

Regional News

National Trust around New South Wales

Our Wonderful Volunteers

Our team of National Trust volunteers extends throughout New South Wales, sharing their time and skills in countless ways. They are the face of the Trust at our properties and the eyes and ears which help to protect heritage at risk, and we simply couldn't do without them!

To celebrate **National Volunteers Week**, a number of Trust properties held special events to say 'thank you'. In **Parramatta**, a large group of volunteers who help to care for Old Government House and Experiment Farm Cottage enjoyed a special afternoon tea and congratulated seven of their number who received awards for their outstanding contributions to the two properties. They were:

- Margaret Poole:** fundraising, education and guiding – OGH and EFC
- Lesley Richards and Kath Heckenberg:** reception, sales and guiding – OGH and EFC
- Elaine Lowrey:** property presentation and care – OGH
- Pat Grove:** education and guiding – OGH
- Peter Crittenden:** research and information – OGH and EFC
- Cate Gow:** community liaison – OGH and EFC



Centre stage was Ada Mumford, volunteer extraordinaire (now retired) who, among many other things, initiated the spectacularly successful Ghost Nights at Old Government House and over the years cooked up a storm many times to raise funds for the Trust.



Jeff Wai-Yee

Volunteer Jeff Wai-Yee finds much to enjoy

The team of Guardians at the S.H. Ervin Gallery helps to run the shop, welcome visitors to exhibitions and deal with enquiries. The opportunity for involvement in the local visual arts scene and see a wide variety of Australian artworks shown at the Gallery encouraged Jeff Wai-Yee to volunteer in October 2009.

'It is a pleasure to interact with the visitors, communicating both a welcome and enthusiasm for current exhibitions and the work of the gallery generally. There are so many benefits to being a volunteer; the opportunity to attend exhibition openings – always attended by celebrities in the art world; the chance to see an exhibition a number of times before or after my shifts, and the opportunity to meet famous artists such as Reg Mombassa and Wendy Sharpe. Last, but not least, is the camaraderie I enjoy with other volunteers and with the gallery staff. Altogether, more than sufficient to maintain my enthusiasm for continuing to volunteer at the gallery for years to come.'

To enquire about volunteering please phone Toni Maher on (02) 9258 0168 or email tmaher@nationaltrust.com.au

Farewell lunch for Diana

Sad news for the Blue Mountains Branch was the recent resignation of volunteer Diana Nelson OAM from the committee - a tireless worker for the Trust for many years. The tours which she organised have been the source of many friendships and much companionship, as well as raising substantial funds, while her organising ability has been of great value to the Friends of the S.H. Ervin Gallery. She established both the Friends of Norman Lindsay Gallery and the Friends of Everglades groups and contributed over time to their ongoing success. Diana has been recognised by the Trust with an Honorary Life Membership and by the community at large by the award of the Order of Australia Medal.



Diana and Tom Nelson surrounded by friends

Copland Foundation Grant Enhances National Trust Collection

Purchased from Simpson Antiques with funds from a 2011 Copland Foundation Grant, the recent acquisition of a pair of Australian cedar whatnots broadens the National Trust's Colonial furniture collection.

On display at Old Government House, Parramatta, the pair of whatnots with their barley-twist columns, graining and rosewood veneers expand the concept and appreciation of Colonial furniture beyond Greek Revival inspired design executed in plain cedar.

The use of rosewood veneers over the cedar reflects the English fashion for rosewood in the second quarter of the 19th century; the barley twist columns reflect the fashion for the 'Olde English' style.



Attributed to the Sydney workshop of Andrew Lenehan, the whatnots epitomise the increased sophistication and romanticism of the decorative arts in NSW in the 1840s – an aspect of decorative arts that was missing from the collection.

Australian cedar whatnot

c.1845	N.S.W. origin
Materials:	Cedar
Dimensions:	1100H, 490W, 490D
Accession No:	3497/1-2
Collection:	National Trust of Australia (NSW)