



**THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP**  
**Minister for the Environment and Energy**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**MANY VOICES HEARD IN THE AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

It is with pleasure I welcome today the start of the Australian Heritage Festival, which takes place this year from 18 April to 21 May.

I am pleased that the National Trust Heritage Festival has been expanded through a three-year partnership with the Australian Government to become the Australian Heritage Festival, with more than a thousand events taking place this year.

The festival's inaugural theme 'Having a Voice' calls on communities to champion their local heritage and share their local stories. From riding the 130-year-old Victorian Colonial Express to sleeping under the stars at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and exploring forgotten suburban cemeteries, there is something to interest everyone.

Events include *Dawn at the Camp*, commemorating the involvement of Aboriginal ANZACs at the site of a Cowra P.O.W. Camp; *The Urban Polaris*, a lively bike navigation event through Canberra's heritage sites; and a Victorian theatre production exploring the 19<sup>th</sup> century events that led to the National Heritage listed Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve being given self-determination.

The festival plays an important role in the continual support and celebration of Australian heritage. Our nation's unique heritage contributes to our sense of place, community and personal wellbeing, it informs us about where we have come from and who we are, and is an important part of our national identity.

The festival is also an excellent opportunity to learn more about the National Heritage List, Australia's list of natural, historic and Indigenous places of outstanding significance to the nation, by visiting places in person or online.

I thank the National Trust and all their volunteers for helping Australians celebrate the places, people and events that have made us who we are today.

Find out about festival events around the country by visiting: [www.australianheritagefestival.org.au](http://www.australianheritagefestival.org.au)

For more information on the National Heritage List visit:  
<http://environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national-heritage-list>

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