

Summer 1998

# Heritage in Trust

The National Trust of Australia (ACT)

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# Heritage in Trust

Published by the National Trust of Australia (ACT)

2 Light Street  
GRIFFITH ACT 2603  
PO Box 3173  
MANUKA ACT 2603

Tel (02) 6239 5222 Fax (02) 6239 5333  
Email [nationaltrust@effect.net.au](mailto:nationaltrust@effect.net.au)

PRESIDENT  
Professor Ken Taylor AM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Mike Hodgkin

EDITORIAL GROUP  
Kathleen Taperell, Peter Dowling,  
Brian Babington, Robyn Trezise

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Cover Photo: **Mt Franklin Chalet** is the oldest club-built ski lodge in Mainland Australia  
Photo: Matthew Higgins, 26 June 1998

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## In this Issue

**Y**es, we have a new name, chosen after considering a number of suggestions, most of which included *In Trust*. The Editorial Group believes *Heritage in Trust* reflects both the Trust's purpose and the focus of the journal. *Trust News* now becomes the title of the Members' News and Activities section.

This Summer 1998 edition celebrates the landscape of the ACT, a rich natural and cultural heritage. In *Uriarra Valley — a cultural landscape* Peter Dowling reveals some of the secrets of the Uriarra Valley, including its evidence of millennia of human occupation, its rare plants and animals; in *Aboriginal Australia Felix* Ken Taylor considers the impact of Aboriginal fire stick farming on Australia's landscape, an impact which ensured its appeal to European eyes; and Matthew Higgins reflects on the colourful history of human activity in the ACT's high country in *Microcosms of history in the ranges*.

The Trust recently classified the Uriarra Valley. Many of the sites referred to by Peter and Matthew are also classified.

Many Trust members have expressed concern about the deterioration of Civic's Sydney Building and inappropriate development around it. Trust Executive Director Mike Hodgkin summarised these concerns in a letter to ACT Urban Services Minister, Brendan Smyth. The letter is reproduced in our regular *Heritage Watch* column.

Accompanying this edition is the ACT Trust's Annual Report and notice of our Annual General Meeting on 26 November. We hope you will read the report and attend the meeting. We are also hoping for a big response to our raffle; details are set out in *Trust News*, and tickets are enclosed. Please support the raffle; it is our major fund raising activity for 1998–99.

KATHLEEN TAPERELL *Editorial Group*

## NETTING THE TRUST

The National Trust of Australia (ACT) is now on the 'net and finding us couldn't be easier — try: [www.nationaltrust.org.au](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au)

The site is not quite complete; we thought it best to get it up and running and fine tune things progressively. It will eventually allow you to use the 'net to join the Trust, book a tour, go shopping at the Old Parliament House Shop etc., but for the time being customers will just have to print out the relevant form, fill it in and post it to us.

By the way, this means that our email address has also changed (although the old one still works). It is now [nationaltrust@effect.net.au](mailto:nationaltrust@effect.net.au).

There will also be, soon, a separate page for the Old Parliament House Shop with a catalogue and a regularly updated list of featured specials. You will be able to take a virtual shopping trolley, wander around the shop selecting items, download the order and payment details and we will post the items out to you the next day. However, dare we suggest that virtual shopping is still not quite the same thing as shopping at the OPH shop, where you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Our purpose is to identify places and objects that are significant to our heritage, foster public appreciation of those places and objects, and advocate their conservation.

## NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA - ACT

*conserving Australia's heritage*

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# Uriarra Valley

a cultural landscape



Photos: Peter Dowling

**Peter Dowling** explores the origins of the Valley, its human history and the flora and fauna it supports

Whenever the term 'landscape' is brought to mind, many of us immediately think of a wide visual panorama of hills, valleys, plains and rivers that are pleasing to the eye. Something like Banjo's 'Vision Splendid'. Landscapes can of course be that. But they can be much more if we care to look closely and can interpret what we see. The Uriarra Valley, just a short car ride from Canberra, is one such place.

On first entering the valley from the north or the south one is indeed presented with the vision of hills, valleys and rivers and if we drive quickly through it, that is just about all we will see. But a more discerning eye and a little adventure will reveal much more. The valley reflects several hundred million years of land formation which can be seen in the geological exposures, particularly along the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo Rivers. The river corridors, cliffs and rolling hills are important habitat areas for native flora and fauna. It also reveals a long history of human occupation and use. This is apparent in the many Aboriginal sites that still remain, and in the more easily recognisable structures and imprints of European settlement.

The Uriarra Valley began to form around 425 million years ago during a long and intense period of volcanic activity, consisting of mixed lava flows and falls of volcanic ash which resulted in the formation of Pig Hill, the Blue Range, Mt. Stromlo and Mt. McDonald. Evidence of this activity can still be seen in the granite outcrops that appear throughout the valley and the cliffs of Stony Creek, Uriarra Creek and Cliffe's Creek. In parts the granite is 2,000 metres thick. The reddish-purple outcrops that form the bed of the Murrumbidgee River upstream of Uriarra Crossing are stark reminders of this period. They have been named the Walker Volcanics and are on the Register of the National Estate as part of the Murrumbidgee River Corridor Nature Park. At Uriarra Creek a later period of volcanic activity, named the Uriarra Volcanics, can be seen overlaying the original Walker volcanic rock. Following the initial volcanic formation were periods of sea incursions, responsible for the sedimentary rocks and shales within the valley, interspersed with more volcanic activity. Tectonic stress caused the land surfaces to buckle forming the hills within the valley and the mountains surrounding it. Weathering by the elements has, over time, eroded and reduced the peaks to a series of rolling hills and valleys. The two major rivers flowing through the valley, the Murrumbidgee and the Molonglo, had their origin 65 million years ago and since then have been slowly cutting

their way through the surface of the valley. What we see in the valley today is the result of all this activity.

## VEGETATION

There are a number of designated sites of significance of botanic interest in the Valley including two of national significance. The lower eastern slopes of Mt. McDonald are significant because of the rare plant communities of discaria and pomaderris. Stony Creek, within the Hundt property, is also of national significance for the casuarina swamp oak and callitris pine communities. The two river corridors support more communities of the casuarinas which are favoured by many birds including the painted honeyeater. Eucalyptus stands, remnants of the pre-European era, are still in existence. One such area is on an old travelling stock route which can be seen from Uriarra Road. This stock route was used as a corridor to move cattle through the valley and so has largely been saved from the more intense grazing activities that have occurred throughout the valley.

## WILDLIFE

The river valleys are the main wildlife habitat areas within Uriarra Valley. The Murrumbidgee River is the largest and most diverse aquatic habitat in the Territory. Six species of native fish and seven introduced species are found in the River. The deep pool areas of the rivers are important refuges

for the native species particularly at times of low river flow. The native species have, however, declined steadily since the 1940s, probably as a result of increased fishing pressure, introduced fish species, flow regulation, and general environmental degradation.

The Canberra Ornithologist Group has recorded 88 species of birds within the Uriarra Valley. Honeyeaters, particularly the yellow-faced honeyeater, the white-eared honeyeater and the fuscous honeyeater use specific migratory routes that run across and along the river corridors from the Cotter River north to Uriarra, east to Stromlo, and south-east along the Murrumbidgee. In late March and April yellow-faced honeyeaters begin to migrate from the higher ranges to lower altitudes using the river corridors as a migration route. In some areas thousands of birds per hour pass along the corridors dispersing out into open country where cover peters out. Birds of prey use the relatively undisturbed cliffs overlooking the rivers for nesting sites. Of particular importance are the breeding sites of the peregrine falcon and the wedge-tailed eagle. The river valleys provide a winter roosting area for a substantial population of the yellow-tailed black cockatoo which is regarded as vulnerable. The riverine areas also provide nesting sites of the rainbow bee-eater. Prior to 1971 the creek valleys and minor waterways were a breeding habitat of the painted honeyeater, another migratory bird which is rare across its range. This bird has not been seen in the Uriarra Valley in recent years. Other regionally uncommon Asian residents are the red-capped robin, speckled warbler, yellow thornbill and the varied sitella.

Both the river corridors support a diverse range of reptilian fauna. Twenty species have been recorded and several others may be present. Extensive areas bordering the rivers are modified native grasslands which provide suitable habitat for the pink-tailed legless lizard which has Special Protection Species status in the ACT. The south bank of the Molonglo, downstream from Stromlo Forest, provides some of the most extensive and best populated legless-lizard habitat yet recorded.

The valley provides habitat for a large population of the regionally uncommon



Murrumbidgee River at east Uriarra Reserve showing Walker Volcanics

eastern wallaroo. Platypus occur in some of the larger pools of the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo Rivers. The valley is of local significance because it provides habitat for the native bush rat. Populations of the bush rat have disappeared from Black Mountain, Mt Ainslie and Mt Majura and the Uriarra Valley population is probably now the closest to urban Canberra. As well as these native species the valley also has its share of introduced wildlife such as the European fox, feral cat, rabbit, wild goat and wild pig.

#### ABORIGINAL HABITATION

Human habitation of Uriarra Valley began around 15,000 years ago or earlier during the last Ice Age. The archaeological evidence for their presence comes mainly from the surface scatters of stone artefacts that have been identified. Not surprisingly, the highest densities of these artefacts are near the water courses of the valley where most of the bird, mammal, and reptile populations were congregated.

Uriarra (Ura-Yarra) is most likely a Ngunnawal word meaning either 'a flat rock' or 'running to the feast'. This name reflects an aspect of Aboriginal life of major significance not only to the local Ngunnawal people but to Aboriginal groups from a much wider area of the Southern Tablelands, Western Slopes and the coast. The valley was on a path to the Bogong moth aestivation areas, in the alpine region and at Coree in the Bridabellas. Aboriginal groups made annual summer visits to the mountains to collect the moths and feast on them. In 1841 an estimated 500 Aboriginal people were recorded at Uriarra. Early written evidence for moth collection and feasting in the Uriarra Valley comes from Mrs McDonald of 'Uriarra'. She recounted how the Aboriginal groups would gather at

Uriarra during the early summer. The males would go into the hills bordering the Valley, collect the moths and bring them down to the waiting females and children where they were cooked on a large rock.

Historical use of the valley by Aboriginal individuals has been recorded. Hong Yong was a well-known (and often feared) Aboriginal male who was often in the valley. He avoided death on one occasion in February 1841 when he, Bondaroon and a number of others were on their way to visit T.A. Murray. They reached Uriarra at nightfall and made camp but Hong Yong left them to sleep in a shepherd's hut on one of Murray's stations a few miles away. Another group of Aboriginal males, possibly from the Goulburn area, attacked the sleeping group during the night killing Bondaroon and capturing two women. Another well-known Ngunnawal, 'Jemmy (Jimmy) the Rover' was fleeing from the Yass police when he entered the valley and called in for rations at Uriarra Station. He was befriended there and after a short stay made his way on to Booromba and then to Naas where he died some months later.

#### EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

The European history of Uriarra Valley began in the 1820s when explorers reached the Limestone Plains and sighted the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo Rivers. One of these early explorers was the botanist Alan Cunningham who saw the potential of the area for sheep and cattle grazing. His favourable report led to the pastoral activity of the Canberra region including the Uriarra Valley. By the 1830s most of the land in what is now the Canberra area was occupied by land grants. Like much of New South



East Uriarra Reserve with casuarina forest on River Terraces

Wales, the Uriarra Valley became an important area for sheep and cattle grazing.

In 1829 the Limits to Location line defining the Nineteen Counties of New South Wales was implemented to control unlicensed settlement. The Murrumbidgee River became the western boundary of the County of Murray, and the Limits to Location until 1836, for the purpose of settlement. Uriarra Valley was settled as free immigration to Australia began to escalate and convict arrivals began to decline. Uriarra Valley was beyond the Nineteen Counties, and thus at first was in the Unsettled Areas. The ridge where 'Huntly' is today was at the limit of the County of Murray within the Nineteen Counties.

The land west of the Murrumbidgee was more remote from the initial settlements and had a potentially lower stocking rate only being officially settled after 1836 by squatters. The Uriarra Run was one such property. Large holdings were required which, even after clearing and improvement in the 1880s, could only achieve stocking rates as low as 2 sheep to 3 acres or 1 beast to 2 acres in the valleys and 1 beast to 20 acres in the hills. In contrast, the land east of the Murrumbidgee River could carry up to 2 sheep to an acre after improvement in the 1880s, although 1 sheep per acre was practical in most parts. This area was settled first by grant on the best land. Grants formed the basis of Duntroon and Yarralumla estates where money and the latest technology were soon used to improve the productivity of already first class grazing land.

In 1837, as a reward for his explorations of the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers, Captain Charles Sturt selected 5,000 acres of land in the valley at the junction of the

Murrumbidgee and Molonglo opposite 'Huntly'. Sturt had no intention to settle on the holding. He was more interested in acquiring capital by buying stock and overlanding them to the new colony of South Australia and so sold the land the next year to Robert Campbell of Duntroon. Three extant trees, a Mulberry and two Elms are said to have been planted by Captain Charles Sturt on the property now known as Woodstock although this has not been confirmed.

From these early years up until the present the Uriarra Valley was to remain almost exclusively a grazing area. The original grazing properties changed hands, were subdivided and/or extended according to the fortunes of the owners, the economic situation, world wars, droughts, or because of government legislation. Of the latter the most profound was the acquisition, or threat of acquisition, by the Federal Government which effectively halted all rural development in the ACT. A pine forest industry was established in the valley during the 1920s and the forestry settlement built for the employees saw the first non-farming population in the valley.

The Uriarra Valley is a rich, multi-layered cultural landscape on the outskirts of the national capital. It reflects several hundred million years of land formation, and is an important habitat area for flora and fauna. Individually and collectively, the cultural remains within the valley express the diversity of human occupation of the ACT from the early Aboriginal utilization of the valley, through to the establishment and development of the European grazing industry right up to the present times. The valley offers those of us who want to look, a window into our past. It can tell us who we were and who we are; and perhaps it might enable us to see, if we look hard and long enough, who we might become.

The Uriarra Valley has recently been classified by the National Trust (ACT) as a natural and cultural landscape. The citation was based on a report prepared by Baskin, Gray and Riboust for the National Trust under a grant from the ACT Heritage Council.

**Dr Peter Dowling** is a member of the Classification Committee of the National Trust (ACT). He holds a PhD in Biological Anthropology and Archaeology from the Australian National University.

## Townsville Mourns Loss of Old Supreme Court

Tragically, one of the oldest buildings in Townsville, the Old Supreme Court, was struck down by fire earlier this year. Conservation work had recently been completed on the site in readiness for its reoccupation. Following the fire, the wreckage was hastily removed by the Government without the archaeological supervision appropriate to such a site, leaving a large vacant block in the midst of Melton Hill, a significant heritage precinct.

The State Government now wants the site removed from the Heritage Register. The National Trust of Queensland, however, urges that the site remain listed until possible uses have been debated between the Government and other interested bodies. There is a grave fear that this site, along with several other government-owned vacant blocks nearby could be used to build a large, and possibly inappropriate, development.

The Trust is urging that any development be restricted to two stories in height (in keeping with the rest of the precinct), include landscaped grounds, retain the present views, protect the existing stone walls, rocky outcrops and many of the mature trees in the area, and provide adequate space for the establishment of more trees to replace those lost in the building process.

Without sensitivity to the surrounding precinct being considered in any future development this fire could become a double tragedy. Members of the public felt a great sense of loss when the court was destroyed. It is hoped they will support the National Trust of Queensland in its quest to ensure a sensitive redevelopment of this historic site.

Meredith Walker, 'What next for Melton Hill?' in *National Trust Bulletin*, August 1998, p. 7.

## KAMERUKA ESTATE

### BEGA VALLEY

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# Living with Heritage

Linda Beveridge reports on seminars held recently at Oaks Estate and Hall Village.

The Trust's Education and Cultural Committee is developing a series of seminars on the theme of "Living with Heritage", with a view to enabling communities to develop a better understanding of the heritage significance of the ACT, and to assist in ensuring there is a good balance between heritage and the need for intelligent development for living in the twenty-first century. In the Spring edition (page 5) she reported on the Hall Village seminar held on 19 July.

On Sunday 10 May 1998 Oaks Estate Progress Association and the Trust held the first of the Living with Heritage seminars at Oaks Estate Hall. Karen Williams, National Trust Councillor and author of *Oaks Estate: no man's land* presented the keynote address

Six recommendations to be pursued through by the Oaks Estate Progress Association and the National Trust of Australia (ACT) emerged:

- The National Trust (ACT) sponsor an archaeological surface survey of the Oaks Estate and nearby area.
- The Oaks Estate Progress Association, with the support of the National Trust (ACT),

urge the ACT Government to continue with the Oaks Estate part of the Territory Plan, taking into account the heritage values of the area.

- The National Trust (ACT), with the support of the Oaks Estate Progress Association, request the ACT Government develop 9 Hazel Street (which has been Classified by the National Trust) as a cultural centre.
- The National Trust (ACT) sponsor an investigation to identify the location of the Duntroon Estate boundary hut.
- The National Trust (ACT), with the support of the Oaks Estate Progress Association, publish a self-guided walking tour brochure of Oaks Estate.
- The Oaks Estate Progress Association, with the support of the National Trust (ACT), approach the ACT Library Service History Collection to develop an oral history program featuring long-term residents of Oaks Estate.

Four recommendations flowed from the seminar at Hall Village:

- Formalising the heritage value of Hall by including Hall in the appropriate heritage

registers, by developing a Hall master plan and ensuring that the planning authorities take account of the Hall community's and the ACT Heritage Unit's views on the heritage of Hall.

- Researching and recording Hall's history and heritage further, for example the location of The Cricketers Arms.
- Conserving the significant aspects of Hall's heritage, including the natural and cultural landscape such as the trees, open spaces, buildings and their (siting in the street-scape, other visual and auditory aspects.
- Making known the heritage of Hall in a variety of ways — by such means as a local heritage centre, publications (e.g. a self-guided walking tour), educational programs and appropriate tourist initiatives.

At both seminars Mr Noel Kelly, representing the Reid Residents Association, spoke about Reid's experience as a heritage suburb and pointed out that living in a heritage area meant that residents were eligible for a variety of government grants to conserve the heritage, and to maintain the heritage ambience of the area when intelligent development needs to occur.

Linda Beveridge is a Trust Councillor and Chair of the Trust's Education and Cultural Committee.

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10/01/97/11

LETTER:  
MURRAMARANG  
NATIONAL PARK  
NEEDS HELP

Dear Editor,

The Friends of Durras have campaigned for the expansion of Murramarang National Park for more than a decade. They raised \$113,000 which went towards the purchase of 370 hectares of prime National Estate forest, added to the Park in 1996. Murramarang National Park, just north of Batemans Bay, would be remembered fondly by residents of the Canberra Region who come to enjoy the outstandingly attractive coastal scenery, from sandstone headlands and rock platforms to beautiful, uncrowded sandy beaches, tall sclerophyll forests of spotted gum and burrawang, wet rainforest gullies and the tranquil waters of Durras Lake.

The current Murramarang National Park is ecologically unsustainable. It is 44 kms long but only 1,970 hectares in area, is discontinuous and has an average width of only 366 metres (in places only 50 metres wide)! The survival of many species (including many of the 28 threatened species) is totally dependant on the health of the adjoining State Forest. Murramarang National Park and Benandarah and Kioloa State Forests which sandwich the Park between the Princes Highway and the sea, are National Estate listed — as the “Benandarah Area, significant for both natural and cultural values with a representative range of regional ecosystems which include forest, coastal, estuarine, riparian and wetland examples.” Aboriginal features are uncommonly rich and complex with 392 sites listed for the area. Despite their listing on the RNE, these forests and the many values they hold, are under threat from integrated harvesting, the recently introduced practice of harvesting for sawlogs and woodchip. Forest structure and ecosystems are being irreparably altered.

*Integrated harvesting destroys the very basis of what we value in those (National Estate) places — the naturalness and the lack of disturbance to the forest ecosystem. If we allow these practices to continue at the present rate, what little remains of our diverse native forests could be gone in the next twenty years (The Australian Heritage Commission).*

The Friends of Durras asks your readers to support this proposal by writing to The Hon. Bob Carr, Premier of NSW, GPO Box 5341, Sydney 2000, asking that he take the visionary step and create the *Greater Murramarang National Park*. Please use a NSW address if possible. I would be happy to provide more information — phone 02 6281 6434.

Geoffrey Bartram  
Friends of Durras

PO Box 174, Batemans Bay, NSW, 2536

## Trees in the ACT 11

Robert Boden

Extract from the Register  
of Significant Trees



Cricket Bat Willow (*Salix alba* var. *caerulea*), Forrester Primary School. Photo. Robert Boden

SPECIES:	<i>Salix alba</i> var. <i>caerulea</i>
COMMON NAME:	Cricket Bat Willow
AGE:	About 73 years old
MEASUREMENTS:	Height 9m; crown diam. 16m. Four coppice trunks from ground level, one stump
CONDITION:	Extensive stem decay sufficient to cause concern
LOCATION:	Grounds of Forrester Primary School, close to National Circuit opposite the Free Serbian Orthodox Church
CATEGORY:	Classified by the National Trust for its historic significance as part of a coppice planting of Cricket Bat Willow initiated by the Duchess of York on 10 May 1927.
FEATURES:	Six coppices of different species were proposed for establishment around the city. Trees to start each coppice were donated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in 1926 during a visit to the UK by Prime Minister S. M. Bruce. Plants were shipped to Sydney and kept at the Royal Botanic Gardens before being brought to Canberra. The Duchess planted a Candlebark, <i>Eucalyptus rubida</i> , from Yarralumla Nursery at the same time as she planted the willow but it cannot be found.
SPECIES CHARACTERISTICS:	Cricket Bat Willow is a variety of the White Willow, <i>Salix alba</i> , which occurs naturally in Europe, N. Africa and Central Asia. The Cricket Bat Willow originated in England and one tree is recorded as yielding timber sufficient to make 1,179 cricket bats. Cricket Bat Willow has leaves which are bluish on the underside and longer than those of White Willow.

September 1998

*Dr Robert Boden is a Trust Councillor and member of our Classifications Committee.*

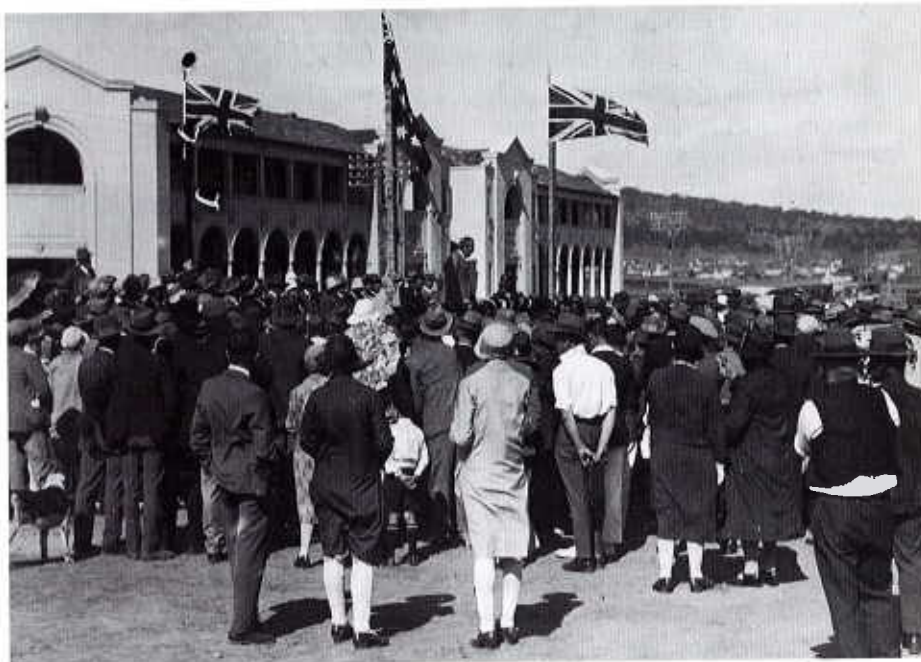
## HERITAGE WATCH



### THE SYDNEY BUILDING

**S**ir John Sulman's design inspiration for Civic's Sydney and Melbourne Buildings was Brunelleschi's Foundling Hospital, built in Florence in the late fifteenth century.

Concern about their condition and the lack of protection for these important heritage assets led Trust Council member Eric Martin to seek a meeting with Mr Brendan Smyth, ACT Minister for Urban Services, at which the following letter was presented to him:



Prime Minister Stanley Bruce opening Civic Centre on 3 December 1927

Photo kindly supplied by Lyall Gillespie

*Dear Mr Smyth,*

*The National Trust is extremely concerned at the condition of some parts of the Sydney Building in Civic. there are several empty shops and at least one is boarded up. Other parts of the complex show evidence of continuing sad hoc repairs and 'improvements' from a variety of owners.*

*The Trust believes that the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings are extremely important heritage assets and their ongoing conservation (and restoration where necessary) is essential. They are, in a very real sense, the 'front door' to the city and are a valuable symbol of the history of Canberra as a community.*

*The problem of neglect and ad hoc repairs and restorations was compounded some years ago by the construction of the bus shelters for the Civic bus interchange. These shelters are totally incongruous against the rather elegant facade of the Sydney Building. We are aware that there are plans to upgrade parts of Civic in respect to lighting and signage and there is to be a review of the bus shelters. This would seem to be an ideal opportunity to consider removing the shelters so that the building can, once again, be appreciated without the visual intrusion of the shelters.*

*One problem is, of course, that the buildings are privately owned under a collection of separate titles. One would hope that future planning for Civic would include encouragement for the titles to be consolidated so that uniform restoration, or even possible sympathetic re-development, can take place. In the meantime, the building needs immediate rescuing.*

*We are aware that existing legislation does not provide either adequate incentives to encourage owners to conserve important heritage assets or sanctions to compel them to do so. We therefore urge you to:*

- *amend the Heritage Act to provide stronger means to ensure that important heritage assets are conserved and incentives to encourage private owners to restore and conserve;*
- *consider the permanent removal of the incongruous Civic bus shelters; and*
- *ensure that lighting and signage developed as a consequence of the review are sympathetic to these important buildings.*

*We believe that there is a wonderful opportunity to present these two buildings as a community scale 'front door' to the city of Canberra.*

## Endangered Places

In the Spring edition (page 22) we carried a release from the Australian Council of National Trusts suggesting that individuals and groups nominate natural and cultural heritage places for entry onto the Endangered Places database. Judith Baskin who chairs the ACT Trust's Classification Committee has reminded us that nominations related to the ACT should also be referred to the National Trust (ACT).

The Classifications Committee is preparing an ACT list, and will refer any of national importance to the National Council. The Committee also intends to comment annually on endangered places in the ACT in the Trust's annual report.

At present the only ACT heritage place on the national endangered places list is the Yarralumla Brickworks, covered in the Winter edition (page 22).

## Castlemaine Market Commended

The Castlemaine Market building has recently been awarded a commendation from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (Victorian Chapter) for external restoration work carried out recently. Chair of the Jury, Bryce Raworth said of the restoration "The standard of the works, the careful adherence to conservation practice in the generation of policy and the resolution of the individual interventions to the fabric — and the handsome result — are all aspects of the project of which the Trust can be proud."

*Trust News Victoria*, Vol. 26, No. 7, p. 12

# Trust News

## TRIBUTES PAID TO LINDSAY PRYOR

Many of you will have been saddened by the passing of Forester and Landscape Consultant Lindsay Dixon Pryor AO in August. Lindsay Pryor was the driving force behind many of the plantings which have shaped our city. ACT Minister for Urban Services, Brendan Smyth, paid tribute to Professor Pryor in the Legislative Assembly on 26 August. Some of his words are reproduced here:

I rise here today to pay tribute to Professor Pryor's academic achievements and his magnificent contribution to giving Canberra its garden city identity, an image that is etched in the minds of the nation. . . In many ways Professor Pryor actually grew up with Canberra. He came to the national capital from Adelaide in 1934 to study at the Australian Forestry School in Yarralumla. The city at that time was suffering from the effects of the depression. The landscape was treeless. . .

Pryor graduated from the Forestry School as the Schlich medalist, awarded to the most outstanding student, to begin his life's work of greening the national capital. Mr Smyth went on to say:

What made Professor Pryor's work stand out was that he was actually blessed with the ability to know how a landscape would look when it matured, how space would fill out. . .

Mr Smyth went on to list some of Professor Pryor's achievements which included landscaping the Austn. National Botanic Gardens, the ANU and the War Memorial; heading up the United Nations Forestry Program; and his appointment as an Officer in the Order of Australia in 1983. His book, "Street trees of Canberra" has long been an essential reference book locally.

Bill Wood, Michael Moore and Kerrie Tucker joined with Mr Smyth in expressing their regret at the passing of Lindsay Pryor, a man whose presence all Canberrans will continue to feel daily.

## CRAFT IN TRUST EXHIBITION POSTPONED

*The Trust regrets we have had to postpone our planned Craft in Trust exhibition which was to be held in early October. After the federal election was announced we were contacted by Pilgrim House to tell us they have a permanent booking whenever there is an election: their main rooms are always used for pre-polling for two weeks up to and including polling day.*

*We have had no choice but to select another date or venue at short notice.*

*After some consultation we have decided upon holding the exhibition and sale during the Heritage Festival in April 1999.*

*A number of wonderful things have been offered for display. Amongst them is a sampler more than four metres long of exquisite work done by a young girl in Holland, mother of one of our members. Another member has a collection of family linen ranging from items in heavy daily use to framed samplers. Another piece is canvas work, three stylised lizards which won a prize at the Queensland Agricultural Society Show in Brisbane 25 years ago. Several items in the 'my first' category include several pieces of 'my first piece of embroidery' and a little boy's first piece of inlay work.*

*Two knitted items are a coat which was so admired by a stranger in Regent Street in London that a gift of the Australian knitting pattern was made to the woman, and a patent for a new knitting stitch applied for by a member's grandmother. This woman created knitting patterns for companies such as Patons in the 1930s.*

*The aim of the exhibition is to show the range of craft work done by members and their families. We did not intend to select only original designs and work of high technical merit. The Exhibition will include a range of work in use or treasured from the past from the finest to the most utilitarian and presents a fascinating picture of work from before the disposable society to today when many people still work to create their own*

*items for use.*

*We found that very few people volunteered things for the Exhibition but as we contacted people they began to think of what they had. So we will be phoning more members in the next few months to ask what craft they hold in trust.*

*We hope this change of date has not inconvenienced anyone greatly.*

*Participants and helpers are still welcome to become involved. Please contact the Trust office on 6239 5222 to register your interest.*



*Painted Easter eggs - a long-standing tradition in the Hodgkin family*



## CHRISTMAS COCKTAILS AT HUNTLY

Saturday, 5th December  
5 - 7 pm

\$15 (no concessions)

RSVP by 27 November  
on 6239 5222 during office hours

### A Thank You!

Many thanks to the following members who helped fold the Spring 1998 edition.

Mr & Mrs F Hall    Mr N Halgren  
Mrs Margaret Roach    Robyn Maher

## Trust News

### MEET THE COUNCIL

#### Eric Martin

An architect and director of Cox Architects and Planners, Eric has more than 20 years professional experience as a Conservation Architect.



Eric came to Canberra in 1973 with the Department of Works and in the late 1970s worked on Government House, the Lodge, Parliament House, Orroral Tracking Station and a range of other projects. In 1980 he took leave without pay to do a Masters Degree in Building Conservation at the University of NSW and then returned to work as Heritage Architect of the Department.

He left the Department at the end of 1981 to join the Cox Group and has managed the Canberra Office since then providing heritage advice for the company throughout Australia, Norfolk Island and China.

Eric joined the National Trust in 1977 and has been a Councillor since 1982, Chairman and member of the Classification Committee and member of the Publications Committee.

He was selected for the ACT Heritage Committee in 1985 then became Chair of it. He was foundation Chair of the ACT Heritage Council and then continued as a member until 1997.

During the past 17 years Eric has undertaken numerous Conservation projects in the ACT but some of the more noteworthy are Lanyon, Calthorpes' House, Hotel Kurrajong and extensions to Duntroon House.

The other area in which he has been active is access for people with disabilities where he has been a member of the ACROD access committee since 1981. Over the last 2 years he has been working on access to heritage buildings for people with disabilities and this has included writing a booklet, presenting workshops and seminars and undertaking case studies with the assistance of an AHC National Estate grant, ACROD and the ACNT.

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The National Trust of Australia (ACT) extends a warm welcome to the following new members. We hope you will join in some of our activities.

Allen, Mr J, O'Connor\*  
Ashton, Ms M, California USA  
Beckmann, Mr R & Dr E, Fraser  
Bernardi, Mr J, Corrimal, NSW  
Best, Mr S & Mrs C, Melba  
Biles, Mr & Mrs T, Mt Keira, NSW  
Blackburn, Ms G, via Lismore, NSW  
Bothroyd, Ms J, Weston  
Brannan, Mr J, Giralang  
Brown, Mr J, Hawker  
Carey, Mrs M, Deakin  
Colmer, Mr P, O'Connor  
Crellin, Ms J, Wanniasa  
De Crespigny, Dr & Mrs R, Forrest  
Donlan, Mr & Mrs I, Holt  
Dudley, Mrs J, Dickson  
Edwards, Mr R & Mrs D, Currumbin, Qld  
Erickson, Rev D & Mrs M, Hackett  
Findlay, Mr M & Mrs A, Belconnen  
Fitzpatrick, Mr B & Mrs G, Rivett  
Foster, Ms K, Kambah  
Foster, Mr S, Kambah  
Galbraith, Mr A & Mrs R, Isabella Plains  
Green, Ms S, Forrest Lake, Qld  
Groves, Mr P & Mrs W, Duffy  
Guernsey, Ms B, O'Connor\*  
Hammond, Mr C & Mrs P, Avoca Beach, NSW  
Hannan, Mr S, Deakin  
Hardy, Dr M, Rivett  
Henderson, Mrs K, Ngannawal  
Hendrie, Mr G & Mrs W, Fisher  
Hicks, Mr C & Mrs J, Garran  
Hislop, Mr M & Mrs P, Deakin  
Holzapfel, Mr E & Mrs H, Campbell  
Hotel Kurrajong, Barton  
Hunt, Mr & Mrs R, Garran  
Ireland, Dr T, California USA  
Johnson, Ms O, Curtin  
Jolly, Ms M, O'Connor  
Mithen, Mr A, Ulverstone TAS  
Mowbray, Mr G & Mrs J, Chapman  
Munro, Mrs C, Rivett  
Nothdurft, Mr D, Forrest Lake, Qld  
Paull, Mr M, O'Connor  
Pickering, Mr R & Mrs K, Bowning, NSW  
Power, Mr C & Mrs R, Kaleen  
Purchase, Mrs S, Melba  
Robertson, Ms J, Wanniasa  
Robinson, Mr P & Mrs A, Macgregor  
Roche, Mr D & Mrs P, Queanbeyan NSW  
Rule, Mr M & Mrs M, Curtin  
Sanghera, Ms S, via Lismore, NSW  
Say, Mr J & Mrs B, Kaleen  
Selman, Dr & Mrs B, O'Connor\*  
Shearer, Mr & Mrs A, Malvern VIC  
Stark, Miss J, Kambah  
Stark, Miss S, Weston  
Swain, Mrs J & Miss P, Yarralumla  
Syme, Mr B & Ms S, Waramanga  
Synfield, Mr A & Mrs P, Holder  
Taylor, Mrs V, Deakin

Thelander, Mr T, Weston  
Thomson, Ms A, O'Connor  
Thomson, Ms E, Giralang  
Tolson, Mr R & Mrs S, Chifley  
Tranter, Mr P & Mrs S, Chapman  
Van Rooyen, Ms A, Ulverstone TAS  
Warren, Ms C, Kambah  
White, Mr K & Mrs E, Torrens

\* = Life Member

### HARPERS MANSION CLOSED

The Berrima Branch of the NSW Trust has recently closed Harper's Mansion to the public. Owing to poor attendance numbers it was decided that keeping the house open was not a viable proposition. A farewell function was held there on Sunday 11 October. Control of the property has been taken over by the NSW head office and it is likely that the property will be leased by a landscape gardener who will work on further improving the grounds as part of his lease conditions.

### Recent Library Acquisitions

- \* Foskett, Alan 1998, "Canberra's hostels, hotels and guest houses", Alan Foskett, Canberra
  - \* Cairnes, Lorraine 1998 "Natural heritage places handbook", Australian Heritage Commission, Canberra
  - \* "Our city: a vital, accessible and sustainable Civic" 1998, PALM, Department of Urban Services, Canberra
  - \* "Finding families" 1998, National Archives of Australia in assoc. with Hale & Iremonger, Alexandria NSW
  - \* Martin, E 1997, "Access to heritage buildings for people with disabilities", Kingston ACT
  - \* "Community and recreation facilities: location guidelines" 1998, PALM, Department of Urban Services
  - \* Kefous, K 1997 "Stormwater - catchment management and landcare", Environment ACT, Department of Urban Services, Canberra
  - \* "Set on a hill" 1988, Presbyterian Church of St Andrew, Canberra (Donated by Carol Cosgrove)
  - \* Aitken, A & Rowe, R 1992, "The Building and furnishing of the Presbyterian Church of St Andrew, Canberra A.C.T.", Canberra (Donated by Carol Cosgrove)
  - \* Fraser, Ian & McJannett, Margaret 1998, "Wildflowers of the snow country: a field guide to the Australian Alps", Vertigo Press, Canberra (Donated by I Fraser & M McJannett)
- see review this issue. *Robyn Trezise*

## Travels with the Trust

### BIG HOLE AND LITTLE HOLES - Sunday 15 November 1998

Places are still available on this activity which combines community service with pleasure. The Big Hole is a spectacular natural subsidence to the south-east of Captains Flat. The little holes are the ones the local Landcare group wants you to dig and fill with trees in a denuded area close to Braidwood. A couple of hours of planting will be followed by a BYO lunch on the banks of the Shoalhaven, whereupon we shall undertake the easy 4km return track walk to the Big Hole. Self-drive only. The price includes our usual sumptuous party. The activity will be deferred to 22 November if 15 November is wet.

BOOKINGS CLOSE & PAYMENT REQUESTED BY 12 NOV.

### SPRING IN BRAIDWOOD - Saturday 21 November 1998

There has already been a big response to this coach tour to most of the Braidwood area's finest gardens. It coincides with the annual Quilt Event, when hundreds of hand crafted quilts are hung from balconies in the main street and displayed in the local hall. There will be time to view these after lunch (\$3 entry to the hall if interested). The ticket price includes teas, lunch at the Doncaster, and entry (costing a total of \$19.50pp) to the following gardens:

"Warragandra", by courtesy of John & Lois Read;

"Durham Hall", by courtesy of Dick & Olive Royds;

"Mona", by courtesy of Greg & Kerry Schneider;

"St Omer", by courtesy of John & Mary Anne Bunn;

"Manar", by courtesy of Mr & Mrs F H Gordon.

The forward coach journey will be via Captains Flat - return via Bungendore. Some self-drive places available. Limit about 65.

BOOKINGS CLOSE & PAYMENT REQUESTED BY 14 NOV.

### VIETNAM - 29 Nov. - 15 Dec. 1998 or 14 - 30 March 1999

Goddard & Partners (Lic No 298/D/1), the travel agent through whom we arranged our exclusive and very successful 1997 Vietnam tour, is running two further similar tours for the general public on the above dates. A few places remain available on both tours. The Trust will receive a small commission on referrals. The all-inclusive cost ex Canberra, flying by Thai International via Bangkok both ways, is \$A3599pp tw/\$A4150pp sgl.

FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM TOURS COORDINATOR, GARTH SETCHELL (ph 02-62901100)

### MOUNT GININI - Sunday 28 February 1999

Skiers, brumby-runners, foresters, border surveyors and air navigation technicians have all come and gone to Mount Ginini in the beautiful Brindabellas. This 6km walk, guided by Canberra historian Matthew Higgins, will visit some of the old, and not so old, sites that these visitors have left behind. You will enjoy your BYO lunch amongst some of the best stands of Alpine Ash on the western side of the range. The walk is both on and off track, with some steep and rough sections. However the pace will be leisurely. The day will end with our customary party. Self-drive only. Limit 25. The activity will be deferred to Sunday 7 March if wet.

BOOKINGS CLOSE & PAYMENT REQUESTED BY 25 FEB.

### YERRANDERIE AND KANANGRA WALLS - Saturday 13 to Monday 15 March 1999

This self-drive wilderness activity over the Canberra Day long weekend offers you the rare chance to visit and stay at Val Lhuede's private sanctuary, sandwiched between the Lake Burragorang restricted area and the mesa-dominated southern edge of Kanangra-Boyd National Park.

Yerranderie was once one of Australia's richest silver mining towns. Although the mines closed in 1928, the remnant town struggled on until 1959, when its road access to Camden was finally cut by the rising waters of Warragamba Dam. Now reasonably accessible to all but small standard cars, because of successive upgradings of the former Oberon Stock Route, (about 5 hours drive from Canberra via Taralga), Saturday afternoon will be spent absorbing the local history, whilst on Sunday we will attempt an all-day, reasonably level, walk through great scenery in the vicinity of Mount Colong. On Monday, we will return home via Kanangra Walls (with its dramatic cliffs). Our traditional party is, of course, included. Accommodation has been reserved in the restored post office (6 bedrooms with between 4 to 6 bunks each) and in two restored outbuildings (3 bedrooms each sleeping 2). There are fully equipped kitchens/BBQ facilities, tiled bathrooms/toilets, solar electricity, etc. You will only need to bring linen and food. There is also a camping area with showers, toilets and fully equipped kitchen. A flat rate per person applies to all internal accommodation and a lesser one for camping. Because of the obvious need to share internal accommodation (only 4 tw/dbls and a minimum of 3 persons per bedroom in the post office), it will help if you can form groups in advance of booking or confirm a general willingness to negotiate room sharing - no singles. There is a limit of 20 on camping. Don't miss this rare opportunity! The requested deposits (non-refundable after 13 February) will cover the Trust's costs and profit and enable us to secure exclusive use. Balances of \$85pp for those seeking accommodation and \$31pp for campers (non-members add \$5pp to either amount) will be payable to the Yerranderie Village Project on the weekend. This will also cover entry and a conducted tour of the museum, mine, historic buildings and native art gallery.

A DEPOSIT WILL RESERVE YOUR PLACE. EARLY BOOKING RECOMMENDED. PROBABLE LIMIT 24-30 PLUS CAMPERS.

### NORFOLK &/or LORD HOWE ISLANDS - April/May 1999

Although the initial response to this prospective tour is encouraging, with a majority so far expressing the desire to visit both islands, more positive interest is needed to achieve viability at previously indicated prices. As foreshadowed in the last Trust News, we hope to be able to offer largely inclusive DBB packages to Norfolk Island (say Tue midday to Sun night with 3 local tours) for around \$1350pp tw/\$1600pp sgl or to Lord Howe Island (say Sun morning to Thu or Sat night with a full day cruise to Balls Pyramid) for around \$1550pp tw/\$1700 sgl. The combined tour to both islands (limit 8) is likely to cost around \$2250pp tw/\$2450pp sgl. The above prices assume connecting coach transport between Canberra and Sydney. Some savings could be possible should individuals prefer self-catering apartments. Further details will be developed in consultation between applicants and Goddard & Partners (Lic No 298/D/1).

FULLY REFUNDABLE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST REQUIRED ASAP -BUT NO LATER THAN 14 NOVEMBER

## Travels with the Trust

### BEST OF THE WEST - August 1999

The response for this prospective tour has been quite positive and further planning will now proceed through Goddard and Partners (Lic No 298/D/1). The 14-day luxury 4WD coach tour from Karratha to Perth will be essentially as described in the last Trust News - an exclusive one-way coach tour to minimise travelling times and permit no less than four two-night stops, and encompassing the brilliant reds of the Hammersley Gorges, the Coral Coast, North West Cape, Monkey Mia, Mount Augustus, horizons of everlasting daisies, Kalbarri, the Pinnacles and historic treasures such as Meekathara, Cue, Mount Magnet, Greenough, New Norcia, Toodyay, York and Rottnest Island.

With a probable limit of 22, early application is essential, as we need to secure scarce accommodation in these remote places! An all-inclusive cost of about \$3900pp tw/\$4500pp sgl ex Canberra by air both ways seems probable. The option of returning home by train/plane, either via Adelaide or Sydney, also exists at extra cost - but we will probably need to reserve berths this year! Full details will be published in the next Trust News.

FULLY REFUNDABLE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
REQUESTED ASAP

### AUTUMN IN JAPAN - October 1999

Anyone who has seen Japanese maple trees in their full autumn colouring will realise that autumn in Japan is something special. When combined with a falling yen and the opportunity to visit some of the oldest and most beautiful temples, shrines, castles and gardens in the world, an exclusive Trust tour should be hard to resist.

To be led by Mike Hodgkin if there is sufficient interest, the tour will be developed by Mike, with input from Garth Setchell, through Ansett International and Japan Specialist Travel (Lic No. 190/D/1). In order to keep costs down and so as to offer a truly "Japanese experience", our current intention would be to stay in traditional "Ryokan" and "Minshuku" accommodation. It is also proposed to start the tour in the north of the main island of Honshu and progress southwards through Tokyo, Nara and Kyoto to the Inland Sea and, possibly, the island of Shikoku. Long distance travel would be by train, with local travel by coach. At this stage costs are uncertain, but a largely-inclusive cost of \$A6000 to \$A7000 for 2 to 3 weeks ex Canberra seems possible.

FULLY REFUNDABLE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
REQUESTED ASAP - DESIRABLY BEFORE 27 NOVEMBER.  
PROBABLE LIMIT 15.

### JUST BACK FROM SOUTH AMERICA



## *Travels with the Trust - Application Form*

Please post this form to the Ticket Secretary, National Trust of Australia (ACT), PO Box 3173, Manuka ACT 2603, together with one long, stamped, self-addressed envelope for each activity being applied for. Please note that activity details are not normally posted out until a few weeks before each activity. Cheques should be made payable to The National Trust of Australia (ACT). Payment may also be made by cash or credit card. Bookings made by phone to the Trust office (ph 02-6239 5222) can only be accepted if credit card details, and tour specific details (e.g. pick-up point), are supplied simultaneously.

EARLY APPLICATION ASSISTS US WITH ARRANGEMENTS. Places are held in order of payment. Where deposits are invited, places are reserved in order of receipt, provided full payment is received by the "Bookings Close" date. Where offered the junior (junr) rate applies to all children and full-time students (whether members or not) and the concession rate (conc.) applies to Seniors and Pensioners. A surcharge applies to all adult non-members (nonm) to encourage membership. Except where fully-refundable deposits are indicated, a minimum fee of \$2 (at cost after the "Bookings Close" date) will be retained on all cancellation refunds. Queries may be addressed to the Trust Office (ph 02-62395222) or to Garth Setchell (ph 02-62901100).

SURNAME OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_ M'SHIP NO \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (eg vegetarian/gd fl accom) \_\_\_\_\_

### **BIG HOLE AND LITTLE HOLE - Sunday 15 November 1998**

All applicants (incl non-members)

\* Transport offered/requested (pl circle and indicate numbers \_\_\_\_\_ )

\* Pl indicate numbers available on 22/11 if 15/11 is wet

\* Names of others covered by this application: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ pers @ \$ 8pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **SPRING IN BRAIDWOOD - Saturday 21 November 1998**

Applicants requiring coach transport - concessions

- all others

Self-drive applicants (incl. lunch, excl teas)

All non-members

ADD

\* Pl tick desired pick-up point: Downer \_\_\_\_\_ Braddon \_\_\_\_\_ Deakin \_\_\_\_\_ Q'beyan \_\_\_\_\_

\* Names of others covered by this application: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ conc @ \$ 66pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ pers @ \$ 70pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ pers @ \$ 52pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ nonm @ \$ 2pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **MOUNT GININI - Sunday 28 February 1999**

Persons qualifying for - child/student rate

- concession rate

Members (other than above)

All non-members (other than children/students)

\* Trnspt offered/requested (pls circle & indicate nos.)

\* Pls indicate nos. available 7/3 if 28.2 is wet

\* Names of others covered by this application: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ junr @ \$ 7pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ conc @ \$ 7pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ pers @ \$ 10pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ADD \_\_\_\_\_ nonm @ \$ 1pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **YERRANDERIE & KANANGRA WALLS - Saturday 13 to Monday 15 March 1999**

Deposits (non-refundable after 13/2/99):

- persons seeking internal accommodation - members

- non-members

- children/students

- persons wishing to camp - members

- non-members

- children/students

\* Trnspt offered/requested (pl circle & indicate nos) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Names of persons covered by this application: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Names of others with whom you would like to share: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ mbrs @ \$ 40pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ nonm @ \$ 45pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ junr @ \$ 30pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ mbrs @ \$ 25pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ nonm @ \$ 30pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ junr @ \$ 15pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## *Travels with the Trust - Application Form*

### NORFOLK ISLAND AND/OR LORD HOWE ISLAND - April/May 1999

Initial expression of interest (fully refundable) \_\_\_\_\_ pers @ \$ 50pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Pls tick whether interest relates to:

- Norfolk Island only \_\_\_\_\_ Lord Howe Island only \_\_\_\_\_ Tour of both islands \_\_\_\_\_

\* Names of others covered by this application: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### BEST OF THE WEST - August 1999

Initial expression of interest (fully refundable) \_\_\_\_\_ pers @ \$ 50pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Pls tick whether interest relates to:

- Air both ways \_\_\_\_\_ Train to Syd on rtn \_\_\_\_\_ Train to Ade then fly on rtn \_\_\_\_\_

\* Names of others covered by this application: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### AUTUMN IN JAPAN - October 1999

Initial expression of interest (fully refundable) \_\_\_\_\_ pers @ \$ 50pp = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Names of others covered by this application: \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY CASH, CHEQUE OR CREDIT CARD

If paying by credit card, please debit my Bankcard \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ or Visa \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRY DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND ME ANOTHER APPLICATION FORM BY RETURN MAIL YES / NO

#### TRUST OFFICE SERVICES

##### *Photocopying*

The Trust owns an all singing, all dancing photocopier. This machine allows users to save both trees & money with its ability to photocopy both sides of the paper, saving you money. We can copy from books, erase edges and much more. Moreover, this miracle machine copies onto recycled paper. Anyone is welcome to use us as a photocopy service. Charges, which are some of the cheapest in town, are:

##### Single sided A4

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

##### Double sided A4

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

##### Single sided A3

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

##### Double sided A3

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

Bring your own paper and get a discount.

Coloured paper 5 cents/copy extra.

##### *Card Laminating*

Members	\$1.00 (M'ship cards free)
Non-Members	\$1.50

##### *Fax*

The National Trust (ACT)'s fax number is 6239 5333. Members may use the machine and support the National Trust at the same time. We charge:

Incoming correspondence	20 cents/page
Outgoing correspondence	\$2 plus 20 c/page

Overseas charges are based on the overseas STD rates. All pages must be numbered and the machine must be operated by Trust staff.

## Memorandum of Understanding Signed

*The Commonwealth Government and the Australian Council of National Trusts have agreed to work together more closely to better protect and publicly promote Australia's cultural and natural heritage, following signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding on 7 August.*

*The Agreement was signed at the National Heritage Convention held at Old Parliament House, by Federal Environment Minister, Robert Hill, the Chairman of the Australian Heritage Commission, Peter King, and the Chair of the ACNT, Diane Weidner.*

*"It is a wonderful example of government joining forces with the community to improve the way we look after important natural and cultural sites" Senator Hill said.*

*"The National Trust is one of Australia's leading non-government heritage organisations and has established a formidable record of protecting heritage places and in increasing awareness of the importance of our heritage within the Australian community.*

*"Under the Agreement the organisations will work closely together to monitor what resources are required to better conserve cultural heritage places. They will report to me about this annually.*

*"Joint activities are also proposed to improve access by Australians to information about heritage places. They will include public seminars on heritage issues, public education projects and linking information databases via the Internet.*

*"The Agreement is an important step in realising the Federal Government's objective of creating a 'one-stop-shop' national heritage database".*

*"The Agreement marks a significant strategic alliance at the top level of Australian heritage policy-making and activity," Mr King said.*

*"The National Trust movement has been an outstanding success and the Australian Heritage Commission is delighted to enter a new era of co-operation with it."*

*Ms Weidner said, "From a National Trust perspective, the Agreement signals a recognition of the important part played by the National Trust in the conservation and management of the nation's heritage places, as well as the dawning of a new level of co-operation between the government/non-government heritage sectors.*

*"We believe that the National Trust has established expertise in heritage policy and conservation that we can share with the Commonwealth and the AHC by working more closely together.*

*"Similarly, there is much that we can gain as an organization through greater co-operation."*

## Trust News

### A PLEA FOR YOUR HELP

Please get behind your National Trust in our time of need

Dear Members,

You will see from the Annual Report that the Trust made an operational loss of \$37,500 in 1997/98. While we managed to contain costs, income was well below our expectations.

The principal factors involved in this were beyond our control. Despite the best efforts of volunteers and staff to maintain the cash flow, the down turn in the ACT economy and prolonged roadworks blocking off the front of Old Parliament House meant very low visitor numbers and, in addition, uncertainty over our tenancy of the OPH shop, for more than half of the year, forced us to substantially reduce stock levels.

We have been successful in winning the contract to run the Old Parliament House Shop for another five years but the 1998/99 financial year is also likely to be difficult for the Trust and we still have to recover the backlog. The Council's Funds Development sub-Committee has proposed a range of fund raising projects which have been endorsed by Council and which will be implemented over the next nine months.

The Council has agreed that the principal new fund raising activity this year will be a major car raffle.

The prizes are going to be:

1st Prize: GL Vectra Sedan from Commonwealth Motors - valued at around \$34,000

2nd Prize: Country Link Rail Pass - valued at \$350.00

3rd Prize: National Trust "Gold Card"

(6 months 25% discount at the Old Parl House Shop)

**PLUS** a generous book seller's prize.

We gratefully acknowledge support from Commonwealth Motors and Country Link Travel.

However, the success of the project will require support in the form of time and effort from all of our members. We have taken the liberty of enclosing a book of raffle tickets with your copy of *Heritage in Trust*. Please try to sell them for us and return the money to the Trust office by 1 April 1999. If you can sell more than one book, contact the office on 6239 5222 and we'll be happy to send more out to you.

We also need to put together a firm roster of volunteers, including:

- group and area managers;
- persons willing to give one or two hours to sell tickets at a specified location (in company with someone else);
- taking one or two books of tickets to sell to friends or places of work; or
- administrative support.

If you feel you can do any of these things PLEASE ring the Trust Office, Ph 6239 5222, as soon as possible.

**We cannot over-emphasise the importance of this project. To sustain the twenty two years of effort which has been put into bringing the Trust to its present standing we need your active support now.**

Michael Hodgkin  
Executive Director

## Trust News

### Coming Events

#### NATIONAL TRUST (ACT)

- AGM. Thursday 26 November, 7.30pm, Community Room, Griffith Library
- Christmas Cocktail Party. 5 December, Huntly \$15.00pp. RSVP by 27 Nov.
- Volunteers Christmas Party, Thursday 10 December, 12.30pm. Trust office.
- Craft in Trust exhibition - Now on 15-17 April '99, Pilgrim House, Civic. Contact number for A.C.T. Trust activities - (02) 6239 5222

#### ACT REGIONAL STUDIES NETWORK

- Tues. 17 November, 12.30pm, St John's Schoolhouse. Talk by Yvonne Francis, "Raising consciousness about local issues & getting them on the political agenda".
- Tues. 15 December, 6pm, ACT Heritage Library. Mary & Bob McPake speak on "Forty years of Christmases in Canberra" followed by chat and drinks. Contact 6280 5803 for details

#### OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

- Karsch: Faces of the 20th Century - an exhibition of photography by Yousuf Karsch. From 13 November. Contact 6270 8222 for details

#### TRUST COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Council* at 6.00 p.m.
- Thursday 26 November
- Publications C'tee* at 12.30 p.m.
- Thursday 22 October; 10 December
- Education & Cultural C'tee* at 5.30 p.m.
- Thursday 5 November; 3 December
- Classification C'tee* at 12.30 p.m.
- Tuesday 10 November; 8 December
- Lanyon C'tee* at 12.15 p.m.
- Tuesday 20 October
- Antique Fair C'tee* at 9.30 a.m.
- Tuesday 10 November

#### RECYCLE HERITAGE IN TRUST

Please consider how you dispose of your copy of "Heritage in Trust" when you have finished reading it. To help spread the Trust's message, perhaps you would like to pass it on to a friend, or better still, donate it to your local medical or dental surgery or other public place.

### VOLUNTEERS!

The staff of the National Trust (ACT) cordially invite you to the **Volunteers Christmas Party** to be held at 12.30 on **Thursday, 10 December 1998** R.S.V.P. by 4 December 1998

#### TRUST PRESIDENT HONOURED

*Trust President Professor Ken Taylor was recently recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours with the awarding of an AM (Member of the Order of Australia). The honour was bestowed in recognition of community service through the Trust and academic teaching and writing in the area of Australian historic cultural landscape conservation.*

### DON'T FORGET!

*If you recruit a new member before 1 December 1998 their name and yours go into the draw for a chance to win a holiday in Tasmania. See details on the back cover.*

### Can you help?

The owners of Hill Station are seeking early photographs or paintings of sheep & cattle farming activities in the local area to be used in displays. If you are able to help them out, please phone Leigh Kennedy on 6260 1393.

#### ANTIQUA AUCTION at COOMA COTTAGE Sunday, 6 December

There will be something for everyone at the Antique Auction to be held at Cooma Cottage soon. From bric-a-brac to town and country pieces to fine cedar furniture, you will be delighted with the range of goods offered for sale. Relax with your family and friends as you wander around the grounds of this beautiful historic property. Refreshments will be on sale or you might prefer to bring along a picnic and a bottle of wine.

The Cottage will be open from 10am, with the auction due to begin at 11am. Catalogues will be available on the day. The gate fee of \$2 per person includes entry to the Cottage. Cooma Cottage is located 5kms from Yass on Yass Valley Way (take Yass exit from Barton Hwy). Enquiries can be directed to Mrs Jenni Streathfield on 6226 1470.

### MAKE A NOTE A.G.M.

Thursday 26 November, 7.30pm  
Griffith Library  
*See you there!*

### GIFT SHOP NEWS

This is my first edition of Shop News and the first item on the agenda is to say good-bye to Jenny McGregor who, after twenty years, has decided to call it a day. Although I have only been at the shop a short time I have already found out what a gem she is. She has been invaluable at the shop and I understand she has spent many a night with papers and invoices strewn around the living room floor. We will all miss her.

Those members who have visited the shop recently will notice that there have been a few changes. A new name (Old Parliament House Shop), a slightly bigger shop, a doorway for easier and safer access to the office, and in the near future, a new fit-out (see the inside back page). I would like to extend my thanks to Paula for her patience and encouragement enabling me to settle in very quickly, all the volunteers and members who have called in to meet me, and to Mike, Helen, Jenny and John. May their faith be rewarded.

*Di Dowling*

### A THANK YOU

*The National Trust (ACT) wishes to thank the ACT Government for \$8,000 from the ACT Heritage Grants Program and the Commonwealth Government for \$9,500 as part of our annual Grant-in-Aid. These amounts have been allocated to assist the Trust with the design and printing costs of "Heritage in Trust"*

### TASMANIA ADDS TO ITS PROPERTY LIST

The National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) has recently acquired two new properties through generous donations. 'Oaks Lodge', Richmond was donated by Miss M Horsfall and Mr E Stewart has donated the 'James Bennell Townhouses' in Launceston. The Tasmanian Trust has recently started a public appeal for funds to restore their historic properties including these two new additions.

TRUST NEWS SUMMER 1998

# An Aboriginal Australian Felix: country, landscape and belonging

**Ken Taylor** considers the evolution of our landscape and compares Aboriginal and European understandings

## TERRA AUSTRALIS AND PICTURESQUE IDEOLOGY

When Europeans first arrived in south-eastern Australia and West Australia around 200 years ago and started the process of taking over the country from its Aboriginal inhabitants, they were confronted by an extensive park-like savannah landscape (Figure 1). It was a landscape of about 15 trees to the hectare with an understorey of tall grasses interspersed with open grassy plains, often with wooded or forested hills forming a backdrop. Conforming admirably to transferred British notions of the picturesque, it offered unlimited grazing potential in a veritable Garden of Eden intended by the guiding hand of nature. Here was a landscape circumscribed by aesthetic ideals of beauty *and* of utility: a delightful but usable prospect. Whilst the landscape was occupied by Aboriginal Australians and their physical presence was undeniable, after a few early attempts to describe their social organisation, hunting and food gathering techniques, and their implements, — as for example in Major Mitchell (1839) *Three Expeditions into the Interior of Eastern Australia* — they were overwhelmingly not seen as part of the landscape. Because they had no visible fixed methods of farming the land in the European tradition, their interaction with the landscape was irrelevant to the European mind.

Australian landscape painting from the early years of the nineteenth century onwards has mediated associations and meanings connected with a sense of Australianness which endures to the present day. Landscape painting, depicting picturesque ideology and the social meanings and political implications of landscape, has always reflected and influenced Australian attitudes to the occupation of the country, consistently fusing country and landscape. Most



Figure 1: Inlet Park, Wonnerup W.A. This landscape prospect reflects the savannah landscape which 50 delighted early British explorers and settlers with its parklike quality. Originally with native grasses it would have had an understorey of tall grass.

Photo: Ken Taylor

Australians would, I think, acknowledge a sense of nation existing in images and memories of landscape or the bus, in particular the picturesque. Such images were paramount for example in ideals behind the conception of a federal capital and the choice of the Canberra site.

The prospect confronting the British when they landed was a picturesque scene which delighted their eye and to which they brought preconceived notions and a history. It was seen as nature intended. But was it a natural landscape or a cultural landscape, the result of a long and carefully managed interaction between humans and nature?

### AUSTRALIA FELIX

In 1836 Thomas Mitchell was exploring the southern parts of the vast Murray-Darling drainage region of south-east Australia. South of the confluence between the Murrumbidgee and Murray he came across an extensive tract of park-like landscape where the grazing potential appeared limitless. In expressing his delight (see below) with what he called Australia Felix there is, with historical hindsight a notable ambiguity: the words 'discovered' and 'reception' suggest an hitherto unknown area, qualified by reference to being the first European to see it as though it were somehow invisible to Aboriginal eyes and understanding. In effect, Aboriginal people may be there to be seen in the landscape (Figure 2), but they were not to be heard, at least culturally and in the sense of using and managing the landscape productively. They

were shown as in the landscape, but they had not *discovered* it; they were *part* of it in a primitive sense and melted into it; living off it without giving anything to it. So the word 'discover' meant imminent appropriation, Mitchell's prospect invested the landscape with civility and future use, and captured the English picturesque notions of beauty and utility (fertility):

We had at length discovered a country ready for the immediate reception of civilised man; and destined perhaps to become eventually a portion of a great empire. Unencumbered by too much wood, it yet possessed enough for all purposes, its soil was exuberant, and its climate temperate; it was bounded on three sides by the ocean; and it was traversed by mighty rivers, and watered by streams innumerable. Of this Eden I was the first European to explore its mountains and streams — to investigate its geological character — and, *by my survey, to develop those natural advantages, certain to become, at no distant date, of vast importance to a new people* (my italics).

... Every day we passed over land, which, for natural fertility and beauty (my italics), could scarcely be surpassed ... Stately trees and majestic mountains adorned the ever varying scenery.

The scenery at various points of the river (ie the Murrumbidgee) seen this

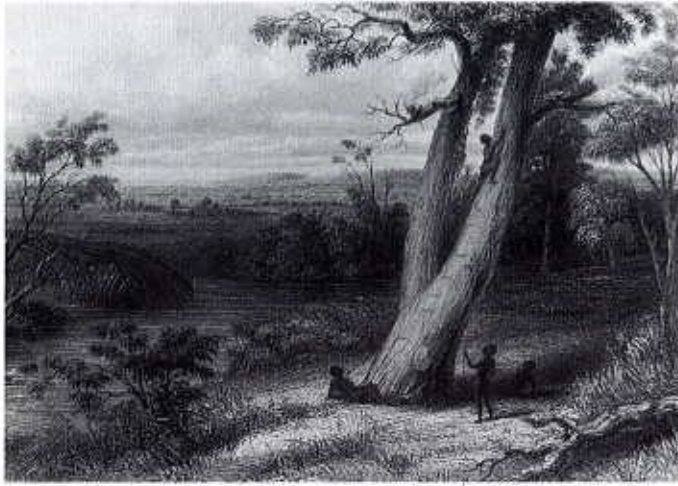


Figure 2: Gwalior Plains. J Carr's painting c1840s showing Aboriginal people in an idyllic parklike landscape.

day, was very beautiful; — its chief features consisting of noble sheets of water — umbraceous [sic] woods — flowery meadows ... The gigantic and luxuriant growth of the yarra eucalyptus every where produced fine effects ...

#### FIRE AND THE SHAPING OF THE LANDSCAPE

A common theme in the reports of the scene confronting the new arrivals in this ancient continent was that of seeing the landscape or country being deliberately burned by Aboriginal people. Here lies the clue to the formation and continuing existence of the park-like landscape of tall trees with an extensive grassy ground layer of vegetation — without a shrub layer — and grassy/flowery meadows. The role of fire as an important source in shaping the Australian landscape is widely accepted. Archaeological evidence of fire in charcoal deposits up to tens of thousands of years old has been found at various locations in eastern Australia. Core samples taken at three points reveal from pollen grains and charcoal fragments fascinating changes in vegetation. One of the best known sites is that investigated by Singh and Geissler at Lake George in the 1980s. From the samples we can see that extensive 'wet' and 'dry' rainforest species abounded over long time-periods in eastern Australia until about 100,000 years ago. Change then occurred.

In the Lake George samples the number of charcoal deposits noticeably increases somewhere between 60,000 and 100,000

years ago. This coincides with the time that it is thought that the first Aboriginal people migrated into Australia. It also coincides with the abrupt decline of fire sensitive dry rainforest species and the spread of fire tolerant eucalypts. But it does not

coincide with any major climatic change. It further coincides with the disappearance over time of Australia's megafauna herbivores, now assumed to be partly due to hunting by Aboriginal people.

Tim Flannery in his book *The Future Eaters* postulates that the megafauna disappearance further aided the spread of fire tolerant tree species (such as eucalypts) because, with the loss of large herbivores, vegetation detritus would have accumulated thereby promoting wild fires from lightning strikes. Fire tolerant vegetation could then regenerate readily after fires. Given that Aboriginal people were part of this interplay of vegetation, fire and animal populations, and with the disappearance of megafauna, they would have increasingly depended for a major part of their food source on middle-sized animals as well as roots and wild vegetation. As a result they would, according to Flannery, have had to adapt to the environmental change. It seems feasible that this meant they evolved conservation management approaches that favoured a lightly wooded, park-like landscape where medium-sized animals could survive.

Tim Flannery's views on the megafauna and connection with Aboriginal burning are disputed by other scholars. There is general acceptance that fires and their use by Aboriginal people have shaped the landscape. The management technique was periodic, light burning in a mosaic pattern promoting new vegetation growth and leaving unburnt areas for shelter. Such a technique, Flannery argues, would have reduced combustible material build-up resulting from the demise of the megafauna and lessened the risk of destructive wild-fires which would have depleted medium-sized

animal populations. Whether it was an accumulation of vegetation detritus which triggered an Aboriginal response or accelerated management by burning, or whether it was not, clearly the Australian landscape is a cultural artefact shaped by millennia of Aboriginal management. Burning was also used to herd animals for hunting. A series of aquatints by the convict artist Joseph Lycett showing the life of Aboriginal people includes scenes of burning and hunting (Figure 3). These aquatints in the National Library of Australia are a remarkable historical record of Aboriginal culture. Its first real importance was realised nearly thirty years ago by Professor Rhys Jones who aptly called the technique 'fire-stick farming'.

#### AN ABORIGINAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The open park-like landscape and grassy eucalypt-clad hills — a wilderness to the European eye — which so impressed the colonial settlers 200 years ago was, therefore, an Aboriginal artefact. Whilst datings vary for Aboriginal occupation from 60,000 to 100,000+ years, time is perhaps immaterial, but the collective memory of landscape meaning that ensues is material. Aboriginal beliefs make no distinction between nature and culture and refer to 'country' not 'landscape'. The Aboriginal construct of landscape as country has been aptly summarised by Deborah Bird Rose in *Nourishing Terrains*:

From my studies with Aboriginal people I have developed a definition of country which starts with the idea that country, to use the philosopher's term, is a nourishing terrain ... that gives and receives life.

Country in Aboriginal English is not only a common noun, it is a proper noun. People... speak to country, sing to country, visit country, worry about country, feel sorry for country, and long for country... country knows, hears, smells, takes notice, takes care, is sorry or happy... Because of this richness, country is home, and peace; nourishment for body, mind, and spirit; heart's ease.

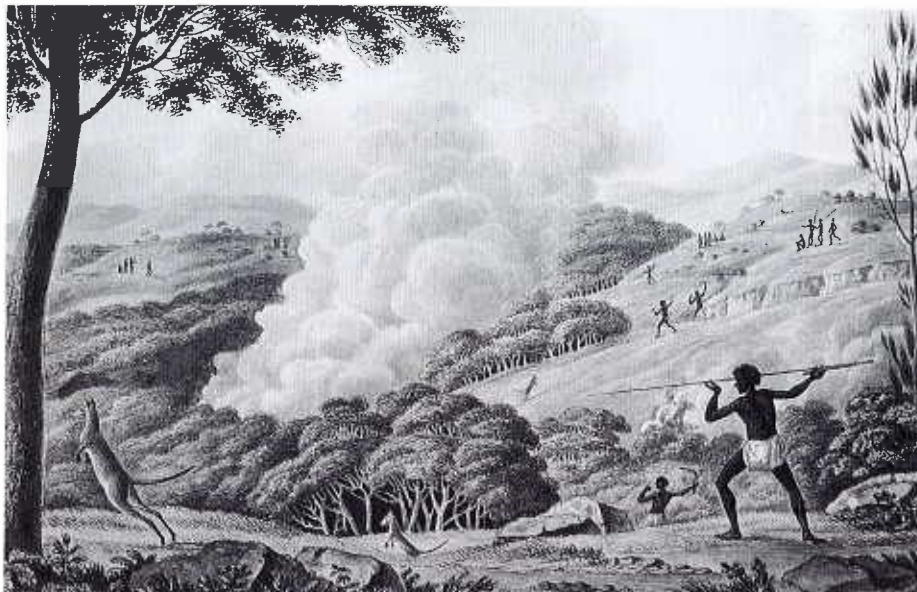


Figure 3: Joseph Lycett, early 1820s. Aborigines using fire to hunt kangaroos, Plate 17, "The Lycett Album: drawings of Aborigines and Australian scenery". The original drawings from the 1820s were compiled into an album later. It was purchased by the National Library of Australia in 1972. The twenty watercolour drawings which are a remarkable record of Aboriginal culture depict aspects of Aboriginal life in New South Wales. (Reproduced by courtesy of the National Library of Australia)

The whole landscape is therefore a cultural place in which Aboriginal people are and always have been an integral part. They are part of its rhythm, part of its pattern, and part of its meaning. They have a deep attachment to country — landscape — based on their stories of the making of the landscape during the Dreaming. It is the time when ancestral beings and animals created the country. So the landscape is part of a continuous symbolic entity. It implies continuity with the past. It is resonant with meaning and sense of belonging. It nourishes body and mind. The resultant mental and physical maps of country are not a series of isolated dots separated by spatial and experiential voids, but part of a continuous story of events, people and places. Within this construct are special places — sacred sites — which relate to daily life and being. They are part of the mythological threads and understanding country — its plants and animals for food, shelter, and medicine — woven into a coherent whole. It is a rich existential lived world, where people, animals, plants and place are one.

An interesting question arises: Do both Aboriginal and European cultures interpret country or landscape, not simply through the eyes, but through the mind. Its abstract aesthetic qualities have their being in experience and association of ideas. Burning

the country — firestick farming — induces new native grass growth and serves the purpose of herding animals. It is a management technique still used in tropical northern Australia. But in addition to these practical outcomes is the aesthetic nature of the country. In this connection Rhys Jones points out that burning the country is intended in Aboriginal words "to clean the country". 'Aborigines perceive an unburnt piece of ground with tall dry grass, with its skin-penetrating seeds and the lurking danger of snakes, rather as we would a dirty untidy room. They set fire to it to curate it, to look after it'. So country must be cared for and in turn it will nourish.

#### CONCLUSION

In the post-modern era, place value and meaning have found fertile ground among local communities in Australia striving to articulate why places are important. Such issues also surface in heritage conservation discussions. The question therefore arises of whether any particular cultural group has a monopoly on landscape association and meaning. Is it deeper in societies like Australian Aborigines with long traditions of connection with the land, or is it latent in all human beings and capable of transfer and reincarnation? David Tacey in *Edge of the Sacred* gives a clue as to how we might address this issue when he proposes that the

'need in every secular society is to "remake" the sacred, in the sense of *restoring our relationship* to the sacred. This is a supreme art or craft: the ability to track down the sacred, to revive and restore it, without falling into religious literalism, fundamentalism, or dogmatic thinking.'

Tacey reminds us that the sacred is not a stage of human history that we have outgrown, but a crucial part of human experience. What is meant here by sacred is the things of our everyday existence and what we value. In this sense Aboriginal experience of, and belonging to, country is a powerful and emotive force. Non-Aboriginal Australia can learn much from it if it cares to listen. In particular we can learn more intensely how to capture sense of place and how to address the aesthetic question of finding what the eighteenth century philosopher Emmanuel Kant called 'reconciliation between Nature and humanity'.

**Professor Ken Taylor** is currently President of the Trust. He is Professor of Landscape Architecture, Co-Director, Cultural Heritage Research Centre, and Director of Postgraduate Studies in the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Canberra. This article is adapted from one he was invited to write for a Japanese journal "Urban Green Technology" in 1997. It was a special issue with international contributors writing on the relationship between people and environment.

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# Microcosms of History in the Ranges

**Matthew Higgins** reflects on the wealth of cultural heritage sites in the ACT's High Country

This article first appeared in The Canberra Times on 19 June 1997 as part of a series of National Trust articles. The Trust is grateful to The Canberra Times for permission to reprint it.

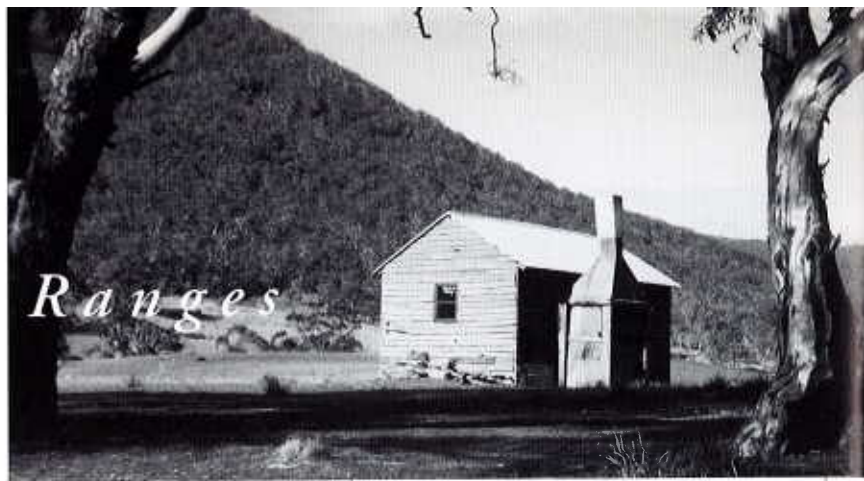
It is through an appreciation of sites like Orroral that so much can be learnt of the way people lived in a mountainous microcosm of rural Australia. As each site disappears (and they do disappear, as we saw a couple of years ago when weatherboard Rowleys Hut just up the valley from Orroral burned to the ground) we lose another chapter of our past. We lose another connection with our past. We lose another window, another opportunity of seeing what has gone before.

## SLAB HOMES

Orroral is one of the only two surviving slab-walled buildings in Namadgi, though earlier this century slab buildings were the predominant type of habitation. That there are now so few indicates the inexorable process of change that is history, and the importance of keeping those elements of the past that we consider important.

Many of those early homes which once echoed to the voices of farming families now consist of a few tell-tale hearth stones lying amongst the kangaroo grass.

The author at a border marker dating from 1915 - Sentry Box Mountain  
Photo: John Stevens



Rowleys Hut was destroyed in 1994 when a fire being used by walkers engulfed the building

The other slab home in the park is Brayshaw's Hut, down near the southern border. Built for Davey Brayshaw in 1903, it still has the hand-cut timber shingles on its roof (visible beneath the later corrugated iron). After Davey's death from a riding accident in 1931, nephew Ted Brayshaw and his wife Roma lived at the hut for a few years. Only recently married, Roma cooked in a camp oven in the open fireplace, and the couple hung their clothes on nails driven into the walls.

Tidbinbilla, our other mountain nature conservation area, has significant early homesteads too, like pisé (rammed earth) Rock Valley dating from the 1890s onwards, and Nil Desperandum (named by eccentric selector-poet H. F. Gillman in the same decade).

In the 1930s and '40s Nil was home to Eric and Elsie Blewitt and their growing family. It was only in the 1940s that they installed a rainwater tank. Before then, like so many of their peers, they drew all their water from the nearby creek. Almost any child of the time has memories of carrying water home in the ubiquitous kerosene tin of the period.

The labour needed just to keep homes supplied with water would have been a considerable incentive toward its thrifty use.

## ABORIGINAL SITES

But of course there are habitations that date back much much further. Canberra's hinterland has a rich array of Aboriginal sites. Camp sites, stone artefact scatters, burial sites, ceremonial grounds and art sites are all to be found in Namadgi, Tidbinbilla or in adjacent areas.

The Birrigai rockshelter (now included in a self-guided walk at Tidbinbilla) has been dated back 21,000 years: a phenomenal span of time, almost too vast to properly take in. Archaeological research has progressed hugely here over the last several decades, and Jo Flood's work *The Moth hunters* was seminal in this development. Yet we still know so tantalisingly little about the lives lived by the Territory's first inhabitants.

If we knew as much about the Aboriginal period as we do about the post-settlement era we would need much bigger book shelves. Lyall Gillespie's official Bicentennial volume *Canberra 1820-1913* is over 350 pages. If we had a similar amount of knowledge of the Aboriginal period we would need over 200 such volumes to cover those 21 millennia! Think about it.

## STOCKMEN'S HUTS & STOCKYARDS

Significant European sites in our ACT high country include more than just homes where people lived permanently. They also include the simple stockmen's huts built for temporary shelter when men and women were working on holdings away from the home property.

Down in the south-east of the Territory is Demanderling Hut, built by Bill Cotter with help from Jack Simpson in the 1940s. Bill at that time still drove a bullock team, and the team hauled logs from the bush to be used as corner posts for the structure. And then it was time for adze and broadaxe to be used

to fashion that bush timber into squared beams. It was a long way from power tools.

Turn-of-the-century fences and stockyards remain too. Still standing in southern Namadgi are drop-log fences consisting of forked or paired timbers filled with logs. By contrast, in Kosciuszko National Park there is little of this sort of fencing and wire fences prevail.

Perhaps the wealthy NSW graziers (who had the Kosciuszko snow leases for many years up till the '40s) were better able to afford wire, unlike their Namadgi compatriots who lacked funds — but not timber or time.

Probably the most interesting of any sort of yard in our mountains are the brumby trapyards. Dating from the 1930s onward, those lucky survivors who have beaten bushfire, decay and deliberate destruction today directly relate to that most colourful of mountain activities, brumby running. Men and women for decades chased and caught wild horses in the Brindabellas and other ranges. Brumby running is a big theme in bush folklore, and as these sites testify, it is one that the Snowy Mountains and Victoria do not have all to themselves.

#### SKIING AT MT FRANKLIN

The best known mountain name among Canberrans is Mount Franklin. And it is well known for good reason. On that peak is Mt Franklin Chalet. This building, located virtually in Canberra's backyard, is the oldest surviving club-built ski lodge on the Australian mainland. Dating from 1938 it reflects the do-it-yourself era in Australian downhill skiing that has now largely passed.

Building a brumby trapyard in the Brindabellas in the 1930s

Photo: Barbara Wentworth



Franklin skiers hand-cut their early ski runs, made their own skis, made a wind generator to supply electricity to the building, and constructed ingenious ski lifts. One was powered by an Austin A40 motor car, and it remains today on the summit. One could not find a better contrast between the Franklin era and the modern resorts of the Snowies with their hi-tech, hi-cost aura.

The birth of the national capital is reflected in Canberra's mountains. Shortly after the boundary of the new Federal Capital Territory had been agreed on between the Commonwealth and NSW, surveyors began to permanently mark the (roughly) 270km border.

Surveyors Percy Sheaffe, Harry Mouat (who both have Canberra streets named after them) and Freddie Johnston between them spent five years surveying the line. Those storm-blasted timber posts, concrete-filled pipes, lichen-covered stone arrangements and hand-chiselled blazed trees remaining in the ranges today bear testimony to the surveyors' activities over eighty years ago.

#### FORESTRY

Past forestry activities in the Brindabellas can be traced today on the ground. The pleasant picnic area at Bulls Head was once a logging community, and remaining exotic trees help one to see today where the houses formerly stood in this highest and most exposed village in the ACT.

Elsewhere in the range are the arborera, small plots of pine and other introduced species grown as a trial to yield growth data relating to the trees' commercial potential. One of the best collections is the Blundells Farm Arboretum, whose earliest plantings date from the late 1920s.

Canberra's high country cultural heritage

is a rich and varied one. Through its conservation we can all experience an increased appreciation of the past. A past that is still with us.

**Matthew Higgins** is a Canberra historian, heritage advisor and writer.

#### INTERSTATE PROPERTIES STRATHALBYN CONSERVATION AREA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Strathalbyn is a picturesque town lying on the banks of the Angas River. Originally settled in 1839 by Scottish migrants, it quickly became the centre for pastoral and agricultural activity in the district. The buildings which remain from Strathalbyn's heyday show a uniformity of materials and design giving a cohesiveness to the whole. London House in High Street, dating from 1867, was a general store from which Cobb & Co. ran a daily service to Adelaide. The first country newspaper in South Australia, "The Southern Argus", was published in Argus House, a building dating from 1867–8 and noted for its detailed balconies and French windows. The building of St Andrews Presbyterian Church began in 1844 and continued over several years as funds became available. It overlooks the river dominating the town. The National Bank building of stucco over rubble stone also forms part of the Strathalbyn Conservation Area.

In 1857, Richard Cooper sold land at Strathalbyn to the Crown in preparation for the building of a courthouse and police station. These buildings, dating from 1858 (police station) and 1865 (courthouse), are of sandstone and random rubble construction and although additions have been made since then, the additions are sympathetic to the original style.

The police station and courthouse were intrinsic to the development of law and order in this fledgling settlement. Prior to the police station being erected at Strathalbyn law enforcement was delivered from the town of Wellington, like Strathalbyn one of the many points travelled through when heading to Victoria. When gold was discovered in Victoria in 1851 travellers rushing to Victoria streamed through the town and the need for a local police presence increased.

While not all of the above sites are owned by the National Trust, the Trust took possession of the police station and courthouse buildings in 1974 and now operates the site as a museum. Located at 1 Rankine Street, Strathalbyn, it is open on weekends and on public and school holidays. Enquiries may be made by phoning (08) 8536 2478 or (08) 8536 2865.

OVERSEAS TRUST PROPERTIES  
20 FORTHLIN ROAD, LIVERPOOL UK

A modest Council dwelling of the early 1950s, this Trust property was purchased as part of the UK Trust's push to increase the range of built heritage in its fold to include more examples of 20th century architecture. This property met the requirements of being a typical Council dwelling of the 1950s in which no structural alterations had been done over the years. More significantly, it had the attraction of being the one time home of former Beatle, Paul McCartney.

The McCartneys lived at 20 Forthlin Road from 1955 to 1964. It was in the modest front room that Paul, John and George would meet, practice and write songs while Paul's father was out at work. Many of the Beatles' early hits were composed here. This association ensures the Trust of a high rate of visitor interest and souvenir sales.

Since purchasing the house the Trust has attempted to bring the furnishings and fittings into line with how they would have looked when the McCartneys lived there by, for example, replacing light switches with

bakelite ones to match the era, and stripping wallpaper back to the original designs. They have been aided in this work by a series of photographs of both the inside and outside of the building taken by Mike McCartney, Paul's brother, in the early sixties.

With interest in the Beatles still strong thirty years after their heyday, this site is guaranteed to provide the Trust with a steady flow of interested visitors. In deference to nearby residents, however, open days are restricted to 127 per year.

Access is by minibus from Speke Hall and visitors must book in advance. Bookings may be made by telephoning 0151 486 4006.

#### KIM NELSON EXHIBITION

Kim Nelson is known to many in National Trust circles for his work at Cooma Cottage near Yass which he managed until the end of 1994. Some of the ACT Trust membership will have met Kim in 1995 when he filled in for Lanyon and Calthorpe's House senior curator Elaine Lawson.

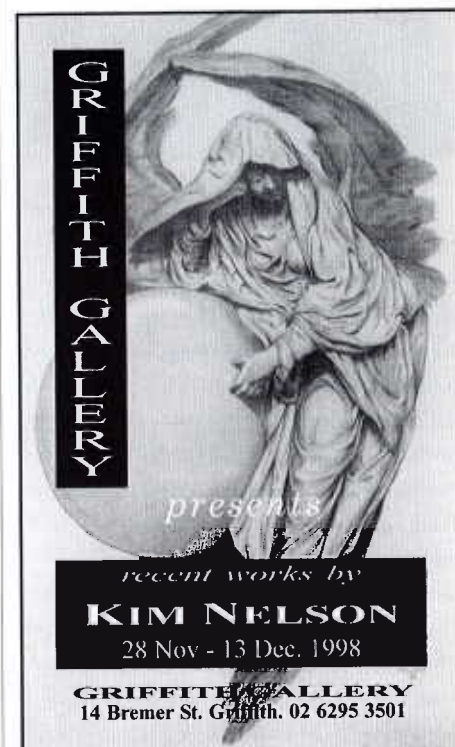
Since 1996 Kim Nelson has pursued a career in fine art and has had three exhibitions culminating in his first Sydney showing late in 1997.

As an artist Kim has maintained an interest in heritage, having been involved in such undertakings as the Irish Famine commemorations in 1996 and the Hamilton Hume Bicentennial celebrations in 1997.

His painting reflects an awareness and love of heritage.

Kim Nelson's Canberra exhibition will open at the Griffith Gallery, 14 Bremmer Street, Griffith on 28 November and runs until 13 December, 1998.

Kim is offering two free tickets to the opening to the first ten Trust members who phone the Trust Office.



## The Carrington of Bungendore

*To lay in the lap of luxury, take a step back in time. The Carrington of Bungendore offers superb accommodation and Dining in truly historic surroundings. The fully restored period building occupied by the restaurant is a lavish blend of rich velvets, gleaming mahogany, lace and crystal. Enjoying a quiet drink at the superb 190 year old mahogany bar or dining by the open fire in the Carrington Room are occasions to be savoured forever. Romantic Dinner, Bed and Breakfast packages are available every night of the week. Discover life as it used to be ... discover The Carrington of Bungendore.*

**Open 7 nights for Dinner**

**Open Weekends and Public Holidays for Lunch**

**\*SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS\***

**\$225 per couple for Dinner, Bed & Light Breakfast**

Valid Sunday to Friday excluding Public Holidays

You must mention this ad when making your booking

**21 Malbon Street, Bungendore NSW 2621**

**Telephone: (02) 6238 1044 or 1800 046 079**



## Diary order form

I would like . . . Diaries at \$18.00 plus \$2.50 each for postage and handling. Total \$ . . . . .

Name (PLEASE PRINT) . . . . .

Address . . . . .

Postcode . . . . .

Telephone ( . . . . . ) . . . . .

☐ cheque (payable to National Trust Shop) ☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Credit card no:

Signature . . . . . Expiry date . . . . .

Please send this form with payment to:  
National Trust Shop, Old Parliament House, Parkes ACT 2600  
Tel (02) 6273 4744 Fax (02) 6273 4755



## This year's Desk Diary...

is a real delight. Under the title of *Birds and Flowers*, Joan Law-Smith has selected nearly 60 of her fragile but beautiful watercolour drawings, made over a period of years, of much-loved plants and creatures from her own garden. Many of the paintings, chosen to 'chime with the seasons', have appeared in the books — now out of print — that Lady Law Smith wrote and illustrated for the benefit of the National Trust. Others are published for the first time. This is a stunningly beautiful production from the Women's Committee (Vic). It has been designed by Alison Forbes and the exceptionally fine reproduction and printing is by Rodney M. Poole.

## NEW LIFE for OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

When the expanded National Portrait Gallery is launched in March next year at Old Parliament House, the former Parliamentary Library will take on a new role, which maintains its original character.

The parliamentary Library will become the central focus of the National Portrait Gallery, using original and recreated furnishings and fittings. Original ceilings and clerestory windows will be revealed and carpets re-woven to match the original designs.

The Library will provide a traditional backdrop for the display of iconic portraits and major acquisitions. It will also provide a pivotal context for the more challenging or contemporary style exhibitions which may be installed in the adjacent Opposition Party Room and Senate Verandah galleries. The project includes re-roofing the Library and upgrading the mechanical and other services to meet international gallery standards.

As well as an innovative exhibition program of contemporary and traditional works, the National Portrait Gallery's newly acquired collection includes portraits of political artist, actor and writer, Barry Humphries (by Clifton Pugh); landscape artist Fred Williams (self-portrait); Aboriginal artist Emily Kame Kngwarreye (by Jenny Sages); and former federal Labor Leader 'Doc' Evatt (by Arnold Shore).

OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE IS OPEN 7 DAYS, 9AM-4PM

## 'New' Gift Shop

Many people will say it is a *new broom*, but the writing was on the wall before *The New Manager* was appointed. As many of our members will have noticed, we have enlarged the shop at Old Parliament House and have some quotes for a facelift. It will be hard to give up some of the beautiful furniture we have been using to display our merchandise, but it is becoming impracticable. In keeping with the ambiance of the building it has been decided to stay as close to the timber theme, with the special markings of the 1920's era.

To assist in funding the facelift we are seeking financial partnerships with Trust members. A payment of \$50 (or more) will make you a partner and you will be recognised on a plaque prominently displayed in the shop.

Name	_____
Address	_____ _____ _____
Membership No.	_____
Thank you for your generous contribution of \$	_____
Those who give \$50 or more will have their name added to a plaque in the shop. (Donations over \$2 are tax deductible)	

# Tasmanian TRAVEL CENTRE CANBERRA

## SPECIAL OFFER

### 7 NIGHT PACKAGE WITH HISTORIC HOUSES AND SPIRIT OF TASMANIA

Enjoy 7 nights accommodation with *Historic Houses of Tasmania* including continental breakfast provisions at each property. Travel aboard *Spirit of Tasmania* in a standard 2 berth cabin with transport for own car. Continental breakfast and evening buffet included on the ship. Historic Houses are located

throughout the State and offer a selection of beautifully restored houses, all National Trust listed, ranging from grand Georgian to boutique hotel and inn.

FROM \$723 per person.

*Historic Houses of Tasmania* is a collection of sixteen beautifully restored properties, each with a distinct sense of place and history.

Dotted across Tasmania in both cities and villages and differing in style from grand Georgian and Victorian influences to elegant Regency and gracious colonial and convict built, the properties boast gracious period settings and range from 4 to 5 star accommodation with private facilities. But most importantly, you are spoilt with true pampering and personal service.

### SUPER BONUS GIVEAWAY

The Historic House package includes a Complimentary Booklet offering a free giveaway or upgrade for each night reserved.

Package Valid 5 October 1998 to 11 December 1998.  
Subject to availability & conditions apply.  
Cost is based on a twin share at Group C properties.

BOOKINGS ADDRESS DETAILS: Tasmania Travel Centre  
165-167 City Walk  
Canberra  
Tel: 6209 2133

WIN A  
HOLIDAY!

### YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE IN TASMANIA FOR TWO PEOPLE!

Tasmania Travel Centre in Canberra in conjunction with *Historic Houses of Tasmania* and *Spirit of Tasmania* cruises invite you to become a member of the National Trust (ACT) or ask a friend to join the Trust, and you can go into the draw to win. \*Conditions apply.

The prize package includes -

Travel aboard *Spirit of Tasmania* in a standard two berth cabin with facilities and transport for own car, Continental breakfast and evening buffet included. Five nights accommodation provided in *Historic Houses in Tasmania*, breakfasts included.

AS A MEMBER OF THE TRUST YOU PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN CONSERVING OUR HERITAGE. YOU RECEIVE REAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AS WELL. SO WHY NOT JOIN THE TRUST AND HELP US TO PROTECT OUR HERITAGE.

Be sure to complete and return the membership coupon below before 1st December 1998 to go into the draw.

### New Membership Application

Name of Current Member .....

Member Number .....

New Members Full Name Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss .....

Address ..... postcode .....

Telephone (H) ..... (W) .....

Joining Fee (not applicable to full-time students or pensioners) ..... \$30.00

Subscriptions (please tick box)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household ..... \$55.00    | <input type="checkbox"/> Single ..... \$38.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors Card               | <input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner/student       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> single ..... \$33.00       | <input type="checkbox"/> single ..... \$25.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> household ..... \$45.00    | <input type="checkbox"/> household ..... \$38.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate ..... \$150.00   | <input type="checkbox"/> Life ..... \$150.00     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor ..... \$1000.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> single ..... \$420.00   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> dual ..... \$600.00     |

total ( ☐ cash ☐ cheque ☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa) enclosed ... \$

Credit card no:

signature ..... expiry date .....

Please send this form with payment to:

National Trust of Australia (ACT), Po Box 3173 Manuka ACT 2603 Tel (02) 6239 5222 Fax (02) 6239 5333

\*TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. Instructions on how to enter form part of these terms and conditions of entry. Entry is open to all residents of ACT and NSW except employees, and their immediate families, of the promoter or companies and agencies associated with this promotion. 2. To enter, participants must join or introduce a member to the National Trust between 20th August and 1st December 1998, ensure that membership fees are paid, and complete and return the membership application form either by fax or mail to the National Trust of Australia (ACT), PO Box 3173, Manuka ACT 2603. 3. Competition begins on 20th August 1998 and closes on 1st December 1998. Entries not received by last mail or fax on that date or not completed in accordance with these terms and conditions will not be eligible to win. No responsibility is accepted for late, lost or misdirected mail. 4. The winner will be drawn on 7th December at 2 Light Street, Griffith ACT 2603. The first eligible entry drawn will win. Judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Winners will be notified by mail and their names published in the Canberra Times on Saturday 12th December and the Trust's Newsletter Autumn 1999. The prize is five nights accommodation at five different Historic Houses in Tasmania breakfast included and includes a two berth cabin on board the Spirit of Tasmania plus car accommodation on the boat. Not included are other meals including lunch and dinner, drinks, and items of a personal nature. Travel must be taken before the 30th June 1999. Prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash. Entrants become eligible upon full payment of membership fees. In the case of a member nominating a new member, the party nominating will not be eligible until the nominated member fee is paid in full by or for the new member, and provided that the nominating party's membership is current at the time of the draw on 7th December 1998. If the nominated members fee is not paid neither party is eligible. Membership renewals are not eligible. Employees of the Trust, its agencies or associated companies or their immediate relatives are not eligible. This is a registered competition Lic. No. ACT TP98/0319.

