



NATIONAL TRUST

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MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 29 March 2010

A day to celebrate the Making of Our Nation

Sunday 18 April celebrates the Making of Our Nation with as the National Trust welcomes visitors to its properties around NSW for National Trust Day. Waiving usual entry prices, the historic properties will be open for a gold coin donation.

Will Holmes a Court, National Trust Chief Executive Officer said: "The theme for the 30th annual Heritage Festival is the Making of Our Nation which honours the bicentenary of the commencement of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's 12 year tenure as the 5th Governor of the Colony of New South Wales."

Governor Macquarie made an outstanding and extensive contribution to the growth of the State of New South Wales and his many legacies endure. He is widely recognised as being responsible for transforming the new colony from a penal settlement to a flourishing society. This was ultimately achieved through his visionary leadership and strength of character.

During his governorship, Macquarie instigated hundreds of public works programs leading to the introduction of churches, schools, hospitals, roads, banks, newspapers, agricultural developments, racing and sporting carnivals, architects and surveyors, festivals and celebrations and charitable institutions along with many other ventures. He established solid foundations for an economically independent civilised society.

Saumarez Homestead, Armidale will be open for a sausage sizzle and guided tours. A ten-hectare property grazing property established in the 1830s including 20 buildings, charming gardens and farm area with stables, Saumarez is located on the New England Highway, Armidale.

Open: 10am – 4pm

New England Highway, Armidale.

In the year of his bicentenary, the National Trust and NRMA Motoring and Services will present the National Trust Classic Cavalcade. Up to 50 beautifully-restored vintage and classic cars start their journey from Old Government House, Parramatta to Riversdale, Goulburn. Cars depart Old Government House at 8:30am, then spend the morning discovering the former home of the Governors.

Open: 10am – 4pm

Parramatta Park, Parramatta.

Experiment Farm Cottage, Harris Park offers a chance to see a charming Indian-style bungalow containing a fine collection of Australian colonial furniture – perfect for a hassle-free day out.

Open: 10:30am – 3:30pm

9 Ruse St, Harris Park.

The stunning Norman Lindsay Gallery, Faulconbridge, home to one of Australia's most prolific and controversial artists, is filled with the beautiful etchings, oils, watercolours, ship models and novels for which he became famous. Join a guided garden tour or bushwalk to discover this picturesque place in the Blue Mountains.

Open: 10am – 4pm

14 Norman Lindsay Crescent, Faulconbridge.

Have a great day out at Tomago House, a 1840s country residence, built by barrister Richard Windeyer, one of the nation's leading politico-legal figures. Tomago House is noted for its fine verandahs looking over pastoral land; interiors which reflected the lives and times of a family of status – and a social history which spans three generations.

Open: 10:30am – 3:30pm

Tomago Road, Tomago (Hunter Valley)

Visit an exhibition of needlework boxes and tools in the age of Mrs Macquarie at Vienna Cottage. Vienna Cottage a rare example of an artisan's home of the past century.

Open: 1pm-4pm

38 Alexandra St, Hunters Hill.

Stroll through the beautiful gardens of Everglades, Leura - Australia's most spectacular inter-war garden. Gorgeous gardens, native bushland, stunning Jamison Valley views and the Art Deco house make this a spectacular day out for the whole family.

Open: 10am – 4pm

37 Everglades Ave, Leura.

Vintage frocks, live music, food and wine, and a spectacular display of classic cars will be on offer at the National Trust Vintage Fair at Riversdale, Goulburn. Part of the National Trust Heritage Festival, the Vintage Fair will celebrate the theme of this year's Festival "The Making of Our Nation" with an exciting line-up of live entertainment, displays and stalls. NRMA will present a display of over 50 vintage and veteran cars driven from Old Government House, Parramatta along the roads that Macquarie built, which will arrive at Riversdale at 1pm. Riversdale will also be open for viewing. The historic National Trust property was built as a coaching inn and residence in the 1840s and is the only surviving building of the 'Old Township' as sited by Governor Macquarie.

Open: 11am - 5pm

Maud St, Goulburn.

For more information on National Trust properties around NSW visit www.nationaltrust.com.au.

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