



TRUST NEWS

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)

6 Geils Court
Deakin ACT 2600

MAY 1993

MEETINGS IN THE TRUST BOARDROOM

Thursday 3 June 1993

Executive Meeting at 5.30pm.

Monday 7 June 1993

Publications Committee
Meeting at 12.30pm.

Tuesday 8 June 1993

Classification Meeting at
12.30pm.

Thursday 1 July 1993

Council Meeting at 5.30pm.

Tuesday 13 July 1993

Classification Meeting at
12.30pm.

Thursday 5 August 1993

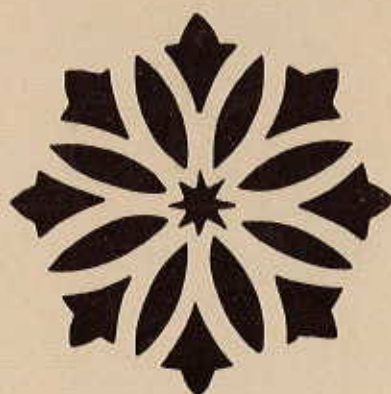
Executive Meeting at
12.30pm.

Tuesday 10 August 1993

Classification Meeting at
12.30pm

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TITBITS

CAVALCADE OF HISTORY AND FASHION 1788-1930

The American Embassy Women's Association has much pleasure in bringing to Canberra a CAVALCADE OF HISTORY AND FASHION, 1788-1930.

Authentic period gowns dating from early 1800 to 1920s will be paraded at Kings Hall in Old Parliament House, Saturday 5 June, 1993 at 7.45pm. This production is given with great dedication and skill by the North Shore Cavalcade Group whose members give their services to aid charities.

Proceeds from the show will go to The Smith Family and the Haemophilia Foundation of Australia. The donation for the Cavalcade of History and Fashion is \$18.00 per person.

Tickets or information ph: 239-6175 or 273-3103.

CANBERRA ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies will conduct its annual Canberra Antiquarian Book Fair at the Parish Hall of the Anglican St John's Church from Friday 9 July to Sunday 11 July 1993. The Fair will be opened by Mr Colin Steele at 1pm on Friday 9 July.

There will be lectures on book-collecting and ephemera, and refreshments will be available throughout.

A book-launching will take place at the Fair on Saturday 10th at 3pm. The book is *One Way Ticket* by Catherine Bradfield.

The book opens in pre-war Nazi Germany and traces the author's experiences in the WAAF and the Underground, Kristallnacht.

Fair opening times are: Friday 9 July—12 noon to 6pm; Saturday 10 July—9am to 5pm; Sunday 11 July—12 noon to 5pm

Admission \$2. Ron Winch, Organiser ph. 247 0136

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 on of our activities.

Mr & Mrs R & M Anderson, Macquarie
Mr & Mrs B Andrews, Banks
Mr & Mrs R & L Babington, Isabella Plains
Mr & Mrs J & S Bell, Emu Ridge
Mr & Mrs S R Brown, Florey
Mr & Mrs G J Burch, Gundaroo
Mr & Mrs I & S Byrne, Bonython
Mr & Mrs R Cargill, Dickson
Mr & Mrs C G Cleverly, Mawson
Miss F Collins, Weston
Miss S Costin, Gladstone
Miss J Cotsell, Monaro Crescent
Mr & Mrs H A Dakin, Griffith
Mr R Duff, Curtin
Mr & Mrs R C & E J Edmondson, Cook
Mr & Mrs J H Ferguson, Coleambally
Mrs R Gardner, Evatt
Ms R E Hill, Dickson
Mr & Mrs G Humphries, Weston
Mr & Mrs D I & B Jewell, Wanniasa
Mr A Johnson, Holt
Mr & Mrs I M Johnstone, Canberra
Mr & Mrs W J & M B Jonas

Mr & Mrs L Jones, Duffy
Mr Lawson & Ms Furnell, Rivett
Mr Sean St. Leger, Queanbeyan
Dr & Mrs B & M J Lilienthal, Garran
Ms M Lindsay, Chapman
Miss C Lowry & Mr G Burrows, North Lyneham
Ms McLaughlin & Mr G Wilson, Civic Square
Ms J M Mills, Emu Ridge
Mr H Norman & Mrs H Kent, Curtin
Mr & Mrs J & J Paul, Coramba
Mr & Mrs R J Perkins, Kambah
Mr & Mrs N & B Peterson, Erindale Centre
Dr & Mrs V Pippett, Weetangera
Mr & Mrs C & J Roantree, Wanniasa
Mr & Mrs Rosier, New Lambton Heights
Ms M Sageman, Braddon
Ms A L Stewart, Isaacs
Ms C Stone, Fisher
Mr & Mrs C Tandy, Farrer
Miss D L Troth, Flynn
Ms J Vardy, Downer
Miss J Walkey, Pearce
Mr I W Ward, Curtin
Mr & Mrs A & J Warner, Pearce
Dr & Mrs G R Webb, Curtin
Mrs P Whyte, Holder
Mr & Mrs S Williams, Yarralumla
Miss R W Wood, Florey
Ms P Woolcock, Macquarie

PERSONAL NOTES

FAREWELL to Major General and Mrs Gurner who have moved to Victoria. They have been active members of the Trust since 1977. We wish them the best of luck.

BON VOYAGE to Mr John Gooch who is vacationing over seas. We hope you have a great time and will be back refreshed and ready for more Trusty business.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jo Goodspeed (as was) and Brian Collins who were married at Lanyon on Monday 17 May.

1993 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members are reminded that Membership of the Trust runs from 1 July to 30 June the following year. A renewal form is enclosed with this issue of Trust News.

You might like to consider giving membership to a friend or family member using the Gift Application form also enclosed.

TRAVELLING INTERSTATE?

Don't forget that your A.C.T. Trust membership card gives you free entry to several hundred Trust properties in other parts of Australia—including many of Australia's best known buildings, several nature reserves, the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary in Queensland etc etc. It may also be worth your while to drop into the Trust office and leaf through some of the information we have in the Trust

Library—apart from books and reports we also receive copies of Trust magazines (the name "Trust News" is endemic) from all of the States and the Northern Territory.

For that matter, even if you are going overseas it is also worth visiting us to look at our collection of information and magazines from most of the overseas Trusts.

THE ORIGINAL CONSERVATORIES



AMDEGA has been designing and building conservatories and glass roofs for beautiful homes and public buildings around the world for over 100 years - they are now available in Canberra

Our unique combination of conservatory design experience, traditional skills in timber joinery and the use of sophisticated glass and glazing techniques means we are able to provide you with a beautiful garden room for your year round enjoyment.

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TRUST NEWS SURVEY

Readers will recall that last year we asked for responses to a survey aimed at finding out what you felt about Trust News. Following is a brief outline of the findings and what we have done (or hope to do) with them.

GENERAL

We had 81 responses to the questionnaire, of them 5 people had been receiving Trust News for less than 1 year; 1-2 years, 7; 2-3 years, 5; 3-5 years, 12; 5+ years, 37; and 10, since the Trust began.

Most people (61) read most of Trust news.

About half of the respondents keep their copy for some time (which is one reason why tour information and booking forms are now loose leaf inserts—people didn't like cutting pieces out of the main body of Trust News).

CONTENT

43 (53%) felt that the content is just right; 2 felt that it is frequently too superficial, 14 (18%) felt that we are occasionally too superficial, 13 (17%) felt we are occasionally too academic.

73 (90%) felt that the balance between photographs and text was about right.

65 (80%) thought that the current balance of long and short articles was about right.

WHO READS WHAT?

Of the regular features in Trust News, most people found upcoming events, classification update, tidbits, editorials and book reviews very or quite interesting; with some particularly enthusiastic support comments in favour of classification update, general articles and upcoming events. We'll keep these in mind.

Most people liked variety—each issue to cover a range of topics—although there was some support (22%) for 1 or 2 issues per annum to be based around a theme.

OTHER COMMENTS

We received some very good suggestions which we will try to take up. Some examples:

- ❖ articles about what other Trusts are doing

❖ a "for sale" column where members could offer, say, antique furniture, china, pictures (or anything else) for sale to other Trust members before putting an ad in the Canberra Times. We like this one—could we charge, say, \$2 per ad (depending on size)? What about sending us a few ads for the August Trust News and we'll try it out?

❖ "What about an index?" —accepted with enthusiasm (note the February issue and this issue of Trust News).

❖ "Like the graphics." We try to slip these in but time and space sometimes prevent it.

❖ "Please don't fold Trust News so small." Sorry, but the bigger the envelope the higher the postage bill. In any case, we may have to re-think our postage wrappers soon, since costs are growing and it now costs around \$450 to post each edition. Incidentally, each copy costs (printing, postage etc etc) around \$2.

❖ "Coloured photos please." Sorry, we'd like to do this but it would more than double the cost of each copy. Unless we put up membership fees very considerably I'm afraid colour printing is not really possible.

❖ "Contributions from like minded organisations, please." We'll take this on board.

Other suggestions were, more or less, balanced by counter proposals:

❖ "More compact format please" versus "please don't reduce the size of the pages or the print" and "we like the present format" How do we balance these?

❖ "Larger, more detailed articles" versus "articles need to be shorter" and "maybe it needn't be so long" versus "sometimes I find the articles too cursory."

Thank you everyone for taking the time to respond to the survey. It was most helpful. But don't sit back on your laurels, please let us know if you dislike or like anything or want more or less of something. We welcome both brickbats and bouquets (constructive ideas preferred, but any comment is useful).

GUESS WHO IS ESCORTING THE SPECIAL TRUST TOUR TO BRITAIN IN SEPTEMBER ?

Just Travel are pleased to announce a special 12 day escorted tour of Britain departing September 18th, 1993 for National Trust Members and their friends.

Full details are available by telephoning Just Travel on 06 2852644 and asking for your personal copy of the itinerary.

One lucky Trust member will receive a bottle of French champagne if they correctly guess the identity of the personality escorting the tour.

Simply complete the form below and return it to Just Travel before June 11th.

The winner will be announced in the next issue of Trust News.

JUST TRAVEL

Suite 4, 42 Geils Court, Deakin, A.C.T. 2600
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LANYON HERITAGE FAIR

The decision to move the Lanyon Fair to Heritage Week turned out to be more successful than we could ever have anticipated.

The weather was perfect, and over 5,000 people saw Lanyon at its best. Many commented at the happy atmosphere of the day. While there were excellent stalls (and they were well patronised), families could spend a whole day just enjoying the music, the displays, and the landscape.

The huge steam engine was a great attraction, and the damper cooking and butter churning were

reminders of forgotten skills. The timber workers and blacksmiths toiled in the back paddock, while the lacemakers and embroiderers enjoyed the verandah of the homestead.

The success of the day lay in the planning carried out by the Fund Raising Committee and the ACT Museums Unit—it was a co-operative venture which we hope will continue for many years to come.

Incidentally, while the figures have yet to be finalized, the Trust's activities at the Fair raised between \$6,000 and \$7,000. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to creating such a success.

EXTRA EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR LANYON EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Lanyon education program is attracting consistent support from ACT primary schools. The children respond with enthusiasm to a range of hands-on learning experiences ranging from butter making, washing and ironing to using an auger.



To maintain the program and meet the demand of our local schools, a range of domestic equipment is needed. If in your garage you have a been slicer, butter churn, wooden spoons or butter pats, we would be delighted to have them.

For more information ring the Lanyon Education Officer, Margaret Flemming on 2072176.

REDWOOD GROVE THREATENED

Readers of the Canberra Times on the 26th April may have noticed the offer of the Canberra Kart Racing Club to move from their present location, about 1km north of Queanbeyan, to a proposed new national karting complex near the Canberra Airport. The proposed move results from sustained complaints about noise by residents of the Ridgeway Estate on the heights to the east of Queanbeyan.

However, readers may not have noticed that the proposed new location is immediately adjacent to the Pialligo Redwood Grove, which is entered off Pialligo Avenue, just past the entrance to RAAF Fairbairn.

This plantation was established by Charles Weston at the direction of Walter Burley Griffin between 1919 and 1920. It was part of an experiment to assess the adaptability of various commercially important exotic trees to the Canberra environment. The plantation is made up of two species—*Sequoia sempervirens*, the very tall and famous redwood of coastal California—and *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, the massive sequoia found in Yosemite National Park and other parts of the high Sierra Nevada.

Like the Cork Oak Plantation, it is classified by the National Trust and is entered on the register of the National Estate.

After early losses due to the relative dryness of the Canberra climate, the grove has now reached a state of maturity where it has created its own protective micro-climate. Despite the periodic noise of aircraft, the infrequent disturbance from drag racing on the former Palona Drive and the steady hum of passing traffic, the Grove nonetheless possesses many delightful glades and walking paths which, with the build up of fine leaf litter over the decades, offer a surprising degree of peace and tranquillity.

Whilst recognising the right of go-kart enthusiasts to enjoy their recreation, this ought not be at the expense of others who have an equally legitimate right to peacefully enjoy a heritage site of great beauty, which also happens to be unique in Australia.

Unfortunately a letter on the subject to the Editor of the Canberra Times was not published. The Trust, however, has since made representations to the ACT Government, seeking to ensure that any relocation is to a site which does not cause detriment to this place of heritage significance.

Trust members will have an opportunity to wander through the Redwood Grove on the half-day trip advertised for Sunday 4 July.

Garth Setchell

ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

Bigger and better than ever! Well, that might be a bit of an exaggeration but our anniversary celebration certainly was better attended than was the dinner last year. Our bold move to have a Sunday lunch rather than the traditional dinner was voted a big success by the sixty-six members and friends who attended.

The Lobby restaurant in the sylvan setting of the parliamentary triangle proved to be a magnificent venue for such an auspicious occasion. Due to close links the Education and Cultural Committee claims to have with high places, the day was warm and sunny. The chatter of currawongs and magpies was interrupted only by the clatter of cutlery as the connoisseurs proceeded from course to course.

Guest speaker Sir David Smith addressed his topic 'Our Other National Trust' with true professionalism, leaving his audience with food for thought on some important issues underlying the current debate on possible changes to our nation's Constitution. Sir David has a somewhat unusual link with the ACT Trust, going back to his early childhood—one of his school teachers was Dorothy Moore!

Lunch over, a small group of the more adventurous souls toured Old Parliament House under the expert guidance of Rosina Akhurst and Michael Moreing.

Last but by no means least, a big thank you to all whose contributions made the event such a success.

TRUST TRIPS PAST AND FUTURE

Excellent weather and keen interest from members and friends helped to ensure that the Blayney/Carcoar Weekend, our Winery tour and the Autumn Garden Inspection at Braidwood were all great successes.

Unfortunately, bitter weather, low cloud and steady rain prevented us from undertaking the Alpine Lakes walk in February. Instead we managed to stay dry on two walks at lower altitude on the Saturday, retiring to another rain-free pocket at Yarrangobilly Caves on the Sunday.

The photographs show "The Briars" which we visited at Carcoar in March, an idyllic stretch of our short walk along the Thredbo River in February, and a group of wine buffs wondering why they were being taken to Gungahlin Hill at the start of our Mysteries of the Near North trip.

The coming program, enclosed with this Trust News, is of course dependent upon Garth Setchell surviving two attempts at the Corn Trail on the same weekend! Unfortunately, at the closing date for copy, the impending fate of the other 67 Trust applicants for this epic walk is also a matter for conjecture!

You will note that deposits are being accepted for two future tours—to Montague Island to see the whales, seals and penguins at the end of October—and to South-East Victoria (already over 15 bookings) at the end of November.

Other trips in planning include an early spring garden tour (bulbs and blossoms) to some new gardens in the Crookwell district and possibly a repeat visit, after four years, to the Big Hole and the Marble Arch.



A quiet reach of the Thredbo River.



But Where are the grapes?



This looks more like it!
"The Briars", Carcoar.

THE WILLOWS DEBATE CONTINUES...

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I object strongly to the extremist attitude expressed in the letter by Timothy Crosbie Walsh, "Willows in the Australian Landscape" printed in Trust News, February 1993. This attitude of removing anything that is not native and branding it a weed is most damaging to the cause of sensible conservation. It completely ignores the heritage value of the many introduced plants, and the willow, despite his criticism, has more right than many other introduced species to a place in the Australian landscape.

It doesn't have thorns or seeds that multiply rapidly; it is not poisonous, in fact it has medicinal qualities; it provides shade in summer of considerable importance for humans and animals, especially in dry seasons. The weeping willow does not grow around 4000ft (1300m) but the "basket" willow does well and is most valuable in the Monaro. It is known as "living hay" and the sheep, horses and cattle will stand on tip toes to reach the higher branches to eat the leaves in the dry seasons, of which we have had many lately.

The Casuarinas do not grow well here in the Monaro and the wombat burrows have been guilty of the death of many a Black Sallee.

There is plenty of scope for replanting native trees in the area and this is being done. There is also need to check that water courses are not being blocked. It does not need PhD theses to demonstrate this. All that is needed is a little honest remedial work when necessary rather than an avalanche of text book rhetoric, as anyone involved in practical land management knows only too well. Gardeners know only too well the work involved in keeping plants and trees in order.

In the article by Fiona MacDonald Brand she states that "Information received from both the ACT and NSW conservation services is that willows in the right place do a wonderful job of bank strengthening and now have become part of the Australian scene" (Trust News, November 1992) The RIGHT plant in the RIGHT place is a point that needs to be taken seriously. One doesn't plant willows on the nature strips in the suburbs—it is not good for the sewer main—neither are large gum trees nor are any other large plants, native or otherwise, that block sewers, damage footpaths or drop large numbers of leaves.

It would be a good idea if conservationists and government authorities took note of the problems that can be caused by injudicious plantings. Both "exotics" and natives have a place in the Australian landscape and need to be positioned and maintained to the best advantage for all.

Mrs Noreen Horne

Eucumbene

and, (COURTESY OF NPA BULLETIN MARCH 1993),

Dear Sir

I am writing in response to two items on willows published in the two, previous issues of the NPA Bulletin. Fiona MacDonald Brand asked the question, "Should they (the willows) stay or should they go?" (September 1992); Timothy Crosbie Walsh stated that 'from a conservation point, the willow must go!' (December 1992).

So, how? And when? As well as, why?

Do we introduce a disease to kill them, and risk its getting out of control? Do we leave the dead willows standing or drag them down? Once the willows are removed what stops the banks from eroding away? Do we plant native trees to replace them? Do we wait until the root systems of these replacement trees are mature before the willows are removed? Indeed, will they grow with the willows still in place? I've asked questions all over the place and no-one seems to have the answers. Yet conservationists say that willows must go - an easy instant answer and one that sounds a little like an environmental version of 'ethnic cleansing' to me. Will it stop with willows? Why not include the poplars and the cypresses too, indeed everything the pioneers planted in their landscapes to make themselves feel comfortable in what must have been, to them, an alien and often hostile land? There must be a more thoughtful answer, one sensitive to all the issues.

It is true that in some places the willow growth has become so thick that it is stopping the flow of the water. These trees will have to be removed, and soon. It will be interesting to see how it's done and how much damage is caused to surrounding areas.

We've already seen what damage moving rocks from one spot to another can do! When Timothy said, 'the willows must go', in my mind's eye I saw armies of tractors and bulldozers down every valley in Namadgi tearing out the offending willows. And at what cost!

It is also true that willows have replaced much of our native vegetation along watercourses, but it is equally true that they have replaced the native trees as homes for birds and animals. Where will the birds nest once all the willows have gone? It has been suggested to me that, because native trees take so long to grow, it would be preferable to pull out the willows and replace them with quick growing native trees and understory plants. This, apparently, would stop the banks from eroding. But where are the safe nesting places? And does not replacing overseas exotics with Australian natives that are just as exotic to the area in question sound a bit screwy to you?

Until fairly recent times, willow trees have been regarded by farming people as valuable—for shade, for aesthetic reasons and as a drought crop. Governments encouraged land holders to plant them to stabilise banks. The easy to-grow willow was valued at one pound, while a mile of new fencing was a mere thirty pounds.

Attitudes, of course, change with time, but we don't have to be extreme. Some of those willows now have historical value. In any case, why does the environment always have to win at the expense of cultural heritage? In an area grazed for generations but now a national park, surely both natural and cultural values are integral to the whole, and both should be conserved. Remove all willows and you've altered significantly that landscape. Why devalue it in this way? Little historical research has been done in Namadgi. Very old trees, especially those that make up a complete cultural landscape, should remain unless they are an immediate problem. Historians and archaeologists have a right to research complete landscapes. Later generations have a right to see cultural landscapes as a whole just as much as they have the right to experience wilderness. Descendants of the pioneering families also have rights. Just because their inheritance was taken from them when the area was selected for the site of the national capital,

doesn't mean that every trace of their ancestors' endeavours has to be obliterated. Too much of their built history has already been removed.

Anyway, which species of willow are we talking about when we say, 'all must go'? The two most common in Namadgi are the white willow (*Salix alba*) and the weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*). The white willow was introduced in the 1880s and has spread rapidly. The weeping willow, on the other hand, was introduced very early in European settlement and hasn't spread much at all. Perhaps the two species should be treated as two separate problems. Indeed, is the weeping willow a problem at all? It seems to me that the real problem is that we've removed the cattle that used to keep willows at least partly under control by regular cropping and neglected to introduce other controls.

Of course, not all willows are caught up in the river systems. Some grow in total isolation and are not spreading, for example, next to a waterhole/swamp behind Rowley's hut in the Orroral valley.

To clear Namadgi of all willows must mean we are doing it to protect the Murrumbidgee, into which Namadgi watercourses flow. But it is obvious that it's not really Namadgi trees that create the Murrumbidgee willow problem. In fact, the present state of the Murrumbidgee's banks would make a farce of the inevitable devastation that will be the result of ripping out all of Namadgi's willows.

I believe the willow-caused blockages in Namadgi have already been identified. They should be dealt with. I think it's also time to call in the experts to identify the willows that are historically significant and to assess the condition of the creek/river downstream from each. And take it from there.

Babette Barber Scougall



COOMA COTTAGE UPDATE

In the June school holidays Cooma Cottage is staging a exhibition by young Sydney artist Anna Harpley. Her work is the most exciting use of montage and photography that I have seen and will be quite a change from many of the art exhibitions staged at Cooma Cottage.

Thanks to the support we have received this year Cooma Cottage has already had more people through it's doors in the first three months of 1993 than it had in its opening year of 1988.

We plan to create walking tracks around the property to more fully utilise the hundred acres we have, so keep this in mind when planning your next picnic or day out. Cooma Cottage belongs to the Nation, and that is you and me.

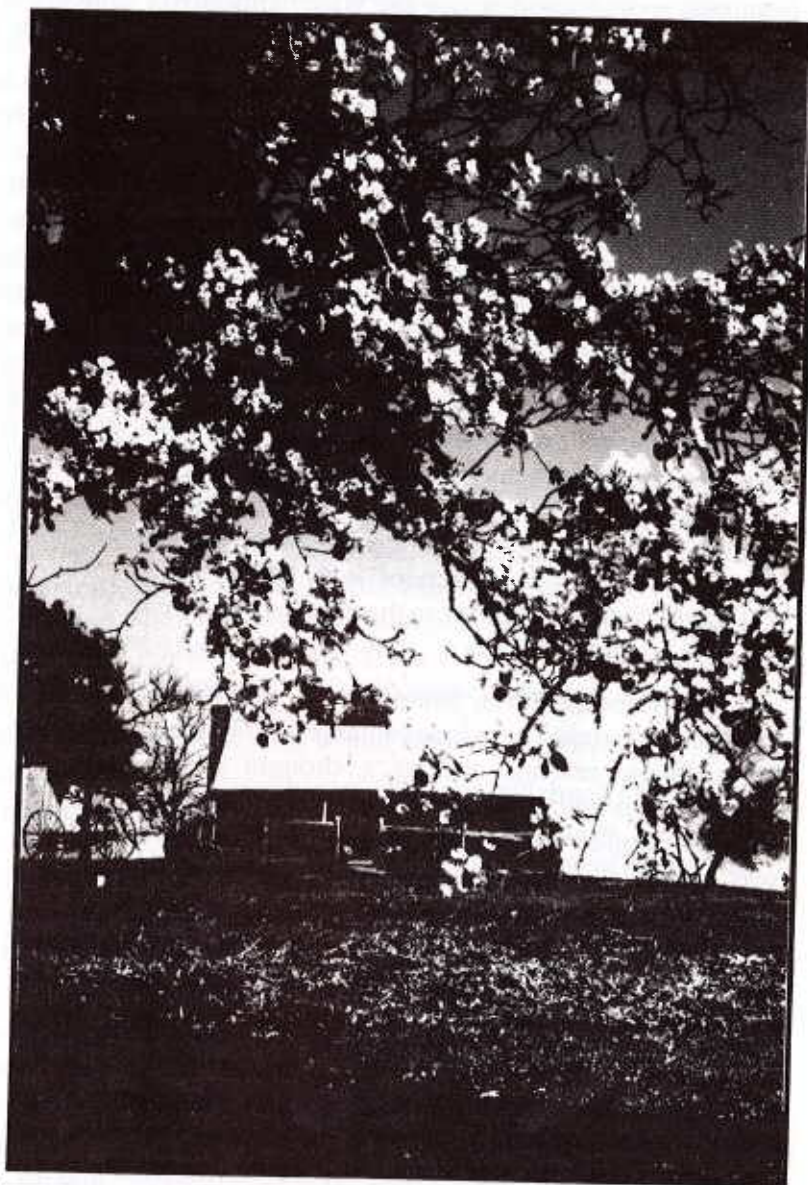
We have good news regarding a second edition of the authoritative publication "*A Currency Lad*"—the life and times of Hamilton Hume, written by Canberra resident Rob Webster. Now out of circulation we plan to print a second edition, revised and updated, for release in November. A major book launch at Cooma Cottage in that month is without a doubt on the cards.

And finally, without trying to push the point too much, we really do need more volunteer guides and my previous requests in this magazine have only netted us two guides so far from the A.C.T. Please give it some serious thought. You really will love it and its only once a month. You can contact me on (06) 226 1470.

KIM NELSON

MANAGER

P.S. Garth Setchell is organising a visit to Yass on the June Long Weekend. Don't miss it!!



COOMA COTTAGE TEAROOMS

Open 6 Days • Closed Tuesday
10am – 4pm

What better way to finish a visit
to Hamilton Humes Homestead

Ph: (06) 226 2377

IMAGES IN OPPOSITION: CANBERRA'S HISTORIC LAND AXIS*

This is the first part of an article by Associate Professor Ken Taylor, the President of the National Trust of Australia (ACT). It is a paper which was presented by Ken at the ICOMOS conference in Montreal, Canada 12-14 May 1993. The second part will be published in the August edition of Trust News.

INTRODUCTION: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Canberra, the federal capital of Australia, is a special city. The overworked adjective 'unique' can be correctly applied to it in that it is a remarkable open space city and landscape laboratory without equal. The city itself is a twentieth century creation; it is sited 200 kilometres inland from the coast, 500 metres above sea level and is surrounded by a rim of hills covered by eucalypt trees, commonly referred to as "the bush". An overwhelming sense of place takes shape from the landscape fabric, giving a clear sense of Australianess, yet unlike any other Australian cities which are, for historical reasons, sited at the coast.

'Canberra was conceived at the outset as a city in the landscape'.² The Commonwealth of Australia came into existence in 1901 and at the first Federal Cabinet meeting the matter of a site for a capital city was discussed. Eventually in 1908 the Canberra area was chosen. Charles Scrivener, the government surveyor, had clear and explicit instructions in finding and recommending a specific site:

The Federal Capital should be a beautiful city, occupying a commanding position, with extensive views and embracing distinctive features which will lend themselves to a design worthy of the object, not only for the present but for all time.³

The instructions to Scrivener further stipulated that the site should be chosen *'with a view to securing picturesqueness, and also with the object of beautification and expansion'*. These instructions directly reflected the romantic picturesque landscape idealism current at the time and show that the inception of Canberra was spatially, as well as politically and socially, motivated.⁴ The romantic idealism behind the spatial notion of the site selection related to the opportunity to provide views of bush clad mountains covered with snow in winter, a climate suitable for growing exotic plant material and potential for extensive gardens

and displays of autumn colour, according to Proudfoot.⁵ Added to this was the deeply rooted cultural tradition of preference for picturesque landscapes, a way of seeing the landscape brought by English settlers to Australia.

The requirements of picturesqueness were admirably met by the choice of the Limestone Plains area which Canberra now occupies, bounded to the north and south by open forests of Eucalyptus blakeleyi (red gum) and Eucalyptus melliodora (yellow box) on hills and ridges. These forests had a parklike appearance with about 6-10 trees per acre, the trees being up to 20 metres high with a tall grass understorey. In reality it was an Aboriginal cultural landscape resulting from regular burning for game purposes. The landscape enchanted the early explorers and settlers. In 1821 the explorer Throsby described the area as *'extensive meadows of rich land'*.

THE DESIGN OF CANBERRA

The design for Canberra was the subject of an international competition in 1911. The winning entry by the American landscape architect, Walter Burley Griffin, admirably suited the natural amphitheatre qualities of the site where *'the setting (was used) as a theatrical whole'* to give a design that *'was rich in symbolism'* by its use of radiating avenues with the hills as focal points and the use of dramatic views out of the city to its natural landscape surrounds.⁶

Griffin's design was geometrical with major and minor axes creating impressive vistas. His ideas were magnificently illustrated by Marion Mahoney Griffin's (his wife), drawings, plans and watercolour perspectives. The design was fundamentally a city beautiful approach influenced by L'Enfant's 1792 plan and the 1901 Macmillan plan for Washington, and the 1893 Chicago Exhibition. There were also, according to Robert Freestone, traces of the garden city tradition in Griffin's conception in the form of *'a low density, green city of tree lined streets, parks, parkways, playgrounds and gardens'* and residential neighbourhood groups.⁷

THE LAND AXIS

Griffin's plan had three major axes as its keystone linking the city beautiful internally and externally to the surrounding hills: the water axis, the municipal axis and the land axis.

The land axis bisected a parliamentary triangle whose apex was Capital Hill on which Griffin's capital building sat with Parliament at its foot looking imperiously along the land axis terminating to the north on the bush clad Mount Ainslie.

From the Capital and Parliament to the lake, which forms the water axis, Griffin envisaged monumental architecture lining a grant axis with gardens and a neo-renaissance watergate and lakeside promenade. Across the lake the land axis continued as a formal avenue parade lined by two or three storey residential terraces, terminating in a series of semi-circular roads and contrasting view of the bush clad Mount Ainslie. In landscape terms Griffin created images in opposition but linked by a dynamic tension. The whole composition was physically and symbolically a powerful planning statement. Symbolically it legitimised occupation of the site of the federal capital by a white Anglo-Saxon Australian culture. The design also suited the national vision which was enthusiastically espoused in Australia at the time.⁸

Whilst Griffin's land axis eventuated, the monumental architecture of government buildings lining the axis has not. The reasons for this lie in the two opposing visions for the federal capital which have established themselves. On the one hand is the vision of the city beautiful with its monumental architectural compositions. On the other is the garden city tradition which came from England to Australia in the late nineteenth century and was enthusiastically put into practice in the first decades of the twentieth century.⁹

The garden city ideal was established as the planning mode for Canberra in 1921 with the appointment of John Sulman (see note 10) as the Chairman of the newly created Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC). Griffin left Canberra in 1921 after eight frustrating years. Garden city planning principles, based on Sulman's English experience, were put into practice with the development of residential areas based on the development of detached cottages on large blocks in leafy streets with ample open space.¹⁰ These principles have continued to the present and have also influenced the siting of major government buildings in a predominantly green parklike setting where open space and flowing horizontal landscape forms prevail. Architecture is subservient to the

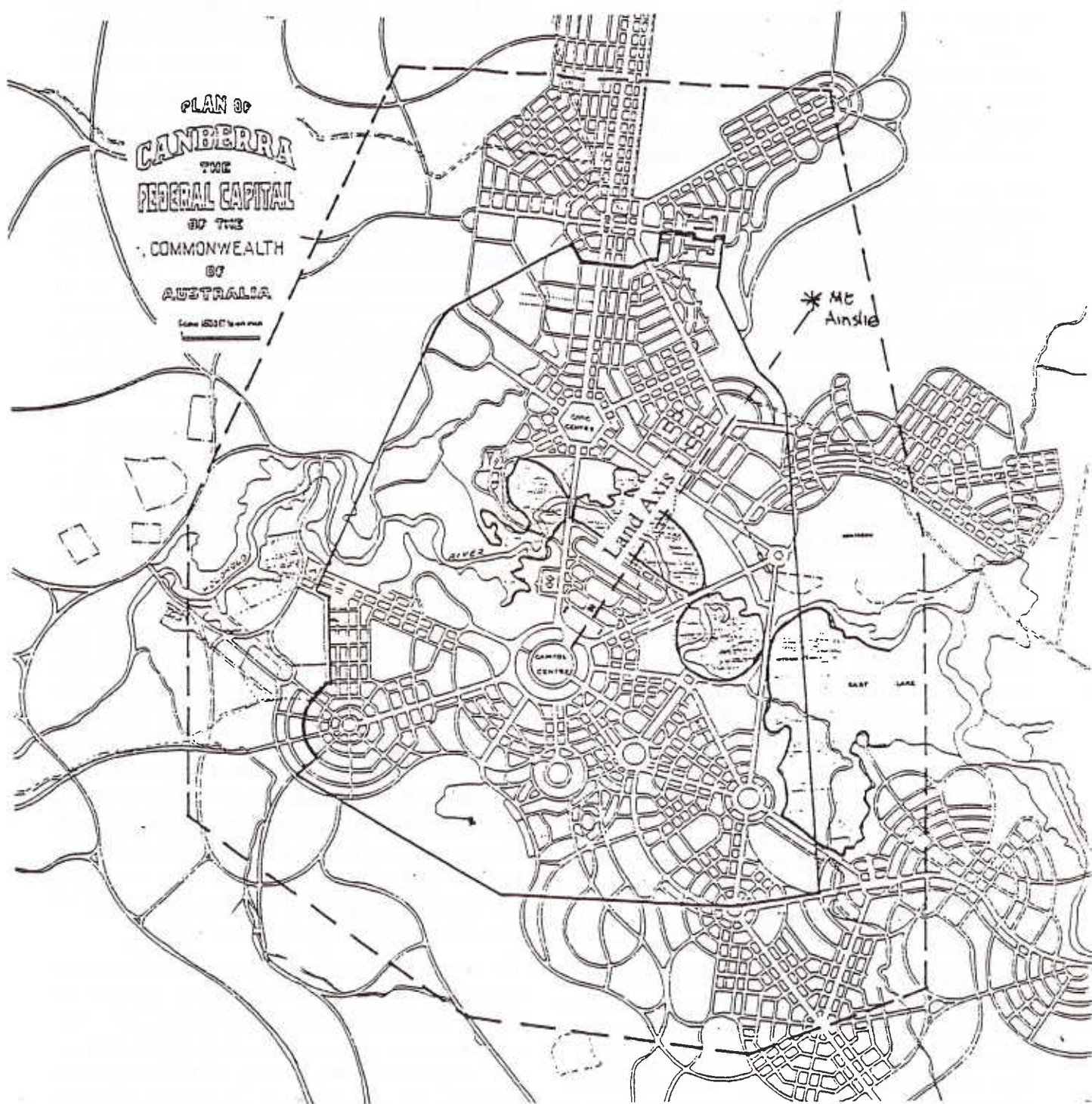
landscape. The garden city principles were continued by the National Capital Development Commission in the 1960s to the late 1980s. They are a twentieth century manifestation of the Arcadia in the Antipodes ideal of the nineteenth century with its attendant romantic myth of rural paradise for immigrants from urban England with its antecedent in the early settlers' descriptions of the parklike landscape of much of southeastern Australia. They were also, in the early twentieth century, a social reaction against inner city crowding in Sydney and Melbourne.

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

The second part of this article will appear in the next edition of Trust News.

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Canberra: 1925 Federal Capital Commission Plan based on Griffin's Plan

FORGOTTEN CANBERRA , CONTINUED

The first part of this article was published in the February Trust News.

Westlake is an area behind the United States Embassy. Today there is a "no through road" sign which prevents one from driving in to the site. The site was chosen for a workmen's camp because of its proximity to the building sites of Parliament House, EastBlock, WestBlock and Hostel No. 1 (Hotel Canberra).

In April 1925, Westlake had the second largest population grouping in the Federal Territory. The Transport Officer for the Federal Capital Commission was advised that the approximate number of people living at Westlake was 700. The only population centre larger at the time was Molonglo Settlement which had approximately 740 people.

In April 1925 the site had several camps and groups of cottages. The camps included: No. 3 Sewer Camp (the sewerage vent can still be seen on the hill behind where the cottages stood); No. 1 Labourers' Camp (this was also referred to as Daniel's No 1's mess—Herbert Daniel was a caterer and at one stage had four messes); the Old Building Trades Camp (the oldest one in Canberra); and Westlake Horse Camp.

Some of the private camps belonged to a contractor, Mr Howie—he had a tent camp for single men behind the Hotel Canberra plus 25 unsewered houses for married couples. Howie's houses were built in 1922 and faced what is the present day Canberra Yacht Club. The ablution block was on the site of or close to, the Club. Howie was the contractor who built No. 1 Hostel, 20 cottages at the Causeway and a significant number of buildings on Mt. Stromlo.

Also on the Westlake site were 61 wooden cottages built by Department of Works and Railways between 1923 and 1926 (the number of cottages should have been 62 but rumour has it that one was burnt down).

My direct knowledge and recollections of Westlake are from the early forties, but from letters which I have read from the 1920's I would say that little had changed from that early period, with the exception that the wireless was more common and talking pictures had come to town. Canberra was still a series of small isolated settlements.

The Construction Camps, to my understanding, were all gone by the 1940's with the exception of the Capital Hill Camp, which had remained initially as a boarding house run by Mrs. Stanley (in the 1940's and

50's the mess was run by the Berry family) and continued in use until the late 1960's. Other Hostels were to come to Canberra in the period following the second World War, such as Hillside (on Capital Hill) and Riverside.

Some Westlake houses remained until the late 1950's but by 1940, when my family arrived from Collarenebri, the only buildings remaining were the five roomed wooden cottages and the 'new' Westlake Hall. Even the children's playground on the reserve in front of cottage No.22 and the tennis courts near the hall had gone. The Old Building Trades Camp went in 1927 with the remnants going to Parkes Barracks (the old No. 4 Sewer Camp—opposite Parliament House close to the river); the Sewer Camp went in 1925 leaving behind its Mess Room which was to become the first Hall at Westlake.

The first family to take up residence at the houses at Westlake was that of Frank Clowry whose tenancy was signed from 3.3.1924. Frank Clowry was a foreman carpenter at Parliament House. He was known as "St. Joseph". He was a devout Catholic and Father McGilvray in his book "The Hallowed High Adventure" said of Frank "Being a competent tradesman with saw and hammer, he was on hand to prepare everything from stalls at bazaars and "sanctuaries," at the outdoor Masses of Pilgrimages on Cathedral Hill. At working-bees—and there were dozens of them—he was present..." Father McGilvray also related a story about Frank, who used to ride his bike home to Reidsdale near Braidwood every fortnight.... "It appears that one week-end, Frank Scott in his crowded T-Model Ford came across Frank Clowry making heavy going on the Canberra-Braidwood Road, and as a storm was threatening, he offered the cyclist a lift. "No thank you, all the same," the old man said, "I'm in a bit of a hurry!"

The houses at Westlake, like those of the Causeway, were built of oregon wood painted green—the square building consisted of four main rooms—two bedrooms, a kitchen and lounge area. The cooking stove was a fuel one. Heating of the lounge area consisted of an open fireplace, but because the houses were 'temporary' the fireplaces were made out of tin, which resulted in most of the heat being lost (Acton's 'temporary' cottages had brick fireplaces because the person responsible for their construction realised the need for brick instead of tin). Out the back was a bathroom and washing area. The washing

area had a copper, which used wood for fuel, and two concrete washing troughs. The bath was tin and the water was heated in the copper and carried to the bath. The W.C. was on the side of the bath room but the door was outside.

With the exception of the last ten houses built, all were all unlined. The roofs were of tin. The sound of rain on the roof is still a pleasant memory for me, in contrast with the rock on the roof if one had offended someone. The houses were very hot in summer and freezing in winter. One had to tie rags around the water pipes to stop them from freezing solid in winter.

Although later on we had ice-boxes, our first "fridges" were Coolgardie safes—one hung in the shade under the vine covered 'pergola' and the other stood, like an icechest, in a tin tray with water in it to stop the ants from obtaining easy access to the food.

Wire fencing was used to define the land. Vegetables were grown in the back garden and flowers in the front. It was not unusual for people to own a cow and 'chooks'. Many people owned dogs and mine was a black kelpie cross who liked to round up the neighbour's fowls. He was also a wanderer when a pup and one time I found him tied up at the American Embassy building site. He also used to sit on the fence post every afternoon waiting for my father to come home from work. He was 20 odd when he died.

The two bus stops in the 1940's were at State Circle down from the United States Embassy and at Hotel Canberra. During the twenties the buses were asked to call into the settlement, but the state of the road precluded this from happening.

One of my most poignant memories is of a sense of community—a sense of belonging—which is still with me today. It was not uncommon for benefits to be held for the needy or the hat to be passed around. Dances, church services etc were held in the Hall, and every Trades and Labour Day the trucks would arrive with long stools in the back and we kids would be treated to a ride out to the Cotter River with games, lollies and fun. Empire Day which later became Commonwealth Day, was Bonfire Night in which the whole community participated. Every Christmas, a "do" was held in the Hall for the children. A tree was provided and Santa came to give out the presents to each child. This practice continued a tradition commenced in the twenties.

Saturday afternoons for the children were spent at the Pictures (at the old Manuka Theatre) watching movies such as Tarzan and cowboy films in which the hero was clean shaven and dressed in white and the villain had a moustache and dressed in black. It was a 1d each way in the bus and 6d into the theatre.

Other day-time recreational activities for children consisted of swimming in the river and Manuka pool; making tin canoes; going bush for the day; riding our bikes to the Cotter; playing hockey on a Saturday; riding Llewellyn's horses which only cantered and galloped one way—home; listening to the radio—Mrs 'Obbs—the Argonauts—the Sunday night radio play—songs such as Pedro the Fisherman and, of course, Blue Hills.

I remember the iceman coming with ice; the Rawleigh's Man with the patent medicines; the man who sold clothing, linen, etc which was paid off on the never-never; the man who sold the fruit and vegetables; the milk man who filled the milk pail with appropriate amount of milk; the baker with his horse and cart delivering the freshly baked bread (that aroma!).....

I remember my war years (1941-45) in Canberra—shopping at Hall from Brown's Store because he had things that you couldn't buy elsewhere; the mail order catalogues from David Jones, and Mark Foys; the buttons on my pants because of the shortage of elastic; the air raid practice; the air raid shelter in the backyard and the trenches in front of the house; going to Telopea Park Primary School; buying the crust which was one inch thick in one side and a quarter of an inch on the other for a 1d; playing hopscotch and looking for a good tor; going without shoes except when I had to wear them to school; Mum hiding the cakes (in the cake tin) in the hat box at the side of her bed in the hope that I would not find them; the bread poultice; the excitement of the handing out of the new school magazine each month; Tuesday was comic day; sitting with my parents at the Manuka Picture Theatre every Friday night in the three seats near the projectionist box; Dad riding his bike home after work; the five o'clock whistle from the Power House; the cars with the attachments on the lights to prevent light showing to the enemy; the street signs being removed in case of invasion; Dad being away in Darwin in the Civil Construction Corps; the American Soldiers.....and what happened to all that string, brown paper and silver foil which we saved?

I remember J.B Young's corner in Kingston, the Blue Moon Cafe at Civic and Brodie's Garage (which is still there under the mantle of a Mobil Station. The site is on Wentworth Avenue—which was a concrete road). Work at Brodie's Garage was the first work my father had in Canberra and in the 1940's it was run by the Storen family.

The Canberra Times, May 1927, said of the building:

"Under the conditions of the lease building had to be commenced by June, and completed by October 9. The early start ensures compliance with the lease conditions. A modern building of the design of Messrs. Rudd and Limburg, architects, the new station embodies the latest features of garden garages. Provision has been made for eight petrol pumps to serve cars under a covered way, but only four will be in operation from the beginning. A car sales room and other incidentals are included in the main building, which is being erected by McCauley.

A distinguished feature of the edifice will be a small surmounting lantern tower which will exhibit a light which will serve as a road lighthouse to incoming motorists."

I REMEMBER MY CANBERRA—WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER OF YOUR CANBERRA?

We are all part of the living history of this city. I consider it important that the living history—the heritage of Canberra, the record of the ordinary people who live here—should be recorded and remembered, in particular because time is passing and the memories are being lost.

I would be grateful to hear from anyone who can tell me about the period of the 1920's in Canberra and stories of the camps. With several, such as Contractor Hutchings's Camp, I am having difficulty in identifying the locations. Also if you have any photographs of early Canberra and are willing to allow me to copy them I would appreciate being able to do so.

Ann Gugler

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Ann 'Austin', now Gugler outside of No. 28 Westlake. - Houses in the background are Nos. 51-62




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BOOK REVIEWS

"Images of Early Canberra"—Photographs from the Mildenhall Collection in the Custody of Australian Archives. AGPS Canberra. 1993.

William James Mildenhall was born on 14 April 1891 and was appointed to the Commonwealth Public Service on 20 August 1906. From 1921, he was employed in the Federal Capital Commission whose responsibilities included the administration of the Federal Capital Territory and construction of the capital. From 1926, Mildenhall was the Federal Capital Commission's information officer and it was in this capacity that he undertook most of his official photographic work. In 1930, he was transferred to other duties but continued some photographic work recording construction progress in Canberra.

The Mildenhall Collection of some 7700 glass plate negatives is held at the Australian Archives Mitchell Repository in Canberra. A set of contact prints produced from these negatives is also held at the Mitchell Repository and is available for public consultation in the Search Room.

The eighty photographs in this publication have been selected from the Mildenhall Collection to show the growth of Canberra in the 1920s and 1930s. Through Mildenhall's camera we begin to appreciate the vision of Canberra's planners and builders in those early years of construction.

This is a most interesting and useful book for anyone with an interest in the early history of the National Capital. It is fascinating to see the buildings and landscapes of Canberra as they were 60 to 70 years ago and compare them with the landscapes of today.

The photographs are arranged broadly by subject. The absence of accompanying text, apart from brief captions, allows the strong images captured by Mildenhall to speak for themselves.

The book is available from the Trust Gift Shops for \$14.95.

The Cambridge Dictionary of Australian Places

Richard and Barbara Appleton
Cambridge University Publication 1992
RRP \$59.95.

The 4,700 entries in this book cover Australia and Territories, including place name derivations, history, geographic information (population, climate, elevation etc) and historic and scientific and economic information (eg one finds that the Hartz Mountains National Park is home to wombats, brush possums, pademelons and 2 rare species of frog).

A pronunciation guide helps with names such as Woocoo, Gwangara and Gnowangerup, and even more importantly, etymological information gives correct meanings for the third of Australia's place names which have an Aboriginal derivation. Trust members will enjoy some of the historical snippets of information such as Balaklava, the town named after a battlefield of the Crimean war; Burra Burra, named "great-great" by a Hindustani speaker employed in the area last century; Coromandel Valley, named after a region of the South East Coast of India; and Kadina, named after the Aboriginal word for 'plain of lizards'.

The book includes 26 detailed maps, although without grid references they are of use only for browsing. This fault is compensated to some extent by the concise and useful information in the remaining pages which, incidentally,

end with "Zillmere: a northern suburb of Brisbane named after a Moravian missionary who was the first landowner in the area"!

A useful reference book.

Dating Family Photos 1850-1920

Written and published by Lenore Frost 1991

8 Cliff Street, Essendon VIC 3040

\$19.50 includes postage.

This book was written after the author was given two large collections of family photos which were largely unannotated and difficult to identify. She tried several unsatisfactory and time-consuming methods of identification before refining the process to two stages: dating by type of photo and dating by costume. The book, although of real technical use, will make fascinating reading for everyone with a collection of family photographs.

Profusely illustrated, it discusses the history and props of the 19th century photographic studios. It tells how to pick up clues from the somewhat eccentric papier mache rocks, the stuffed cockatoos and the wooden headrests used to keep the subject steady during the long exposure time. The decorative backgrounds of photographs give clues to the decades in which they were taken—1860's simple, 1870's classical, 1880's rustic, 1880's late Victorian, and so on. What will future historians say of the diverse backgrounds of the 1990's snapshots and portraits?

The type of photographic process used gives vital clues for dating, as do the photographic mounts and the arrangement of family members within the photograph, who is standing and where in the group.

Detailed information is given about both men's and women's costume. The tie of a bonnet, the decoration and veils, whether the hat is perched high or tied firmly, all give clues. The cut and embellishment of a coat, the shaping of seams, the length, style and accessories all help date a photograph. This section of the book, in particular, makes absorbing reading as a social history. For instance, why were the blouses of 1906 "a more matronly style" giving "the impression that the bosom had been thrust forward and dropped to the waistline?" Sections on children's clothes, riding habits, work clothes and the costumes of weddings and funerals are included.

A short section on conservation of photo collections ends the book, which also includes a glossary, bibliography and index.

So, You Want To Write History?

This book was written by Peter Donovan, a trained historian and the Managing Partner of Donovan & Associates, which is a firm of consultants specialising in writing commissioned histories and undertaking heritage surveys. The firm, no more than 12 years old, has already completed more than 10 books for a wide range of clients. It is experienced in all aspects of the writer's craft, having prepared histories for publication, sought sponsorship for others and published several books—including this one—in its own right.

The book draws upon the experiences of Peter Donovan and explores the opportunities for historians to work gainfully in the community and examines the ways in which writers can write better history. Indeed, important messages from the book are that trained historians must take a more active role in writing books which most people will read, and that others who want to write history must ensure that they try to do it as well as possible. Presently tonnes of "history" is being written, but much of it is shallow and inconsequential, some of it bears little relationship to what actually happened, and much of the history written for the tourist industry actually falsifies the past.

The book is in two parts. Part 1 is about history and historians, and explains what sets history writing apart from other forms of literature and shows where trained historians can ply their skills. It poses the question as to why historians should be characterised as "academics", whereas most other professions are characterised by the members in private practice, and suggests that this need not and should not be so.

Part 2 is about "doing history" and shows how writers can produce better history, simply by being aware of the task they have taken on and by following particular guidelines about research and ensuring comprehensiveness. It also offers advice on the use of oral history and illustrations, hints on writing and the sorts of written history which might be attempted. The book also includes hints on turning a manuscript into a publication.

It is illustrated throughout with appropriate cartoons.

Recommended retail price is \$14.95 from good bookshops or directly from the publishers: Donovan & Associates, PO Box 436, Blackwood, SA, 5051. Phone (08) 2701770.

A NEW ADDITION TO THE TRUST'S LIBRARY

Australians At Home

Terence Lane and Jessie Serle
OUP Australia, Melbourne

Australia has lacked works which rival classic overseas studies of interiors, such as Mario Praz's *Illustrated History of Interior Decoration*, Peter Thornton's *Authentic Decor* and Harold L Peterson's *Americans at Home*. This pioneering work, *Australians at Home*, fills the void.

In it Terence Lane and Jessie Serle survey the decoration, arrangement and use of domestic interiors from the time Europeans settled at Sydney Cove until 1914. Using over 500 contemporary and largely unknown illustrations, and drawing heavily on accounts written at the time, they peer into tree house, tent, bark hut, mansion and vice-regal residence. They analyse His Excellency's drawing-room; and the detached kitchen; describe furniture and explain the reason for its arrangement at a given time; record what was hewn from the Bush and what came from Bond Street; observe what covered the floor, kept out the sun or hung on the walls; lift the lid on the camp oven and turn the mangle; remark how flowers were arranged; and observe who served dessert on the bare mahogany.

Firmly based on the pictorial and written record, *Australians at Home* gives the general reader and the specialist a comprehensive account of Australian interiors from the eighteenth century until the Great War.

Australians at Home is divided into two parts. The Introduction outlines the local and international framework against which the interiors of a migrant nation must be seen. New fashions in interior decoration in Melbourne and Mudgee appear in the perspective of what was happening in London, New York, Birmingham, Glasgow and Grand Rapids. Architects, London decorators, sewing machines, thoughts of 'Home', nationalistic yearnings and a windfall bolt of calico are all seen to contribute to the changing scene in the houses of a 'ship fed' nation.

The second part, the Plates, is the bulk of the book. The individual illustrations are accompanied by detailed text, fleshing out the picture chronologically in terms of national trends, class, fashion, taste and personal aberration, and focus on pertinent details which the untrained or 'casual observer might

otherwise overlook—the gun 'at the ready', the table centrally placed to catch the light from the gasolier, the matting beneath the carpet, the colour of the curtains, the silver-mounted emu egg on the mantelshelf.

There are extensive notes at the end of the book, relating to both the text and the illustrations, and a considerable bibliography.

The authors, Terence Lane and Jessie Serle are, of course, very well known for their expertise in the field covered by this book. Terence Lane is a graduate of the University of Melbourne. He joined the staff of the National Gallery of Victoria in 1967 and was appointed Curator of Decorative Arts in 1976 and Senior Curator in 1983. He has written on the various aspects of the decorative arts. He has also advised on the restoration of historic interiors.

Jessie Serle was born in South Gippsland and educated at home, the Koonwarra State School, the Presbyterian Ladies' College and the University of Melbourne. Her commitment to pastoral history is longstanding and her interest in historic interiors is reflected in study in Australia, Europe and America. She has worked with public and private owners on the restoration of notable interiors, including Werribee Park, and is a member of the Australiana Fund which contributes Australian furniture and works of decorative art to the nation's official residences.

This book is the definitive reference on the history of interior decoration in Australia. The price (RRP \$195.00) is probably a bit beyond most people's private purse but the copy in the Trust library is, as with all of the references in our library, available for members and friends of the Trust to consult at any time. The Trust office is open from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday.



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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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WORK WANTED

Trust members will know Vicki Gardner who has been working at the Trust office for the past 6 months on the Government Job Skills Programme.

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