



TRUST NEWS

The National Trust of Australia (ACT)

6 Geils Court
Deakin ACT 2600

February 1995



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*Christmas Cocktail Party at Huntly—
Beautiful Evening, Enjoyable Company, Wonderful Location*



Trust News

Published by
The National Trust of Australia (ACT)
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NEW MEMBERS

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

Mr & Mrs F. & S. Airey, Gowrie
Miss J. Bowling, Aranda
Mr & Mrs F. & P. Boyle, Isaacs
Mr W. Brayley, Blayney
Mr & Mrs R & S Caddy, Wanniasa
Miss S. Carter, Clareville
Dr E. Carter & Dr P. De Barro, Kambah
Ms M. Clough, Fraser
Mrs E. Edmonds, Latham
Dr & Mrs K. & J. Edmonson, Garran
Mr T. Ellis, Kingston
Ms M. Farrell & Mr M. Marriott, O'Connor
Miss M. Giltrap, Waramanga
Mr & Mrs Godwin, MacGregor
Miss G. Gough, Hawker
Mr & Mrs J & P Gregson, MacGregor
Mr E. Jones, Weston
Mr & Mrs J. Jones, Forrest
Ms E. Kay & Mr L. Eeles, Emu Ridge
Mrs M. Kennedy, Phillip
Miss E. Klintworth, Griffith
Miss M. Knapp, Red Hill
Mr & Mrs C. Lawler, Calwell
Ms J. Legleiter, Yarralumla
Mr & Mrs J. LeMesurier, Mawson
Mr & Mrs G. & P. Leonard, Mawson
Mr & Mrs O. & H. Mair, Jerrabomberra

Ms & Mr K. Malins, Canberra
Mrs T. McDonald, Narrabundah
Mr & Mrs R. & M. McKenzie, Murrumbateman
Mrs M. McKinnon, Yarralumla
Mrs R. McRory, Hughes
Miss K. Milne, Griffith
Mr & Mrs S. & C. Moore, McKellar
Ms S. Moore, Redfern
Mr I. Morris, Farrer
Mr & Mrs F. & M. Nelson, Deakin
Mr & Mrs R. & G. O'Brien, England
Miss C. O'Connor, Curtin
Mr & Mrs D. & J. Oner, Hawker
Miss R. Prince, O'Connor
Mrs S. Rainbird, Weston
Mr L. Rees, Page
Mrs H. Richards, Red Hill
Mr & Mrs T. & S. Risbey, Aranda
Mr & Mrs D. & M. Threlfo, Monash
Mrs W. Tietz, Narrabundah
Mr J. Tucker, Canberra
Prof & Mrs S. Turner, Yarralumla
Mr & Mrs N. & A. White, Gowrie
Mrs J. Willoughby, Narrabundah
Mrs A. Wishart, Downer

Corporate members—

Goddard & Partners, Civic (Travel Agents)

Members may be interested to know that we issued 1994/95 member card no. 1400 on 24 January this year. Last year (1993/94) we issued member card no. 1400 on 10 May and the final number issued for 1993/94 was 1420 on 1 June.

AVAILABILITY OF CREDIT CARD FACILITIES

The National Trust Office at Deakin now has the facilities to accept payments via Visa, Bankcard and Mastercard. We hope this will assist in paying for trips/tours, purchasing merchandise or renewing membership.

HERITAGE CHINA EXHIBITION—HARPER'S MANSION, BERRIMA

SATURDAY 14 JANUARY— SUNDAY 12 MARCH

Some members may be unaware that the Trust in the ACT holds a 107 piece Heritage China Setting painted by Mrs Jean Hill. Every piece, painted in blue on pure white porcelain - a serviceable design of classic, simple shapes by Thomas of Germany - features a different scene or architectural detail based upon on-the-spot sketches made by Mrs Hill all over NSW from 1965 through to the late 1970s.

The Heritage China has been exhibited in the National Library, 'Lindsey', Cooma Cottage, the National Trust of Australia (ACT) Table Setting display and by the Central West Region of the NSW Trust at Molong.

From Saturday 14 January to Sunday 12 March the Heritage China is on exhibition at Harper's Mansion at Berrima. If you are interested in seeing the display it is open weekends from 11am-4 pm, admission \$2.00.

HELP WANTED—YOUR TRUST NEEDS YOU

LANYON GIFT SHOP

Lanyon Gift Shop is always in need of volunteers, particularly during week days. If you can help please call the Trust Office on 281 0711.

LANYON GUARDIANS

After the article in the last Trust News there was a number of people who volunteered to be Lanyon Guardians, however there is still a need for more. All that is involved for guardians is a willingness to learn about the history, furnishing, interpretation and presentation of Lanyon and to attend an occasional training session; an outgoing personality (ie. being able to talk to total strangers of all ages!); and a commitment to a three hour slot on the roster once a month (or more—your choice). In return for providing Guardians, the Trust receives a share of the admission charges to the Homestead. This income is used to buy furniture and other items for the homestead and is now the only source of finance for the enhancement of the display. If you are able to help please contact the Trust office on 281 0711 with details as to which days/hours you could be available.

CHRISTMAS COCKTAIL PARTY

The Christmas Cocktail Party was again successfully held on Saturday 3 December 1994. It was a beautiful evening with a slight breeze tinkling the wind chimes. Everyone had a relaxing time soaking up the rural atmosphere of Huntly. To add to the enjoyment over \$1000 was raised for the Trust.

Special thanks to the Antique Fair Committee and the other volunteers who ensured the evening was such a triumph. Many thanks again to John Gale for allowing the Trust to use Huntly for this popular event.

HOTEL KURRAJONG GIVEN NEW LEASE OF LIFE

Article from Hospitality Business News —ep/Oct 1994

The Heritage listed Hotel Kurrajong, Barton, originally built in 1926, is being refurbished by the Australian International Hotel School (AIHS) to become Australia's first educational institution to incorporate an operating hotel. This unique feature of the AIHS will provide on-site training for 120 students in the commercial hotel which will include some of the best hotel and teaching facilities in the world.

While a significant part of the Hotel Kurrajong will maintain its original theme, the kitchen area will be redesigned as part of the \$11 million refurbishment to suit the ongoing needs of the AIHS.

The refurbishment, due to be completed in December, will include a new state-of-the-art kitchen and an additional floor to house teaching facilities including conference rooms, lecture rooms, computing lab and library.

Head Architect on the project and Director of Phillip Cox, Richardson, Taylor & Partners Pty Ltd, Architects and Planners, Eric Martin, said the hotel is well situated to meet the accommodation and dining needs of the commercial precinct, the government triangle and New Parliament House in addition to visitors in the area. "It is ideally located with the necessary facilities to attract private business, government and tourists. Hotel Kurrajong guests will be offered accommodation and dining with an historical flavour and will be serviced by some of Australia's future hotel executives" Mr Martin said.

"The hotel will continue to be a major part of Canberra's history and has been listed in the Australian Heritage Commission's Register of the National Estate," he said.

1995 ANTIQUE FAIR

13TH ANNUAL ANTIQUE FAIR

The best Antique Fair in Canberra is on again during the Canberra Festival. It will be held over the weekend of Friday 17 March—Monday 19 March at the Albert Hall. Once again it will offer the finest of antique china, silverware, furniture, jewellery, prints, artworks and ornaments provided by a group of the top antique dealers from Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra.

One change is the duration of the event. This year the Antique Fair will be opened on the Friday evening (not Thursday as in the past) and will continue through until 6.00 pm Sunday.

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.

The Fair will be open to the public from 7.00–10.00 pm 17 March and 11.00 am–6.00 pm from 18–20 March. Entry \$5.00 adults, \$3.00 seniors, students and pensioners.

OPENING CEREMONY

Emeritus Professor Ralph Elliott, has kindly agreed to officially open the Fair on the evening of 17 March at 6.00pm. His literary background should ensure that his opening speech is an event not to be missed. The opening function is a lounge suit event with an entry charge of \$10.00 per person. For Bookings call the Trust Office on 2810711.

If you would like to assist with the function please contact Mrs Phyllis Montgomerie on 2814036 or the Trust Office on 2810711. This would be a good way for new members to get to know the Trust and its personnel.

ANTIQUFAIR RAFFLE

Imagine yourself serving afternoon tea on a silver tray. If you win this years Antique Fair Raffle the dream could be a reality. First prize is an early 20th Century Sheffield Plate Serving Tray from Avenue Antiques valued at \$285.00. Second prize is a Gourmet Gift Basket and third prize (especially for the children or the young at heart) is something special for Easter.

Tickets are only \$1.00 each and are available from the Trust Office and Old Parliament House and Lanyon Gift Shops.

If you are interested in buying or selling books of tickets please contact the Trust Office on 2810711.

VOLUNTEERS—KITCHEN/CATERING

Every Antique Fair a band of keen volunteers man the kitchen/catering area providing sustenance to visitors and raising money for the Trust. If you think you may be able to help please call the Trust Office on 2810711.

ACT ALIVE

The Trust will also be manning a stall at ACT Alive on Monday 20 March. ACT 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 1995 ACT Alive will be held on Monday 20 March (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 17 March to Monday 20 March) with a visit to ACT Alive.

CENTENARY OF THE NATIONAL TRUST MOVEMENT

The National Trust started 100 years ago in the United Kingdom. The idea to form a revolutionary new organisation, which would be set up to preserve permanently for the benefit of the nation places of historic interest or natural beauty, had first been mooted as early as 1893, but Red Letter Day was 12 January 1895, the date the National Trust was formally incorporated. The three principal movers were Octavia Hill, one of the most far-sighted social reformers of the nineteenth century; Robert Hunter, a lawyer active in the Commons Preservation Society, and the man who gave the National Trust its name; and the indomitable Hardwicke Rawnsley, who campaigned

tirelessly to save the Lake District. There was a common cause that united them: they stood for preservation, access and the people.

The National Trust movement in Australia is only fifty years old, but we hope that we uphold the ideals held by Octavia Hill, Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley.

The National Trust movement in Australia is, of course, an offshoot of the U.K. Trust and commenced in N.S.W. in 1945. This year is the 50th Anniversary of the Australian National Trust movement and the N.S.W. Trust is planning a number of special events—including a members conference (see details in this edition of Trust News).

PLANT A TREE

Greening Australia and the ACT Cancer Society launched a special program called Plant a Tree in Memory which will help fight cancer, improve the environment and provide shade for future generations.

The Plant a Tree in Memory program, which was launched on 3 September 1994, allows people from the ACT and surrounding region to have a tree planted in memory of a special occasion such as a birthday, wedding or loss of a loved one. It is a gift that will be remembered by family and friends for years to come.

The ACT Cancer Society will use a part of each donation made to the program to help expand their services and increase research and education. Greening Australia will use part of each donation for revegetation projects in the ACT and surrounding regions to combat land and water degradation, replace wildlife habitat and increase shade.

Broadcast, Greening Australia ACT & SE NSW, September 1994.

For further information contact Greening Australia ph: 282 3214.

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INTERSTATE PROPERTIES— W.R. JOHNSTON HOUSE AND COLLECTION, EAST MELBOURNE

A member of the Trust, Judith Wimborne, kindly informed us of an interesting collection in Melbourne, the W.R. Johnston House and Collection. The W.R. Johnston Collection of decorative arts represents the taste of an avid collector of antiques and is housed in the elegant East Melbourne House he acquired and enthusiastically decorated.

The Collection is eclectic, but concentrates on the Georgian and Regency periods. W.R. Johnston wanted his house presented without ropes, glass cases or labels, which it is, and which affords a very intimate involvement.

Originally built as two houses in 1853, and joined together and refaced in 1893, the W.R. Johnston House today presents a unique, ravishingly beautiful evocation of a London house, furnished with superb antiques and lavishly decorated, complemented by a small courtyard garden.

Additional Information on the W.R. Johnston House and Collection is held by the Trust Office.

Judith advises us that the entrance fee is \$10.00, but National Trust members are admitted free and given a guided tour. Each tour begins with tea or coffee and shortbread while listening to a fascinating introduction of the pleasures to come. Tours are by appointment only and bookings can be made on (03) 4162515.

SITES OF INTEREST— HAVE YOU VISITED ANY?

A member of the Trust recently informed us of an interesting house she visited (see Interstate Properties). If you have visited any interesting Trust properties, either in Australia or overseas, we would love to hear from you. Just a few notes on paper, or enclose any brochure you may have, and send them to The Editor, Trust News, PO Box 3173, Manuka, ACT, 2603.

OVERSEAS PROPERTIES—PEEL CASTLE, ISLE OF MAN

Members of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) now have access to a reciprocal rights agreement with Manx National Heritage. You can enjoy exploring the Isle of Man by vehicle or on foot.

The co-ordinated development of a number of important heritage sites by Manx National Heritage has won international acclaim for the Isle of Man. One such site is Peel Castle.

Peel Castle, one of the Isle of Man's principal historic monuments, occupies the important site of St Patrick's Isle at Peel. The Castle's imposing curtain wall encircles the ruins of many buildings, including St Patrick's Church and the Round Tower from the 11th century, the 13th century Cathedral of St German, and later apartments of the Lords of Mann.

In the 11th century the Castle became the ruling seat of the Norse Kingdom of Mann and the Isles, first

united by Godfred Crovan—the King Orry of Manx folklore.

Recent archeological excavation has discovered exciting new evidence relating to the long history of the site. One of the most dramatic finds was the Norse period grave of a lady of high social status buried in pagan splendour. The jewellery and effects buried with her can be seen on display with other excavation finds at the Manx Museum in Douglas, while a walk beneath the Castle's brooding walls will instil something of the strength and history of this great natural fortress.

Peel Castle is open every day 10.00am–5.00pm from Easter to the end of September. A bus departs Douglas for Peel at 10 minutes past the hour (Routes 5/6) with an estimated travel time of 35 minutes. A visit to Peel Castle is estimated to take 1 hour.

RECIPROCAL RIGHTS ARRANGEMENT

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION (USA)

Following some complaints, the Australian Council of National Trusts (ACNT) Secretariat has been attempting to clarify the position, regarding the National Trusts reciprocal rights arrangements with the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NT for HP) USA, since the early 1990s.

The reciprocal rights arrangement has been in place since the mid 1960s. The NT for HP, in more recent times, provided this office with very confusing advice as to whether the arrangement existed or not. In addition, several Australian members have been

refused access to the few properties listed for the NT of HP.

In one last effort the ACNT wrote to the NT for HP on 13 October 1994, again seeking clarification of the arrangement, advising that if there was no reply the ACNT would have no option than to advise Australian National Trust members that the 'arrangement' no longer existed between our organisations.

As no reply has been forthcoming the ACNT has have now, formally, ended the reciprocal rights 'arrangement' with the National Trust for Historic Preservation (USA).

1995 HERITAGE TOUR OF ENGLAND

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) has organised an exciting National Trust Heritage Tour to England in September 1995. This tour will coincide with the Centenary of the English National Trust and special celebrations are planned en route. The stimulating tour leader will be Terry Lane, ABC broadcaster and writer.

The full cost for the 23 day tour (19 nights in Britain) is \$7,250.00 per person on a twin share basis. The supplement for the use of a single room is \$1,000.00

per person. Included in this price is economy class air travel to and from London flying British Airways, travel in a chartered air-conditioned coach, accommodation in good quality three and four star hotels, continental breakfast daily in London and a full English breakfast in Britain outside London.

The ACT Trust Office has brochures providing more detail of the Tour. If you are interested drop-in or ring the Trust Office on 2810711.

TELECOMMUNICATION EYESORES

Article from NPA Bulletin, Vol 31, No.4, December 1994.

In the last issue of the Bulletin we reported on the proliferation of the telecommunication towers on the hilltops of Canberra. The NPA (as did the National Trust) wrote to Brian Howe, the Federal Minister for Housing and Regional Development, expressing concern that telecommunication carriers are exempt from local planning laws.

In response, the Minister wrote that the telecommunications carriers are subject to provisions of the National Capital Plan and that there is to be an amendment of the plan to include a policy on telecommunication towers. Until the amendment is promulgated, and its development is to involve public consultation, it will not be legal for further towers to be constructed.

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NEW BOOK RELEASE

—**'Royal Canberra Hospital, an account of its origins and development —the first 40 years. 1914 to 1954'** by Arthur Ide.

The forward is by Dr Alan Knyvett, Gen. Supt of the Hospital 1975–1986. The work includes aspects of early Canberra itself, together with details of the growth of the Hospital as population increased. The book would be of particular interest to former staff and patients, also those interested in its origins and development with details of early Canberra.

The book is currently available for \$28.00 by contacting Mr Arthur Ide on 249 7976. It is hoped that the book will soon be stocked at the Old Parliament House Gift Shop.

BOOK REVIEW

—***Skis on the Brindabellas* by Matthew Higgins**

Matthew Higgins is a professional historian working freelance in the historical field who has completed a number of projects on the history of the high country of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. His latest book '*Skis on the Brindabellas*' reflects Matthew's love of skiing, bushwalking and the 'High Country'.

'*Skis on the Brindabellas*' examines the trials and tribulations of early Canberra skiers and their attempts to build ski runs and ski chalets of their own. A number of groups including the Canberra Alpine Club (CAC) and the Royal Military College Duntroon Ski Club are examined in detail.

In the current materialistic era it is refreshing to read about the early members of the Canberra Alpine Club (CAC) producing their own skis at the back of the Forestry School and travelling to Mt Franklin in winter in the back of trucks (with numerous stops as a result of the nausea induced by the truck fumes). Anecdotes abound allowing the more mature reader to reminisce about times gone by and the younger reader to try and imagine what it would have been like when recreation did not involve television or video games.

'*Skis on the Brindabellas*' is an enjoyable read even for someone who has no association with early Canberra or the 'High Country', and is a must read for people with an interest in the history of the ACT region or who love the Brindabella mountains, bushwalking and/or skiing.

Copies of '*Skis on the Brindabellas*' are available from the Trust Office and the Trust Shop at Old Parliament House.

BOXFORD GARDENS—RED HILL

Boxford Gardens was (and is still being) created by Mr & Mrs Peter & Polly Park.

Mr & Mrs Park, originally from Pennsylvania, USA have studied, written and lectured on many garden styles of the world and have travelled extensively to do their research. They have also studied many cultures and religions to explore the background to the formation of these various garden styles. Polly Park was a member of the Garden Committee of the National Trust of NSW. They moved to their present house in Canberra in 1970 where the present gardens transformed what was once a 'sea of dead grass' (Parks, 1988).

Each year around a couple of thousand visitors view the gardens, primarily between the months of September and April.

The Parks have created eight very different styles of gardens within half an acre of land. These styles range from the classic Chinese, Japanese, Parterre (or Italian) and Indian gardens to the more recent, American and contemporary Main Garden. The concept is unique in Canberra with a number of major classical styles represented at one residence. The gardens emphasise the international character of Canberra and the role of Canberra as Australia's main link with other cultures. Each garden contains strong focal points around which careful consideration has been given to the placement of plants, fences, gates and artefacts (of which most originate from other countries) to form a sculptured scheme. The gardens, designed to give a feeling of peace and serenity, offer visitors a rare opportunity to view a range of garden styles in one area. It is as simple as walking from room to room.

The front yard has a simplicity in style, plant form and texture, reflecting the structure of the remaining gardens. Its style resembles the typical early Williamsburg gardens in the United States of America, with the white house in the background and the clipped box hedge (which borders a brick path leading diagonally to the front door). In the centre of the front largely grassed yard is an old *Eucalyptus mannifera*. The Parks have called their residence 'Boxford', after the clipped box found within the gardens.

Entering through the side gate, the first garden one encounters is the Elizabethan Knot Garden containing *Santolina chamaecyparissus* and *Thymus* sp.. It is reminiscent of the popular 16th century knot gardens in England. This garden is followed by the intricately detailed, miniature Chinese garden (approximately 3 x 2.5m), a representative from the Suzhou region of China. For this garden, intricate pavilions, furniture and houses have been used, the wood of which has

been collected from antique shops in China. Skilled Chinese craftsmen carved the wood into fine representations. Winding paths around a pond of water, a number of bonsai and carefully placed limestone rocks contribute to the scene of the surrounding countryside. This garden was created after a number of visits to Chinese gardens and much study of their culture and beliefs.

Another gateway leads to the Japanese garden, contained in an area approximately 11m x 11m and bordered by a stained timber fence, bamboo and a high wall. It includes: a 300-year-old Japanese lantern, granite basin and bamboo scoop (used traditionally for washing before entering the viewing house), rocks set in an expanse of gravel and a water feature with a low waterfall. Trees used include: *Pinus patula*, *Acer palmatum* 'Atrolineare' and a white flowering *Cornus florida*. A *Pinus radiata* casts shade over much of this garden and gives it a sense of age. On a mounded area Ferns, Azaleas (*R. kurume* 'Kirin'), *Viburnum tinus*, *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', *Camellia* spp., *Aralia* spp. and Japanese Iris have been placed. Two *Juniperus chinensis* 'Pfitzeriana-aurea' have been skilfully pruned and supported to form a miniature Japanese sailing ship. The Japanese Garden is occasionally used for meditation by the Japanese and flower buds are removed to 'prevent distraction' (Parks, 1988). Stepping stones assist in the flow from this garden to the next.

The Parterre or Italian Garden contains a geometrically patterned box garden bordering a path in the shape of a cross, reflecting the origins of the Christian garden. A 19th century marble statue sculptured by Romanelli of a little girl or waif holding a pigeon from Florence, Italy, stands as the centre of attraction. Four 'Mt Fuji' cherry trees provide shade and a vertical interest in to the four central garden beds separated by gravel paths. Each bed is bordered with box and filled by *Vinca minor*. Surrounding the garden is a timber slatted hardwood fence with a recessed alcove to house a seat. Criss-crossing ivy complements the four part garden and breaks down the expanse of wooden fence. They ivy stems have been trained up wires to be then clipped back while allowing some foliage to spread towards the top of the fence line. In each garden Polly Park has designed, the plants chosen are generally subordinate to the overall architecture and structure of the gardens. The planting is used to enhance the overall theme in each garden.

A fenced entranceway then entices one to explore the next 'room' referred to by Polly Park as the Main Garden (Park, 1988), adjacent to the back part of the house. This garden, one of the first to be created in the

yard, is surrounded by a fairly high, white, brick wall and dominated by a dramatic, wavy, free-standing, 6m long, mosaic wall and free-form pool with a single fountain of water at one end. The wall is covered with triangular pieces of Italian glass tile ranging from white, lavender and blue to deep purple colours. After a course in mosaic making, Polly Park designed and created the wall based on Niemeyer's chapel in Belo Horizonte. The blue and white mosaic colours are carried through to the flowering colours from tubs of Petunias and blue flowering Vinca spp.. This is in contrast to the other gardens where generally few flowers are found.

From a terrace, which takes up approximately one third of the area of this garden, sight of the Romanelli sculpture may be caught through a simple iron gateway. Near the terrace and surrounding a Box Elder, is an abstract shape of raised garden bed containing Vinca spp, Lamium and Pilea urticacea. Other plants include: Cortaderia spp., Magnolia grandiflora and Tetrapanax papyriferus.. Two potted Laurus nobilis (Bay Trees) trees are pruned in a dome shape reflecting the curved mosaic wall. Behind the seating terrace, a carved St Francis of Assisi figure rests in a niche of the house's wall. Another focus is a replica of a Brazilian Chapel figure which compliments the curvaceous pattern and mood of the rest of the garden.

Another garden remains mostly hidden along one side of the house and separated from the Main Garden by an intricate marble fence. Within this Indian garden, a formal beauty sought by Polly Park has been captured. The focus is an Indian dancing girl located in a niche above a small, raised pool and fountain. The base floor of the garden is predominantly white quartz with black stones forming symmetrical scroll shapes. The black stones alone took around three months for Polly Park to lay.

Many of the artefacts bought from other countries have their own intriguing story. Most of them display skills and arts that are still or were once employed by different cultures. For example, the marble statue that stands at the centre of the Parterre Garden, bought by the Parks twenty years ago in Florence, is an old and valuable artifact carved by Romanelli whose works have been collected in a museum. Another artifact, made in India in response to a request by the Parks, represents the entryway to the Taj Mahal mausoleum (approximately 60 x 90cm). It has been recessed in the wall of the Indian Garden. The ancient art of carving and setting semi-precious stone into marble is finely displayed in this piece where the inlaid stone fits so

perfectly that the slightest bump or crack cannot be felt. There are a number of other interesting artefacts which demonstrates ancient skills and cultures, religions and materials of their origin.

The gardens are greatly valued by the community. Many people visit them each year:

Requests to use the gardens come from landscape architecture and horticulture schools from Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne, on a regular basis while students from as far away as Western Australia have also visited. Up to one thousand students visit each year.

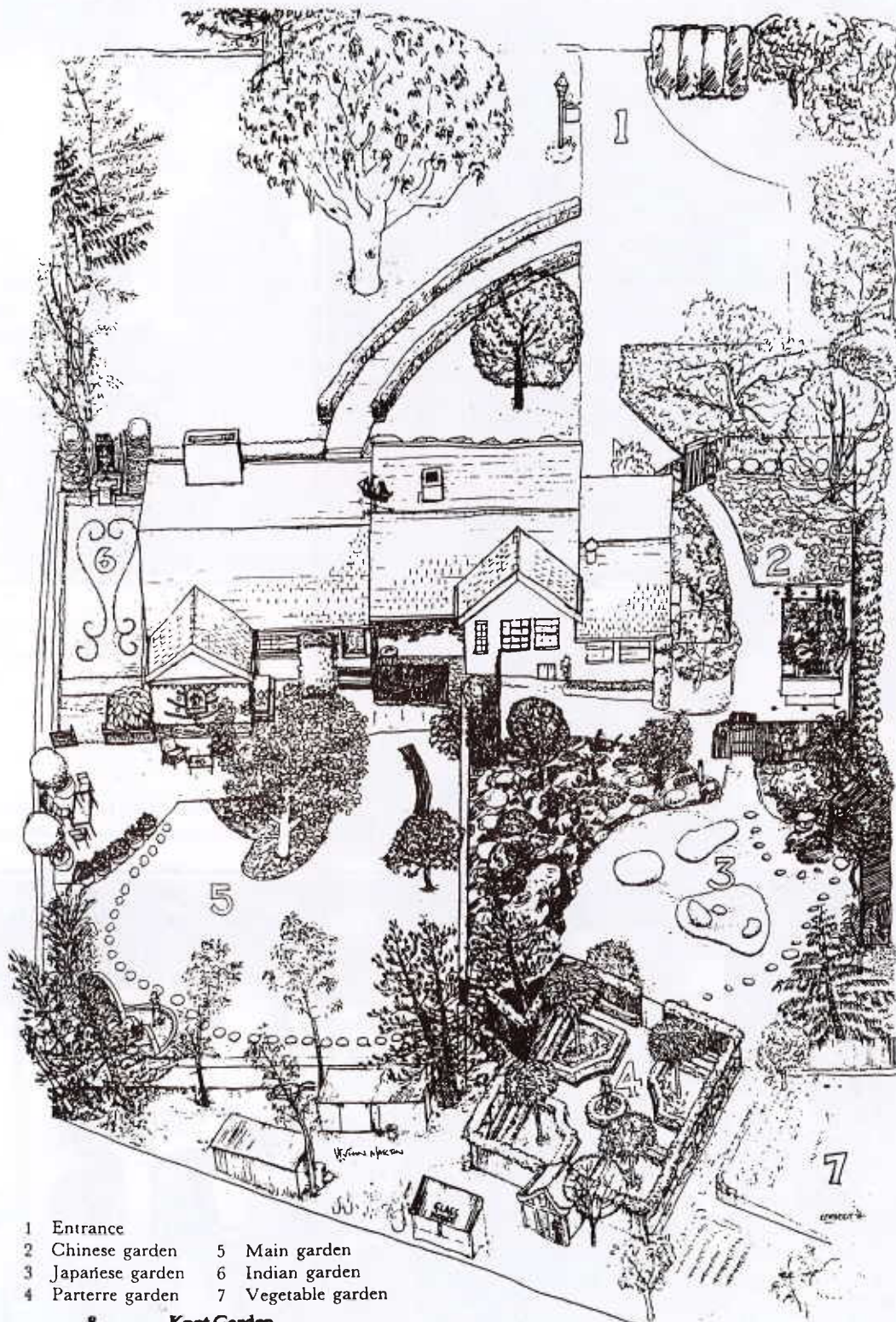
They are included in the Open Garden Scheme and are open for Floriade.

Members from the Women's International Club, consisting of a number of embassy wives, have shown much interest in learning more about various garden styles of the world and attend regular lectures by Polly Park on the history of garden design.

In a multi-cultural nation it is fitting to house in the nations capital, a demonstration of classical garden designs for countries such as Italy, Brazil, China, Japan and India. Also the Parks' gardens provide an opportunity for many to explore garden styles with which they are unfamiliar.

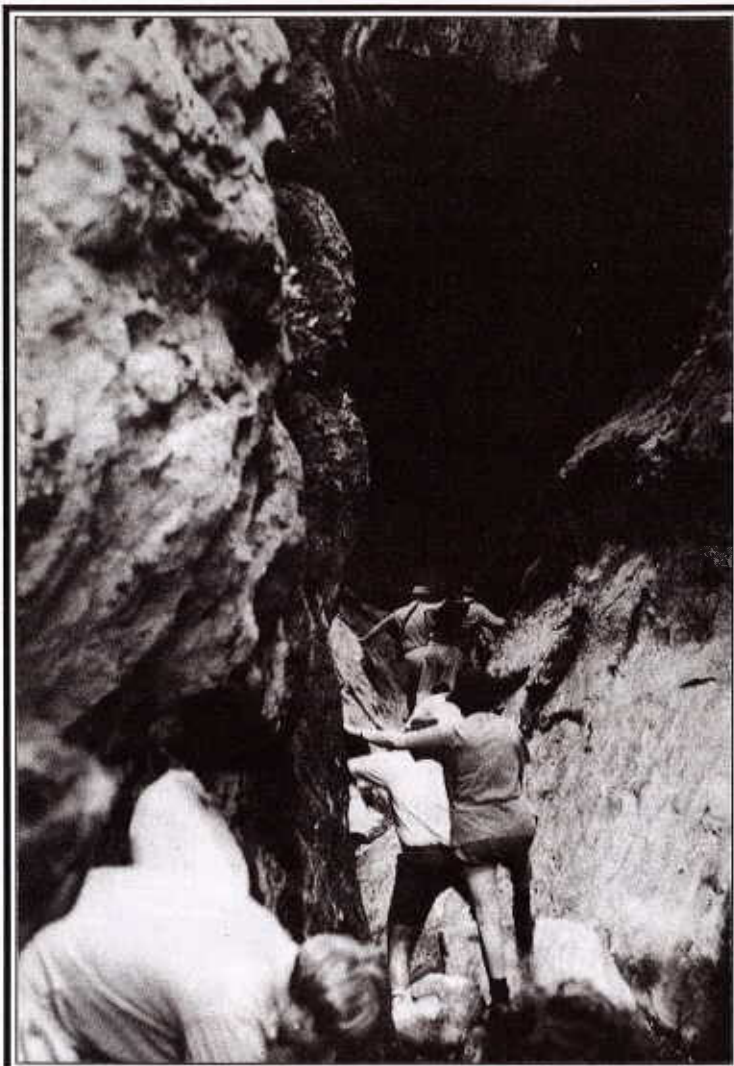
The gardens are much appreciated by visitors from other countries and have been used by embassy officials for entertaining.

In classifying Boxford Gardens the Council stated the following Statement of Significance: "In the Garden City, Canberra is a leading example in garden design. The Parks' gardens are such an example. 'Boxford' is a leading example of garden design in the Garden City, Canberra. The series of gardens represent most of the major classical garden styles of both western and eastern countries. These are easily accessible for enjoyment, appreciation and education. Their eight garden styles highlight the influence of famous landscape designers/architects, other cultures and religions upon garden design and are fine representatives of them. Polly Park, a recognised designer of and lecturer on gardens has created a set of gardens that are significant for social and aesthetic reasons."



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | Entrance | 5 | Main garden |
| 2 | Chinese garden | 6 | Indian garden |
| 3 | Japanese garden | 7 | Vegetable garden |
| 4 | Parterre garden | | |
| 8 | Knot Garden | | |
| 9 | American Front Garden | | |
| 10 | Service Area | | |
| 11 | Parking and Carport | | |

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RECENT ACTIVITIES

◆ Trust members plumb new depths: *The Big Hole and the Marble Arch*

➤ but some can't resist a good meal: *Brush Strokes and Roses*





▲ Others prefer tea: Lanyon
Guardians Tour to "Bundanon"

▶ a few even stoop to mineral
water at Hepburn Springs: Central
Victorian Goldfields Tour



RECENT ACTIVITIES

GLIMPSES OF EARLY CANBERRA—PART III

CAMP LIFE IN THE 1920S

Mrs Stanley's (Mess Caterer at Capitol Hill) memories of early Canberra, as told to Ann Gugler.

Now covered by the new Parliament House are the sites of two workmen's Camps. They were Capitol Hill (1925–1960) and Hillside Hostel (Post World War II—circa 1960s).

In 1925 three large new camps were constructed. They were; Capitol Hill, built by John Howie and Sons who erected Hostel No.1 (on the site of the Hotel Canberra, now called the Hyatt); White City and Causeway. Capitol Hill Camp was situated on the side of the hill near the suburb of Forrest and was established to accommodate single tradesmen working in the Territory. The majority of these men worked on the construction of Parliament House and other work in the vicinity of the camp. Camps were usually established near a particular construction site and other workplaces, such as road making, because an industrial award provided for a monetary allowance to be paid to workers walking over a certain distance to and from work. White City served the North side, Causeway the south and Capitol Hill the middle. These camps were in addition to the many which already dotted the Federal Capital Territory (F.C.T.) near various worksites.

This article concentrates largely on Mrs Stanley's experiences in construction camps in the Territory and, in particular, Capitol Hill camp. Hillside Hostel, which was built after World War Two for the accommodation of mainly New Australians, is not discussed.

As noted in previous articles, in the early days of the construction of the National Capital single men lived in tents. From mid 1926 onwards accommodation for single men was in the process of being upgraded to cubicles (10ft. x 12ft.) which were constructed from unlined raw second grade baltic pine. Each cubicle accommodated two men, had electric light and a small wooden stove.

An indication of the numbers living in tents and the cubicles comes from a document in Australian Archives which states at the end of 1926 there were 8 cubicle camps and 16 tent ones in the F. C. T.; 554 men lived in cubicles and 2,578 in tents. These numbers did not include those living in the many short lived camps which were set up, for example, in the forestry areas for purposes such as scrub clearing and the destruction of rabbits.

Capitol Hill differed from most camps in that it consisted of wooden barracks each of which was divided into eight rooms 10ft x 8ft. Two men shared a

room. In 1927 Capitol Hill camp was enlarged and connected to the sewerage system, which began operation in 1927.

Prior to completion of the sewer, permanent suburbs and some temporary settlements such as Westlake and the Molonglo were connected to local septic systems. The permanent building areas were so constructed that they could be connected to the sewer on its completion. The majority of the people in the 1920s in the Territory, however, used the pan system and in July 1927 a new sanitary collection vehicle went to service. It had two tiers for the storage of pans and the vehicle had solid rubber tyres (one can but hope that the lids on the pans were tight). 'Mr Lavender' was one of the names by which the collector was known.

The Mess building at Capitol Hill was constructed from galvanised iron. There was also a kitchen block and a butcher's shop in the complex. Mrs Stanley took over as Mess caterer from Mr and Mrs Lee late in 1928 and remained until 1931 when she returned to Sydney. Mrs Stanley's name is well known to those who lived here in the 1920s. She arrived in Canberra in 1919 following a period of work as a cook in a pub in Nimmitabel. She recalls that it was there that she and her young son and daughter first met a young priest named Father Haydon who in 1928 transferred to Canberra where he served until his death in 1949. He is fondly remembered by many early Canberrans.

Mrs. Stanley used an employment agency based in Sydney to find work. This agency directed people to the country areas where work was available and her first job in the F. C. T. (1919-1920) was at the Engineers' Mess which was situated opposite the Power House. This Mess building was later moved to a site near the Railway Station and used as a Friendly Society's Hall. Mrs Stanley's daughter Cecily (Mrs Hinchliffe), now living in Yarralumla, showed me the site of the Engineers' Mess and noted that there was another single men's camp nearby (close to Brisbane Avenue). This was the camp known as Daniel's No. 1 (No. 1 Labourers Camp) which moved in May 1923 to the Westlake site (hill opposite the Yacht Club area, Yarralumla) and in 1927, following the opening of Parliament, to Red Hill. Construction of the provisional Parliament House began in 1923 following the ceremony of the turning of the first sod which marked the beginning of work.

Mrs Stanley's next move was to the Cotter (1921-1922) where the mess served the men building nearby roads and those working on the construction of the one lane bridge over the Murrumbidgee River near the

pumping station (about 100 men). The camp was situated on the flat land about 50 yards from the tunnel on the other side of the river opposite the pumping station. Mrs Stanley recalls that on one occasion she placed a box of butter into the tunnel to keep it cool - it quickly and quietly disappeared! One can walk the site today and still see signs of the old camp which include stones from the old galley and evidence of a rubbish dump.

In 1923 Mrs Stanley moved to a new Mess near the lake (see August issue of National Trust magazine) at the intersection of Banks and Brown Streets, Yarralumla. This was No. 2 Sewer Mess (around 200 men). She remained there until 1925 when she moved to No. 4 Sewer Camp which was situated directly in front of Parliament House and is now under the lake. This camp closed early 1927 and reopened in 1928 as Parks Barracks. The men from the Old Tradesmen's Camp were moved from Westlake to this camp. Their first camp had been originally established near the Power House and with the need for tradesmen to work on the Parliament House was moved in early 1924 to Westlake (in the reserve on the opposite of the road to the Yacht club near the "No Through Road" sign.).

Parks Barracks was officially closed in 1929. The remaining men moved to the Causeway Camp (near the Railway Station, Kingston). However the camp

was reopened to house single men moving through the Territory during the great depression. These men were not allowed to live permanently in the Territory and were only allowed a short respite period of two weeks at the camp. Here they received a ration which consisted of basic foods such as bread, butter, tea, sugar and jam. Archival documents still contain the letters of many of these men who wrote to the authorities begging for work. Some were men who lived in the F.C.T. but had failed to register on an electoral roll. One man was born in America but had lived in the area for over twenty five years and had fought as an ANZAC at Gallipoli. Married men moving through the Territory lived at Mt. Ainslie Camp (near Ebdon St).

Around May 1927 Mrs. Stanley moved for a short stay to Mt. Ainslie Camp. While at this camp she registered on the 1928 Electoral Roll for the first election held in the Territory—it was a vote to allow the Territory to sell alcohol. The F.C.T. had been dry from around 1913 when King O'Malley declared that no alcohol was allowed to be sold in the Territory.

Her next move in the Territory was to Capitol Hill. The fare provided by Mrs. Stanley at Capitol Hill was substantial and basic. The men were charged 26 shillings per week for food which consisted of three meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Breakfast consisted of a such things as toast, jam, honey, butter, tea, coffee,



Mrs Stanley (Top Left) Capitol Hill Camp late 1928

sausages, bacon, eggs and so on. Men who required a cut lunch were provided with it - four slices of bread with fillings such as cheese, cold meats and jam. A man could request not to have particular fillings if he chose. Sandwich making was a big undertaking, Number 4 Mess, for example, had around 300 men using the service. The evening meal would consist of soup, a main meal such as steak, chops or sausages and vegetables and a pudding.

Food was delivered to the camps in the early years from Queanbeyan from stores such as J. B. Youngs (which opened a store in Canberra 1925), and the Swan Butchery. Orders were placed over the telephone at Capitol Hill, but in earlier years a phone was not always available. When working at the Engineers' Mess Mrs. Stanley had to use the Power House telephone because she lacked one in her Mess.

Mrs. Stanley was provided with the Mess buildings, stoves, cutlery, crockery etc and earned her living from the money the men paid. She employed at least two cooks, kitchen hands and waitresses. The men were not served at the tables but queued at the counter for meals.

During the period of high unemployment which commenced in F.C.T. in May 1927 following the opening of Parliament House, Mrs. Stanley did not turn away from her Mess a man who was unable, though no fault of his own pay, his bill. Single unemployed men were not paid the dole and had to rely on help from relatives or others to survive. A note in Archives states that Capitol Hill Mess in 1930 was run at a loss.

During the years 1927 to 1929 the numbers employed by the Commission were halved. An article written by the White City correspondent to the Community News dated 11th June, 1927, reflected the fears of the men:

"Back to routine work again (following the opening of Parliament and other holidays) we are some what set aback by the rumour in camp we believe to be partly true, that a large number of workmen will be put off. Everyone selfishly asks—Is it I? Well, waltzing Matilda in the winter season is not a very enviable past time."

Many of the men who came to Canberra to work order to support families often left wives and families in their home town or city and lived in the single camps. They worked a five and a half day week until a vote was taken in the mid 1920s to work the same hours in a five day week. This allowed men to travel home at weekends to visit families. Most travelled by train, but one famous character, Frank Clowry, known as St Joseph because his skills as a carpenter and his work

for St. Christopher's Church, used to ride his push bike home once a fortnight to a small town near Braidwood. There is a famed story about the time he was offered a lift by a man in a T. Model Ford. His reply was, I have been told, "No Thankyou, all the same, I'm in a bit of a hurry".

L. H.B. Lasseter, of Lasseters lost gold reef fame, came to Canberra circa March 1926 and, until he was joined by his wife and the young family in December, 1926, lived at Northbourne Camp (near Haigh Park, Henty St.). He wrote about the camps under the nom-de-plume of The Gleaner. In the issue of the Canberra Community News dated 11 June, 1926 he had the following to say about the camps:

"After making the rounds of the camps to gather impressions as to what most interests the people, I came to the opinion that two-up holds pride of place at the Tradesmen's Mess and No. 1 (Westlake); football at Riverbourne (3 miles from Queanbeyan on the south of Molonglo River), Sewer, Molonglo (Fyshwick), and Northbourne; racing at Red Hill (camp in what is now Latrobe Park), Mugga Quarry (near the current entrance to Mugga Quarry near Mugga Lane Road), and Ainslie (near Ebdon St.); and politics at Capitol Hill....During the last few weeks I have been making the rounds of rounds of the various camps, sampling the cooking and I plank whole-heartedly in favour of Red Hill as the Mess that has the best cook on the Territory. Next came Eastlake (near the Railway Station), Sewer, Molonglo, Capitol Hill, whose cook should learn to cook eggs without breaking the yoke—Tradesmen's Mess—that goes for quality—White City (car park area near the school of Music, Civic)—that relies too much on condiments—and for the rest—well altogether it seems to me that the cooking arrangements are not equal to the demands placed upon them, or else the cooks are not used to wood fires."

In the issue of the Canberra Community News, dated 11th October, 1926 Lasseter spoke about one of his 'inventions'. There are numerous others in archival material which suggests that he was, in a number of ways, a man ahead of his time.

"Suggest that the Commission furnish each house with a rotary clothes line, one post 7 feet high and two cross-pieces 20 feet long. Put a bolt through the cross and into the top of the post then fasten your line to the cross arms. By spacing your wires two feet apart you can get over 100 feet of hanging space and the washer

lady can stand in one place to hang all the clothes."

Sport was the most important facet in the lives of the men living in the camps. Each camp attempted to have a tennis court and a cricket pitch constructed. Many camps used the Mess building for purposes such as reading, billiards and dances were held in many. In some, small businesses such as hairdressing were set up and a small store established. In some camps the Mess rooms were used for lectures of an uplifting nature and library books were delivered for use by the men. No. 3 Sewer Mess was left behind when the camp moved in 1925 to become the first Westlake Hall. Church services were held in this hall. Other halls used for such services were at Westridge, Acton and Causeway. The S. P. Bookies also frequented camps but not on an official basis! Football of all codes, including soccer, was one of the most important winter sports played in the Territory by workmen. Other sports such as hockey, bowls, golf, croquet and rifle shooting were also part of the lives of those living in the Territory, but in not usually taken up by workmen. There was a cycle racing club established in the mid 1920's by Jacob Tootell who lived for a time at Westlake. Gymnasiums were also popular.

An article written by the correspondent for White City Camp in *Community News* 11th February, 1927

had the following to say about some sports:

"The race meeting at Canberra on February 12 is causing keen interest to race enthusiasts in the camp, and a number of "dark horses" have been seen in active training in our locality. We hope that some of these will bring fame to the camp. Our cricket club in its first year of existence is doing splendidly in the Association Competition, and we congratulate them. The erection of the cricket pavilion by voluntary labour had a setback though the structure collapsing, but that has been put right and the Captain and members are now putting in good work towards completing the structure. The tennis court site has been picked out long ago, and it is up to some of our enthusiasts to get a move on with that work."

An other article in the issue dated 11th November, 1926 points to other social activities organised by White City's Social Service Committee:

"On Sunday October 24 a moonlight picnic was held at the Cotter River, but the moon sold us a pup by not showing up. However we had a big fire, and "Kid" Dencio on the banjo assisted by a portable gramophone (kindly confiscated by Ryan from Attwell) made the night at Cotter



Canberra (c. 1930)—White City (Top Centre), Civic and Gorman House (Centre), and Hotel Ainslie (Lower Right)

just the thing. A good supper of good things was appreciated by fifty joy seekers. These jaunts can be recommended to all as a tonic for faded nerves at 6/- per head. Cars left White City at 8 o'clock and left at the ghost hour...." (Kid Dencio was a famous amateur boxer of the time. Boxing matches were held in the Causeway Hall).

White City Camp remained open until early 1931 when it closed because of falling numbers using it and the commencement of construction of permanent buildings in the area, including the Institute of Anatomy (now the Film and Sound Archives). It was the practice of the period to move camps out of sight of permanent buildings when possible.

Causeway Camp (near the Railway Station) and Capitol Hill were the two camps to officially remain in

use into post World War Two period and they took on temporary settlements of Russell Hill, Westlake, Acton workmen's cottages, Molonglo disappeared in the late 1950s and 60s. Most sites have been altered or built upon, but a few pockets still remain with evidence of briar roses, sweet peas and other hardy plants which flower each spring and the odd brick and old kero tin buckets and other rubbish left behind. The hill opposite the road between the Hyatt and Yacht Club, Yarralumla has the concrete slab of an ablution block in the long grass and other remnants to mark the sites of the homes of over 700 people who lived there in 1925. But the main evidence of this period of Canberra's camps and the temporary settlements now lives in the memories of those who lived there, the snap shots taken by them and Archival documents.

Ann Gugler 4 December, 1994

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THE THIRD APEX OF THE NATIONAL TRIANGLE

In December last, the President and Senior Vice-President respectively gave evidence at two separate Parliamentary Committees: the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

The former was convened to consider proposals advanced by the National Capital Planning Authority for amendments to the National Capital Plan in the general area of Russell. The latter was convened to consider specific proposals by the Department of Defence, consistent with the proposed Plan amendments, for the first stage of a proposed redevelopment of the Defence complex at Russell. The National Trust decided to make written submissions and give evidence on matters of heritage concern.

The original Griffin concept for Canberra was steeped in symbolism. The Water and Land Axes, the three points of the Triangle were described as Civic Centre (City Hill), Capitol (the former Capital Hill) and Market Centre (Russell). Over time, municipal and commercial functions have tended to concentrate at Civic and the New Parliament House has replaced the concept of a people's Capitol.

Whilst other developments have also given general form and meaning to central Canberra, the Russell apex, which is actually about 200m behind the American Memorial, has never really materialised. Neither has the axis along Constitution Avenue, which Griffin envisaged as completing the Triangle.

The Trust's main concern is that there is no overall heritage conservation study and management plan for the Triangle, and that individual areas, like Russell, are being considered separately. In July 1994 a design exercise was undertaken by the NCPA for the Triangle and a number of far-sighted possibilities for the future of Canberra were presented for public debate. At the time a response for the Trust was written by Ken Taylor, Garth Setchell and Eric Martin. Meetings are scheduled around Australia early in 1995 to discuss the NCPA ideas. A major drawback that the Trust highlighted in relations to the 1994 ideas plan was that there was no cultural heritage expertise input.

The dilemma for the Trust at Russell is that the design has been undertaken quickly, albeit in response to the Defence Department's urgent desire to replace its inadequate office accommodation. The NCPA accepted that the plan did not acknowledge some of the future possibilities highlighted in its 1994 design ideas exercise and that there is still a need to establish a symbolic rationale for the Russell Apex.

Space precludes a full report on the Trust's submissions but the main points of Ken Taylor's submission to the National Capital and External Territories Committee were:

- ❖ The failure of the proposals to incorporate identification and assessment of cultural heritage values of the total setting of the National Area. The Trust remains concerned on this issue. The CNA is the symbolic heart of the nation. It is Australia's most significant historic cultural landscape place. Neither in the overall strategy proposals nor in the current Russell study have the iconographic meanings or cultural significance of the historic setting of the precinct being addressed.
- ❖ The need for an Advisory Management Committee to specifically to comment on matters affecting the landscape of the CNA.
- ❖ There are inconsistencies between heritage matters relating to aspects of architectural, landscape and archaeological significance raised in the report and planning/design proposals. In some instances the proposals pay attention to identified heritage significance, in others heritage significance is overridden. Whilst it is accepted that there may not be any feasible alternative, no cogent arguments are set out for the decisions. It is difficult to see what some of the paragraphs listed under Statement of Significance actually signify, eg 'The Russell area was a significant component of Campbell's Duntroon Station and the Russell area was traversed by tracks linking Canberra Village and Queanbeyan.' Is there any evidence of this remaining on the ground? If so, where? can it be incorporated into future planning? Similarly there is a reference to the construction phase at Russell Hill Camp. What is the import of this physically for the site? What remains are there?

The submission then made detailed comments on specific heritage aspects of the Draft Russell Master Plan. The submission concluded with the following comments:

- ❖ The brief for the heritage study component requires that the symbolic significance of the area's human history in relation to the National Capital is documented. It is difficult to see how this has been effected. Given the size of the study area, the Trust is doubtful that the task could be accomplished in the time scale available. It is also regrettable to see that the study has been done in isolation from the rest of the historic cultural landscape setting of the National Triangle.

The Trust strongly recommends that the Joint Standing

Committee instructs the NCPA to institute a full heritage conservation study and management plan for the setting of the National Area, and that further landscape and building works, including Russell, not proceed until this requirement has been fulfilled.

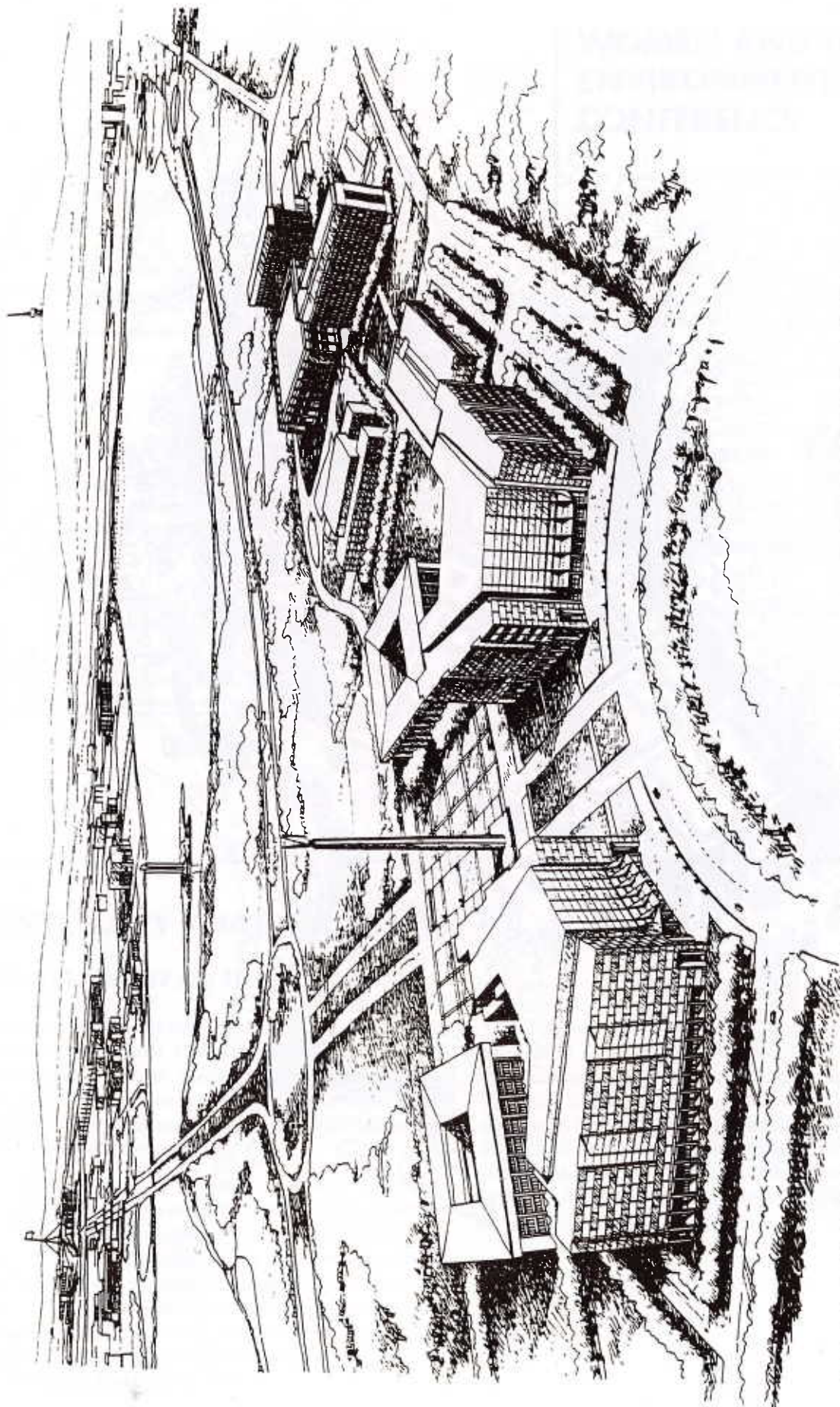
In the case of Garth Setchell's submission to the Public Works Committee, it is noted that the current Defence proposal envisages the immediate construction of two major Defence buildings on the focal corner sites which front the future Apex (Russell Circle?), behind the American Memorial, on either side of an extended Kings Avenue - see new master plan and aerial view. It also amazingly proposes construction of a multi-storey car park fronting the proposed extension of Constitution Avenue, on the second block removed from the Apex!

- ❖ Whilst supporting the desirability of completing the Triangle, and whilst not opposed in principle to the substantial redevelopment of the present Russell Defence complex nor of Defence remaining a major occupant of the Russell area, the Trust does regard the immediate precinct surrounding the Russell Apex as being one of the most important development sites still remaining in Australia. It is clearly a site of immense heritage and symbolic significance. It is clearly a precinct that requires much more in-depth study and community consultation.
- ❖ Leaving aside questions of building design, the current Defence proposal (which incidentally envisaged commencement of major excavation work this February) must indelibly stamp the Russell Apex as the "Defence" apex of the National Triangle. By tightly defining and dominating the only built edge of the future Russell Circle, no other interpretation seems possible.
- ❖ The Trust seriously questions this symbolism, which takes little account of the heritage basis for the Triangle and also sends an arguably curious message to future national and international visitors to Canberra, in the event that the Russell Apex becomes "the Gateway (from Sydney) to Canberra" as postulated in the NCPA's release of future concepts last July. It is arguably the kind of

symbolism one might expect from a militant state such as the former USSR—enter between the KGB and the Joint Chiefs of Staff!

- ❖ The Trust notes that, without denigrating their major importance, "Defence" and "Sacrifice" are already symbolically represented along the Central Axis of Canberra. If the third apex were to become "the Gateway", as is reasonable because of its location, there are possibly other symbols of national aspiration that would be better associated with "the Gateway"—eg. national achievement, national reconciliation, science or culture, etc.
- ❖ Given the NCPA's further admissions that:
 - its planning amendment took virtually no account of its own "Gateway" concept;
 - it allowed for only questionably low traffic flows through the Apex and along both Constitution and Kings Avenues;
 - it had not made physical allowance for the future possibility of light rail; and
 - the NCPA harboured some doubts about aspects of the visual containment of Blamey Square by the new Defence buildings;the Trust believes it had some justification in seeking modification of the current Defence proposals, by moving the two main buildings one block back from the future Russell Circle and by relocating the multi-storey carpark away from its proposed prominent site on the extension of Constitution Avenue.
- ❖ This would only slightly delay Defence's legitimate ambitions and it would basically meet NCPA's desire to advance towards completion of the Triangle—but, most importantly, it would leave space at the apex for appropriate development once all the competing demands of heritage conservation, symbolism, traffic volumes, public transportation, building massing and site utilisation had been given more detailed consideration.

The Trust awaits the findings of the two Committees with keen interest.



PERRY LYON MATTHEWSON

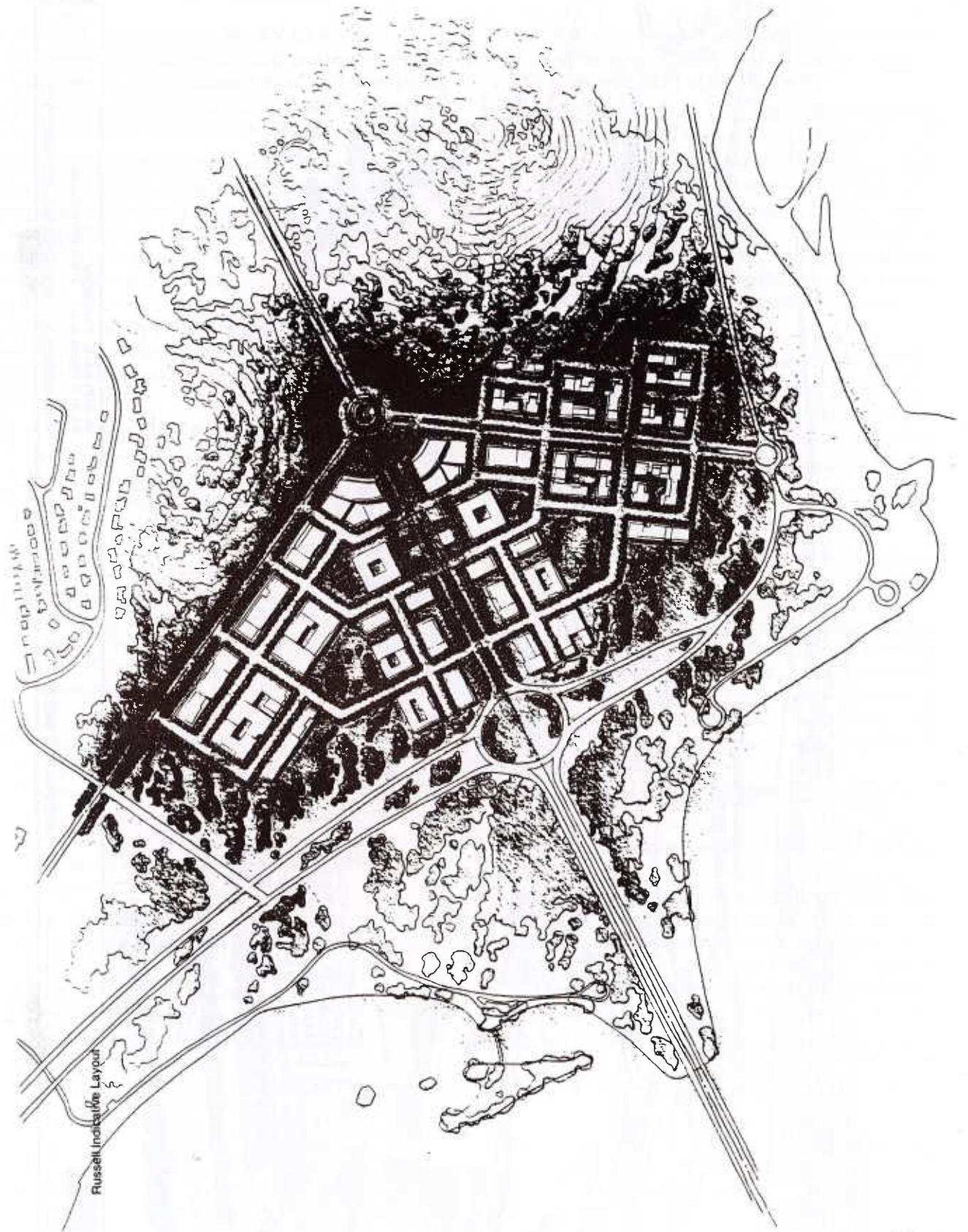
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

AERIAL VIEW
NATIONAL TRIANGLE

1

RUSSELL REDEVELOPMENT







WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

The Australian Conservation Foundation in association with Greenpeace Australia, World Wide Fund for Nature, The Wilderness Society, The Victorian Women's Trust, Greening Australia, and the Victorian YWCA, is proud to present the inaugural Women and the Environment Conference. The Conference is to be held at the World Congress Centre, Melbourne on March 24, 25 and 26.

Speakers include Madam Wu Ganmei (Secretary General, China Women's Association for Science and Technology), Senator Cheryl Kernot (Leader of the Australian Democrats), and Chris Gallus (Shadow Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs).

Cost per person is \$300.00 (full) or \$100.00 (concession for pensioner, full-time student, or unwaged person). Information and application forms can be obtained from the Australian Conservation Foundation on (03) 4161166 or (03) 4161455.

CENTENARY THARWA BRIDGE

(27/3/1895-27/3/1995)

The Tharwa Bridge is the Territory's oldest surviving Bridge and a most notable nineteenth century engineering structure. Historically significant as the first Allen-Howe truss bridge erected in New South Wales it is also an important element in the landscape of the Lanyon Bowl area.

Celebrations through the week 25 March to 2 April have been planned to mark the momentous occasion. The highlight will undoubtedly be the re-enactment of the bridge opening ceremony at noon, Monday 27 March. You are all most welcome—but remember entry is through Point Hut Road as the route from Lanyon will be closed to enable the procession of buggies, sulkeys and mounted cavalry to journey to the Bridge as they did in 1895.

The Trust is participating in preparations for the event, and is hoping to mark the historic occasion by producing a commemorative fridge magnet with the National Trust logo. This is planned to be the first of a series of heritage place magnets which will sell for \$3 each. If you would like to have one of the first ever produced please indicate your interest to the Trust office—we can also provide you with a full programme of the Tharwa Bridge festivities.

WHAT'S ON, IN AND AROUND CANBERRA

OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

The Press Gallery

Experience the old Press Gallery with a guided tour and display at 11.15 am and 1.15 pm daily.

About the House

An introduction to the stories of Old Parliament House

Women with Attitude

8 March–August

The past 100 years of women's political and community action.

LANYON HOMESTEAD

Lanyon: The Convict Years Exhibition 1830s–1840s
Tues–Sun, 10am–4 pm, Stone Barn, Lanyon, Tharwa

ACT PARKS AND CONSERVATION SERVICE,

Ranger Guided Activities,
Murrumbidgee River Corridor (Bookings on 288 4930)

ST JOHN'S CHURCH—"SPIRIT OF PLACE"

With "Spirit of Place" history comes alive with music, acting, words and slides in a brilliant evening's entertainment, bringing you the story of Canberra from pre-pioneer days to the 1980's. Directed by Ross MacGregor and written by Anthony Hill this is not just great theatre, it celebrates Canberra's coming of age as a great city and is a tribute to the spirit of those who made it happen. A special tour of the churchyard will set the scene for each performance. Seating in the church of St John's is limited, so book early to ensure your place for this unique event.

Dates 11–20 March 1995, 7.00pm

Tickets \$20.00 adults, \$15.00 concessions, \$10.00 children

BOOKINGS (06) 249 8963

St John's Church, Constitution Avenue, Reid, ACT 2601.

NATIONAL TRUST (NSW)

Berrima District Branch

Black Tie Dinner and Fashion Parade at Bowral
Friday 21 April

To assist in raising funds to preserve Harper's Mansion, Berrima, the Berrima District Branch in conjunction with Adrienne and the Misses Bonney of Double Bay are holding a Black Tie Dinner and Fashion

Parade at 'Craigieburn', Bowral, 7pm for 7.30pm. The three course dinner includes wine. \$50 per person. Weekend package \$185 per person.

Enquiries to Karen Hoskison (048) 691 207

Illawarra Shoalhaven Region

Heritage Week Silent Movie Screening
Sunday 9 April

Our greatest silent epic 'For the Term of his Natural Life' is being screened at Wollongong's prestigious Regent Cinema from 4pm. The screening will be accompanied by a pre-recorded music track. Refreshments follow. \$15 per person. This could appeal to persons travelling independently to Sydney for 'West Side Story'.

Fitzroy Falls Walk

Sunday 28 May

Easier than our own Nattai walk, this early afternoon activity starts with a 'soup and damper' lunch and concludes with afternoon tea. The 90 minute walk is along the level West Rim Track. \$15 per person.

Enquiries for both above to Carolyn Banting (042) 287 692

