

Inaugural National Trust Day!

To be held on the 75th anniversary
of Sydney Harbour Bridge

Sunday 18 March 2007

The National Trust in NSW is launching the first ever National Trust Day; an annual event to celebrate our unique built, natural and cultural heritage, while also drawing attention to the very pressing need for funds to conserve and maintain our heritage for the future.

On Sunday, 18 March 2007, the culmination of the National Trust Heritage Festival, the Sydney Harbour Bridge will celebrate its 75th anniversary. The Bridge will be closed all day, to allow pre-booked waves of walkers to cross, following a route which takes them to the freshly painted, and highly visible National Trust Centre on Observatory Hill. With an anticipated 250,000 people joining in the celebration, it's a perfect opportunity to invite them in to enjoy refreshments, hear about what we do, and raise funds for our work.

Planning is underway for a major celebration at the Trust, linking our Centre, Gallery and Café to other attractions in the vicinity of Observatory Hill, and developing special things to do, see and buy.

'National Trust Day will increase awareness about our historic and natural environment and help raise funds for the Trust – Australia's largest and oldest conservation charity.'

Tina Jackson, Executive Director

The grounds of the National Trust Centre will be open to the public during the closure of the bridge. There will be international food stalls, soft drinks and wine, a coffee cart, merchandise, competitions, celebrities, a live radio outside broadcast from the site, Sydney Writers' Festival tent, entertainment, membership promotion, games and a lot more! The NRMA is helping to sponsor the event and will have a presence with historic vehicles and membership offers.

The National Trust café will be open as well, selling drinks and snacks.

The SH Ervin Gallery will be exhibiting the *Salon des Refusés* and the Centre will have exhibitions in the Annie Wyatt and Board rooms. Mavis Turner's exhibition of *Historic Trees*, exquisite pen and ink drawings of ancient and endangered trees will be on show from 3-25 March and Robert Billington is exhibiting his photographs of the many moods of the Harbour Bridge. The work of both artists will be on sale.

Primary school children from either side of the bridge will be exhibiting the best of their decorated coathangers – a tribute, of course, to our beloved Coathanger.

This is a rare opportunity for us to welcome so many to the Trust Centre and to introduce them to the value of membership and the Trust cause.

We will need volunteers on the day, so please contact Nikki Brown 9258 0129 or Kylie Westaway on 9258 0181 to register your interest.



From a collection of images of Sydney Harbour Bridge, photographed by Robert Billington



From Historic Trees by Mavis Turner: an exhibition of pen and ink drawings of historic and endangered trees. Visit the exhibition in the Annie Wyatt Room, National Trust Centre from 3 – 25 March 2007