



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 12 November 2009

National Trust honours volunteers

Local volunteers are to be honoured by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) in recognition and celebration of their valuable work for the local community around NSW.

John Neish, Executive Director, National Trust said, "The National Trust only exists because of the fantastic work of our volunteers. Their generosity with their time, skills and tireless dedication to the Trust are invaluable to the organisation."

The recipients will be presented with their Award of Trust Honours at the National Trust AGM to be held on Saturday 28 November at the S.H. Ervin Gallery, Observatory Hill, Sydney.

A full list of recipients follows:

Jill McCann – Dubbo, Honorary Life Membership

Jill has been involved with the Trust for over fifteen years as a Board Director, Chair of the Macquarie Regional Committee, and member of the Trust's Conservation Committee, Properties Committee and Education Committee. Jill is well known in the Dubbo community and has promoted the National Trust and its achievements. She has been actively involved at Dundullimal Homestead, often representing the Trust in order to gain better promotion and access to the Homestead. She has been involved with many community organisations and has always promoted and highlighted the work of the Trust.

Margaret Henry – Hunter, Honorary Life Membership

Margaret has had a long association with the Trust with roles as Secretary and Chair for the Hunter Regional Committee. She has been the public voice of the Trust in the Hunter region and is a well known prominent heritage activist. She has produced countless submissions advocating on behalf of heritage issues. As a local Councillor she was instrumental in the establishment of the Newcastle Council Strategic Heritage Committee, acting originally as Chair and then as the National Trust representative since 2004. Margaret's committee activities include fundraising, authoring articles for newsletters and heritage festivals and alerting media to heritage threats. She is dedicated to all aspects of heritage including built, natural and indigenous environments.

Tony Matthews – Sydney, The Posthumous Award

Tony was a member of the Trust and diligent volunteer who assisted the Advocacy team with digital projects over the last six years with a special interest in railway and industrial heritage and was committed to the preservation of Eveleigh Railway. In particular, he worked painstakingly on the digitisation of the Trust's classification reports and images – with well over 11 000 listings reports documented. He also produced facsimile copies of out of print publications now sold online by the Trust. Tony died suddenly in August 2009 and is greatly missed for his commitment, compassion and affable character. He was known for "creating order out of chaos".

Patricia May – Armidale, Voluntary Services Award

Patricia has dedicated over twenty years volunteering for the Trust in many different roles including guiding, working bees, modelling in fashion parades, helping at events and, along with her four children, has been dedicated to feeding and caring for the birds in the famous Saumarez aviary. She is noted as one of the best guides at Saumarez and is always happy to lend a hand and is always cheerful.

Susan Solling – Bathurst, Voluntary Services Award

Susan has been a tireless worker for the Trust and committed as the representative of the Central West Fundraising Committee on the Miss Traill's House Management Committee as well as her commitments in the capacity of Chair and Vice Chair of the Central West Fundraising Committee. She has dedicated seventeen years volunteering for the Trust and is known for helping in any capacity as the need occurs. Sue has boundless enthusiasm and is highly regarded by our Bathurst committees.

Ronald Bottrill – Sydney, Voluntary Services Award

Ron has been a faithful and steadfast volunteer for the Trust with involvement in over eighty events, inner city tours and bush walks. Some highlights of these have been Rock and Roll nights and Trivia evenings where many heritage networks were made and progressed. He has been a successful promoter and known advocate for heritage issues for the Trust for more than twelve years.

Jillian Kennedy – Sydney, Trust Commendation

Jillian has been a tireless worker for the Women's Committee and has been highly regarded for her legal and financial knowledge. She has had the roles of Assistant Secretary, Honourable Secretary and Honourable Treasurer over a period of eight years and has been a valued member of the Committee. She also has volunteered and assisted in finding houses for the Committee's *Looking at Architecture* days which corresponds to her interests in conserving our heritage.

Lavinia Montgomery – Sydney, Trust Commendation

Lavinia has been a welcome and responsible member of the Women's Committee interested in all aspects of the Trust's activities. She has been in charge of catering for many events including her home baked cakes, biscuits and scones. She has revolutionised catering operations providing top quality home food for which the Lindesay Christmas Gift Fair has become well known and famous for. She is highly regarded for her professional knowledge and experience in catering. She is a tireless worker and is highly regarded member of the Women's Committee.

Thelma Scanes – Parramatta, Trust Commendation

Thelma has tirelessly coordinated and supervised the Soft Furnishings Project at Old Government House to create the complete ambience of a Georgian house by filling the house with authentic, historically researched and documented soft furnishings. Under Thelma's skilful guidance the group have mastered spinning, binding, sewing, knitting, tapestry, weaving upholstery, stuffing mattresses and pillows, making blinds and curtains, designing cross stitch and tapestries. The uniqueness of the Soft Furnishing project has been recognised with its' own National trust publication and article in international and Australian magazines like Inspirations, Vogue Living and Get Creative. Recently, the Soft Furnishings project highlighted the work of the Trust at the Australian Quilt and Craft Show.

Werner Schwarz – Armidale, Trust Commendation

Werner is a valued volunteer at Saumarez Homestead and most enthusiastic supporter. At the Homestead, Werner has made himself available at all times and has helped coordinate volunteers when staff were unavailable, donated a lectern for guest speakers and contributed to electrical

extensions in the garden. Werner is also a great promoter of the Homestead, often encouraging visitors in his other community roles.

Brian Stevens - Sydney, Trust Commendation

Brian has volunteered with much commitment on many archival projects at the National Trust Service Centre and is always willing to do whatever has to be done with a joke and a smile. He has compiled an index of historical documents relating to Trust properties, scanned Trust publications and photographs, sorted maps and proof read documents. In particular, he has identified through investigative research many cemetery images before storing and entering them onto the database in the cemeteries photographic collection.

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