



## THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NSW)

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### **Woodford Academy and Megalong Books to conjure up wizard school for Harry Potter book launch**

Attention all would-be witches and wizards...the National Trust's Woodford Academy, aka the *Woodford Wizard Academy* and local bookshop, Megalong Books, Leura, is hosting a magical day out for school children to celebrate the release of the final book in the popular Harry Potter series.

To mark the arrival of the eagerly-awaited *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* on Saturday, 21 July, the National Trust property at Woodford, Blue Mountains, will be transformed into a wizarding school for one day only by Trust volunteers and Megalong Books staff.

Children can book in for the fun *and* get their copy of the new J.K. Rowling book as part of the package. A London double-decker bus will pick up would-be witches and wizards at Megalong Books and whisk them over to *Woodford Wizard Academy* where they will be sorted into their 'houses' by a 'sorting skull', take a tour of the 1830s atmospheric school with an assortment of other colourful characters from the Harry Potter novels...and perhaps meet a few of Woodford's ghosts along the way...

During the day, they will get to enjoy 'school' lessons including concocting fun things in potions class, making/decorating their own magical supplies (wands, quill pens and rune stones), and sitting school 'exams' to test knowledge of wizarding lore to win points for their house. There will also be a 'magical creatures' room and treasure hunt. A school lunch will be served, along with 'cordial in a cauldron' and other treats and a local Celtic harpist will entertain, albeit, without a three-headed dog...

The Woodford Wizard Academy will operate two sessions on July 21 – from 8.30 am to 2.00 p.m. and 2.30 to 8.00 pm. Places are limited to 70 children in each session. Each child will receive a copy of the book and show bag.

"The Woodford Academy served as a school for boys in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is the oldest collection of buildings on the Blue Mountains and the solid sandstone and mysterious corners of the buildings provide an evocative ambience for the launch of the last Harry Potter book. We are delighted to be part of the Harry Potter mania," said John Leary, head of volunteers at Woodford Academy.

"The Harry Potter books have created so many new readers. This day out will be a great way to celebrate the final book. The Woodford Wizard Academy will be the place to be for every Harry Potter fan in the Blue Mountains and beyond," said Wendy Whitton, owner, Megalong Books.

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The National Trust is Australia's oldest and largest conservation charity. It relies on financial support from its members and the community to continue its work – which includes advocacy for the protection of the environment and built and cultural heritage, care of 38 significant heritage properties and education programs to inspire children and people of all ages to care for heritage.

Bookings are essential and can be made by calling Megalong Books on (02) 4784 1302. Price: \$85. Megalong Books will donate some proceeds from the day to the Woodford Academy and the Fred Hollows Foundation. For more info: [www.megalongbooks.com](http://www.megalongbooks.com) or [www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au](http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au)

For more information:

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