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Halloween spirit comes to life at Saumarez Homestead

Boo! Ghoulish frights and delights will be everywhere at the National Trust's Saumarez Homestead in late October. That's when the staff and volunteers will don spooky costumes and organise the venerable homestead's first-ever Halloween party, complete with ghosts, goblins and 'pin the heart on the skeleton,' among other fiendish thrills.

The *Saumarez Halloween Party* is geared for primary school aged children (years 3-6) and takes place Halloween night - Tuesday October 31- from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The party will be held in and around the Jackson Centre (farm area) with a cereal box graveyard plus visits from 'night' creatures to make it truly frightful in a fun way. Children are urged to come in costume with a prize for the best one of the evening.

There will also be broomstick races, a dance contest to 'boo'-gie music, a colouring-in competition and, of course, 'spirited' party food like 'bat biscuits'. There will be a special Halloween stall and a BBQ for the hungry.

Lynette Ross, one of the Saumarez coordinators organizing the party, said: "Halloween is being celebrated with increasing frequency in Australia and New Zealand with acceptance of trick or treating in many neighbourhoods and a plethora of costume parties. Australians have seen the amazing Halloween festivities held in the United States, Canada and Ireland among other places and want to bring the best things about Halloween home."

"We wanted to get into that spirit ourselves here at Saumarez because the homestead lends itself to a fun, spooky atmosphere in the evenings. Halloween and heritage can go hand in hand," added Nicki Parkes, Saumarez Homestead coordinator.

The cost to attend the Saumarez Halloween Party is \$5 per child (adults are free). Bookings are not necessary but children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information ring (02) 6772 3616.

Photo: caption:

Spooky fun: Nine-year-old Emil Piper (aka the Midnight Messenger), gears up for the Halloween Party at Saumarez Homestead.

For more information (media):

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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.

Lynette Ross
Saumarez Co-Coordinator
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