swagged columns, mansard roofs and ornamental cresting.