



## Restoration scales new heights

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Project:**

St Francis Xavier

**Architect:**

Liz Vines & Bill Kay  
(McDougall & Vines)

**Restoration:**

Heritage Stone Restorations  
Pty Ltd

**Stone:**

Waikerie Limestone and  
Kanmantoo Bluestone

**Location:**

Adelaide

Adelaide's St Francis Xavier's Cathedral is the oldest Catholic cathedral in Australia. The foundations were set out in 1851, and the core of the building was constructed in 1860. A sacristy and vestry were completed in 1902. The original plans for a large Cathedral were fulfilled in 1926, following the addition of a nave, side aisles, and narthex which spanned the north end of the building.

A 36 metre high tower was added between 1994-96, which enhances the Gothic appearance of the cathedral. The original structure was completed using Dry Creek bluestone with Murray Bridge limestone dressings.

In 2006 a comprehensive conservation plan was prepared by architects McDougall and Vines. The charter established a building and restoration programme, which spanned two years and paid due

respect to the design philosophy laid down by the original architects.

Stage one of the project involved rigorous examination of the building's fabric, closely followed by cleaning of the stonework and restoration using Waikerie Limestone and elements of Kanmantoo Bluestone. The restoration works were completed by Heritage Stone Restorations, owners of the Waikerie Limestone quarry.

Stage two of the works encompassed the construction of a new and contemporary sacristy, which nevertheless pays appropriate tribute to the cathedral and adjacent buildings.

The new building is pointed in hydraulic limestone sourced from St Aster in France. Heritage Stone Restorations established a new benchmark in regard to use of non-cement mortar in construction of new stone buildings. **05**



