



## THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NSW)

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### **Free entry to National Trust properties on Australia Day**

From quaint 1840s cottages to elegant 1870s townhouses...from stately Edwardian mansions to rambling 1930s gardens...National Trust properties across NSW will offer free entry to the public this Australia Day to encourage Australians to discover and appreciate their rich heritage.

Across the state...from Sydney to Dubbo and from Bathurst to Armidale... the Trust's historic sites will offer visitors a chance to enjoy gardens and explore galleries and house museums on Friday 26 January. Some properties will feature special music, exhibitions, guided tours or tasty treats to mark the day.

"Australia Day is a time to reflect on our past and celebrate our diverse and colourful history. I am encouraging people across New South Wales to go to a National Trust property near them to celebrate," said Trust Executive Director, Tina Jackson.

"You can tour a heritage homestead, colonial cottage, gallery or Edwardian mansion among other places. You can also wander through beautiful gardens. Some of our properties will feature fun activities like bush music on the day to create a unique Australian flavour," she added.

Here's a round up of activities taking place at National Trust properties on Australia Day:

#### **Sydney**

**S.H. Ervin Gallery, The Rocks**, 11am-5pm. Free entry to the most quintessential Australian exhibition of the year! *The Art of Chris O'Doherty* (aka Reg Mombassa) plus fun activities for the family. (02) 9258 0173

**Experiment Farm Cottage, Harris Park**, 11am-3pm. Enjoy a Colonial bush picnic at this 1830s Anglo-Indian bungalow complete with old-time games like jacks and croquet. Bush music is also an integral of the day and visitors can join in on bush instruments like the lager-phone and bush bass. Barbecue stall and Devonshire tea available. (02) 9635 5655.

**Old Government House, Parramatta** 10.30am-4pm. 1799 Colonial Georgian mansion open for viewing. (02) 9635 8149

**Vienna Cottage, Hunters Hill**, 10am-4pm. Guided tours of the quaint 1870s artisan's cottage. (02) 9817 2235

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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.

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## **Blue Mountains**

**Everglades Gardens, Leura**, 10am-5pm. Picnic among the shady trees or stroll the formal terraces of this gorgeous 1930s cold-climate garden. The popular Everglades Tea Rooms will serve special Australia Day fare. (02) 4784 1938

**Norman Lindsay Gallery, Faulconbridge**, 10am-4pm. Guided tours on the hour. Aussie fare available from the café. (02) 4751 1067

## **Yass**

**Cooma Cottage**, 10am-4pm. Sausage sizzle lunch, bush music and poetry with local musician Chris McGinty (1pm to 4pm), book fair, children's games and guided tours, on the hour, of the former home of explorer Alexander Hume. (02) 6226 1470

## **Bathurst**

**Miss Traill's House and Garden**, 10am-4pm. Visit and appreciate this elegant 1845 Colonial bungalow, once owned by a wealthy Bathurst resident. Volunteers at Miss Traill's have put together an exhibition about Miss Traill's intriguing family as well as a display on 'Fashion: As We Were.' Visitors can later enjoy tea and damper in the garden as a pleasant conclusion to their tour. (02) 6332 4232.

## **Dubbo**

**Dundullimal Homestead**, 10am-4pm. Self-guided tours of the 1840s homestead and home cooked meals in The Shed Café. (02) 6884 9984

## **The Hunter Valley**

**Grossmann House, Maitland**, 10am-3pm. Tour through this fabulous 1870s gentleman's townhouse. (02) 4933 6452.

## **Armidale**

**Saumarez Homestead**, 10am-4pm. Free entry to the farm area, gardens and 33-room Edwardian mansion. Delicious morning/afternoon tea and light lunch served. Guides will be on hand to answer questions. (02) 6772 3616.

### **For more information:**

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**image caption:** Chris O'Doherty (aka Reg Mombassa), Fluffy the slightly pink kangaroo, 2003, private collection. © This is one of O'Doherty's wonderful works that you can see for free on Australia Day at the National Trust's S.H. Ervin Gallery.