



Museums & Properties

Vol. I.

NEWSLETTER

Jan 2007

Water Grant for Dundullimal

Ann Brandon, Manager of *Dundullimal*, Dubbo, and her committee, were recently successful in obtaining a grant of \$42,000 from the *Australian Government Water Fund - Community Water Grants*, for a project that will save close to 2 million litres of water per year. The *Dundullimal* project will install an underground water tank, from which rainwater will be used to irrigate grassed areas, and the irrigation system will utilise timers and moisture sensors to improve efficiency.



Dundullimal Homestead

Cooma Cottage Comes Alive for Carols

Over 400 people attended the inaugural Christmas Carols at *Cooma Cottage* on Sunday 17 December, initiated by Trust staff working with the combined Yass Churches. Even the kookaburras joined in, accompanied by the Yass High School Senior Concert Band, a trio of singers and the Yass Home School choir.

Plenty of glow sticks added colour and movement to the festive occasion (in place of candles due to fire restrictions!). One of the aims of the event was to collect money and food donations for drought-affected families in the local community - which raised over \$900 on the night.

The *Cooma Cottage* staff and Friends group worked hard to organise the event and provide drinks and a BBQ on the night. Numbers were well above the anticipated attendance figures based on previous Carols evenings held in the local Memorial Hall. The night was a great success. It is hoped that this community event will

continue to expand.

Crowds enjoying Christmas Carols at Cooma Cottage



Night before Christmas Success



Enjoying Christmas craft activities

Around 500 people attended the annual 'Traditional Night Before Christmas' at *Miss Traill's House & Garden*. All the rooms in the candlelit house were festooned with traditional decorations commonplace in Australian households at the end of the 19th Century.

Garlands of gum leaves and garden foliage hung over paintings and the dining room table was set with Christmas desserts of mince pies, jellies and other festive foods. The Carillon Show Band played a selection of Christmas carols, accompanied by performances of drama and song. The many children present participated in craft activities, with the highlight being the 'Super Santa Scavenger Hunt' and the arrival of Santa himself.

New Exhibition Installed at EFC

A new exhibition is currently being installed in the cellar of *Experiment Farm Cottage* (EFC), generously funded by the *NSW Ministry for the Arts (Arts NSW)*, after several months of planning and development by the Trust's Assistant Curator Gabriella Holok, exhibition designer Professor Desmond Freeman of *Ormsby Kerrins Freeman*, model makers at *Modelcraft Pty. Ltd.*, exhibition fabricators *Brandi Exhibitions* and other Trust staff.

The exhibition consists of interpretive panels detailing elements of the history of the cottage, its landscape, occupants and activities. Central to the exhibition is a large set of display drawers which house models of the various stages of development of EFC and the surrounding landscape at key phases.

Volunteer, Fred Gooch, helping to install the exhibition



Welcome to new EFC Coordinator



Rebecca Turnbull

Rebecca Turnbull joined the National Trust at the end of 2006 as the Coordinator for *Experiment Farm Cottage* (EFC) at Harris Park.

Rebecca has a background in education and museum studies,

and has a keen interest in early Australian history. Her recent experience working with the *Historic Houses Trust of NSW*, in addition managing May Gibbs' *Nutcote* and supervising and delivering collections management and guiding workshops with various heritage groups and museums, has placed her in excellent stead for her new role here at the National Trust.

In addition to the daily management of EFC, Rebecca will be coordinating and supporting the education programs at the property and at *Old Government House*.

All here in the Museums & Properties Department and at the National Trust warmly welcome Rebecca to the team.

Blue Mountains Tourism Development

At the end of 2006, the Australian government announced funding for New South Wales Tourism Development Projects. The Trust received a \$90,000 *AusIndustry* grant to support an initiative designed to enhance *Everglades House and Garden's* role as a significant tourist attraction in the Blue Mountains. Planning is currently underway to make the best use of the available funds.

Calendar of Events

Landscape Painting & Drawing Workshop

A 5-day summer school exploring creative interpretation of the landscape.

15 - 19 January, 4 hours per day
Everglades House & Gardens, Leura
Cost: \$235 Bookings: 4784 1938

School Holiday Workshop - Wearable Art

Inspired by the art of Reg Mombassa, students will create their own wearable piece. Suitable for ages 12-18 years.

Friday 19 January, 1.30pm-3.30pm
S. H. Ervin Gallery, Observatory Hill
Cost: \$30 Bookings: 9258 0122

Miss Traill's Australia Day Celebrations

Exhibitions. Tea and damper in the garden.
Friday 26 January, 10.00am-4.00pm
Miss Traill's House & Garden, Bathurst
Enquiries: 6332 4232

Successful Grant for Norman Lindsay Ephemera Collection

The M&P Department recently received notification from *Arts NSW* of a successful grant application for the documentation and rehousing of the large collection of Norman Lindsay ephemera. Submitted under the 2007 Museums Program, the grant will fund conservation and storage supplies for the largely paper-based ephemera collection, once documentation and photography has been completed. The collection of over 2000 items includes letters, writings, shopping lists, tickets, and cards. It forms a comprehensive source of research material for scholars and students of Norman Lindsay and Australian Art History, and will also be used in exhibitions to enhance the understanding of his life.