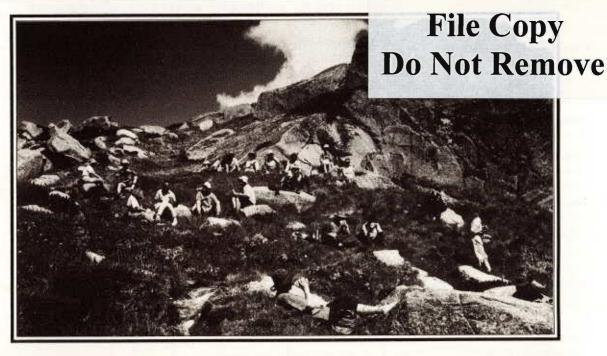
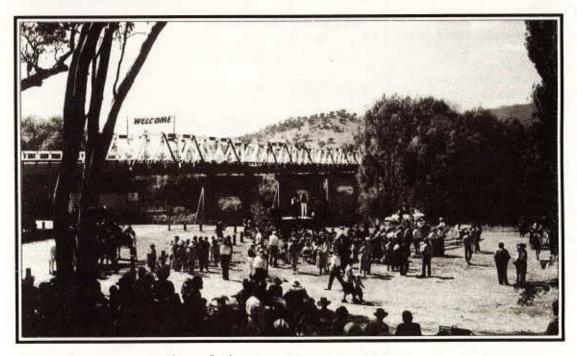


PO Box 3173 Manuka ACT 2603

May 1995



Lunch Break During the Glacial Action Tour



Centenary Celebrations for Tharwa Bridge

Trust News

Published by
The National Trust of Australia (ACI')
6 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600
PO Box 3173

Tel(02)2810711 Fax(02)2853327

President

Prof Ken Taylor

Executive Officer
Mr Michael Hodgkin

MANUKA ACT 2603

Editor

Ms Robyn Trezise

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Half page (A5) \$40.00
Quarter page or less \$15.00

Advertisements should be laser print quality or in bromide, ready to print format. We can draw up simple advertisements for you (at \$20.00/hour) or can arrange a professionally designed advertisement (at \$40.00/hour).

If you provide the material, we will incorporate A4 or smaller inserts in Trust News for \$60.00 per edition. The National Trust of Australia (ACT) reserves the right to decline any advertisement.

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Affiliated organisations membership \$45.00

Corporate membership \$150.00.

Life memberships also available, Single life membership \$360.00; Dual life membership \$450.00 Benefactor \$1000.00.

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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.

Miss B M Bennett, Weston Mr P A Bibo, Kambah Mrs B Blight, Floreat W.A. Dr D G & Mrs S R Blight, Chapman Miss C Burke, Braddon Ms A R Mrs M Cameron, Palmerston Mr B & Mrs N Chynoweth, Monash Ms L Crnkovic, Gordon Mr P S Davis, Wanniassa Mrs M Dixon, Mawson Mrs I E Dovers, Garran Miss H A Dreyer, Spence Mr D Everingham, Ainslie Mr O D Gabbitas, Queanbeyan N.S.W. Ms K Gravenmaker, Waramanga Mr S & Mrs D Hart, Hawker Ms E Harvey, O'Connor Mr J & Mrs R Hindmarsh, Red Hill

Ms P Hore, Ainslie Mrs M Hyland, Griffith Mr L & Mrs M Jolly, Page Mr P Keele, O'Connor Mrs S Knyvett, Yarralumla Ms S Mallisy, Holder Mr G & Mrs B Maynard, Kambah Mr I Mills, Torrens Mr M R Norwood, Campbell Mr A & Mrs M Paine, Griffith Mr L & Mrs R Power, Duffy Ms C Raper, Pearce Ms M Robertson, Watson Mr R & Mrs R Rosenbaves, Fraser Mrs B Rosenberg, Griffith Ms N Ross, Gordon Mr A & Mrs M Rowie, Moruya N.S.W. Mr P & Mrs M Samara-Wickrama, Kambah Miss S Tjia, Maroubra N.S.W. Ms R Trezise, O'Connor Mr B & Mrs U Whyte, Hawker Mr G Wilson, Holder



CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PRIZE

Each year the National Trust (ACT) awards a prize to the best final year Applied Science undergraduate student specialising in Cultural Heritage Management. Following last year's final examinations, it has been decided to share the prize given this year between two equally deserving students. They are Vivienne Moran and Jillian Noack who will each receive Trust membership and a cheque for \$100. Congratulations Vivienne and Jillian and good luck for the future.



HERITAGE UNDER THREAT

This letter concerns the threat to Acton Peninsula, and was sent in by Miss S. J. Hollier in response to our call for feedback from members.

I write—partly in response to your invitation (April issue) to contribute an article on any Heritage Walk that I have undertaken recently—and partly from extreme concern about a place of deep historical significance, which is seriously under siege and under threat as I write. I refer of course to the Acton Peninsula—the site of the old Canberra Community (later Royal Canberra) Hospital.

About a year ago, the organization calling itself Canberra Community Action on Acton (CCAA) started a series of Heritage Walks on Acton Peninsula, through the complex of buildings which comprised the hospital—largely conducted by volunteer guides.

Although in a sense—in my case—it was a matter of preaching to the converted (I was born in Canberra, spent some time in the Children's Ward in 1948, and enjoyed a friendship with the family of the then Superintendent) I found the whole afternoon a delightful experience—the very "therapeutic" environment of the grounds of Royal Canberra Hospital (known to a great many people it has been described as a "sacred site") has a tranquillising effect on most people lucky enough to be able to experience it—and the scenery and surroundings are unbelievably beautiful. Many a past hospital patient can vouch for its effectiveness as a convalescent experience—including myself! On a different level - I met such interesting people! Several of us (we were mostly "over fifties") had been born in Canberra. That in itself was pretty unusual! I remember—starting work in 1960—being regarded as an oddity ("Born HERE! I've never met one of THEM (!) before!") and one man claimed his father had been in charge of one very specific aspect of early construction work, here in Canberra. Everyone had an interesting historical story to tell-and perhaps we should have thought to take the man with the video camera along too!

However, on a more serious note, I am extremely concerned about the announcement by the Chief Minister, Kate Carnell, that the Royal Canberra Hospital buildings will be demolished—and I really wonder at the insensitivity of that decision.

The Acton Peninsula contains layer upon layer of local history. It boasts an excellent example (or is it the ONLY example?) of the limestone outcrops which gave the place its name "The Limestone Plains"; it is

the site of the first white settlement in the area (a fountain marks the place where Joshua Moore's house once stood); it was, for many years THE hospital, and in fact, I believe its significance in terms of Aboriginal settlement and usage goes back beyond the memory of time.

When it was obvious the hospital was going to be closed, a group of its supporters asked the National Trust for help to save it. I read the report of the meeting at which this request was discussed (I was unable to attend it myself), and my impression was that the meeting brushed aside the request and did not consider it important enough to pay much attention to.

I am ashamed to admit that I am a member of an organization which is supposed to exist to preserve our precious heritage—when they seem to have been so "cavalier" about probably the most important site we've got in Canberra—all "firsts" and "onlys".

There will—hopefully—be more Heritage Walks* on the Acton site soon—if there is anything left to walk on! I urge all Trust members to attend at least one of them—and to help us lobby Mrs Carnell so that she will see the folly of her intention. Thousands of years of historical significance are about to be crushed underfoot. I would not like to be the one responsible for giving the order.

Yours faithfully,

Sylvia Hollier

* For details contact Jack Kershaw (CCAA) on 231 2948.

EDITORIAL NOTE

In defence of the Trust, the Trust did not treat the Acton Hospital issue in a "cavalier" fashion. The Trust made considerable input to the community discussion on this issue, and was represented on the Acton and West Basin Community Consultative Committee. Hundreds of hours of Trust members and staff time has been spent trying to ensure that the heritage values of the Acton Peninsula are preserved, and that the views of the Canberra community are heard.

HELP WANTED—YOUR TRUST NEEDS YOU

LANYON GIFT SHOP

Lanyon Gift Shop is desperately in need of volunteers, particularly during week days and on Sundays. If you can help PLEASE call the Trust Office on 281 0711 or Marjory Gallagher on 281 4284 between 5.00pm and 8.00pm.

LANYON GUARDIANS

After the article in the November "Trust News" a number of people 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 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.

INTERNATIONAL TABLE SETTINGS AND TREASURES

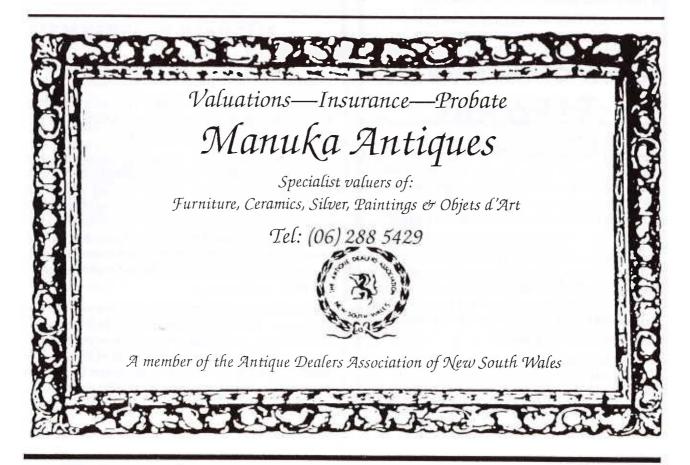
Volunteers are needed to act as guardians at this popular exhibition, now a regular event in the Floriade calendar. Each of the tables requires a guardian to ensure that nothing is stolen or damaged. If you can help for half a day either Saturday 30 September (10am–5pm) or Sunday 1 October (11am–5pm), please contact the Trust office on 281 0711.

ANY ARTICLES?

Have you been on a heritage walk, visited an interesting Trust site or attended a Trust function lately? If so, we would like to hear about it, and would appreciate reviews or comments for publication in the newsletter. Knowing how members feel about Trust activities means we can better plan future activities to please our members.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Trust also has a need for an energetic, enthusiastic person to serve on our Publications Committee. If you could spare a couple of hours on the first Monday of each month to attend meetings, please come forward. Your contribution would be of great value in helping promote the Trust.



MARBLE MINING THREAT

In 'Habitat Australia', the magazine of the Australian Conservation Foundation, Felicity Faris reported on a disturbing threat to several endangered species.

The Victorian Administrative Appeals Tribunal recently rejected a proposal for marble mining to proceed at Marble Gully, a nationally significant plant community in East Gippsland. Mining was set to proceed within the critical habitat of a unique silurian limestone pomaderris shrubland vegetation community. This is the only known stand of pomaderris shrubland in the world and covers only forty hectares. It has been listed under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG) which in the past has been looked upon by other states as a model on which to base their own habitat protection legislation. Several other endangered plant species would have also been under threat if mining had proceeded, as well as the feeding area of the glossy black cockatoo.

Itappears that the Victorian Government was prepared to allow mining to go ahead despite the FFG listing. Conservation groups may have saved Marble Gully for the moment, but it seems that the spirit and intent of the FFG was not followed in giving permission for the mining to proceed in the first instance. We can only hope that this 'guarantee' is not proven quite useless and that a precedent has not been set for the destruction of other endangered species in the future.

ABORIGINAL EMBASSY ON REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE

As you will probably have heard, the Australian Heritage Commission recently entered the site of the Aboriginal Embassy onto the Register of the National Estate. A ceremony to celebrate the event was held on April 9th in front of Old Parliament House.

Local Ngunnawal Aboriginal Land Council and Embassy representatives have expressed their pleasure at this decision. The site has been recognised as significant for historical, cultural, political and social reasons. The site was used by Aboriginals as a meeting place until the settlement of the Canberra region.

During the construction of Parliament House, many Aboriginal artefacts were uncovered and Aborigines first protested on the site in 1927, during the building's official opening. These first protests dealt with land claims and were widely reported at the time.

Land rights were again the focus when a Tent Embassy was erected on the site on Australia Day 1972, and later removed by police. On the twentieth anniversary of the erection of the first tent, the present 'Embassy' was erected. This gives the site a continuous presence of, and provides a meeting place for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

REVIEW OF THE VIEW

The first edition of a new magazine, heralded by the flyer which accompanied the February edition of Trust News, was published last month. Called *The View*, it is presented in two parts. The first part deals with Australia's arts and culture, and the scientific discoveries and methods which aid conservation and the protection of our natural environment. The second part deals with heritage issues and is a resurrection of the former *Heritage Australia* magazine.

The articles dealing with art and culture include pieces on Meryl Tankard's Adelaide-based Australian Dance Theatre; the proposed new Museum of Victoria to be built in Carlton Gardens; the 1994 National Aboriginal Art Awards; and the role of General Managers in performing arts companies.

Some of the features of the Heritage Australia section include articles on public support for heritage preservation; the work done by the Australian Archives as "guardians of our cultural memory"; and a glimpse

of what can be seen if visiting Tasmania's historic town of Westbury. This is only a selection of the interesting pieces to be found inside.

Dozens of current and upcoming exhibitions and events are advertised—but unfortunately, in this first issue, all are in Victoria. More emphasis on what is happening elsewhere would give the magazine a more national appeal—hopefully this will be corrected in later issues. Published by Designs Australia Pty. Ltd. thrice yearly, *The View* is glossy, well-presented, and, at 134 pages, provides stories to suit a wide range of interests.

The View magazine is on sale at good newsagents and at National Trust Gift Shops for only \$8.95 per copy, and National Trust members are able to purchase an annual subscription for the low price of \$22.50. This venture is supported by the Australian Council of National Trusts, and it is to be hoped that you will also give *The View* your support.

INTERSTATE NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES

GULF STATION, VICTORIA

Nestled in the Yarra Valley near Melbourne lies the town of Yarra Glen. This valley was known as 'Billanook' by local Aboriginals until Robert Hoddle first surveyed the area in 1838. The town of Yarra Glen was established after James McPherson built a homestead of that name in the mid 1850s.

To the north-east of the town is Gulf Station—one of the oldest of the Yarra Valley farms, and comprising the most complete group of solid timber slab farm buildings still surviving in Victoria. The station was built by Thomas Armstrong, and William Bell and sons, who arrived in Melbourne from Scotland in 1839. After working in Melbourne then taking up pastoral leases in several locations, the friends acquired the land now known as Gulf Station in 1851, giving them land on both high and low ground. The several buildings on the property were constructed from the late 1850s to the early 1860s.

Surviving today are the original slab homestead, a bakehouse, lavatory, piggery, two stable buildings, kennels and a butcher's shop. There is a large outbuilding which once housed a milking shed, smithy and hayshed, and a shearing shed, slaughterhouse

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The benefits of joining the National Trust extend beyond subsidised entry to a number of places of cultural significance both in Australia and overseas. Did you know that membership also entitles you to a 10% discount on items bought at any National Trust Gift Shop anywhere in Australia?

If our Gift Shop does not have the type of item you are seeking, you may consider trying the National Film and Sound Archive retail shop, where Trust members are also eligible to receive a 10% discount.

Members are also able to place small advertisements in the newsletter at the rate of \$1/column line. If you have something to sell which you think other members may be interested in, try placing an ad in our 'For Sale' section.

Did you know that members may also receive the magazine "Quarterly" for a mere \$12/year. "Quarterly" is published by the National Trust (NSW) and features an array of interesting articles and plenty of coloured photographs. The \$12 charge covers the cost of postage and handling. Contact the office if you are interested.

and an old school building. The property's sheep dip is still in use today by a neighbouring farmer.

All of these buildings were made of local stringybark and gum, apparently by the men of the Bell and Armstrong families. Post and rail fencing forms the numerous animal pens. The walls of the buildings are of either horizontal or vertical slab construction, several rooves are of split shingles, and there is much brick flooring. Many of the original farm tools and household items remain in situ today, bringing to life this farm scene from last century.

The farm is open to the public each week from Wednesday to Sunday, as well as on public holidays (except Christmas Day and Good Friday). The compound may be viewed at other times by appointment. Telephone enquiries and appointments may be made by calling (03) 730 1286.

Peregrine

NEW CANBERRA OFFICE

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INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS TOURS

NATIONAL TRUST (NSW)

National Trust Way to North East America Wednesday 20 September—Sunday 15 October

Fly via San Francisco to Washington DC, visiting the capital's landmarks and Mt Vernon. Travel through Virginia to Jamestown, Williamsburg, Monticello and Charlottesville. See the Gettysburg battlefield, and meet the Amish in Lancaster County. Journey north to Canada, viewing Niagara Falls and riding the Maid of the Mist; travel to Toronto and along the St Lawrence Seaway to Ottawa; then takes in the cobblestone streets and French flavour of Montreal and Quebec City.

Return to view the New England area of the USA, then to New York where the tour concludes. Tour is to be conducted by Jim Hedge. Bookings and enquiries to Annie Weinert at Travellers on (02) 256 4444, or enquiries to Jim Hedge on (02) 567 8704.

National Trust Way to Tasmania and Flinders Island Saturday 28 October—Friday 10 November

This tour begins with three days in Launceston, visiting historic National Trust properties and seeing spectacular Cataract Gorge. Next, stay at the Freycinet Lodge from where you may relax, enjoy walks, take the organised driving tours to points of interest, and cruise to nearby Schouten Island. From here the party

returns to Launceston via the east coast, then spends six days on Flinders Island. The Island is renowned for its unspoilt beaches, abundant wildlife, mountain backdrops and turquoise lagoons. While there, pan for diamonds at Killiecrankie and visit the Wybalena historical site. The tour ends with a sunset cruise to Cape Baron Island to see the mutton birds returning to their nests, and a flight home via Launceston.

The tour leader is Margaret Durham. Bookings and enquiries to Annie Weinert at Travellers on (02) 256 4444, or enquiries to Margaret Durham on (02) 958 7621.

West Australia Wildflower and Heritage Explorer Tour Saturday 16 September–Wednesday 27 September

See W.A. 'sabundance of spring wildflowers and heritage sites on this twelve day journey west. From Perth, visit Bunbury, Busselton, Margaret River and Cape Leeuwin, where two great oceans meet. Travel on the scenic Pemberton Tram to Albany, W.A.'s oldest settlement with many historic Trust properties. The tour also takes in the historic gold mining towns of Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie and Boulder, and visits the monastic town of New Norcia. Cost is \$2,682 / person twin share (single room extra). Reservations through Rob Nosworthy of Travellers on (02) 256 4444 or (02) 411 1239(ah).



KOSCIUSKO HOMESTEAD TO BE CONSERVED

From the Kosciusko Huts Association Newsletter, Maurice Sexton reported on a National Estate Grant to conserve Westermans' Homestead.

The Kosciusko Huts Association has recently been advised of a National Estate Grant totalling \$11,750 over three years to conserve Westermans' Homestead. Several members of the Association worked hard to prepare the grant application, which also includes the funds to enable a stonemason to complete the chimney at Brayshaw's Homestead. Westermans' Homestead dates from 1916, and was built by Bruce Jeffrey when he married Selena Westerman.

The house is timber-framed and built on stone footings. It has five rooms and a gable and skillion roof clad with corrugated iron. Tongue and groove boards line the ceiling, and there is also evidence of some oiled sailcloth

ceilings. There is some lathe and plaster walling and remnants of newspapers line some walls. A small verandah shades the front of the house. The gables have decorative scalloped bargeboards—a distinctive and unusual feature of the house.

Unfortunately the house is in poor condition and both chimneys have collapsed through age and vandalism. The KHA hopes to employ a combination of dedicated volunteers and skilled artisans to work on the restoration and conservation of the Homestead. If there are any skilled stonemasons or enthusiastic volunteers who are interested in helping on this project, Bob Hancock (06 2050921) would appreciate a call.

MONTAGUE ISLAND

From the New South Wales 'Trust News' comes the story of Montague Island—Australia's first National Trust property.

In this the fiftieth year of the National Trust in Australia, it is perhaps relevant to reflect on Australia's first National Trust property. This was Montague Island on the NSW South Coast. On March 4th 1953, the NSW Trust entered into an agreement/licence with the Commonwealth Government for the Trust to exercise "full guardianship of the flora and fauna on the Island".

This windswept island was named after the Earl of Halifax, by Captain James Cook in 1790. It is small (approx. 1.4×0.5 km.), with rugged granite outcrops. The lighthouse and staff cottages on the island which date from 1880-1881 have had an important role in our maritime history, and are listed on the Register of the National Estate and Classified by the Trust. The island itself is a Trust Landscape Conservation area, the only inhabitants being the lighthouse keepers and families.

Montague Island was chosen to be guarded because of its importance as a safe haven and breeding ground for Tasmanian fur seals, fairy penguins and some 43 other species of sea birds. The major vegetation on the island is the honey-rush which provides protection for the mutton birds and penguins' nests.

The Trust conscientiously guarded this island for over 30 years, with lighthouse staff and annual visitors from the CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research providing the island's only human contact. Publicity was avoided, and this arrangement was very successful in maintaining the island's equilibrium. This was a large responsibility for the Trust's Ivor Wyatt, who negotiated the original agreement and kept regular contact with officers of the Commonwealth Department of Transport, but it was a very successful arrangement.

After the automation of the lighthouse in 1985-86, control of the island passed on from the Commonwealth to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1988. Since then the Service has introduced a series of controlled public inspections of the island. It is to be hoped that these inspections will not jeopardise the future of this unique Australian habitat, and that Montague Island will continue to provide a safe haven for the seals, penguins and sea birds who thrived there for so long under the guardianship of the National Trust.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

POLSDEN LACEY, DORKING, SURREY

Polsden Lacey is an 1820s Regency villa, set in grounds containing a walled rose garden and expansive lawns. In 1906 the Hon. Mrs Ronald Greville remodelled the house into how it is today. The Queen Mother and George VI spent a part of their honeymoon at Polsden Lacey.

The property offers disabled access to all showrooms and all areas of the garden. With the a d m i n i s t r a t o r's permission, parking near the house may be arranged, and a braille guide to the house is available.

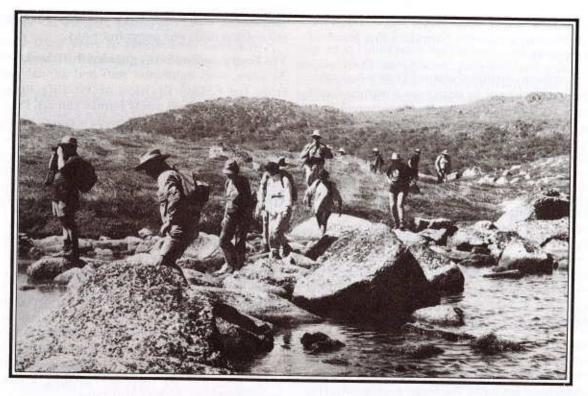
Lunches and home-made teas are available in a licensed restaurant, and a designated picnic site has been set aside for those who bring their own. In summer the Open Air Theatre is run in the grounds. Bookings must be made, and are open from April 20 by sending a s.a.e. to PLOAT Box Office, Polsden Lacey, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6BD.

The house is open for limited hours at weekends in



March and November, but from April through October opening hours extend from Wednesday to Sunday (1.30-5.30) daily. The grounds themselves are open daily year round. The house is 5 miles north-west of Dorking, and 2 miles south of Great Bookham, and is reached by any of several buses which run to the area.

RECENT ACTIVITIES



Glacial Action - Hedley Tarn



Imlay Interlude - Mimosa Rocks

MORE RECENT ACTIVITIES



South-East Victoria - Puffing Billy



Sydney Xplorer - Goat Island

THARWA BRIDGE

The Heritage Council of the A.C.T. has recently prepared a draft citation on Tharwa Bridge for the purpose of including it on the interim Heritage Places Register. Located 34 kms south of Canberra G.P.O., the Tharwa Bridge is the southern most bridge crossing of the Murrumbidgee within the A.C.T. Opened in March 1895, it was the first all-weather crossing of the river in the district, is the oldest standing bridge in the A.C.T., and is the oldest of only nine remaining Allan truss bridges built between 1894 and 1897 in N.S.W. and the A.C.T..

Before the Tharwa Bridge was finally constructed, people crossed the river at the Uriarra punt, or used the private punt at Lanyon. Andrew Cunningham of Lanyon put up a wire bridge in the 1880s 'for taking sheep across' to high country pastures, but normal traffic still used the ford to cross, risking being stuck in the quicksand beside it. The local member E.W. O'Sullivan supported the building of a bridge to promote tourism and encourage small farm holdings on the west bank of the Murrumbidgee River.

The bridge, when it was finally built, connected the village of Tharwa with Tharwa Drive and Tuggeranong, provided reliable social and economic communication between Tharwa and Queanbeyan, and facilitated the establishment of stations south of the river where permanent grazing was available. Designed by Percy Allan of the New South Wales Public Works Department, the Tharwa Bridge represented a high point in the construction of fine, well-engineered timber bridges.

Construction was a laborious process. Heavy timbers from North Coast forests were brought by rail to Tuggeranong Siding, then taken by road through the Isabella Plains. The condition of this 'road' was so bad that it often took several weeks to get these timbers through to the building site. The bridge was finished within the contract time however, was opened with great ceremony on 27 March 1895, and was marked by a public holiday in the Queanbeyan District.

Despite its solid construction, some modifications to the bridge have been made over the years. In 1936/37 timber trestles were replaced with the concrete piers in evidence today. In 1945 the timber approach spans were replaced by steel beams with a concrete deck structure supported on concrete piers. Other minor alterations have been made since the mid 1940s, but with little impact on the physical form of the bridge.

Over the years, the authorities have seen fit to place load restrictions on vehicles using the bridge. In 1965 a 25 tonne limit was imposed, and in 1977 this was

reduced to 5 tonnes. Due to the poor condition of the bridge, in 1978 the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) commissioned a firm of consulting engineers to report on the feasibility of a new bridge crossing. It was considered that the bridge was beyond repair because of massive deterioration. Following the consultants' report, the NCDC favoured the building of a new bridge upstream from the present one, true to the original Allan design, but with concrete foundations. The deck was to be raised and widened. They did however acknowledge that "the sentiment attached by the local and district residents and by visitors, to the existing bridge in its present location must not be underestimated. A solution which required the removal of the existing bridge and its replacement by a new one (in any of the locations being considered) would be regarded by many as a major and unwelcome change to a physical environment that is familiar and highly valued. Such a solution would also be of concern to organisations such as the Institution of Engineers and the Canberra and District Historical Society, who value the bridge for its engineering and historical significance. It is a local landmark valued by everyone involved in these consultations".

In August 1978, after several public meetings in Tharwa and much political agitation, the local residents and the National Trust of Australia (ACT) supported the concept of a replica bridge. There was concern however, that the original bridge be retained as an integral part of the village of Tharwa, essential because of its historical significance and its character. Subsequently, doubt was raised about the NCDC's premise concerning the existing structure, and restoration work was carried out in 1984 to extend the life of the bridge another ten years.

In 1980, the National Trust of Australia (ACT) prepared a nomination for the Tharwa Bridge to be Classified. This was accepted and two years later the Bridge was nominated for the Register of the National Estate. Objections by the NCDC and the (then) Department of Territories held up acceptance of this until 1983.

At present, the bridge is being maintained as a vehicular crossing, and engineers have recommended that its conservation be sympathetic with its heritage significance. This position is supported by local residents. Recent work undertaken to replace and preserve timbers and to replace tubular steel braces is more in harmony with the changes made by Allan to the bridges designed after 1893. This work is expected to extend the bridge's life until well into the 1990s, and is described in the pamphlet 'Bridge over the Murrumbidgee River at Tharwa ACT' published by

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

the Roads and Transport Branch of the ACT Department of Urban Services. A continuing program of monitoring and repair is in place.

Because of its Allan truss structure the bridge is historically and technically significant. The Tharwa Bridge is an archetypal example of Percy Allan's application of new technology in road and bridge construction, during a major development phase for such construction—the late 19th century. Its form and structural integrity remain virtually intact.

The bridge is highly valued by the local community as an integral part of the village of Tharwa, contributing socially, economically and aesthetically to Tharwa. It was instrumental in the settlement and development of the region, providing a high level crossing point near Tharwa so the river could be traversed even in flood.

It is intended that the four-span Allan truss section of the bridge be conserved with the retention of the construction details and as much of the existing fabric as possible. It should continue to be Tharwa's only vehicular crossing.

From March 25th to April 2nd this year, the town of Tharwa held centenary celebrations for Tharwa Bridge. On March 27th, one hundred years to the day from when the bridge was originally opened, a re-enactment of the procession and opening ceremony was held when the bridge was re-opened after closure for repairs.

The Chief Minister, Kate Carnell, performed this second opening ceremony in front of a large crowd, many of whom wore period costume for the event. Guests included Mr Joe Gullett, former politician and longtime member of the Trust, and other long-time Trust members, Rosanna Akhurst, Danielle Hyndes, and Lainie Lawson (unrecognisable as a contemporary of the bridge).

The importance of the bridge to the town was demonstrated by the week-long celebrations which heralded the event, and which included a family dance, cricket match, vintage car rally, gymkhana, old time ball, and communion service.



NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)

RAFFLE - Tickets \$2

Framed, Limited Edition Photographic Print

"John Lennon", signed by Yoko Ono Lennon (value \$750)

2nd Prize

Framed, Limited Edition Print (engraving),

"Powerhouse Suite No.II, Engine No.1", by Winch (value \$350)

3rd Prize

\$100 Gift Voucher from the National Trust Shop

at Old Parliament House

◆ PROCEEDS TO ASSIST THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL TRUST ◆

Drawn Thursday 27 July 1995 ACT Permit No. 95/0184

Results Canberra Times 29/7/95



TICKET No

Tickets are available from the National Trust Shops at Old Parliament House and Lanyon Homestead, and the Trust office.

GLIMPSES OF EARLY CANBERRA

by Anne Gugler

This is the conclusion to the story of Harry Cappello who first came to Canberra from Italy in 1913. In Part 1, in the last issue of 'Trust News', Harry had moved with his family to Sydney, as building work in Canberra had slowed to a standstill.

Harry's son Glen first attended school in Sydney at the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, then at Matraville where he was taught by Mr Ivey. Like the Cappellos, Mr Ivey had links with the Canberra area, having taught at the Molonglo School from 1921 to 1928. When the family returned to Canberra in 1935, Glen attended Duntroon Primary School, a fibro structure built near the site of the present Sergeant Major's house.

In 1935 Harry leased Block 8, Fyshwick (now Pialligo), and had Charles Sacagio Jr. build a house for him. The cost was 370 pounds. Here Harry conducted a small mixed farm (poultry and orchard), and supplied places such as the American Embassy, Chinese Legation, Hotel Canberra, Kingston Guest House (old Printers'

up to 18cwt. of explosives to the brickyards until someone complained that it was dangerous to allow a foreigner to be in charge of explosives. This discrimination was too much for Harry, and he resigned to look after the farm full-time until 1950 when he worked as a cleaner in government offices at Parkes.

In the early days of World War Two, the American Airforce used the aerodrome at Fairbairn. Harry claimed that the noise from their aircraft upset his fowls and affected their laying.

While continuing to run the farm, Harry worked at other jobs including the construction of a sewer tunnel from near the Archbishop's house (on the Civic side of the lake near Commonwealth Avenue Bridge), to Haig Park, Turner. Another of his jobs was "jumping holes" in an area near the Defence Force buildings at Russell Hill. Jumping holes was a method used to check the subsoil. First a hole was drilled down into the earth and filled with water. After a period of time, a long metal rod with a spoon-like end was inserted to bring up the slurry for testing.

I the undersigned for hereby agree to Build one House on Block 8. Ayowick Duntrom for Me Cappello for the Hum that he can do personally it shall be Deducted from contact price

Ligned Charles Sacagio Litties the Bappello

Quarters), Hotel Civic, and Bachelors' Quarters (now Lennox House), as well as numerous private clients.

The brickyards also provided employment for Harry when he helped construct a new brick kiln in the late 1930s. Harry regularly drove a truck which delivered

In the 1950s, Harry left the farm to move into a house built for him by his son Glen, by then a bricklayer in the building trade. This new home was in Captain Cook Crescent, Griffith. It was not a large house, as the postwar shortage of building materials meant house sizes were strictly controlled at the time.

Harry changed his occupation for the last time in 1960 to work as a timekeeper at the Weston Creek Sewerage Works. He remained there until his retirement in 1962, when he was presented with a clock inscribed 'To Mr Harry Cappello, a mark of esteem from the Boys Up the Creek. February 1962'.

Harry's brother Henry worked as an electrician at Mugga Quarry, for Stacey's of Manuka, then joined "the Department" where he served out his working life. One of his jobs while with "the Department" was to rewire Old Parliament House. His two sons, Gino and Frank, still live in Queanbeyan.

Harry's daughter Hazel married Giovanni (Jack) Cappello. Jack came from the same town in Italy as Harry had, but they were not related. The young couple lived at Westridge (Yarralumla) during the war, and Jack worked in the Forestry Department at Stromlo. It was while living there that Hazel met Prime Minister John Curtin. At that time, Westridge residents had to catch the bus to Civic at The Lodge. While waiting there one day, Hazel was approached by a well-dressed man who asked her the purpose of her trip. When he heard that she was on her way to register the birth of her first child, he called out his chauffeur to drive her to her destination and home again.

Canberra owes a debt to the many migrants of non-English speaking backgrounds who worked so hard to build the beautiful city which surrounds us today: they

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toiled hard, and often under great hardship. Their descendants are dotted throughout Canberra still.

The Cappellos are just one such family. Others of Italian background who settled here include the Ghirardellos, Forners, Varennas, Corsinis, Pinis, and Sacagios, but there are groups from many other lands who have made significant contributions to the development of our National Capital. Their family histories are closely linked to that of Canberra itself.

WHITE HOUSE BAKERY, WESTBURY

From the Tasmanian National Trust News, Steven French tells of Westbury's new tourist enterprise.

In the town of Westbury, Tasmania stands White House, one of the State's most popular National Trust properties. The property is managed by Chris Clemens who is endeavouring to make the property a going concern. He had long wanted to get the bakery on the property back into operation, and this has only recently become a reality.

The oven and bake house restoration was completed in 1972, and was possible because of the discovery of a virtually complete set of equipment—yeast tub, sieves, table and dough troughs etc. While not the original oven, the one in place now came from the same era (1860s), and from only a block away. It sits on the original oven's foundations.

Since the bakery's restoration the building has remained idle, waiting for someone with the right skills to come along. This turned out to be Andy Oliver, a baker and entrepreneur who recognised the potential of the bakery and set about getting the oven fully operational.

The bakery and nearby tea room is operated by husband and wife team John and Laura Forrester. They are enthusiastic about the potential of the enterprise and the quality of the product baked in the wood-fired oven. The public can choose between damper, scones, bread and biscuits.

The manager also has plans to use an original horse-drawn bakers' cart for local deliveries and for promotional purposes. Andy Oliver says that "Westbury has the potential to be one of the State's major tourist towns and once the highway by-passes the township we need to have things in place that will attract people". Surely the charm of old-fashioned Devonshire teas with scones baked in a wood-fired oven will be a large drawcard for the town of Westbury.

CULTURAL TOURISM AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN VICTORIA

This piece is adapted from a piece written by Helen Nicholls, Marketing Officer, Museums and Collections Division, which appeared in Trust News (Victoria) in August 1994., It highlights initiatives taken in Victoria which could be extended to benefit the economy of the whole country.

Australia is one of the most culturally diverse nations, with a population drawn from over 120 countries. Our cultural life is rich and diverse and dates back more than 40,000 years. It offers something for everybody from Aboriginal culture, heritage, galleries and exhibitions, through to comedy and theatre. Tourism to Australia generated \$9.3 billion in export earnings in 1993. This accounted for 25% of all export growth.

Cultural tourism is now recognised as one of the fastest growing sectors of the international tourism market. People all over the world are becoming more interested in experiencing different ways of life and different cultures. They are looking for a deeper understanding of the social and natural environment of the country.

Australian Tourism Commission research shows that one out of every four overseas tourists visited a museum or art gallery during their stay, while 17% attended a historical park or folk museum and 11% enjoyed the theatre or music concerts.

The term 'cultural tourism' has been debated over the years with various definitions proposed. Cultural tourism can be broadly described as the act of participating in another culture. It enables the tourist to gain an understanding of the history, arts, architecture, and lifestyles, by providing authentic experiences of the unique qualities of that community.

The growing importance of the cultural tourism market has been recognised by the recent initiatives of the Australian Tourism Commission. 1995 has been identified as the year of Arts and Culture. This forms a part of the Australian Tourism Commission's five year project to cater for the changing demands of today's tourists and to promote tourism in Australia. Other years include: 1993—Year of Sport, 1994—Great Outdoors, 1996—Festivals, and 1997—Enjoy Good Living Down Under.

The Australian Tourism Commission is planning a new publication titled "Australia's Art, Culture and Heritage". This will be published for the North American market and distributed by the regional Australian Tourism Commission offices for all cultural tourism enquiries.

THE NATIONAL TRUST AND THE CULTURAL

TOURISM INDUSTRY GROUP

In a variety of ways the National Trust is playing an increasingly valuable role in the area of cultural tourism. In Victoria, it is an active member in the newly formed Cultural Tourism Industry Group, which was instigated by the National Trust and the National Gallery of Victoria. At the inaugural meeting on 24 August 1993 at Rippon Lea, thirty major cultural attractions identified the need to establish a concise, yet comprehensive guide to Melbourne's cultural life which is easily accessible to the market. The Cultural Tourism Industry Directory, launched in March 1994, has been well received within the industry and the general public.

Its primary aims are to achieve an understanding of the quality and diversity of Victorian cultural attractions; to increase visitor numbers and net revenue to cultural attractions through better marketing; to be a voice for cultural tourism in the media, and to the tourism industry and government. By joining together, the cultural attractions can be involved in exciting initiatives and as a group can provide greater awareness and access to our cultural resources for the domestic and international markets.

PROMOTING CULTURAL TOURISM AT THE AUSTRALIAN TOURISM EXCHANGE

The Australian Tourism Exchange is a specialised trade workshop. It is at the forefront of tourism marketing activities both in Australia and abroad. The principal aim of this forum is to familiarise international buyers with the inbound tourism products and to provide the opportunity for existing and new products to be included in overseas tour programs. At the 1994 Australian Tourism Exchange held recently in Sydney, the National Trust shared a promotional display area with the National Gallery of Victoria. This strong partnership continues to promote many cultural attractions.

This year participants to the trade show included 712 overseas travel buyers and 1048 Australian tourism suppliers. The buyers came from Africa, America, Asia, Canada, Europe, India, Japan, the Middle East, New Zealand, the South Pacific, the UK and Ireland.

The National Trust was very well received at the Australian Tourism Exchange with interest expressed from not only the more traditional markets of Asia, Japan, America, Europe and New Zealand, but also from emerging markets such as South America and South Africa.

The South American tourist is often more interested

in cultural tourism than the sun and fun type holiday offered by other Australian states. Japanese buyers were very enthusiastic about Tourism Victoria's new promotion 'The Friendly Melbourne Campaign'—a campaign that will utilise the new city circle tram to encourage tourists to explore the sites of central Melbourne.

MAINTAINING THE BALANCE

The growing popularity of cultural tourism emphasises the need for effective tourism management to protect heritage sites and provide a quality visitor experience. The consequence of high visitor numbers can not only cause structural damage but also affect the atmosphere or ambience of the property. Cultural sites are custodians of our heritage and should not be driven by the commercial desires of the tourism industry.

CONCLUSION

It is indeed an exciting time for tourism developments. The National Trust is in an excellent position to benefit from the many opportunities and challenges which are being presented in the field of cultural tourism. These activities will benefit the National Trust properties that form a part of Australia's cultural tourism.

The Cultural Tourism Industry Group will continue to provide the National Trust with opportunities to join with other cultural attractions for more effective and successful marketing strategies. When marketing cultural tourism therefore, the tourism industry along with cultural attractions must continue to maintain the balance of sustainable visitor numbers with the conservation requirements to provide a quality authentic visitor experience.

HOBART SYNAGOGUE SESQUICENTENARY 1845—1995

From the National Trust (Tasmania) Newsletter comes the story of the Hobart Synagogue—the oldest place of Jewish worship in Australia. This piece has been adapted from a story by Joan Acton.

There have been Jewish people in Hobart Town from as early as 1819 when brothers Judah and Joseph Solomon arrived as convicts. They soon built a house for themselves where they set up business. As more Jewish people arrived divine services were held there, leading to the house being referred to as 'Temple House'. This Georgian style house on the corner of Liverpool and Argyle Streets in Hobart still survives, and has been beautifully restored.

With time, the increasing numbers of Jewish settlers saw the need for a more permanent, larger place of worship to be built. The Governor at the time would not support the granting of land for building a synagogue, so Judah Solomon donated some of his own land. The new synagogue was designed by James Alexander Thomson, a convict architect, in 1843. The Synagogue's president at the time, Mr Louis Nathan, encouraged subscriptions to fund the project, and donations came from far and wide.

The building's foundation stone was laid on August 9th, 1843. A special cavity was prepared to hold a sealed bottle containing a parchment in Hebrew and English listing all subscribers to the project, as well as some coins from the era. It took two years to complete the building.

The building was designed in the splendid Egyptianstyle popular at the time. A bronze railing surrounded the building, and two carved pillars decorated the portico. Inscribed over the front entrance were the words in Hebrew which translate as "Wherever my name is mentioned, there I will come and bless you".

The inside of the Synagogue features cedar seating, bronze railings and marble plaques. Above the vestibule is the Ladies Gallery with more cedar seating and intricate carving. The full width of the Ladies Balcony is covered with gilded tablets naming benefactors from all over the world who have donated to the Synagogue throughout its history. The building was originally candle-lit by a huge chandelier and several other pendant lights, and rich carpets covered the floors and stairs.

From the vestibule doors, one looks directly towards the "Ark", a semicircular recess at the Synagogue's east end, enclosed by a light bronze railing. Above the doors of the Ark is a richly carved and gilded entablature which bears the inscription "Know in whose presence thou standest" in Hebrew. Inside the Ark is where the sacred Torah Rolls are kept. The walls are lined with velvet and the doors are shielded by a velvet curtain, said at the time to be "the most beautiful piece of embroidery in the whole of the Colony". The marble tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments were imported from England at great expense.

The building's northern wall features a tablet engraved in gold with a prayer for the Royal Family. A smaller tablet pays tribute to Judah Solomon. Other founders of the Synagogue in 1845 are paid tribute to on another tablet. At the time of its consecration the Jewish population numbered 450, but this dwindled when the goldrush began on the mainland. Although there has often been no permanent Rabbi at the Synagogue, lay readers have kept it going over the years.

In 1845 Tasmania's Governor gave permission for Jewish convicts to worship at the Hobart Synagogue. Cedar benches were placed at the rear of the building for this purpose, and convicts were accompanied by their guards. These benches are still in use today, although not by convicts. There is no other record elsewhere in Australia or the world of a synagogue which had such arrangements for convict worshippers.

It was in 1974 that the building was listed as a 'Heritage Building of the National Level', being described as "a memorable building both in the context of immediate

streetscape and the image of Hobart". In 1984 an appeal began to collect funds for structural repairs. After their completion, a Service of Rededication was held in December 1989 by Rabbi Schiff, a visiting Melbourne Rabbi.

In June this year there will be another celebration when the Synagogue turns 150 years old. This celebration is expected to attract visitors from far and wide, including descendants of those long gone families to whom the present congregation owes so much. Celebrations run from June 9th to 17th, and enquiries can be made by contacting Joan Acton on (002) 27 8241, or Eric Hayes on (002) 25 1980.

Acknowledgments:

"Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal" Vol.12, Part 3, 1994

"Australian Jewish Society Newsletter" No.31, 1994

"National Trust", December 1979

Schlessinger O., Oct. 1990

TRUST OFFICE SERVICES

Photocopying

The Trust owns an all singing all dancing photocopier.

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

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

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Non-Members 25 cents 20 cents

Single sided A3

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

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Fax

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

We charge:

 Incoming correspondence 20 cents per page.

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

Overseas chargesare based on the overseas STD rates.

All pages must be numbered and the machine must be

operated by National Trust staff.

WHAT'S ON—TRUST ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS IN THE TRUST BOARDROOM

Wednesday 5 June 1995

Publications Committee at 12.30 p.m.

Thursday 15 June 1995

Council Meeting at 5.30 p.m.

Wednesday 28 June 1995

Education & Cultural Committee at 5.30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

The Trust offers a wide range of activities for its members. Participating is a great way to meet new people and gain new experiences, so please take the time to peruse the list below and join in the activities that interest you.

August

21-23 August National Museum of Australia Conference

August Film Night

September

- 9-10 September Blue Mountains Escapade Walk
- 23 September Cowpastures Tour
- 24 September Camden Park and Cobbity Tour
- 30 September–1 October International Table Settings & Treasures

October

14-18 October Portfolio on Port Phillip

Mid October Melbourne Tour by XPT

November

- 4-5 November Bathurst Houses Coach Tour
- 12 November Tuross Falls Walk
- 25 November Adaminaby Picnic Races

November Open Garden at Boxford

WHAT'S ON, IN AND AROUND CANBERRA

COOMA COTTAGE

There will be an emphasis on events for school groups in the months of May and June, and no exhibitions are planned for this period.

OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

High Society

Exhibition ends 27 June

Society portraiture and photographers 1920-1960. Some of Australia's most distinguished photographers immortalised a world of glamour and high fashion.

About the House—The Story of Old Parliament House.

Exhibition ends late 1995

A fascinating look at some of the people and events that made Old Parliament House a significant part of Australia's history.

The Press gallery

A continuing exhibition

A special exhibition and tour of the House of Representatives Press Gallery, leaves Kings Hall at 11.15am and 1.15pm daily

Old Parliament House—The House Below the Hill

A continuing exhibition

In the video lounge, a 12 minute video of classic moments in the past of this grand old building.

Women with Attitude—100 Years of Political Action

Exhibition ends August 1995

Explores some of the different approaches to political action taken by Australian women.

NATIONAL TRUST (NSW)

Illawarra Shoalhaven Region

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 the above to Carolyn Banting (042) 287 692

