

President's message



I am honoured to have been elected to the Presidency of the Trust at the meeting of the Board which followed the 2008 Annual General Meeting. The Trust has been, for over 60 years, the pre-eminent force in the preservation of our natural, built and cultural heritage, and it is imperative that it continue to be so in order that we can pass to future generations the heritage which we have a duty to preserve and pass to them, and which they have the right to inherit.

On behalf of the Trust community, I extend our sincerest gratitude to former President and Director,

Dr Zeny Edwards, for her long and dedicated service to the Trust, to its Board and to the cause of heritage. Zeny gave, without stint, of her talents and resources, and leaves to the Trust an enduring legacy which, even prior to her assumption of leadership roles in the Trust, was recognized by the award of Honorary Life Membership of the Trust. Arguably her greatest achievement was to note, with great concern, the omission of heritage from the agenda of the Prime Minister's National 2020 Summit, and to subsequently initiate a National Brains Trust which re-instated heritage on the national stage.

I also extend our thanks to recently-retired Directors Associate Professor Paul Adams and Wendy Carlson for their dedicated service to the Board and the Trust, and to the former Deputy President, and continuing Director, Julian Bickersteth, for his wise and supportive leadership. I welcome newly-elected Directors Maureen Pike (Non-Metropolitan) and Professor Ross Griffith (Metropolitan Director) to the Board.

The Board has also elected heritage consultant Don Godden as Deputy President and business consultant Will Holmes à Court as Treasurer for the current year. I look forward to working with them on the Executive Committee, and with all Directors in support of Management under the very able leadership of Executive Director John Neish.

As you will learn in greater detail from the Executive Director's message, the Trust has embarked on an ambitious strategic planning exercise to chart a challenging and exciting, but financially responsible, course for the Trust to 2020. Concurrently, a restructuring of the Trust's operations is being undertaken to ensure that the Trust has the appropriate platforms and resources to pursue the course which is charted. In these matters, the Executive Director has the complete support of the Board as we work together to create strategies and capacities for the Trust which will be appropriate to meet a new generation of challenges.

In its essence, the Trust is a member-based organisation, greatly dependent upon its volunteer base for the performance of much of its critical work. That being the case, the Trust must work continuously to renew and enhance its membership and volunteer base. To do so, we must, among other things, recognise that there have been great changes in Australian society since the Trust was formed in 1945, and we must seek to connect to the young and to the many ethnic communities which are now represented in our society, and whose culture and cultural items are now a part of our Australian heritage.

I thank the Board for the privilege of leading it, and the Trust, into these challenging, but very exciting, times. I will do my utmost to repay the faith which my fellow Directors have placed in me, and to discharge the obligations and responsibilities which I have assumed to the Trust and to its members.

Ian Carroll OAM, President

Executive Director's Message



As I write, we are well into a period of significant change. 2009 brings a new President and new strategic direction for the Trust.

I am delighted that Ian Carroll OAM was elected the new President of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) in November 2008.

A member of the Trust for 12 years, Ian is a former Partner of national law firm Clayton Utz and has acted as an honorary legal adviser to a number of charities and other not-for-profit organisations, including serving as President of UNICEF

Australia. He is now a director of a number of companies in the financial services sector.

I have no doubt that Ian will be a great asset to the Trust. His invaluable experience, outstanding achievements in the corporate and not-for-profit sector, and strong commitment to the heritage conservation cause will serve us well as we move into the future. I am very much looking forward to working with Ian.

Many thanks must go to outgoing President Dr Zeny Edwards who has resigned from the Presidency and the Board of the Trust. Zeny served as President in 07-08, and as Deputy President in 06-07. Her passion, creative energy and commitment to the cause were evident in her achievements for the Trust, such as spearheading our campaigns against the regressive reforms of the planning laws and Heritage Act, and establishing the Brains Trust forum which drew heritage protection to the attention of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

I would also like to congratulate Don Godden on his election as Deputy President and thank Julian Bickersteth for his guidance and counsel as the previous Deputy President from 07-08. At November's AGM, the election of two new Members of the Board was also announced. I warmly welcome Maureen Pike and Professor Ross Griffith. Special thanks also to Associate Professor Paul Adam and Wendy Carlson, who have resigned from the Board after serving since 2004.

The process of change currently underway at the Trust is underpinned by a review of the organisation which I commenced on my appointment in August 2008. Key to this has been extensive consultation with National Trust property staff and committees throughout the state. This consultation, combined with a close examination of our operational status, has clarified a range of issues that must be addressed for the organisation to grow and prosper into the future.

In conjunction with the Board, and using this essential input from stakeholders, I am currently working on the National Trust (NSW)'s Strategic Plan 2020 which will illuminate our core goals, and set priorities for the next five years and beyond. It is planned that NT (NSW) 2020 be completed by June 2009.

As a first step, I am pleased to announce that the Board has approved a plan that will restructure the Trust's operations, and set in place revenue generating programs to fund, amongst other things, the maintenance of our properties. Our operations will be reconfigured to establish seven program areas designed to

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Members! See the draft outcomes of the National Trust (NSW) Strategic Plan 2020 at www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au in the first half of 2009.

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