

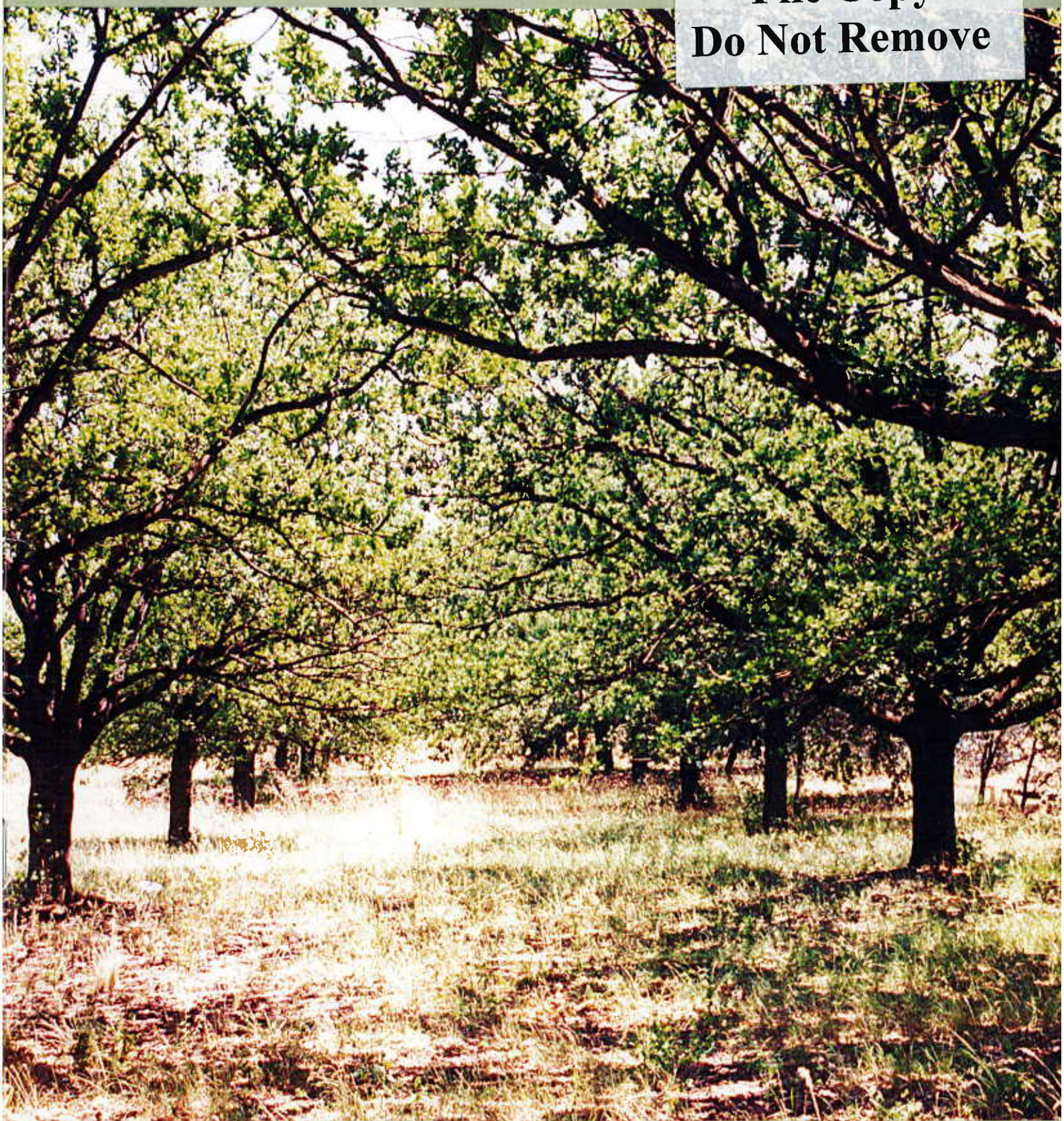


# Heritage in Trust

Spring 2004  
\$2.95

the journal of the National Trust of Australia (ACT)

**File Copy  
Do Not Remove**



registered Australia Post publication number 238684/00008  
ACN 008 351 182  
ABN 50 797 949 955





cover—the English Oak plantation at York Park is endangered by office development. See article on page 7. Photo: Robert Boden.

left— A street in Cordoba. Photo: Viggo Pedersen. See his article on page 17.

below—a sample of the new Trust diary.



**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.**

ISSN 0727 – 9019 © 2004 National Trust of Australia (ACT)

## contents...

Fairbairn, still under threat .....	5
York Park oaks .....	7
Gus Petersilka.....	8
Travels with the Trust .....	11
Civic Square developments.....	15
Travels in the Western Mediterranean .....	17
Obituary—June Weir .....	19
Heritage Happenings .....	20
Trust News .....	21

### New Membership Fees

The Council has decided to streamline the current range of membership categories. This will bring us in to line with other National Trusts within Australia. At the same time we are making some modest changes to the annual membership fees. The details are as follows:

- the various concessional membership categories (senior, pensioner or student) will be discontinued and a new single concessional rate for both individuals and households will be introduced
- the new rates are as follows:
  - household \$80 per annum
  - household concession \$60 per annum
  - single \$55 per annum
  - single concession \$40 per annum.

There will be no joining fee for members entitled to a concession. The arrangements for joining fees for non-concession members, corporate and life memberships will remain unchanged.

The new arrangements will become effective from 1 November 2004.



# Members' page

The Members Page is an information page for all current and future members of the National Trust of Australia (ACT). Our aim is pass on any information that may be of assistance to members and also advise members of activities that have been organised by the various committees of the ACT National Trust.

If any member has any information that may be of interest please contact Dianne Dowling on 6273 4744 during business hours.

## Volunteer Of The Year

Please do not forget your nominations for this years volunteer of the year. We need your nominations, by the 20th of October.

Both you and your nominee must be members of the National Trust (ACT). The nominee must have been actively and regularly involved as a volunteer throughout the calendar year and whose activities have made a strong contribution to the success of the National Trust (ACT).

A volunteer can be active in any aspect of the Trust's activity.

For further information and nomination forms please contact Dianne Dowling at the OPH Shop on 6273 4744.

## Ten Years Certificate of Service

Could all members who have volunteered their time for a continuous period of 10 years or more, and have not received their 10 year volunteer badge and certificate, please contact Dianne Dowling at the Old Parliament House Shop on 6273 4744, or the Office on 6230 0533. These badges and certificates will be presented at the Volunteers' Luncheon on December 9th.

## Evening With Members

We would like to thank Ian Stephenson for his very informative talk about the origins of the Stella James House in Avalon NSW, and the link with Walter Burley Griffin. For all those members who were interested in knowing the opening times of the house, it is only open by appointment by ringing the National Trust (NSW) on (02) 9258 0123:

We would also like to thank the National Archives who once again allowed us to use the Menzies Room for the evening.

## Combined Charities Card Shop

The card shop is operating from the resource centre on the 1st floor of the Canberra Museum and Gallery on London circuit. The hours are Tuesday to Friday 10.00 am until 4.00 pm, Tuesday 5th October to Thursday 16th December.

If any member would like to assist on the National Trust rostered days this year, please contact Dianne Dowling at the Old Parliament House Shop on 62734744. Our days this year are Tuesday 9th of November and Thursday the 25th of November.

## Christmas Cocktails

Our annual get together last year at Calthorpes' House was such a success; it was like being taken back in time—sitting in the gardens and enjoying good company and a glass or two of wine. We have approached Ian Stephenson, from Historic Places (ACT) and Calthorpes' House is open again for us this year. The marquee will also be available; so rain, hail or shine the function will go ahead. There will be tours of the house by the guides who have generously volunteered their time.

**Date:** Saturday November 27th 2004

**Time:** 5.30 pm

**Cost:** \$20.00 per person

**Place:** Calthorpes' House, Mugga Way, Red Hill

**Parking:** There is a car park available a short walk away. Ask for directions when making your booking.

**Bookings:** Phone the office on 6230 0533, or the Shop on 6273 4744 with credit card handy.

## Volunteers' Luncheon

As we repeatedly quote "the National Trust would not be able to operate without the faithful band of volunteers". If we tallied up all the hours done by volunteers, and had to pay wages, the functions of the Trust would be financially unobtainable. As a thank you for all your dedication and support, the Membership Committee, staff at the Office and Old Parliament House Shop would like to invite all the volunteers to luncheon at the Education Centre at Mugga Mugga.

**Date:** Thursday December 9th 2004

**Time:** 12 noon

**Place:** Mugga Mugga Educational Centre  
Narrabundah Lane, Symonston

Could all volunteers wishing to attend please contact the Office on 6230 0533 or the Shop on 6273 4744 to make your reservation.

## An Evening With Members and Friends

Another evening has been planned with kind generosity of the Australian Archives and the guest speaker will be Garth Setchell. Garth has just recently led a tour to the Western Mediterranean and will show slides and give us a guided tour through some of the highlights.

Why not join us for a glass or two of wine and some light refreshments beforehand.

**Date:** Wednesday 9th February 2005

**Time:** 6.00 pm (drinks at 5.30 pm)

**Place:** Australian Archives

**Cost:** \$5 new members, \$10 existing members and friends.

Members who have joined the ACT National Trust since August this year, will receive an invitation to attend at a special rate of \$5 and existing members and friends are asked to pay \$10 to help cover costs.



## Special Luncheon

"Some Lighter Moments of Vice Regal Life".

Join us for a light lunch, a glass of wine and listen to Sir David Smith KCVO, AO who has offered to host a special talk about some of the lighter moments of Vice Regal life. Sir David was the Official Secretary to five Governors General from 1973 to 1990, and has a few tales to tell. He is also a great supporter of the National Trust.

**Date:** Sunday February 27th 2005

**Time:** 12.30 pm

**Place:** Lobby Restaurant, King George Terrace, Parkes

**Cost:** \$55 members, \$58 non members

Bookings must be accompanied by payment, as places are limited. National Trust members will have until the end of October to make their early bookings because from the beginning of November it will be advertised in the *Canberra Times* and also in the U3A magazine.

So get in early, make up a table with friends.

## Membership Committee

We have vacancies on the Membership Committee and would be interested in hearing from anyone who has an hour or so to spare on the fourth Wednesday of every month. The committee is a vital link between National Trust (ACT) members and the council. It looks at ways of increasing the benefits to members and helps arrange functions and activities for all members and volunteers.

If any one is interested, could they please contact the office on 6230 0533, the shop on 6273 4744 or any of the committee members listed below.

### Committee Members

Dianne Dowling (chair), Viggo Pedersen (Secretary), Pam Behnke, Rita Bishop, Margaret Howard, Anna Moreing, and Maree Treadwell.

AS THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE FOR THE YEAR THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS.

## Shop News

It is with much sorrow we heard about the death of Joyce Tier after a long illness. All the staff and volunteers of the shop would like to extend their thoughts and wishes to Don Tier and family. Joyce was a life member of the National Trust (ACT) and also a faithful volunteer in the shop and we will all miss her very much. I'm afraid Thursday mornings will never be the same.

The shop has once again had a successful year and we would like to thank all the following faithful volunteers and staff:

Robert Abell, Margaret Bradshaw, Jenny Brown, Lorraine Buckley, Rosemary Duff, Mary Eggleton, Marjory Gallagher, Ingrid Halank, Barbara Hawke, Tricia Hawke, Marie Hodges, Margaret Howard, Robyn Hughes, Denise Jefferson, Elaine Laver, Valda McCabe, Mary McCallum, Barbara Mackay, Gai Marshall, Margaret Mitchell, Pearl Moyseyenko, Jean Nolan, Jenny Peaker, Joan Pitt, Jean Pound, Alla Reynolds, Robin Setchell, Paddy Sly, Elizabeth Teazy.

Do you know anyone going overseas? Don't forget to tell them about the advantages of joining the National Trust and having free entry to Trust properties throughout world.

Another benefit is the discount available at the shop when they buy those little gifts to take with them. All ACT National Trust members receive a 15 % discount in the shop; other state and overseas members receive a 10 % discount.

Don't forget the Combined Charities Card Shop on the 1st floor of the Canberra Museum And Gallery. Same place as last year. Any member who would like to help out on Tuesday 9th or Thursday the 25th of November, could they please contact me at the shop on 6273 4744.

Christmas cards and diaries are now in stock at the shop. The diary is the same format as in previous years but it is about butterflies in various mediums. We have scanned a couple of the images on the back page.

On behalf of the Shop staff and volunteers I would like to wish all volunteers, members, family and friends a merry and joyous Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. I would also like to thank all those members and friends who have supported the shop throughout the year.

Thank you, **Dianne Dowling**

## BENSLEY'S BUS & COACH

*Golf, Bowls, Shopping & School Charters*

Stadarm Pty Ltd.  
ACN 003 066 448

Ian Bensley  
Proprietor

19 Monkitee Street  
BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622

phone **02 4842 2689**  
mobile **0417 924 674**  
fax **02 4842 1248**

Email: [benzbus@braidwood.net.au](mailto:benzbus@braidwood.net.au)  
WWW: <http://www.ozebiz.com.au/bensleys>

## PATINATIONS

Excellence in Antique Furniture Conservation & Restoration

Free itemised estimates (Canberra region)

Colour matching

Traditional hand french polishing & shellac finishes

Traditional hand burnished wax & oil finishes

Veneer & marquetry work

Traditional cabinet making & Structural repairs

Interior onsite heritage work for architectural detail

Contract maintenance

Carving & gilding

Bouille & decorative finishes

Hardware repairs & replacement

Fully insured workshop

Greg Peters 6260 1112



[www.patinations.com.au](http://www.patinations.com.au)







## Fairbairn—still under threat



**Jane Hingston**

**T**he Fairbairn (North East) precinct of the Canberra Airport, previously RAAF Base Fairbairn, was nominated as our Endangered Place last year. It remains so this year because, as far as we know, it is still under threat of damage, neglect and potentially unnecessary demolition due to the lack of a conservation management plan.

The site was included in the privatisation of the airport in 1998. In mid 2003 the base officially closed as an operational facility. Since May 2004 the precinct has been under sole management control of the Capital Airport Group (CAG). Some heritage values of the precinct are recorded in the National Estate Listing (RNE). The Airport now formally acknowledges this in their current environment strategy and development plans. However the RNE listing is not meant to be used as, or replace, a holistic heritage reference for guiding future care and development. The RNE listing simply alerts authorities to check development proposals as they are presented, that is, on a case by case basis. A professional conservation management plan (CMP) provides greater assurance that the context of the heritage values is considered prior to development proposals being approved.

The heritage significance of RAAF Base Fairbairn is multi-layered and applies to individual buildings, the place as a whole and its military and social history. It demonstrates tangible and intangible, as well as local and national significance. It is, at present, a great resource and asset to the nation and the National Capital.

The Fairbairn precinct of the Canberra Airport is a place with mature tree-lined avenues, architecturally distinctive,

Individual buildings, particularly those from the 1939/WWII era demonstrate fine examples of the work from Commonwealth architects, such as this Cuthbert Whitley designed Guardhouse at the entry to the Fairbairn precinct. Photo: J Hingston

purpose-built buildings and a history linking military, political and civilian life. The place is entered via the hedge-lined Glenora Drive which then divides past the Cuthbert Whitley designed two-storey Guardhouse to become Fairbairn Avenue. The buildings, constructed from 1939 until the early 1950s, share common characteristics of design detailing and scale. Later additions demonstrate their purpose and the design characteristics of their time. The place presents as the quiet, ordered, humble home of the Royal Australian Air Force in the National Capital for the latter half of the twentieth century. It demonstrates features of both a military base and a traditional Canberra suburb.

The original Base plan and layout, prepared in 1939 by the Chief Commonwealth Architect, E. Henderson remains intact. Recent demolitions have not obscured the original scale, planning, functional zones, or the scale and characteristics of the remaining base buildings. The historical evidence applies to functional as well as recreational facilities and includes interior fittings.

RAAF Base Fairbairn—as Australia's National Capital place of arrival and departure for VIPs since 1945—presented a distinctive and cohesive RAAF identity in the National Capital for more than sixty years. This identity was traditionally shared with all Canberrans when welcoming visiting dignitaries or during open days. The main base avenues, named for RAAF





bases in Australia, remain as they developed in the post-war years, providing mature streetscapes linking the base to the traditional garden city character of Canberra.

Access to the site remains restricted. However, all Canberra residents can now see the new VIP Hangar that has been built on the site of the demolished WWII Instruction Building. Over the past year many more timber buildings have been demolished, and the airport authorities claim 'significant deterioration in the fabric of the infrastructure and facilities' has occurred.

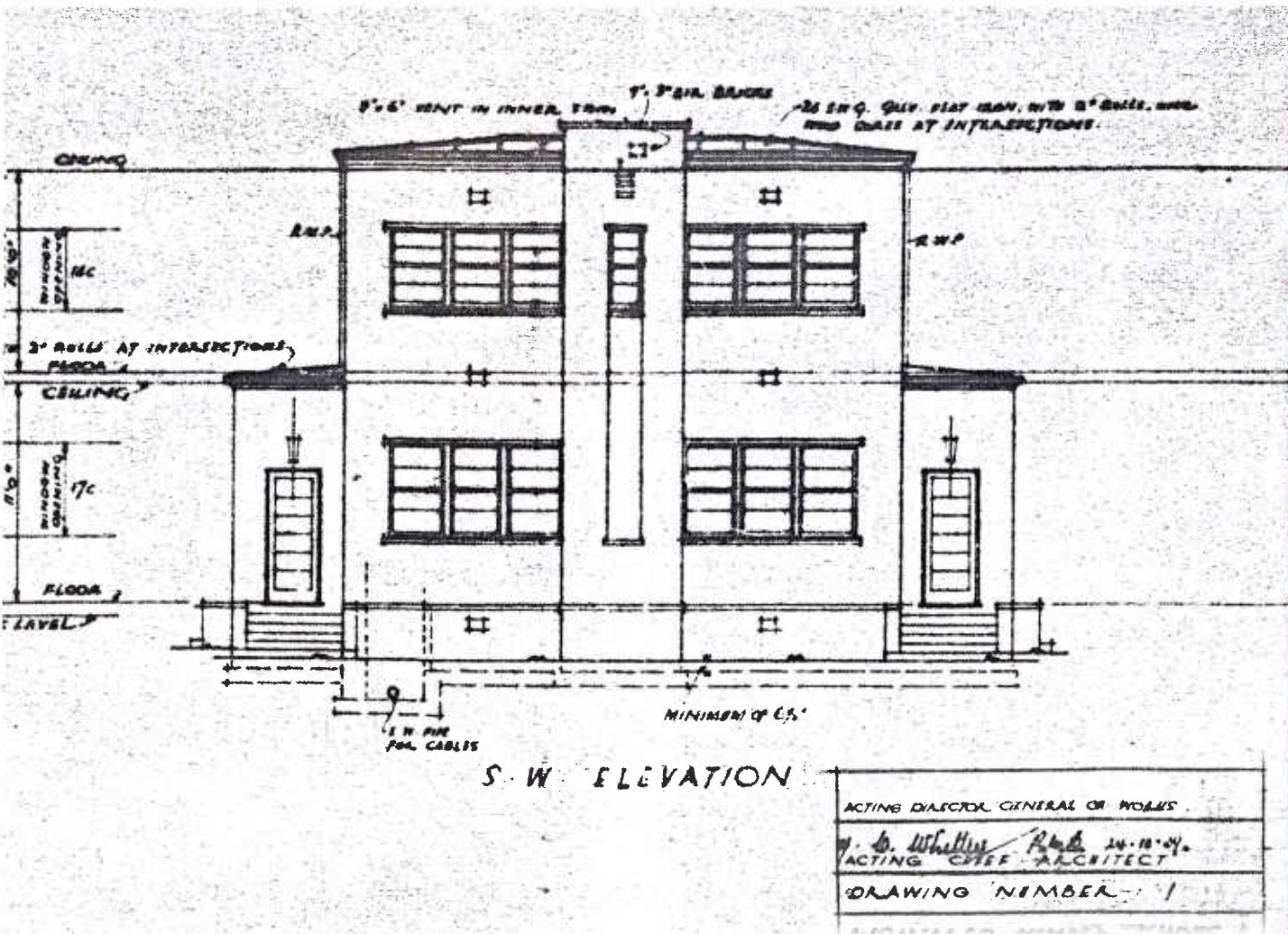
The current major development proposal for the airport site is divided into two stages. The first stage poses no obvious immediate threat but, when stage one is completed, stage two—to complete the taxiway upgrade—will place immense pressure on heritage management of the WWII Bellman Hangar (Bldg. 203) and the WWII Powerhouse and Gun Testing Stop Butts (Bldg. 52) as well as the working section of the Base precinct where they are located. In addition, without a CMP, further deterioration is likely, which could lead to further demolitions.

The heritage significance of the site has been established. The National Trust believes the Airport's Masterplan must be amended to correctly reflect the current known, and potential, heritage values of the site. This can only be done with a CMP that includes broad community consultation, and placed on the public record prior to official approval of the current masterplan for the site.

Based on our concerns, the Trust made a written submission to the Airport's 2004 Draft Major Development Masterplan. At present we do not know the content of the Airport's response to our submission, or what consideration has been given to it. The Trust therefore is making efforts to engage in positive dialogue with CAG management, and others, to discuss the requirement for a CMP before approval of the major development plan is finalised.

There is some urgency to complete a CMP to help ensure that appropriate care is taken of, and protection given to, the heritage values within the precinct from now on. Without a CMP, Fairbairn is still under threat, potentially resulting in another significant piece of Canberra's history being eroded or even lost forever.

As heritage aspects cited in the Airport's documents to date appeared uncoordinated, and offer no assurance that adequate protection of heritage values will occur, the Trust made a written submission to the Airport's 2004 Draft Major Development Masterplan. We have received a response telling us that our submission has been considered and the final Masterplan, with the Airport's responses to the issues raised in our submission, has been sent to the minister. After ninety days the Airport will advertise that copies of the approved plan are available, after the approval process is finalised.







## YORK PARK OAKS—PROGRESS?



**Robert Boden**

**T**he imminent threat to the York Park oaks in Barton was identified in the Autumn 2004 edition of *Heritage in Trust*. A lot has happened since, but are we any closer to saving these heritage trees?

The recent history is that the Department of Finance and Administration (DoFA) proposes to construct a large office block in the middle of the English oak plantation established in 1930 near the corner of Kings Avenue and State Circle. The first tree was planted by HRH The Duke of York on 10 May 1927 when he also planted a Bunya Bunya on the opposite corner of Kings Avenue.

It is argued by DoFA that the office block is needed to help pay for a multistorey car park to accommodate overflow parking from other developments in Barton where insufficient parking space has been allowed. The five storey office block itself would generate more demand for car parking space!

Fortunately, the plantation was listed on the Register of the National Estate in 1997 following classification by the Trust in 1996. This required DoFA to submit its proposed development for consideration under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act). Without this heritage listing, the first anyone would have known about the proposal would have been when the bulldozers moved in.

The Department released a mass of documentation in June, by advertising its availability in the public notices section of the *Canberra Times*, but allowed only fifteen days for people and organisations to respond through submissions. The ad-

vertisement referred to 'York Park North Office Development' but made no mention of the Plantation or the fact that it was proposed to remove more than half of the trees. Fortunately, some people saw the advertisement and eighteen submissions were lodged.

On 2 July the Secretary of DoFA, Dr Ian Watt, wrote to the Editor, the *Canberra Times*, defending his Department's approach to public consultation. He also implicated the National Capital Authority (NCA) and the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) in the process, but gave a glimmer of hope by saying that no decision had been made.

Dr Watt also stated that his Department had discussed with the NCA an amendment to the Master Plan for York Park which would, "permit the retention of the oak tree plantation but allow the development of York Park consistent with the original objective of the Plan. (i.e. office blocks and a carpark) These discussions are likely to be concluded over the next several weeks."

As of writing (17 September), those "several weeks" have turned into eleven weeks without any public announcement of a result.

In a mid-July announcement, the Minister for Environment and Heritage added the York Park North Tree Plantation to the

continued on page 18





Gus' Café. Photo: M Park

### Margaret Park and Alena Almassy

**A**s stated in this issue's 'Heritage Happenings', the Trust is preparing documentation on 29 heritage places for nomination to the ACT Heritage Register. One such nomination is Gus' Café in Bunda Street, Civic.

It is not only the tangible evidence of our heritage which we treasure, and more importantly list as significant heritage items on preservation registers, it is also our intangible cultural heritage. Buildings, Aboriginal culture sites, significant trees or a rural landscape all form part of our tangible heritage. But what is intangible heritage? It is by no means a new and trendy fad in heritage practice. Nonetheless, it has taken many years for this concept to evolve and be valued as highly as our 'tangible heritage', that which can be seen and touched. In October 2003, UNESCO adopted the International Convention to Safeguard Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Convention defines 'intangible cultural heritage' as:

Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage, the performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, as well as knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe and traditional craftsmanship.

One place that holds cultural heritage significance for Canberrans—and there are many, such as Floriade, various markets, festivals and events—is Gus' Café. Although it is a place, it is not necessarily the fabric of this building which presents its heritage value; it is what happened there which gives it its significance. From 1960 the first café operated on

the site we know today as Gus' Café. However, from 1970 when the site was leased by Gus Petersilka, café society and Canberra's social and cultural heritage began its evolution into what is an accepted and expected way of life today. It was Gus who introduced the European tradition of outdoor dining to Canberra. This, of course, was not without its battles and trials for Gus. From the setting of the first table and chair on the pavement, the fight was on with the bureaucracy. Gus was defiant, determined and obstinate. He pursued what he believed in, as he stated to *The Canberra Times* in May 1979:

I believe in Canberra, I've been here since 1962, I'm naturalised and I've fought for many principles that have become accepted in this city.

Gus constantly spoke to the press, he wrote letters (even one to the Queen!) and he placed advertisements. He not only pursued the right to continue his outdoor café, frequented and appreciated widely in the Canberra community and beyond, he also focused on wider social and cultural issues with the express aim of making Canberra a better place to live and work in, to visit and enjoy. It is this social activity that is now an integral part of Canberra's cultural urban landscape which warrants a nomination to the ACT's Heritage Register. It is this meeting place and its unique characteristics that aided the transformation of Canberra's 'dead centre' to one with a 'heart and soul'.

Although Gus died in 1994, his memory lives on. The very fact that the current proprietor, Setita Rockmann, continued





his tradition and indeed kept the name is one testament to the legacy Gus left behind. In other ways, too, his work has been, and continues to be, acknowledged. He was Canberran of the Year in 1978, a street in Gungahlin—Petersilka Street—was named in his honour (one can't help but ponder though that a street or place closer to the Café would have been more apt!) a memorial plaque in the pavement outside the Café was placed by the Canberra Recognition Committee, and he was one of the 100 'important and influential' Canberrans compiled by Radio 666. Almost every Canberra café has a table and chair on the pavement; this is a timely heritage nomination.

In putting together this nomination, the ACT National Trust talked to a number of Canberrans about Gus and researched reactions to his endeavours over the course of the battle years from 1970 onwards. Gus' dogged determination to ensure that the outdoor café society would forever remain a way of life in the National Capital inspired many to write to the press then, and to offer us comments now. Setita Rockmann was one of the committee members who helped to raise the funds to plan and install the memorial plaque. Setita recently commented that "Gus' vision is a way of life today" and that "he brought life to this city". At Gus' funeral in 1994, his lawyer and friend, Bernard Collaery said "Gus leaves Canberra ahead of itself...and through sheer effort and controversy he gained a recognition and a place in Australian history" (*Canberra Times* 27/10/1994). Bill Tully, also on the Canberra Recognition Committee and an organiser of the plaque, said that Gus was the obvious choice for their first plaque because "we look around at the centre of Civic and Canberra in general, and we see the result of Gus' efforts" (*Canberra Times* 12/2/1998).

Others have made comments in passing, such as "I grew up there", "it was the only place to get a coffee on a Sunday" or "open late at night". News of this nomination has encouraged those who knew Gus and his café to speak out. One such Canberran is Alena Almassy, a writer, and a freelance migrant and refugee women's advocate, as her following reminiscences clearly demonstrate.

### ...meet me at Gus'...

I've been asked to write a short article about Gus Petersilka (Petrželka to me) well, his café Gus': about 800 to 1000 words, I know it's not a lot, so where do I start?

I could start how, when I first came to Canberra from Sydney in 1972 and felt like a fish out of water, because if you're one of those people who think Canberra is an isolated town now, you should give a thought to Canberra in those days. Or, how one feels when they come to a town where they do not know anyone, and that town happens to be Canberra. Canberra, even today, is fighting that image.

Well, the 1972 Canberra had only one real *outside* café, and that was Gus'. This place made all the difference to me. Born in Bratislava in the '60s, a city some 30 km from Vienna, I was used to the Viennese culture of outdoor dining, wining, and simply enjoying a coffee at an outside café. Before coming to Australia as a teenager I was already accustomed to socialising with friends and relatives over a nice meal, a great cup of



Gus Petersilka. Photo: G Tidy, *Canberra Times*

coffee—and atmosphere (some call it ambience).

Thus, Gus' Café became my haven—not only because of its outside setting, but because of the way I felt whenever I had my coffee there. It was as close as it got for me, being away from my family in Sydney.

It soon became a meeting place for me and my friends after work, as Gus' was the only place open *late* in Civic. I think he closed well after 10 pm, by which time the rest of Civic was long deserted, other than pubs of course: not my scene.

What made Gus' Café so special? Well, Gus was a person who genuinely cared that people were not forgotten. In that, he was a true entrepreneur—the idea of having just a business was not his style. He wanted to be hospitable and he made people, especially newcomers to Canberra, welcome. This he did through all his business enterprises.

Gus became someone I looked up to—someone who was not afraid to speak up and challenge the narrow-minded points of view that governments often adopt. He went so far as to defy Canberra bureaucrats when fined for having tables and chairs on the pavement. This used to make me so mad; how could they be so ignorant? Of course, obviously, they've never been to Europe, I thought, otherwise they would have seen all this before, knowing that this is what cafés in all European





cities are like—outdoors as well as indoors—to cater for every customer's needs and moods. That is what hospitality is about: catering to the customer.

I heard the Canberra public servants who were giving him a hard time were 'worried about flies', actually. Thus a sign was aptly placed 'do it now: tomorrow there may be a law against it'.

I, being so young, could not understand why Gus was putting so much time and effort (and money: he paid lots and lots of fines, and had to lodge lots and lots of applications) to give Canberra citizens and visitors the ambience of a true café—not unlike the European style—but very much our very own: this is how I got to understand. In the end it cost him his health.

It happened that one day I was on my own and Gus had brought my coffee, I commented on the music—Edith Piaf. I said "your choice of music, it gets me every time...this place is the only place that makes me feel great and I never feel alone here. I'll always be coming back: thank you". I also told him I found Canberra very isolating, and it's almost as if people don't want to get to know you, but his was a place where I never felt alone. Even when I was on my own, the magazines he had, the music he played, the friendly staff, made Gus' my favourite place. I understood as he said "this is what gives me pleasure—to make everyone who comes here feel that they are special. I will go out of my way to achieve that—no limit".

Well, thanks to Gus, I survived my first six months of Canberra winter. I mean the summers are great, but winters can really get to you if you are on your own, are not a pub person, or a nightclub person, and you just want to go somewhere where there is a great atmosphere, great food and coffee, to meet your friends and generally be amongst people. Although I travel extensively, I have settled in Canberra, and now some 34 years later, everyone knows the story of Gus as I tell it to all my children, their friends, and all that I meet as I bring them back to Gus'. Gus' Café became a hub where young and old come to relax. It is my favourite line 'meet you at Gus'.

Although Gus was awarded Canberran of the Year in 1978 he stayed very humble. I never had a chance to tell him that he saved my sanity back in 1972, but I think he knew he was a legend. So today, as I look around, I walk with a smile on my face. Gus achieved his vision. No matter what suburb in Canberra you go to, there will be an outside café not unlike the European ones.

After Gus' illness and death I felt very anxious. For a long time I could not go back to Gus' Café. Not only did I miss his person, I could not bear to go there—I was scared of what I would feel—the place was desolate, empty. The anxiety subsided somewhat when I found out that Gus' was not going to be closed down: oh, yes, at one stage they wanted to pull the building down, but thanks to Gus people learnt how to consult with the government and got a chance to be heard. That is the other legacy he left us, to speak up for what we believe in.

One day long after this, I was passing by and saw this smiling young girl come out of the café and say 'hello', just like that, she didn't know me and I didn't know her, yet that 'hello' made me feel so good. As I walked on I thought of Gus, so I went in

to have a coffee, and as I sat inside, absorbing the atmosphere I knew Gus was still there. Now he will never be forgotten because Gus' Café is in good hands again, run by people who know how to say hello with a smile and make you welcome and special. A simple smile can turn you around—that's what you'll find at Gus'.

There is something we all can do for Gus so as to hold him in the esteem that he should be, and that is to put Gus' Café on the ACT Heritage Listing, so that years from now, the story of Gus will live on, and people of all ages would be able to say as today: meet you at Gus'. So thank you Gus Petrželka.



Plaque outside Gus' Café. Photo: M Park

## Travelscene Canberra City

Licensed Travel Agent,  
Owned & Operated by Jetaway World Travel Pty Ltd.  
A member of the Travelscene American Express travel group  
A Corporate Member of the National Trust of Australia  
**WINNER** – Metropolitan Travel Agency of the Year  
at the 2002 National Travel Industry Awards and Runner-up in 2003

We offer a one-stop travel shop with a full range of travel services including: ♦ international and domestic flights, ♦ great hotel rates, ♦ holiday packages, ♦ group tours, ♦ coach tours, ♦ cruises, ♦ car rentals, ♦ rail travel, ♦ sightseeing, ♦ event tickets, ♦ travel insurance, ♦ travellers cheques, ♦ visa information, etc.

For personal, professional service:

Jetaway  
with

**Travelscene**  
Canberra City

Lower Ground Floor, Ethos House,  
28-36 Ainslie Avenue, Canberra City  
Open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday.  
Saturday mornings and after hours consultations by appointment only.  
Tel 6247 6544 Email: [Jetaway@Jetaway.com.au](mailto:Jetaway@Jetaway.com.au)  
Fax 6247 7638 Website: [www.jetaway.com.au](http://www.jetaway.com.au)



Whilst the National Trust (ACT) is fortunate in that it has been able to obtain affordable Public Liability Insurance cover, it is necessary to remind applicants that most activities involve some element of risk. Bushwalking, in particular, is an inherently dangerous activity and requires a reasonable level of fitness. Whilst the National Trust (ACT) will endeavour to protect your safety, it cannot remove all the dangers. Anyone undertaking activities should be aware that they are participating at their own risk. The National Trust (ACT) must also assume that each applicant has levels of acuity, mobility and fitness appropriate to the particular activity.

## THE BEST OF BURRAWANG

Weekend 16/17 October 2004

Unfortunately bookings for this tour have closed. Please check with the Trust Office in case late cancellations arise. BECAUSE THIS ACTIVITY COINCIDES WITH THE A.C.T. ELECTION, EXISTING APPLICANTS WILL EITHER NEED TO LODGE A PRE-POLL OR POSTAL VOTE. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT 62050033.

## ASHKANAZY SIBELIUS SERIES CONCERT AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Saturday 13 November 2004

A few A-Reserve places still remain for this final concert in our 2004 series. Our tour package comprises return travel to Sydney by luxury coach, concert seats (at group discount prices), refreshments on the way down and a one-course meal with tea/coffee on the return. The program allows about 1½ hours between arrival in Sydney and the start of the concert, so that you can enjoy a lunch of your own choice at The Rocks or The Quay.

This concert features *Vladimir Ashkenazy conductor*, SIBELIUS Symphony No 1 and SIBELIUS Symphony No 2

The departure time for this concert is 7.40am from Deakin, 7.50am from Civic and 8.00am from Braddon – with return between 9.00 and 9.30pm. The full tour price is \$102pp for Trust members and \$105pp for U3A and non-members. A reduced price is possible if you wish to join and/or remain in Sydney. Please contact the leader, Garth Setchell (ph 02-62901100).

PAYMENT IN FULL IS REQUIRED BY 13 OCTOBER. EXISTING APPLICANTS ARE REMINDED THAT OUTSTANDING BALANCES MUST ALSO BE PAID BY THIS DATE.

## WESTERN VICTORIA & THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

Saturday 13 to Thursday 24 March 2005

This is not an exclusive Trust tour, but is being operated by Australian Eco Adventures, with whom we have had a long standing, and happy, relationship. Because it is likely to appeal to Trust/U3A applicants, we have asked AEA to reserve 6 places. Although this mini-coach tour begins in Sydney, the first overnight stop is Lake Cargellico, which is conveniently accessible on the same day by Countrylink coach from Canberra. The cost of this connection is included in the tour price of \$2590pp dbl/tw or \$3085pp sgl. The tour then proceeds via Hay to Moulamein, and thence to Wyperfeld and Little Desert National Parks (2 nights). Thursday and Friday morning is mainly spent exploring the Grampians (Gariwerd National Park), including a few short walks. Two nights at historic Port Fairy follow, before following the spectacular Great Ocean Road to Apollo Bay. The return to Canberra includes overnight stops in Ballarat (including the evening show at Sovereign Hill), Echuca (sunset cruise and dinner) and Junee (with a visit to the beautiful Barmah red gum forest on the way). FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SUPPLIED ON RECEIPT BY THE TRUST OF A \$25PP BOOKING FEE (PART OF TOUR COST OR \$20 REFUNDABLE). A SUBSEQUENT \$150PP DEPOSIT TO A.E.A. WILL SECURE YOUR PLACE – FINAL BALANCE DUE END JANUARY.

## GO TO GALLIPOLI

25<sup>TH</sup> March to 16<sup>TH</sup> April 2005

There are still a few places left on this tour – but please hurry if you wish to go!

Join archaeologist (and Trust Councillor) Dr Peter Dowling on a tour of world famous historic places in western Turkey. The tour will begin in the magnificent city of Istanbul where for three days we will visit sites of Christian Byzantium and the Ottoman Empire. We will visit the Hippodrome originally built during Roman times but later established as a public centre by Constantine; Aya Sofya (St Sophia) the Church of Holy Wisdom, and the Topkai Palace which was the nerve centre of the Ottoman Empire for 400 years. From Istanbul we travel by coach to Çanakkale on the shore of the Dardanelles. Our first visit will be to the ancient ruins of Troy, which will conjure up visions of Helen and Paris and the warrior Achilles; sieges and wooden horses (did they all really exist?). The battlefields of Gallipoli, which are now embedded deep in the Australian psyche, will be the next stop. We will spend three and a half days exploring the landscape and experience the heroism and tragedy which took place there in 1915. On the first day there we will stay until dusk at the site of the first landings. In the next days we will explore the main Anzac areas and visit the battlefields at Helles on the southern shore of the peninsula before a boat trip along the coast to Suvla Bay. From Gallipoli we will travel slowly along the Aegean and Mediterranean coastlines visiting the ruins of Classic Greece, the Roman and Hittite Empires. The Hellenistic city of Pergamon (230 BC), the archaeological site of



Efes (Ephesus) unmatched anywhere in terms of sheer magnitude. The Temple of Athena (Assos), Konya, Antalya, Cappadocia, Ankara will be just a few places visited in this the final part of the tour. We will take a small divergence to Çatal Huyuk, an archaeological site representing the oldest known city. The tour will finish where we started in Istanbul. While the focus of the tour will be on history and archaeology there will be plenty of time to sample the food, local customs and culture. And of course there's the shopping! Particularly the Grand Bazaar in Old Istanbul.

LIMIT 30. AND THE NUMBERS ARE FILLING FAST. FINAL COST TO BE CONFIRMED BUT ESTIMATED TO \$8000 PP WHICH INCLUDES PREVIOUS BOOKING PAYMENTS, RETURN AIRFARES, ACCOMMODATION, MOST MEALS, ENTRIES INTO THE SITES, & ALL INTERNAL TRAVEL.

## 2005 AFTERNOON CONCERT SERIES AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Once again, Garth Setchell will lead 3 one-day concert tours by coach to Sydney to enjoy the Sydney Symphony Orchestra:

### Thursday 31 March 2005 – Gelmetti's New World

Gianluigi Gelmetti conductor. BEETHOVEN Symphony No 4, and DVORAK Symphony No 9 *From the New World*,

### Thursday 23 June 2005 – Heroes and Lovers

Alain Lombard conductor – Paul Lewis piano. BEETHOVEN *Coriolan* Overture, BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No 5 *Emperor*, PROKOFIEV Symphony No 1 *Classical* and PROKOFIEV *Romeo and Juliet* Suite

### Saturday 17 September 2005 – Dutoit's Searing Shostakovitch

Charles Dutoit conductor – Chantel Juillet violin. FAURE *Pelleas and Melisande*, STRAVINSKI Violin Concerto and SHOSTAKOVITCH Symphony No 5

As in 2004, the tour package comprises return travel to Sydney by luxury coach, refreshments on the way down and a one-course meal with tea/coffee on the return. However, because there has been a quite substantial increase in concert and coach charter prices for 2005, we are offering a choice of A or B Reserve concert seats and will probably limit bookings to the capacity of one coach. We will also dispense with the U3A and non-member surcharge. The full price for both Thursday tours is \$112 for A Reserve seats and \$102 for B Reserve. The Shostakovitch concert has been designated a Gala Concert and the full price will be \$118 for A Reserve seats and \$108 for B Reserve. Despite the increase, the above prices still represent savings of \$13 to \$17pp on single ticket prices. Departure times for all three concerts are 7.10am from Deakin, 7.20am from Civic and 7.30am from Braddon – with return between 8.00 and 8.30pm on Thursdays and 30 minutes later on Saturday. The Saturday tour will absorb the later start time for this concert (2.00pm) by taking you on a trip down memory lane – part of the old Hume Highway! All tours allow about 2 hours between arrival in Sydney and the start of the concert, so that you can enjoy a lunch of your own choice at The Rocks or The Quay. Places will be reserved for any or all 3 concerts on payment of a deposit of \$30pp/concert, subject to balances being received 30 days in advance of each concert. Reduced prices available if joining and/or remaining in Sydney.

PROBABLE LIMIT 50 PER CONCERT. EARLY BOOKING (\$30pp/CONCERT) ADVISABLE TO BE SURE OF A PLACE. CANCELLATION FEE \$5PP UP TO DATE FOR FINAL PAYMENT, THENCE AT COST.

## NORTHERN CIRCUIT

Friday 15 to Friday 22 April 2005

This exclusive Trust general interest tour will utilise the services of Australian Eco Adventures, but will be led by Garth Setchell. On the first day, we will travel first class (own lunch) on the 12.05pm train to Mittagong, where we will be met and taken on to Richmond via The Oaks and Mulgoa, with an inspection of Dr James Broadbent's very historic home, *The Cottage*, en route. On the Saturday we will visit both St Matthew's and the Ebenezer Chapel (oldest surviving church in Australia), before wending our way to the Hunter Valley via Wisemans Ferry, St Albans, Wollombi and Pokolbin. Sunday will include a number of local attractions around Maitland (our visit also coincides with Steamfest), before we commence the very scenic trip north to Armidale (2 nights) via Gloucester, Walcha and the spectacular Apsley Falls. The next day's round trip from Armidale will take you to the rain forests of the New England and Dorrigo National Parks and to some further great waterfalls – Wollomombi and Ebor. After a tour of the Trust property, *Saumarez*, on Tuesday, we will travel via Tamworth and Gunnedah to Narrabri, culminating with a visit to the 5000ft summit of Mt Kaputar. Wednesday will take you through the Pilliga Scrub and the volcanic splendours of Warrumbungle National Park (including a tour of the Siding Springs Observatory), before arriving at Dubbo (2 nights). A leisurely day on Thursday will let you explore the Western Plains Zoo, the Old Dubbo Gaol and the Trust property *Dundullimal*, before we return to Canberra on Friday via Molong, with a couple of interesting properties to visit en route. The all-inclusive cost of this tour is \$1910pp dbl/tw or \$2210pp sgl. Full enjoyment requires reasonable mobility, with many short walks – but all are relatively easy.

LIMIT 16. DETAILS WILL BE SUPPLIED ON RECEIPT BY THE TRUST OF A \$25PP BOOKING FEE (PART OF TOUR COST OR \$20 R FUNDABLE). A SUBSEQUENT \$250PP DEPOSIT TO A.E.A. WILL SECURE YOUR PLACE – FINAL BALANCE DUE END FEBRUARY.



## MELBOURNE INDULGENCE

Tuesday 3 to Saturday 7 May 2005

Although details and price are still subject to minor adjustment, expressions of interest are now sought for this exciting cultural tour to booming Melbourne. A centrepiece will be A-Reserve seats to two of the three operas in Opera Australia's Autumn series at the Arts Centre. As the tour will largely use public transport for convenience, moderate walking ability is essential. However, with Garth Setchell's customary attention to detail, you can be assured that everything will be easy and enjoyable. The forward journey will use the very comfortable and scenic V-Line coach service via Cooma and Cann River, departing Jolimont at 0845 or Kingston at 0900. This arrives at Sale at 1630. Participants will be met at the station and bused to their overnight motel. On Wednesday, a private coach charter will then transfer passengers to our Melbourne hotel via scenic back roads, with a gourmet lunch included at a classy Yarra Valley or Mornington Peninsula winery. Early check-in will permit this evening to be utilised. Depending upon your majority preference, over three evenings we will attend two of the following three operas – Prokofiev's *The Love for Three Oranges*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute* or Verdi's *Nabucco*. The third evening could include dinner on one of Melbourne's famous restaurant trams, or perhaps the third opera or a concert. The daytime program on Thursday and Friday will utilise trams to visit the National Gallery of Victoria, its Ian Potter Centre adjunct at Federation Square, and the stunning new Melbourne Museum. There will also be time for rest and shopping (e.g. the historic Block Arcade) and for a few guided tours of heritage icons such as the Exhibition Building, Parliament House and/or the Melbourne Town Hall. Our return to Canberra on Saturday will involve first class travel on the XPT departing Melbourne at 0830, transferring to the Countrylink coach service at Cootamundra, and reaching Jolimont at 1720 or Kingston at 1740. Although the total cost is not cheap – expected to be around \$1125pp dbl/tw or \$1275pp sgl for seniors, about \$70pp more for those not holding a Seniors Card – it includes first class forward and return travel, one night's accommodation in Sale and three nights at a 4 to 5 star hotel in the Melbourne CBD, all breakfasts and dinners with wine (incl one on the restaurant tram – refundable if other arrangements preferred), a gourmet winery lunch, A-Reserve seats to two operas, all transport in Melbourne and lots of other cultural gems. Apart from the winery lunch, lunches and teas are generally not included but are readily obtainable at moderate cost whilst in transit or in Melbourne.

IN ORDER FOR US TO CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS, \$50PP REFUNDABLE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE REQUIRED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PROVIDED THERE IS SUFFICIENT INTEREST, FURTHER \$400PP DEPOSITS WILL BE REQUIRED BY 24 NOVEMBER, WITH BALANCES BY 4 APRIL 2005.

## NATURAL WONDERS OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Wednesday 22 June to Thursday 07 July 2005

Expressions of interest are also invited for this non-exclusive small coach tour from Darwin to Sydney, being offered by Australian Eco Adventures at a one-way cost of \$3890pp dbl/tw or \$4565pp sgl. Participants will need to make their own way to Darwin but can be assisted with plane or train and pre-tour accommodation bookings by Canberra Travel Agent, Goddard & Howse. The one-way airfare to Darwin is likely to cost anywhere from around \$280pp to \$600pp, depending on offers at the time – There are also a number of train or plane/train combinations from Sydney, Adelaide or Alice Springs – the most expensive being the all-inclusive Gold Kangaroo Service departing Sydney on Saturday afternoons and arriving Darwin on Tuesday afternoons at a cost of \$2190pp for an adult or \$1546pp for a senior. For comparison, joining The Ghan at Adelaide or Alice Springs would cost a senior \$1183pp or \$748pp plus air fares, with about 25% cheaper prices for the Red Kangaroo Service. The coach tour visits lots of exciting, out-of-the-way attractions, including 2 nights in Kakadu, a cruise on the Katherine Gorge, the Mataranka hot springs and Elsey Reserve, an optional helicopter flight over the spectacular Lost City on the edge of the Barkly Tableland, the remote Savannah Way to Burketown, Lawn Hill Gorge and the Riversleigh world heritage Fossil Fields, Mt Isa, the Combo Waterholes (of Waltzing Matilda fame), the dinosaur tracks at Lark Quarry, 2 nights at Carnarvon Gorge and then an interesting route to Sydney via the Darling Downs and New England. This will connect with the 6pm Murrays coach service to Canberra, arriving at 9.20pm. The tour from Darwin to Canberra is all-inclusive, except for travel insurance, drinks, personal expenses and the optional flight over the Lost City. Most accommodation is en-suite and of a high standard, but, in the more remote areas, some is of necessity more basic with shared bathroom facilities. Because appreciation of most of the attractions involves walking, a reasonable level of fitness and mobility is required. 6 places are currently being held for those applying through the Trust.

FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SUPPLIED ON RECEIPT BY THE TRUST OF A \$25PP BOOKING FEE (PART OF TOUR COST OR \$20 REFUNDABLE). A SUBSEQUENT \$250PP DEPOSIT TO A.E.A. WILL SECURE YOUR PLACE – FINAL BALANCE DUE EARLY MAY.



## CAMBODIA & MYANMAR

VISIT SOME OF THE MOST RENOWNED ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLACES IN ASIA OF WORLD HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE.

### **A new tour scheduled for November 2005 (approximately 2-3 weeks)**

Professor Ken Taylor who is involved in heritage work and teaching in Asia proposes to take a group to the temples and landscape setting of the greater Angkor Wat area, Cambodia, and Bagan in Myanmar (Burma) in November 2005. November is the dry season in the region and the optimum time to visit. Angkor Wat and its splendours are well known, whilst Bagan (the city of 2200 pagodas dating from the tenth and eleventh centuries on a memorable site on the banks of the Irrawady River) is less well known. Visit these outstanding examples of Asian culture and marvel at their sense of living history and the stream of time. The tour will also visit Phnom Penh and Yangon (Rangoon) and may spend time in Bangkok en route back to Australia if participants wish. To whet the appetites of those expressing interest, Ken Taylor will give an illustrated presentation from slides taken in July and August 2004. He also has contacts with the experts working on site. Travels with the Trust is looking for expressions of interest in this tour so we can make early arrangements. If you are interested contact the Trust office. Limit of 20 people.

LODGEMENT OF AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FEE OF \$50 PP (\$45 OF WHICH IS REFUNDABLE) WILL GET YOU ON THE LIST. THE COST OF THE TOUR WILL BE NOTIFIED TO THOSE EXPRESSING INTEREST AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

## PHOLLOWING THE PHARAOHS

### **A new tour scheduled for February 2006 (approximately 3 weeks)**

Once again Dr Peter Dowling is planning an archaeological and historical exploration of the past- this time to Egypt and the land of the Pharaohs. We will experience the times, the buildings and the lives of the people who lived through the three kingdoms and 31 dynasties. The famous pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx will be some of the first places we will visit after arriving in Cairo. A highlight of the tour will be a five or six day cruise along the Nile. We will float serenely down the River in air conditioned comfort on a luxury class cruiser with bar and restaurant facilities and first class accommodation (that's the way archaeology should be done). We will visit Luxor, Aswan, Memphis, the Valley of the Kings and rub shoulders with the great Ramses II and the boy king Tutankhamun (was he really murdered?). We will also spend a few days in the famous city of Alexandria, founded by Alexander The Great and once the home of the finest library in the world.

Do you want to come? Travels with the Trust is looking for expressions of interest in this tour so we can make early arrangements. If you are interested contact the Trust office. Limit will be 30 people.

**LODGMNT OF AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FEE OF \$50 PP (\$45 OF WHICH IS REFUNDABLE) WILL GET YOU ON TO THE LIST. COST OF THE TOUR WILL BE NOTIFIED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TRAVELS WITH THE TRUST**

Toledo, Spain. Photo: Viggo Pedersen







## \$14 million Civic library and link project soon to be built in Civic Square



### Eric Martin and Colin Griffiths

Civic Square, a valuable community open space in the heart of Canberra, is soon to be compromised by the construction of the new Civic Library. The plans for this project were announced by the Minister for Urban Services, Bill Wood, in May this year but the project has been on the drawing board for a number of years. As far as the Trust is aware, details of the project first appeared publicly in April 2002, when an article in the *City News* suggested that "Excitement over the proposed \$7.9 million redevelopment for a new library in Civic Square—which would form an integral part of the arts, entertainment and heritage focus of Civic Square—has far outweighed criticism".

Criticism of the proposal has come from a number of quarters and has been expressed in submissions to the ACT Government, through the pages of the *Canberra Times* and, in the case of the National Trust, in direct representations to ACT ministers.

Notwithstanding the objections to the use of nearly \$15 million of taxpayers money for a library (note that the cost of the project has nearly doubled since 2002!) the central issue is the placing of the new complex in the heart of the city's pre-eminent community space.

So, what is the nature of this space and why does the Trust remain opposed to the project? Civic Square appears on the Register of the National Estate compiled by the former Australian Heritage Commission and is classified by the National Trust of Australia. The Register of the National Estate statement of significance includes reference to the historical context of the square in the development of Canberra. It has social, physical and symbolic value for Canberra. It also states that Civic Square is indicative of the emphasis on the geometry of the planning of Canberra.

In the comment on "condition and integrity" the Register states that "the space occupied by the Square is the most important element. The visual importance of the space should be recognised. Its symmetry is also a cardinal feature needing preservation even if changes are made to the buildings".

The National Trust's view of the Square was best defined in a letter to the Chief Planner on 29 August 1996, which stated that Civic Square is an important item of Canberra's heritage for its historical and social values as well as "planning values centred around Northbourne Avenue and Ainslie Avenue" and "aesthetic values of the 1960s architecture, scale and proportion". It went on to state that "the visual importance of the space and its symmetry should be recognised and are cardinal features needing preservation... Any changes to the buildings should be in sympathetic scale and design".

Civic Square was nominated to the ACT Heritage Register, but was removed from the Interim Heritage Places Register by expiration of interim effect 31 March 2000. This occurs when the administrative process to formalise the heritage listing is not completed within the statutory period. There is no indication that Civic Square was consciously deleted from the Interim Heritage Places Register because it lacked heritage significance.

### The Current Proposal

The current proposal involves the construction of a three-level building, including a theatre foyer about the same level as the existing building, a library at this level with a basement which goes under the foyer and extends into Civic Square, and an upper-level walkway from Civic Square to Vernon Circle.

The overall impact is a larger and higher link between the Playhouse and the theatre and an intrusion into Civic Square of a two-storey building that will occupy about 50 % of the North





West Quadrant. The designers and developers of the project have advised the Trust as follows:

The shard [the term used to describe the shape of the new building] of the library will project around 12 m from the base of the current podium steps into the square. The shard is 9 m wide and tapers off to the end point. This end point will align between the third and fourth columns of the colonnade of the Museum and Gallery building from Knowles Place North. A rough calculation of area indicates approximately 70 m<sup>2</sup> will be taken up by the library into Civic Square.

The proposal raises two main concerns:

(a) Intrusion into the Square

Both the Register and the National Trust refer to the symmetry of the space being a cardinal feature needing preservation. This will be destroyed by the proposed development. Previous development of the square recognised this requirement and maintained the symmetry.

In a broader urban sense, the spatial qualities of the square relate to the law courts precinct symmetrically placed on the other side of Northbourne Avenue. This factor should also be considered in any development proposal. There appears no recognition of this in the proposed development.

(b) visual link Along Ainslie Avenue

The link from City Hill along Ainslie Avenue is one of Griffin's axes developed in the initial planning of Canberra. There is a need to recognise this link and ensure that all people within Ainslie Avenue are aware of this important planning axis. This link is recognised within the significance of the Civic Square as stated by the Register and the National Trust.

The proposed development will substantially diminish the visibility of City Hill from London Circuit and reduce it to a glimpse of a few treetops with no real appreciation of the planning intent.

The "digital image of how the proposed library will fit into Civic Square" published in the *City News* 4–14 April 2002 is inaccurate and misleading and totally misrepresents the exposure of the landscape of City Hill. An image obtained from the architects, Blight Voller Nield, simulating a view from London Circuit at the north east corner of Civic Square shows no trees and is probably more accurate.

The forward thrust of the two-storey development at a roof height greater than the existing link building only exacerbates the impact on the Square with a loss of the urban context and the appreciation of the Ainslie Avenue axis.

City Hill is in the ACT Heritage Register and its statement of significance refers to it being "a generating point for the major avenues of Civic and its plantings provide visual corridors for those avenues". It also states that "City Hill... enables views of key topographical elements of the City to be seen from the Hill". The proposed development will substantially reduce these values, especially the relationship between City Hill and Civic Square.

## Heritage Library

This library is intended to be the central library resource Canberra yet there is insufficient space to include the Heritage Library despite the recent effort to concentrate cultural and heritage interests around the North Building. This is a serious shortcoming which appears to arise from the lack of available space under and around the theatre link to accommodate all the Library's needs without taking up more space in Civic Square.

## Conclusion

While a modern Civic Library is important, the proposal to build and squeeze it under and around the Canberra Theatre compromises the heritage values of Civic Square and planning values such as Ainslie Avenue vistas.

It also means that the library is smaller than desirable, excludes the ACT Heritage Library. The Trust is of the view that the development should be reconsidered so that it has no adverse impact on the heritage values of Canberra and provides for the needs of a Heritage Library. This may mean a reassessment of alternative sites but it is too important an issue not to get correct.

The concern of the Trust is that planning for the project has proceeded beyond the point of no return and so in a sense this article is in fact an obituary for the Square as it exists today. It leaves you with a chilling message from eminent Canberra architect and planner, Enrico Taglietti, who in a letter to the *Canberra Times* of 2 September 2004, made the following points:

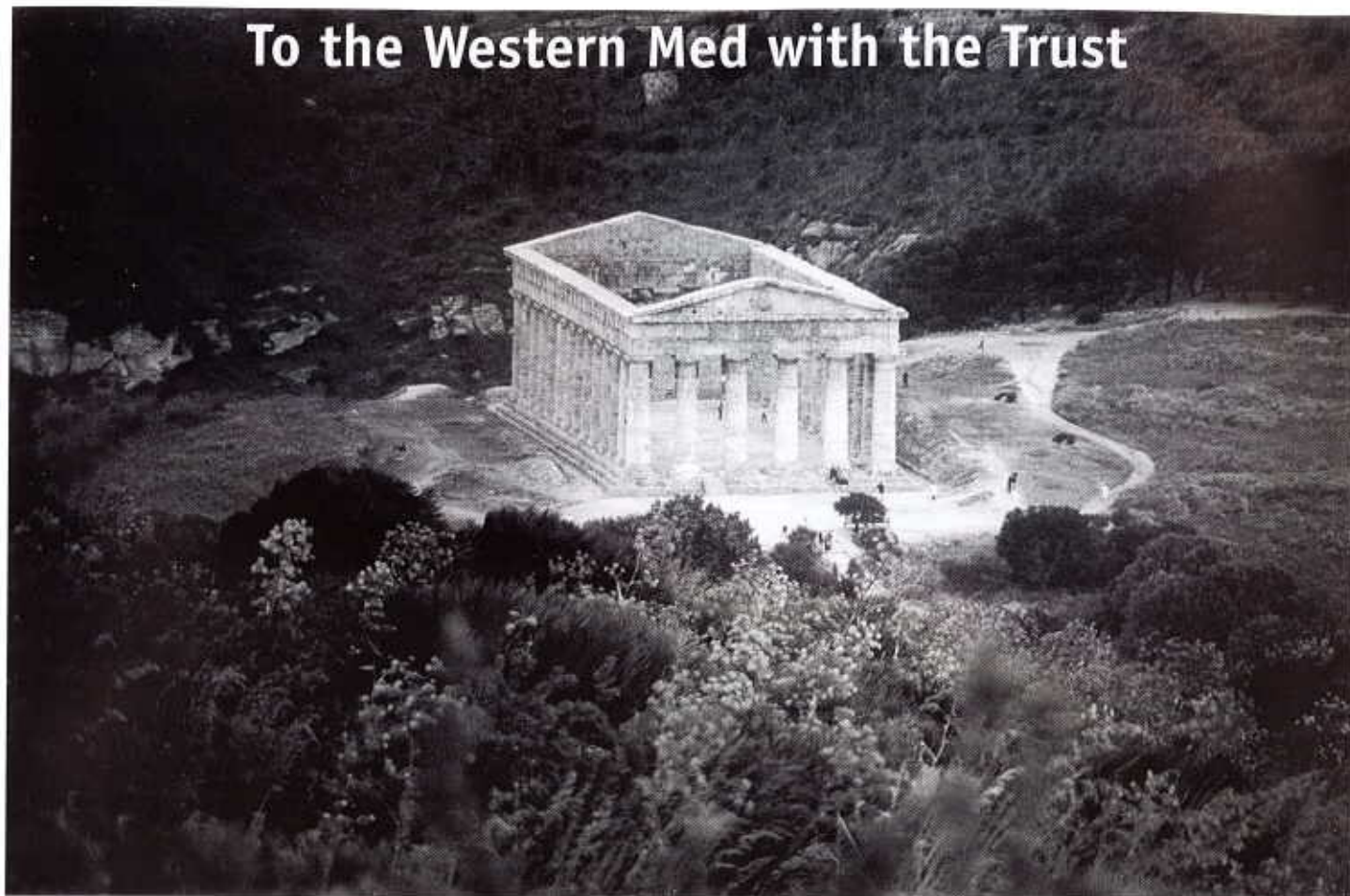
- symbolic urban spaces can only occur once in the lifetime of a city
- it is time that the planning of our Square be seriously and professionally integrated with the City
- Civic Square design should be the result of an international competition and not left in the hands of biased amateur or cultural corporations relying on the judgement of the Procurement solutions.

As Enrico also says in his letter, we may well have a case for "design in haste, repent at leisure".





## To the Western Med with the Trust



The Greek Temple at Segesta. Photo: Viggo Pederson

### Viggo Pedersen

**I**n May 2004, Garth Setchell led a party of thirty one on a trip through the Western Mediterranean.

I had not been a tourist in Europe before and, for me, it was continuous revelation of castles, mosques and churches redolent of history, exquisite artworks, fascinating archaeology and arresting towns set amongst magnificent scenery. We travelled mainly by bus: an excellent way of seeing the countryside.

We started with six days in Sicily. In Palermo the Palatine Chapel has beautifully restored Byzantine mosaics, the art gallery has gorgeous paintings, notably from the 14th to 16th centuries and the Archaeological Museum has treasures recovered from sites all over the island. In nearby Monreale there is a 12th century cathedral—the inside is entirely covered in magnificent gilded mosaics.

The island has many Greek and Roman remains. Segesta has a well-preserved Doric temple from the 5th century BC and a Greek theatre with a stunning view. Selinunte and Agrigento are huge sites each with seven or eight temples from about the same period, a few of them with columns standing. Casale has a Roman villa from the 3rd century, with marvellously preserved mosaics on the floor.

A highlight was a visit to one of the craters on Mount Etna. We stood amidst sulphuric fumes on warm scoria between extensive patches of snow. The view to the coast from 3,000 metres up is spectacular.

A short flight took us to Malta for three days of sightseeing.

The Knights of Malta who were in charge from about 1500 to 1800 built the huge fortifications on Valletta's Grand Harbour. There are magnificent art works in the Grand Master's Palace, especially many Gobelin tapestries. A feature of St John's Co-cathedral is the floor of the nave: a vast patchwork quilt of colourful marble tomb slabs in black, white, blue, red, pink and yellow.

The highlight of two days in the south-east of France was a visit to the Pont du Gard, a bridge-aqueduct built by the Romans around 50 AD. Three tiers of arches rise to a height of 47 metres.

A four-hour train trip, skirting the Pyrenees, took us to Barcelona for the start of nine days in Spain. Our one day in Barcelona was dominated by the work of Gaudí. The Expiatory Temple of the Holy Family, which he started, not yet complete, is an architectural mess or the work of a genius depending on your point of view. It is effectively an unconsecrated church with four enormous spires and many shorter ones.

Another four-hour trip took us to Madrid. Using this as a base we visited Toledo, El Escorial (a majestic palace-monastery complex with pantheons of royal tombs), the Valley of the Fallen (Franco's enormous but austere memorial to his soldiers, with beautiful mountain views) and Segovia (with another magnificent Roman aqueduct and a royal palace with Rapunzel towers, turrets topped with slate witches' hats and a deep moat). In Madrid itself, which has lots of open spaces





and interesting buildings, the highlight was a visit to the Prado museum: there are many fine paintings and what was really impressive was the use of natural and subdued artificial light to show them off.

We then bussed down the centre of Spain through endless fields of olive trees to the southern part of the country. In Granada the Alhambra, with its splendid Moorish architecture, courtyards and decorations, and its extensive gardens is perched high above the city.

In Cordoba the mosque-cathedral, which was started in the eighth century, has attractive Islamic architecture with many iterations of Christian churches built inside, on top of and around it. In the city itself the many plants and flowers hanging from balconies overlooking narrow streets and in courtyards off the streets were a gardener's delight.

A quick visit to Gibraltar to see the Barbary apes, then off to Cadiz and into Portugal through Albufeira in the Algarve (far too touristy) to Lisbon. Lisbon is pretty with lots of open space and monuments, especially to their explorers. We visited the royal (until 1910) Pena Palace at Sintra. The outside is a positively garish Disneyesque mixture of Gothic, Manueline and Romantic influences, but the inside is pretty.

Four of us finished off with a one-day trip to Madeira. It is of volcanic origin and is dominated by a mountainous interior (up to 900 metres). The coastline and valleys are intensively farmed and populated by pretty villages. It is a beautiful place with green slopes going up into peaks that are continuously hidden and revealed by passing mist and clouds.

And the weather was perfect throughout.

York Park Oaks, continued from page 7

new Commonwealth Heritage List. This places obligations on the agencies responsible for the areas listed to "develop a management plan to manage these places consistent with the new Commonwealth Heritage Management Principles prescribed in regulations to the Act" (EPBC Act).

Organisations, including the National Trust of Australia (ACT), the Australian Garden History Society (ACT Riverina Monaro branch), the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (ACT group), ACT for Trees, Friends of ACT Arboreta and the Canberra and District Historical Society, concerned about the inadequate management of the plantation wrote to Dr Watson on 30 July seeking immediate removal of parking from beneath the southern row of the plantation, removal of environmental weeds and limited pruning. This work could be completed in one or two days by two keen gardeners with a dog and a ute.

A reply on 18 August from the Department indicated that the matter was being looked at in consultation with the NTA and DEH. One month later and cars are still being parked underneath the trees and the weeds flourish.

On 30 August the Australian Council of National Trusts released its 'National Trust Endangered Places 2004' list stating that 'The community knows that when these places are gone they are gone forever. And with each loss goes another part of their community's story.'

The York Park North Tree Plantation is one of 19 places listed Australia-wide and the only one in the Australian Capital Territory. The explanatory statement for the Plantation states "Description of Threat: The integrity and future of the plantation is threatened by the proposal by the Federal Department of Finance and Administration to dispose of the site and permit the construction of an office complex with associated car parking. Of immediate concern, is the stressed condition of the plantation, reflecting a long period of neglect by the Commonwealth authorities".

Your Trust will continue to play an active role in promoting the historic value of the Plantation and arguing for its retention intact.

*Just Travel*

**Personalised  
Professional  
Service**

*A corporate member  
of the National Trust*

**Just Travel**

Suite 2, RSPCA House  
6 Napier Close

DEAKIN ACT 2600

**Telephone (02) 62852644**

Facsimile (02) 62852430

Email [kerry@justtravel.com.au](mailto:kerry@justtravel.com.au)

Licence No 100/D/6

Roman aqueduct  
over the Gard.  
Photo: Viggo  
Pedersen







## A Tribute to June Weir



left to right: Mary Griffith, Joan Wood and June Weir at a Cooma Cottage fundraiser in 1972 where June organised the furnishing of the house for a special open day.

This year, Cooma Cottage lost one of its most remarkable volunteers and a great contributor to the National Trust cause in the Southern Tablelands.

Cooma Cottage, the home of the Australian-born colonial explorer Hamilton Hume, was made over to the National Trust of Australia in the early 1970s. Right from the beginning June Weir was an integral part of its development. She organised fundraising activities for the property prior to its opening, was involved from the start with the Yass Branch of the National Trust, headed Cooma Cottage's first garden committee, and served as a volunteer guide at the property for over ten years.

The following is an excerpt from the Yass Historical Society newsletter written by Kim Nelson, manager and curator of Cooma Cottage, 1984–1995.

...June Weir was my friend. Of all the things I could say, that is the most important.

I was introduced to June as part of a duo, the famous 'Two Junes' —June Comins was the other side of this notorious pair. Their history goes way back, long before my time. When they got together they were wicked. In my time as manager of Cooma Cottage, I looked forward to the days they were rostered on as volunteers; I could be certain that if I had them on board, any event or undertaking would be a success.

June preferred to work behind the scene and shunned kudos. I suspect that people are generally unaware of just how much good work she did in and around the district. I could be sure that June would tell it to me straight, and give any advice I might ask for. I could rely on her to brighten up any dull National Trust meeting with her 'precision bombing'.

Her timing for the irreverent was classic and her love of her garden legendary, so naturally I was not at all surprised when my parents developed a strong friendship with her. (My parents were caretakers at Cooma Cottage for 2 months in 1989 whilst I was overseas.) My mum is no slouch when it comes to things botanical and she held June in esteem. With my dad I think it was simply the irreverent humour that sealed the friendship.

I will miss June greatly. No one told a story quite like her. Visitors to Cooma Cottage who were fortunate to have her as a guide should count themselves blessed. They got both parts of the history—the official and the unofficial!

I'd imagine she's probably got the angels sorted out by now and they're all sitting down to a 'louverly G & T'.

Farewell my friend.

**Kim Nelson**





## Heritage Happenings

**W**e present here for the benefit of members a review of recent happenings within the Trust and the wider heritage community

The new ACT Heritage Bill has been passed by the Legislative Assembly and by the time this journal is printed will be law. The Trust participated in the development of the legislation in all its stages and supported the efforts of the Heritage Unit and the Minister to change the previous cumbersome registration provisions into a much more streamlined system. The Trust made its views known to the Chief Minister and all other members of the Assembly in a June letter which stated:

...the current bill is a forward looking approach that reflects the best aspects of contemporary heritage protection systems in other state and territory jurisdictions, adapted to suit the ACT community. The new bill simplifies and streamlines registration and protection provisions whilst at the same time providing for wider stakeholder consultation, transparency of process, appropriate levels of accountability for decisions and, in the end, a provision for administrative review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

A new, more representative, Council is provided for under the new Act and the Trust believes it should have a place on this Council.

For some time now the federal Trust body, the Australian Council of National Trusts (ACNT), has been developing a set of terms of reference for a review of the operations of the National Trust movement in Australia. The term 'movement' is a shorthand term that encompasses the eight, separate, state and territory Trusts and the ACNT. It is considered timely to review the relationships of the Trusts with each other, and externally, to see if some efficiencies can be found. The review will also recommend ways in which the Trusts can work more cooperatively to develop a truly national approach to important issues, particularly national sponsorships and projects. The ACT Trust is a strong supporter of these initiatives and has worked closely with the ACNT on their development.

On the heritage conservation side, the Trust was given a \$50,000 contract by the ACT Heritage Unit to carry out reviews of the documentation on 29 places that have been nominated to the ACT Heritage Register. Using a number of sub-consultants the Trust is researching the places using its own records, the records of the Heritage Unit and other sources, with a view to producing draft heritage citations for each place that can then be considered by the Heritage Council. This work is part of a concerted effort by the Heritage Unit to reduce the number of nominations in its backlog list of nominations.

The Endangered Places list for 2004 was released in Canberra on 30 August. This year the Trust listed the York Park oak plantation because of the threat from office and car park development. (See the article by Robert Boden on page 7.) Earlier in August the Report Card on the places listed in 2003 was released. Canberra International Airport, in particular the former RAAF base at Fairbairn, was listed in 2003 and our report card on the base in 2004 was not particularly optimistic.

(See the article by Jane Hingston on page 5.)

This issue also contains an article (page 15) by Colin Griffiths and Eric Martin on Civic Square. The square is about to undergo changes with the construction of a new theatre-link office and public library which will intrude in to the square. We believe this development is regrettable, and will destroy the integrity of the space in a development that has little apparent contextual connection with surrounding parts of Civic.

The Trust was successful in the round of ACT heritage grants announced by Minister Bill Wood in July 2004. The Trust was awarded three grants totalling \$27,162. The three projects involve the development of a series of talks and activities centring on the history of place and the role each place has played in Canberra's early settlement; a digital display and web pages for Ginninderra Blacksmith's shop; and brochures and signage for the heritage suburb of Reid, a project we will carry out with the very active Reid Residents Association.

This is of necessity a brief overview of activities within the main office over the past couple of months. We are always pleased to meet with members when they visit Civic and tell them more of the issues we are working on. Please feel free to drop into the office and have a chat with Colin, Maree or Shirley Ann.

Old Parliament House Shop  
15% discount to  
ACT National Trust Members

**Endangered Textiles Pty Ltd**  
Saving valuable and sentimental textiles  
from extinction  
into the next generation

Victoria Gill  
Textile conservator  
BA (Fine Arts) Hons.  
B App Sc (Cons)



Phone me at the Duffy Shops and arrange a  
time to chat about your conservation needs.  
phone 02 6287 1291  
mobile 0414 815 436





## Trust News

### National Trust Committee meetings

Council—5.30 p.m. Thursday October 14, AGM November 25th 7.30 p.m.

Heritage Committee—12.30 p.m. Wednesday Nov 10, December 15

Lanyon Committee—12.15 p.m. Thursday Oct 21, Dec 8

Membership Committee—fourth Wednesday of each month, 5.30 p.m. at Old Parliament House Shop. Contact Dianne Dowling. The Membership committee welcomes input from members. New committee members always welcome.

### What's on

The National Trust of Australia (ACT) has a close working relationship with ACT Historic Places, particularly Lanyon Homestead. The ACT government pays an amount annually to the Trust based on visitation and volunteer labour provided to Lanyon, and this is used by the National Trust to buy furnishings for Lanyon. Support local heritage. Visit Historic Places' website [www.museumsandgalleries.act.gov.au](http://www.museumsandgalleries.act.gov.au) for their activities.

### Heritage in Trust Magazine

Thankyou to the following who helped with the mail out of the June 2004 edition of *Heritage in Trust*.

Coordinator Shirley Ann Ollier, Sue Brown, Katie Lawrence, Bruce Edwardes, Neville Halgren, Wilma James, Robyn Maher, Joan Manley, Doreen Mitchell, Keryn Pittard, Gabrielle Watt and friend. Again a big thankyou to Audrey Sear for the pre-mailing preparation. Number wrapped and posted 1206

The Trust Office would like to thank our regular office volunteers for their tireless help week after week, Edna Alexander (Volunteer of the year 2003), Audrey Sear and Leonie Turner.

### New members

The National Trust of the ACT welcomes the following new members.

Ms Hausatu Abdul Karim  
Don & Judy Agar  
Mark Bayly  
Barbara & Terry Bennett  
Graham & Sara Bould  
Mick & Allison Brice  
Maureen Mallard & Peter Brooker  
Mr Alex Bush  
Helen Carlile  
Linda Carr & Family  
Rt. Rev. Bishop N & Mrs Joan Chynoweth  
Miss Belinda Delves  
William and Kylie Denny  
Anthony & Gaye Doolan  
David Everitt  
Susan Ferguson  
Mr Vincent .P. Fisher. Mrs Fisher & family  
Barbara Fisher

Christine & Mark Fitzpatrick

Catherine Fredericksen

Victoria Gill

Ms Phyl Goddard

Michael & Cherie Grace

Paul Griffiths

Christine & David Hirst

John Holthouse & Wendy McClintock

Ian & Heather Jackson

Michael & Janet James

Moya & Robert Kennelly

Sam Costello & Jane Knowles

Anne Leet

Ms Dawn Lukeman

Dr Alison McIntyre

Graham & Lyn Melton

John Morrow & Helen Burfitt

Jim & Lorraine Neave

Phillip & Susan Northmore

Donald Perkins and Margaret A. Pentony

Mark and Judith Phillips

Stephen & Jennifer Pickard

Ms Kathleen Power

Allan Richards

Julia and James Roberts

Lindsay & Jan Roberts

Dr D. & Mrs G. Robertson

Romuald & Kathryn Schlegel

Kirsty Sleeman

Robyn & Paul Spry

Carolyn & Peter Sullivan

Derek & Margaret Swieringa

Ms Marilyn Truscott

David Wardle

Chris Watson

Roger & Kerry Webb

Caroline & Grant Werner

Jill Westlake

Douglas & Violet Wheeler

Susan and Barry White

Ms Debra Wilkinson and Household

Lesley Williams

Peter Smith & Jessica Wyers

Jill Young & John Graham

Ari and Robyn Vennonen

### New Corporate member

Janette Condon of ACT Heritage Library

### New life members

Alison J Brewster & Mr Leo Lubransky

### New affiliates

Mrs Ree Kent, The Library Old Parliament House

Andrew Blundell, Queanbeyan City Library





#### *Heritage in Trust*

is published three times a year by the  
National Trust of Australia (ACT)  
1st floor, North Building, Civic Square, ACT, 2608  
PO Box 1144  
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608  
Tel (02) 62300533 Fax (02) 62300544  
e-mail [info@act.nationaltrust.org.au](mailto:info@act.nationaltrust.org.au)  
ABN 50 797 949 955

PRESIDENT  
Professor Ken Taylor AM

HERITAGE OFFICER  
Colin Griffiths

EDITING AND DESIGN  
Paul Wallace

EDITORIAL GROUP  
Colin Griffiths, Maree Treadwell,  
Peter Dowling

PRINTING  
Pirion, Canberra

COPY DEADLINES  
10 January, 10 May, 10 September

ADVERTISING  
Enquiries should be directed to the National Trust  
Office on (02) 62300533.  
Discounts on advertising rates apply to non-profit  
community groups and Corporate Members  
of the Trust (ACT).

CORPORATE MEMBERS  
ACT Heritage Library  
Bensley's Bus & Coach  
Eric Martin and Associates  
Just Travel  
Patinations  
Travelscene Canberra City

BENEFACTOR MEMBERS  
Justice Rae Else-Mitchell

This magazine is published with financial  
assistance from the Department of Environment  
and Heritage.

# NEW

## Are you interested in advertising in the next journal?

Perhaps you have something to sell or a skill  
you could offer to other members.

Maybe you would like to recruit a person to  
mow your lawns, or do some knitting?  
Maybe you could offer to sew, or mend a  
fence?

Or want to sell your chainsaw?

### COME ON AND BE PART OF OUR NEW VENTURE

If you would like to put a PERSONAL  
advertisement in the next journal it will cost  
\$20.00 for members—please contact the  
office 6230 0533 for details.

## Join the National Trust of Australia (ACT)

The National Trust is a non-profit, community based organisation that aims to  
preserve Australia's heritage for future generations. Membership of the National  
Trust offers a number of benefits, among them are:

- free entry to National Trust properties around the world
- discounts at National Trust shops
- an opportunity to participate in travel organised by the Trust
- access to the National Trust's special events and activities
- an opportunity to help the Trust protect your local natural and cultural  
heritage.

### Membership Application

Full Name: .....

Address: .....

..... postcode .....

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

please tick relevant category

Joining Fee (not applicable to concession members)	\$33.00
Single	\$55.00
Single, concession	\$40.00
Household	\$80.00
Household, concession	\$60.00
Affiliated organisations	nil or equal fee
Corporate	\$250.00
Community organisations	\$72.00

Life memberships also available at 12 times the relevant annual rate

Remittance enclosed: \$ ..... cash ..... cheque

Bankcard Mastercard Visa Amex Diners

Credit card number .....

..... expiry date .....

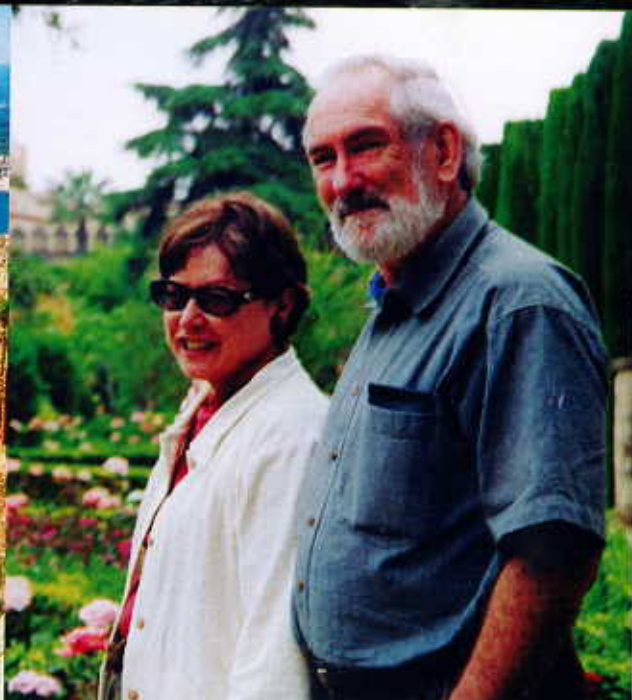
signature .....

please post this form with payment to:

National Trust of Australia (ACT), PO Box 1144 CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

or pay in person at the Old Parliament House Shop





**Photos from the Western Mediterranean.**

Top left—Church of San Marcos, Toledo, Spain. Photo: Robin Setchell.

Top right—Pont du Gard, Roman aqueduct, Southern France. Photo: Robin Setchell.

Above left—Teatro Greci, Taormina, Sicily. Photo: Robin Setchell.

Above right—Garth and Robin Setchell in the gardens of the Alcazar, Cordoba, Spain. Photo: Margaret McAuliffe.



# The Old Parliament House Shop

