



# TRUST NEWS

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)

AUGUST 1993

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are advised that the Annual General Meeting of the National Trust of Australia (ACT), a company limited by guarantee (ACN 008 531 182), will be held at the Woden Senior Citizens Club, Corinna Street, Phillip on Wednesday 10 November 1993 at 7.30 pm.

## MEETINGS IN THE TRUST BOARDROOM

**Thursday 2 September**  
Council Meeting at 5.30 p.m.

**Monday 6 September**  
Publications Committee Meeting at 12.30 p.m.

**Tuesday 14 September**  
Classification Committee Meeting at 12.30 p.m.

**Tuesday 14 September**  
Fund Raising Committee Meeting at 5.30 p.m.

**Tuesday 21 September**  
Lanyon Committee Meeting at 12.15 p.m.

**Monday 4 October**  
Publications Committee Meeting at 12.30 p.m.

**Thursday 7 October**  
Executive Meeting at 5.30 p.m.

**Tuesday 12 October**  
Classification Committee Meeting at 12.30 p.m.

**Wednesday 20 October**  
Education & Cultural Committee Meeting at 5.30 p.m.

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## NEW MEMBERS

The National Trust of Australia (ACT) extends a very warm welcome to the following new members. If any of our current members know these new members, perhaps you could encourage them to attend one of our activities.

Mr D J Barker, Murrumbateman  
Mr & Mrs P Baskett, Higgins  
Mr A Black, Flynn  
Mr & Mrs G Blumer  
Mrs A Bolton, Calwell  
Miss C Bowles, Holt  
Mr & Mrs J C Burns, Deakin  
Mr & Mrs P J Campbell, Red Hill  
Miss E Campbell, Florey  
Mrs M Carney, Red Hill  
Ms S M Casburn, Duffy  
Mr & Mrs P S Craft, Gowrie  
Mr N Crawford, Red Hill  
Ms J E Dawson, Civic Square  
Mr & Mrs B J Delroy, Fadden  
Mrs K Dickie, Weetangera  
Mr & Mrs E Doig, MacGregor  
Miss M Donnelly, Kaleen  
Mrs D Duncan, Mawson  
Mr & Mrs H J Dunn, Dickson  
Mrs P Dwyer  
Mr G Ede, Kaleen  
Mrs M Euason, Weston  
Mr & Mrs M Evans, Burra Creek  
Ms Face, Hackett  
Mr & Mrs J Face, Hackett  
Mr & Mrs H Falson, Mawson  
Mr & Mrs F Fenton-Menzies, Canberra  
Mr & Mrs B H Fisher, Garran  
Mrs S M Fitton, Curtin  
Mrs M Flinn, Kaleen  
Mr & Mrs R W Gardner, Fisher  
Miss A L Gardner, Fisher  
Mr I Geary, MacGregor  
Mr M Gilby, Deakin  
Mr A D Graham, Kambah  
Mr & Mrs R H Hackman, O'Connor  
Mrs & Ms Hargreaves, Tuggeranong  
Mrs N Harrison, Kambah  
Mr & Mrs D Hoffman, Forrest  
Mr & Mrs N Hope, Campbell  
Mr W C N Hopkins, Queanbeyan  
Mr & Mrs R O Hoppe, Campbell  
Dr & Mrs A Jackson, Fisher

Commodore & Mrs J Jobson, Forrest  
Ms M C Jones, Scullin  
Mr B L Kirkwood, Canberra  
A S Kilma & M J Graham, Warramunga  
Dr & Mrs N Kringas, Deakin  
Ms E Lee, Garran  
Mr & Mrs M Loveday, Forrest  
Mrs R Luker, Red Hill  
Mr & Mrs H R McKenzie, Lyons  
Mr B L McKinnon, Fadden Hills  
Mr B McMillan, Canberra  
Mr & Mrs D W McPhee, Malua Bay  
Ms T Morton, Macquarie  
Brigadier & Mrs R J Moyle, Chapman  
Mr P Naylor & Ms M Hawke  
Ms M Nettleship, Garran  
Mr & Mrs Oades, Cooma  
Ms J Olmer, Kingston  
Mr R W Olney, Chifley  
Mr & Mrs N Potter, Kingston  
Mr & Mrs A J Pratt, Hawke  
Dr & Mrs P Randall, Aranda  
Mrs A Raynolds, Giralang  
Ms S Rennie, Watson  
Mrs P J Rex, Farrer  
Ms A Rigby, Canberra  
Mr & Mrs P Robbins, Aranda  
Mr G Schilig, MacGregor  
Ms Seaman, Forrest  
Mr J E Simpson, Curtin  
Ms C Smith, Lyneham  
Miss R Smith, Farrer  
Mr & Mrs R Stanier, Torrens  
Mr & Mrs J Stuart-Smith, Garran  
Mr I Sutherland, Duffy  
Mr & Mrs B Teasey, Curtin  
Ms H R Thomas, Woden  
Mrs M L Thompson, MacGregor  
Mr & Mrs D S Thomson, Kingston  
Mrs J Todd, Isabella Plains  
Mr & Mrs D Travers, Dickson  
Dr J Tregallas-Williams, Campbell  
Ms A Treleaven, Hughes  
Mr & Mrs A L Vincent, Holder  
Mr & Mrs T Werner, Farrer  
Ms B Wheeler, Watson  
Mr & Mrs S Wilson, Woden  
Ms S Woolias, Bonython  
Dr & Mrs L J Wrigley, Weetangera





## A DIRE WARNING

**Membership of the Trust runs from 1 July to 30 June. At closing time for this Trust News only 810 of our 1200 members had renewed their subscriptions for 1993/94.**

**What this means (if previous experience is anything to go by) is that 390 of our members "haven't got around to it yet".**

**If this applies to you, we have to warn you that, unfortunately, one inevitable outcome**

**is that we won't be able to afford to keep you on the books and will be compelled to delete your name from the mailing list fairly soon. For example, each edition of Trust News alone costs around \$1600 to print and post and the Trust can't keep sending it out without some income towards publishing and posting costs, let alone financing other Trust activities.**

**We don't want to lose you but.....**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Canberra : Australia's Capital City

It may well be premature to comment now upon Ken Taylor's article in Trust News for May 1993 when we only have the first part of the whole (the remainder being promised for a later issue). Yet even the first part is fascinating material and draws attention to important aspects of Canberra's design and development; it prompts this immediate response as well as much-deserved applause.

To this reader, the most important aspect of the article at this stage is the reminder that Canberra was brought into being to be the capital city of Australia, an aspect which has implications for current plans and which tends, or seems, to attract too little attention in current debate. What do we want today of a national capital city? This is a more important and fundamental question than "What do we want for Canberra?" We might well want a number of things for any city although some might not be thought appropriate for a capital city. We might want - and I hope would want - things for a national capital which would not be appropriate for any city. First and foremost, of course, is a national parliament building and now we have a new and lasting one. We have other structures symbolic of our nationhood and there are others surely yet to come to meet our needs. Not all need be governmental institutions; numbers could usefully, as many already are, be national headquarters for cultural, social and historic interests and others for all those having continuing business with the national government. It follows that provision needs to be made for those living in Canberra to serve the national government and in pursuit of all these other purposes and then for all the others

serving the needs of the first-mentioned groups—a natural development in a national capital is the provision of ancillary services.

Plans made for the development of Canberra over the years took account of these things and put them in a landscape perspective which, in its nature, suited both the Australian environment and temperament. The conceptual origin might have lain elsewhere, as Ken Taylor suggests, but this does not detract from the appropriateness of the ideas for our circumstances. Indeed, to deny ourselves access to ideas from elsewhere and especially from the cultural origins of the great majority of us would be to impose on ourselves an intolerable intellectual deprivation.

An important requirement for Canberra must be to provide access to it for Australians from all parts of the country and to offer encouragement to them to visit it. This means the development of communication and transport facilities and visitor accommodation, primarily for Australians but also for visitors from abroad. This is more than a business requirement, it is an essential part of the concept of nationality and the idea of a national capital although it must, mostly, be met in a commercially viable way. But there will be - and indeed there is already - a need for other industries in Canberra besides tourism and retailing and building etc; more will be needed both to enrich life in Canberra for its citizens and widen employment opportunities and to preserve for Canberra's citizens access to activities common across the nation so that they may go on sharing the common experience of their fellows. Not all industry will be appropriate for the national capital; nor will unlimited industry be so. There

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is no reason to replicate in Canberra the unfortunate experience of other cities suffering the disadvantages of shortages of space, overcrowding and excessive costliness of city living. On the contrary, the national capital could well be expected to improve upon past mistakes elsewhere and to show the way to better things for everyone.

Canberra was planned as a garden city; in this and its other attributes, as Ken Taylor says, "Canberra, the federal capital of Australia, is a special city." It has attracted world-wide attention and approbation; it is the pride and joy of many Australians. It has become part of our heritage and worthy of preservation. To attempt to change it would be to throw away the achievements of over half a century and it would require another grand and beautiful concept to make any such attempt in the least justifiable. No such grand and beautiful concept has emerged but what we have could still be lost by neglect or slow attrition. This could happen by, for instance, pursuit of in-fill policies for reasons of developmental and servicing costs rather than capital city planning. Cost is, of course, important but it should be seen in the context of a basic and fundamental framework of reference, comprehensive in nature. Cost, in this context, should embrace more than the monetary outlay involved in carrying out some particular project; it should, for instance, also embrace any loss of benefits consequent upon departure from a plan already approved and adopted. Are our planning arrangements

adequate for such assessments and for confronting all the problems which might emerge?

One of the greatest dangers besetting our national capital may be a neglect of the concept underlying it for the sake of unbridled growth! The city, as it was planned and has developed, does not lend itself to much greater size than it now enjoys, except at rising and undesirable cost, financially and environmentally (in both physical and social terms). Growth there must be in Australia but it should not be in just a few places; it were better widely spread. In this region of Australia, where Canberra lies, there needs to be developed some idea of an ultimate limit—not too far off—to the growth of urban areas. In the case of Canberra itself, such an idea would need to be part of a concept of regional development involving new self-supporting cities based on their own industrial development. There are opportunities to be taken; the more that are taken, the more there will be to follow! Who is there to look at things in this way?

There are, I imagine, sure to be other responses to Ken Taylor's fascinating and thought-provoking article. Might "Trust News" feel inclined to invite expression of them and publish at least some?

R H Scott

Ed: We always welcome letters and try to publish as many as space will allow.

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## MOUNTAIN HUTS AND HERITAGE

### CCE SPRING COURSE NOVEMBER 1993

Course Coordinator: Dean Turner  
President, Kosciusko Huts Association

A walkers' course looking at cultural heritage and issues for future high country management, featuring historical huts and sites inside the Namadgi and Kosciusko National Parks.

The course involves 4 evening lectures on the Tuesdays and Thursdays of the two weeks preceding a 4 day field trip (Saturday to Tuesday, 13-16 November) and will include film and slide presentations depicting many different facets of the high country's heritage and beauty. The preparatory lectures on heritage conservation, bush tools, skiing history, photography

and bushwalking equipment will set the scene. On-site meetings with rangers, historians and mountain families will be a feature of the four day field trip.

Participants will stay on Neville and Kate Locker's historic property "Happy Valley" near Adaminaby which is situated between the two national parks. Here they will experience mountain hospitality, home style cooking and turn of the century domestic comforts with a fascinating trip into history at every turn.

Any profits generated from course fees will be directed to maintenance of Kosciusko and Namadgi huts.

For further information prospective participants should contact Pamela Montgomery at the ANU Centre for Continuing Education, Phone (06) 249 3856.



THE EDITOR  
TRUST NEWS  
Dear Sir

The National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) has a new and exciting venture to increase the income of the Trust in Tasmania and promote our properties. We have launched the Renowned Heritage Buildings Tour, Tasmania. There are three tours—Spring, Summer and Autumn. The first commences 26th September, 1993, and has been arranged to include the Spring Tulip Festival at the Royal Hobart Botanical Gardens.

These tours are for the really discerning traveller. The tours have been organised by Dickenson's Travel in conjunction with the National Trust. The visitors will be hosted by National Trust members on occasions throughout the tour. Our members are noted for providing fine hospitality and food.

We hope to welcome travellers from all States of Australia and also New Zealand. Bookings should be as early as possible to ensure the success of the tour. Booking Agent: Dickensons Travel, Dickenson's Arcade, 111 Main Road, Moonah, Tasmania 7009.

Yours faithfully  
CP Fearn  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA  
(TASMANIA)



#### TOURS FOR THE DISCERNING TRAVELLER

Spring 26/9/93      Summer 16/1/94      Autumn 20/3/94

#### RENOWNED HERITAGE BUILDINGS TASMANIA

Arranged by Dickensons Travel in Conjunction with  
the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania)

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Dickenson's Arcade  
111 Main Road  
Moonah Tasmania 7009

Ph: (002) 28 1932 or (002) 28 0301  
Fax: (002) 28 3971

## NATIONAL TRUST ARBOR WEEK BUS TOUR

### 1.30-5.00PM SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 1993

Where is the pregnant pine, who planted the bunya tree in King's Avenue and why does Mount Mugga look different to other hillsides? These are a few of the questions to be answered on the ACT National Trust Arbor Week bus tour on Sunday 5 September.

The tour to explore some of Canberra's native and planted tree heritage will be led by local tree writer Dr Robert Boden. Along the way Robert will indicate the

age of various plantings, where the trees come from, their cultural and economic uses and how they got their names.

#### Bookings essential

National Trust of Australia (ACT)  
6 Geils Court  
DEAKIN ACT 2600  
Phone: 2810711.  
Cost: \$8 per person.

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## SPRING ACTIVITIES

*When this edition of Trust News arrives on your doorstep there should be a hint or two of spring in the air. If we may be permitted a slight paraphrase, "in spring, Trust members' fancies turn to thoughts of..... Trust spring activities", of course.*

### INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF TABLE SETTINGS

As in previous years, the Trust's contribution to Floriade will be the International Exhibition of Traditional or Festive Table Settings. This year the dates are 24, 25 and 26 September and once again we've joined forces with the St John's Church Restoration Fund. There will be some of the same exhibitors as last year (although the displays will be different) and quite a few new ones. There will also be a display of the Trust's Heritage China set.

Put a note in your diary to drop in to the Exhibition while you are seeing the sights of Floriade. It will, in any case, be just the place to get that desperately needed cup of tea after you have been walking around Commonwealth Park admiring the tulips.

The Official Opening will be on the evening of Friday 24 September and will be combined with a New Members Night. Entry by donation, but please book

with the Trust office so we know numbers for catering.

The Exhibition will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Saturday 25 and 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 26 and the entry charge will be \$4, or \$2 for concessions.

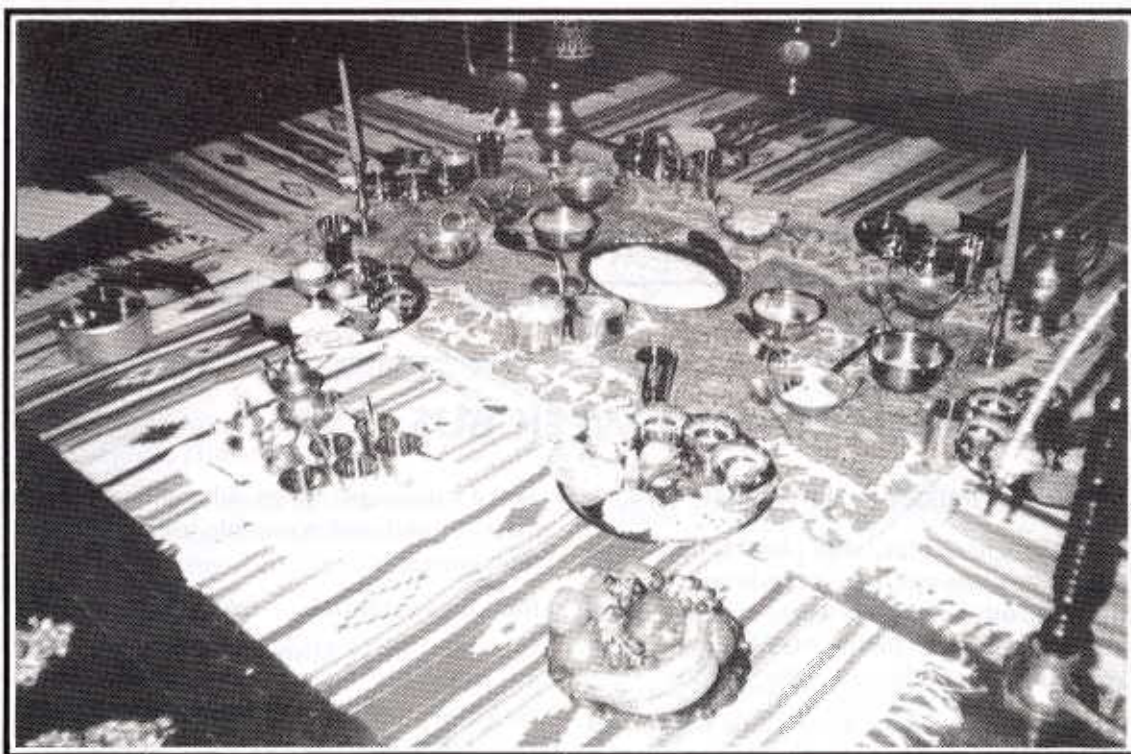
### BULBS & BLOSSOMS TOUR

There are still places available on our Bulbs & Blossoms Tour on 19 September 1993. This will be a spring visit to the gardens of the Crookwell area—a different set of gardens, for the most part, to those visited on our November tour last year. The gardens will, of course, look very different to the sights seen in November which explains the title "Bulbs and Blossoms". The Trust Tours insert in this edition of Trust News has the details of this tour and a number of other Trust tours taking place in the next four months.

### SPRING LUNCHEON

To be held upstairs at the Federation Square Restaurant, Federation Square, Gungahlin (on the Barton Highway) on Thursday 14 October 1993.

Tickets cost \$22.50 and numbers are strictly limited so book your place now.



*A table setting from India at last year's exhibition*



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## THE CHINESE IN AUSTRALASIA

The Chinese Museum in Melbourne will be holding a three-day conference, entitled "The History of the Chinese in Australasia and the South Pacific", to be held at the Chinese Museum on Friday 8 to Sunday 10 October.

Historians and historical archaeologists from around Australia and New Zealand will present papers on a broad range of topics, including: Chinese and the law;

religion, temples and cemeteries; gold and tin mining periods; business history; immigration and restrictions; social history of Chinese women; rural and urban histories; oral history; herbalists; and interpretation of material culture.

For further information, contact Paul Macgregor on (03) 662 2888.



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## FOR SALE

*As promised in the May Trust News, here is the first "FOR SALE" column.*

*Advertisements in this column are charged at \$1.00 per line.*

❖ Pair of yellow moire curtains, each 2.1 X 1.3 metres, beautifully made by leading interior decorator, fully lined.

❖ Elegant double sofa-bed, upholstered in chintz, Warner's Evening Song design.

Please telephone (06) 273 2384 after 24 September 1993.

❖ Six Victorian, high back Jacobean style chairs.

These are the chairs which have been on display in the Lanyon dining room since 1985 and which have now been replaced. They belong to the Trust and were purchased through the efforts of Trust Guardians at Lanyon so we thought we should give Trust members the first opportunity to purchase.

Phone the Trust office and make an offer.



## HELP WANTED



### OFFICE RE-PAINT

People who have visited the Trust office in the last year or so will have noticed that our building is sadly in need of a re-paint. We are looking for a gang of volunteers who would be willing to donate some of their weekend time to preparing the building for

a new coat of paint then slapping the paint on. We envisage that it will involve, depending on the number of volunteers, a couple of weekends of work in the spring sunshine, say late September or early October.

If you are willing to help for an hour or two, or for the whole duration or in any other way, PLEASE call us on 281 0711 and put your name on the list. We'll contact you with suggested dates.

If any members have a contact in the paint manufacturing and/or distributing business and could organise a donation of paint (or even a tax deductible cash donation toward the purchase of paint), we can assure you that contributions would be MOST welcome.

Alternatively, the Executive is prepared to consider having the building professionally repainted if the price is right. We would welcome a bid/tender if any member of the Trust would like to take it on.

### TRUST NEWS: SUB-EDITOR FOR CHILDREN'S PAGE

We'd really like to run a children's page in Trust News—with activities, information, games, etc. But we don't really have enough time or expertise in the Trust office to hunt up or write suitable material. Just to whet people's appetites we've put a sample in this edition.

Is there someone out there with the interest and time to put together, say, a double sided A4 insert for a Trust News four or five times per year? We'll help you as much as possible but it really needs someone with some training and skills/talent in preparing appropriate material for children.

### LANYON GUARDIANS

The Lanyon Guardian roster is always in need of more names. If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer, please give us a call.

If you can help out with any of these please ring the Trust office on 281 0711.

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# Kid's page.



Hi kids,

We thought you might like a page of your own in the Trust Magazine so here is the first one. We hope you enjoy the Aussie Bush Word Find and the Canberra Map Search. Perhaps your family could drive around the lake and find the places listed on the map.

Happy Hunting!

Going for a walk in the bush can be great fun and if you look and listen carefully you may discover some of our native plants and animals. See how many you can discover in our Word Find!

Can you find all these? (Watch out—they can go in any direction!)

koala	kookaburra
kangaroo	ant
snake	possum
spider	echidna
goanna	wattle
cockatoo	gumnut
currawong	banskia
grevillea	rosella
rock	soil
skink	galah
frog	grasshopper

a	i	s	k	n	a	b	s	k	i	n	k
c	o	c	k	a	t	o	o	o	f	b	a
u	o	r	o	s	e	l	l	a	z	i	n
r	J	t	o	e	m	g	a	l	a	h	g
r	n	f	k	x	c	g	s	a	y	c	a
a	g	r	a	s	s	h	o	p	p	e	r
w	u	o	b	n	p	r	i	a	x	s	o
o	m	g	u	a	q	e	l	d	n	p	o
n	n	e	r	k	u	d	m	a	n	n	k
g	u	g	r	e	v	i	l	l	e	a	a
z	t	v	a	g	h	p	o	s	s	u	m
w	a	t	t	l	e	s	w	J	y	q	z

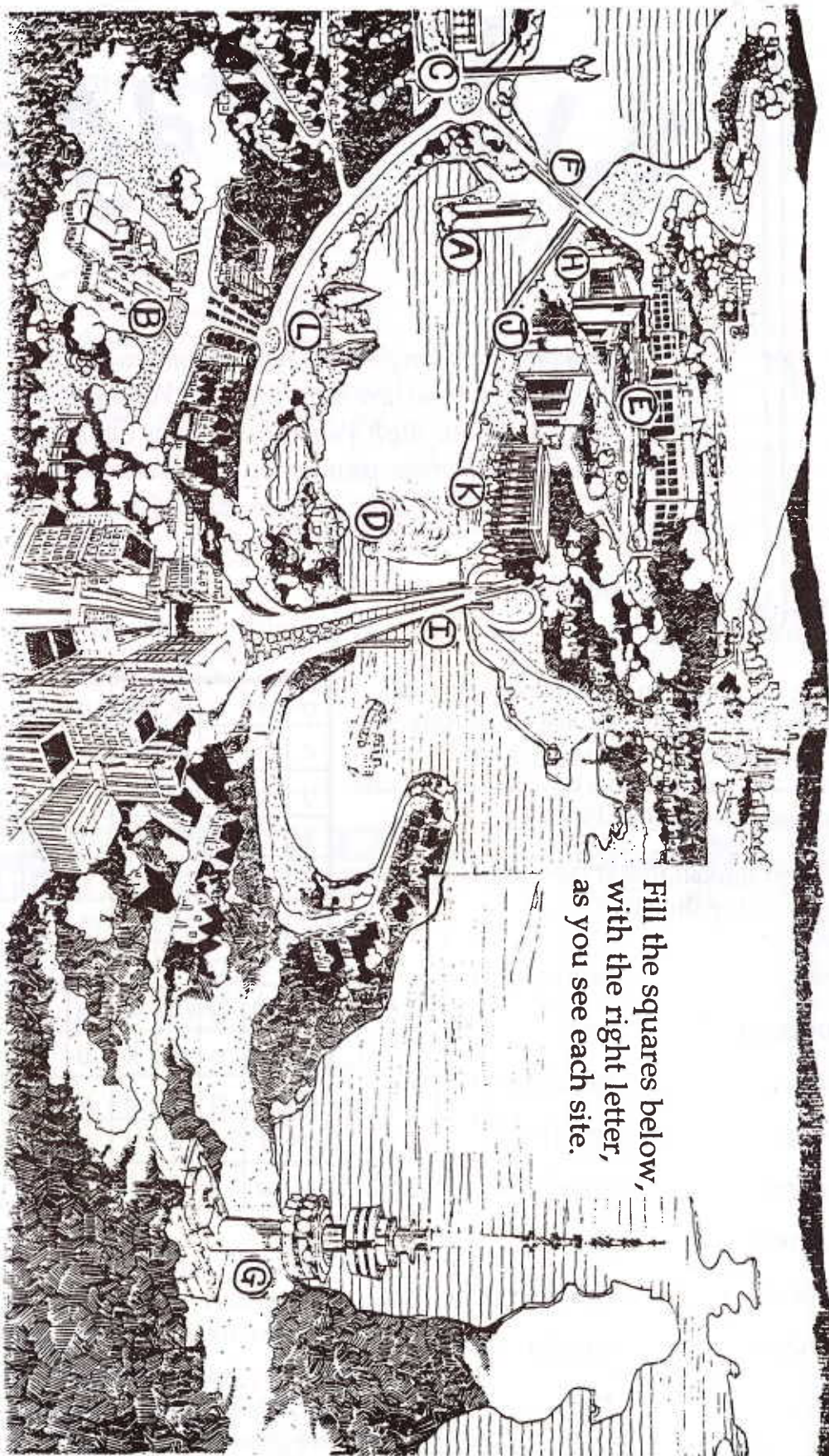
✿ Next time you go for a walk or a picnic, take your Word Find list with you and see how many things you can find.

✿ Try walking through your neighbourhood —how many native animals are able to survive in the city?



# MAP SEARCH

Fill the squares below,  
with the right letter,  
as you see each site.



- ☐ Carillon.
- ☐ National Library.
- ☐ High Court.
- ☐ National Art Gallery.

- ☐ Australian War Memorial.
- ☐ Old Parliament House.
- ☐ Captain Cook Fountain.
- ☐ American Eagle.

- ☐ Black Mountain Tower.
- ☐ Commonwealth Avenue Bridge.
- ☐ Kings Avenue Bridge.
- ☐ Blundell's Farmhouse.



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## ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE

The Director-General of the Royal Over-Seas League recently wrote to the National Trusts in Australia:

This letter comes to introduce the Royal Over-Seas League as I believe its facilities and amenities might prove attractive to members of your organisation. Our superb clubhouses, one in St James's, London, in the heart of the West End overlooking Green Park, and the other at 100 Princes Street, Edinburgh, opposite and with unrestricted views of Edinburgh Castle, offer members bedroom accommodation, bars, restaurants and drawing rooms, all a standard normally only found in first class hotels but at far less than hotel prices. There are also over fifty reciprocal clubs worldwide.

The Royal Over-Seas League is a private club for Commonwealth citizens and its aims and objectives are to increase interest, understanding and friendship between peoples of the Commonwealth. The League also plays an active role in encouraging and promoting Arts to young people of the Commonwealth through the staging of annual Music and Art Competitions and Literary Events. Regional Art

Competitions are held in Melbourne and New Zealand and we also sponsor a prize in an Australian singing competition.

The Royal Over-Seas League has branches throughout Australia which hold regular meetings and social events. It might well be that your members would be interested in the opportunity to join as this could be an additional benefit of membership of your organisation and would involve it in no costs. If you felt that this offer of membership to your members would be worthwhile, they would be able to join our local branches at the very modest local Branch annual subscription which would entitle them to all the benefits of membership of the League, including usage of the clubhouses in London and Edinburgh and our fifty plus reciprocal clubs around the world. The members also receive the League's quarterly journal *Overseas*.

Trust members requiring any further information should contact one of the Australian branch representatives who will be only too happy to tell you more about the benefits of membership. A list of the Australian branches is held at the Trust office.

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## WORLD HERITAGE LISTINGS

The Minister for the Environment, Mrs Ros Kelly, recently announced that Fraser Island and Stage 3 of Kakadu National Park have been given World Heritage listing.

Mrs Kelly said that the annual meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Santa Fe, New Mexico, had agreed to list Fraser Island and the total area of Kakadu. Australia now has 10 World Heritage listed areas.

Meanwhile, the historic staging of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) conference in Sydney in November—the first time the conference has been held outside Europe or north America—extended the debate on Australia's attempts to have more places on the World Heritage List.

During the Conference, the Council said that it wanted the World Heritage Committee to include Sydney's Opera House and Harbour Bridge on its list. The President of ICOMOS, Dr Roland Silva, supported the move. He said that the Opera House and Harbour Bridge were as significant to him as Notre Dame, the bridges of Paris and London Bridge and the Tower of London.

Sydney's Chair of Australia ICOMOS until after the conference, Ms Joan Domicelj, said that few places or things from this century were on the list but it was

exciting that Brasilia had been recognised. Australia's natural environments were quite well represented, but the World Heritage List did not include any Australian places listed only for their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander values. (Moves are now being made to have the Wet Tropics Area included for its Aboriginal Cultural values as well as its natural values). Nor did Australia's listed places include cultural sites from our post-European settlement.

Ms Domicelj also said that listing meant UNESCO and the rest of the world considered that place to be of outstanding universal value.

On a brief visit to Canberra to lead a seminar at the Australian Heritage Commission, Dr Henry Cleere, head of the ICOMOS world heritage evaluation team urged Australia to nominate Canberra to the list. Canberra would have to be nominated for its cultural significance and as an example of 20th century planning, the same criteria as that for Brasilia.

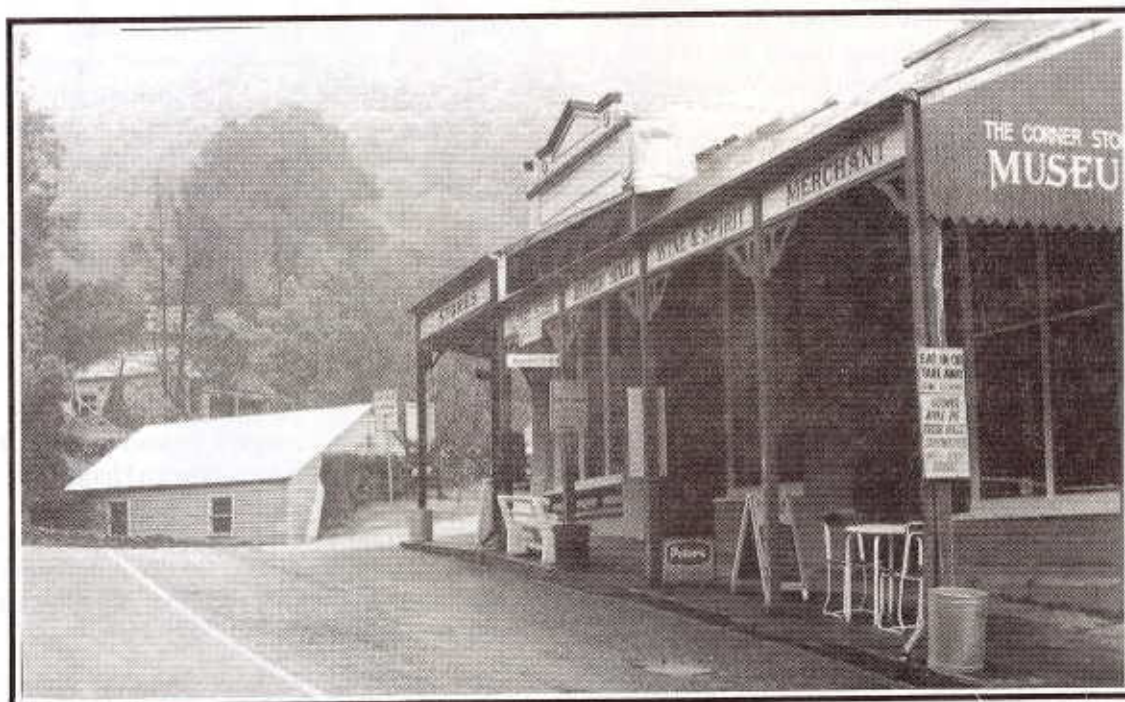
(Australia's World Heritage matters are the responsibility of the Minister for the Environment and the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories. All of Australia's World heritage places are on the Register of the National Estate).

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**A foretaste of the sights to be seen on the South East Victoria Tour (27 November to 3 December)—see the insert in this Trust News for details.**



*Cape Conran.*



*Walhalla*



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## RECENT ACTIVITIES



*Some happy walkers lunching on the Corn Trail Walk in May.*



*Steaming memories of Michelago (1 August).*

## BUYING BACK THE BUSH

by Judy Henderson

Buying up land to protect it is not new—many groups all over Australia have been raising funds for years to save special pieces of land from inappropriate development. The Australian Bush Heritage Fund is a relatively new but rapidly expanding force in this kind of nature conservation in Australia.

Modelled on the huge US conservation body, Nature Conservancy, Bush Heritage began in Tasmania 1990 when two magnificent forest blocks abutting the Tasmanian World Heritage area were put up for auction.

The blocks were certain to be clear-felled and so, using his recently awarded US Goldman prize of \$49,000, environmentalist Bob Brown bought the 236 hectares and together with friends established the fund.

Since then Bush Heritage has flourished. Now a nationally registered company with its own tax deductibility status, we have a rapidly growing number of regular supporters. As a supporter wrote recently, "the surest way to protect a bit of land is to buy it".

Bush Heritage is now expanding to the mainland and is in the process of securing an outstanding fan palm forest block in the Daintree area.

If you would like to help Australian Bush Heritage Fund protect this area of cassowary habitat see enclosed brochure or write to us at 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart. &000 (Tel. 002 315475, Fax. 002 312491).

Judy Henderson is one of the founding Directors of Australian Bush Heritage Fund.



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afternoon tea or Friday evening.  
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relaxed sophisticated atmosphere.

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## JUNGLE GYM AMNESTY

In September 1992, National Museum staff removed the old jungle gym from Ainslie Primary School.

The historic piece of playground equipment, believed to be the first jungle gym in Australia, was donated by the American philanthropist Mrs Andrew Carnegie. Prime Minister John Scullin accepted the gift on 24 July, 1930 on behalf of the children of Australia. Being the first primary school in the nation's capital, Ainslie Primary was considered an appropriate location for the galvanised iron structure. It was an especially welcome gift in 1930 when playground equipment was rare and rudimentary.

Measuring 16 feet long, 8 feet wide and 10 feet 6 inches high, the jungle gym could support up to 100 children at a time. Sixty years later it was deemed unsafe and donated to the National Museum.

After carefully surveying and numbering each of its 150 components (not including nuts and bolts) conservation and registration staff dismantled the gym which is now in storage at Mitchell. Unfortunately, one of the most significant parts of the jungle gym, the presentation plaque bearing the name of the donor, is missing, believed to have been removed some years ago.

If anyone knows anything about the missing plaque, the Museum would love to hear from you. Just phone (06) 256 1111 and ask to speak to Peter Bucke or Glen Cook.



# THE FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE

by Linda Greenwood

*In previous editions of Trust News we have printed stories about cats in the environment. Following is an article reprinted with kind permission from Habitat (May 1993) which seems to encapsulate the debate. LINDA GREENWOOD works in the Victorian Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Her research interest is the problem of unowned urban cats. She has two pet cats, and is intent on changing their habits.*

Research has shown that our purring pets can be relentless serial killers. While cat owners defend cats' 'rights to wander freely' and oppose moves to tighten controls on cat ownership, animal welfare agencies, unable to find homes for increasing numbers of unwanted kittens and cats, put down thousands every week. Conservationists condemn both feral and owned cats for killing wildlife in parks and forests. Roaming pet cats upset garden-proud neighbours and sick strays soliciting food distress residents. Noisy cat fights or mating calls disturb our night-time neighbourhood. Local councils turn a blind eye.

The cats and wildlife problem is common worldwide but more serious in Australia because cats are threatening the future survival of our unique fauna. Very adaptable creatures, cats are found in most habitats across the continent, from the arid deserts to tropical rain forests, alpine snowfields and urban garbage tips. They can survive in extremely dry conditions: if they can find fresh prey, they do not need fresh water to survive.

Almost every second Australian household has one or more pet cats. Every one of these cats can kill native animals. In addition to the 3 million domestic cats, although it is impossible to know exact numbers, one estimate has indicated that there may be as many as 12 million feral cats in Australia.

## KILLER INSTINCT

Cats are fascinating creatures, affectionate in our homes, yet highly-developed hunters when outdoors. All cats, even your well-fed pet cat, hunt by instinct. Cats need 100-150gm of protein each day to survive. Feral cats eat the equivalent of seven native bush rats or 10 birds each week; they hunt and kill over 100 species of native birds, 50 species of mammals, 50 species of reptiles and numerous frogs and insects. Pet cats in suburbs kill an average of 16 mammals, 8 birds and 8 reptiles each year. They take the equivalent of all the young birds being hatched (at least half of the standing crop) and birds that reproduce slowly, like blue wrens, once common in our cities, are now rare because of predation by cats. Stray cats which also

scavenge from rubbish or solicit food from people may take half this amount.

The impact of cats on wildlife, in Victoria alone, is staggering (see Box). When combined with habitat destruction and failing natural processes, Australia's wildlife is struggling to survive.

900,000 pet cats X 32 wildlife each year	= 29 million wildlife victims
200,000 feral cats X 10 wildlife X 52 weeks	= 104 million
300,000 stray cats X 5 wildlife X 52 weeks	= 78 million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>= 211 million wildlife</b>

Cats can kill animals up to their own size—almost all of Australia's threatened animals are in this size category—and are not only a problem as predators; they also spread disease. One cat bite can lead to rapid spread of infection against which our native animals have little resistance. Often a captured bird or possum will appear unharmed but, almost certainly, it will die within 36 hours from infection or shock.

They are also responsible for the transmission of toxoplasmosis, a parasitic protozoan disease which is often fatal for marsupials, significantly reduces livestock production and seriously affects humans, particularly pregnant women. Australia's marsupials, along with Madagascar's lemurs and South America's arboreal primates, are the most susceptible to the infection. The disease has no effect on cats.

There are no safe havens for wildlife in Australia. Cats are so well established that they are out of control in all national parks and other conservation areas, where they compete for food and habitat with native animals. Cats unbalance natural systems in less direct ways as well—for example, by reducing the number of honeyeaters, cats are also reducing the pollination rates of any native plants. They threaten the successful recovery and continued existence of many endangered species and jeopardise the ultimate success of expensive programs to conserve and restore natural areas. No matter how many are removed, more keep coming to replace them.

## SUCCESSFUL SURVIVORS

One of the most complicated issues related to the impact and control of cats is the relationship between owned and unowned cats. Domestic cats are

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continually adding to the stray and feral cat population, and even truly wild cats may become semi-domestic during times of drought when food is scarce. Cats survive equally well whether totally dependent on us as pets, partly dependent on us as farm cats or completely independent of us as stray or feral cats. They adopt a communal or solitary life-style, whatever suits their environment.

Without identification (collars or tags) on pet cats, it is impossible for agencies to separate the (owned) pets from (unowned) stray or feral cats. While some feral cats grow large on wildlife, even the fattest normally grow no larger than an over-fed pet.

Control efforts are further hampered because cat owners enjoy a special low-risk relationship with the law. Cat owners are not required to be licensed or control their cat—your cat is free to wander where and when it pleases and you cannot generally be held responsible for its actions. (As a piece of property, however, it is afforded legal protection from theft and injury.) Agencies, unable to distinguish between pet and stray/feral cats, generally have no legal basis for control efforts.

Cats are also prolific breeders. Females can breed before they are one year old and can have litters of four or more kittens three times per year. Many females mate with several different males, producing kittens fathered by different males in one litter. This habit effectively thwarts efforts by authorities to control strays by removing or neutering the dominant males. Only a high mortality rate among young cats limits their reproductive potential.

Despite these limits and desexing part of the pet cat population, there are far too many cats for available homes. In Victoria alone, almost 45,000 cats end up in shelters where most are humanely euthanased. Less than 1 per cent are reclaimed by owners.

## **COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY**

In Victoria, the community, cat breeders, animal welfare agencies, conservationists and government have joined forces to tackle the problem. This combined effort has come up with a solution that has benefits for all: better care and protection for pets; more companionable pets for cat owners; respect for the rights of people who prefer to live without cats; and protection for wildlife and livestock. The focus has turned from cats to you and me, the community and all cat owners to change the way we manage cats—to keep cats and wildlife apart.

Through responsible pet ownership practices and legislation to manage and control cats (much as we now manage dogs), we can change the way we live with our favourite pets.

The Victorian Government is currently considering Companion Animals Legislation which will provide for an effective identification system for cats, and a legislative basis for local governments and animal welfare organisations to deal with stray and feral cats. It will also build on existing controls for companion animal businesses. Other states are considering similar initiatives.

While all these initiatives will be valuable first steps, the real long-term solution will depend on local councils across the country developing and implementing stringent local laws that include compulsory desexing (to halt recruitment to the feral population) and confinement of pets to their owner's property (to protect wildlife and respect the right of people wishing to live without cats).

The Shire of Sherbrooke, which includes the Dandenong Ranges National Park, introduced the first of these local laws last year, despite some community opposition. Having changed the way they manage cats, some residents who originally opposed the law, are now its strongest advocates. 'I don't know who is enjoying each other more, the cats, the humans or the parrots in the garden.'

Only when we, as a community, manage our pet cats properly will efforts by animal welfare and government agencies to control feral and stray cats have any chance of saving our wildlife. If you own a cat, you can start today.

## **SOME SIMPLE DOS AND DONTs.**

Responsible cat owners keep their cats inside. Cats kept indoors won't be hurt in fights, won't be hit by cars, won't get lost and won't harm wildlife. Properly cared for cats live for over 12 years, few cats living outside survive as long as three years.

Your cat must be desexed and have food, water, litter, a variety of resting places and space to exercise.

You can train your cat to walk outside on a harness.

Cats enjoy our company and become better pets when confined—ask any cat breeder.

New kittens readily accept confinement but older cats used to wandering must be trained to stay indoors by using food and attention as rewards. Your cat should adapt to the new routine within a week but will



probably meow (or even worse, howl) at the back door from time to time. Remember, it may want to go out but it doesn't need to. Pick your cat up, pat it, play with it, feed it some treats—you will be pleasantly surprised by its response.

You can build a special enclosure (cattery), modify an aviary, close off the dead-end section of the garden between the house and the fence, or put floppy wire fences around your property to give your cat safe access to the backyard. You can introduce a night curfew to protect your cat but this does little to stop the many day-time cat attacks on wildlife.

If you still decide to let your cat outside your property, it must wear a collar and tag so that agencies can see it is a pet and it must have identification so that it can be returned to you if lost. Put two bells on the collar to

give wildlife a chance (bells only make a difference in one out of three cat attacks on wildlife). It must also be desexed, to reduce wandering and to stop breeding with feral and stray cats.

If you can no longer keep your cat responsibly, find it a new home; take it to an animal welfare agency; take it to the vet for humane euthanasia. Try a different type of pet when it dies.

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then at around 6pm the barbeque and social  
will begin.



## IMAGES IN OPPOSITION: CANBERRA'S HISTORIC LAND AXIS\*

*This is the second part of the article by Associate Professor Ken Taylor the first part of which appeared in the May edition of Trust News.*

### PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN: THE LAND AXIS

Sulman's garden city tradition of ample public parks coincided with the parks, parkways, and gardens integral to Griffin's plan. Formality of layout and planting inherent in the city beautiful concept easily transferred to the garden city approach, but, as in the case of the land axis, minus monumental flanking architecture.

Griffin's land axis through the centrepiece of his National Parliamentary Triangle is an essential component of present day Canberra, but not in the form envisaged by Griffin as a great urban piazza formed by buildings. Its design is formal but essentially it is part of a landscape space of generous propositions, the Triangle being about 1 kilometre from Parliament House to the lake and about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a kilometre across its base at the lake. To some urban designers the National Triangle lacks definition,

spatial integrity, is too open and remote. To many people, including some design professionals and the community, its symbolism as a large, dignified, major landscape axis and its historic value are paramount. Its vastness and sense of remoteness add to its attraction. These again are images in opposition. The first has as its inspiration the conviction of the need for urbanity, a nostalgic desire for the character of European piazzas and intimate parks. It also seems to reflect 'a severe bout of agoraphobia', as though 'large landscape spaces are inimical to public use'.<sup>11</sup> The antidote is to put in buildings on the assumption that vitality and human scale will appear. But will they?

The second image of the land axis and Triangle values the idea that the large space and existing national buildings have developed over time into serenely elegant space whose large scale and dignity are valued, as are the connections with various people important in the history of Canberra. Also there is now in Canberra a community of people who have grown up there and who feel deep attachment to the city and the national spaces as they exist. For them the places have meaning. It is not simply a landscape which they see, but the way they see it. Visitors, too, are impressed.

Such relationships to the National Triangle are in direct contrast to the architectural notion that a large space simply waits to be filled with buildings or the more academic view that Griffin's original ideas must be fulfilled. The problem with these views is that they are promulgated substantially by a group of designers whose imperial view of design spares little time for the community's view and the value and significance that the existing space has accrued. In its existing form the National Triangle is classified by the National Trust of Australia and is on the Register of the National Estate held by the Australian Heritage Commission. It is held to have cultural significance in its present form on the basis of Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter Guidelines on Cultural Significance.

Currently the Triangle houses Parliament House on Capital Hill (in place of Griffin's Capital) and below it Old Parliament House, built in 1927 as a provisional building. Both these are on the central line of Griffin's land axis. In addition 1960s and 1970s buildings, the Australian National Library, the Australian National Museum and the High Court, sit on the edge of the base of the Triangle. A new late 1980s addition, the Science and Technology building is 'a monstrous mis-siting'.<sup>12</sup>

The National Capital Planning Authority (NCPA) in 1991 proposed that a new building complex to house the National Museum of Australia should be sited across the land axis in front of Old Parliament House. This brought a furore of opposition from heritage groups,



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representatives of design professions, museology experts, former members of the Museum Council, Aboriginal groups and the Canberra community. It had formerly been decided in the 1980s to site the Museum on an open area at the western end of Lake Burley Griffin. This was on the recommendation of museology experts for a large site where low pavilions and outdoor spaces could combine and where Aboriginal heritage could be properly displayed. Outdoor displays were regarded as central to the Museum's success and interpretative presentations. Further, the notion of a white Anglo-Saxon Australian symbolic landscape as a site for the display of Aboriginal culture was, to say the least, an inept proposal. Again it is images in opposition. A 1992 proposal more coyly proposes intensifying activity on the axis.

## SUMMARY

The question that remains, therefore, is what is the appropriate planning and design approach in this historic urban landscape space? Whether a landscape design or an architectural design is chosen there is a clear need to amend the cross traffic vehicular circulation and the hectares of surface parking whose negative impact have been greatly exacerbated by the unsympathetic placing of the Science Museum and its car park.

There is considerable support<sup>13</sup> for a landscape architecture solution which maintains the impressive view to Mount Ainslie where the symbolic formal landscape is in compelling dynamic tension with the bush image of Mount Ainslie. Further a landscape architecture solution which acknowledges the historic value and cultural heritage significance of this great landscape axis is imperative. The space contains historic plantings including *Cupressus arizonica* planted in the 1920s by Thomas Weston, the innovative and significant figure in Canberra's landscape history from 1913 to 1926 and the 1930s rose gardens in front of Old Parliament House. There is an opportunity to extend the intent and structure of the early plantings with more trees in a structural planting design that will emphasise the grandness of the axis and National Triangle and link the buildings visually and spatially.

By planting and traffic management it will be possible to continue the symbolism and spatial proportions of the axis and Triangle and also introduce smaller, more intimate outdoor spaces as external rooms off the axis. The basis for future design work should be the special potential of the great landscape space of the Triangle with its magnificent view northwards which embraces Lake Burley Griffin and Mount Ainslie and is encompassed by the National Library and National Gallery. It is truly one of the great landscape axes of the world.

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14. Support for a landscape architecture solution comes from heritage groups, planners, landscape architects and community groups. The National Capital Planning Authority supports an architectural solution.

\* Note: The title for this paper is taken from Tim Bonyhady's book *Images in Opposition. Australian Landscape Painting 1801-1890*; OUP, Melbourne.

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## "OUR OTHER NATIONAL TRUST"

*Address by Sir David Smith at the  
Founder's Day Luncheon of the National Trust of Australia  
(ACT)  
the Lobby Restaurant, Canberra  
9 May 1993.*

How easy it would be to discard things simply because they are old. Mind you, nothing we have built or created since 1788 is really very old in world terms. But if we had gone on slashing and burning, and knocking down and rebuilding, the way we used to do, we would now be a much poorer and bleaker society.

That is why people like us have formed and joined organisations like ours, and that is why each year, on the 9th of May, we celebrate the anniversary of the founding, in 1968, of the ACT Women's Committee of the New South Wales Trust, which evolved in the ACT Trust. We shall probably never know just how much we owe to those who had the wisdom to establish the National Trust of Australia, in all of its manifestations; to those who gave this country the concept of the National Estate; and to those who awoke the rest of us to the need to protect and preserve our national heritage; but we do know that we have good reason to be grateful for their foresight and their persistence.

For all of these reasons I am honoured to have been invited to speak at today's 25th anniversary luncheon.

I have not been able to discover why they chose the 9th of May for their inaugural meeting, but they certainly chose a date which has had some significance in Australia's history. The 9th of May 1901 saw the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament in Melbourne by the Duke of Cornwall and York, later King George V. The 9th of May 1927 saw the opening of the temporary Parliament House in Canberra by the Duke of York, later King George VI. The 9th of May 1988 saw the opening of the permanent Parliament House in Canberra by Queen Elizabeth II. So when I was invited to choose my own topic for today I could not overlook this coincidence of dates in the life of the Trust and in the life of the Parliament and the nation.

I was also aware of the pressure which the Trust had brought to bear on the Government to have the Old Parliament House restored and opened to the public. Those who were active in this have good reason to feel pleased, now that a start has been made on the creation there of a museum of parliamentary history. I myself worked in the old House for five years, many years ago, and I recently joined the team of volunteer guides, though I have to confess that I have not yet taken my place on the roster.

Finally, I have not been unaware of the moves to change this country's system of government and

rewrite its Constitution, and some of you may even know that I do not favour such changes.

So for all of these reasons I thought I would take as my topic for today that which I have called "Our Other National Trust". Just as we have worked in the past, and continue to work, to preserve and protect our physical and material heritage, so do I believe that we have a duty to preserve and protect our social and political heritage, and by that I specifically mean our Constitution and our parliamentary system of government. Just as we have worried about the degradation of the natural environment by abusing it and ill-treating it, so too should we be worried about the degradation of our political environment.

Never before have we had so many Royal Commissions and other inquiries into our processes of government and public administration; never before have we had so many public office-holders and other public figures who have been in prison or who face that prospect; never before have the electors registered their dissatisfaction with the political process by returning so many independent and minor party candidates to Parliament; never before has Australia had so many of its citizens who are hurting because of what has been done to them by their Governments.

Now our Constitution is under attack: it began with the republican movement, but almost daily we read and hear of new proposals to change some other provision, so that our entire constitutional fabric is being slowly unravelled before our eyes. Suddenly, we don't even have a national identity, and the search for one is on.

We are fond of describing ourselves as a young nation, as if that gives us an excuse for our inexperience and our mistakes. But the fact is we are the sixth oldest continuous democracy in the world, though our experience of parliamentary government is scarcely 150 years old. Only Britain, the United States, Canada, Switzerland and Sweden are able to look back on longer periods of democratic rule, uninterrupted by dictatorship of the left or right, or by foreign conquest and occupation. It is interesting to note that four of the world's six oldest continuous democracies are of British origin and four are monarchies.

To our inherited British system of responsible parliamentary government, at the time of federation we added much that we copied from the United States, yet, sadly, on thing we have not copied is their respect and affection for their important national symbols and institutions—the flag, the national anthem, the Constitution, the office Head of State, the very history of the nation itself. I suppose that, in our case, our



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national indifference to our national symbols and institutions stems from the fact that, so far at least, we have not had to fight for them. Not for us the equivalent of a French Revolution or an American Revolution or a War of Independence. For us, our nationhood came slowly and gradually, so that we cannot put a precise date to it. Our independence was granted peacefully and willingly, and there are some of us who are still unaware that we actually have it.

When the Hawke Government set up the Constitutional Commission in 1985, one of the Commission's terms of reference required it to report on the revision of our Constitution to "adequately reflect Australia's status as an independent nation". In its final report, presented in 1988—our Bicentenary year—the Commission traced the historical development of our constitutional and legislative independence, and concluded, "It is clear from these events, and recognition by the world community, that at some time between 1926 and the end of World War II Australia had achieved full independence as a sovereign state of the world. The British Government ceased to have any responsibility in relation to matters coming within the area of responsibility of the Federal Government and Parliament". In other words, the Commission found that "The development of Australian nationhood did not require any change to the Australian Constitution".

This, of course, must have been profoundly disappointing to those who still want us to sever our non-existent legal ties to Britain, and who still hanker for some dramatic and cathartic experience. What they profess to seek is our so-called constitutional independence, despite all the evidence that we have it, and have had it in full measure for almost 50 years, and in substantial degrees for much longer. What they really want is some over anti-British gesture—one that is perhaps more anti-British than pro-Australian—against a nation which has not done one single thing to frustrate or delay any Australian moves along the way to total independence.

Some of you will remember the celebrated Placido Domingo speech which then Treasurer Paul Keating made at the Canberra Press Gallery's 1990 dinner and in which he gave notice of challenging Bob Hawke for the Prime Ministership. In that speech Paul Keating claimed that the United States had had three great leaders while Australia had never had one. I shall resist the temptation to take issue with him on whether Australia has had none and the United States only three: what I do want to comment on today is the significance of the three he nominated, and here I am indebted to Frank Devine and to an article of his in *The Australian* earlier this year.

The three great American leaders whom Paul Keating nominated were George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt. They were, respectively, products of revolution, civil war, and world war, and each of them came to power because of disastrous failures of leadership on the part of others. Each of them presided over a period of great pain and suffering for their people and the spilling of much American blood—in the cases of the revolution and the civil war, on American soil. If leadership greatness can be found only in the management of catastrophes and in the loss of young lives in war, then we are better off without it. My own view is that we have every reason to be grateful that our path to independent nationhood was, as I have said, slow, gradual and, above all, peaceful.

That path to independent nationhood began when the six Australian colonies, together with New Zealand for a time, held a series of conferences and conventions through the 1880s and 1890s that led ultimately to the formation of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Constitutional Conventions in 1891 and 1897-98 seemed to assume from the outset, and the colonial parliaments and the community generally came to agree, that we would have a federal system of government, with a specified distribution of powers between the central government and the State governments, rather than a unitary system of government with all constitutional power at the centre.

The founding fathers had the examples of two federations to guide them: the United States, where the Constitution specified the powers of the central government and gave the rest to the States; and Canada, where the Constitution specified the powers of the Provinces and gave the rest to the central government. They opted for the United States' model. They also borrowed from the United States the legislative structure of a House of Representatives based on equal-sized electorates, and a Senate with an equal number of senators from each State, regardless of size. But they retained what was for them the very familiar British system of responsible government, in which the Executive is not separate from the Legislative but is part of it and directly responsible to it. And so it was that on 1 January 1901 the Commonwealth of Australia became the world's fifth federation, joining the United States, Switzerland, Germany and Canada.

Against such a background of stability and continuity, any case for a fundamental change in our system of government from a constitutional monarchy to a republic would need to be very soundly based. Constitutions, at least in parliamentary democracies, are meant to be enduring documents, not easily



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rendered out of date and not easily changed. A bit like heritage buildings. Constitutions are meant to provide the basic structure of government. They are also meant to leave much to be regulated by other laws and by conventions, themselves capable of change without having to touch the basic constitutional document at all. Again, a bit like heritage buildings, where you update the plumbing and the wiring but leave the essential fabric of the building unchanged.

Indeed, the office of Governor-General itself provides a classic example of what I am trying to say. From being, at the outset in 1901, a British civil servant, with duties and responsibilities to the British Government, in 1926 the Governor-General became the actual Head of State of Australia, with duties and responsibilities to the Australian people. Yet such a dramatic change came about without one word of the Constitution relating to the Governor-General being altered. All that changed were the practices and conventions followed by the Australian and British Governments in relation to the appointment and the duties of the Governor-General. As the late Sir Paul Hasluck wrote in 1983, more than nine years after leaving Government House, "I am inclined to place more emphasis on wisdom and restraint in the practice of politics, and on the observance of the conventions of political behaviour, than on the text of the Constitution."

I said earlier that written Constitutions, at least in parliamentary democracies, were meant to be enduring documents, not easily changed. Those who would change our system of government are also foremost among those who decry the difficulty in amending our Constitution. For them, the fact that only eight of the 42 referendum proposals for constitutional amendment have been accepted by the Australian electorate is evidence that the Constitution is outmoded. They deride it as a "horse and buggy" document in urgent need of drastic revision and amendment. The Whitlam and Fraser Governments set up a series of Constitutional Conventions of politicians, State and federal; the Hawke Government established the Constitutional Commission; and the Keating Government launched the Constitutional Centenary Foundation. Now we have a Republic Advisory Committee, and we have been told that there will have to be further parliamentary Constitutional Conventions. Proposals for change range from removing the Queen to abolishing the States; from giving the President the reserve powers of the Governor-General to abolishing those powers. We are so busy scrutinising and analysing and criticising our Constitution that we fail to appreciate its great virtues and its enduring qualities.

With our strange fascination for numbers ending in zeros, we are being told that our Constitution will reach its use-by date by its one-hundredth birthday, and that when the calendar clicks over to the next century we should scrap everything that has made this nation what it is and start again. The twentieth century, so the argument goes, has been a century of extraordinary change, and our Constitution must change as well. All this is said as if this century has been the only one to experience extraordinary change. The fact is that every century can be said to have been one of extraordinary change. We put our constitutional arrangements in a weird and wonderful context when we look at society's ever-growing list of technological and scientific achievements and then lament the fact that the formal structure of our federal system of government has remained substantially unchanged since our Constitution was adopted by the people of Australia at the beginning of federation, 92 short years ago.

Our American friends, from whom we borrowed so much of our constitutional structure, have no such hang-ups. Their Constitution is 216 years old, yet they have made only twenty-six amendments to it. The first ten, which comprise the Bill of Rights, were proposed just two years after the Constitution itself was signed and were essentially a deferred part of the original Constitution. Two other amendments were special cases of specific social programmes, (Prohibition and Abolition), and in effect cancelled each other out. That leaves a total of fourteen true amendments in 216 years: five in the first 124 years and only nine in the last 92 years. Ours has already been amended eight times, so we really cannot be said to be lagging behind in our willingness to amend.

America was able to achieve its super-power status without one constitutional amendment giving more power to the central government. It was also able to celebrate the two-hundredth birthday of its Constitution in 1987 and resist the temptation to try and make it relevant again. As we approach the one-hundredth birthday of ours, we would do better to reject the notion that it needs to be radically changed or replaced, and instead become more familiar with it as it is, and start to give it the respect which the Americans give to theirs, and which ours deserves from us.

We need to start protecting our social and political environments as strenuously as we have learned to protect our physical environments. We need to look after our "other" national trust—our system of government.



## NATIONAL TRUST MARKET SURVEY

The National Trusts throughout Australia commissioned the Roy Morgan Research Centre Pty Ltd to conduct a market survey earlier this year. The survey aimed to ascertain:

- ❖ awareness of the National Trust, compared with other organisations, as an organisation which looks after Australia's heritage.
- ❖ how important respondents felt it was to look after Australia's heritage.
- ❖ awareness of the National Trust's role and activities.
- ❖ whether respondents considered the National Trust's role was important and how well it was fulfilling its role.
- ❖ the level of understanding that the National Trust is wholly self-run and self-funded and has no power to enact or enforce legislation to do with conservation.
- ❖ what were the attractions of National Trust membership.
- ❖ knowing the cost of membership, whether respondents would consider joining the National Trust and, if not, why.

Questions addressing the survey objectives were asked of a national sample of 1,734 men and women aged 14 years and over, in face-to-face interviews over the weekends of 16-17 and 23-24 January 1993, distributed geographically as follows:

Queensland .....	192
New South Wales .....	391
Australian Capital Territory .....	79
Victoria .....	600
Tasmania .....	80
South Australia (inc. Northern Territory) ...	290
Western Australia .....	112
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>1734</b>

The results showed:

- ❖ Unaided awareness of the National Trust was the highest (36%) of the organisations looking after Australia's heritage.
- ❖ Aided awareness of the National Trust was very high (83%).
- ❖ Nearly all respondents (94%) thought it was important to look after Australia's heritage, mainly to 'preserve our history/heritage' and 'for future generations'.
- ❖ The National Trust was most popularly associated with 'old/historic buildings', 'looking after Australia's heritage' and 'preservation orders'.
- ❖ Nearly half of all respondents considered the National Trust to be a 'responsible organisation', 'government funded' and 'having a good public image'.
- ❖ Almost all respondents considered the role of the National Trust to be important, again because 'it is important to preserve heritage' and 'need to preserve past'.

- ❖ Three quarters of all respondents thought the National Trust was fulfilling its role.
- ❖ Most respondents believed the National Trust was funded by either the State or Federal government and half believed it was owned by government. One fifth of all respondents thought the National Trust was self funded and one fifth thought it was self owned or run.
- ❖ One fifth of respondents thought the National Trust had the power to pass legislation with regard to conservation and heritage and one in five respondents said the National Trust could only act in an advisory capacity to government.
- ❖ Only 2% of respondents were current members of the National Trust but a further 38% would consider joining.
- ❖ The main attractions of membership of the National Trust were free entry to properties and supporting heritage conservation.

Overall, awareness of the National Trust, its role, its powers and its functions was highest among respondents who were tertiary educated, working in white collar/professional occupations, and quite often, married with children—in short, the 'Socially Aware' and 'Visible Achievement' values segments. Prospective members were also most likely to be in the young, socially aware groups of people.

### COMMENT

Some of these findings are comforting, for example it is nice to know that a high proportion (36% unaided, 83% aided) of the Australian population are aware of the Trust and have some understanding of its role and activities. It is also very cheering to know that a lot of people consider us to be a responsible organisation, with a good public image and feel that we fulfil our role.

On the other hand, there are no grounds for complacency—only 2% of the respondents were members of the Trust but a further 38% would consider joining; one fifth of the respondents thought we have the power to pass legislation and issue preservation orders (wouldn't it be lovely if we did!); and a lot of people seemed to think that we are principally concerned with old buildings (in other words, they were not aware that the Trust is concerned with both natural and cultural heritage).

It is also sobering to find out that a very large proportion of the population appears to believe that we are Government owned or funded.

We obviously have to do a bit of P.R., both as an organisation and with individual members spreading the word, to recruit more of those prospective members and to correct some public misapprehensions.



## TRUST OFFICE SERVICES

### PHOTOCOPYING

The Trust owns an all singing all dancing photocopier.

This machine allows users to save both trees and money with its ability to photocopy both sides of the paper (for example, one double sided A4 sheet costs 20 cents whereas two single sided A4 sheets costs 30 cents). We can copy from books, erase edges and much, much more. Moreover this miracle machine prints on recycled paper.

Members and non-members are welcome to use us as a photocopy service. Charges, which incidentally are some of the cheapest in town, are;

#### Single sided A4

	Up to 10 sheets	Above 10 sheets
Members	15 cents	10cents
Non-Members	20 cents	15 cents

#### Double sided A4

	Up to 10 sheets	Above 10 sheets
Members	20 cents	15 cents
Non-Members	25 cents	20 cents

#### Single sided A3

	Up to 10 sheets	Above 10 sheets
Members	20 cents	15 cents
Non-Members	25 cents	20 cents

#### Double sided A3

	Up to 10 sheets	Above 10 sheets
Members	25 cents	20 cents
Non-Members	30 cents	25 cents

### FAX

The National Trust (ACT) has a FAX machine. The number is (06) 285 3327. Members may use the machine and support the National Trust at the same time.

We charge:

- Incoming correspondence  
20 cents per page.
- Outgoing correspondence—\$2.00  
plus 20 cents per page.

Overseas charges are based on the overseas STD rates.

All pages must be numbered and the machine must be operated by National Trust staff.

## TRUST MEMBERSHIP FEES

Current Subscription Rates (Financial year):

Household .....	\$45.00
Single .....	\$30.00
Seniors Card Holders:	
Single .....	\$25.00
Household .....	\$35.00
Pensioner, Students .....	\$15.00
Affiliated Organisations .....	\$45.00
Corporate .....	\$150.00
Life .....	\$360.00
Dual Life .....	\$540.00
Benefactor .....	\$1 000.00
These new fees will apply from 1 July 1993.	

### TRUST NEWS ADVERTISING

Enquiries should be directed to the National Trust Office on (06) 281 0711.

Trust News is published quarterly (February, May, August, November), plus an extra edition for Heritage Week. Trust News is posted to our 1200 members in the ACT and surrounding districts.

The closing date for copy is Friday of the first week of the month of publication.

Advertising rates:

Full page (A4)	\$60.00
Half page (A5)	\$30.00
Quarter page or less	\$15.00

Advertisements should be laser print quality or in bromide, ready to print format. We can draw up simple advertisements for you (at \$20/hour) or can arrange a professionally designed advertisement (at 40.00/hour). If you provide the material, we will incorporate A4 or smaller inserts in Trust News for \$50.00 per edition. The National Trust of Australia (ACT) reserves the right to decline any advertisement.

### SKILLED WORKER AVAILABLE

Trust members will remember Susan Fry who has been working at the Trust office under the Job Skills program for the last 6 months. Susan finished with us on Friday 6 August and is now looking for a permanent job.

Susan has excellent keyboard skills, is very hard working, trust worthy, especially neat and tidy and would be an asset to any office which needs a conscientious and reliable worker.

She has been well trained by the Trust office, so if you know of any work available please ring us on 2810711 and we will pass the information on to Susan.

