

The Barracks Appeal

Tocal Barracks were built around 1835 as accommodation for convict workers on the property. They served as residences for at least 100 years and then gradually fell into disrepair. For a period the building did not have a roof and much of the interior was destroyed. In the 1970s a new roof was installed and in the 1990s some internal restorations were commenced.



The Barracks are an outstanding part of Australia's early colonial history and an enduring part of Tocal's landscape. They offer the opportunity for the CB Alexander Foundation, and the Tocal Homestead site, already a tourist icon, to become financially sustainable and self-sufficient.

To this end, funds are being sought to refurbish the Barracks. Plans have been prepared by Eric Martin & Associates and these have been subject to a quantity survey. The aim is to convert the barracks into four individual, fully air-conditioned motel-style accommodation units that would be leased for public visitation. It is believed they would complement the existing facility at Glendarra and also be used extensively for weekend visits, particularly for weddings.

The total cost of refurbishment of the Barracks, including site services and furnishings, is in the vicinity of \$50,000 per unit.

The opportunity exists for ex-students and other supporters of Tocal to donate to the Tocal Building Fund to support this initiative. Donations to the Tocal Building Fund, run under the auspices of the CB Alexander Foundation are fully tax deductible.

Funds are sought through individual or group contributions that may be directed to the restoration of an individual unit. A brass plaque will be installed inside the front door of the unit and will remain there in perpetuity to acknowledge the source of funds for the unit's refurbishment and recommissioning. To date, two donors have indicated support for the barracks and \$61,766 has been raised.

The Barracks Appeal presents a unique opportunity for a purposeful and lasting contribution to Tocal. All enquiries regarding this initiative should be directed to Cameron Archer, Principal. Cameron's contact details are – Ph (02) 4939 8812, Fax (02) 4939 8919, Mob 0427 202 948 and email cameron.archer@dpi.nsw.gov.au. All enquiries and discussions will be treated confidentially.