

Heritage Hound News

If you are seeking to enter the heritage property market, dreaming of a heritage property, or simply interested in historic property, become a “Heritage Hound” by submitting your details on our website.

Edition 2

The “Heritage Hound” is brought to you by Dominic Romeo Historic Property.

Australia's only Real Estate Agency dedicated to selling Heritage and Historic Property.



Before I begin my first newsletter, I should introduce myself and explain how I became an agent specialising in selling historic property.

But firstly, I must apologise for the late posting of my first newsletter. I have been extremely busy showing clients through historic properties and appraising some incredibly beautiful historic houses - to be listed soon.

And of course a very exciting off-market sale which involved weeks of negotiating – but currently very confidential!!!



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People often ask me where my love of restoring historic houses came from and how I became involved in specialising in heritage property in real estate.

Good question!!

I maintain that the turning point in my life was at boarding school, where I was first introduced to old buildings. The school campus was elegant, with heritage buildings, loggias, courtyards, expansive lawns, a charming chapel, timber-panelled libraries and a dining room that was straight out of Harry Potter.

During holidays, I would be invited to my friends' country homes and captivated by the romance of these rural homesteads that had been in the same family for generations. This early exposure planted a seed.!

I grew up in a very Italian upbringing in the Western suburbs of Melbourne. Our family home was very different – a cream brick veneer in an undeveloped suburb with unmade dirt roads and basic services - far from anything remotely resembling “heritage property,” but a life I loved and still cherish.

After secondary school, I received a BA in Business – Personnel Management and another in Fine Art photography. Between working in the family hospitality and bread-making business, I was never one to sit still.

I trekked regularly through the wilderness of south-west Tasmania, became an aerial and mogul skier and a competitive member of the Australian acrobatic ski team, Team Buller Coach, and pursued my photographic passion documenting life through remote villages in Italy.

The turning point was when I met Marie. Marie’s love affair with historic buildings and interiors began during her gap year spent at the University of Florence and visiting her relatives in the central Italian region of Abruzzo.

It was while living in Italy as a teenager that she was introduced to architecture ranging from Renaissance palazzi to pretty village houses and Roman apartments.

Her aunt Maria introduced her to many beautiful textiles from heirloom tablecloths to antique bedspreads, and she was taught that “lovely fabrics in the right spot could transform a space”.

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We were married in 1987. Our first home was a weatherboard cottage in Moonee Ponds, Melbourne. This was the start of our love affair with being restorers – we still actively restore and save historic houses.

This journey led us to restore some of the grandest and most important country estates in Australia. Some of these include the 50-room Italianate mansion Rupertswood, one of Australia's architectural gems and the birthplace of cricket's most famous trophy, the Ashes, Burnewang, the 34 roomed mansion built in 1903 and designed by Reed, Smart, Tappin as one of Australia's grandest country homesteads and Karori c 1888 – one of Mount Macedon's most important and intact Hill Station properties with a 6 acre garden containing no fewer than 122 significant and rare trees, and many original plantings. Fifteen restorations later, and still married, we continue to be active restorers with our current restoration project – The Disappearing House c. 1837, Tasmania.

During the course of restoration and working in the tourism and hospitality industry, I was elected as a board member of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) 2005 – 2015, the National Trust's Finance and Conservation committees, and Chairman of the Mooramong Farm Committee.

Tourism and Hospitality was a large part of our lives and over that journey became recipients of 20 State Tourism and Regional Tourism and Small Business Awards. In 2014, Melbourne University Publishing – The Miegunyah Press contracted us to write our restoration story, and in 2015, "The Constant Renovators – Restoring Grandeur" was published.

It was during the course of buying rundown historic houses and out of frustration that some agents were not well informed about the details associated with heritage properties, that I became interested in real estate. I soon realised that no one in Australia was specialising in selling heritage properties. I started my sales agent career in 2009. Over the years, I worked for RT Edgar, Jellis Craig, Kennedy and Hunt, Unique Estates, and Circa Heritage and Lifestyle as a heritage property specialist. Several months ago, I launched my own heritage brand as Australia's only agent and agency dedicated to selling historic property across Tasmania and Victoria.

Every month, I will be posting newsletters on interesting, inspirational, weird, informative, and educational stories relating to historic property - including market updates or "getting the heads up" on any coming listings of heritage property across Tasmania and Victoria.

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