

REFLECT



# The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) Annual Report 2022/23

Bringing heritage to life



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## President's Report

It is a privilege to present the achievements of FY23 and report on how the National Trust (NSW) responded to the year's challenges.

It is thanks to the extraordinary support and dedication of hardworking volunteers, supporters, committees, branches, and staff that this year's accomplishments are reported. I am immensely proud by what we have achieved together.

Through difficult financial times, the National Trust advanced the Strategic Plan and brought heritage to life for everyone.

Championing better natural, cultural, and built heritage outcomes, we made over 40 major submissions. Working together with our branches and the community, the National Trust's work has resulted in several wins. From Central Barangaroo Modification 9 being rejected, to the halt on raising of the Warragamba Dam wall, I am pleased that these and many other wins are detailed in this report.

In response to the State election, we ran a campaign calling on candidates to commit to clear heritage outcomes. I am pleased to report the campaign made an impact. Letters, emails, social media, public forums, and far-reaching media coverage led to the major parties committing to stronger heritage outcomes through legislation, protection

and funding. We continue our work to ensure these commitments come to full fruition in the coming years.

Ongoing community and government meetings took place to strengthen strategic relationships. As conservation leaders, the National Trust and Heritage Council NSW Boards met to discuss our respective roles in protecting heritage, the current issues, and potential solutions.

A personal highlight of mine was visiting our special places across New South Wales, meeting with volunteers and presenting the National Trust Honours Awards in person. Thank you to our branches, committees and volunteers for your vital work in protecting, conserving and promoting local heritage.

Miss Porter's House Collection in Newcastle was added to the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register in recognition of its rich documentary heritage. This achievement was thanks to our hardworking volunteers and our Collections Manager.

True to its theme 'Shared Stories', it was pleasing to see the Australian Heritage Festival and Heritage Awards come to life this year. A fantastic opportunity to present our passion for the places, collections, and stories we love. I was delighted to see the diverse regional events. Likewise, there was much to celebrate across the state evidenced by the strong regional representation acknowledged at this year's Heritage Awards.

Thanks to the work of our resolute staff, volunteers, and supporters, our vision 'bringing heritage to life' has been achieved this year.



Kathryn Pitkin AM, President





# Chief Executive Officer's Report

A challenging year. Global financial pressures, costs outpacing income, and a tough labour market impacted the organisation's financial results. Despite these challenges, the National Trust continued its vision and Strategic Plan 2020–24 priorities.

Initiatives were implemented to grow, diversify and engage our supporters and the wider community. The website was improved through refreshed content and search engine optimisation. This meant better engagement with new and existing audiences to encourage visitation, event attendance, fundraising, volunteering and advocacy. We doubled the number of people receiving the National Trust's electronic communications. Two high-profile public forums brought heritage issues and solutions to the forefront for communities, government and the media.

We were encouraged by the strong growth of new members and the outstanding financial support from our generous donors. A special thank you to our members and donors, your contribution makes the National Trust's critical work possible.

An ongoing repairs and maintenance plan was initiated as part of the property strategy, including investment in the digital visitor experience. More than 40 repairs and maintenance projects, many funded by our generous donors, were completed to help care for our special places. Significant works to Everglades House, following the successful appeal, are underway to restore the Art Deco beauty to its original glory.

An extensive financial review identified key opportunities to strengthen our financial sustainability, which are progressively being implemented. Our Bush Management Service business stabilised this year with the staff, equipment and resources in place to see our returns grow from this area.

Investment in our systems and people has seen significant technology transformation. Upgrades to security, connectivity, PCs and phone systems continued. Volunteer training included social media, events management and caring for collections. It was pleasing to see our volunteer survey indicated 78% satisfaction.

Our governance structure has been modernised through the adoption of revised National Trust Rules. Branch and Committee Charters were updated to reflect advancements in technology and allow more flexible local level governance. Policies have been reviewed and updated with the latest governance requirements.

This year's achievements are thanks to the dedication of staff, committees, branches and volunteers, with the support of members, donors and partners. Thank you.

Debbie Mills, CEO



Board of Directors as at 30 June 2023 (left to right); Bruce Pettman, Caroline Mackaness, Dr Elizabeth Farrelly, Debbie Mills, David Pratt, Susan Hunt, Kathryn Pitkin AM, and Kylie Winkworth. Absent; David Collingridge, Dr Clive Lucas OBE, Lisa Newell, William Oates, Mark Phibbs and Luton White.

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# In Review: Advocacy

Making heritage matter. The National Trust engaged with communities and government to protect important built, cultural and natural heritage.

## LEGISLATION AND POLICY

The New South Wales State election was an opportunity to raise public awareness about major threats to our heritage, and to secure policy commitments from candidates.

As part of the National Trust's election campaign, we called on the candidates to commit to three clear outcomes. Firstly, to enable, not disable heritage protections by not 'turning off' the *NSW Heritage Act*. Secondly, to appropriately fund heritage. And lastly, to think sustainability through adaptive re-use, because the greenest building is the one that already exists.

Election candidates heard our election message through letters, emails, social media, a public forum and extensive media coverage.

Our election campaign worked. Commitments were made by all major political parties and 15 individual candidates. The incoming government committed to reviewing the state's heritage legislation, delivering standalone Aboriginal Heritage Legislation, protecting the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains by halting the Warragamba Dam wall raising, and developing the state's first Heritage Strategy. The incoming government also reinstated the National Trust's Heritage Festival funding.

Parramatta's heritage significance and its protection continued to be a major focus for the National Trust. Experts in heritage, planning and architecture gathered at our 'Past and Future Cities' forum. The forum tackled the big issues facing both Parramatta's heritage and planning. It identified solutions for creating cities with character, for both Parramatta and similar places right across the state.

We also participated in the consultation for the development of the North Parramatta Place Strategy; provided input to Sydney Living Museums' business case for a museum at North Parramatta's former Female Factory; presented to the Federal Member for Parramatta, Andrew Charlton on Parramatta's heritage, including the proposal for a world heritage listing of the former Female Factory; and made more than five detailed submissions on Parramatta heritage applications and planning instruments.

## WINS

This year there were significant wins for heritage.

**Central Barangaroo Modification 9 rejected:** The NSW Premier rejected Modification 9, after the National Trust and many others raised the alarm over excessive building heights.

**Pitt Street redevelopment:** Our efforts successfully saved a row of Edwardian terrace historic shopfronts from demolition.

**Blackwattle Bay state significant precinct development improved:** Changes improved the initial concept plans through a reduction in height and density.

**West Head Lookout modifications redesigned and improved:** Originally designed by renowned Sydney Landscape Architect Bruce Mackenzie, the National Trust's advocacy resulted in a more sympathetic design to this significant lookout.

**Raising the Warragamba Dam wall:** The government rethought plans to raise the wall after the National Trust and others called for a halt to the project.

**MLC North Sydney saved:** In favour of our campaign, The Land and Environment Court overturned the decision to demolish the mid-century building, protecting the iconic North Sydney skyline.



An artist's impression of Central Barangaroo proposed development (image by Miller's Point Community Resident Action Group).





**'A planned luxury apartment tower served no public benefit, and there's no way that approving the modification would be in Sydney's best interests.'**

Planning Minister Anthony Roberts,  
*Sydney Morning Herald* in relation  
to Central Barangaroo Modification 9

## OUTREACH

The National Trust supported our **11 Branches** to raise awareness and prepare submissions on important local heritage issues. Branches made more than **40 submissions** on local heritage issues. Major submissions included Bathurst Integrated Medical Centre Planning Proposal, Newcastle East and Central Heritage Conservation Areas Review, Newcastle Ocean Baths – Stage 2, Draft Wollongong Heritage Strategy 2023–27, The Drip, Goulburn Valley and the Mid Coast Council Cemeteries Strategy.

- **67 Heritage Restoration Appeals** were supported, enabling important historic properties to accept tax deductible donations for restoration works
- **5 representations** for major government legislation reviews, Parliamentary Inquiries and Land & Environment Court Hearings
- **500 responses** to conveyancer National Trust Heritage Register enquiries
- **16 young and emerging** professionals joining Technical Advisory Committees as observers
- **35 meetings** to strengthen strategic relationships with associated organisations, government agencies, MPs and industry experts
- **Hosting two public forums** to highlight issues and solutions, with expert analysis from specialists in heritage planning law, aboriginal heritage law reform, environmental protection and place management
- **8 letters of support** for nominations of places to statutory heritage registers.

**40+**

Submissions  
on heritage

**5**

Representations  
for legislation  
reviews

## UNDER THREAT

The National Trust has been unsuccessful in attempts to reverse the alarming increase in 'turning off' the *NSW Heritage Act* for State Significant Development. Campaigns ran throughout the year as we advocated for places under threat including Sydney's Central Station, Powerhouse Museum, North Parramatta, Hambleton Cottage, Harris Park, Metro Minerva Theatre, Mulgoa's Fernhill, Hartley Valley, the Newcastle Ocean Baths and others.

## ON THE LIST

With 27 new listings this year, the National Trust Heritage Register remains truly independent.

- Burruga Copper Mine and Village
- Caberfeagh Cottage, Springwood
- Canbelego Cemetery
- Canterbury Park Racecourse
- Cobar General Cemetery
- Coffs Harbour Former Courthouse and Police Station
- Curranyalpa Graves
- Dromore Cemetery
- East Parsley Bay Obelisk
- Ivanhoe General Cemetery
- Girilambone General Cemetery
- Glen Lawson Cottage, Springwood
- Gold Commissioner's House, Sofala
- Gosford Cenotaph
- Green Point Navigation Obelisk
- Mossgiel General Cemetery
- Mount Hope General Cemetery
- Nevertire Cemetery
- North Head Navigation Obelisk
- Nymagee General Cemetery
- Obelisk Bay Obelisks
- Old Buckanbe Cemetery
- Old Ivanhoe Cemetery
- Rankin Hotel Group Cemeteries
- 'Sunnyside' House, Beverly Park
- Teryawynia Private Cemetery
- West Parsley Bay Obelisk

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# In Review: Conservation

Conservation initiatives have given our galleries, gardens and house museums a new lease on life.

## PROPERTIES

### Miss Porter's House

Extensive restoration works to the front veranda were completed in November. Detailed work involved making new casts from moulds of the original iron, reinstating all cast iron elements, new flooring, and replacement of the corroded bullnose roof.

### Norman Lindsay Gallery

In preparation for the 60th anniversary of National Trust ownership, significant landscape works to the property were completed. Thanks to the generosity of a private donor, the Norman Lindsay 'bush pool' including the pathways leading to this important site were restored. Replanting of the historic garden was also commenced. Inside the house CCTV security and fire protection systems were installed, ensuring the safety of this important collection.

### Experiment Farm Cottage

Thanks to a generous donor, the important historic gardens were assessed and renewed, bringing back the authentic colonial plantings at this historic site.

### Everglades House & Gardens

The Everglades House fundraising appeal has funded a major conservation and repair project to the main house. Much of the work is complete. The project will preserve the Otto Steen mural, reactivate all fountains, and reinstate original paint colours and historic built-in furniture.

### Old Government House

A new CCTV system has improved the security of this World Heritage Listed property. Restoration works have commenced on the repair of the important 'back range'. An unprecedented response to the 2022/23 fundraising appeal for this UNESCO listed site means important restoration works, including structural repairs, can commence in the coming year.

### Retford Park

The preparation of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the property was commenced and will be supplemented by the completed assessments of the archives, collections and landscape. The CMP will help guide the future of this important historical property.

### Saumarez Homestead

Detailed assessments and records were made of the property's unique collection. Repairs have been completed to the guttering and downpipes of the main house, along with historic gates and fences across the property. The Playroom building has also been repaired to create a usable space for all seasons.

**'We completed more than 40 repairs and maintenance projects to care for our over 35 heritage places across the state.'**



Garden rejuvenation at Experiment Farm Cottage (photo by National Trust).





## ARCHIVES

### Oral Histories

The 'Voice of the Trust' project interviewed heritage enthusiasts such as Sydney artist and heritage advocate Reg Mombassa, and the conservation voices of Clive Lucas OAM and Judy Birmingham. The records will be cared for in perpetuity and shared through exhibitions.

### Inaugural David Sheedy Foundation Scholarship

This important collaboration and inaugural scholarship has had real impact. The recipient, Althea Rodericks, has successfully identified and displayed the history of Everglades House & Garden, complementing the significant concurrent Everglades House restoration project.

### Saumarez Homestead Digitisation Hub

Thanks to funding from Create NSW works are underway to create high quality, accessible digital images reflecting the rich and authentic history of Saumarez Homestead.



David Sheedy Foundation Scholarship recipient Althea Rodericks.



Conservation of historic Beale and Co. furniture at Everglades House (photo by SGR Photo).



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# In Review: Collections

It was one of the highest honours when Miss Porter's House Collection was accepted to the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register in recognition of its rich trove of documentary heritage spanning 1910 to 1997.

## COLLECTIONS

### Preservation Needs Assessment

Both the Bedervale Homestead and Miss Porter's House collections were assessed thanks to funding from the Community Heritage Grant program. These collections have both been assessed to be of national significance. This led to the remarkable honour of Miss Porter's House Collection being accepted to the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register.

### Significance Assessment

The Retford Park Collection assessment, including the James O Fairfax (JOF) Archive, was completed. The report assessed the collection as an extraordinary collection of distinguished modern Australian artworks and sculptures. The JOF Archive provides important inventories of the artworks and correspondence with art dealers, gallery directors and acquaintances, revealing the history of the specific pieces in the Retford Park collection.

### Digitisation

More than 6,000 objects have been checked and updated. In Dubbo's Dundullimal Homestead over 30 diverse objects were photographed, including large items such as the bellows, and very fragile ones, such as the portable suitcase organ. In Armidale's Saumarez Homestead over more than 100 objects were photographed and 300 documents scanned.

### Dress Collections

Thanks to a generous donor, the dress collections of Old Government House, Grossmann House, Miss Porter's House, and Saumarez Homestead have been assessed.

A detailed report documents the stylistic features, rarity, period and condition. It also makes recommendations on the display potential and public programming opportunities.

### Collection Care

Training was funded thanks to the Community Heritage Grant program administered by the National Library of Australia on behalf of the Federal Government. This invaluable training delivered workshops and webinars on Object Handling and Safe Storage, Housekeeping in Historic House Museums and Care and Management of Paper and Photography Collections. Recorded and available online, staff and volunteers can refresh their knowledge or train new recruits at any time.

### YELLOW DRESS

A collaboration between the National Trust and the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) revealed a rare and precious 18th century dress.

The National Trust drew on NIDA's expertise to help solve the mystery of yellow silk pieces gifted to its collection in the 1970s. The NIDA team – including a dress historian, curator and final-year costume students – carefully pieced the fragments together to reveal the dress had been resewn four times across its lifetime. Two dresses were created to help illustrate its past: a 1770 version using the original silk and a 1740 cotton-sateen replica. The dresses were featured in exhibitions across New South Wales throughout the year.

**'The National Trust is grateful to both the Copland Foundation for funding the yellow dress project and NIDA for expertly illustrating its past.'**



Clockwise from top: NIDA students Jasmin Gray (left) with the replica dress made to the 1740 version and Lucy Francis with the original silk restored to the 1770 version (photo by Jacquie Manning); Working on the 1770 version of the dress (photo by Jacquie Manning); Stays, chemise, petticoat and panniers in a style accurate to the later 18th century (photo by NIDA); Making a template from an original fabric piece (photo by NIDA).



# In Review: Celebrating Heritage

Getting back to business. As the disruptive weather and global events of the previous three years subside, our colourful calendar of activations and exhibitions ran unimpeded.

## VISITATION

Visitors were invited to discover heritage stories, events, museums, galleries and beautiful gardens at different times throughout the year.

In 2022/23 we welcomed 114,187 visitors. While visitation is yet to return to the pre-COVID levels of 2018/19 with 139,000 visitors, this year's visitation is the highest in three years.

**114,187:**

Visitors welcomed

**150+**

Events curated

## AUDIENCE OUTREACH

**305,000**

Website visits

**639**

Social posts engaged and informed audiences

**18,000:**

Members enjoyed the National Trust magazine

**300+**

Media mentions per month

**35** 

Email newsletters shared the latest news and events

## EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

### S.H. Ervin Gallery

*Portia Geach Memorial Award, Salon des Refusés, Prized Possessions*

### Norman Lindsay Gallery

*Norman Lindsay's Legacy*

### Old Government House

*The River: Burramatta to Cockatoo*

### Saumarez Homestead

*Travels with Mary – Stories from the Suitcases*  
*The Dr. Will See You Now*

### Retford Park

*Southern Highlands Botanical Art Prize and Exhibition*

### National Trust Centre

*Visions from Sydney Cove*

### National Trust properties tour

*Under One Sky – Schools Reconciliation Challenge*



*Kindred Spirits* by Lynn Savery, winner 2022 Portia Geach Memorial Award.





National Trust Heritage Awards 2023 (photo by Yianni Aspradakis).



## EVENTS

This year the National Trust curated more than 150 events and tours. A colourful program brought heritage to life through workshops, exhibitions, open days, talks, walks, garden parties and more.

The Lindesay Christmas Fair, delivered by the Women's Committee volunteers, is one of the most popular annual events. This year it returned to full capacity, unimpeded by COVID for the first time in two years.

New initiatives engaged communities including a unique exhibition titled *Prized Possessions* at the S.H. Ervin Gallery. Featuring more than 50 artworks from the National Trust's collection, each item had undergone conservation in the last few years thanks to the 2021 fundraising appeal.

A partnership with Sydney Festival and City of Parramatta delivered *Dyin Nura*, an artwork projection illuminating Old Government House. Brenda L Croft's commanding portrait photography highlighted the site's enduring significance for First Nations women.

**'These wonderful events are made possible thanks to the generosity of our volunteers, who kindly give their time and together with staff deliver a fantastic program.'**

## AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Australia's largest community-driven heritage event, the Australian Heritage Festival, was celebrated across the nation. Running from 10 April to 14 May 2023 there were more opportunities than ever for younger audiences to get involved. This year's theme 'shared stories' brought heritage to life. It encouraged everyone to make deeper connections through shared stories of our natural, cultural, built and Indigenous heritage.

More than 550 events celebrated heritage across Australia. New South Wales hosted 192 events, attracting more than 64,000 visitors. The most popular elements were classes, workshops, talks, tours, exhibitions, nature-based events and open days. This year's festival was accessible with 42% of all events being offered free to the public. In New South Wales the festival received more than 155 media mentions, reaching over nine million readers through metro and local editorial.

## NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE AWARDS

The National Trust Heritage Awards attracted 91 entries, with 47 projects shortlisted and 17 winners. The ceremony took place on Friday 12 May at Doltone House, with 325 attendees.

The standard was exceptional, led by keynote speaker Helen Lochhead, Emeritus Professor of Architecture and Urbanism, UNSW and MC presenter Richard Morecroft. The attendee survey indicated that 100% of ceremony attendees plan to attend again and 100% believe the Heritage Awards is a valuable program. Across New South Wales there was more than 140 media mentions, reaching over 10 million readers.

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## In Review: Bushland Management Services

The National Trust has long been involved in bushland conservation and protecting our natural environment. This year, our passionate and dedicated Bushland Management Services team delivered an amazing 98% of projects to completion.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 98% of projects delivered to completion, despite labour market shortages
- 142 projects completed
- 32 clients
- Four successful tender submissions; Local Land Services Sydney, Soil Conservation Services, Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils and Coast Golf Club
- Three new high-profile clients acquired.



From top: Bushland Management Services in Greater Western Sydney (photo by National Trust); native plantings.





## CASE STUDY: SHOALHAVEN RIVER BUSH REGENERATION

### Problem

A large site weed infestation developed due to geomorphological changes on Burrier Road in the Shoalhaven River. The 2019/20 bushfires and subsequent floods caused the landscape change.

### Solution

- Staged control of weed species to ensure protection of native fauna habitat
- Broad area spray application to large infestations of target species
- Follow up target weed control post primary works
- Reduction in weed biomass, opening areas for improved light penetration and air circulation
- Improved bank stability by introducing 800 canopy and shrub species.

### Results

- Primary removal and control of approximately two acres of weeds
- Removal of 90% of target species
- 800 new canopy and shrub species planted along heavily eroded embankments and gullies
- 90% plant survival rates on project completion
- Learnings shared with the landowner post works to explain what would be required to maintain primary works into the future. Discussions also include plant identification for both weeds and natives, how to maintain the plants, and ideas for 100% biodegradable control methods to further stabilise the embankments while the plants mature
- National Trust awarded a Certificate of Practical Completion by Shoalhaven Council as recognition for achieving key performance indicators
- 80–100% reduction in target weed species including *Solanum mauritianum* (Tobacco Bush), *Lantana camara* (Lantana) and *Rumex sagittatus* (Turkey Rhubarb)
- Post weed bank stabilisation and revegetation.

# 90%

Plant survival rates  
on project completion

# 800,

New canopy and  
shrub species planted



Shoalhaven River before and after bush regeneration.

**'142 projects completed for  
32 clients, despite extreme  
labour market shortages.'**



Bushland regeneration facilitates healthy ecosystems and native growth.



# In Review: Membership and Giving

A strong year in membership, alongside generous donations, helped sustain the conservation and advocacy work of the National Trust.

## MEMBERSHIP

In 2022/23 the National Trust welcomed 3,210 new members and recorded 17,941 members, an increase of 1,636 on last year's 16,305 members.

This year members engaged with heritage and conservation through dedicated events and tours as well as a range of member benefits. Communications kept members engaged and informed through the quarterly magazine, eNews and special videos.

Membership revenue was \$780,000, while member retention remained strong at 81%.

# 17,941

Members

# 3,210

New members welcomed



The Old Government House appeal resonated strongly with members and supporters (photo by Michale Kennedy).

## DONATIONS

Fundraising revenue exceeded \$1 million. This incredible result was due to the generosity and support of 1,608 individual donors with 3,095 gifts received. Revenue from Major Gifts, Appeals and the Patron and Guardian Program all increased on the previous year.

### Major Gifts

Major Gifts made a substantial contribution to fundraising revenue with more than \$290,000 received. These gifts funded important work including ongoing maintenance and repairs at Riversdale, exhibition space improvements at Everglades House & Gardens and garden rejuvenation works at Experiment Farm Cottage.

### Appeals

Annual appeals continued to make up a considerable proportion of revenue. This year's appeals accounted for half of all fundraising revenue.

The Cooma Cottage appeal raised more than \$159,000 towards important conservation work at Hamilton Hume's historic home in Yass. This work will include new shutters, paint and lime wash, and electrical upgrades.

The Old Government House appeal resonated strongly with members and supporters and was unprecedented, with more than \$273,000 raised. Funds will breathe new life into this important World Heritage listed site. Works include structural repairs, interior and exterior paint, and new lighting in the Barracks. In the Main House, a bakery and servants' hall will be recreated in their original locations.

### Patron and Guardian Program

Patrons and Guardians provide an annual contribution which is directed to where it's needed most. This year, revenue from the program grew to \$110,000. Members of the program enjoyed special invites to events, previews and guided tours.

### Regular Giving

Every gift makes a difference and this year regular donations contributed more than \$31,000 to ongoing operations.



Everglades House restoration (photo by SGR Photo).

### GIVING

Thanks to the generosity of members, donors, trusts, foundations and bequests, \$1.7 million was raised. This incredible support has helped look after our state's special places and protect them for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you to the Dundullimal Dubbo Support Crew for the generous and ongoing support provided to Dundullimal Homestead.

#### Gifts in Wills

Gifts in Wills have been critical in the ongoing conservation work necessary to protect heritage and contributed more than \$670,000. Valuable projects are complete and lasting legacies have been made thanks to the generosity of these gifts. Bequests are vital in ensuring the future of our conservation and advocacy work.

81%

Member  
retention

\$1m+

Raised from donations



Portrait of singer-songwriter T. Wilds by Cynthia Breusch, Salon des Refusés 2022.

### CONNECTING

The past year has seen the welcome return of events and tours for supporters to connect with like-minded people and engage with the National Trust.

Members and donors experienced unique tours and talks at the S.H. Ervin Gallery including *Arnhem Land Barks*, *Portia Geach Memorial Award*, *Idris Murphy: Backblocks* and *Salon des Refusés*. A highlight was a tour of the *Prized Possessions* exhibition featuring select items from the National Trust collection, including the rare 17th century Dutch Master *Still Life* and the *Yellow Dress*.

The National Trust Tours Committee hosted several well-attended day tours including the Chau Chak Wing Museum, the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability, and Sydney's former GPO.

Old Government House welcomed members for a tour of the *The River: Burramatta to Cockatoo* exhibition. Patrons and Guardians also enjoyed the exhibition and tea on the Barracks verandah.

In May, donors enjoyed a stunning day at Everglades House & Gardens to witness first-hand the conservation work in progress on this special Art Deco icon.

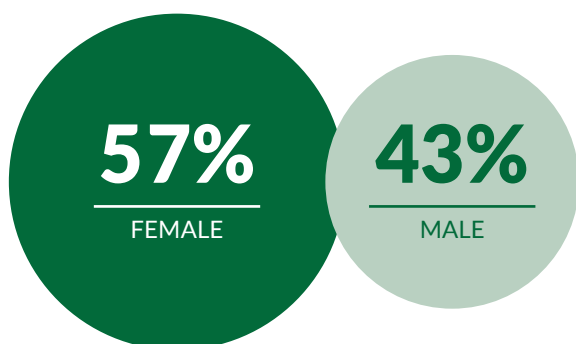
'The incredible generosity from members, donors, trusts, foundations and bequests has made a lasting impact. We are grateful for their incredible philanthropic support.'

## In Review: People

It's been a year of transitions. We welcomed bright new faces as the baton was passed from several long-serving retiring staff members.

### DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The National Trust is proud to be an inclusive employer with a diverse workforce. The staff gender balance is 57% female and 43% male. The casual workforce is close to gender parity, comprising 53% female and 47% male.



Volunteer assisting conservation.

### TRAINING

Staff and volunteers completed compliance, skill-based and personal development training. Volunteers undertook more than 640 hours in training.

Mental Health First Aid training for front-line managers was introduced for the first time. A number of on-demand training modules were created. These included social media, event management and oral histories capturing face-to-face interviews with volunteer historians.

Specialist training included conservation of paper-based collections, conservation of photography collections and pest control for historic properties.

Training was also completed in state-of the-art equipment to digitise collections.

### VOLUNTEERS

We are grateful for the support and generosity of our volunteers. Volunteers have completed a myriad of activities including collection care, gardening, events, open days, functions, administration, guiding, and specialist tasks.

This year's focus has been rebuilding volunteer groups post COVID. A recruitment campaign successfully attracted 150 new volunteers ready for the busy spring and autumn periods. The campaign welcomed new volunteers to join the areas where assistance was needed the most.

The dedication of our volunteers is evident by the numbers. Having grown to over 950 strong, volunteers have generously contributed 85,369 hours of service to the National Trust.



642

Hours of training

85,369

Hours of service





### **BOARD APPOINTED COMMITTEES AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

- Built Heritage Conservation Committee
- Butler Bequest Committee
- Cemeteries Committee
- Collections Committee
- Conservation Policies Taskforce
- Finance, Audit & Risk Management Committee (FARM)
- Industrial Heritage Committee
- Landscape Conservation Committee
- National Trust Honours Committee
- Properties Committee
- S.H. Ervin Gallery Advisory Committee

### **NATIONAL TRUST BRANCHES AND SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEES**

- Bathurst and District Branch
- Blue Mountains Branch
- Editorial Committee
- Far South Coast Branch
- Friends of Ahimsa
- Friends of Grossmann & Brough Houses
- Friends of Old Government House and Experiment Farm Cottage
- Friends of Sir Henry Parkes Memorial School of Arts
- Gulgong Mudgee Rylstone Branch
- Harpers Mansion Management Committee
- Hawkesbury Branch
- Hunter Regional Branch
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Branch
- Lachlan Branch
- Lindesay Management Committee
- Lithgow Branch
- Miss Porter's House Management Committee
- Miss Traill's House Management Committee
- Norman Lindsay Gallery Advisory Committee
- Parramatta Branch
- Southern Highlands Branch
- Tours Committee
- Vienna Cottage Management Committee
- Women's Committee
- Woodford Academy Management Committee

### **NATIONAL TRUST HONOURS**

The following volunteers and staff were recognised for their outstanding contribution.

#### **Honorary Life Membership**

Elizabeth Nock – Women's Committee

Eric Savage – Harper's Mansion

#### **Meritorious Service Award**

##### **More than 15 Years of Outstanding Service**

Diana Browne – Dundullimal Homestead

Elaine Witton – S.H. Ervin Gallery

Lynn Morris – Friends of Grossmann & Brough Houses

Maggie Morel – Harper's Mansion

Maggie Rowe – S.H. Ervin Gallery

Nola Barry – Miss Porter's House

Rosalie Bush – Cooma Cottage

#### **Voluntary Service Award**

##### **Over 10 Years of Service**

Arnold Vink – Lindesay Management Committee

Errol Goodenough – Everglades House & Gardens

Jan Barkley-Jack – Hawkesbury Branch

Jeanette Cohen – Women's Committee

John Street – Norman Lindesay Gallery

Josephine Revai – Lindesay Management Committee

Leonie Buchan – S.H. Ervin Gallery

Louise Martel – Dundullimal Homestead

Mark Metrikas – Hunter Branch

#### **National Trust Commendation**

##### **Over Five Years of Service (or exceptional service)**

Amanda Hinds – Hunter Branch

Amanda Mason – Friends of Grossmann & Brough Houses

Barbara Field – Miss Traill's House & Garden

Chris Van Der Kley – Norman Lindesay Gallery

Harry Anneveld – Illawarra & Shoalhaven Branch

Jan Catterall – Old Government House

John Gillick – Retford Park

Ken Reedy – Miss Traill's House

Marilyn Short – Experiment Farm Cottage

Michelle Cavanagh – Parramatta Branch

Patricia Harris – Everglades House & Gardens

Rodney Stowe – Blue Mountains Branch

Timothy Charles – Retford Park

Trevor Catterall – Old Government House

Victor Moymow – Miss Porter's House

#### **Staff Distinguished Service Award**

Jarrad Stevenson – Facilities Manager, Saumarez Homestead

# In Review: Finances

Despite a challenging economic environment, rising costs and labour shortages, this year has resulted in a net surplus. The surplus is due to our membership, donations, bequests and investment portfolio.

The National Trust is a charity and a not-for-profit organisation. The financial results presented are for the consolidated entity of The National Trust of Australia (NSW), together with the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Heritage Foundation Limited.

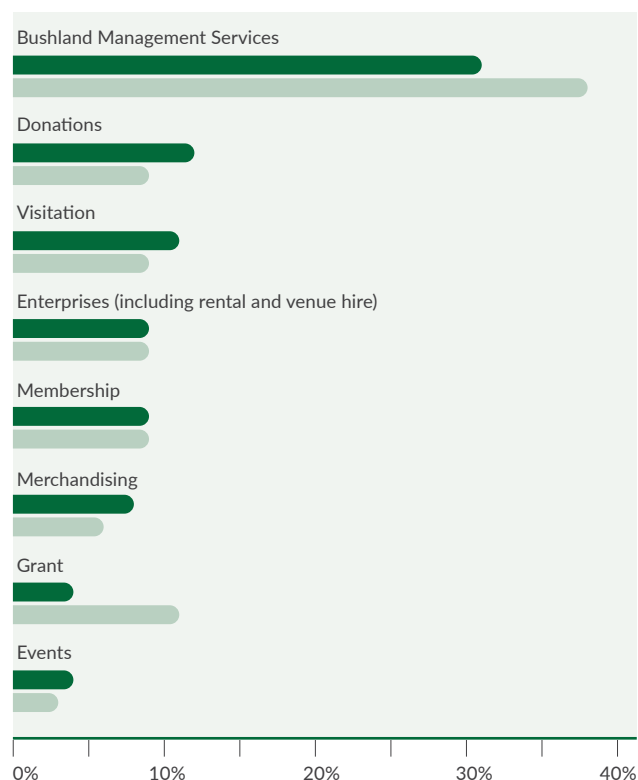
## Revenue was generated through:

- Native bushland regeneration services
- Visitation to art galleries, historic properties and gardens
- Membership, donations and bequests
- Conservation fees and restorations appeals
- Events and merchandise
- Venue hire and commercial and residential rentals
- Grants from government and other organisations.

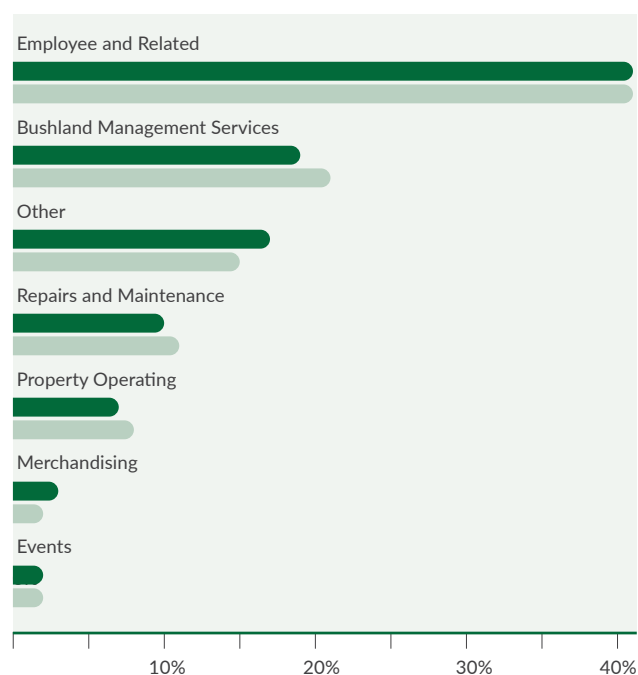
## SUMMARY

- Donations exceeded \$1 million, an excellent result thanks to our donors.
- Bushland Management Services contracts equalled \$3 million, however, labour shortages and rain challenged delivery.
- Investment continued in the Strategic Plan from the prior year funds, in particular the Neville Grace Bequest. This included a range of system upgrades, advocacy campaigns and a draft museum digital interpretation strategy.
- The above investment is shown in the FY23 expenses. This, together with rising costs and caring for our special places, resulted in an operating loss, after investment income and bequests, of approximately \$2.9 million. Initiatives in FY24 aim to reduce this deficit going forward.
- In FY22 the Trust suffered significant unrealised loss of investments. In FY23 our investment portfolio benefited from a \$3.3 million unrealised gain.
- A net surplus of \$480,000 was achieved at a consolidated level.

## Operating Income ■ FY2023 ■ FY2022



## Operating Expenditure ■ FY2023 ■ FY2022







	FY 2023 \$000's	FY 2022 \$000's
<b>INCOME</b>		
Bushland Management Services	2,832	2,797
Conservation Services	207	330
Donations	1,044	700
Enterprises (including rental and venue hire)	843	642
Events	396	223
Grant Revenue	351	824
Membership	780	651
Merchandising	732	471
Visitation	1,030	634
Other (including sponsorship and Trustee fee)	205	21
Insurance Claim (directly offset additional repairs and maintenance)	592	144
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>9,012</b>	<b>7,438</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Bushland Management Services	2,651	2,482
Cost of Merchandising	395	284
Employee and Related	5,664	4,860
Events	319	267
Legal Fees	39	120
Heritage Consultancy Fees	523	274
Other Office	950	685
Postage and Printing	257	245
Property Operating	1,015	944
Repairs and Maintenance	1,433	1,324
Other	579	416
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>13,824</b>	<b>11,901</b>
Net Operating Result	(4,812)	(4,463)
Investment Income	1,190	3,023
<b>Net Operating Result after Investment Income</b>	<b>(3,621)</b>	<b>(1,440)</b>
Bequests	671	2,221
Gain/(Loss) on Revaluation of Investment	3,426	(5,712)
Gift - Collections	4	18
<b>Non-Operating Income</b>	<b>4,101</b>	<b>(3,474)</b>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>(4,914)</b>

## SUPPORTERS

### Grants

We are grateful for the NSW Government support through Heritage NSW of the Australian Heritage Festival and National Trust Heritage Awards as the continued principal sponsor providing \$75,000 in grant funding.

The National Trust would also like to recognise the grant support from the Australian Government – Department of Industry, Science and Resources, National Library of Australia, Office of Environment and Heritage, Museums & Galleries NSW, Department of Enterprise, Investment & Trade – Create NSW, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, Department of Community and Justice – Reconciliation NSW, Department of Planning and Environment – Heritage NSW, The Copland Foundation, Maitland City Council and Armidale Regional Council.

Support (including in-kind support) was also received from Armidale, Dubbo, Maitland, Lithgow, Wingecarribee Shire and Yass City Councils. The National Trust would like to acknowledge the in-kind support from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA).

### S.H. Ervin Gallery

We acknowledge the generous support provided to the S.H. Ervin Gallery by Allen & Unwin, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Holding Redlich, National Trust Wine Service and Perpetual Trustees.

### Corporate Partners and Supporters

A special thank you to our Corporate Supporters; International Conservation Services, Laithwaites Wine People, Museums & Galleries NSW and Safewill. We are also very grateful to our Corporate Members; Allen Jack + Cottier Architects, Cox Architecture, Design 5 Architects, GML Heritage, Hector Abrahams Architects, Lucas, Stapleton, Johnson & Partners, Sydney Metro, Winten Property Group and Long Blackledge Architects.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

The full details of the Audited Financial Statements can be found at [nationaltrust.org.au/about-us-nsw](http://nationaltrust.org.au/about-us-nsw)



Everglades House & Gardens (photo by SRG photo)

# About us

The National Trust (NSW) is an independent conservation organisation. Founded in 1945, the National Trust's vision is to bring the heritage of New South Wales to life for future generations.


## Our mission:

- Advocate for the conservation of built, cultural and natural heritage by engaging with the community and government
- Identify, conserve and protect our built, cultural and natural heritage by example, advice and support
- Educate and engage the community by telling our stories in ways that awaken a sense of place and belonging.

Our values include independence, trustworthiness, inclusiveness and inspiration.

## CONTACT US

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Front cover from top, left to right: Cooma Cottage (photo by SGR Photo); Old Government House kitchen (photo by SGR Photo); bara Monument for the Eora (photo by City of Sydney); Bush blossom (photo via pixabay); Norman Lindsay Gallery (photo by SGR Photo); Yellow Dress Project (photo by Jacquie Manning); Prized Possessions Exhibition (*Still Life 17th century* attributed to Gerrit Willemz. Heda); Bondi Pavilion Restoration and Conservation project (photo by Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects); Retford Park dog day (photo by de lumiere photography).