

## Media Statement - Friday 20 March

---

### Statement from the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) regarding COVID-19

#### Quotes attributable to Simon Ambrose, Chief Executive Officer, National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Following advice from the Victorian Department of Health, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) has cancelled or postponed all upcoming events and temporarily closed several of its properties to the public to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Three outdoor properties remain open to the public; the gardens at both Rippon Lea Estate and Como as well as Mornington Peninsula's original rain forest, Endeavour Fern Gully, which is open to walk, seven days a week.

The Old Melbourne Gaol will also remain open, but all-night tours have been suspended until 1 May.

The health and wellbeing of visitors, staff, volunteers and all members of the public are paramount in all the National Trust's decision making. The National Trust has increased health and hygiene measures at all sites in line with current Government advice and will update operations based on the evolving situation.

If members of the public have pre-purchased tickets to any upcoming events, they should be confident that the National Trust is working closely with Eventbrite to process refunds and/or hold bookings. Any questions regarding bookings can be emailed to [bookings@nattrust.com.au](mailto:bookings@nattrust.com.au) and the website will be updated regularly.

Whilst the National Trust acts responsibly during these unprecedented times, we want to take the opportunity to assure the public that we will continue to work behind the scenes to actively conserve and advocate for the protection our heritage for future generations to enjoy.

We thank you for your understanding and appreciate your continued support of the National Trust. We will continue to monitor the situation, review and update operations in line with the evolving government advice. All properties will be re-opened when clearances are given that it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, visit the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) [website](#) and follow the official [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

-Ends-

#### Media Contact:

Georgina Crosling  
[georgina.crosling@nattrust.com.au](mailto:georgina.crosling@nattrust.com.au) | 03 9656 9805