



# Museums & Properties

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## Old Government House Welcomes Rams

Old Government House, Parramatta, was chosen as the location for the launch of the third NSW-based Australian Rugby Championship team - the Western Sydney Rams - on Tuesday 20 March.



Credit: NSWRU

The Rams will join two other NSW based teams, the Sydney Fleet and Central Coast Rays, in the new Australian Rugby Championship competition. Located close to the Rams' home ground Parramatta Stadium, Old Government House was chosen as a suitable venue to launch the Rams due to its historic links to the team's name and logo.

These were designed to reflect the region's connection to the history of the colony of NSW, in which the settlement of Parramatta played a major role. The nation's wool industry was established on the farmlands of the Macarthur family at Parramatta.



Western Sydney Rams...  
Benn Robinson and Tafari Polota-Nau and friend.  
Credit: Djuro Sen, NSWRU Media Unit

The new ARC starts on 11 August 2007.

## Harris Family Continues to Give



The Trust recently received a Victorian tea service (below) and a portrait of Sir Matthew Harris (left), donated by a relative of the Harris

family. Sir Matthew was the Mayor of Sydney from 1898-1900, and opened the Queen Victoria Building in 1898.

The suburb of Harris Park is named after the Harris family. Sir Matthew's great-great-uncle, Surgeon John Harris, established an Indian-style bungalow on land there, purchased from James Ruse in 1793. The house, known as Experiment Farm Cottage, is today managed by the National Trust.



## Dingoes on Way to Wirrimbirra

The Australian Native Dog Conservation Society Ltd, is in the process of moving its Dingo Sanctuary at Bargo to the Trust's Wirrimbirra Sanctuary. Wirrimbirra is managed by the David G. Stead Memorial Wild Life Research Foundation of Australia, which was happy to support a fellow wildlife conservation organisation by providing the dingoes with a new home.

Work has begun on pegging out the fences, constructing the dingo houses and developing plans for landscaping. Construction of the dingo houses is being carried out by a Work for the Dole team. Many volunteers are assisting with the works and the eventual move.

Bringing the dingoes to Wirrimbirra will expand the already diverse attractions at this flora and fauna sanctuary.



Zoe, one of two pure Alpine dingoes coming to Wirrimbirra Sanctuary

## Mystery Object Revealed

Visitors to the Museums & Properties Department stand on National Trust Day, 18 March, were invited to identify a mystery object from the Trust's collection (pictured below). Guesses included a snake basket, a bread warmer, an animal catcher, a meat smoking device, a protective helmet, a bird cage and a bee hive. We thought it may have tricked a few more people than it did - it seems we had some very knowledgeable visitors!

This object is a type of portable bee hive, known as a 'bee skep', where beekeepers used to keep their working bees. Made with a split cane circular weave, this early 20th century bee skep also features a viewing pane.

Particularly important in 19th century British gardens, the weaving of bee skeps is considered a traditional handcraft and individuals and organisations in the UK are reviving the skill.



## Easter at Everglades

This year's Easter Sunday celebrations at Everglades was enjoyed by large crowds - well over 600 visitors - despite weather conditions threatening to dampen the proceedings.

With a focus on fun for children of all ages, visitors were entertained by roving Easter bunnies, egg decorating and hat-making activities, face painting and a live snake display. A troupe of pirates, Captain Finnhead and friends, did amazing tricks on a tight rope, and performers from Circo Blurto were a huge hit with the crowd.

Competition was fierce but friendly in the 3-legged, sack and wheelbarrow races, with scores of Easter egg prizes up for grabs. The Easter Bonnet Parade also offered visitors the chance to show off their creations and win more eggs.



This event would not have happened without the assistance of so many volunteers. The National Trust greatly appreciates their dedication.

Everglades Manager, Harry Ostendorf, leads the BBQ team

## Calendar of Events

### Salon des Refusés - The alternative Archibald & Wynne Prize exhibition

Now open until 6 May  
Tuesday to Sunday, 11.00am-5.00pm  
SH Ervin Gallery, Watson Rd, Observatory Hill  
Enquiries: 02 9258 0173

### Cavalcade of Fashion

The Friends of Old Government House will host the Cavalcade of Fashion, a voluntary organisation dedicated to preserving and presenting authentic gowns and accessories from pre-colonial days up to the present.  
Saturday 21 April, 1.40pm-3.30pm  
Old Government House, Parramatta  
Enquiries: 02 9635 8149

### Weatherboard Cottages of the Shoalhaven

A tour of historic properties in Cambewarra, Nowra and Tapitallee, in addition to the Union Church and School of Arts in Cambewarra.  
Saturday 28 April  
Enquiries: 02 9363 2401