

MEDIA RELEASE

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Cooma Cottage public appeal

The National Trust is appealing for public donations to help repair the iconic white picket fence surrounding heritage listed Cooma Cottage.

Cooma Cottage at Yass holds a special place in Australia's history as the home of Hamilton Hume the renowned early Australian explorer.

In 1824 Hume led a poorly equipped expedition overland from Sydney to Port Phillip, with hopes of linking Sydney with a planned new colony, later to become Melbourne.

Hume bought Cooma Cottage in 1839 and spent the next two decades extending the house, outbuildings, garden and fences.



At a cost of just \$20 to replace one picket in the 150 metre fence, the Trust is hoping with the support of the public, all 22 pickets will be replaced in the same original style.

Cooma Cottage Manager Dr Rick Williams said replacing the deteriorated picket fence will ensure visitors experience Cooma Cottage in its original form when Hume lived in it from 1839 to 1873.

"The original design of each picket has to be fashioned, cut to measure, installed and painted. The work is time-consuming and costly" he said.

"The garden contains a herb garden and many notable 19th century trees and shrubs that need protection and care, in particular from local livestock."

"The fence is the first thing a visitor sees; for it to be in disrepair is not in keeping with what the cottage has to offer."

He added "The fence is the boundary between the 21st century and the middle of the 19th; as you enter the grounds you step back into Hume's day, when Cooma Cottage belonged to an Australian legend."

The 5 original posts installed by Hamilton Hume will be stored for a later exhibit.

Print and online media note: Archival images of Cooma Cottage including pictures of the original fence are available on request.

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