Trust Action

Millers Point under threat

The Trust has launched a major campaign to save Millers Point, and has sought the support of its membership.

Loss of maritime and social history

As a result of the Barangaroo development, Millers Point is under threat and risks losing its connection with its colonial and maritime history. The state government plans to remove all traces of the working harbour by removing the cruise ships and destroying much of Millers Point's maritime heritage. The plans also will see a number of state heritage items at the site buried or re-located.

Millers Point is state heritage listed and the strong community spirit of its long-term residents contribute to the area's historic significance. The Trust is concerned by a NSW Housing Department plan to extend the sale of 99 year leases by selling another 20 leases for properties in Millers Point despite previous Ministerial assurances that this would not happen. The current Minister has now assured residents that existing public housing tenants will not be forced to move away from Millers Point or be evicted for the purpose of the programme and that only vacant properties will be put on the market.

A rare, unbroken continuum of community – about to end

The Trust strongly supports the continuation of government tenancies at Millers Point. This programme has been vital in conserving the neighbourhood's cohesiveness and the village authenticity that makes the area the rarest and most significant historic urban place in Australia. The significance statements of the State Heritage Register listings highlight the importance of the social housing of both Millers and Dawes Points: -

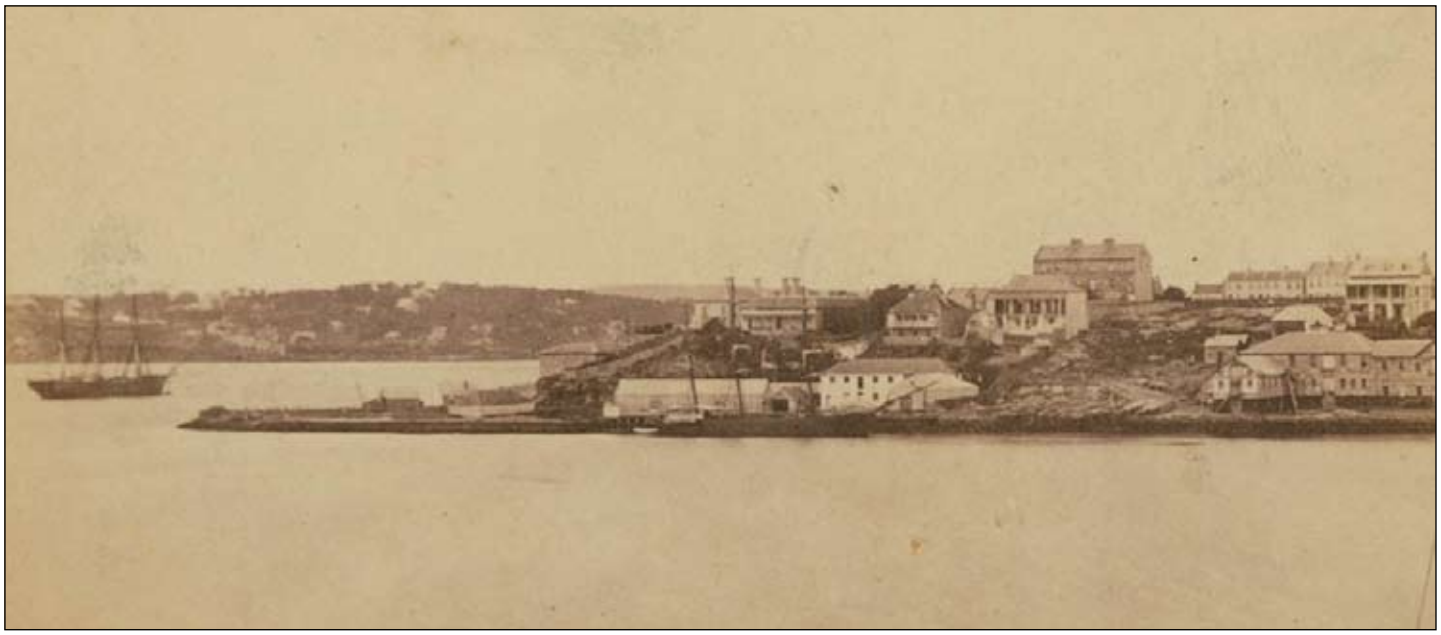
> *'A proportion of the existing population is descended from previous generations of Millers Point locals, and has fostered a strong and loyal sense of community and solidarity…. Millers Point & Dawes Point Village Precinct is of state significance as a rare, if not the only, example of a maritime harbourside precinct that contains evidence of over 200 years of human settlement and activity that spans all historical phases in Australia since 1788. While there are other historical maritime precincts in Australia that might show a comparable mix of historical and contemporary values, none are as old or so intimately associated with the spectrum of historical, social, aesthetic, technological and research values that have shaped Australian society since 1788. The precinct is conceivably unique in Australia because of a strong sense of cohesion facilitated by a range of complementary architectural, structural, physical and social elements.'*

1972 National Trust aerial photograph of Millers Point new shipping terminal construction

The Trust's Alternative Vision

To lessen the impacts of the Barangaroo proposal on Millers Point, the Trust has developed a carefully considered vision that will save the heritage items at this site and maintain the area's connection with its maritime heritage at no extra cost to the taxpayer. The Trust's concept would allow for a better interface and relationship between Barangaroo, the re-created eastern portion of the Millers Point Headland and the traditional historic areas of Millers Point and Dawes Point.

The Barangaroo development should respect and not impact adversely on the nationally significant heritage values of the neighbouring villages. The battle to save The Rocks from high rise development was won but its character has gradually changed with its lost residential component. It is vital that the character of Millers Point and Dawes Point be protected and conserved. The National Trust asks the NSW Government to reveal its long term plans to protect the State Heritage Register listed values of Millers Point and Dawes Point.



Millers Point in the 1860s, showing the straight edged wharfage facilities as they were 150 years ago

Old Government House and Domain listed as Australian convict landmarks

In the early hours of Sunday 1 August 2010, the Australian convict story was officially recognised on a global scale. At a meeting of the United Nations World Heritage Council in the Brazilian capital Brasilia, 11 Australian convict sites were added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites, an important endorsement in terms of their future protection and the economic benefits of increased tourism.

Among them was the National Trust's Old Government House (1790-1856) and the 37 hectares of parkland on which it stands, once part of the Domain established by Governor Phillip in 1788 as a vital way of feeding the new Colony. The building stands on the still visible footings of Governor Phillip's 1788 residence and is the oldest surviving public residence in Australia. The site was home to the first 10 governors of the colony and for much of that time was the administrative centre for the management of convicts, their role in building infrastructure and their integration into the penal settlement which became a free nation.

In addition to Old Government House, the listed site includes five buildings and extensive archaeological remains. Key structures are the Garrison Building (Officers' Quarters), the Female Convict Servants' Quarters and the Governor's Dairy built by George Salter on land granted in 1796. Archaeological remains of the Redoubt (Military Post), roads, convict allotments and huts have also survived.

Other convict sites in NSW included in the world heritage listing were Cockatoo Island, Hyde Park Barracks and the Great North Road. Listed elsewhere in Australia were Fremantle Prison in Western Australia, and Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area on Norfolk Island. Tasmania's Port Arthur, Brickendon and Woolmers Estates, Darlington Probation Centre, Coal Mines Historic Site and the Cascades Female Factory are also on the list.

Old Government House, Parramatta. Its portico was designed by the convict architect, Francis Greenway (Photo: Christopher Shain)

The Governor's Dairy built by ex-convict George Salter on land granted in 1796 and extended by Governor Macquarie

Everglades Cool Climate Garden Lecture Series

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 November

Learn all about cool climate gardening and enjoy some of the most beautiful cool climate gardens of the Blue Mountains. Organised by the team at Everglades House and Gardens, Leura, the weekend includes six talks from experts and visits to six special gardens in the region.
Costs: $150 for both days (National Trust members only), non-members $175 for both days, $150 one day only. **Bookings:** essential. **Enquiries:** Scott at Everglades. **P:** (02) 4784 1938. **E:** evergladesgarden@bigpond.com

The gardens include:
- The beautiful Paul Sorensen garden – Everglades
- Rosebriar; a plant collector's garden that has to be seen to be believed
- Clover Hill; a cleverly sloping garden. Rare plants for sale.
- Blue Mountains Organic Community garden; a permaculture food forest
- Arthur Lathouris's unique garden which complements his mud brick home
- Barry Jarrott's romantic garden, developed over the past eight years

The topics and speakers are:
- *Cool Climate Gardens of the World* – Sandra Ross
- *Tree Care & Maintenance in a cool climate garden* – Guy McIlrath
- *Relevance and Evolution – can the notion of the 'Romantic Garden' survive into the 21st century?* – Barry Jarrott
- *Resilient Gardening* – Rosemary Morrow
- *Reflections of an Old Parliament House Gardener* – Robin Johnson
- *Cool Climate Native of the Upper Mountains* – Anne Rickwood and Tanya McLean

Sandra Ross in the Appeltern Gardens, Netherlands

Our Bush Teams working with most Local Councils to Preserve our Flora & Fauna

Bush Week in the City Caring for our urban bushland

It's called **Bush Week in the City** and in this, the United Nations Year of Biodiversity, the National Trust (NSW) will highlight the importance of Bush Regeneration in protecting habitat and saving our native bushland.

During Bush Week in the City the Trust in partnership with Local Government councils will showcase Bush Regeneration achievements of the bushcare and other community groups across the Sydney Basin. With Australia having one of the highest rates in species extinction it is vital that we save our remnant bushland which is habitat for our threatened and endangered native fauna.

Over 85% of the cost of Bush Regeneration is labour and the volunteer Bushcare Community groups are a very cost effective way of regenerating our precious bushland heritage. The National Trust employs a 75 strong team of highly trained and experienced bush regenerators who undertake bush management for local government councils and government agencies. This Bush Management Service also trains and supervises volunteer Bushcare Groups along with the army of local Council Bushcare coordinators.

Bush Week will be a regular annual event held in November each year to encourage more volunteers to join existing community groups or form new groups to embrace and protect our urban bushland. A dedicated **Bush Week in the City** website will be setup shortly to help you stay up to date on how to get involved in saving our precious bushland, as well as the latest bush regeneration tips.

For more information on Bush Week in the City, please contact Brian Scarsbrick or Ruth Hand by calling the National Trust on (02) 9258 0123.