



NEW SOUTH WALES

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**The Hon. Kristina Keneally MP**

Member for Heffron

Minister for Planning

Minister for Redfern Waterloo

*Saturday 11 April, 2009*

### **NEW WEBSITE DISCOVERS STATE HERITAGE TREASURES ONLINE**

The NSW Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally, and NSW Minister for Tourism Jodi McKay today launched the NSW Heritage Tourism Website filled with interesting and unknown Heritage destinations in NSW.

The web site was created by the Department of Planning in partnership with the Heritage Council of NSW and Tourism NSW.

Working in conjunction with Tourism NSW, the Heritage Branch has created an easy to use website detailing around 500 State Heritage Registered places and items with tourism appeal for the young and old.

Ms Keneally said the website highlights the wonderful Heritage treasures in NSW and provides a great range of holiday ideas for the whole family over the Easter holidays and beyond.

“There is a range of wonderful destinations to choose from including National Parks, Cinemas, Lighthouses, Graveyard tours, Heritage walking tours, the list goes on,” Ms Keneally said.

“NSW has so many valuable and at times unknown places and items of history and the Heritage Tourism website provides a useful resource for locals, interstate and overseas visitors to help discover them.”

Ms McKay said the Heritage Tourism website will generate interest and commercial activity particularly in rural NSW capitalising on the current trend to find locally based tourism destinations.

“The website is a valuable tool that helps raise the profile of the State Heritage Register and individual heritage items as potential tourism assets,” Ms McKay said.

“Whether you are looking for a romantic weekend retreat, or the Rocks oldest pub, a gold rush ghost town or even an unusual place for a picnic, the heritage website can provide you with the destination.

“The site features details of the attraction, its history, location, accommodation options and links to its entry on the Tourism NSW site and other owner operators.

“I think any couple or family who are looking to plan their next holiday, whether it be Easter or after, should jump on line and see what treasures and adventures they can find in NSW.”

Visit NSWHeritage Tourism Online at [www.visit.heritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.visit.heritage.nsw.gov.au) or follow the links on the Heritage homepage [www.heritage.nsw.gov.au](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au).



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**Heritage highlights include:**

- **North Head Quarantine Station & Reserve** located on North Head Scenic Drive at Manly - A great outing for the family – discover the sometimes tragic stories of early immigrants to Australia who had to pass through the Quarantine station – see how they were segregated according to their passenger ticket, the different types of accommodation, food and freedom they were given. For those who like their history with a spirit – join one of the very popular Ghost Tours.
- Explore the drama and danger of fire and fire fighting at the **Museum of Fire** located at 1 Museum Drive, Penrith. Home of the 1929 Ahrens Fox PS2 Fire Engine, the 1939 Dennis Big 6 Fire Engine and the 1891 Shand Mason Fire Engine. The Museum is the largest of its type in Australia and is also the leading fire safety education facility in the country.
- On a windswept peninsula of weathering sandstone at Watson's Bay Sydney, stands **Macquarie Lighthouse**, Australia's first and longest operating navigational light station. The grounds are open to the public daily and light house tours are run every second month. There are magnificent views of the City and Harbour from the top of the Lighthouse and activities are also provided for children.
- The 19<sup>th</sup> century village of **Hartley** has 17 historical buildings scattered among native vegetation and remnants of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century cottage garden. Now a National Park protected historic site, Hartley provides a journey back in time to one of the first rural settlements west of the Blue Mountains.
- Built around the 1880s, the **Wing Hing Long & Co. Store** in the former tin mining town of Tingha in Northern NSW is a long way from Chinatown. Step inside this restored museum to see the range of groceries, clothes and other goods that were available over a century ago in a typical 1880's general store.
- Go picnicking, fishing, swimming, casual camping and fossick for gold at the **Hill End Historic site** near Bathurst managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service. The village itself has been virtually unchanged since the gold rush boom years around 1872. There is a general store, hotel, post office, police station, pub, and a range of accommodation available.
- Visit **Fort Scratchley** at Nobby's Head, Newcastle – the only coastal fort to have fired at an enemy (the surprise Japanese submarine attack on Newcastle in June 1942). With tunnels, cannons, a shop and museum and spectacular harbour and beach views, this is a must for anyone interested in Australia's wartime heritage.
- The **Great Zig Zag Railway and Reserves** located at Clarence 10km east of Lithgow is a must for railway fans. Built in the 1860s it has attracted visitors from around the world marvelling at the engineering masterpiece. The full size, narrow gauge Railway features an

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extraordinary collection of viaducts, tunnels and escarpments. There are several train tours along the line with commentary and plenty of photo opportunity stops.

- **Braidwood** is the first NSW town and its' setting to be listed on the State Heritage Register. Set amongst rolling hills and noted for its Georgian town layout, Braidwood is a heritage icon of NSW. There are several art galleries, craft shops, historical buildings as well as a museum and surrounding state forests to explore.
- **The North Beach Precinct** on Cliff Road, Wollongong, is an ideal spot to take the family – there are rock pools, wading areas, good surf, grass, shade, BBQ, picnic booths and free parking. The beach is located close to a children's playground, shops and cafes. The lifeguards are housed in the heritage listed bathing pavilion as is the kiosk next door.
- The **Grave of Yuranigh** – Sir Thomas Mitchell's loyal Aboriginal tracker Yuranigh was buried just outside Molong on the Mitchell Highway towards Orange in 1852. Aboriginal scarred trees mark the grave and visitors are able to enter and view the site.
- You don't need to be a prisoner anymore to do time at the historic **Maitland Gaol** located on John Street, East Maitland. Take a self guided tour or join in one of the themed torch-lit guided tours. Hear stories of prisoners and daring escapes; learn which of Australia's most hardened and notorious criminals were housed here and if you're game why not sleep over!
- The low stone walled **Brewarrina Fish Traps** were used by the Aboriginal people to catch fish in the bed of the Barwon River. Today everyone is invited to share in this ancient Dreamtime site by camping out under the stars, visiting other Aboriginal sites in the area and even fishing in the river.
- **Saumarez Homestead** near Armidale was once owned by the White family and is now managed by the National Trust. Established in the 1830s the ten-hectare grazing property consists of 20 buildings including the 30 room Edwardian era mansion complete with its original furnishings. Explore the farm area with Thomas House and its interpretative display, the stables, the poultry yard, the slaughter house and other old timber buildings. Guided tours available daily.

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