



TRUST NEWS

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)

6 Geils Court
Deakin ACT 2600

FEBRUARY 1993

MEETINGS IN THE TRUST BOARDROOM

Thursday 4 March 1993
Council Meeting at 5:30 pm.

Tuesday 9 March 1993
Classification Committee
Meeting at 12:30 pm.

Wednesday 31 March 1993
Education and Cultural
Committee Meeting at 5:30 pm

Thursday 1 April 1993
Executive Meeting at 5:30 pm.

Tuesday 13 April 1993
Classification Committee
Meeting at 12:30 pm.

Thursday 6 May 1993
Council Meeting at 5:30 pm.

Tuesday 11 May 1993
Classification Committee
Meeting at 12:30 pm

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It was a lovely day, a delightful ceremony and the bride was absolutely gorgeous when our Jo-Anne (Jo-Anne Etheredge, the Trust's wonderful Office Manager) became Mrs Justin Devenish at the Holy Family Church, Gowrie on Saturday 9th January. Justin and Jo-Anne have been honeymooning in Tasmania, then fixing up their home in Kambah, for a total of six weeks—which explains why the Trust Office has not been as perfectly organised of late. I am sure that every member of the Trust wishes Justin and Jo-Anne a long and happy marriage and a successful life together.

Jo-Anne and Justin would like to give a special "thankyou" to John Gale for allowing the wedding photographs, including the one above, to be taken in the gardens at Huntly.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP FEES 1993/94

For the past four years, in the face of rising costs and declining revenue, the Trust has maintained the same level of annual membership subscriptions. Unfortunately this couldn't continue. With considerable regret the Council has now been forced to review the fees and increase them. At the same time a separate fee for seniors card holders is being introduced.

The new scale of fees is :

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.	

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 & Mrs J E & J Aamodt, Murrumbateman
Mrs J L Klov Dahl, Curtin
Mr & Mrs P & J Laut, Waramanga
Mrs R Barber, Surrey, UK
Mrs L Barwick, Monash
Mrs G Le Comte, Queanbeyan
Mr & Mrs D W Lett, Richardson
Miss Rhonda Arnall, Florey
Mr I Meikle, Fyshwick
Mr & Mrs I & P Shepherd, Holder
Mr & Mrs J & A M Meszes, O'Malley
Ms C L Stock, MacKellar
Mr J Michel, Kambah
Mr J C Tatchell, Hughes
Mr & Mrs G & I Yuille, Ainslie
Ms K Morgan, Holder
Mr T Nicholls, Deakin
Miss F A Nicholls, Deakin
Miss S Norris, Duffy

Miss P Notaras, Cook
Ms J Perrin, Bonython
Brother W Pucetti MSc, Adamstown Heights
Mrs E Quinn, Kambah
Mr G J Shaw, Capalaba
Ms E Andersen & Mr D Russell, Aranda
Miss Rhonda Arnall, Florey
Mr & Mrs P & J Batho, Farrer
Miss L Brookes & Miss P Page, Bowning
Mr & Mrs R K & M J Cameron, Farrer
Miss S Chapple, Curtin
Miss M K Cope, Farrer
Prof. & Mrs H S Hodges, Deakin
Miss C Hurford, Deakin
Mr & Mrs F & R Cornish, Bristol, UK
Ms A Corrigan, Forrest
Mrs S Cowley, Wanniasa
Mr & Mrs J & A Foster, Kambah
Miss F Gregory, Deakin
Mr & Mrs G & S Gurr, Giralang
Mrs S E Hanley, Turner
Ms D Hicks, Isaacs
Mr & Mrs R & P Kelly, Hughes

GIFT SHOP

Thankyou to members for supporting the Gift Shop during the Christmas-presents purchasing time. We are sorry if you were unable to make purchases when the Manuka shop was closed. As you are aware, our shops are attended by volunteers who are sometimes unable to attend.

New season's stock is slowly starting to arrive. The popular bright pillowslips and herbed porcelain mugs are now available. Summer T-shirts at an affordable price are still in stock and a small range of new windcheaters are available (yes, winter is coming!). Books are always in demand and our range is quite interesting.

New volunteers are always welcome so please contact the Trust office if you would like to help.

Thankyou to Miss Betty Garvin and the volunteers who assisted at the Charities Christmas Card shop. This effort is always appreciated by the Gift Shop Committee.

The Gift shop ladies are missing the full involvement of Mrs Jean Pound at Lanyon. Her dedication (dating back years) to the National Trust is very much appreciated.

Jean, we look forward to continued contact and news of you through the roster. You are very much in our thoughts.



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GRANTS RECEIVED

GRANT-IN-AID

It is very pleasing to be able to announce that we received the Commonwealth Government's grant-in-aid just before Christmas.

The Minister for Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories, the Hon. Ros Kelly MP, approved a grant-in-aid of \$65 000 to each State and Territory National Trust.

Members will realise that this grant is of major importance to the Trust. Without it the ACT Trust could not continue to function, unless we were to put membership fees up to an astronomical level! The Trust is therefore extremely grateful that this assistance continues.

NATIONAL ESTATE GRANTS PROGRAM

The Trust was successful in three of its applications for grants under the National estate Grants Program.

The first of these, \$14 000, provides for the continuation of our Classification Officer position (Mrs Danielle Hyndes) for another year. This is a very important grant since Danielle's work provides the basis for much of the recommendations from the Classification Committee to the Council and, eventually, the Trust's recommendations to the Australian Heritage Commission and the ACT Heritage Council of items

for inclusion on the Register of the National Estate and the ACT Heritage Register.

The second grant, \$7,000, is to fund a study of NASA Stations in the ACT. Members will recall that these have been the subject of quite an amount of media attention in recent years, especially the Orroral valley and Honeysuckle Creek sites. The Trust believes that the NASA sites in the Territory are of considerable national significance, as part of Australia's involvement in the exploration of space, and they need to be thoroughly documented before too much evidence disappears.

We also received a grant of \$6,571 to fund a project to locate as many as possible of the surviving brumby trap yards in Namadgi National Park. Mr Matthew Higgins is going to undertake the work. Matthew will be using oral history as a major source for the project. Members will recall that Matthew carried out a previous oral history project for the Trust, conducting and recording a series of interviews with Professor Lindsay Pryor (the transcript and tapes of that project are available from the Trust office) about the landscaping of Canberra. Matthew also carried out an extensive oral history of Namadgi in conjunction

ANNIVERSARY "DINNER"

— KEEP THIS DATE FREE

Every year, on 9 May, we hold a function to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the A.C.T. Women's Committee of the N.S.W. Trust, the committee which eventually evolved into the independent National Trust of Australia (A.C.T.). The Education and Cultural Committee has traditionally had the responsibility for organising the event.

This year 9 May falls on a Sunday and the Committee decided that this was an opportunity to have the function at lunch time, rather than the usual evening dinner. The venue is to be the Lobby Restaurant (in King George Terrace, diagonally across from Old Parliament House), 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm on, of course, Sunday 9 May. The price is to be decided but will include food and wine.

Seating will be limited to 80. Booking and prices will be announced in the special Heritage Week Bulletin.

The guest speaker for the occasion will be Sir David Smith, long time member of the Trust and former Secretary to several Governors-General.

You might like to take the opportunity, either before or after lunch, to tour Old Parliament House which is developing into a major tourist attraction. Members will be aware that the Trust has pressed the Government for the past five years to have Old Parliament House restored and opened to the public and quite a number of our members are now working there as volunteer guides.

CALL FOR TAX INCENTIVES TO HELP HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND EMPLOYMENT

The State and Territory National Trusts have joined with the Australia Council of National Trusts (ACNT) to call on the Commonwealth Government to implement an employment strategy to conserve Australia's historic buildings, create many jobs and support tourism.

Under the strategy building owners would receive tax incentives to undertake approved conservation works which would create jobs in the construction industry.

The Trusts pointed out that capital cities and rural towns contain thousands of historic buildings which play a direct economic role, contribute significantly to domestic and foreign tourism, and are an important part of our cultural heritage. But these buildings are costly to maintain and each year many are lost through demolition and decay. Tax incentives would offset these costs and encourage conservation work.

The Commonwealth's one-off allocation of \$20 million for the conservation of historic buildings as part of the One Nation package was welcome but long term strategies including tax incentives are also needed. Governments including the Commonwealth have been willing to register historic buildings, impose obligations on owners and expect that historic buildings will be conserved. However, in return, few, if any incentives are provided.

In the past the Planning Ministers Council recommended a highly efficient tax incentives program where for every \$5 of private expenditure only \$1 of tax would be forgone. The Trusts proposed the tax incentives be limited to those places on National Trust registers (about 25 000 places). On this basis it has been estimated the tax outlay would be up to \$20 million per year, equal to the One Nation funding. This outlay would be substantially offset by other sources of revenue from the multiplier effect of jobs created.

The time is right for urgent action: 73 000 construction industry workers, or 12.4% of the industry workforce, are unemployed and the number of apprenticeships in the building industry in NSW and Victoria dropped by 16% in the last year. Unemployed construction workers could be put back to work to restore and repair historic buildings.

At the same time the very places being conserved would continue to contribute significantly to Australia's domestic and foreign tourist attractions. It is possible for all the parties to accrue benefit from a tax incentive scheme for conservation work carried out by owners.

Tax incentives for heritage conservation have been highly successful in the USA since 1976. In that time over 23 000 historic buildings have been conserved by encouraging private sector investment of over US \$15 billion.

Tax incentives for heritage conservation are the core of a broader campaign. The Trusts also see a greater general commitment from the Commonwealth to the conservation of the National Estate, especially the cultural heritage of Australia. In 1991-92 the Commonwealth allocated only \$ 5.23 million, or 0.7% of the relevant portfolio's budget, for cultural heritage conservation. The Australian Council of National Trusts (ACNT) has identified the following key issues which require urgent attention:

- ❖ financial incentives, including taxation incentives, for the owners of heritage properties;
- ❖ increased resources for the preservation and protection of Australia's cultural heritage, particularly the continued task of identification of this heritage;
- ❖ the development of uniform and appropriate state heritage legislation;
- ❖ reform of the National Estate Grants Program; and
- ❖ the conservation of Old Parliament House.

As a Trust member or supporter you may care to bring the matter to the attention of your local candidates in the run-up to the Federal election.



COOMA COTTAGE NEWS

And the news this month is great!

Cooma Cottage was host this month to a brilliant exhibition over the Christmas holiday period, "Quilts—Past, Present and Future", and this drew an estimated 2.5 thousand people through the cottage. Doubtless, many readers were witness to this fine exhibition. Many thanks must go to the Canberra Quilters Inc. display—a collection of twelve artworks from the ACT that literally stole the show.

We will attempt to keep things moving along at Cooma Cottage so that you can be assured that a return visit is worth your while. The first 'cab off the rank' will be an exhibition by Arthur Boyd, "Tomorrow's Ghosts", and this will start on March 6th through until Sunday 21st. Arthur Boyd of course has been in the news of late with his generous gift to the Nation. His twenty-million dollar property at Bundanoon on the Shoalhaven Bay River is soon to be converted to an Arts centre.

Following quickly on the heels of the Arthur Boyd exhibition will be "The Art of Kenneth Jack". Kenneth Jack was born in Melbourne in 1924 and saw war service in New Guinea and Borneo as a survey and cartographical draughtsman with the RAAF. Around 500 of his drawings and paintings are now housed in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Kenneth studied art at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and over the years has been recognised both internationally and in Australia for his services to art. In 1982 he was awarded an M.B.E. and in 1987

an A.M., and his work is represented in all capital city galleries, the National Collection in Canberra, the Victoria and Albert Museums, London and in the collection of H.M. the Queen Mother.

If the name seems familiar then some of you may have seen a profile of the artist on Channel Ten's "Healthy, Wealthy and Wise" program recently.

As this will be one of the major exhibitions of 1993 we intend to do justice with an official opening and wine tasting which we are glad to announce the artist will attend.

So get your diaries out and note—"The Art of Kenneth Jack" exhibition, Cooma Cottage, March 27–April 11, 1993.

For information regarding either of these exhibitions just call Kim at Cooma Cottage on 226 1470 and yes, both the exhibitions will have works for sale.

Please remember also that we now have lunch and tearooms at the cottage to make your visit truly worthwhile!

Just a short reminder before I go. Should any Canberra residents feel moved to help us with volunteer guiding at the cottage your contribution would be most welcome. We'd also welcome any 'yarns or tales' regarding the cottage. Your little story may just be the missing piece in a much larger jigsaw.

Yours sincerely

Kim Nelson (Manager)

HELP WANTED

We have had a few people withdraw from our various rosters in the last couple of months. If there are any members who would like to help occasionally on;

- ❖ Lanyon Gift shop roster
- ❖ Lanyon Guardian roster
- ❖ Manuka Gift Shop roster

PLEASE contact the Trust office and volunteer your services. None of the rosters are particularly onerous (usually we only call on people once, or perhaps twice, per month) and it can be a pleasant and useful way of spending a morning or afternoon. If it is really quiet, you can catch up on your reading, knitting, letter writing, or whatever in between visitors/customers.



LANYON HERITAGE FAIR

Members will be aware that we didn't have the usual Lanyon Fair last October/November—many people have phoned the office to ask why. Well, here's the answer.

After some discussion about declining attendance (and cash returns) at the Lanyon Fair, the Fund Raising Committee decided to move the Fair to Heritage Week. So this year, the Fair is to take place on Sunday 2 May—the last day of Heritage Week.

The Fair this year will be bigger, brighter and better than ever. It is being run in conjunction with the Museums and Galleries Unit of the ACT Government and will include a host of participatory activities as well as the usual stalls and displays run by the Trust.

There will be no entry charge to the Fair (although, of course, if you want to go into the Nolan Gallery or the House the usual charges will apply). Instead we will have volunteers at the gate soliciting donations to help the Trust defray our costs (last year our outgoings were around \$1800).

The Fair is one of the main fund raising activities of the Trust and takes a lot of effort to stage. We need help from the members; firstly by turning up, of course, and, secondly by:

- ❖ volunteering if you can, to help on one of the Trust stalls or with one of the activities;
- ❖ cleaning out your book shelves for the bookstall.
- ❖ cleaning out your collections of odds and unwanted items for the White Elephant stall;
- ❖ making cakes and jams etc for the cake stall;
- ❖ volunteering as a general helper on the day;
- and/or
- ❖ donating appropriate items for the Heritage Hamper raffle. We're not quite sure how to define the contents of a Heritage Hamper but if you happen to have a few spare jars of caviar, a jugged hare or two, some quails in aspic and a butt of Malmsey, that would be a start; otherwise anything edible will do.

Please note the date, in LARGE letters, in your diary and please ring the Trust office (281 0711) if you can help with any of the above. Books, White Elephants (or even valuable antiques) and raffle donations can be left at the Trust office any time between now and the Fair.

ANTIQUE FAIR

Yes, it's that time again. The best Antique Fair of the year is on again, during Canberra Festival week, from Friday 12 March through to Monday 15 March. As usual, we will have a selection of the best antique furniture, porcelains, silver, glassware, jewellery, prints, clocks, carpets, etc., displayed by some of the leading dealers in Australia, at the Albert Hall, from 11.00 am through to 6.00 pm each day.

His Excellency Mr L Michael Berry, High Commissioner for Canada has agreed to officially open the Fair on the evening of 11 March, at 7:30pm. The opening function will be a Black Tie event. The charge for entry will be \$15.

This is the Trust's major fund raising event of the year, so we hope that many of our members and thousands of the general public will attend.

We need volunteers to help with:

- ❖ Catering (providing some of the food and/or working in the canteen)
- ❖ working at the Gift Shop display
- ❖ selling raffle tickets
- ❖ the official opening (serving drinks and food etc.).


PLEASE give us an hour or two of your time during those four days. Contact the Trust Office (ph. 281 0711) and tell us what you'd like to do and when. As rosters have to be drawn up, please contact us as soon as possible.

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A.C.T. ALIVE

A.C.T. Alive is run by the Canberra Festival and is an opportunity for clubs and societies in the Canberra Region to promote their Activities. The trust has participated each year with a display organised by the Education and Cultural Committee.

The 1993 A.C.T. Alive, sponsored by Grace Bros., will be held on Monday 15 March (the Canberra Day

Holiday) on the lawns near Old Parliament House, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. Combine a visit to the Trust's Antique Fair (Albert Hall, Friday 12 March to Monday 15 March) with a visit to A.C.T. Alive and chat to our hardy band of volunteers—or, better still, volunteer an hour or so of your time to help on our stall. (Contact the Office on 281 0711 to volunteer).

CLASSIFICATION NOTES.

The classification of the Parliamentary Zone has recently been revised by the Classification Committee to include the landscape elements of the Zone. The statement of significance for the Zone now reads:

The Parliamentary Zone possesses aesthetic, historic and social significance. It has been the central feature of the plan of Canberra since Walter Burley Griffin's original concept for the National Capital. Griffin's basic framework of a triangle, land axis and artificial lake can be clearly identified today. The zone defined in that area of the Triangle on the south side of the Lake is the site of a number of national institutions and facilities, including the National Parliament. The area is redolent with the history of parliamentary, legislative and judicial development of the nation since the decision to create a new Capital City following Federation. Many important political and social events have occurred in the Zone, framed between the formal ceremony on 12 March 1913 when the foundation stones of Canberra's Commencement Column were laid and the Governor General's wife announced the name of Australia's new city, and when H.M. Queen Elizabeth II opened the new Parliament House on 9 May, 1988.

Although the current plan, content and constructed form of the Zone differs in a number of important ways from that proposed by Griffin, it is nevertheless formal and powerful in its impact; displays a high standard of design and quality of fabric in many individual components; symbolises the functions of

constitutional authority which its name implies; and reflects Canberra's growing stature as the National Capital. Planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers and many others with national and international reputations have contributed to its progressive development.

The landscape planting is significant by virtue of old plantings of a range of deciduous and evergreen species established in association with construction of major buildings e.g. Old Parliament House, East Block, West Block and avenues.

Specific gardens within the Zone (e.g. Senate, House of Representatives, Rose, Sculpture and 'Peace') are important examples of garden design and species preferences of their time.

Some trees have special significance because they were planted to commemorate specific historic events e.g. Bunya pine, King's Avenue, Roman cypresses, Lombardy poplars.

The Zone constitutes a depository for National Collections: Artworks (ANG), printed material and historic memorabilia (NLA), Parliamentary records (PPH), "the Law of the Land"; constitutional and judicial manuscripts (HCA). Collectively these record Australia's aspirations, capabilities and achievements.

The full nomination including description and history is available at the Trust office,

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NAMADGI HAS A 'NEW' HOMESTEAD

Just when we thought we knew all the buildings in Namadgi National Park, some more have been acquired. Last year Namadgi's boundaries were extended in two areas, near Mount Tennent and in the northern Brindabellas. The Mount Tennent extension, we have now discovered, includes (only just!) a farmhouse complex of several buildings. Two years ago a party of walkers led by Phil Gatenby visited the homestead; in July this year one of that party, Di Thompson, returned to the site with husband Gary, Beverley Hammond and Babette Scougall, and this trip aroused awareness of the possibility of the place now being inside the Park. That the buildings are in Namadgi has now been verified.

The group of structures is of quite some interest, particularly because it includes a pise building, the only such building within Namadgi. There is also a shearing shed within the group of five or so structures, thus doubling the Park's number of woolsheds, and there is a dip at the shed too (as at Orroral shed, although this one is metal and not concrete as are the Orroral and other Namadgi dips).

So far, the following historical information on the site has been collected, although there is still much more to discover and the data that we do have may need some correction in time.

At the turn of the century the property was held by brothers Jack and Bob Dunne and their sister Annie (all unmarried). Just when they acquired the place is not yet known, nor do we yet know when their pise building, the adjoining slab (now minus its slabs) building and the shearing shed were built. It is possible that they were built for the Dunes sometime late last century, but we don't yet know for sure (they may have been built for an earlier owner).

Who built these buildings? It is known that last century two South Americans, Messrs Rodriguez and Ponsi, played an important role in developing pise building techniques in the area. Then in the 1870s George Hatcliffe and George Green arrived and they quite probably learned about pise building from these two men; Hatcliffe and Green built pise buildings in the Tidbinbilla area. So here are four possible builders of the pise structure in question. But we can't yet be sure.

Dunes held the property until sometime during the 1910-20 period (during which it became leasehold).

After their departure the property was unoccupied until 1931 when Bob Thomson and his wife Catherine (nee McIntyre) acquired it. Bob (born in Australia of Scottish parents about 1870) and Catherine had previously lived near Queanbeyan, at Naas and at Riverview and had a very large family, though by the time they moved into the Dunne place only one son, Doug, was still living at home. The pise section only had two rooms, so another of the sons, Arnie, built an extension onto it.

Over time the buildings deteriorated. The slabs started falling out of the walls of the slab part of the homestead in the 1940s (today three of this building's four walls are entirely open; the fourth is clad with fibro). Catherine died, and a few years later, in about 1953, Bob died. Doug continued to live on the property alone.

Owing to the advancing deterioration of the homestead, Doug needed better quarters, so during the 1950s a pine-clad cottage from suburban O'Connor was bought and with the aid of brother-in-law Ted Tong and brother Bill Thomson the building was trucked (in one piece) to the property and placed on foundations. A verandah was then added. Doug lived in this cottage until his death in 1964 or 1966; his death marked the end of full-time occupation of the homestead.

At the end of the 1960s Doug's sister Barbara Tong bought the lease and from then until the lease was acquired by the government in about 1984 the property was worked by Barbara's sons Laurie and Bill, who only stayed in the house periodically during stockwork. The orchard at the site was planted by Barbara and husband Ted Tong, while the fibro garage was erected by Ted and son Bill. Vandalism of the buildings (usually by children) was a problem for the Tongs during later years.

Bob Thomson originally sheared his sheep with blades, and it was only in the late 1940s that Doug invested in a Lister diesel two-stand shearing plant. The shearing shed was quite small and in the 1970s it was expanded to about three times its original size (the original size of the shed can still be determined at the site). The Tongs did their shearing with electrically powered equipment.

It was during the 1970s too that the dip was constructed. Previously hand-spraying of the sheep had been sufficient, but then lice-infested sheep

came into a neighbouring property and the only way that the Tongs could overcome the infection was to fully immerse their sheep in a dip (dipping has for some time been virtually obsolete in rural Australia). Owing to the rock at the site, a trench sufficiently deep could not be dug so a metal dip, with its sides well up above ground level, was purpose built. (Now the dip has rusted out and has subsided back into the trench.)

As for the name of the complex, we know that in correspondence Doug Thomson referred to his home as 'Tennent'.

Today, standing at the foot of Mount Tennent, and surrounded by fine, old kurrajong trees, the homestead is in a state of advanced decay. The roof of the pise section (originally shingled, as is evident from the battens, but later clad with corrugated iron) is partly gone, and the wind sails through the former slab-walled section. The shearing shed is looking a little

tired too (there are white ants), though the pine cottage isn't too bad. A lot of work is needed if the more significant parts of Thomson's Homestead are going to be conserved.

(Information provided by Laurie Tong, Barbara Tong, Una West, Hugh Read and Bert Sheedy is much appreciated.)

Matthew Higgins

Re-printed from the KHA Newsletter.

The National Trust, KHA and National Parks Association have jointly applied for grants from the ACT Heritage Program to stabilize the Tennant Homestead and develop a conservation plan. If we are successful we will be looking for volunteers to help with the work.



Sojourn to Orpheus Island

Picture yourself flying over the Great Barrier Reef watching the occasional sailing vessel wend its way through the peaceful waters of the coral sea, before landing at your paradise hideaway of Orpheus Island. Step ashore and your time is yours to consume in the privacy of your bungalow/villa or nestle in the warmth of your private beach and feast on a picnic prepared to delight.

Dine on the delicacies of land and sea tantalised by international sauces, herbs and spices. Sip on your favourite cocktail, tropical punch or enjoy the bubbles of champagne as you watch yet another sunset from the shores of paradise.

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CONTACT

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FORGOTTEN CANBERRA

This is the first of two articles by Ann Gugler about the early days of the construction of Canberra and the people who lived here (as against the political 'National Capital' history which usually is given more attention).

Forgotten by most are the men and women who came to the Federal Capital Territory to build the city of Canberra! The majority of the sites of their homes have long gone and are not remembered except in the memories of those remaining few who lived here in those early years.

With comparatively few exceptions, much of the population of Canberra in the early period, prior to the end of the First World War, lived in tents and humpies. There were some "permanent" buildings. The Administration Centre site, Acton, in addition to the tents of the Survey Camp and Labourers' Camp, boasted 9 wooden dwellings for the married Administrators (No. 6 was "the maternity house" until 1917 when it was taken over by Harry Mouat), and wooden barrack accommodation for the "bachelors". Also, dotted around the Federal Capital Territory were a number of dwellings built prior to the concept of a Federal Capital.

The main camps, from 1913, were for those involved with the building of the infrastructure of the National Capital—the Brickworks, the Powerhouse and the water supply, which necessitated the building of the

Cotter River Dam. The sewer system was also commenced prior to World War 1.

The camps were usually named according to their location or purpose. No.1 Sewer Camp was also called the "Outfall Camp"—the likely site would be near the lights near the R.S.P.C.A., Weston. Other Sewer Camps were No.2 near Westridge; No.3 at Westlake at the Gap; and No.4 opposite Parliament House (these latter three did not appear until the twenties). There were a number of other smaller camps such as the Stromlo Pipe Layers Camp and Red Hill Pipe Layers Camp.

One large camp, the Arsenal at Tuggeranong was commenced in 1918 and finally disbanded in 1921 following the decision not to go ahead with the Arsenal Town. The camp at Duntroon commenced circa 1911.

During the period of the First World War (1914-18) there was little progress in the building of Canberra. It was not until 1920 that the move to "get on with" the building regained impetus which culminated in the opening of the new Provisional Parliament House on 9th May, 1927. During this period of time, the number of workmen required more than doubled and, in turn, the demand for housing increased.

The dire need for housing, particularly for married couples, in post-war Canberra led to the alteration of the Molonglo Internment Camp (site of the present



day Molonglo Mall), into tenements and barracks for tradesmen. Numbers of the Molonglo buildings were moved to form groups of dwellings at other sites such as Eastlake (near Bowen Park), Civic Centre (probably near the old school site in Braddon opposite the service stations); the Brickworks (Yarralumla), Mugga Quarry and Arsenal (Tuggeranong).

The majority of single men still lived in tents and humpies until 1926/27 when a move was made to transfer them into 'cubicles'. One such cubicle remains as a shed at the back of Calthorpe's House.

Some early attempts were made to improve the conditions of the working class married men. In 1921/22 some brick cottages of the 'Lithgow' type were erected near the Power House (10), the Brickworks (6), and Civic Centre (behind Gorman House, Doonkuna Street was the centre of the development of 20 cottages). Several still stand today. One of the Brickworks cottages is at No. 33 Hutchins Street, Yarralumla. It was the home of Jeremiah Dillon—the famed foreman of the sewer workers. The house has changed little from its time of construction.

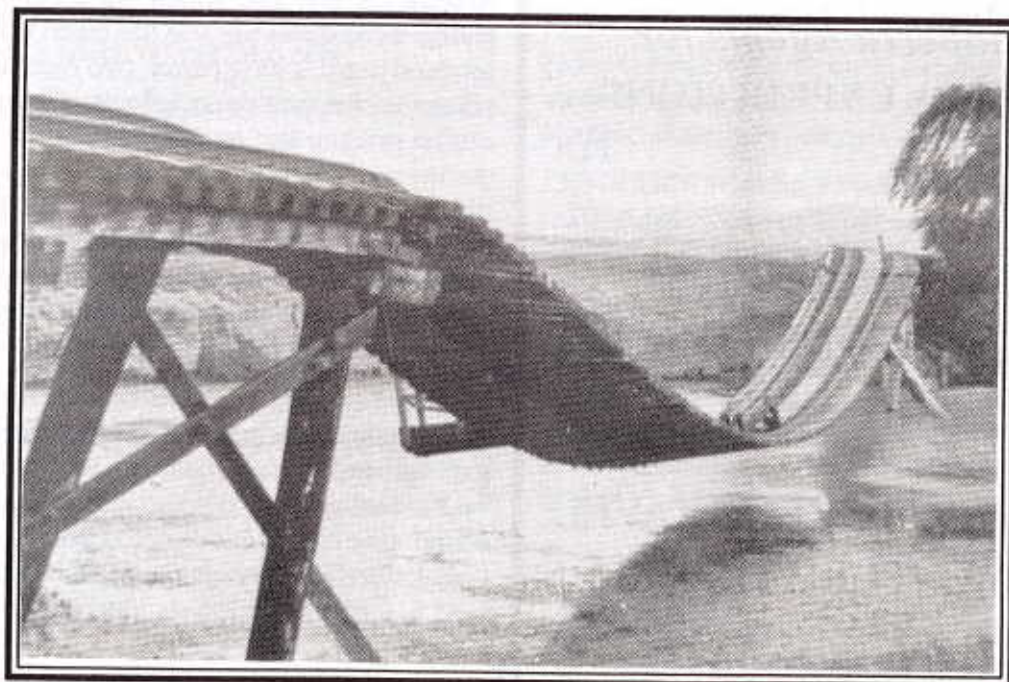
However, these few houses did little to alleviate the fundamental problem of housing. It was not until 1927 that a move was again made to build permanent houses for workmen. Weather-board houses were constructed at Yarralumla and Ainslie (around the Corroboree Park area). Canberra was a class-structured society and people

were put into suburbs according to class. Mugga Way, for example, was for well to do people and the upper echelons of the Public Service. Each suburb had a minimum covenant put on the cost of housing.

In 1923, Mr Rolland designed a simple wooden dwelling which could be moved and transferred to chosen sites. The first of these were built at the site known as Westlake. 52 had been erected by March 1924 and by 1926 the number totalled 61. These houses were designed to attract the better class of tradesmen to Canberra.

The Westlake houses were quickly followed by 15 at Acton and by October 1925 a number of the 120 houses at the Causeway were erected. (Also near the Causeway were two camps, the Eastlake Labourer's Camp and the Causeway Camp. The Eastlake Camp was demolished in 1928.) The Causeway as a suburb still, of course, remains but in the 1970's the original wooden houses were replaced with brick dwellings. Those areas which were subject to flooding were not used for the building.

It was near the Causeway that the old railway line crossed the river and then right angled to move across in front of the War Memorial site, behind St. John the Baptist Church and finally ended at the site of the old Steam Laundry at Civic. Following the flood of 1925 when the bridge was washed away, the line was never replaced.



Other mostly forgotten sites of dwellings are Riverbourne, 1926/27 (three miles from Queanbeyan) and Russell Hill. Riverbourne was a settlement of humpies but when the site became too small and was subject to flooding, the majority of people living then moved to Russell Hill. It was an unsewered site and was never connected to the electric supply. In late 1926 120 sites were made available for married men. By 1927 there was a school at Russell Hill (the old school house now in Corroboree Park). The famed Lasseter lived at Russell Hill in late 1926 and 1927 and was for a time President of the Social Service Association Branch at Russell Hill until an unfortunate incident in which he called one English born man, a "pommy". Russell Hill Settlement remained until the late 1950's.

I could go on to discuss in detail the various tent sites in the 1920's such as White City (near the School of Art and Music), Red Hill Camp, Capitol Hill Camp, Ainslie Camp, Northbourne Camp, Mugga Quarry Camp, Engineer's Mess and so on, but prefer to spend some time in these two articles writing about Westlake, because this was my home from 1941 until 1959. My personal experiences date, of course, from at time but my research into the workmen's camps, tenements and cottages dates from 1923-29 which gives me insight into the earlier age.

Ann Gugler's look at the early days of life in the embryo National Capital will continue in the next edition of Trust News.

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CATS: KILLERS OF OUR WILDLIFE

(Courtesy of S.A. National Trust News)

There is some evidence that cats were established in Australia by Dutch shipwrecks and Macassan fishing vessels well before European settlement, but there is no doubt that there has been a big increase in cat numbers in the past two hundred years. Today more than one in three Australian households has a cat. Almost every back garden seems to harbour one and who hasn't seen one slinking into roadside vegetation in the glare of car head lights on a remote country road? Cats have established themselves in tropical rainforest, in alpine areas and the arid inland; they now live in every national park in Australia.

However..... To take a not so hypothetical case—'Trish' is the love of the Simons family, who live on the fringe of Bairnsdale in eastern Victoria. Trish comes and goes when she wants through a swinging latch in the back door. The Simons love the bush creatures that venture into their garden, so they make sure that Trish is well fed and wears a bell. She does catch prey occasionally, but mostly mice, which the Simons of course don't mind at all. Trish is their second cat. She has been desexed but her predecessor, Snuggles, who went bush never to return, escaped surgery.

Sound normal? Trish is an average domestic cat, no question. Most of the mice she had been catching were actually a delicate marsupial called the Brown Antechinus. She also wiped out a family of sugar gliders three doors up. She has taken frogs, a blue-tongued lizard, a king parrot, two rosellas, a pair of yellow robins and three species of honeyeater. A ringtail possum that narrowly escaped her clutches died two nights later of an infection from the cat's bite. Two wombats were found dead in the space of three weeks along a nearby creek. It appeared that they were under stress because of loss of habitat and subsequently succumbed to an opportunistic infection called toxoplasmosis. Toxoplasmosis is carried by cats.

And who knows what happened to Snuggles, free in the bush and available to breed with the other feral cats? How many animals and birds will she and her offspring be eating? Cats breed at a phenomenal rate. Females are sexually mature at 10 months and can raise two litters of up to six kittens each per year.

On continental lands with a diverse mammal fauna cats feed mainly on rodents and rabbits; birds are a small component of their diet and reptiles are important prey only at low latitudes. However, cats which have been introduced onto islands are usually limited in their choice of mammalian prey to a few introduced species (mainly rabbits, rats and mice) and they feed to a greater extent on birds.

Feral cats living in Uluru National Park are descended from cats which followed the spread of rabbits across the continent. They still live on rabbits, which make up 70% of their diet, and use their burrows for shelter. The remainder of their diet is made up of insects, reptiles and birds. The populations of feral cats and rabbits have stabilised over the past few decades in central Australia. They occupy a significant niche at the expense of native animals in this harsh environment. Nowhere in the world is there an area of comparable size with such a high number of extinctions of small mammals.

But to find out the extent of the damage, feral and domestic cats must be looked at separately. According to a recent study by Dr David Paton from the University of Adelaide, the hypothetical case of Trish is typical. Dr Paton's team asked 700 cat owners to keep records of the prey their feline friends brought home. The cats were well fed and well cared for. The study found that, on average, a domestic cat killed 16 small native mammals, eight birds and eight reptiles a year. These figures include the approximately three out of ten cats which do not take prey.

Using Dr Paton's data for a city like Melbourne, the bird toll alone would be of the order of five million a year. The cat owners participating in the study recorded more than 100 different species of birds being taken by their pets. According to Dr Paton these figures are underestimates because studies in the US have found that cats only take home about half of their prey.

The study's revelation of the staggering impact of domestic cats on wildlife has lent new urgency to the need for pet control. Appropriate legislation is being considered in several states, including compulsory registration of cats, compulsory desexing and even cat curfews at night.

At an all-day seminar on cat control in Melbourne on 2 July 1992, Dr Paton stressed the need for responsible pet ownership. He said that domestic cats were currently a reservoir for feral populations and that the control of the feral cat problem began with the control of pets.

Although no definitive studies on the impact of feral cats on wildlife have yet been done, Dr Paton estimated that in Victoria alone, feral cats devour 70 million native animals a year.

John Van Tiggelot

Originally reprinted from "Wingspan", September 1992 Royal Australian Ornithologists Union

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST COINAGE

In September 1813 Governor Lachlan Macquarie created the first Australian coins to deal with the problems of the rum trade (rum was the common currency of the colony). He imported 40 000 Spanish dollars and had a piece stamped out of their centres. The outer ring, the colonial (or holey) dollar, was worth five shillings; the piece stamped out of the centre—the dump—was worth fifteen pence.

The coins remained in use until 1892, but only 278 are known to be still in existence and they are highly prized by collectors—so if you find one, your fortune is made!

Holey dollars are on display in a number of places but some of special interest are in the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

On 11 July 1816 Governor Macquarie laid the foundation stone of Australia's first lighthouse and placed a holey dollar and dump beneath the stone. The coins were retrieved when the lighthouse tower was demolished in 1883 and replaced by a newer and taller structure. The coins were held, successively, by the N.S.W. and Commonwealth agencies responsible for lighthouses. They were formally presented to the Museum last year by the Hon. Wendy Fatin MP, 179 years to the day since Governor Macquarie brought the coinage into circulation.

(Courtesy of the National Maritime Museum)

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

(Courtesy of Friends of the National Museum)

Some members will remember the E&C Committee's very interesting tour, last year, of the National Museum Repository at Mitchell. The following two articles relate to exhibits we saw on that tour.

MISSION LIFE IN PAPUA

The Fenn collection started as a poorly documented collection of grass skirts, bracelets, mats and baskets that emerged from a dark corner of the Repository during a clean-up. While the objects in the collection had little value as examples of Papuan culture, they were extremely important in illustrating the role of missionaries in Papua during the 1930s.

The Museum discovered that the donor, Mrs Ida Elizabeth Fenn had a great number of fascinating photographs and some films made by Reverend Fenn at the Arid Hill Mission Station, which she was also willing to donate.

Brenda Factor from the museum conducted an oral history interview with Mrs Fenn which produced valuable additional information on the life of women working on remote missions. Other members of the family have subsequently offered to donate the movie camera used in Papua to take the film, the projector used there and further photographic material.

Most importantly, Mrs Fenn was preparing a memoir of those early years in Papua and allowed the National Museum to see the manuscript.

In her memoir Mrs Fenn writes vividly of her first encounters with Papuan women, of the dangers of pregnancy and different ways of rearing children. She tells of how she and her husband dressed for dinner each night, he in long white trousers and she in a long evening dress.

Daily life on the mission station was, of course, far less formal. She writes of her encounters with snakes, one of which had swallowed her broody hen. After recovering the chicken from inside the python, the 'girls' ate the hen, the 'boys' ate the snake "and I washed the eggs, carefully strapped up a cracked one, and placed them under another hen. They all hatched healthy chicks!"

What began as an assorted collection of commonly available souvenirs of Papua New Guinea has now become a small but fascinating collection relating to Australian missionary activity in Papua and its links with Samoan and Tongan missionaries, in which the role of women is as central as that of the men. The collection is therefore a valuable contribution to the Museum's growing collection of material documenting women's history.

Brenda Factor

Assistant Curator, Australian Social History

CWA BANNERS HONOUR WOMEN

The Museum has recently acquired the Country Women's Association (CWA) of New South Wales' collection of 30 very colourful, hand-crafted banners. The collection is important to the Museum in that it is fine example of craft skills of Australian women.

The State executive of the CWA, in seeking to find a suitable Bicentennial project for the Association, decided that they would honour famous Australian women by making a number of banners depicting some aspect of their lives. When the names of the women to be represented were finally chosen, one was allocated to each of the New South Wales regional groups of the CWA.

The resulting banners, mostly around 1.2 by 1.8 metres in size, are extremely innovative, colourful and of mixed and diverse materials. Some of the media include paint on fabric, natural fleece, painted canvas, paper and photographs fixed on with metal clips, clear plastic, stitched tapestry, books, pebbles, lace, fabric ink, painted hessian, metal and metal thread—a conservator's worst nightmare to contemplate the various interactions of incompatible elements over time.

Special storage shelves were constructed before receiving the collection. Because of the bulky surface treatment of some and the composite construction of most, flat storage was essential and the shelves had to have variable spacing to accommodate each object.

The conservation strategy is to survey each object, record its condition and recommend necessary treatment. Each object is then immediately

stabilised by placing it onto a sheet of double wall cardboard which has been covered with polythene film. The banners are then covered with polythene and stored on the custom-built shelving until treatment can be programmed. The rigid support enables the banners to be accessed and moved with minimal risk of damage.

Most of the banners are in very good condition, particularly considering the strenuous travelling program which enabled the collection to be exhibited at all the CWA regional group venues throughout New South Wales.

Margaret Alexander
Senior conservator

WILLOWS IN THE AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE

Further to the Articles from the NPA Bulletin printed in the November Trust News, we thought we ought (in fairness) to reprint the following Letter to the Editor from the latest NPA Bulletin.

Dear Sir

In response to Fiona MacDonald Brand's question in the last Bulletin on the place of willows in the Australian scene, I have to state firmly that, from a conservation point of view, the willow must go!

I am aware that some cultural landscape devotees argue that willows offer useful evidence of points of European settlement and in some cases are an important component of a significant cultural landscape. This may be so, but their potential to harm river landscapes in Australia means that they should be removed from areas of riverine conservation importance.

A recent Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service-funded report on environmental weeds found that riverine habitats right across Australia face the greatest threat of weed invasion. Willow was identified as one of the major invaders of this habitat. Not only does willow displace native species and reduce diversity, but it disrupts the whole river system, changing stream flow, patterns of sedimentation and the nature of faunal habitat.

Within the ACT, willow is already a dominant presence along otherwise naturally vegetated creeks and rivers. White willow (*Salix alba*) is the most abundant species but weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*) and crack willow (*Salix fragilis*) are common. Recent work done for a PhD thesis at ANU by Michael Mulvaney indicates that the willow has a high potential for further spread. This is particularly worrying for riverine habitats such as the Gudgenby River where willow is present, but as yet does not

have a stranglehold on the system, as it does on the Molonglo.

The Association Towards Ecologically Sustainable Australian Landscapes strongly recommends against the planting of willow along watercourses and provides a number of alternative species, native to the ACT, that can be used as replacements when willows are removed. These include river oaks (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) and manna gums (*Eucalyptus viminalis*). In higher country black sallee (*Eucalyptus stellulata*), black gum (*Eucalyptus aggregata*), and swamp gum (*Eucalyptus camphora*) are appropriate.

The Tasmanian Forestry Commission's publication *Tasforests* (Volume 4, July 1992) contains an article giving the Hydro-electric Commission's recommendations for total Catchment Management. The article quotes a survey by the Liffey Land Care Group that found that willows were a significant cause of river bank erosion, along with livestock and block/log jams.

I know that willows have been used in some conservation work, mainly in New Zealand. Even so, willow has been recognised as a major problem in some districts there too. From the reading I have done, and close observation of riverine environments where willows grow and indeed are spreading rapidly, I feel they must be removed and replaced by the original native vegetation. It is not a question of keeping two or three in a landscape like rabbits they multiply alarmingly!

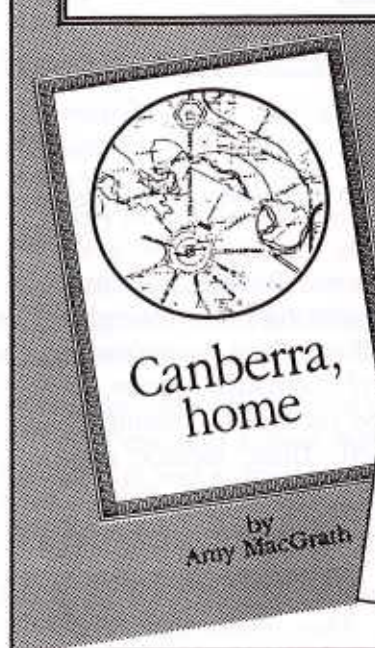
Timothy Crosbie Walsh

Canberra, home

by Amy MacGrath (nee Amy Cumpston)

*will be launched at the Friends of Early Canberra gathering
at Calthorpe House on Monday March 8 at 2 pm*

by Freda Whitlam A.M



Canberra, Home

*Homeland is where childhood feet have run
close to the humming earth, seeing it small-
the bees' meticulous probing in the flower,
the creeping ant resolute in his crawl.*

*Homeland is where childhood ways were free,
youth a wonderland when all was friend
and no forbidden fences crossed the way,
good neighbourhood a world without an end.*

*Homeland is the silver frost of winter
icing the grass, the winds of Alpine snows,
the shimmering heat of bushfire-dry summer,
the greening glory of spring morning's glow.*

*Homeland is the gentle pulse of slope,
the upward rush of ruddy steeped hills,
the leaping mountains' drama high behind;
place of my childhood heart calling me still.*

Here is an evocative collection of Poems! Childhood memories of early Canberra merge into incisive observations of our modern Capital. Illustrated with some paintings and sketches of early Canberra. It is a worthy companion to the earlier publication by Amy MacGrath 'Australia my Home'.

Copies of the book will be available from 8th March 1993 from the National Trust shops, National Library Bookshop and Dymocks Bookshop, Civic Centre. Price \$15. Or from Towerhouse Publications Box 121 P.O Double Bay 2028 Phone: (02)327 4052 Price \$17.00 including postage. Copies of both books are available from Towerhouse Publications. (P.O.A)

VISIT OF LORD CHORLEY.

This Trust News contains a leaflet advertising a talk by Lord Chorley at the National Press Club on 30 March.

Lord Chorley, who succeeded Dame Jennifer Jenkins as Chairman of the National Trust, United Kingdom, on 1st January 1991, has had a long and close relationship with the Trust. He is a member of the Executive Committee and has served on its Finance Committee since 1970.

Lord Chorley, 60, is a keen environmentalist. He was president of the Royal Geographical Society from 1987 to 1990 and is particularly interested in the role of geography and the geographer in advancing environmental understanding, and also the development of environmental economics. An active cross bencher in the House of Lords, Lord Chorley was Chairman of the Government's enquiry into the handling of geographic information from 1985 to 1987. He has been a member of the Natural Environment Research Council since 1988.

Formerly a senior partner of the Chartered Accountants, Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, Lord Chorley masterminded the formula known as the "Chorley Formula", on which the calculations for all of the Trust's new property

acquisitions are based. His financial experience has contributed enormously to establishing a sound financial base for the activities of the National Trust, which now has an annual budget of more than 72 million pounds.

He has many other interests. He has been a Board Member of the British Council since 1981 and became its deputy Chairman in April 1991. Lord Chorley's visit has been assisted by the British Council.

A mountaineering enthusiast and keen walker, Roger Chorley and his wife Ann spend much of their spare time in the Lake District where he has had a home for much of his life.

He was one of the leading British mountaineers in the Alps in the 1950's and also the Himalayas in 1954 and 1957. He was president of the Alpine Club from 1983 to 1985.

Lord Chorley's father, Professor R.S.T. Chorley, was created the 1st Baron of Kendal in 1945, and was also closely involved with the work of the National Trust. He was its Deputy Chairman and an energetic member of its Executive Committee serving for 45 years. Like his son, he was a lover of the countryside and a mountaineer.

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

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

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

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