

**National Trust of Australia**



**NATIONAL TRUST**

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### **ACT NATIONAL TRUST BROADENS ITS SCOPE ON HERITAGE AWARENESS**

The National Trust in the Australian Capital Territory may be one of the smallest Trust organisations in Australia but it is broadening its scope well outside the Canberra region.

The vision of the ACT Trust is to be an independent and expert community leader in the conservation of our cultural and natural heritage.

The Trust's Heritage Officer, Dr Peter Dowling, said today, "One of our purposes is to foster public knowledge about places that are significant to the heritage of all Australians.

"One way of doing this is to look outside of the confines of the ACT and even the confines of Australia to places where we find our historic and cultural roots."

To do this the ACT Trust has been planning overseas tours for its members and for any interested non-members, exploring the archaeology, history and culture of other countries.

"Early this year we took a group to explore the culture of Greece – among the many places we visited ten were listed as World Heritage Sites. During a tour to Egypt last year we explored the ancient civilisations along the Nile."

In March 2008 the Trust is planning a tour to Western Turkey to explore the history of Western and Eastern from the Stone Age period right through to the early Christian and Islamic periods.

This tour would include a comprehensive visit of the battlefields of Gallipoli, taking in the major sites but also going to battle sites few Australians get to when they visit. During a five-day stay at Gallipoli the tour leaders will discuss both the Turkish and Australian sides of the battles right where they occurred.

Later in 2008 a second tour will explore the archaeology and history of the Vikings, visiting Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Russia and the UK.

Dr Dowling said that by visiting these sites on the other side of the world we can better understand our own diverse cultural backgrounds and in turn better understand and appreciate the heritage places that we see everyday when we are at home.

**For more information contact: Dr Peter Dowling**

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