

## **MEDIA RELEASE: 4.6.14**

### **"High Distinctions received for Melbourne's Kensington Town Hall restoration works"**



## **Master Painters 2014 Awards for Excellence**

**Mike Bailey Paint Services has received several industry awards at the Master Painters Association of Victoria & Tasmania 2014 Awards For Excellence. The inaugural event was held in Melbourne on Saturday 24 May at Rydges, Preston when more than 190 industry guests attended from Melbourne and interstate.**

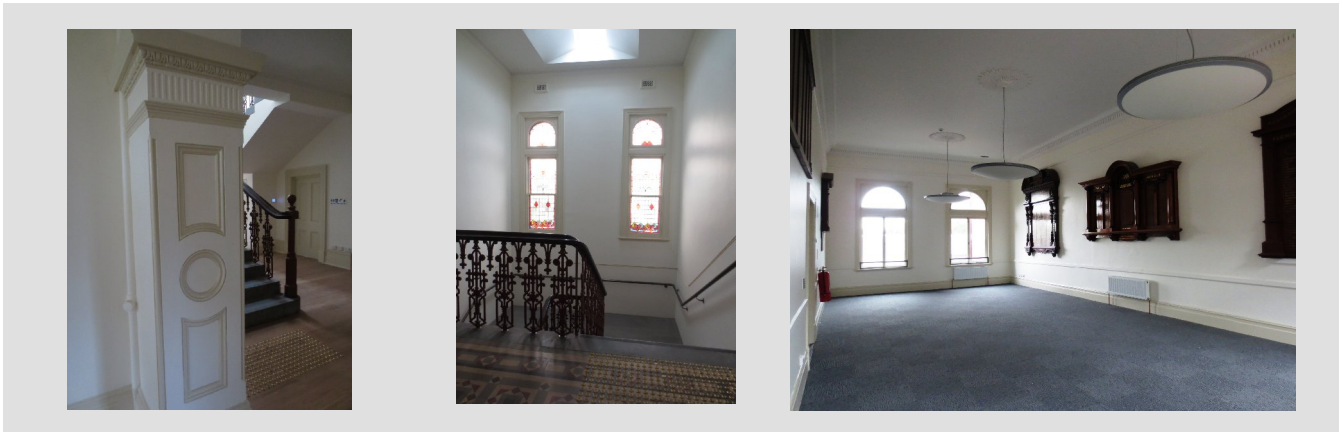
Mike Bailey's "High Distinctions" were for the challenging internal restoration work completed over three months, for one of Melbourne's historic town halls. Completed in 1901, the Kensington Town Hall was built in the Edwardian period in the 'Academic Classical style'.

Mike and his team received high distinctions in two categories - for a "Heritage Project over \$100,000" and - for an "Environmental Project over \$100,000". Work undertaken included:

- Using Nu-Tech - Nu-Ecosafe Strip, removal of lead paint to reveal the 1901 original surfaces
- Application of fine decorative finishes, including gold lettering, cornices, skirting, windows and ceiling roses.
- Using Low VOC products and paints - the manufacturers included Dulux and Mike Bailey Paint [made by third generation Viponds Paints].

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 with building project manager – Robert Falconie. Prior to painting, restoration work included lead paint removal (*non-toxic bio-degradable stripping walls and woodwork*), plus major cracks were re-rendered and *Crakgon* fibreglass surface repair applied. This major 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.

The Kensington Town Hall has a fascinating past and tells a history that during World War II it was used as a command post and later 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 has been restored in stages with work first being done to preserve the facade and foundations and followed by the internal restoration. The final chapter in the story will be the restoration of the magnificent ballroom.



Internal Restoration work

*"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 April 2014*



Awards recipients Mike & Judy Bailey at the inaugural 2014 Master Painters Excellence Awards 24.5.2014

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*Prepared for Mike Bailey Paint Services  
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