
Celebrating 75 years.

Photo credit: The Capitol Theatre, Sydney

It is our vision to bring the heritage of New South Wales to life for future generations. The first steps in achieving that vision are to ensure all aspects of heritage are recognised, that they are kept safe and conserved, and are protected from destruction. This is at the heart of our advocacy movement at the National Trust. Our conservation action has stayed true to the founding vision of the organisation since 1945 – and will continue into the future.

The National Trust (NSW) is a community organisation. We are here because a community of passionate members and volunteers contribute their time and talent to opening the doors of our significant properties and sharing the history they contain with visitors from across Australia and around the world. We are a guardian of what the community holds dear. We protect a sense of belonging, the stories of past and present, the essence of towns, suburbs and cities that make them distinctive, special, a pleasure to visit, and a place to call home.

We lead on advocacy for heritage on specific campaigns, and partner with cause-led or regionally focused organisations to campaign for heritage protection. The causes we align

with include – but are not limited to – fauna protection, environmental conservation, arts and culture causes, and of course recognition of the traditional custodians of the land and seeking greater awareness, appreciation and protection for Indigenous heritage.

There are some advocacy campaigns that have lasted a matter of months, some continue for years, and have required tenacious endurance and community mobilisation over decades. As an example, the first National Trust meeting minutes from 6 April 1945 suggest fields for research including historic buildings, geological sites, bridges and trees – including the Carramar William Bland Oak (listed in 2019).

Since 1945, we have listed 11,500 items on the National Trust Register, published 29 policies on heritage, and outlined ethical principles for heritage conservation practitioners. We undertake rigorous analysis of planned developments that will impact historic places and conservation areas, consult with Government at all levels, and provide evidence-based commentary and expert opinion and advice.

We have been a trusted voice for the community in the media and civic sphere, and our advocacy story continues – inspiring a new generation of people who are passionate about protecting their heritage to lend their voice through social media and by joining our Branches as members.

We are not one voice, but that of many. We have fearlessly sought respect and protection for what is treasured and irreplaceable. We are guardians, advisers, educators and champions – and have been for 75 years. This is the story of the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales)'s advocacy for heritage.

National Trust (NSW) Celebrating 75 Years

Why do we care? That is the question at the core of our advocacy movement and our mission and vision as an organisation. The answer is that it's in our DNA. Advocacy is where we began. It started in 1927 with a tree-loving woman in Ku-ring-gai, drew on the history of the National Trust for Places of Historical Interest or Natural Beauty in England, Wales and Northern Ireland – and here we are. After 75 years, the National Trust has campaigned, advised, fought and emerged both victorious and defeated at various times. This is the story of our commitment to advocate for the conservation of built, cultural and natural heritage by engaging with the community and government.

In 1927, Annie Forsyth Wyatt was concerned about the destruction facing the natural environment in her community so she founded the Tree Lovers' Civic League in Ku-ring-gai. This led to branches of the league forming in other suburbs and towns throughout New South Wales and interstate.

Annie Wyatt was aware of the work of the National Trust for Places of Historical Interest or Natural Beauty in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which was formed as an independent environmental and heritage conservation charity and membership organisation in 1895. The National Trust of Scotland was later formed in 1931. On 11 April 1934, Annie Wyatt proposed setting up a similar organisation to the National Trusts in the United Kingdom so that buildings and landscapes could be permanently vested in Australia.



Waverley Cemetery, Bronte



Queen Victoria Building, Sydney

World War Two intervened, and Annie became occupied with the Prisoners' Aid Association and the Australian Red Cross Society. In November 1944, at the Australian Forest League's 'Save our Trees' conference in Sydney, she spoke about the need for a National Trust in Australia and in April the following year, the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) was established.

Losing no time at all, the National Trust launched its conservation advocacy movement with protests about the proposals to demolish the Sydney Mint, the Hyde Park Barracks and Parliament House on Macquarie Street in Sydney. In the same year, we lobbied to set up the Warrumbungle National Park. We also nominated 41 buildings worthy of protection to the newly formed Cumberland County Council. These initiatives led to the creation of the National Trust Register in 1949. The non statutory register continues to this day and is regularly cited as indication of places' heritage significance by policy makers, community groups advocating for the protection of heritage, students, industry experts and the media.

Our first major loss came in 1961 when, despite a campaign to save Subiaco at Rydalmere and St. Malo at Hunters Hill, they were demolished. But we kept going and in 1964, the National Trust launched a campaign against sand mining at Myall Lakes. After 18 years, the campaign culminated in the declaration of Myall Lakes National Park. We then succeeded in our advocacy to save and restore the Queen Victoria Building in 1967. Sydneysiders and visitors to the city continue to enjoy its splendour to this day.

Timeline Of Significant Advocacy In Our Trust Story

1945

National Trust Australia (NSW) founded

1947

Trust campaigns for greater action in preserving areas of natural beauty

1960

12 year campaign to preserve Cadman's Cottage commences

1964

16 year campaign to preserve Myall Lakes commences

1976

National Trust Bush Management Program commences

1946

Launch of conservation advocacy with protests to save The Mint and Hyde Park Barracks

1949

National Trust Register begins

1961

Subiaco and St. Malo demolished despite campaign to retain

1967

Campaign to save and restore Queen Victoria Building begins

1978

Establishment of National Trust Conservation Program



Then came the 1970s and for the first two years of the decade, we campaigned in opposition to the establishment of a nuclear reactor, steel works, city and industrial complex at Jervis Bay – one of the jewels of the south coast of New South Wales. We won.

In 1976 we established our Bush Management Regeneration Services, which still employs innovative practices in sustainable conservation for our natural heritage today. We formed the Cemeteries Conservation Committee in 1978 and 42 years later, this specialist group still surveys historic cemeteries, family and lone graves, and provides restoration and management advice.

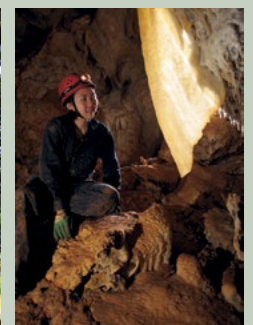
The State Theatre and Capitol Theatre in Sydney were saved in the 1980s – it took seven years of campaigning to save the State Theatre. Defeat came in 1982 with the loss of the Rural Bank Building in Martin Place but we were again victorious in 1997 when we saved Holsworthy from an International Airport development proposal.

Major National Trust campaigns saved the Museum of Contemporary Art from unsympathetic redevelopment in 2001 and the Grafton Saraton Theatre from demolition in 2003 however, in 2014 we weren't able to prevent the Garden Island Hammerhead Crane from being demolished or the 'garden suburb' of Haberfield from being impacted by the WestConnex motorway in 2015. Yet in the same year, Cliefden Caves at Mandurama were saved.

In 2019, despite being listed on the State Heritage Register, Thompson Square at Windsor and the early Colonial archaeology located there, was impacted by the construction of a new bridge and road despite the National Trust and the local community recommending a bypass as is the case in so many other historic towns.

Today, the Powerhouse Museum and its fragile collection is threatened with a move from Ultimo to Parramatta despite there being no 'powerhouse' connection to the new site and our consistent opposition. Our policies and positions are reflecting a changing time and a changing climate, and we are recognising the diversity, richness and multifaceted nature of our heritage in all its forms.

Every campaign and initiative undertaken by the National Trust over 75 years to protect, conserve and celebrate heritage has been vitally important to communities across New South Wales. Our successes, and our defeats, illustrate the importance of our role over seven decades and into the future.

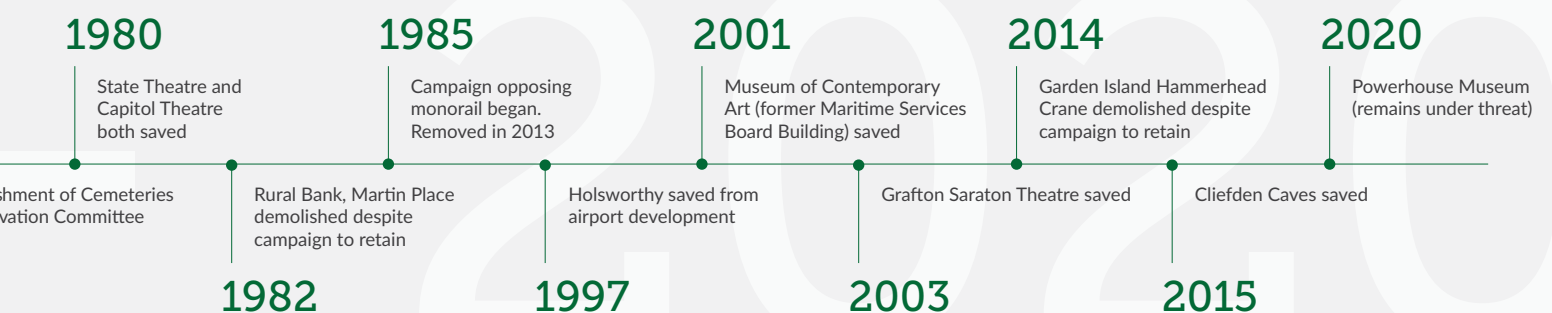


Top image – Myall Lakes National Park

Middle image – Hammerhead Crane, Garden Island

Bottom left image – William Bland Oak, Carramar

Bottom right image – Cliefden Caves, Mandurama



Calendar of Events

August to September 2020

August 2020

Trust Talks – The Value of Heritage

🕒 Thursday 6 August 2020, 6pm-8pm

📍 Parliament House, 6 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Heritage is embodied in the built, natural and cultural landscape. The experience of heritage is both personal and shared. How do we place a social, cultural, economic and environmental value on the conservation and protection of our heritage?

📄 **Bookings essential:**
nationaltrust.org.au/trust-talks

Best of the Blue Mountains

🕒 Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 August 2020, 10am-4pm

📍 Everglades House and Gardens, Leura

📍 Norman Lindsay Gallery, Faulconbridge

📍 Woodford Academy, Woodford*

Experience the very best the Blue Mountains has to offer including free access to garden and property tours, NSW Reconciliation Challenge Exhibition, annual Harvest Festival, bonsai workshops, live music, sketching workshops and a complimentary glass of wine between 2pm and 4pm**, with bush sausage sizzles.

*Woodford Academy – Saturday 15 August only. Closed on Sunday 16 August 2020.

**18 years and over only. Limit one glass per day, per person.

Art of Peter Pinson at Vienna Cottage

🕒 Saturday 22 August 2020, 12pm-4pm & Sunday 23 August 2020, 2pm-4pm

📍 Vienna Cottage, Hunter's Hill

Cottage tours and an exhibition of the art of Peter Pinson OAM, with a complimentary glass of wine*.

*18 years and over only. Limit one glass per day, per person.

Beyond the Grapes: Discover the Hunter

🕒 Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 August 2020, 10am-4pm

📍 Brough House, Maitland

📍 Grossmann House, Maitland

📍 Miss Porter's House, Newcastle West

📍 Tomago House, Tomago

With historic walking tours of Newcastle and Maitland, house and garden tours, afternoon teas, upcycling workshops, live music, drawing competition and a staged play reading with a complimentary glass of wine*. There is so much more to the Hunter than just the grapes!

*18 years and over only. Limit one glass per day, per person.

September 2020

Country and Culture at Dundullimal

🕒 Saturday 5 September 2020, 11am-3pm

📍 Dundullimal Homestead, Dubbo

Homestead and property tours, live music, blacksmith demonstrations, whip cracking and working sheep dog trials, outdoor games and Wiradjuri cultural demonstrations.

Opera at Dundullimal*

🕒 Sunday 6 September 2020, 12.30pm-4pm

📍 Dundullimal Homestead, Dubbo

*\$ADD ON – A delightful afternoon of musical magic from favourite operas and musicals by Mozart, Verdi, Bizet, Puccini, Strauss, Rodgers, Gershwin and more. Bring your own picnic or purchase refreshments on-site. Presented by Macquarie Conservatorium and Dundullimal Homestead National Trust (NSW).

Ticketed Event. **Bookings essential:
nationaltrust.org.au/75years

September 2020

Garden Party at Lindsay

🕒 Friday 11 & Saturday 12 September 2020, 10am-4pm

📍 Lindsay, Darling Point

Picturesque gardens with house tours, speaker program, exhibitions, live music, garden games, coffee, gelato and a complimentary glass of wine with meal purchase*.

Bookings essential:
nationaltrust.org.au/75years
*18 years and over only. Limit one glass per day, per person.

Discover great art at the S. H. Ervin Gallery

🕒 Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 September 2020, 11am-5pm

📍 S.H. Ervin Gallery, Miller's Point

Celebrate our 75th Anniversary at the S.H. Ervin Gallery on Observatory Hill, with an exhibition that features some of the best in Australian art. Enjoy live entertainment and a complimentary glass of wine between 3pm & 5pm.*

*18 years and over only. Limit one glass per day, per person.



National Trust (NSW) – 75th Anniversary Party*

🕒 Monday 21 September 2020, 2pm-4pm

📍 National Trust Centre, Millers Point

On the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the National Trust (NSW) an invited celebratory party will showcase its achievements and program of events across New South Wales in this milestone year.

*Invitation only

National Trust (NSW) – 75th Anniversary Celebration*

🕒 Monday 21 September 2020, 6pm

📍 National Trust Centre, Millers Point

*Invitation only



Southern Highlands in Bloom

🕒 Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 September 2020, 10am-4pm

📍 Retford Park, Bowral

📍 Harper's Mansion, Berrima

📍 Golden Vale, Sutton Forest*

With the tulips in bloom across the Southern Highlands, book a weekend trip and enjoy the stunning heritage properties and gardens, exhibitions, live music, lectures and a complimentary glass of wine between 2pm and 4pm***. Wander the grounds of stunning Retford Park, get lost in the maze at Harper's Mansion and take advantage of this unique 75th Anniversary Celebrations opportunity to tour historic Golden Vale*.

\$ADD ON – Golden Vale Garden Lectures on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September*

\$ADD ON – Women of the Trust Evening** on Saturday 26 September at Retford Park.

*Golden Vale bookings essential:
nationaltrust.org.au/75years

**Ticketed Women of the Trust Evening (including house tour) bookings essential:
nationaltrust.org.au/75years

***18 years and over only. Limit one glass per day, per person.

Event program correct at time of printing. Subject to change.

Volunteer with us

Make history and volunteer your time and talent with the National Trust (NSW).
nationaltrust.org.au/volunteers-nsw/

Refer a friend

Share the benefits of being a member during our 75th Anniversary year and refer a friend!
nationaltrust.org.au/membership/



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