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National Trust works to preserve urban bushland

The National Trust wishes to thank its volunteers for collectively contributing over 530 hours of work toward bush regeneration in 2007. According to a recent Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority survey, the volunteer workforce contributes \$5.3 million p.a to the region's economy. In particular, the National Trust values the work done by its dedicated volunteers who work to regenerate pockets of bushland at Trust properties around the state.

The National Trust's Bushland Management Team is hoping to recruit more volunteers to help care for the National Trust property **Everglades** at Leura.

Paul Sorensen, a Danish landscape architect, designed the gardens and historical Art Deco house. The property contains about 5 hectares of bushland with magnificent view across the Jamieson Valley and the Blue Mountains from the upper slopes and lookout.

Preservation of the **Everglades** bushland is a priority as it adjoins the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park.

The **Everglades'** bush contains pockets of Blue Mountains Swamp and Temperate Highland Peat Swamp both listed as endangered vegetation species. This area is also a habitat for the endangered Blue Mountains Water Skink and Giant Dragonfly.

Like to volunteer? No special skills are required just a love of the Blue Mountains and a willingness to learn about bush regeneration. One morning a month is all that is required.

The main activity is weeding of aggressive plants such as Asparagus Fern, Lantana and Privets. A National Trust Supervisor will guide volunteers through local plant identification, native fauna identification and some basic site strategies for controlling weeds and other impacts that degrade urban bushland. Come with a friend, it is a social team activity and morning tea is provided at the end of each session.

To find out more about becoming a National Trust Bushcare volunteer phone 9258 0176.

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