

PRESS RELEASE

SKIPTON'S HERITAGE SAVED FROM FLOOD DAMAGE

Monday 12 July 2 pm Main Road Skipton

The heritage listed former Skipton Court House and Police Residence will be re opened on Monday after restoration works due to flood damage. At the ceremony David O'Brien MLA for Western District, will hand the Leases for both buildings over to the Skipton Historical Society.

Dr Jan Penney, EO for Mint Inc who is the Committee of Management for the buildings, says "The damage was devastating. Mud, water and rubbish flooded through both buildings and only the quick action of the Historical Society members saved the paper based collection".

The cost of restoration has been covered by Mint Inc by using the funds generated from the properties under their management, mostly from their city car park behind the former Royal Mint.

"Our car park clients appreciate that their parking fees can be used to restore buildings like this and like the fact that they feel involved in our work" Dr Penney stated.

"Skipton is a wonderful and supportive community", Dr Penney said, "and the community certainly rallied in this case. Items were scattered throughout Skipton drying on church hall tables, kept safe in freezers in homes till they could be thawed safely without getting mouldy or stored in garages. The sight of the heavy piano laying on its side when I arrived the next day showed the power of the flood waters" she said.

For the first time the Skipton Historical Society now have the security of a Lease for both buildings and will be able to allow other community members to use some spaces as well as the wonderful new stainless steel kitchen, no longer at the mercy of flood waters. "It can simply be hosed out if it ever floods that high again" Dr Penney said.

The Beaufort Brass Band will be in attendance as Mint Inc manages the Beaufort Court House which also has been fully restored using the same source of funding. And to celebrate the whole Skipton community have been invited for afternoon tea. We hope to see you there.

Dr Jan Penney, Executive Officer

04185 18651 for press enquiries