

MEDIA RELEASE

21st of July 2011

Extensive upgrades to historic Everglades to be unveiled

The National Trust is pleased to announce Federal Minister Tony Burke will officially unveil extensive upgrades at iconic Everglades in the Blue Mountains on Saturday the 30th of July.

The heritage listed 1930s art deco property in Leura underwent a 12 month refurbishment with improvements to the garden and home and the construction of a new visitors centre.

The works were undertaken following the awarding of a grant to the National Trust under the Federal Government's Heritage Jobs Fund.

"The upgrades improve the visitor experience and enhance the heritage significance of this property with its breathtaking backdrop of the now World Heritage listed Greater Blue Mountains Area" said the National Trust's Conservation Manager Michael Ellis.

The home was built in 1933 after being commissioned by Belgian born Henri de Velde with his vision of a sweeping garden created by Danish landscape designer Paul Sorenson.

Sorenson produced a landscape design that spread over 12 and half acres and was demonstrative of the first use of modernist concepts in an Australian environment.

The house and garden is still on display in its original design concept and attracts over 30 000 visitors a year while the National Trust property also hosts a range of cultural and arts activities.

The recent upgrades were undertaken by Architects Lacoste+Stevenson, while design house Frost* created the visitor signage displays, after consultation with landscape historian Colleen Morris.

The National Trust would like to thank the Federal Government and in particular the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Tony Burke for supporting the Everglades upgrades.

WHEN: Saturday 30th of July 2011

TIME: 2pm

WHERE: Everglades House and Garden

37 Everglades Avenue

Leura

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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.