



**27 October, 2008**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **National Trust's New Leader Visits New England**

National Trust of Australia (NSW) Executive Director, John Neish, is current visiting the New England area.

Mr Neish is newly appointed to the National Trust. This trip to Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Inverell and Armidale, is part of a regional tour which has already taken him to the NSW Central West.

Mr Neish is keen to strengthen the National Trust's ties with regional NSW and hopes his trip will be an opportunity to learn about important rural heritage issues first-hand.

"The National Trust's core aims of heritage Advocacy, Conservation and Education are as relevant to rural NSW as they are to the city. Not only is the heritage of the Australian bush key to Australia's identity, celebrating our past can also be a strong tourism draw card for regional towns during times of economic downturn. The National Trust properties Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts in Tenterfield and Saumarez Homestead in Armidale, are examples of how celebrating local heritage can be a boon for the local community and tourism.

"Every rural town has a unique and interesting story, peppered with pioneers and entrepreneurs, hardships and boom times. The National Trust would like to work with local communities to ensure this folklore is preserved for future generations to discover and enjoy," Mr Neish said.

*Mr Neish will be available for media interviews tomorrow, Tuesday 28 October, between 4 – 4:30pm, at Saumarez Homestead, where he will be meeting with the New England Branch of the National Trust.*

Saumarez Homestead is a 10 minute drive outside of Armidale on the New England Hwy. Please contact National Trust Media Manager, Kathy Scott 9258 0123, if you would like to organise an interview with Mr Neish.