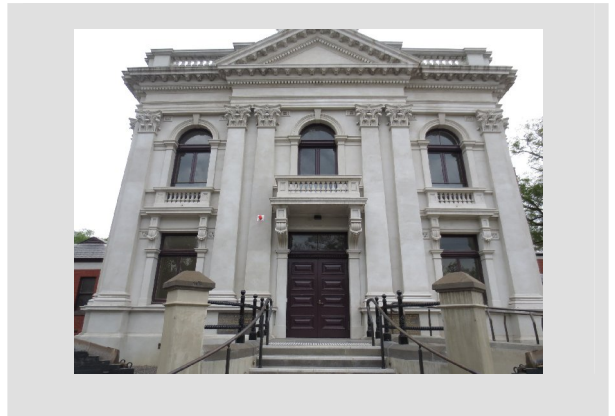


**BULLETIN: 24.4.14**

## Restoration for Melbourne's Kensington Town Hall C1900



**Over the past six months, we were contracted to work on the internal restoration of one of Melbourne's historic town halls. Completed in 1901, the Kensington Town Hall was built in the Edwardian period in the 'Academic Classical style'.**

*The Kensington Town Hall is a beautiful old building and an important civic space for the local community. After acquiring the site in 2008 as part of the municipal boundary changes, the City of Melbourne – with the addition of state government funding – is restoring the hall to a functional space for the Kensington community.*

*Extract: City of Melbourne website*

During World War II it was used as a command post and also served as a legal centre in the 1980s. It is heritage listed and prior to renovation, operated as a community centre, dance and ballet school. The building is currently being restored in stages with work being done to preserve the facade and foundations and now the internal restoration is being completed. Major internal restoration work was on two levels including all meeting and facility rooms, stairway and hallways, plus a new lift area. The original ironwork balustrade circa 1900, was replicated by the same foundry, still operating today.

From October 2013-January 2014 the Mike Bailey team worked in conjunction with Michael Gibson [team leader Architecture, City of Melbourne], on the colour palette and building project manager – Robert Falconie. Prior to painting, restoration work included lead paint removal (*chemically stripping walls and woodwork*), plus major cracks were re-rendered and *Crakgon* fibreglass surface repair applied.

