MEDIA RELEASE
Wednesday, 26 July 2017

Visitors Leg it to Bermagui and Enjoy Holiday Hikes

With the recent announcement from Destination NSW (DNSW) that more than 4.3 million visitors chose to go on a NSW hiking holiday in 2016 there's never been a better time to head to the Sapphire Coast for a trip to South Coast Holiday Parks (SCHP) Bermagui for an outdoor experience at some of the best national parks in the state.

As outlined by DNSW CEO Sandra Chipchase, the state is home to some of the most stunning coastal and inland trails in Australia, with national parks such as the Sapphire Coast's Gulaga National Park and Montague Island Nature Reserve a true standout for hiking enthusiasts.

Gulaga National Park is home to the ancient volcano *Gulaga*, which has significant cultural importance for women from the local Yuin Indigenous community. Once soaring 2km above sea level, the volcano was a site for storytelling, Indigenous ceremonies and childbirth.

SCHP Bermagui Managers Sara Wilson and Tom Starr said the volcano and surrounding national park was a significant attraction for tourists visiting the area, with a half day walk to the peak starting at the nearby historic towns of Tilba Tilba and Central Tilba.

"A brilliant but somewhat tough walk takes you to the summit of *Gulaga* which provides astounding views of the adjacent hinterland and coastline, as well as Montague Island Nature Reserve," Tom said.

"You can also take part in guided walks which provide an insight into the area's Aboriginal cultural significance, geological features and its historic gold mining status."

Before working at the Bermagui Park Tom gave guided tours of Montague Island Nature Reserve, which can be accessed from the mainland at nearby Narooma. An abundance of birdlife such as Little Penguins, Sea Eagles, Swamp Harriers and Peregrine Falcons call the island home, which is better known to Indigenous Communities as *Baranguba*, the son of *Gulaga*.

"Montague Island is just a short boat trip from the mainland and if you're lucky you may catch dolphins and even whales swimming past exploring the open sea," Tom said.

"A guided walking tour allows visitors to experience the Island's historic lighthouse, a walk through the lighthouse keepers residences and the cultural and geological history found on the idyllic nature reserve.

"This medium-difficulty walk also leads you to Montague Island's penguin breeding boxes, with tour guides giving an insight into the variety of conservation and revegetation programs which have been put in place to protect the species."

Media Contact: Kimberly Rigby, 0418 383 296   **Page 1 of 2**

South Coast Holiday Parks are part of the NSW Crown Holiday Parks Trust (NSWCHPT), which is committed to providing unforgettable holiday memories in iconic destinations across NSW. NSWCHPT also manages the operations of Inland Waters Holiday Parks (IWHP) and North Coast Holiday Parks (SCHP).

NSWCHPT CEO Steve Edmonds said the Group prides itself on being in some of the most idyllic tourism hotspots in NSW, which allows park guests to experience attractions not found in other holiday destinations.

"The Trust is fortunate that this position allows us to provide our guests with an adventure holiday quite different to the usual camping or caravanning trip," Mr Edmonds said.

"We always look forward to welcoming anyone hoping for the opportunity to explore the amazing walks and national parks found across the state.

"Our goal is to be recognised as a leading provider of recreational destinations in NSW and we certainly see our parks' vicinity to trails such as Gulaga and Montague Island as a strong example of this."

For guided tours to the peak of Gulaga or a trip to Montague Island Nature Reserve head to www.eurobodalla.com.au. *And don't forget to book your next holiday at South Coast Holiday Parks! For a full list of our parks head to* https://www.southcoastparks.com.au.

#Ends#

Media Contact: Kimberly Rigby, 0418 383 296
Photo Attached