



# MEDIA ALERT

Thursday April 2, 2009

## THE STATE'S UNIQUE HERITAGE TO BE HONOURED

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual EnergyAustralia National Trust Heritage Awards to be announced on Monday recognise the importance of conserving Australia's unique heritage in our daily lives.

The awards honour the work of individuals, organisations, government departments, educators and community groups alike.

Whether it is built, environmental or cultural, "heritage" plays a vital and enriching role in our day-to-day living. Who could forget one of the more colourful entries of the 2008 Awards – Trap That Toad? While both educational and entertaining, Trap That Toad addressed an important environmental problem and proved a winner for the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Among the strong contenders for this year's awards are Managing the Missing Midget Submarine; Newcastle's Fort Scratchley Historic Site; Migration to NSW; improving the environmental health of Lake Cowal; the life and work of Sydney Architect Thomas Esplin; and the Lost Gardens of Sydney, among others.

The winners of the 16<sup>th</sup> EnergyAustralia National Trust Heritage Awards will be announced on April 6, at 1pm, at a gala lunch to be held at the Westin Sydney.

Writer, broadcaster and passionate conservator Jonathan Coleman, will MC the lunch. Coleman would like to see as much of Australia's heritage and history conserved and cherished rather than seeing a large collection of buildings and places that aren't there anymore. "Sure, we need and love new and exciting designs for the future, but we must look after our past buildings and places otherwise it's like the Joni Mitchell song, 'chop down all the trees and put them in a tree museum...' Let's not trample the past, or my kids will have nothing to look at apart from old pictures and newsreel footage."

The awards will be presented by the Minister for Planning, Kristina Keneally, MP.

Commenting on this year's entries, John Neish, the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Executive Director, applauded the ingenuity and passion of all those involved: "It is heartening to realise that Australia's unique heritage is being nurtured by such talented people. Whether from the bush or the city, all the projects celebrate our past and these awards ensure that future generations will benefit."

The National Trust acknowledges the invaluable support of EnergyAustralia and the NSW Department of Planning, Heritage Branch.

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