

NEW HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED

31 July 2008

Ms Jill Wran, President of the Board of Trustees of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, today announced that Kate Clark has been appointed as the new Director of the Historic Houses Trust following a worldwide search.

The Historic Houses Trust was established by the NSW Government in 1980 to care for key historic buildings and sites of cultural significance across the State.

Today, the statutory authority manages a portfolio of 17 properties on behalf of the people of NSW, funded through the NSW Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation.

Ms Clark was appointed by Ms Carol Mills, Director General, Department of the Arts, Sport and Recreation and takes over from the Trust's inaugural director, Mr Peter Watts AM.

"The Board appreciates the extraordinary legacy Mr Watts leaves for the Trust, having overseen its growth from two properties in 1981 to the diverse portfolio we have today," Ms Wran said.

"Mr Watts' contribution to heritage and conservation through the Trust has been outstanding. His 27 years of management has helped to secure for NSW a suite of heritage properties of unique historical importance, now properly conserved and interpreted for future generations."

Ms Clark is an Australian who has nearly 26 years international experience in heritage, working in museums, the voluntary, educational and state sectors.

She was Deputy Director of Policy and Research at the Heritage Lottery Fund in the UK, before setting up her own consultancy, advising organisations on heritage policy, conservation and planning.

She has written extensively about heritage management, historical archaeology and the wider value of heritage in the modern world.

Ms Clark is acclaimed for her achievements in conservation policy and planning.

"Ms Clark's vast experience in heritage management provides the Trust with a skilled and qualified conservation specialist who will continue the important work for which the Trust is nationally renowned" Ms Wran said.

"Under her leadership we look forward to seeing the Historic Houses Trust of NSW continue to maintain and interpret the Trust collections and properties, along with managing the Endangered Houses Fund, and promoting the Trust's scholarly and conservation work".

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I congratulate Ms Clark on her appointment."

Ms Clark said she was thrilled to be taking on the new job, which she will start in October 2008.

"This appointment will provide me with the opportunity of applying my knowledge of heritage in the Australian context," she said. "I look forward to building on the excellent work the Trust has achieved over the last 27 years".

Presently, Ms Clark is consulting to the Department of Culture, Media & Sport in the United Kingdom on heritage policy.

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