



NATIONAL TRUST

NATIONAL TRUST MAGAZINE (NSW)

amazing stories, every moment

May - July 2010 / WINTER

2010 EnergyAustralia National
Trust Heritage Awards

National Trust Raffle



Over \$4.6 million in grants for our properties

by **Sky Fleming**, Grants Manager

L - R: National Trust Centre; Everglades House and Gardens, Leura; Old Government House, Parramatta; and Grossman House, Maitland

Last year, the Trust received just over \$4.6 million in government funding to undertake key conservation and improvements projects at the National Trust Centre, Old Government House, Everglades House and Gardens, Dundullimal and Grossman and Brough Houses.

The majority of this funding is being administered by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) as part of the Australian Government's *Jobs Fund* initiative – to support and create jobs and skills development through projects that build community and social infrastructure.

The NSW Department of Planning has also contributed a \$75,000 grant towards works being carried out at Old Government House under their 2009-2011 Heritage Grants programme.

Under *Jobs Fund*, \$12 million was allocated to National Trust managed properties across Australia. Of this, five NSW properties were selected to receive around \$4.6 million funding, which has enabled these important projects to go ahead.

Our projects are contributing to the overall sustainability of NSW's heritage infrastructure for future generations while supporting economic stimulus, particularly for regional and local communities, through jobs and tourism.

The Projects

Macquarie Bicentennial Project, Old Government House, Parramatta

Old Government House (OGH) is Australia's oldest surviving public building. It was the Parramatta residence of the first ten governors of the NSW Colony (including Lachlan Macquarie from 1810-1821). This National Heritage-listed site is undergoing vital conservation improvements to protect and ensure its preservation for the future. The project is being funded primarily through the Australian Government's *Jobs Fund* initiative with a contribution from the NSW Department of Planning (Heritage Branch).

Initial large scale investigations undertaken by Hughes Trueman (consulting engineers) found significant cracking to the outside and inside surfaces of the main house and associated buildings, believed to be caused by movement in the soil. **Property Manager, David Hoffman** commented that Sydney's drought had

had a significant impact on the building. Following investigations, underpinning work was completed by John Wallus of Noel T Leach Builders Pty Ltd. John, who has been involved in projects at Old Government House for nearly 20 years, used traditional trade methods to repair larger wall cracks and associated damage. Some of the smaller cracks have been fitted with unique monitoring devices to detect and record even the minutest movement in the building and assist any future work that may be necessary.



Tell-Tails monitoring device at Old Government House

To further reduce the impact of soil movement on the site, drainage systems are also being replaced and upgraded. The Trust has taken this opportunity to demonstrate its green side by installing a water harvesting system to collect stormwater from the property's roofs and recycling it for use in toilet facilities and on the gardens. Employment opportunities are also being provided for youth at risk in the community via Fusion Contracting, a not-for-profit organisation, which is overseeing renovations of the toilet facilities.

Landscaping works include an enhanced courtyard space to accommodate an increased number of visitors to OGH and upgrading of the former carriage path around the north of the main building. This will increase safety and amenity and will benefit fundraising functions at the property.

(continued page 2...)

Contents

Regulars

From the President and CEO	3
Trust Action	4
Regional News	4
S.H. Ervin Gallery	8
For our members and supporters	14
National Trust Way Holiday Tours	12
Ticket Application Sheet	15

Calendar

Looking at Architecture	9
Calendar of Events	10

Features

\$4.6 million in grants	1-3
News from the NSW Heritage Branch	5
2010 EnergyAustralia National Trust Heritage Awards	6-7
Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority	13
National Trust Raffle	14

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Over \$4.6million in grants for heritage projects (continued from cover)

Another exciting feature of this project involves further interpretation of the main house including Governor Macquarie's office where many decisions critical to the development of the Colony were made. Works will highlight archaeological features including elements of Governor Phillip's earlier structure. Information will be presented in a variety of ways to recreate Macquarie's life and times.

Peter Garrett, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts announced this project last year as one of the largest conservation projects funded by the Australian Government. He said that Old Government House had played an important role in the development of our nation, which was at the heart of the early administration of the Colony and the Australian convict system. The project is one of a number taking place in the Parramatta precinct to represent the history of Parramatta for the Macquarie 2010 Bicentenary.

National Trust Centre, Sydney

The National Trust Centre on Observatory Hill was built as a military hospital by Governor Macquarie in 1814 and between 1850 and 1974 was home to Fort Street High School. Funding is being used to improve the usability of this site as the Trust's administration centre and venue for hire. The project will also allow essential improvements to previous adaptive reuse work (within the Old Military Hospital part of the site) to enhance the appeal of the site to visitors. This will further increase the Trust's capacity, now and into the future, to utilise the property and raise much needed revenue from its operations.

Grossman and Brough Houses, Maitland

Trades people from the Maitland region are carrying out essential maintenance and repairs to Grossman and Brough Houses to ensure their preservation as fine examples of 19th century Victorian architecture. There will be a noticeable improvement in the condition of the building fabric as a result of roof repairs, guttering and drainage works and upgrades to electrical and security services.

This work demonstrates the commitment of the federal government and National Trust to preserving our significant heritage. The project will further strengthen the revenue raising capacity of the properties allowing more people to visit, enjoy and use them.

Everglades House and Gardens, Leura

Located in the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains region, Everglades is the most highly visited property in the Trust portfolio. Attracting thousands of people from around the world each year, this significant site is well known for its European style cool climate gardens designed by Paul Sorenson in the 1930s and is a popular venue for functions and weddings. The project involves improvements to the site and interpretation to further enhance the visitor experience and interaction with the property. Works include new and upgraded pathways to increase access to parts of the property such as the garden terraces, and re-painting and carpeting of the 1930s Van de Velde house.

A new visitor centre is being constructed which will incorporate a National Trust shop selling a new and exciting range of Everglades merchandise. A key aspect of the project involves static and interactive interpretation to tell the stories of the house and gardens and the people involved in its history. New technologies such as iPod tours will enhance visitor experience while improved tea room facilities (including kitchen) and toilets will increase amenity. Overall the project will boost tourism and provide economic stimulus especially for local suppliers and service industries in regional NSW.

Dundullimal, Dubbo

The project at Dundullimal Homestead sees improvements to the visitor and education facility allowing visitors and an increased number of school students to share in the historical experience of one of the oldest known squatters' residences in NSW (c1842), and step back in time to the days of early colonial

President's Message



I was delighted to announce recently the appointment of Mr Will Holmes à Court as new Chief Executive Officer of the Trust, after an extensive search by the Board.

Will had been a member of the Trust Board from 1999 until his appointment to act as CEO in December 2009, and had been our Treasurer for most of those years. With qualifications in engineering, accounting and computer science, together with a long involvement in and

knowledge of the Trust and a demonstrated commitment to heritage, Will is well-suited to assuming leadership of the Trust in these challenging times. On behalf of the Board and our members, I welcome Will to the role and wish him success and satisfaction in it.

Without diverting from our traditional commitments, it is essential that the Trust also takes an active and positive role in contributing to the wider debates on issues crucial to our country and communities. Such issues include sustainability and how we deal with matters such as climate change, population growth, the fragility of our Australian environment and our limited water and other natural resources. Also at issue is the increasing contempt for our heritage in the face of development pressure, and the progressive exclusion of the community's voice from the planning of our cities, towns and neighbourhoods. To take an effective stand on these and other issues facing Australians today, we need your strong, active and ongoing support. I know that we can count on you.

Ian Carroll OAM, President.

CEO's Message



When last I wrote to you, I had not contemplated the possibility that I would be asked to take the helm at the Trust on a permanent basis. I feel very privileged and humbled by this responsibility, while also excited by the challenge it presents in these significant times.

I am committed to driving our strategic plan, National Trust 2020, with its important theme of Sustainability. I will do this by lightening our structure, communicating more directly, empowering all Trust people and leveraging technology. There is

no one big, easy answer to success; I believe the key will be small wins everyday, by everyone.

Our Vision remains as always: to advocate for the protection of Australia's natural, built and cultural heritage, care to the best of our ability for the properties and collections we hold in trust for the nation, and to educate, enthuse and galvanise support for heritage.

Sadly, in this the year of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's Bicentenary, it seems that those charged with creating an environment which celebrates the rights and privileges of the people, as did Macquarie, have succumbed to fiscal pressure and forsaken the rare opportunity which was offered at Barangaroo to make the city a better place for everyone.

It is clear that the cry today is to demand responsible planning, which includes protection of public space. Our members and friends expect the Trust to speak out with a clear, reasoned voice. This we shall do.

Will Holmes à Court, CEO

Send your questions and comments to: editor@nationaltrust.com.au by 4 June 2010

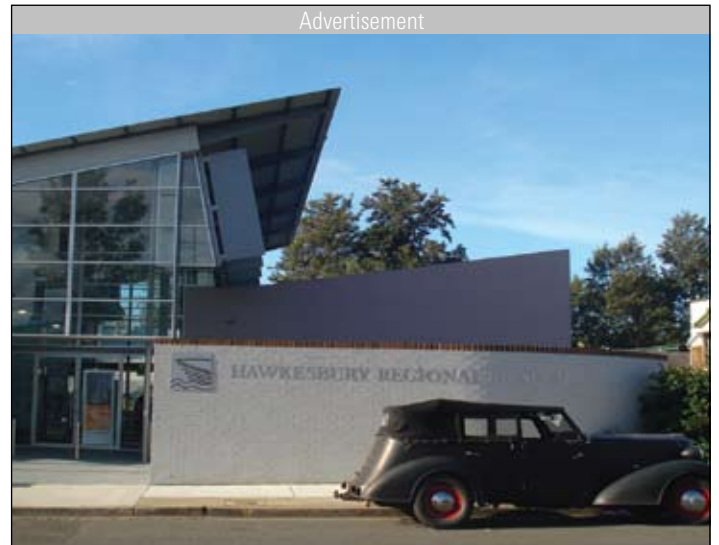
Over \$4.6million in grants for heritage projects (continued from cover)

settlement. The works will also increase revenue opportunities for the property, which is already a popular destination for social activities, particularly weddings, cultural events and private functions. **Property Manager, Rae Ayling** said she was excited that this project would provide the potential for larger functions at Dundullimal as it is one of the few function centres remaining in the Dubbo area. When the project was announced last year, the **Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett** said the funding would have a flow-on effect for the local economy through the creation of employment opportunities in small businesses and increased tourism in the region.



Dundullimal, Dubbo

Advertisement



At the Hawkesbury's award-winning social history museum, you can experience exhibitions and public programs that tell stories about one of the oldest settlements in Australia.

Location

8 Baker Street (PO Box 146) Windsor 2756

Hours

Wednesday - Friday 10am - 4pm

Saturday and Sunday 10am - 3pm

Open by appointment for groups at other times.

Contact Details

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See our website for Public Holiday hours
www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

