

Regional News

National Trust around New South Wales

Our wonderful volunteers

Everglades wins all the accolades in this issue, with two separate reports of outstanding efforts made in different ways, as some volunteers made a tremendous effort to entertain and feed the large numbers of visitors to the property, while others tackled the gardens, weeding, clearing and preparing for spring.

Sandy Luxford, chair of the Friends of Everglades said:

I would like to sing the praises of my Friends of Everglades Committee who have put in many long hours cooking, waitressing and organising our fundraising events. In the last year they have worked on sausage sizzles, the Christmas Street Stall, Valentine's Day Dinner, the Garden Lovers Market, the Mothers Day Lunch and the Christmas in July lunch; all done with the greatest of goodwill even when barbecuing in 45 degree heat and sustaining heat stroke!

I would particularly like to thank **Fran McHarg**, who has done an outstanding job as secretary for many years, a woman of diverse talents who made a wonderful White Rabbit at our Mad Hatters Tea Party book launch, an outstandingly scary Troll at our Winter Solstice event, makes the most delicious biscuits and remained very stoic as sufferer of heat stroke. I would also like to highlight **Birgitta Sandstrom** who puts in many hours in her role as treasurer. Her patience and attention to detail are impressive, she looked wonderful in the role of Mae West at our Murder Mystery Night and she makes fabulous Swedish food. Thanks to all the hard work of this committee we have been able to make a substantial contribution to Everglades.



Fran McHarg



Pam Kearney

From **Scott Pollock**, Manager, Everglades House and Gardens

Pam Kearney has been volunteering at Everglades Gardens for over 7 years. After initially helping out in the tea rooms and arranging flowers for the house, Pam moved out into the garden to become one of our most informative Tour guides. Most notably though, Pam has undertaken the task of restoring the Rockery garden along the lower Driveway. With her passion for gardening and eye for creativity, she has virtually single-handedly brought the area back to its former glory with new plantings and a constant vigilance for potential weed invasion.

Joan Wheeler is one of our most indomitable volunteers. Joan has been involved in all aspects of volunteering at Everglades and has been doing so for over ten years. She is an active member of the Friends of Everglades, always busy at events and fundraising initiatives. Joan is really a Jill-of-all Trades at the property, having served in the kitchen and tea rooms and spending many a cold winter in the stygian gloom of our ticket booth, welcoming visitors to the gardens. With a keen interest in horticulture, Joan also brings her enthusiasm into the gardens and works tirelessly to keep the property flourishing. Every Tuesday she can be seen somewhere throughout the grounds, planting, weeding or raking – and rest assured she will also be keeping the garden staff on their toes!



Joan Wheeler

Five carved chairs restored (Woodford Academy)

I first saw the grandfather chair around 1997, while on a visit to Woodford Academy and I was tempted to offer to restore it then and there. The chair was part of a suite of five, mentioned in 1990 in a report of contents at the property as a 'few quite fine cedar and leather dining room chairs, all rather elaborately carved'. Many pieces had been lost, but my husband David agreed to replace the legs, stretchers and carvers.

The chairs had to be disassembled, old polish was removed, new stretchers made, legs turned, carvings remade, correct dowels found and all finally sanded and reassembled ready for polishing. It was important to match the wood grain to the original walnut, and David delved into his collection of woods to help cut down costs. Much care was taken to retain as much as possible of the original frames, removing the smallest possible pieces of deteriorated wood.

The process took 230 hours and the chairs are now ready for polishing. This in itself is a long process, using traditional methods. Fortunately, we have been able to retain some of the original upholstery to guide that part of the work. It was truly a labour of love but our reward is to have conserved a small part of the heritage of Woodford Academy.

Marilyn and David Wright



Before

After

From the Heritage Council NSW

The Department's heritage branch has continued to implement its thematic listings program, whereby it pursues listings related to Aboriginal heritage, Governor Macquarie, World Wars I and II and convict sites. This program is proving very successful by clearly guiding proactive heritage listings for sites which are of major heritage importance to NSW.

World Wars I and II

Several important listings have been made under the convict theme including Liverpool Weir, designed by leading NSW bridge builder David Lennox in 1836, the fascinating convict-built Belmore Basin and the wider Wollongong Harbour precinct, and the archaeological remains of the Overseers' Cottages at Port Macquarie, now part of the community arts building, the 'Glasshouse'. Under the World Wars One and Two defence theme, the strategically important Shepherds Hill Defence Group Military Installations at Newcastle was added, with the 1st/15th Royal NSW Lancers Memorial Museum Collection, housed in Linden House at Parramatta. That collection documents the complete and continuous history of Australia's oldest and most highly decorated regiment from its inception through to the present day. The Trial Bay Gaol and breakwater at Arakoon, South West Rocks (1877-1900), represents a unique example of the evolution of the penal system in NSW. The site was also listed for its important role as an internment camp for German residents during World War One.

Australian convict sites added to UNESCO World Heritage List

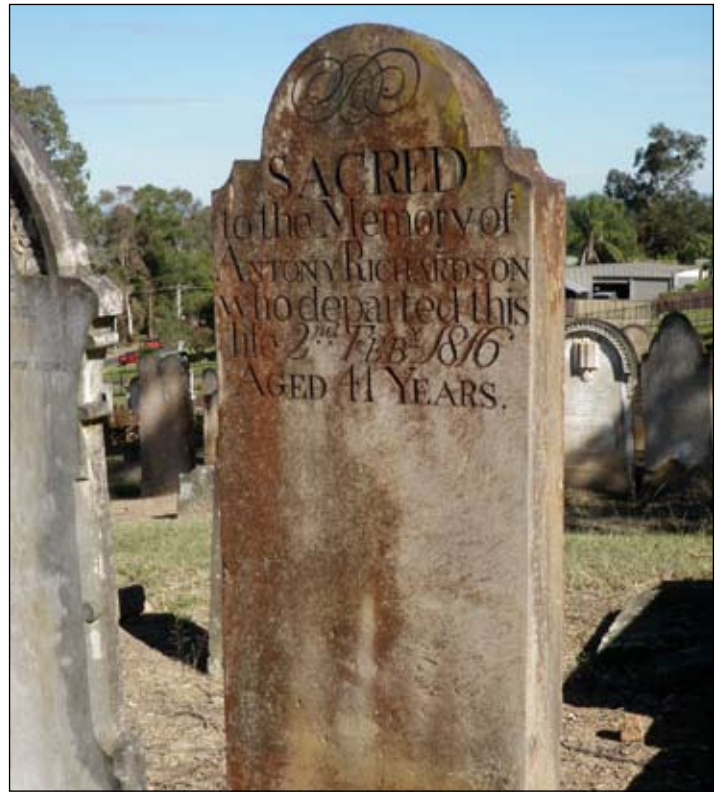
A recent highlight has been the August inscription of the eleven Australian Convict Sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The inclusion of four NSW sites - the Trust's Old Government House and Domain at Parramatta, Hyde Park Barracks and Cockatoo Island in Sydney, and parts of the Old Great North Road at Wiseman's Ferry, has been a significant achievement. The announcement puts key NSW heritage properties and their management on the international stage. Congratulations to Bruce Baskerville, Patricia Hale and Cameron White who played an instrumental role in the successful nomination, strongly supported by the NSW Government. The inscription of these convict sites is of course also in line with our thematic listings program. The Department has also issued a discussion paper to seek stakeholder comment on the best ways to protect these sites in the land-use planning system.



Trial Bay Gaol

Indigenous heritage

Under the Aboriginal heritage theme, the important ruin of the Warangesda Aboriginal Mission and Station at Darlington Point in the Murrumbidgee was added in July. The onsite announcement by Heritage Council Chair, Gabrielle Kibble with the Chair of the Council's Aboriginal Heritage Advisory Panel, Danny Chapman, highlighted the site's value to the Aboriginal communities of Narrandera, Darling Point and Cowra. The Aboriginal mission, set up in 1879 under missionary John Gribble, gave the Wiradjuri people a permanent home after being driven off their land by mainly Irish European colonial farmers from the 1830s. The mission closed in 1924 and is now on private land.



Wilberforce Cemetery's oldest gravestone

Celebrating the Macquarie legacy

The Heritage Branch is supporting Heritage Council of NSW Chair Gabrielle Kibble's initiatives to celebrate the tenure of Governor Lachlan Macquarie as one of the State's preeminent town planners. The Branch is currently focussing research on his development of towns in the Hawkesbury/Nepean region (Windsor, Wilberforce, Richmond, Pitt Town and Castlereagh), together with Liverpool, Bathurst and Campbelltown. For example, the latest edition of the Heritage Council's flagship magazine, Heritage NSW (Winter) includes an article on the failed township of Castlereagh and is a tribute to Macquarie with feature essays on his life, works, and impact. We expect to be able to announce further Macquarie-related listings soon in Wilberforce.



Redcoats at the launch of the Macquarie Thematic Listings

With plenty going on at the Department's Heritage Branch, whether it be listings or broader policy initiatives, as always more information can be found on our website at www.heritage.nsw.gov.au.

Nominations for the NSW Government 2010 Heritage Volunteer Awards are now open. Download the nomination form from www.heritage.nsw.gov.au to recognise your favourite 'heritage hero'. The annual award recognises the invaluable role that volunteers make to heritage protection, promotion and celebration. Nominations close 17 September 2010.