Media Release
Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Curtains rise on name for $96 million cultural and performance complex: The Hedberg

The Hedberg will become a name at the heart of Hobart’s growing role as a city of national artistic and cultural standing, it was announced today.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen, along with Federal Senator David Bushby and Tasmanian Premier Will Hodgman, unveiled the name for the $96 million complex incorporating the Theatre Royal, due for completion in early 2019.

The Hedberg will contain three performance spaces, and will lead to significant improvements in access to and amenities at the Theatre Royal.

The project is funded by the Australian Government, the University and State Government.

“Once complete, thousands of students, professional performers, patrons of theatre and the arts, and the wider community will share this building, which will be the pride of our city and State more broadly,” Professor Rathjen said.

“It will be a compelling offering for students throughout the country, along with researchers and academics, to study and work in one of the most beautiful harbors cities in the country, in one of the most contemporary, beautiful facilities of its type anywhere.”

The Hedberg name is drawn from the Hedberg Brothers Garage which was built on Collins St in 1925. The garage is recognized for its heritage value and its facade will be an important aspect of the design of the new complex, as well as serving as the key access from Collins St.

The archeological survey of the site found residences under the foundations of the garage dating back to 1830s, when Hobart’s so-called Wapping District was a bustling working class area of homes, industry and entertainment. Construction of the Theatre Royal started in 1834.

“Physically, the Hedberg Brothers Garage was at the heart of Wapping, bounded by
the Theatre Royal, City Hall, hospital and the Hobart Rivulet,” Professor Rathjen said.

“Just as the contemporary building, bearing its name, will be at the heart of the ongoing resurgence of Hobart as a cultural and performance centre of national and international standing.”

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