

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 29

JAMES BRADLEY'S PTY LTD COLLECTION

Furniture Making, Launceston

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

The furniture manufacturing company, James Bradley's Pty Ltd, was established in August 1985 in Invermay by James Bradley. Originally from the United Kingdom, Bradley received his training at the London College of Furniture, attaining a Diploma of Arts and Design. He moved to Australia in 1985 and taught briefly at the Sydney College of the Arts. After seeing the opportunity to work in Tasmanian timbers, he moved to Tasmania and founded the company.

James Bradley's Pty Ltd specialised in making wooden furniture in small quantities, particularly tables and chairs. Much of the furniture produced was in contemporary classical style. Reproductions were also manufactured, particularly in the first few years of the company's operation. The company found a niche market for the production of commercial furniture on contract to the specifications of architects and interior designers. James Bradley also designed furniture himself and offered a prototype service. In addition, production was undertaken of several pieces which were developed between the company and designers, particularly the Shoreline Reclining Deck Chair, designed by Leslie John Wright, and the Wood Chair, designed by Marc Newson. While these pieces provided only a small proportion of the income of James Bradley's Pty Ltd, they were important in building a profile for the company.

James Bradley's Pty Ltd specialised in cabinet making, upholstery, veneering, laminating and bending techniques. Veneering in particular was widely employed as a means of achieving both decorative effects and maximising scarce timber resources. A veneering plant was established in the factory in 1987. This enabled the company to supply veneers to other manufacturers and suppliers. The company utilised a wide variety of timbers. However, Australian native timbers, in particular those from Tasmania, were the preferred materials.

Major clients for whom James Bradley's Pty Ltd manufactured commercial furniture included the Parliament House Construction Authority (for example, the side table used by HRH Queen Elizabeth II at the opening of the new Parliament House); the Premier's Department, Hobart; the Commonwealth Bank Headquarters, Sydney; the State Bank of South Australia; Minter Ellison Solicitors, Sydney; the Australian Stock Exchange, Hobart; AMP, Hobart; the Sheraton Mirage, Surfers' Paradise; Jupiter's Casino, Gold Coast; and the Park Royal Hotel, Adelaide.

James Bradley's Pty Ltd began with three staff members and reached a peak of approximately 30.

In 1990, with the company established in the commercial furniture market, James Bradley decided that it should extend its operations into the production of furniture for the retail market. In order to gain experience in selling directly to consumers James Bradley's Pty Ltd took up a one third share in Anibou Pty Ltd, a Sydney furniture retailer. At the same time the Country Road clothing retail chain was also looking to extend its market into furniture, as well as other homewares such as soft furnishings. In 1991 James Bradley's Pty Ltd began manufacturing and supplying furniture to Country Road Retail for its Country Road Homewear venture. However, the company began to experience financial difficulties and did not survive the economic down turn of the early 1990s. It went into liquidation in April 1993.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in 1993. Items in Sections 1, 3 and 4 of this guide are currently unavailable for public access. They are restricted for 25 years, in accordance with state archival practice under the *Archives Act 1983*, to protect personal and confidential commercial matters documented in the records.

1.General Correspondence

1/1	Acme Wickham Pty Ltd, machinery orders	1987-1993
1/2	The Advocate Pty Ltd; The Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia; American Express Inter-national Inc; Anderson and Rowe Advertising	1989-1993
1/3	Anibou Pty Ltd; (includes drawings and a photograph of the showroom)	1988-1993
1/4	Appleton Enterprises Ltd; Architects Workshop – AMP Society and Uniting Church Synod Offices, Launceston and Silver Sands Motor Inn, Bicheno (includes drawings)	1986-1993
1/5	Architectural Products Pty Ltd (includes drawings)	1986-1992
1/6	Archterior Fenscape Group; Arkitex Fabrics Pty Ltd – Jim Thompson Silk Collection; Artec Abrasives Australia Ltd; Laura Ashley (Australia) Pty Ltd (includes drawings and a photograph)	1989-1992
1/7	Robert Ashton (includes drawings)	1986-1987
1/8	The Australian Academy of Design - "Today's Design – Tomorrow's Future" Exhibition, Singapore (includes photograph)	1992
1/9	Australian Furniture Research and Development Institute (includes business plan and <i>AFRI News</i> (5 issues)	1987-1993
1/10	Australian Furniture Research and Development Institute – furniture testing	1990-1993
1/11	Australian Taxation Office	1988-1993
1/12	Balestrini – Machinery	1982-1992
1/13	Bang Design 'Short Quick' and 'Piggly Wiggly' Chairs etc (includes drawings)	1991-1992
1/14	Bass and Equitable Building Society	1990-1992
1/15	Bates Smart and McCutcheon - Clayton Utz Solicitors; J P Morgan Holdings Ltd; Arthur Robinson/Headerwicks (includes drawings)	1991
1/16	Batman Fawkner Inn (includes drawings and newspaper cuttings)	1986

1/17	Beaumont Motel, Kew, Victoria (includes drawings)	1986-1987
1/18	Alan Birdsall Imports; Mark Bishop; Bishops Barristers and Solicitors	1991-1993
1/19	Blythe Yeung and Menzies Architects and Interior Designers - Australian Stock Exchange, Hobart and AMP, Burnie (includes drawings)	1988
1/20	Blythe Yeung and Menzies Architects and Interior Designers - Premier's Department, Hobart (includes drawings)	1987-1988
1/21	James Bradley Social Club; Briggs Veneers Pty Ltd; Britton Bros Pty Ltd; Brownell and Associates - Adelaide and Brisbane Park Royal Hotels and Gateway Hotel Project; Burnie Timber; Bugg Goninon and Hughes Pty Ltd (includes drawings)	1987-1993
1/22	Cairncross Martin – The Anchorage Hotel, Port Stephens	1992-1993
1/23	Centre for Furniture Design- University of Tasmania (includes business plan)	1990-1992
1/24	Chhada Siembieda Interior Designers - The Anchorage Hotel, Port Stephens (includes drawings)	1992
1/25.1	Chhada Siembieda, Interior Designers - The Anchorage Hotel, Port Stephens - Manufacturers (includes drawings)	1992
1/25.2	Chhada Siembieda, Interior Designers - The Anchorage Hotel, Port Stephens - Manufacturers (includes drawings)	1992
1/26	Chhada Siembieda Interior Designers - Kingsgate, Rotorua (includes drawings)	1993
1/27	Children's Medical Research Foundation Laboratories, Westmead Hospital; Clapin Burdett Pty Ltd; Client List c1990; Commercial Equity Pty Ltd (leasing agreement); Commonwealth Bank of Australia; Commonwealth Development Bank of Australia (includes drawings)	1990-1993
1/28	Country Road Homewear- correspondence and price lists	1990-1993
1/29	Country Road Homewear – orders and delivery papers	1990-1993
1/30	Country Road Homewear – drawings	1991
1/31	Dorothy Cox; Coxnexus Design; Craft and Trade Timbers Pty Ltd; John and Beverley Crook; Beresford House Gallery; Dalegrove Pty Ltd; Davenport Campbell; David Jones Australia; DCM Interiors Pty Ltd (includes drawings)	1987-1992

1/32	Deloitte Haskins and Sells) (includes James Bradley's Pty Ltd business plan 1989)	1988-1991
1/33	Department of Employment and Training (State) and Department of Education, Employment and Training (Federal) -Tasmanian Employment Program and apprenticeships)	1986-1993
1/34	Desaro Design Interiors; Diners Club International; Dockside Hotel, Brisbane- Stage 1 Specifications	1988-1990
1/35	Duffecy Design (includes drawings and photographs) (includes drawings and photographs)	1987-1988
1/36	Eckart Pty Ltd (includes drawings)	1989-1990
1/37	EGO Design Pty Ltd – Minter Ellison Fitout (includes drawings)	1989-1990
1/38	Elphin Motor Villas; Englebert Design	1987-1989
1/39	Ernst and Young Project - EGO Group Designers (includes drawings)	1990
1/40	The Examiner Newspaper; Factory Registration and Safety	1992
1/41	Fairbrother Pty Ltd - Inter-Continental Hotel, Sydney and Oceanic International Hotel, Coogee, NSW (includes drawings)	1989-1991
1/42	George Fethers and Co	1990-1992
1/43	Finished Jobs - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hobart; Bathurst Police Station; Staffordshire House, Launceston (includes drawings and specifications)	1990-1991
1/44	Fred French Masonic Nursing Home - Amanda Hall Interior Design (includes drawings)	1993
1/45	David Flatman Productions (television program); FRM Materials Handling Pty Ltd; Furnishing Trades (Roping-in No 1) Award 1993; Furniture Focus - Design Centre of Tasmania; Garrotts Pty Ltd Chartered Accountants; Hans Gerber Design Consultancy; Geyer Design - Craigs Royal Hotel, Melbourne	1988-1993
1/46	Furnishing Training - Tasmanian Furniture Industry Training Board Inc	1986-1993
1/47.1	Greenrowe Pty Ltd, ANA Hotel, Sydney (includes specifications)	1991

1/47.2	Greenrowe Pty Ltd, ANA Hotel, Sydney – Harold Thompson and Associates Design Consultants (includes specifications)	1991
1/48	Greenrowe Pty Ltd - Le Meridien Hotel, Melbourne	1993
1/49	Greenrowe Pty Ltd - Park Lane Hotel, Sydney (includes specifications)	1991
1/50	Frank Grill and Associates Interior Designers; Herschell - Stent Pty Ltd	1988-1992
1/51	Hollybank Forestry Training Centre) (includes architectural design competition papers and plan)	1991-1992
1/52	Hornsby Police Station; The House of Fiction (Crafts Council of NSW) Exhibition; Innates Woodworking; Innova Design Furniture - Contract Furniture Manufacturing (includes drawing and catalogue)	1988-1991
1/53	Inscan Design - Commonwealth Bank Refurbishment, Sydney - Executive Furniture (includes drawings)	1989-1990
1/54	Interior Designex 93; Interworks Australia Pty Ltd – Mitsubishi House, Castle Cove, NSW; Invoiced miscellaneous orders (includes drawings)	1990-1993
1/55	Jambro Pty Ltd; Japanese Export; Jennings Constructions Ltd - Jupiter's Casino, Gold Coast; John Kalder Fabricmaker Pty Ltd (includes drawings)	1989-1992
1/56	Lambert Bain Pty Ltd, Insurance Brokers; Land Tax; Launceston College of TAFE; Launceston International Hotel; Legal and General (includes drawing)	1987-1993
1/57	Richard Leplastrier, Architect; Lidi Australia (Qld) Pty Ltd; Lloyds Bank, London; S H Lock Leasing Ltd; Helmut Lueckenhausen; Management Re-structure (meeting notes); Materials Orders - Production Manager; MBF, Hobart; Meat Research Corporation; Mediacraft, Sydney (includes drawings)	1990-1993
1/58.1	Minter Ellison Fitout, Lend Lease Interiors (includes drawings and specifications)	1989-1991
1/58.2	Minter Ellison Fitout, Lend Lease Interiors – Subcontractors and materials	1990
1/59	Mirvac Constructions Pty Ltd - All Suites Hotel and Inn on the Park, Melbourne (includes drawings)	1990-1991

1/60	Mirvac Constructions Pty Ltd - Quay West Hotel, The Rocks, Sydney (includes drawings)	1989-1990
1/61	Mirvac Constructions Pty Ltd - Quay West Hotel, The Rocks, Sydney and Raleigh Park Demonstration Homes (includes drawings)	1990-1991
1/62	Model Number - Country Road and Anibou Furniture; Modulo Software (includes drawings)	1990-1992
1/63.1	Multiplex Construction Pty Ltd - Greenwood Metroplaza, Sydney (includes drawings)	1991-1992
1/63.2	Multiplex Constructions Pty Ltd - Greenwood Metroplaza, Sydney (includes drawings and photographs)	1991-1992
1/64	Myrtle Burl Veneer	1992
1/65	National Mutual Business Expenses Protection Plan; National Mutual/Nexis Employee Superannuation; National Starch and Chemical Pty Ltd; Nationwide News Pty Ltd; Jack Newman and Associates; Nielsen and Johnston Pty Ltd	1989-1993
1/66	1991 Hobart Design Triennial (includes catalogue and symposium papers)	1990-1991
1/67	North Esk Regional Water Supply Scheme; Notes on the Factory; David C Owen and Co; Paperline Pty Ltd; Park Lane Hotel, Sydney - Joint Venture with Dee Jay Furniture; Parliament House Construction Authority - Executive Furniture (includes photographs)	1987-1992
1/68	Parquetry Blocks - Advance Parquetry Flooring Pty Ltd	1985-1988
1/69	PdC Associates; Pegar Commercial Furniture Pty Ltd; A/S J Petersens Beslagfabrik; Property Valuation – 18-22 and 12 Herbert Street; Quantum Sound Centre, Hobart; Ramset Fasteners (Aust) Pty Ltd; The Regent Kicks Bar, Collins Place, Melbourne; RMIT Centre for Design; Rotary Club of Launceston West - 1991 Pride of Workmanship Awards (includes drawings)	1988-1992
1/70	D J Rowe Consultants - The Park Hyatt on Sydney Cove (includes purchase agreement, tender which includes photocopies of photographs of furniture manufactured for other clients, particularly the Parliament House Construction Authority)	1989
1/71	Sheraton Mirage Resort, Surfers' Paradise; Siddons Proline	1985-1992

Ltd; J Shiner and Sons Ltd - Brass Fittings; St George Building Society, Sydney - KBH Interiors Pty Ltd; State Bank of South Australia; State of Origin Logo Licence

1/72	Daniel Stevens Pty Ltd - Reproduction Furniture (includes drawings)	1986-1989
1/73	Tony Taitt; Tasmanian Arboretum Inc; Tasmania Bank (includes drawings)	1987-1988
1/74	Tasmanian Development Authority (includes <i>Annual Report 1987</i> , papers and publications re furniture industry development plan and Tasmanian Index)	1986-1992
1/75	Tasmanian Development Authority Loan and James Bradley's Pty Ltd Business Plan	1987-1993
1/76	Tasmanian Government Insurance Office	1991-1992
1/77	Tasmanian Guild of Furniture Manufacturers (minutes of meetings); Tasmanian Wood Panels (Aust) Pty Ltd	1988-1993
1/78	Telecom Centre Managing Director's Office Furniture; Tenders and Quotes (various); Thonet Bentwood - Merlin Plaza Apartment Project; R Thorpe Transport Pty Ltd (Herbert Street sub-lease agreement) (includes drawing and illustrations)	1986-1989
1/79	Tiffany (Nu Steel Furniture Pty Ltd - Subcontracting for Findlay Building and Hobart Sheraton (includes drawings)	1987-1991
1/80	Timber Suppliers	1986-1989
1/81	Time Sheets – employees (examples only)	1989-1992
1/82	Tony and Julie Trent; Trust Bank; Uniquely Australian Pacific Design Centre; University of Tasmania – Department of Architecture and School of Education (includes drawings)	1986-1993
1/83	Upholstery – Country Road; Anibou and others	1990-1993
1/84	Veneering Plant; G J Walkem and Co Pty Ltd; Waverley Woollen Mills (upholstery fabric samples); Keith Weatherly, Glasshouse Studios; Westpac Banking Corporation; Wood Carvers - J Kelly and others; Leslie John Wright - Shoreline Recling Deck Chair royalties; Wyn Products - Sofa Bed Mechanisms and Mattresses; Young Tasmanian Entrepreneur of the Year Award 1987 (includes drawings)	1986-1992

2.Furniture Correspondence

2/1	Adam Sofa (includes drawings)	nd
2/2	Bang Design – Piggly Wiggly Chair etc (includes drawings)	nd
2/3	Biedermeir Pedestal, chair, credenza and dining table, Daniel Stevens Pty Ltd (includes drawings and photograph)	1987
2/4	Bryanston Bar Stool (includes drawings and photograph)	1987
2/5	Chippendale Carver - Daniel Stevens Pty Ltd (includes drawings)	1987
2/6	John Clapin Boardroom Table and Chairs (includes drawings)	1988
2/7	Club Stool and Club Chair (includes drawings)	1989
2/8	Cottswold Garden Settee (drawings)	nd
2/9	Egyptian Chair/Stool - Daniel Stevens Pty Ltd (includes drawings and photograph)	nd
2/10	Egyptian Coffee Table - Daniel Stevens Pty Ltd (includes drawing)	nd
2/11	Egyptian Console Table - Daniel Stevens Pty Ltd (includes drawing)	nd
2/12	Egyptian Dining Table - Daniel Stevens Pty Ltd (includes drawing)	1987
2/13	Egyptian Settee - Daniel Stevens Pty Ltd (includes drawings)	nd
2/14	Eton Hepplewhite Chair (drawing)	nd
2/15	Greek Chair (includes drawings and photograph)	nd
2/16	Lidi, Brisbane Boardroom Table (includes drawings)	1989
2/17	Malvern Chair (includes drawing)	nd
2/18	Tapestry Table, Desks (drawings)	nd
2/19	Sheraton Hotel Desk Chair	1986
2/20	Tennis Chair (includes drawings and photograph)	1989
2/21	Wrest Point Casino Guest Services (includes drawings)	1992

3. Personal Correspondence

3/1 James Bradley, family and friends 1984-1988

4. Financial Records

4/1 Annual balance sheets; cashflows; general ledger statements and balance sheets; purchases journal report; cashbook record sheets; cash payment and receipt sheets 1987-1993

4/2 Debtors ledger sheets and customer balance sheets for Country Road Homewear and others 1986-1993

4/3 Creditors ledger sheets and supplier balance lists 1986-1992

4/4 Work in progress sheets; job summary report; sales journal; sales tax report and sales analysis; cost centre summary; wages summaries; staff time analysis 1986-1993

5. Drawings and Plans

5/1 Bang Design/James Bradley's Pty Ltd - Greenwood Metroplaza (includes drawings of Booth Seating) (5 drawings) c1991

5/2 Bathurst and Riverwood Police Station Benches 1990

5/3 Greenwood Metroplaza - Curling Wall Hand Rail and Tree Surround (2 drawings) 1992

5/4 University of Tasmania - Vice Chancellor's Office (includes desk drawings) nd

5/5 Tony Legge Design - Shop Fitout (Shop Two Piccadilly Centre) for Jousse Executive - Counter Details 1992

5/6 J P Morgan - Special Loose Furniture (Reception Area etc) c1991

5/7 Rice Daubney Group Architects - Greenwood Metroplaza (includes Good Food Plaza Floor Plan and Seating Layout etc (9 drawings) 1991

6. Photographs

6/1 James Bradley's Pty Ltd furniture pieces; machinery etc (c60 prints, includes some negatives and slides) nd

7. Ephemera

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| 7/1 | Invoices; account statements; employee record sheets; delivery sheets; consignment forms | nd |
| 7/2 | Consignment form book | c1992 |
| 7/3 | Compliments slips; writing paper and cards; facsimile sheets showing various letterheads | nd |
| 7/4 | Business cards; delivery labels and stickers; flyers; brochures; furniture tag | c1992 |

8. Publications

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| 8/1 | James Bradley's Pty Ltd catalogue; M Tabberer 'Fashion Notebook' (<i>Australian Women's Weekly</i> , Nov 1989, includes Anibou Pty Ltd Showroom photographs showing James Bradley's Pty Ltd chairs); S Stenmark 'The Bradley Bunch' (<i>Vogue Entertaining Guide</i> , Oct/Nov 1992); 'Profile – James Bradley has reputation for excellence' (<i>Furniture Retailing Today</i> , Jan/Feb 1993); <i>Marc Newson</i> exhibition catalogue (includes chair manufactured by James Bradley's Pty Ltd and Idiom) | 1988-1993 |
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OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, CHS 22

Launceston Reference Library, Local History Collection, newspaper cuttings file, 'Furniture Industry'