



NATIONAL TRUST

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MEDIA RELEASE

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National Trust announces Will Holmes à Court as new CEO

The President of the National Trust of Australia (NSW), Ian Carroll OAM, announced today that the Board has appointed Will Holmes à Court, as CEO of the Trust. Mr Holmes à Court, a member of the Trust Board since 1999 and long time Trust Treasurer has been acting Executive Director since January this year.

Mr Carroll said that the Board had searched extensively for a CEO to lead the Trust in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis which is proving particularly challenging for not-for-profit organisations.

Mr Carroll said: "The Board was delighted when Will accepted the position. Will, educated in engineering, computer science and accounting has applied his business expertise at the helm of a number of Australian and international enterprises both here and in the Asia-Pacific region and has proved an invaluable member of the Trust over the past ten years. Will's strong commitment to the Trust is also evidenced by the considerable respect he has earned both as Treasurer and Acting Executive Director, among our staff, volunteers and stakeholders".

Mr Holmes à Court takes the reins at the culmination of a year which saw the release of a new strategic plan for the Trust which recognises the need for long-term sustainability. On taking the reins of office **he said:** "As CEO of the Trust, I will continue to build a rigorous financial and management framework which supports our core programmes of advocacy, conservation and education while endorsing the need to build a strong and sustainable Trust. Our support comes from the community, and I will use their considerable financial and personal investment cautiously".

He continued: "The National Trust is the pre-eminent independent heritage body in Australia and is committed to the conservation of Australia's built, cultural and natural heritage. Our built heritage forms an important part of our national identity, and as a household name the Trust is keen to educate and help all Australians play a part in the vital task of conserving this heritage. The alarm of long-term global warming may have distracted the community from the important preservation issues at hand such as Kuring-gai under threat from massive over-development and the mind-numbing development proposal for Barangaroo. We must act now to protect these and other significant icons for our future.

"While continuing our commitment to the built and cultural environment I am also eager, in this the International Year of Biodiversity, to harness the aspirations of a younger generation to protect their natural heritage. Much of our urban bushland is distressed and is crying out for us all to do something. It is a community problem which only the community can solve and with 60 years experience in bush regeneration the Trust is well positioned to lead local volunteer groups to re-establish Australia's unique biodiversity for our children's sake.

"What fires my passion for the Trust above all is that it is a family, formed in 1945 and driven throughout the nation by people and communities who care for their county and its heritage. I want to provide the support our volunteers and staff require to achieve something they and their communities can be proud of.

“My approach is embracing and conciliatory and I am keen the Trust draw all our stakeholders together, including developers and planners, to discuss the important issues and collectively find solutions for the common good so that, while protecting our past, the Trust is acknowledged as having a valued role in shaping our future”, **Mr Holmes à Court said.**

Will takes over the position of CEO from John Neish who left the National Trust in December to become General Manager of City of Ryde Council.

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