

National Trust of Australia: Amazing Stories Every moment

## [NSW](#)

**Examples from the National Trust of Australia (NSW) for the History Challenge and the National Trust themes:**

### ***Celebrations, memories and history in Australia's heritage***

Uncover amazing stories every moment in National Trust properties.

The [NSW Trust](#) was the first National Trust formed in Australia. The story of the beginning of the National Trust in Australia is a story of Celebration and commemoration. Find out more about the founder of the Australian National Trust movement, [Annie Wyatt](#) and about the early days of the Trust. Since its beginnings, the National Trust (NSW) has been in the forefront of community heritage conservation campaigns. Many of the successful campaigns are celebrated and commemorated in our heritage today. Find out more about these [campaigns](#) here.

Visit the [Trust archives](#) at the National Trust Centre for more information.

NSW Trust holds a [heritage festival](#) every year. This year's theme is *The Making of Our Nation*.

There are many examples of celebrations amongst the places classified by the [National Trust](#) and in Trust Properties some of which are featured in the state wide Heritage Festival. The NSW Trust manages a range of properties from iconic grand homes to nature reserves along with extensive collections that illustrate memories and histories of the people who lived and worked there.

Some NSW properties ideally suited to a study examining the themes *Celebrations, memories and history* and *Australia's heritage* include:

#### [Celebrate Nation: Old Government House](#)

[Old Government House](#), set in 260 acres of parkland overlooking historic Parramatta, is Australia's oldest surviving public building. For seven decades, it was the 'country' residence of 10 early governors of the colony, including Governor and Mrs Macquarie who, from 1810 to 1821 preferred the clean air and space of rural Parramatta to the unsanitary and crime ridden streets of Sydney Town.

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During 2010 Australia will be celebrating the Macquarie bicentenary with many events at Old Government House.

Macquarie has been referred to as 'the father of Australia' because of his influence and activities in his period as governor from 1810 to 1821, including:

- During his time as governor Macquarie opened a new market place, and arranged the first public fair.
- Under Macquarie's rule a coinage system replaced bartering, and the first bank in the colony was created in 1816.
- Macquarie named several towns including historic Wilberforce, Liverpool, Pitt-town, and Castlereagh.

**Celebrate endeavour:** [Dundullimal Homestead](#), nr Dubbo

Dundullimal is a story of amazing endeavour and vision, celebrated in the creation of this finely built but rustic home, which survives in near original condition today.

A visit to Dundullimal is a unique experience celebrating pioneering history and rural life in the early colony. You can discover the many stories of the people who lived here and uncover some new untold stories, memories and histories.

**Celebrate Pioneers:** [Experiment Farm Cottage](#)

Experiment Farm Cottage celebrates the story of the former convict James Ruse who successfully farmed the 30 acre site as an experiment in self-sufficiency proving that a new settler could feed and shelter his family with relatively little assistance to get started. Experiment Farm cottage lies on the first land grant offered by Governor Phillip in 1789 and is an example of early pioneering and settlement. The present homestead on the site was built by Surgeon John Harris who bought the land from James Ruse. Surgeon Harris' story also celebrates our Australian heritage. More examples are shown in the display in the cellar which depicts the story of the site in all times, from indigenous, through colonial to today.

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### **Celebrate creativity:** [Norman Lindsay Gallery & Museum](#)

Norman Lindsay is one of Australia's most renowned artists. [The Norman Lindsay Gallery & Museum](#) in Faulconbridge is his former home, Springwood, and contains a collection of his works celebrating the story of his life. Most of his adult life was spent at Springwood with his second wife and family, and it became a cultural Mecca for local and visiting artists and writers.

His well known children's classic, *The Magic Pudding*, which he both wrote and illustrated, is part of our Australian childhood and heritage. It is said that Lindsay wrote the book with the assertion that children like to read about food rather than fairies.

Stories, especially from childhood, can play a powerful role in evoking memories of personal experience, and each year Children's literature is celebrated at the property in the Norman Lindsay Festival of Children's Literature. In 2010, the [Children's Literature Festival](#) will be held on 20-21 March 2010.

Research this celebration and relate memories and history in your examination of the life of Norman Lindsay.

### **Celebrate rural industry:** [Saumarez Homestead](#)

Saumarez Homestead celebrates and commemorates the lives and endeavours of its owners- firstly Henry Dumeresque who settled at the property in 1830s and developed Saumarez as the last stopping point for settlers moving north 'beyond the boundaries' where they could obtain tools, clothing and basic food. After Henry Dumeresque's death, H A Thomas, whose family lived in the original slab homestead overlooking Saumarez Creek, bought the property and augmented the size of the estate with land purchases from the government. In 1874 the property was sold to Francis White, whose eldest son, Francis John White took over its management, spending his life developing Saumarez and its associated holdings into one of the largest and most successful rural properties of New England.

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**Celebrate service to the community:** [Harpers Mansion, Berrima](#)

Harpers Mansion commemorates and celebrates the life of James Harper. James Harper was the son of convict parents, and became overseer on a pastoral property, constable, landowner and innkeeper and in his latter years was elected to Berrima District Council.

## Contacts

National Trust of Australia (NSW)  
Observatory Hill, (End of Watson Road) Sydney 2000

Postal:	GPO Box 518, Sydney 2001	
Telephone:	02 9258 0123	Fax 02 9251 1110
Membership Tel	02 9258 0155	Fax: 02 9252 1264
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:reception@nationaltrust.com.au">reception@nationaltrust.com.au</a>	
Web address:	<a href="http://www.nationaltrust.com.au">www.nationaltrust.com.au</a>	

Education Manager	Anne Howard	<a href="mailto:ahoward@nationaltrust.com.au">ahoward@nationaltrust.com.au</a> 9258 0136
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For more information contact the properties.

For information on the challenge contact Maree Treadwell on [mtreadwell@nationaltrust.org.au](mailto:mtreadwell@nationaltrust.org.au) or 02 6247 6766

**NSW entrants to Australia's heritage in the National Heritage Challenge are not restricted to researching NSW heritage- you may choose Australia's heritage from anywhere.**