

## Construction commences on new project at the Vintage

Work has commenced on the construction of what will be known as The Carriage House at The Vintage, Pokolbin. This multi-million dollar, purpose-built wedding chapel and small conference and meeting facility will boast the most modern facilities, yet has an important link to the valley's convict past.

One of the main recycled building materials to be used in the project is sandstone dating back to the 1830s. The stone was originally quarried by convicts for the construction of a fine home known as Ellerslie at Jerry's Plains.

The historic house has long since been demolished, but the stone was salvaged and transported on 102 pallets to the new building site overlooking The Vintage Championship Golf Course. A testament to its authenticity, the magnificent sandstone still bears its original convict markings.

The discarded sandstone was resurrected from its resting place at Sawyer's Gully by The Vintage developer John Stevens, who in partnership with the new Chateau Elan luxury destination spa and villas, recognised its intrinsic value and character. Local artisan, Trevor Dyall of Hunter Valley Stone Masons was



Construction underway on the Carriage House

coaxed back to The Vintage by the prospect of working with such a rare commodity to create this landmark building.

The rough-cut sandstone will be complemented with recycled timber flooring and an architectural style sympathetic to its heritage origins.

The Carriage House will cater to weddings as well as mid-week conference groups. It will be fully equipped

with state-of-the-art facilities including 50-inch plasma screens and internet cameras.

"Right from the moment dirt was turned we've taken bookings for The Carriage House for as far out as mid 2011," joint venture partner John Stevens said.

The Carriage House also caters to corporate groups of up to 130 for conferences and Executive Retreats.

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