



NATIONAL TRUST

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NSW)

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For immediate release: 2 August 2006

Grave expectations: National Trust organises cemetery tours for Under the Blue Moon Festival and History Week

Better be quick if you want to visit the dead on this tour...

As a new feature of Enmore Road's annual Under the Blue Moon Festival, the National Trust of Australia (NSW) has organised two fun and informative walking tours of Camperdown Cemetery, one of the city's oldest and most atmospheric graveyards, on Saturday, September 9th 2006.

Located in the picturesque grounds of St, Stephen's Anglican Church, there will be two tours on the day - a family tour featuring ghosts, ghouls and face painting - and a twilight tour geared for adults. Participants will learn about the history of Camperdown Cemetery, delve into the intriguing stories of some of the occupants who rest there and hear about the ongoing repair and conservation of cemetery monuments. The tours will be lead by Trust Conservation Officer, Rebecca Ward.

The family tour begins at 2:00 p.m. and goes until approximately 3:30 p.m. The twilight tour starts at 5:00 p.m. and concludes about 6:30 p.m. The cemetery is located on Church Street, Newtown.

"Under the Blue Moon celebrates the gothic and other alternative subcultures of Newtown and attracts people from all walks of life. A local cemetery tour would go down well along with the Goth treasure hunt, store specials and alternative music featured on the day. We are delighted the National Trust can be part of their fun festivities this year," said Rebecca Ward.

"The tour will focus on the significance of the cemetery to the Newtown community and how conserving graveyards helps us to understand our past. It's time to find out what people know about Camperdown Cemetery and provide some unexpected facts. We will discuss some of the rumours around the cemetery and also tips for enjoying graveyards at their best. We want people of all ages to enjoy visiting cemeteries," she added.

Camperdown Cemetery is a hauntingly beautiful graveyard with its hulking Moreton Bay Figs, palms and eucalyptus trees standing guard around crooked old sandstone graves and St. Stephen's Church. The cemetery is the burial place for several notables: it is the resting grounds for the explorer Sir Thomas Mitchell and 22 of the passengers aboard the ill-fated *Dunbar*, which sank off South Head in 1857 on a voyage from England. It also contains the graves of Nicholas Bochsa, Napoleon's harpist, and Eliza Donnithorne, a jilted bride, who is believed by many to be the inspiration for Charles Dickens' reclusive Miss Havisham of *Great Expectations* fame.

The National Trust is Australia's oldest conservation charity. It is not-for-profit and independent, relying on support from its members and the community to assist its work - which includes advocacy for the protection of built, natural and cultural heritage, conservation and education.

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“Cemeteries are an important part of Australia’s heritage which is why the Trust wants them looked after. The burial places of our ancestors provide us with a history of growth and a valuable insight into its development. Cemeteries may be the only place where a person’s life in Australia is recorded,” said Ward.

The tours are a fundraiser for the National Trust to allow the non-profit heritage organisation to continue to offer communities and individuals advice regarding cemetery conservation.

Cost for the tour is \$25 (individual) or \$50 (family) or \$20 (individual) and \$45 (family) for National Trust members, which includes a children’s showbag. Bookings are essential and numbers are limited. Ring (02) 9258 0161 to book. Participants should wear good walking shoes and are encouraged to get into the Under the Blue Moon Festival theme and ‘do something you’ve never done before.’

Under the Blue Moon is an annual festival that takes place along the pavements of Enmore’s Enmore Road. The day celebrates Gothic/alternative lifestyles and aims to raise awareness of the unique retail outlets that cater for the Gothic subculture. In addition to the Trust cemetery tour there will be an alternative music event with 10 bands playing under the banner ‘Funeral Moon’ at the Newtown RSL, a fashion extravaganza, street theatre during ‘The Dining Hour’, exhibitions of Goth art/photography, a kids’ Gothic treasure hunt, tours of the Macleay Museum at the University of Sydney, and discount showbag shopping and theme-inspired stalls between the shops on Enmore Road. To find out more, go to www.underthebluemoon.org.au

History Week Cemetery Tour

And if you can’t make the tours when Blue Moon is on, the Trust is holding another walking tour of Camperdown Cemetery as part of History Week 2006 on Monday 21 September, starting at 10.15am and running to 12.00 noon. This tour features talks and a morning tea after the tour. Cost for the tour for non-Trust members is \$25 (individual) or \$50 (family) and \$20 (individual) and \$45 (family) for National Trust members, which includes a show bag.

The National Trust is Australia’s largest heritage charity, relying on membership, sponsorship, bequests and donations to carry out its work protecting NSW’s built, cultural and natural environments. To become a member, ring (02) 9258 0156.

For more information about the cemetery tour:

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