



NATIONAL TRUST

Media Release

Celebrating World Heritage with the National Trusts of Australia

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, today invited all Australians to celebrate World Heritage Day this Sunday April 18 with the National Trusts of Australia.

“World Heritage Day is celebrated each year on April 18. It is a day to celebrate the diverse heritage of the world in simultaneous events throughout all nations,” said Dr Blackman.

Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, has welcomed the Australian National Trusts initiatives of an ‘open house’ of National Trust Properties and other events.

“Our heritage places are important in helping us understand our past and who we are. This special day offers an opportunity to raise public awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage and the efforts that are required to protect and conserve it, as well as draw attention to its vulnerability.

“The Australian Council of National Trusts makes a great contribution as custodian of our Australian heritage. That is why the ACNT received \$12million of the \$60million available to heritage projects as part of the Nation Building - Economic Stimulus Plan. The impressive outcome of many of those projects can now be seen and enjoyed by visiting the various Trust properties open on World Heritage Day.”

Dr Blackman noted that the 2010 theme is Agricultural Heritage. “What better place to celebrate this than at Gulf Station Open Day in Yarra Glen. However for those not near Melbourne, this event is complemented by metropolitan and regional celebrations in the rest of the country. I am celebrating at The Briars at Mount Martha where the Mornington Peninsula Branch is also celebrating the 25th anniversary as a branch of the National Trust in Victoria” he said.

In the ACT, it is possible to celebrate agricultural heritage with the ACT National Trust at the newly listed heritage property Elm Grove Open Day, Gungahlin, specially opened for this day.

In NSW, World Heritage Day is also known as National Trust Day and all NSW Trust properties will charge only a gold coin for entry. Visit the National Trust Classic Cavalcade and Vintage Fair at the historic Riversdale property in Goulburn on Sunday.

These and more events are part of the National Trust Heritage Festivals held over the country.

World Heritage Day (officially known as The International Day for Monuments and Sites was created by ICOMOS on 18th April, 1982, and later approved at the 22nd UNESCO General Conference in 1983.

For further information on National Trust activities visit: www.nationaltrust.org.au

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