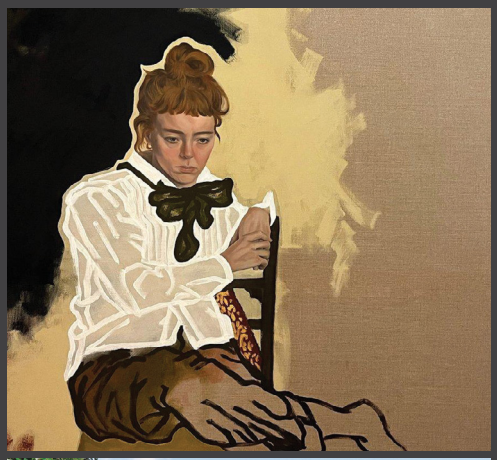
REFLECT

National Trust

The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) Annual Report 2025/26











Contents

The National Trust acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, celebrate and share the stories of heritage. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and we support the Uluru Statement.

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President's Report

I am pleased to present the accomplishments of the National Trust (NSW) for 2025/26, and report on the advocacy efforts and significant outcomes of this year.

In my first year as President, it has been wonderful to meet the members, donors, staff, volunteers, branches and committees who sustain the work of the National Trust, and gain deeper insight into the breadth of the organisation's diverse activities.

The National Trust's role as an informed and trusted advocate for heritage remains as critical as ever. Our capacity to shape public policy and secure better outcomes for the natural, built and cultural heritage of NSW has been strengthened through working with proponents and engaging the wider community in 2025/26.

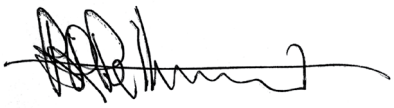
One of the most significant issues facing heritage this year is the Federal Government's announcement to divest historic Defence sites across Australia. The National Trust has called for many of these sites to be retained by the Department of Defence, with the view that these places should remain in public ownership for the benefit of all Australians. Our submission at the Senate Inquiry into the Management of Defence Estate Assets formally stated this position.

Championing appropriate cultural management and better heritage outcomes, the National Trust made over 25 major submissions this year, with campaigns including Berrima Gaol, the former Maitland Hospital and Eryldene Historic House and Garden. Our branches continue to provide invaluable support on local and regional heritage matters. This year the Hawkesbury Branch marked 25 years, while the Hunter Regional Branch celebrated the retention of the Wickham School of Arts in Newcastle, after years campaigning for its preservation.

The 2026 Australian Heritage Festival brought communities together across the country. Facilitated by the National Trust, this month-long celebration featured more than 700 events nationwide, attracted over 86,000 attendees and generated an estimated $15 million in economic value. Closing the festival each year, the annual National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards recognise excellence in heritage. This year, 43 finalists and 20 winners showcased wide-ranging talent, innovation and expertise in heritage practice across NSW. I was delighted to present the President's Prize to the Coolamon Hotel redevelopment. This regional project demonstrates that while heritage preserves the past, it can also act as a powerful catalyst for revitalisation.

I have been deeply impressed by the generosity and dedication of the National Trust's staff, volunteers and supporters this year. Thank you for your time and commitment.

Guided by the 2025–29 Strategic Plan, we are moving forward with positivity, broadening our impact while safeguarding the organisation's financial sustainability. We will continue this momentum in future.



Bruce Pettman, President

Chief Executive Officer's Report

With an overarching goal of financial sustainability, delivered through six key objectives, the National Trust's 2025–29 Strategic Plan guided the diverse activities and achievements of the organisation this year. The plan ensures that current obligations are met, while securing the future of the National Trust in a rapidly changing world.

Safeguarding the longevity of historic places is fundamental to our mission. This year, the National Trust unveiled a major $2.7 million revitalisation project at Saumarez Homestead, situated on Anaiwan Country, in Armidale. Over 12 months, the project transformed the historic Edwardian estate through adaptive reuse and thoughtful design. New accommodation and expanded venue facilities honour the past while meeting contemporary needs, establishing the property as a leading regional destination. Ongoing conservation works also helped protect more than 30 significant places in our portfolio for the years ahead.

As a community-based, non-government organisation, caring for our people is central to a sustainable future. The launch of an online volunteer database in 2025 has enhanced efficiency, and improved our governance and processes, empowering our more than 1,000 volunteers to direct their time to meaningful work. A new digital HR system for staff was introduced, streamlining essential administration. Community engagement with the National Trust continues to grow. Our social following has climbed to 37,000 while our email subscribers grew to more than 49,000 people.

In 2025/26, we strengthened relationships with major cultural institutions, including the Art Gallery of NSW, the State Library of New South Wales and Museums of History NSW. We also expanded our connection with the education sector with internships, guest lectures and the sharing of collection items. These partnerships introduced the National Trust to new audiences and amplified engagement with heritage across the state.

The National Trust's Reconciliation Action Plan was delivered. Cultural training and a review of Indigenous collection items was undertaken, while a new interpretation program at Saumarez Homestead was developed in close collaboration with local Aboriginal community representatives. Pleasingly, our Bushland Management Services (BMS) passed a three-year International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) audit, verifying compliance with strict quality control, and work health and safety management protocols.

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our members, donors and supporters, over $3.5 million was raised in 2025/26. This critical contribution ensures our vital conservation and advocacy work continues.

Through the growth of registered Conservation Appeals, the National Trust supported communities across NSW to repair, restore and maintain heritage places. These appeals enable organisations to establish tax-deductible fundraising campaigns, with funds directed to the conservation of places of local and state significance.

The results of this year would not be possible without the dedication of staff, committees, branches, and volunteers together with the support of members, donors, sponsors and partners. Thank you.



Debbie Mills, CEO



Board of Directors pictured at the 2025 Annual General Meeting, from left; Hector Abrahams, Luton White, Suzette Meade, Bruce Pettman, Barrina South, Debbie Mills – CEO, David Pratt – Treasurer, Lucy Creagh, Caroline Mackaness, Deirdre Hall, Bimbi Turner, Dr Kimberley Webber, Paul van Ratingen (not pictured) (photography by Yianni Aspradakis).

In Review: Advocating for Heritage

Protecting the heritage of NSW is fundamental to the mission of the National Trust, 2025/26 marked a pivotal year of advocacy.

POLICY AND PLANNING

In the face of numerous pressures, the National Trust advocated for the state's natural, built and cultural heritage in major submissions and campaigns this year.

In a robust response to the NSW Government's NSW Heritage Strategy, the National Trust maintained our strong and independent voice for heritage. We argued that any strategy needs to include a commitment to clear outcomes, with actions, designated responsibilities and compliance timeframes for each objective. We also highlighted that adequate funding needs to be allocated to heritage. The National Trust called for the NSW Government to lead by example through identifying, conserving and activating its own heritage assets, citing the example of Fort Denison, a State Government managed site which has been closed to the public since 2017. Heritage NSW must also be properly equipped to help achieve these legislated requirements. With a new Heritage Act proposed as part of the broader changes affecting heritage legislation, the National Trust will continue to advocate for stronger, not weaker, heritage protections in NSW.

The protection of heritage cannot be taken for granted. Recent well-publicised proposals to sell Defence sites across Australia have included locations that are recognised as culturally significant for their historic designs, buildings and landscapes and for their importance to our Defence Force. The National Trust appeared before the Senate Inquiry into the divestment of Defence estate assets and prepared a specific Position Paper on Victoria Barracks, one of the most exceptionally significant heritage sites in Australia, which we maintain must remain in public ownership.



Victoria Barracks, established in 1840 (photography by Nick-D, via Wikimedia Commons)

OUTREACH

- 25 major advocacy submissions.
- 5 letters of support for nominations to the State Heritage Register.
- Heritage representation at the Senate Inquiry into the Management of Defence Estate Assets.
- Supported 78 heritage restoration appeals.
- 58 National Trust branch submissions.
- 28 expert technical committee meetings for advisory and technical submissions.
- Responded to over 950 National Trust Register enquiries.

'I'd urge the committee, just as the National Trust does, to see the custodianship of historic places on behalf of all Australians not just as a responsibility but as an honour, a privilege and most importantly, an opportunity.'

Director Conservation, David Burdon, speaking at the Senate Inquiry into the Management of Defence Estate Assets.

SUBMISSIONS

The National Trust made detailed submissions advocating for heritage in 2025/26. Selected submissions included:

• NSW Heritage Strategy
The National Trust advocated for clear outcomes focused on heritage, and better funding for the protection of NSW's natural, built and cultural heritage.

• Divestment of Defence sites
Following the Federal Government's announcement to divest historic defence sites across Australia, the National Trust called for these significant places to remain under the ownership of the Department of Defence. Our appearance before the Senate Inquiry into the Management of Defence Estate Assets reinforced this position.

• Draft Community Participation Plan
While recognising the importance of a consistent state-wide framework for planning engagement, the National Trust argued that reducing notification and exhibition requirements for local developments compromises local heritage protection and public trust.

• Development adjacent to Eryldene House
A strong objection was lodged against plans for an eight-storey residential development near the renowned house and gardens of Eryldene, with the National Trust highlighting the negative impact on the site's historic collection of significant camellia plants.

• Berrima Gaol
The National Trust raised concerns about aspects of the proposed commercial redevelopment of this 1835 convict-built gaol, including changes to the historic gaol wall.

• Powerhouse Ultimo Revitalisation Project
Encompassing the complete demolition of the 1988 purpose-built Wran Building and Galleria, the renewal project at the Powerhouse Ultimo was deemed by the National Trust to no longer be an example of adaptive re-use. We have regrettably updated our listing of these structures to "demolished".

• Development in Oxford Street, Paddington
Concerns were raised over the inappropriate scale and adverse heritage outcomes of a proposed multi-storey development opposite Victoria Barracks, which threatens to undermine the character of the Paddington Conservation Area.

• Development adjacent to Hambledon Cottage

The National Trust has maintained its strong objection to revised plans for a multi-storey development adjacent to the heritage precinct of Hambledon Cottage, Elizabeth Farm, and Experiment Farm Cottage, which threatens to permanently alter the heritage integrity of this site currently being considered for listing on the National Heritage List.

• The Strand, Croydon
The National Trust supported the nomination for Local Heritage Listing protection of this historic Federation-era high street precinct.



Eryldene Historic House & Garden remains under threat (image supplied).

ON THE LIST

The National Trust Register is a vital, independent record of places of heritage significance in NSW. New listings this year include:

- Art Deco Beach Pavilions, Cronulla
- Gongolgon Cemetery, Gongolgon
- Cowra Soldiers Memorial Avenue, Cowra
- General Cemetery, Bourke (listing update)
- Irrawang Pottery Site, Raymond Terrace
- Ithaca Gardens Apartments, Elizabeth Bay
- Kiora Villa, Morpeth
- Oxley Wrought Iron Bridges, Oxley
- Telstra Public Telephone, Narooma
- Warringah Civic Centre, Dee Why

25
Major advocacy submissions

950
National Trust Register enquiries

In Review: Conserving Heritage

Vital conservation was undertaken in 2025/26 to safeguard the historic places under our care for future generations.

Old Government House

To ensure Old Government House continues to serve as a connection between Australia's past and its future, a series of conservation projects were completed, thanks to support from the Copland Foundation. A new audio experience in the bakery and servant's hall enables visitors to experience Australia's oldest surviving public building through the perspective of those who once worked at this significant site. Upstairs, UV protection and new exhibition lighting were installed to enable collection items to be more safely displayed and viewed. Reviving the building's classical grandeur, the striking chequered wooden floor in the foyer was repainted, as was the imposing main entry portico. Exterior signage was also updated to guide visitors around the grounds and interpret key features of the landscape.

Retford Park

The grand Victorian Italianate property was the focus of numerous projects over the past 12 months. Volunteers restored the old cattle yards and repaired outdoor seating using timber milled on site and reclaimed fence palings. Succession planning was undertaken in the gardens, with cuttings propagated to safeguard significant plant collections. Inside the Portuguese-pink mansion, repainting was completed on sections of the house as part of the regular maintenance.



Sustainable restoration at Retford Park (photography by Mark Kelly).

> 'Through the thoughtful conservation of our places, we are also improving access to collections and creating more engaging visitor experiences.'
>
> Senior Curator, Conservation, Craig McPherson

Golden Vale

In the grounds of the Georgian homestead Golden Vale, numerous works were carried out to ensure the ongoing conservation of this special place. Major structural, electrical, plumbing and garden works were completed on the picturesque cottage built by Sir Philip Goldfinch in the 1930s, along with external and internal painting, highlighting its Art Deco features. It is now ready for future use. Extensive cleaning and repairs were made to the historic shearing shed and numerous other outbuildings in preparation for further conservation works. Electrical upgrades and painting works were also made to the Italian loggia.

Securing a sustainable future

Thanks to generous support from the Women's Committee, and the help of volunteers, the charming greenhouse at Miss Traill's House has been brought back to life. Work included rebuilding the brick base, repairs to the timber frame ahead of repainting, and installing new windows and roofing. A favourite spot of Miss Traill, the greenhouse, was constructed in the mid-1960s and is a key feature of the historic garden. At Everglades House & Gardens major repairs were made to the 1930s squash court building while the roof of the main house was also restored. The original timber staircase at Harper's Mansion has been repaired and polished and the wooden front fence replaced at Tomago House.



The striking foyer at Old Government House was repainted (image supplied).



Major structural, electrical, plumbing and garden works were carried out at Golden Vale (image supplied).



The charming greenhouse at Miss Traill's House has been restored (image supplied).

A NEW CHAPTER FOR SAUMAREZ HOMESTEAD

Situated on Anaiwan Country, in Armidale, Saumarez Homestead is an expansive Edwardian estate, encompassing a stunning mansion, graceful formal gardens and historic farm buildings. In 2025/26, a major renewal project was completed, transforming this New-England heritage jewel into a premier regional destination.

Funded by the NSW Government in partnership with Armidale Regional Council and the National Trust, work extended to multiple aspects of the site, from re-roofing the historic former Heavy Horse Stables and installing a new road surface, to restoring the heritage rose garden to full bloom.

A primary focus of the project was the development of new self-contained accommodation. Thoughtfully integrated into the heritage landscape, the three cabins and beautifully restored historic Thomas House, each offer visitors a unique way to engage with the rural history of NSW. Expanded meeting and venue facilities at the site, carefully designed to honour the character of the place, have revitalised Saumarez Homestead as a drawcard regional location for events, weddings, retreats, business meetings and educational programs.

A new interpretation program for Saumarez Homestead was created as part of our commitment to telling the multi-layered stories of National Trust properties. In collaboration with Anaiwan Elders and local Aboriginal community representatives, the program incorporates Aboriginal history and language and tells the enduring story of the traditional custodians who walked this landscape long before pastoral fences were laid.



The beautifully restored historic Thomas House (photography by Mike Terry).

‘The Saumarez Homestead revitalisation project is a key example of how targeted investment in regional heritage assets can deliver long-term cultural, economic and social benefits for local communities.’

CEO, Debbie Mills



Revitalised, the Jackson Centre is now ready for events (photography by Mike Terry).



The heritage rose garden at Saumarez Homestead (photography by Mike Terry).

In Review: Collections

In-depth research and innovative technology revealed fascinating insights into the more than 60,000 treasures in the National Trust Collection this year.

Collections Appeal

Thanks to strong support of the Collections Appeal, historic objects underwent essential conservation treatment in 2025/26, including a striking still-life of fish by early colonial artist William Buelow Gould. A highly specialised mist-lining technique was employed to glue the painting to a new canvas.

Baroque Music Manuscript

Research conducted by Australian violinist and musicologist Dr Shane Lestideau uncovered the previously unknown history of a rare 1734 music manuscript from the collection at Riversdale. The authors of the practice book, filled with songs and instrumental tunes, have been identified as two women who were members of Scotland's earliest musical society. The manuscript has been conserved thanks to the Copland Foundation.

Generation Next

New technologies are helping to capture, preserve and enhance public access to the more than 60,000 precious and highly fragile items in the National Trust Collection. Objects were 3D scanned or digitised, including the solid gold 1870 Sydney Cup, won by the horse Barbelle, from the collection at Miss Traill's House.

ARCHIVES

Oral histories

This year the National Trust's Oral History Project recorded interviews with important figures in heritage including prominent architect Michael Dysart AM, prominent cultural figure Leo Schofield AM, historian, conservationist and author James Broadbent AM, and interior decorators Ros Palmer, and Cornelius Horgan.

Archives Appeal

Over $150,000 was raised for the National Trust Archives Appeal. The generosity of donors and supporters will ensure that unique records capturing the history of NSW are preserved and stored to modern archival standards.

A moment in time

Prominent Sydney artists Peter Kingston and Martin Sharp's efforts to save Luna Park in 1979 feature in vibrant artworks that have joined the National Trust Collection, thanks to the generosity of the Martin Sharp Trust.



Research revealed new insights into a 1734 music manuscript (photography by Nick Nicholson).



Vibrant artworks from prominent pop artist Martin Sharp joined the National Trust Collection (photography by Joe Wigdahl).

In Review: Celebrating Heritage

Visitors were invited to discover heritage through house museums and gardens, inspiring galleries, and engaging events throughout the year.

VISITATION

In 2025/26 the National Trust welcomed almost 124,000 visitors — an increase of 2,500 visitors from the previous year. Visitation revenue exceeded $1.2 million.

123k
Visitors welcomed

548k
Website visits

49k
Email subscribers

6%
Email click-through rate

37k
Followers on socials

1.1m
Highest engaged social post

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Australia's largest community driven celebration of heritage expanded in 2026 to showcase 700 events, with 260 activations hosted across NSW. The program was made up of a mix of in-person and online experiences, with virtual reality included for the first time, broadening the festival's appeal. Half of all events were offered free or by donation, enhancing accessibility and inclusivity. Attended by more than 86,000 people across the nation, the impact of the festival in driving awareness and appreciation of heritage was reflected in record levels of engagement. A new website resulted in 300,000 views, an uplift of 50% from the previous year, while social impressions scaled to more than 3 million, a 260% increase from 2025.

NATIONAL TRUST (NSW) HERITAGE AWARDS

Recognising excellence in heritage across the state, the National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards ceremony was held on Friday 15 May at Doltone House, in Sydney. Chosen from 43 finalists, 20 winning projects were honoured, spanning metropolitan, regional, and remote areas of NSW. Author and broadcaster Sarah Macdonald took to the stage as MC, while Jillian Kilby, a civil engineer and visionary leader in adaptive reuse, presented a thought-provoking keynote. Over 300 people attended the occasion with 100% of those surveyed indicating they view the National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards as a valuable program which they would recommend to a colleague or a friend. Media reach grew by almost 50% to over 173 million.

'97% of organisations felt that participation in the Australian Heritage Festival (AHF) makes a positive impact or provides social, economic or profile value.'

Source: 2026 AHF organiser research

EVENTS

- This year a lively array of over 100 National Trust events offered something for everyone. Visitors enjoyed promenading at Regency Day at Old Government House, theatrical Shakespeare performances at Everglades House & Gardens, vintage stalls and entertainment at Norman Lindsay Gallery and a vibrant showcase of student art for the NSW Schools Reconciliation Challenge. Music lovers took in an enchanting recital of Scottish Baroque music at Riversdale and jazz in the garden at Norman Lindsay Gallery. The festive season was celebrated at the Women's Committee's Lindesay Christmas Gift Fair and Christmas at Golden Vale. Even four-legged friends were catered for with International Dog Day celebrations.
- Exclusive tours brought heritage to life. The Women's Committee's drawcard Looking at Architecture weekend drew members and supporters together to explore Yass. The Southern Highlands Branch held house and garden inspections in the Wingecarribee Shire, while tours of Centennial Park, Glebe, Haberfield, Manly, Newcastle, Vaucluse and the Sydney Theatre Company were also conducted across the year.
- As the nights drew in, National Trust places lit up with illuminated projections of historic images at Grossmann and Brough Houses, and romantic twilight evenings at Lindesay, Retford Park, Riversdale and Everglades House & Gardens. After dark, art and astronomy evenings captivated crowds at Norman Lindsay Gallery, while ghost busters young and old were guaranteed a fright with paranormal tours at Old Government House.

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

S.H. Ervin Gallery
Salon des Refusés, *Mary Tonkin: Among the Trees* and *Portia Geach Memorial Award*

Norman Lindsay Gallery
Rayner Hoff and *Norman Lindsay and the Natural World*

Everglades House & Gardens
'Once Within a Time' Lisa Taylor

Retford Park
Contemporary Australian Landscape Paintings and *Desmond Freeman – New York, New York: Impressions in Ink*



Fifty Shades of Pink by Sally Ryan, Portia Geach Memorial Award.



Jazz dancers take a twirl at the Norman Lindsay Vintage Fair (photography by Chris Cannell).



Crowds enjoy the 2025 Lindesay Christmas Gift Fair (photography by Rick Stevens).

In Review: Bushland Management Services

Restoring natural heritage across the state, our Bushland Management Services safeguard the precious biodiversity of NSW.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **112 projects** completed for 28 clients.
- **580 hectares** of landscape restored.
- **50,400 hours** of work undertaken.
- **Improved habitat** for vulnerable native species across NSW.
- **56 tonnes** of weeds removed.
- **Two successful submissions** from three project tenders.
- **Successfully completed** three-year International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) audit.

112
Projects completed

580ha
Natural areas restored

50k+
Hours of work undertaken

56t
Weeds removed



A small native bee perches on a striking pea flower (photography by Christina Senn).

HELPING NATIVE SPECIES THRIVE

In partnership with Campbelltown City Council and Conservation Volunteers Australia, Bushland Management Services began work on a large-scale restoration project along the Upper Georges River in South West Sydney this year.

Over a timeframe of two and a half years, the Georges River and adjacent creek line will be rehabilitated. A key focus of the project is targeted control of invasive vine species and woody weeds, alongside the installation of 1,200m² of erosion mitigation materials.

30,000 locally sourced native plants will also be established, encouraging macroinvertebrates back into the waterways and supporting food sources for platypus recorded in the Georges River. The planting will also expand and strengthen habitat for koala and Gang-gang cockatoo populations, and provide foraging and roosting opportunities for the Grey-headed Flying-fox — an important pollinator of many native plant species.



A striking Gang-gang cockatoo (photography by Christina Senn).

‘I have loved restoring our unique ecosystems; seeing the diverse landscapes across the Sydney Basin and wildlife in their natural habitats, which we help to preserve and maintain.’

Christina Senn, Site Supervisor (North)



Work at Upper Georges River is helping to expand the habitat of the local koala population (photography by Brooke Twentyman).



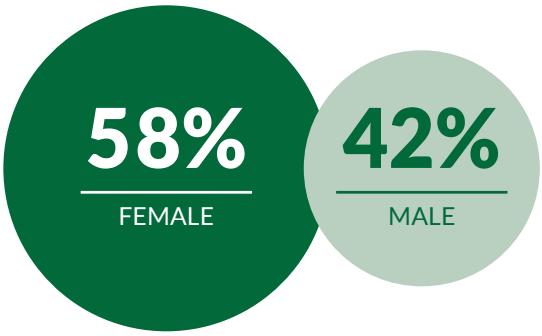
A flaming pink Grevillea spotted onsite (photography by Brooke Twentyman).

In Review: People

The varied activities and achievements of the National Trust are driven by the dedication and expertise of our staff and volunteers.

GENDER EQUALITY

The diverse workforce of the National Trust is made up of 42% male and 58% female employees in total, reflecting our continuing commitment to gender equality. Our senior management team has a similar composition, comprising 57% female and 43% male staff, while the National Trust Board is made up of eight female and five male directors.



VOLUNTEERS

The work of the National Trust would not be possible without the generosity of those who donate their time to the organisation. This year, the varied activities undertaken by our volunteers ranged from tour guiding to restoring cattle yards to digitising collections. In 2025 an online volunteer database was launched leading to enhanced efficiency and improved governance. Our dedicated digital campaigns continued, with more than 200 new volunteers welcomed at our special places. Numbering over 1,000 people, our team of volunteers completed an extraordinary 85,500 hours of service in 2025/26. We are grateful for this invaluable contribution.

1,000+
Volunteers

85,500+
Hours of service



Volunteers at the National Trust undertook a range of activities in 2025/26 including guiding (photography by Joe Wigdahl).

TRAINING

Staff completed more than 300 hours of training in 2025/26, covering topics such as privacy, fundraising and collections care, as well as leadership and communication skills. Computer and project management training was also undertaken.

Important cultural awareness training was carried out this year. Dharug Elder and Woodford Academy volunteer Chris Tobin led training at Old Government House, while staff and volunteers at Saumarez Homestead learnt about the integration of Anaiwan language and perspectives into interpretation.

Safety is a cornerstone of our workplace. Compliance training in areas such as first aid, traffic control, safe food handling, chemical use certification for weed management and mental health awareness was undertaken in 2025/26.

In total, the National Trust invested over 1,000 hours in training for our staff and volunteers over the past 12 months.

‘Thank you to all of our volunteers for your time, dedication and enthusiasm. Your support in 2025/26 has been invaluable.’

President, Bruce Pettman.

BOARD APPOINTED COMMITTEES AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

- Built Heritage Conservation Committee
- Cemeteries Committee
- Collections Committee
- Conservation Policies Taskforce
- Finance, Audit & Risk Management (FARM) Committee
- FARM Investment Sub-committee
- Industrial Heritage Committee
- Landscape Conservation Committee
- S.H. Ervin Gallery Advisory Committee

NATIONAL TRUST BRANCHES AND SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEES

- Bathurst and District Branch
- Blue Mountains Branch
- Butler Bequest Committee
- Friends of Ahimsa
- Friends of Old Government House and Experiment Farm Cottage*
- Harpers Mansion Management Committee
- Hawkesbury Branch
- Hunter Regional Branch
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Branch
- Lachlan Branch
- Lithgow Branch
- Miss Porter’s House Management Committee
- Miss Traill’s House Management Committee
- National Trust Honours Committee
- Norman Lindsay Gallery Advisory Committee
- Parramatta Branch
- Southern Highlands Branch
- Tours Committee
- Vienna Cottage Management Committee
- Women’s Committee
- Woodford Academy Management Committee

*We acknowledge the Branches and Committees, who retired this year, and thank them for their work.

NATIONAL TRUST HONOURS

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

Honorary Life Membership

Janet Hay OAM – Women’s Committee

Meritorious Service Award
More than 15 Years of Outstanding Service

Cheryl Bates OAM – Parramatta Branch
Susan Hoppe – Landscape Conservation Committee
Siobhan Lavelle – Cemeteries Committee
Tamara Lavrencic – Collections Committee
Rosalind Loftus – Riversdale
Sarah Lucas – Archives and Library Department, National Trust Conservation Team
Catherine Rich – Women’s Committee

Voluntary Service Award
Over 10 Years of Service

Wayne Feebrey – Bathurst and District Branch
John Harrison – Everglades House and Gardens
Ralda Kirton – Miss Porter’s House Management Committee
Linda Leseberg – Miss Traill’s House Management Committee
Toni Maher – Women’s Committee
Kerrie Mead – Woodford Academy Management Committee
Vickii O’Shea – Riversdale
Annabel Senior – Miss Porter’s House Management Committee
Maureen Stapleton – S.H. Ervin Gallery
Eve Trefely – S.H. Ervin Gallery

National Trust Commendation
Over Five Years of Service (or exceptional service)

Stephen Abrahams – Friends of Grossmann & Brough Houses
Suzanne Blacklock – Hunter Regional Branch
Paul Hardage – Norman Lindsay Gallery
Ellen Howell – Friends of Grossmann & Brough Houses
Steven Hunt – Harper’s Mansion Management Committee
Stephen Jones – Old Government House
Sue Jones – Old Government House
Bernadette O’Connell – Everglades House and Gardens
Tamara Padassa – Harper’s Mansion Management Committee
David Payne – Norman Lindsay Gallery
Shiralee Preller – Saumarez Homestead

Staff Distinguished Service Award

Simon Cooper– Head Gardener, Everglades House and Garden

In Review: Membership and Giving

The vital conservation and advocacy work of the National Trust was sustained by the generosity of members, donors and supporters in 2025/26.

MEMBERSHIP

The National Trust welcomed over 2,100 new members this year, bringing the total number of individual members to more than 20,300. Members enjoyed a range of benefits, including discounted entry to events and the National Trust magazine. Emails kept supporters updated on critical conservation news, inspiring heritage stories and National Trust events.

Implementation of an online support hub in 2025/26 streamlined access to our membership team, enhancing efficiency in response time with queries resolved within 48 hours on average. As part of our commitment to continually improve membership experience, a survey was launched this year. Insights gained will guide member initiatives over the next year.

Membership retention for 2025/26 was over 65%, while revenue from membership was $866,000.

20k+
Members

866k
Membership revenue



Strong support for the Lindesay appeal will enable much-needed work to be carried out (photography by Rick Stevens).

GIVING

Thanks to the incredible philanthropic support of members, donors, bequestors, trusts and foundations, over $3.5 million was raised in 2025/26, a substantial increase on last year. This income is invaluable to the National Trust's critical work protecting and conserving the natural, cultural and built heritage of NSW.

Major Gifts

Major gifts contributed more than $370,000 to fundraising revenue this year, in addition to appeals, supporting significant conservation work. Collections gifts amounted to more than $220,000.

Patron Program

Patrons of the National Trust contribute an annual donation, with money directed to the most crucial projects. Revenue from the patron program was over $166,000 this year. Connecting over a shared passion for heritage, our community of patrons enjoyed exclusive events including exhibition talks and tours of our historic places.

Appeals

Annual appeals play an indispensable role in raising revenue for essential projects. This year appeals raised more than $430,000 in funds.

The appeal for historic Darling Point property, Lindesay, received a remarkable response, meeting our target of $250,000 in donations. These funds will enable important restoration work to be undertaken, ensuring the longevity of this grand harbourside landmark. Thanks to strong support for the National Trust Archives Appeal, precious records detailing the state's history will be preserved and protected. With over $150,000 raised, urgent work including upgrading storage to archival standards and digitisation of fragile documents will be carried out.

Regular Giving

Every gift has an enduring impact. On a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, regular donations contributed $24,000 to support the National Trust.

Gifts in Wills

Gifts in Wills create a lasting legacy, safeguarding the state's heritage for future generations. Thanks to the remarkable generosity of members and supporters, the National Trust received over $1.9 million in bequests, an increase on last year.

$3.5m
Total raised

$1.9m
Bequests realised

CREATING CONNECTIONS

Our community of members and supporters came together throughout the year at special events.

Donors connected over heritage at the annual President's Lunch, enjoying an engaging presentation on the impact of recent conservation works. Rare items from the National Trust Archives were also on display for the occasion, enabling donors to gain a tangible insight into the unique records that will be protected through funds raised for the Archives Appeal.

Donors and patrons gathered for morning tea in the autumn sunshine at Lindesay, where they learnt more about this special place and planned conservation works. The Women's Committee continued to raise important funds, delivering the popular Lindesay Christmas Fair and a Looking at Architecture: Country Weekend in Yass. Supporters also enjoyed select events and insightful one-on-one tours of our special places over the course of the year.



Archives and Library Manager James Bosanquet (image supplied).

In Review: Finances

A sound performance from the investment portfolio, strong support from bequests and property divestment contributed to a $9m surplus this year.

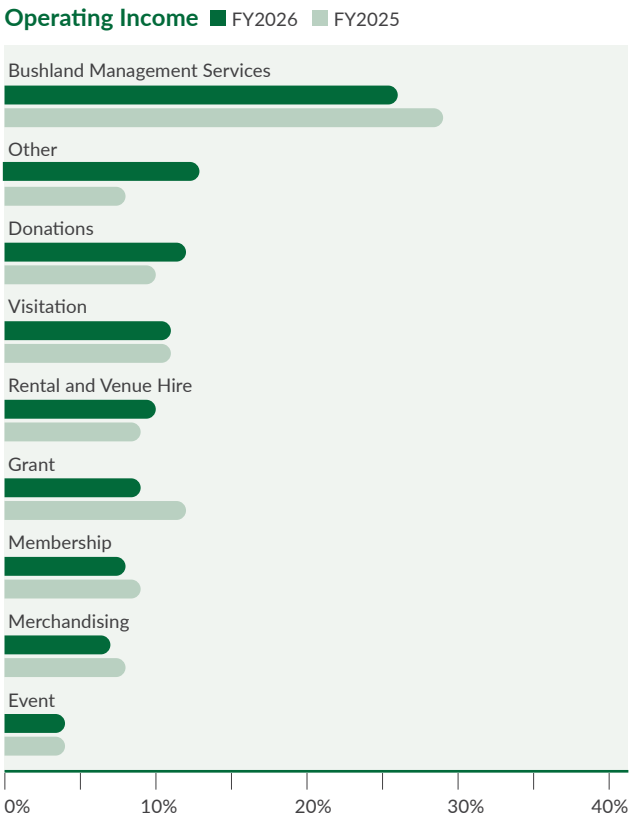
The National Trust is a charity and a not-for-profit organisation. The audited financial results presented are for the consolidated entity of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) together with the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Heritage Foundation Limited.

Revenue was generated through:

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

SUMMARY

- Bushland Management Services contracts totalled $3m
- In a strong performance the investment portfolio provided an income of $2.7m and realised gains of $2.5m
- Donations and Collections gifts amounted to more than $1.6m
- Bequests contributed $1.9m
- Total income from visitation numbered $1.2m
- Revenue from membership totalled close to $0.9m
- Strong growth in registered Conservation Appeals supported revenue
- The combination of rising costs and caring for our places resulted in a net operating loss, after investment income
- The divestment of Juniper Hall that was subject to a 99-year lease significantly contributed to the $9m surplus in 2025/26
- This surplus will support future operations and investment in the 2025-29 Strategic Plan.





	FY 2026 $000's	FY 2025 $000's
INCOME		
Bushland Management Services	3,018	3,201
Conservation Services	507	390
Donations	1,417	1,067
Rental and Venue Hire	1,152	1,026
Events	417	431
Grant Revenue	1,011	1,252
Membership	866	950
Merchandising	816	818
Visitation	1,225	1,221
Other (including sponsorship and Trustee fee)	824	488
Insurance Claim (directly offset additional repairs and maintenance)	206	28
Operating Income	**11,459**	**10,872**
EXPENSES		
Bushland Management Services	2,807	3,013
Cost of Merchandising	424	422
Employee and Related	6,475	6,261
Events (including visitation, education and exhibition)	350	426
Legal Fees	63	176
Heritage Consultancy Fees	526	244
Other Office	1,009	730
Postage and Printing (includes magazine)	251	292
Property Operating	1,343	1,352
Repairs and Maintenance	2,334	1,912
Technology	417	425
Other	467	450
Total Expenses	**16,467**	**15,702**
Net Operating Result	**(5,008)**	**(4,830)**
Investment Income	2,749	2,100
Net Operating Result after Investment Income	**(2,259)**	**(2,730)**
Bequests	1,883	1,737
Gain/(Loss) on Revaluation of Investment	88	2,943
Gift – Collections	228	18
Gain on disposal of properties	8,743	–
Non-Operating Income	**10,942**	**4,699**
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	**8,683**	**1,968**

SUPPORTERS

Grants

We are grateful for the NSW Government support through Heritage NSW of the Australian Heritage Festival and National Trust (NSW) 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 Social Services, State Government - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Museum & Galleries of NSW, The Copland Foundation (for multiple properties), National Library of Australia, Lithgow Council, Restart NSW (Armidale Regional Council) and Maitland City Council.

S.H. Ervin Gallery

We acknowledge the generous support provided to the S.H. Ervin Gallery by Allen & Unwin, the Art Gallery of NSW, Holding Redlich, Margaret Olley Art Trust and Perpetual.

Corporate Members and Partners

A special thank you to our Corporate Partners; Art Gallery of NSW, International Conservation Services. We are also very grateful to our Corporate Members; Biosis, Design 5 – Architects, GML Heritage, Hector Abrahams Architects, Long Blackledge Architects, Lucas Stapleton Johnson & Partners and Wollongong City Council.

Category Sponsors

We appreciate the support of the National Trust Heritage Awards Category Sponsors; Extent Heritage, GML Heritage, Heritage 21 and Museums of History NSW.

Committees

We are thankful for the generous philanthropic support provided by the Dundullimal Dubbo Support Crew, the National Trust Heritage Foundation and the Women's Committee to support properties.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The full details of the Audited Financial Statements can be found at nationaltrust.org.au/about-us-nsw

About us

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is a community-based, non-government organisation, committed to promoting and conserving New South Wales natural, built and cultural heritage. It is a statutory body corporate and charitable entity established under *The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) Act 1990*.

Vision

Bringing the heritage of NSW to life now and into the future.

Mission

- **Advocate** for the conservation of our built, cultural and natural heritage by engaging strategically with governments, industry, media and community.
- **Identify, conserve** and **sustain** our built, cultural and natural heritage by example, advice and support.
- **Engage** our diverse communities through inclusive programs and stories that bring our collective histories to life for all generations.

Values

- **Independent** – be a leading voice for heritage and the natural environment.
- **Trustworthy** – act with professionalism, integrity and ethics.
- **Inclusive** – embrace and reflect NSW's diverse communities and stories.
- **Inspirational** – deliver enriching and engaging experiences and positive heritage outcomes.

CONTACT US

National Trust of Australia (NSW), GPO Box 518, SYDNEY NSW 2001
Phone: (02) 9258 0123 Email: info@nationaltrust.com.au
nationaltrust.org.au/nsw
@nationaltrustau @nationaltrustnsw National Trust of Australia (NSW)
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Front cover from top, left to right: Jackson Centre (photography by Mike Terry); Gang-gang cockatoo (photography by Christina Senn); *A Room of One's Own* by Phoebe Bell featured in the 2026 Salon des Refusés; Everglades House & Gardens (photography by Joe Wigdahl); Anaiwan elder Uncle Steve (photography by Mike Terry); Golden Vale Homestead (photography by Larisa Okhrimenko); Rare books from the National Trust Archives (image supplied); Retford Park cattle yard restoration (photography by Mark Kelly); Grevillea (photography by Brooke Twentyman).