

News Release

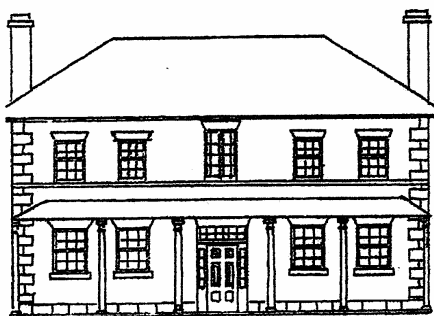
Contact:

Chris Thompson

Phone: 0488 771 375

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TEACHERS' WEEK AT HARPER'S MANSION

During the week Nov 9-13 Harper's Mansion in Berrima, a National Trust property, will be welcoming Southern Highlands teachers as it launches its Schools' Program.

'We've already hosted visits from several schools', says Harper's Mansion President, Alan Terrell, 'but in inviting teachers to visit we are trying to encourage more Southern Highland schools to make use of Harper's. The house was built in 1834 and it has been furnished in a style appropriate to that period. But what brings the house alive is the story of James Harper, his wife Mary and their children. The Program provides a unique insight into the development of the Highlands in the 1830s and helps students to understand who the new settlers were, how communities developed and how ordinary families lived.'

Education coordinator, Chris Thompson, says the Program has been developed to address aspects of the primary school curriculum. A class visit will increase student awareness of colonial history and inspire activities in art, creative writing and mathematics. 'A summary of the program is on the National Trust's website but teachers who visit us will be able to see around the house, find out what other support information is available and discuss additional ways we can link a visit to class activities.'

'James Harper was a first-generation Australian, the son of convicts who worked as an overseer and as a constable at Bong Bong before building and running the *Surveyor General Inn*. His wife, Mary, was a convict. Their lives and those of their seven children are central to the School Program. We encourage students to question what they see and make comparisons with their own lives.'

While current support material is primarily structured for Primary Schools, it can be extended to Secondary School students. Teachers are welcome between 3.00 and 5.30 pm each weekday between 9-13 November.

For further details and to book a place contact Chris Thompson on 04 8877 1375.

Harper's Mansion | Hume Highway, Berrima | www.nationaltrust.com.au

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