

Out & About



Rock n' Roll in the suburbs

It must be quite testing for those living in the leafy quiet of Wahroonga on Sydney's north shore to be inundated with spectres of the past each year in August when the Historic Houses Trust holds their most successful one-day event – the Fifties Fair at Rose Seidler House.

It is *the* event on the retro calendar as baby boomers together with their children and now grandchildren gather to celebrate all things from the rock 'n' roll era. Age is no barrier as everyone gets into the spirit of the day dressing up in gear which once caused raised eyebrows and bopping along to refrains of songs thought to cause moral decay among the young.

First timers and serial attendees trekked through the innovative house, that was architecturally well in advance of homes being designed in Australia in the 50s. The creation of the late Harry Seidler who designed the house for his mother, it continues its unchallenged position as a leading design that is still referred to by architects working on contemporary homes and interiors. The home, save for the updating of appliances, still sits very comfortably with 21st century lifestyle.

The perfect weather meant that stallholders did booming business while the young queued to be coiffed in latest fifties hair fashions. In the shadow of the house families sat on the grassy hillside enjoying picnics while being entertained by a nightclub themed stage show that would have worked quite well in a smoke filled lounge bar of the era. Another glorious spring day celebrating the best of the 50s and 60s will mean that the 2008 Fifties Fair at Rose Seidler House will again be an event to be marked well in advance on the calendar.

- 1 Christine Skilton from Classic Vintage at the Mittagong Antique Centre and her muscle for the day – Tim Marks
- 2 Chriss aka 'Pussy' & Jacki
- 3 Astred Hicks & Jaede Shramek
- 4 Achieving that fifties look
- 5 Stand-up comedienne Mandy Nolan and stage manager Gillian Redman Lloyd
- 6 Fifties style icon
- 7 Fabulous in red, Madellan transforms from a mild mannered accountant into a fifties fashion plate
- 8 Rose Seidler House
- 9 Hair stylists and outfitters Vanessa and Tracey of Cool Clothes
- 10 An Australian fifties tradition
- 11 Queuing for the fair
- 12 Brian, Lana and Jeannine Lake going to the fair

