



MEDIA RELEASE

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Free entry to National Trust properties on Australia Day

All across New South Wales National Trust properties are **open for free inspection** on Australia Day, encouraging Australians of all ages to discover and celebrate our rich cultural heritage.

Afternoon teas, sausage sizzles, a 175th anniversary and house tours are among the many activities planned for Australia Day at National Trust properties across New South Wales on Monday 26 January 2009.

"Free entry to National Trust properties on Australia Day is a great reason for all the family to explore heritage gems throughout New South Wales," said National Trust of Australia (NSW) Executive Director, John Neish.

"There are plenty of places to visit, including Australia's oldest public building, a heritage homestead, a colonial bungalow, an Edwardian mansion, or you can wander through one of the Trust's beautiful gardens. Our staff and volunteers will be on hand to help you make the most of this Australia Day," he continued.

"We hope this free entry offer will encourage more people to join the Trust. We are a charity, not a funded government department, and we are reliant on membership and donations to help us conserve the heritage that creates our unique Australian character," Mr Neish said.

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is a charity dedicated to conserving our built, cultural and natural environments. New members are always welcome, **and those who join the Trust on January 26 will be exempt from the Trust's joining fee (a saving of up to \$30)***.

All new members will also go into the draw for a chance to win a \$12,000 trip to Ireland. Full terms and conditions of the this prize are online at www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au

* An annual membership fee must still be paid in full.

ENDS

Notes to Editor

Details of Australia Day activities at National Trust properties across NSW are as follows:

Cooma Cottage, Yass

Located in rich sheep grazing country, which attracted pioneers in the early 1820s and 1830s. The original colonial bungalow forms part of the earliest complex of dwellings and stables on the site, built by pioneering pastoralist, Cornelius O'Brien.

Free entry to property, guided tours and special afternoon tea available. 10.00am – 4.00pm.
(02) 6226 1470

Everglades Gardens, Leura

Australia's most spectacular inter-war period garden constructed in the 1930s by Danish-born landscape gardener Paul Sorensen in conjunction with owner Henri van de Velde.

Free entry, all day sausage sizzle, morning and afternoon tea managed by Friends of Everglades as fundraiser. 10.00am – 4.00pm.

(02) 4784 1938

Experiment Farm Cottage, Harris Park

Experiment Farm Cottage stands on the site of the first land grant in Australia, made in 1789 by Governor Phillip to the former convict, James Ruse.

Free entry and tours 10.30 am – 3.30 pm. Story tellers Guild (1pm – 3 pm) presentation for children.

(02) 9635 5655 or (02) 9635 8177

Grossman, Maitland

Grossman House is one of two mirror image Victorian Regency properties, built side by side on the same lot in 1870-71 for the prosperous business partners, Isaac Beckett and Samuel Owen.

Free entry to property and tours. 10.00 am – 3.00pm.

(02) 4933 6452

Harper's Mansion, Berrima

Choosing to build his house in an imposing position overlooking the village, James Harper, a District Constable in Sutton Forest, completed his house in 1834. He was also the first licensee of the Surveyor General Inn at Berrima.

Free entry of house and gardens. Help celebrate the 175th anniversary of the construction of the house.

(02) 4877 1508

Miss Traill's House and Garden, Bathurst

Built by the Reverend Thomas Sharpe in 1845, *Miss Traill's House and Garden* is named after Ida Traill, a socially prominent, independently wealthy resident, who lived in this pretty Colonial Georgian bungalow from 1931 until her death at 87 in 1976.

Free Entry to property. Fundraising afternoon tea available. 12.00 – 3.30

(02) 6332 4232

Norman Lindsay Gallery, Faulconbridge

This single storey house, with its external painting and etching studios, was the home of Norman Lindsay (1879-1969), one of Australia's most controversial, exceptional and prolific artists.

Free entry and tours after 12.00 noon.

(02) 4751 1067

Old Government House, Parramatta

1799 colonial Georgian mansion, Australia's oldest public building.

Free entry and tours 10.00 – 4.30 pm. Story tellers Guild (1pm – 3 pm) presentation for children.

Part of Parramatta Park celebrations.

(02) 9635 8149

Riversdale, Goulburn

Built as a coaching inn and residence in the 1840s, Riversdale is the only surviving building of the 'Old Township' as sited by Governor Macquarie.

Free entry and tours 10.00am – 3.pm

(02) 4821 4741

Saumarez Homestead, Armidale

Ten-hectare grazing property first inhabited by British settlers led by Henry Dumaresq in the 1830s including a fully furnished Edwardian homestead built between 1888 and 1906.

Free entry to homestead, farm area and grounds, and sausage sizzle 10.00am – 5.00pm.

(02) 6772 3616

Further information about all of these National Trust (NSW) properties is available online at www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au

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