



NATIONAL TRUST

Media release
16 December 2010

National Trust welcomes Australian Heritage Week

The Chairman of the Australian Council of National Trusts, Dr Graeme L. Blackman OAM, speaking on behalf of all 8 National Trust organisations and their 80 000 members, has welcomed Minister Burke's announcement of a new national celebration: Australian Heritage Week from 14th to 20th April 2011.

"The National Trusts welcome the opportunity to join with the Australian Government and the Australian people in celebrating our diverse heritage," Dr Blackman said.

"Our heritage places are important in helping us understand our past and who we are. Australian Heritage Week recognises the importance of our heritage to the Australian Government and the value of heritage to our society".

"The National Trusts of Australia have long celebrated Australia's heritage in Heritage Festivals around the country. Australian Heritage Week overlaps with our festivals in NSW, ACT, Tasmania and Victoria and is an excellent introduction to our festivals in Queensland and Northern Territory".

"Australian Heritage Week and the National Trust Heritage Festivals held in partnership with State and Territory Governments are an example of governments and community working together to celebrate the significance of our heritage to our national identity, and offer an opportunity to raise public awareness about the diversity of our cultural and natural heritage and the importance of conserving it for the benefit of future Australians. "

Australian Heritage Week takes place on the days surrounding the ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites, commonly known as World Heritage Day, 18th April, and many Trust properties will be holding open days during this time.

Dr Blackman encouraged all Australians to participate in celebrations of Australian heritage during Australian Heritage Week and the National Trust Heritage Festivals.

In the lead up to Australian Heritage Week 2011, information on National Trust activities will be available on the National Trust website: www.nationaltrust.org.au

For more information contact the ACNT secretariat on 02 6247 6766 or Dr Graeme Blackman on 0403 346 650.r