

## MEDIA RELEASE

9<sup>th</sup> of January 2012

### One stitch closer to Old Government House!



If the old saying ‘you reap what you sew’ is true, then a group of dedicated volunteers have good things coming their way as they finish the final stitches on a quilt for display at Old Government House.

The story to this inspiring tale about an antique quilt from the Trust’s collection began when members of the NSW Quilt Study Group (a subcommittee of the Quilters’ Guild of NSW Inc.) visited Old Government House at Parramatta in 2009.

After being given a tour of the property and its vast collection of antique furnishings, the women were dismayed by the absence of any quilts, despite the fact they were a fixture in most homes in the 1800s.

After consulting with the National Trust’s Collection Manager, Jennifer Palmer, the group decided to recreate the Frederica Josephson quilt that was once a stunning and homely feature in the master bedroom.

Jennifer said “The original quilt is made up of a combination of stars and hexagons cotton fabrics imported from England and is part of the Old Government House collection but is too fragile for public display.”

“As a not-for-profit non-government organization the Trust is appreciative of the hard work and dedication of these volunteers. In making a replica of this iconic quilt it will enable visitors to enjoy the handiwork as it would have appeared in colonial times.”

Dr Annette Gero, author of "Fabric of Society, Australia's quilt heritage from convict times to 1960", and a member of the Sydney Quilt Study Group, said the history behind the quilt made it an exciting project for the volunteers to replicate.

“Frederica Mary Josephson is believed to have made the quilt in around 1850 to 1860. She was born in 1833 in Sydney and with her husband, Emmanuel, built Riverview Cottage at Longueville, living there from 1853 to 1873. The estate was later sold to the Jesuits and is now St. Ignatius College.”

Annette added “Frederica’s quilt is also significant as it is probably one of the first quilts to be made in the Colony”.

The women have detailed their nearly three year journey including their work on the quilt through a blog with the official handing over of the quilt will be held at The Quilt Show, Darling Harbour, on Wednesday the 13th of June.

To read more visit:

<http://australianquiltstudygroups.blogspot.com/p/documentation-of-replica-frederica.html>

**Media Enquiries:** Amelia Freeland – Media and Communications Manager Ph: 02 9258 0131 Mob: 0402 623 462 Email: [afreeland@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:afreeland@nationaltrust.com.au)

The National Trust is a not-for-profit non-government organization that relies on donations and member contributions to continue advocating and conserving heritage sites.