

## MEDIA RELEASE

31<sup>st</sup> of August 2011

### The lost boys of Everglades

The National Trust has launched an appeal for the return of three bronze statues that mysteriously disappeared from historic Everglades House and Garden around 40 years ago.

*The Don* (Quixote), *The Boy* (with the thorn in his foot), and *the Pan* were precious bronze statues imported from Italy in the 1930's taking up residence at *The Everglades Gardens* in Leura, New South Wales.

Their custodians were Mr and Mrs Van de Velde, owners of the beautiful Everglades Estate.

The home was built in 1933 after being commissioned by Belgian born Henri Van de Velde, a merchant and felt manufacturer, displaying his vision of a sweeping garden spread over 12 and half acres.

*The Don* had prime position as protector of the stylish 1930's Art Deco house while his friend *The Boy* sat nearby at 3 feet high.

He sat opposite *The Don*, perched on a pedestal under the Japanese maple tree, while *the Pan* sat silently playing his flute overlooking the pond.

But over time and with a succession of new owners the garden fell in to a state of disrepair and the statues disappeared with *the Boy* statue and *the Don* reported missing in the 1960s.

By the time the Trust acquired the Everglades House and Gardens in 1962 none of the original statues were to be found.

Fast forward to 2011 and Everglades is on public display in its original design concept attracting over 30,000 visitors a year while the National Trust property also hosts a range of cultural and arts activities.

But the Trust is now running a campaign to have the statues returned to the iconic property and restore the garden to its complete former glory or alternatively collect donations to have replicas made to replace them. Can you help locate the three statues?

Contact Everglades Manager Scott Pollock on 02 4784 1938 if you have information that could lead to the safe return of Leura's lost boys.

Print and online media please note – photos of the missing statues and a detailed feature length story about their disappearance (written by an Everglades volunteer) are available by request.

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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.