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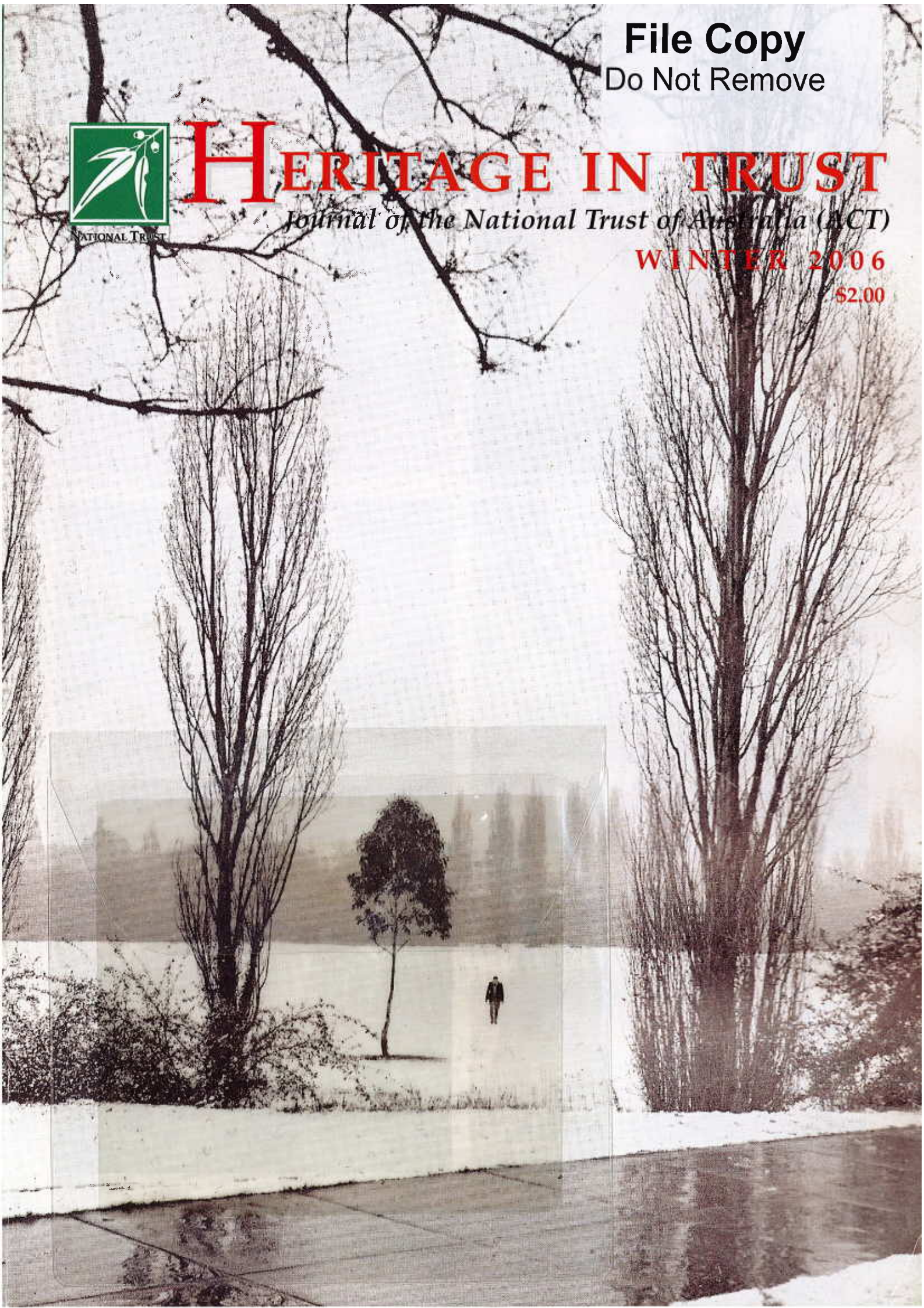


HERITAGE IN TRUST

Journal of the National Trust of Australia (ACT)

WINTER 2006

\$2.00



We have a saying here in Orange : we have four distinct seasons each year - and sometimes they all come in one day. However for the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd of April National Trust open Homes and Gardens - it could not have been a more perfect autumn weekend. Orange is steeped in history and every house on the tour has its own story to delight visitors. Few people know Orange has a significant tie to Canberra, as it was strongly considered as a site for the Nation's Capital. The lack of water took Orange out of the competition. Regardless of this, the rich soils were a magnet for earlier explorers. One of the earliest settlers to Orange was a James Dalton who moved his business into Orange after it was surveyed in 1828/29. The site he chose was on the corner of Summer Street & Post Office Lane. He was succeeded by his son James Dalton Junior who continued his father's entrepreneurial pursuits by extending the family store, eventually taking much of the area to the top of the block. Today, *Myer* trades in that location. To accommodate his large family and show his status as a leading citizen, James Dalton Junior built the beautiful Duntryleague which is the 'jewel in the crown' of Orange's heritage buildings.

Duntryleague

The Daltons also followed farming pursuits. When Duntryleague was first built there were many farming acres surrounding the mansion used to support the family's lifestyle which included several servants and various farmhands. Gracing gentle grounds, Duntryleague is now owned by the Orange Golf Club, who have made additions to both back and front to create a luxury guesthouse and restaurant.

Not only did the Daltons have a grand lifestyle that provided beautiful homes for themselves, but today these reflect some of the most magnificent buildings in Central New South Wales. All the Dalton homes are listed in the Orange City Council's Heritage Report (from the commission of 1969).

Mena

'Mena' in Kite Street has had several owners over the years since the Daltons left, including a time as a private hospital. It has recently been purchased by an enthusiastic owner who has faithfully restored it. This work has resulted in an outstanding home, which can be described as truly beautiful. Although this home was not open for inspection, it always creates comment amongst passing visitors.

Galbally

Visitors were able to inspect 'Galbally' at 60 Byng Street, now the private home of Ernie and Gwenda Shave, who purchased the property in 1980 from the Catholic Church - who had used it as a presbytery for many years.

" 'Galbally' is a village in County Limerick, near Duntryleague in Ireland, where the Dalton Family originates" notes Ernie Shave. Beautiful rich Queensland Maple dominates the decor and has been used extensively throughout the interior, including the stairs. The perfectly restored door into the lounge room was found discarded in a back shed - along with a fireplace surround. Both have now been reinstated to their rightful places. Amongst Galbally's other outstanding original features are the tiles, large stained glass windows and plastered ceilings. The front of the building was built in 1916 and 1918 and tends towards the favoured geometrical design

of that time. Interestingly, from the front, you can see the first floor veranda. When originally built, each bedroom had a private balcony. Some months after construction, there was a change of heart and the design was altered with a consolidation, creating one long veranda running the length of the house.

Ammerdown

Leaving Orange and driving a short distance along the Mitchell Highway is 'Ammerdown', the second Dalton home to be opened on the weekend. Thick trees and undergrowth obscure the property from view. However, as you make your way along the driveway suddenly Ammerdown emerges, a large single-storey Federation home built in 1906. With a chequered past and several owners, it is now unknown if the Daltons bought it or built it, present owners Ian and Vivianne Vennand note. There is evidence of a previous building along with an impressive coach house some metres away.

Filled with beautiful stained glass and surrounded by lace iron, the house contains eight bedrooms and three bathrooms along with a library room and billiard room. The kitchen has been skilfully remodelled by Ian Vennand - an artisan and professional cabinetmaker. The modification was undertaken so masterfully, it is difficult to detect where the old ends and new begins. The task of upkeep and alteration in older houses is always ongoing, but in this case there is absolutely no loss of charm or originality.

Boree Cabone

From Ammerdown, visitors travelled 30kms along Forbes Road to arrive at "Boree Cabone". This is the home of Andrew and Tina (nee Mac Smith) Mc Geoch which has been in the ownership of the Smith family since about 1855. The Cornish immigrant John Smith, Tina's great, great grandfather, purchased the property from Thomas Hood - who acquired it from Captain Thomas Raine & Charles Wentworth (of Blue Mountains' fame). The land was believed to be a grant to Raine and Wentworth. In 1836 Major Mitchell's journal records an expedition stopping at 'Buree'. At this time the property was still in the hands of Captain Raine, who with Mitchell and the others "was entertained by the blacks with a very interesting *corroboree*", which Mitchell described as "highly original".

It was at 'Buree' (or Boree) that the explorer Major Mitchell camped before ascending Mt Canobolas on the 6th April 1835, and then set out into the interior of Australia. The story of this home & land is woven into the fabric of early settlement.

This is the traditional site of the Buree aboriginals. The flats towards the fertile creek on the property were once the scene of a violent war between two local tribes. It is recorded that a Mrs Barton, living only a short distance away, at Nyrang Boree gave refuge to several men who feared for their lives. A number of women had been kidnapped, so one guesses what the battle was about. Tina McGeoch's mother (Toots MacSmith) apparently found many spearheads in the area where the war was waged.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES 2006

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Joining Fee, concession	\$25.00
Single	\$55.00
Single, concession	\$40.00
Household	\$80.00
Household, concession	\$60.00
Corporate	\$500.00
Life memberships	12 times the relevant annual fee

New members and renewal payments can be made by post or in person at our city office, or at the Old Parliament House Shop. Cash, cheque and all major credit cards are accepted. Membership renewal reminders are generated on the anniversary of due dates.

The National Trust of Australia (ACT) 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
- * Complimentary copy of National Trust magazine(s) quarterly
- * Discount of up to 15% 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 & cultural heritage

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Cover Image - from the National Trust ACT archives, 1950 photographer & source unknown. 'Canberra under Snow' looking across Manuka.

It is with pleasure that I acknowledge our first bequest since establishing the bequest fund. A donation of \$10,000 has been made by Heather McKellar which is greatly appreciated. I can only reinforce the sentiments in the 'Autumn Heritage in Trust' that the Bequest fund has been established and we invite members to consider it as it can create substantial opportunities for the future of the National Trust. Sadly, long time member and benefactor Justice Rae Else Mitchel passed away on Thursday, 29th June. A detailed obituary will be published in the September issue of Heritage In Trust.

Canberra News

We are pleased that the ACT Government has initiated an inquiry into the ACT as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve as it provides an opportunity for a wider recognition of Canberra and its heritage. The National Trust submission stressed the need for this to include Cultural landscapes as well as the natural values, as we believe the Garden City values are of world importance. The National Trust was pleased to receive an invitation to participate in a focus group considering the heritage value of the Parliamentary Zone. This is an initiative of the National Capital Authority and we are hopeful that the social, local and national values will be identified and articulated in the study. We are waiting for the NCA initiated wider study of Canberra Heritage to be developed as it will provide an opportunity for the National Trust to reinforce the views of the importance of Canberra as a Garden City with strong heritage values. We will be developing some articles that identify some potential heritage sites in the suburbs from the NCDC era and inviting members to contribute to the nomination of heritage sites in these areas. These arise

from a National Trust Study 1945 – 1988 that was undertaken for ACT Heritage last year. More details will be in the next issue.

Important Council changes

The Council has altered its composition as a result of recent changes. Rob Johnston resigned as Executive Director due to health reasons but we are pleased that he accepted the nomination to Council as Treasurer. Dianne Dowling has accepted the invitation to be Executive Director and Shop Manager at least for a trial and hopefully it works out for the long term. Peter Dowling resigned as Vice President and became Heritage Officer for two days a week.

Judith Baskin also resigned due to ill health. The contributions of both Peter and Judith have been substantial and the thanks from Council and myself are extended to both. We have three new councillors: Helen Cooke, Linda Beverage and Graham Crocket. Following is a list of the Board of Directors of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) - Members of Council:

President - Mr Eric Martin AM
 Vice President - Mr Peter Lundy RFD
 Treasurer - Mr Rob McL. Johnston RFD
 Secretary - Mr John McDonald
 Mrs Linda Beveridge
 Ms Helen Carlile
 Ms Helen Cooke
 Mr Grahame Crocket
 Mrs Dianne Dowling
 Mr Michael Hodgkin
 Mr Alan Kerr
 Ms Catherine Kiernan
 Mr Jim Nockels
 Mrs Adele Rosalky

PRESIDENT
 Eric J. Martin AM
 30 June 2006



Old Parliament House - now on the National Heritage List

The ACT National Trust welcomes the addition of Old Parliament House to the National Heritage List, announced by the Prime Minister on 20 June. The National Heritage List is Australia's list of places which have been assessed as having outstanding heritage value to the nation and Old Parliament House (or Provisional Parliament House as it was once known) certainly fits that criterion. The building has been an integral part of Australia's history and is a well known and loved landmark in Canberra. Monumental events have occurred in the building since it was opened in 1927. Its rooms and halls have witnessed the anguish of the 1930s depression; the hopes and fears of a world war; the laying in state of Prime Ministers John Curtin and Ben Chifley; the record term of Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies; further wars in Korea and Vietnam; and political blood spilt on the floor during the days leading up to the Dismissal. It remains today, a place to visit by young and old alike where they can experience not just the history of Australian democracy but the history of the Australian people. Being placed on the National Heritage list will ensure that the building and its contents are protected to the full extent of Federal government powers.

PEOPLE & PLACES



Novi Scripti

Mr Brian & Mrs Necia Agnew
 Dr John & Mrs Glynn Biggs
 Mary & John Broome
 Mr Colin & Mrs Barbara Brown
 Miss Elizabeth Campbell
 Geoff Budd & Juliet Carrington
 Janice Clemson
 Brian Madl & Colette Colman
 Mrs Elizabeth A Cook
 Rebecca Curl
 Bruce M & Sandra E Duke
 Janette Dutton
 June Elizabeth Faulker
 Dr J Popple & Mrs P Fearn
 Margaret Funnell
 Marjory Gallagher
 Jane & Nicholas Hall
 Patricia & Philip Hamilton
 Keith & Pamela Hammond
 Barry & Margaret Howe
 Mr Graeme & Mrs Janet Ireland
 Alistair & Elizabeth Kennedy
 Joan Lond
 Mr N J & Mrs J Mason
 Virginia McAlister
 Mrs Jane McCabe
 Margaret McCawley
 Mr I & Mrs C Morris
 Dr Warren Nicholls
 Graeme & Kerry Paterson
 Errol & Carol Poultney
 Mr & Mrs Desmond Ritchens
 Wilfred & Jennifer Robbie
 Miss Jennifer Stephens
 Richard & Joyce Stevens
 Mrs Judith Sykes & Mr Jonathan Sykes-Bridge
 Ms M Sykes, Mr R Bridge, Ms I Sykes-Bridge
 Ms Janet Tayler-Henry
 David Taylor
 Mr & Mrs I & P Trundle, Alexie & Anna
 Leslie T Webb
 Marion and Alan Williams
 Fred Wootten
 Ghassan & Dianne Zarifeh

Volunteer of the Year

There is not very much time left to get your nomination in. Remember that both you and your nominee must be members of the National Trust ACT. The nominee must have been active in any aspect of the Trust's activities and regularly involved as a volunteer throughout the calendar year and whose activities have made a strong contribution to the success of the Trust. Please contact Chris or Dianne on 6230 0533 for further information.

Norfolk Island Talk

Captain Cook discovered Norfolk Island in 1774 but National Trust Members and friends are invited to re-discover this 'Paradise' in the Pacific through the eyes of Trust President, Eric Martin AM; Emeritus Professor and ANU Visiting Fellow, Maev O'Collins; and former Administrator and now Trust Councillor, Alan Kerr. This event is a joint venture between the ACT National Trust, The National Museum of Australia and Friends of the Museum.

Date : Thursday 20th Sept
Time : 5.30pm
Cost : National Museum of Australia
 Friends Lounge for drinks and then Visions
 Theatre for the talk
 \$15 members

Shop News

By the time this has been published our annual stock-take will be well and truly over. I would like to thank all our volunteers for all their friendship and support during the past year, and for their counting skills. I may not have seen much of you in the last couple of months but all of you are never very far from my thoughts. To Barbara and Margaret, well what can I say, where would the shop be without you both, thank you very much for looking after our faithful family and the shop. The Trade Fair is on again in Melbourne in August this year so look out for some new stock in the store over the next couple of months. A new book about the 'Molonglo Mystery' by Alan Foscett has just been launched. You will find a review written in this issue. A new range of machine embroidered napery has arrived and is now available in carry bags, twin tea towel

THE MOLONGLO MYSTERY

a unique part of Canberra's history



packs, aprons, and pot mitts. Remember all ACT National Trust members receive a 15% discount in the shop. We can take your payments for tours, membership and functions and we have free parking and free entry to the house to come to the shop and café. see page 15 for book review



Christmas Cocktails

This year we return to 'Huntly', but with a difference. John Gale has very generously opened up his property for us to enjoy once again. We have not been out there since before the raging bushfires in 2003 when the property was extensively damaged. John has made many changes since then, but we can still enjoy the country ambience of the grounds, and just wonder at the capabilities of Mother Nature being able to regenerate after such devastation. John has assured us that the property is looking just as good if not better than before. He has also kindly offered to open up the new shearing shed 'with all the mod cons' for an inspection prior to enjoying the gardens and the cocktails. This year we are trying something different. In previous years our Christmas Cocktails were on a Saturday evening, but this year we have moved the event to a Sunday afternoon, allowing us time to relax before starting the new week.

Date : Sunday 19th of November 2006
Time : 3pm until 5pm
Cost : \$20.00 members
 \$25.00 non members

Volunteers Lunch

Once again Historic Places have kindly donated the use of Mugga Mugga as a venue for our luncheon for all our volunteers. This event not only pays homage to National Trust Volunteers but to members of the Trust who are volunteers at Lanyon, Calthorpes' House and Mugga Mugga. All volunteers will receive their invitations in the mail.

Date : Tuesday 5th December 2006
Time : 12.00 for 12.30 start

Canberra's Heritage Festival

This year the format of the annual Heritage Festival has altered. It is anticipated that the 2006 Heritage Celebration will boast diverse, engaging, fun and informative events and activities held over a three day period;

Friday 3rd November – Sunday 5th November.

The 2006 celebration theme 'Living Treasures' will offer visitors and residents of the capital an opportunity to re-examine Canberra's identity in a heritage capacity - what we see as our heritage and the way we value it. Heritage is not just about the past, it is about all of us today and in the future. It's about what we aspire to as a community. The places and objects we choose to conserve today reflect our strong connections to the past and our community values of today. The National Trust's 'Living Treasures' competition will be an integral part of this new 2006 Heritage Celebration event.

Keep an eye on local media for further information.

Norfolk Island - Heritage, History & Hassles.

Captain Cook discovered Norfolk Island in 1774 but National Trust Members are invited to re-discover this 'Paradise' in the Pacific through the eyes of Trust President; Eric Martin; Emeritus Professor and ANU Visiting Fellow, Maev O'Collins; and former Administrator, Alan Kerr. These speakers will be jointly hosting a National Trust and Friends of the National Museum of Australia evening in the Visions Theatre at the National Museum of Australia. Eric is a Conservation Architect advising the conservation of the Penal Buildings from 1982 – 1988 and from 2003 and author of "Buildings of the First and Second Settlements". Maev is the author of "An Uneasy Relationship" which describes the early 20th Century period of Australia's involvement with Norfolk Island, is also very up-to-date on contemporary Island issues. Alan was Administrator from 1992 to 1997 and will describe some of the Island's history and its politics, people and governance from the privileged perspective of Government House.

Norfolk Island – named after the then Duchess of Norfolk – is very rarely out of the news these days. If it's not reports of murder, it is modern day mutiny and being a tiny exquisite emerald dot of land in a sapphire ocean, these news items have a great impact on people's perception of the Island. Norfolk's fascinatingly rich history lends to it an air of mystery and romance. Uninhabited when Cook came upon it, settled by the British six weeks after Sydney Cove, abandoned for fourteen years, re-settled as a terrible convict hell-hole, readied for a second abandonment and then settled by the descendants of Fletcher Christian and his Bounty mutineers from Pitcairn Island and all this packed into the space of one generation!

Find out who might have visited Norfolk Island before Cook, why he thought it would be so important to be claimed, and why the French explorer La Perouse thought the Island was "fit only for angels and eagles". Why did King pick the wrong Maoris to help the British Navy and what happened to the providence petrel when HMS Sirius sank? Learn about the conservation approach to the Penal buildings, the museum house at No 10 Quality Row and some experiences of a conservation architect on Norfolk Island and early Australian/ United Kingdom/ Norfolk Island relationships and how Norfolk Island is governed now. Find out how its community, which this year is celebrating the sesquicentenary year of the Island's re-birth in 1856, has grown and prospered from the proud tiny group of 195 people who arrived in that year. What were their thoughts then? Remember, they came to an Island where once convicts sent to it suffered a "fate worse than death".

Join our three speakers on Wednesday 20 September at the National Museum for some intriguing pen pictures of this fabulous Island. Their stories will almost certainly whet your appetite for your first, or your next return visit to this Paradise in the Pacific.

Alan Kerr

Radio Hill - A hill without a name but with an important history.

If you have driven along Canberra Avenue to Queanbeyan, or along Hindmarsh Drive from Woden into Fyshwick via Newcastle Street, then you have seen 'Radio Hill'. It is the pine tree covered hill bordering Canberra Avenue and Newcastle Street. If you are like me then you have driven past it several hundred times. It is not marked with any name in *Gregorys Canberra Street Directory* so why is it called Radio Hill and what is its historic significance? To answer that question we have to go back in time before World War II, to the early 1930s when Canberra was beginning to take shape as the nation's capital and broadcast radio was emerging from an experimental stage into a prominent form of public media.

By the end of the 1920s Sydney was enjoying the privilege of a new form of information and entertainment – the wireless. But in Canberra broadcast transmissions from Sydney were difficult to tune into, especially in the daylight hours, and many Canberrans were cut off from this wondrous new form of technology. What was the point, many Canberrans would have thought, of having a wireless in the lounge room if you could hardly hear through the static, a radio broadcast from distant parts?

Enter Albert John (Jack) Ryan, an AIF veteran who knew a bit about radio having been for some time a signaller during the First World War. He owned a small shop in Kingston selling and repairing electrical equipment and in conjunction with this had begun selling radio sets. Jack Ryan appears to have had an eye for a commercial niche – why not start his own broadcasting station from the shop in Kingston, create a niche demand for wireless receivers, and then sell them to the Canberra public? And that is just what he did. Jack secured a licence from the minister for Home Affairs to operate a 50 watt commercial broadcast station from his shop in Kingston. Financed in part by local businessmen and in part by himself, Jack Ryan constructed his transmitter and began broadcasting on 14 November 1931. In time he would employ a young lad, George Barlin, to help with every aspect of broadcast. Radio station 2CA was born.

Broadcasting between 8 and 10 p.m, the opening night's programme included a live concert with a piano trio including C.S. Daley, poems by R.A. Broinowski and speeches by the secretary for Home Affairs, Percy Deane. Thomas M. Shakespeare, proprietor of the *Canberra Times*, was at first opposed to the establishment of a radio station indignantly claiming that it would take away the advertising revenue which kept the paper alive. He eventually began to see the value of a radio broadcasting station and withdrew his objections. By 1933 the popularity of the radio station was increasing, as no doubt were the sales of wireless receivers from Jack Ryan's shop. The Canberra public were now listening intently to 2CA. It was time to expand the whole enterprise. The Commonwealth granted Jack Ryan an increase in power from the original 50 watts to 500 watts. This increase in transmitting power made the small backroom station in the Kingston shop unsuitable as a broadcasting site.

After receiving notice from the broadcasting authority, Jack told his young off-sider, "They want me to move the bloody thing!" With financial aid from young George Barlin's father, a site was selected not too far from Kingston, but far enough so the now-powerful signal would not swamp programs from more distant stations, and a small building was erected on a low hill close to the Canberra-Queanbeyan road. The hill quickly became known as 'Radio Hill'. Masts to support the long wire transmitting aerial were acquired from Duntroon, the new transmitter and power supply installed, a desk, microphone and turntables fitted in the small hut, and radio 2CA was now transmitting at greater power to a much wider audience. Canberra was now no longer so isolated from the rest of Australia and the world.

The young George Barlin would spend his days and most of the nights in the small hut crammed with humming equipment and a powerful transmitter just next to him, broadcasting to Canberra. It was a great adventure for George; he became the engineer, technician, programme presenter, serial writer and reader all in one. Station 2CA, with the only significant transmitter in the region, also became Canberra's air traffic control point for the Canberra leg of the early commercial Sydney to Melbourne flights. In those days Radio Hill overlooked the Molonglo workers' settlement (formerly the Molonglo Internment Camp, originally constructed in 1918 to house German prisoners of war, but eventually housing enemy civilians and their families). Children from the camp would often climb the small hill to the radio hut and stand around outside hoping to catch a glimpse of the amazing events taking place inside. They learned quickly to keep quiet while the microphone was open, after the records stopped playing.

The new more powerful station was expensive to run and Jack Ryan soon felt the financial strings begin to tighten. Eventually he was no longer able to run the station and was forced to sell. By the late 1930s the 2CA studios had moved from Radio Hill and were housed in a new building in Mort Street, Civic, next to the Civic theatre. The power of the radio transmitters was increased again from 500 watts to 2,000 watts and moved to outlying Belconnen. The small hut on radio hill, now no longer functioning as a commercial radio station, was dismantled along with the aerials and transmitting equipment.

Tharwa Bridge

This 110-year old timber bridge has heritage significance for its importance to the village of Tharwa and its place in the Lanyon Valley landscape, and also as the oldest survivor of approximately 100 timber truss bridges designed by engineer Percy Allan in the late 19th century.

During April 2005, the bridge was closed after repairs revealed flaws which could affect its safety to vehicular traffic. Much of the structural timbers are rotted and contain white ants, so traffic was diverted over Point Hut Crossing. This resulted in a public meeting in Tharwa Hall in May 2005 to express the residents' concern to the Minister for Urban Services.

Subsequently, a short-term solution involving strengthening with Bailey Bridge girders enabled the bridge to be reopened in July 2005, but with restrictions placed on vehicle weight and speed. Long-term solutions are currently under consideration, but both the Trust and the Canberra Branch of Engineering Heritage Australia have concerns that the future of the existing structure is threatened. A combined submission to retain this significant heritage timber-truss bridge in its present position is to be made to the appropriate ACT government Minister.

Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station

The campaign to prevent the removal of equipment from the Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station by the Department of Defence continues (see 'Heritage Today' in our Autumn edition and 'Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station – A part of Canberra's history', in *Trust News* Vol. 34 No. 3, February 2006). The Canberra Branch of Engineering Heritage in conjunction with the National Trust conducted a public seminar on 20th July to provide an understanding of what is intended in its removal; an historic overview of the facility and its role in World War II and since, the heritage significance of the station and alternate options for its future.

Speakers included Mr Peter Cockbain, National President Engineers Australia; Mr Keith Baker, Chair Engineering Heritage Australia; Professor Brian Egloff University of Canberra; Dr Peter Dowling, National Trust and Duncan Marshall, heritage expert and local consultant. The aim of the seminar was to bring to the attention of the public the heritage significance of the Transmitting Station and to produce a communiqué to be sent to the Minister for Heritage and the Minister for Defence as well as the media.

The name of Radio Hill slowly disappeared from the vocabulary of Canberrans and today is only remembered by a few people, one of whom is George Barlin, rightly remembered along with Jack Ryan as the pioneer of radio broadcasting in Canberra.

So, the next time you are in the Fyshwick area, or driving north or south along Canberra Avenue, take some time and visit the site. There is a small lay-by parking bay on Newcastle Street 150 metres from the junction with Canberra Avenue; and from there follow one of the tracks up to the top of the hill – the walking is easy.

All that remains of the radio building is a small concrete slab located in the middle of a disused vehicle track. Stand on the concrete slab and imagine what it would have been like to have been crammed into such a small space among the radio transmitter and its associated power supply each day while the radio station was broadcasting. There are two other remnants of the radio station to be seen. Along the edge of the track on which the slab is situated, and about 20m equi-distant from the hut slab, are two small concrete footings – one has the remains of a timber post embedded in it. These are the footings for the former aerial support towers. Further up slope (north) from the hut slab, on the apex of the hill is a large open, but empty, water reservoir. This reservoir was connected to the Cotter water supply system and was used by the former Molonglo Internment Camp and later the Molonglo Workers Settlement. In the days of the radio station it was used as an earthing point for the transmitter, with a cable running from the equipment in the hut to the iron inlet pipe of the dam. Jack Ryan and George Barlin also used the dam as their source of drinking water while working at the station.

Today, if you stand quietly next to the concrete slab among the pine trees you can imagine yourself being one of those small children of the Molonglo Settlement, from just at the bottom of the hill, peering through the door of the building and looking into the interior where you could perhaps see large panels of dials, cables, coils, and huge glowing valves, and a young lad sitting at a desk talking into a microphone. You would have to be silent though and not disturb him, as he would be talking on the wireless to Canberra and the region. You could then imagine yourself quickly running down the hill to your home and if your parents were fortunate enough to have a wireless in the lounge room, you could listen in and know exactly who was talking and where the music was coming from.

Dr. Peter Dowling Heritage Officer

Radio Hill has recently been nominated to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Grant Applications

April and May have been a busy period for the Trust particularly with grant applications for the 2006-2007 round of ACT Heritage Grants Program. Applying for grant money entails devising, scoping and writing up the projects; discussions with partners on joint projects; costing estimates including production of materials, administrative costs and consult fees; formulating timetables and producing a comprehensive application document. This year the Trust has applied for eleven projects:

Three are in joint partnership with the Canberra Archaeological Society and include interpretive signage at Aboriginal and early European sites;

One is with support from the Queanbeyan City Council and entails a documentation of early ACT pioneers who were interred at the Queanbeyan Riverside Cemetery;

One is in partnership with the Turner Residents Association and involves developing a social history of the suburb from its formation to now;

One is in joint partnership with the Ngunnawal Aboriginal community which will produce a traditionally made possum skin cloak similar to ones worn by the people prior to European colonisation;

Five projects by the Trust are to research and develop interpretive signage at historical and geologically significant sites in suburban Canberra. The results of these applications will be known by next issue.



This small concrete slab on a track surrounded by pine trees is the floor of the commercial radio station which once broadcast to Canberra from Radio Hill (photo P. Dowling 2006)

because of its historical importance. The nomination is being assessed by the ACT Heritage Council. I would like to thank Mr George Barlin (young George) for kindly agreeing to do an on-site interview at Radio Hill, talking about his experiences as a radio broadcaster & Richard Begbie for checking & correcting details in the text; & Ms Salma Bilquis, ACT Heritage Unit, for her kind assistance.

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TRAVELS WITH THE TRUST



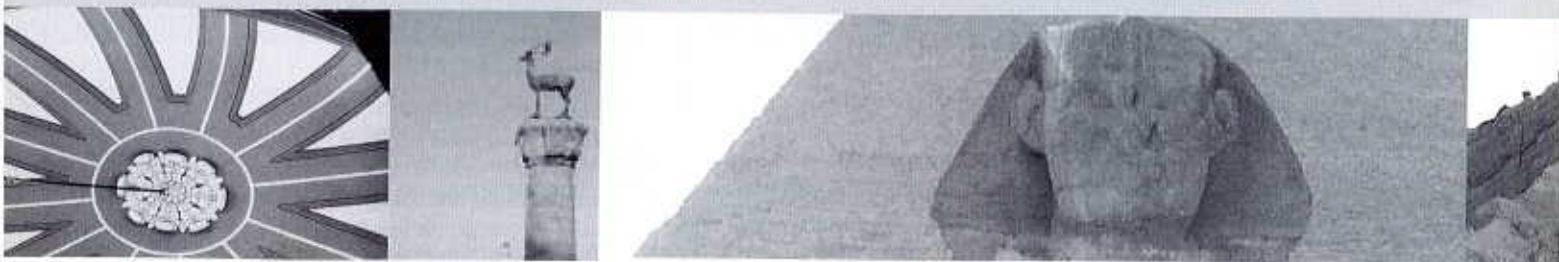
If you appreciate dipping into the wonder and mystery of exotic cultures, then consider transporting yourself eastward to experience a dazzling Japanese autumn. Imagine seeing first hand, traditional Japanese Maples turning flame red, carpeting a forest floor or ancient temples sparkling in the early morning mist. Mike Hodgkin will lead this very special expedition. He is renowned for sharing his passion for the country, unique expertise and knowledge of the people to create an unforgettable journey into another world. Book soon to avoid missing out on this once in a lifetime experience.

Autumn in Japan 2006

Autumn is one of the best times to visit Japan – good weather, wonderful autumn colours. The tour starts with two nights in Kyoto; there is so much to see in Kyoto at any time, especially in autumn, that it is really almost essential to spend some time there. We then travel, via Koya-san in Wakayama prefecture (stunning autumn forests, ancient temples), the Iya valley (spectacular scenery) in Shikoku, then Matsuyama (castle, temples, onsen). We will take a ferry across to Beppu in Kyushu (hot springs) and go to Kumamoto and Nagasaki before returning to finish the tour with two more nights in Kyoto – a total of 14 nights in Japan. We will stop two nights in each place to allow time to relax from travel, keep up with the laundry, etc. Most of the accommodation will be in 'Japanese style' ryokans, but we will have a 'hotel break' in the middle. Current planning (subject to bookings) is to leave Canberra on Monday 23 October. The total cost, including all fares, all accommodation and all dinners and breakfasts, is expected to be \$6,000 per person, based on the current rate of exchange between \$A and Japanese yen. Contact the National Trust office as soon as possible as we need to start confirming accommodation bookings VERY soon.

✈ INTERNATIONAL TRIP

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Sydney Symphony Orchestra

Feel like travelling to Sydney for the day to take in a delightful matinee concert at the Opera House? Both A and B Reserve places are still available but hurry as there is a limit of 50 and places have been filling fast. Garth Setchell is leading the group.

DATE	Thurs 23 Oct 2006
COST A RESERVE	\$122 pp Members
	\$125 pp Non Members
COST B RESERVE	\$112 pp Members
	\$115 pp Non Members

The program comprises:

CONDUCTOR
Jaap van Zweden

WAGENAAR
Cyrano de Bergerac – Overture

SCHUMANN
Concert-piece for Four Horns & Orchestra

TCHAIKOVSKY
Symphony No 4

The package comprises return travel to Sydney by coach, refreshments on the way down and a one-course meal with tea/coffee on the return. Places may be secured by paying a \$30pp deposit, the balance payable by 31 August 2006. Reduced prices are available if joining and/or remaining in Sydney. The tour allows 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. For those planning to book, here are some details for your diary:



DEPARTURE TIMES

Deakin	7.10am
Civic	7.20am
Braddon	7.30am
Returning	8.00/ 8.30pm

Please note, cancellation fees apply if you change your mind.

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TRAVELS WITH THE TRUST REGISTRATION FORM

POSTAGE DETAILS

National Trust of Australia (ACT)
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phone (02)6230 0533

NAME OF TOUR	PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$	TRUST MEMBER?
NAME		YES/ NO
TOUR		
NAME		
NAME	1/2/3	
NAME		
TOUR		
NAME OF TOUR	PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$	TRUST MEMBER?
NAME		YES/ NO
NAME		
NAME		
NAME		

POSTAL ADDRESS

EMAIL _____

PHONE DAYTIME _____

MOBILE / OTHER _____

PLEASE CIRCLE COACH PICK UP POINT IF APPLICABLE
DEAKIN CIVIC BRADDON

PLEASE CIRCLE FORM OF PAYMENT
CASH CHEQUE BANKCARD MASTERCARD VISA AMEX DINERS

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT INFORMATION

NAME ON CARD _____

CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRES ____ / ____

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE ADVISE TOUR LEADER OF MY INDIVIDUAL NEEDS* WITH
DIET MOBILITY AUDIO/VISUAL MEDICATION OTHER CONDITION

* PLEASE REFER TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON THIS PAGE

TRAVELS WITH THE TRUST TERMS & CONDITIONS

National Trust of Australia (ACT)
PO Box 1144, Civic Square ACT 2608
phone 02-6230 0533

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Dietary needs, ground floor accommodation, assistance with alighting and disembarking from transport can be taken into consideration and should be discussed with your tour leader. If you, or people you are booking for, require such consideration, please indicate on the booking form and your tour leader will contact you to discuss your individual needs.

TRAVELLERS NOTE

Whilst the National Trust (ACT) maintains 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 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.

PROCESSING YOUR BOOKING

Although requests for further details will be posted out as soon as possible, please note that activity leaflets, receipts, etc, may only be posted out a few weeks before each activity. Places are reserved in order of receipt, provided subsequent payments are received by the date (s) advised. **EARLY APPLICATION ASSISTS US WITH ARRANGEMENTS.**

DISCOUNTS/CONCESSIONS

Although not always possible (particularly with overseas tours) the Trust aims to offer reduced rates as follows: discounts for members to reward Trust membership; concession rates for Seniors Card (Gvt), pensioners and full-time students; junior rates for children (under 12 yrs). All quoted prices include applicable GST.

TOUR WITHDRAWAL CONDITIONS

Prior to the date advertised for close of bookings, an administrative fee of \$25 will be retained by the Trust from the booking fee. Withdrawal after the close of bookings may incur a loss of the total cost, unless a replacement can be found. In that case, the fee is 'at cost' to the Trust. If the Trust Tour is in conjunction with a travel agent, conditions apply as per the agent's terms and conditions, after the initial booking fee at the Trust office.

EXTERNAL OPERATORS

In order to ensure that applicants for the more expensive tours receive protection under the Travel Compensation Fund against default by external suppliers and agents, and acting on the advice of the ACT Registrar of Agents, payments for such tours, other than the Trust's booking fee, will need to be paid to the relevant travel agent. As of 1 July, this applies to all Trust tours which extend beyond one day. Full details will be advised to each applicant. As of 1 July, Travelscene Canberra City (operated by Jetaway World Pty Ltd - licence no. 18800203) is appointed as the Trust's travel agent for such tours, for the next two years.

Ancient Greece

An archaeological and historical tour of mainland Greece, Cycladic Islands and Crete. National Trust of Australia (ACT) in conjunction with Travelscene Canberra City

Dr Peter Dowling (archaeologist) will lead this tour taking in the ancient history and archaeology of Greece.. The tour will begin in Athens where we will experience the history and treats of this world famous city. A highlight will be a guided visit to the Acropolis. After our stay in Athens we will board a coach for a guided tour, up to 10 days, of sites of mainland Greece. We will cross the Corinth Canal to the ancient theatre of Epidaurus then a short stop at Nafplion which shares a history with the Byzantines, Franks, Turks and Greeks. From there we will go to Mycenae to visit the Lion Gate and the Beehive Tombs. Our coach will then take us through the Peloponnesian lands to Olympia where we will visit the famous stadium and museum. We will then cross Corinth Bay and visit Delphi, and the sanctuary of Apollo. Meteora, where monasteries are perched on enormous rock outcrops and Mount Olympus will be the next place on the tour.

We will then make our way to Naoussa a small city near Thessaloniki and visit the ruins of the school where Aristotle taught Alexander the Great. From there we will make an excursion to Pella, the heart of the ancient Kingdom and birthplace of Alexander the Great. On our return south to Athens we will visit Thermopylae the place of that famous battle in 480 BC where a handful of brave Spartan soldiers defied the might of the Persian army before they were betrayed and killed.

Leaving Athens we will make our way through the Cycladic Islands visiting Mykonos and Santorini each for two nights. Our destination will be Crete, the largest island in the group. We will base ourselves at Heraklion, a centrally located port town which is ideal for exploring the island. It is here on Crete we will experience the ancient Minoan sites. The Minoan culture, arising in 1700 BC, is thought to be the forerunner to the great Classical Greek culture and the cultures of Western Europe. We will visit the famous Minoan site of Knossos, the Museum of Archaeology, the ancient sites in the Phaistos area of the south and we will take a trip west to visit the graves of Australians who died in the battle for Crete during WWII.

We will leave Crete and fly back to Athens where we will have a free day to wander around the city and experience some much needed retail therapy before the tour ends. If you intend to travel on in Europe after the tour finishes in Athens you can make further arrangements through Travelscene Canberra City before you leave Australia.

Departs Canberra 26 April 2007 & returns Canberra 19 May 2007. Cost \$11,000 pp based on twin share accommodation and economy air fares.

The itinerary may be subject to slight change. Ring the National Trust on 6230 0533 Expressions of interest accompanied by an initial payment of \$50.00 to the Trust will get you on the list. But hurry, the tour is filling up quickly. [limit 30]

A day in Campbell's Canberra

It was 'Campbell's Canberra Day' on Sunday 2 April, a Trust tour led by Adele Rosalky. The tour gave an insight into the lives of pioneering settlers on the Limestone Plains of our region. European settlement grew with the granting of land to Sydney merchant, Robert Campbell, and the building of his stone 'cottage' in 1833; but our tour also depicted the range of social classes and daily occupations that combined to support his estate.

From the relative grandeur of Duntroon House; to the small, cosy Blundell's Cottage; the simplicity of Mugga Mugga, lovingly preserved by long-term inhabitants, the Curley family; the working buildings of the Duntroon Dairy and the Woolshed; beautiful St John's Schoolhouse, Church and graveyard - came a host of stories from the past. Some buildings, such as Mugga Mugga, have been continuously cared for, while others were in danger of being lost. The Dairy, for many years in a state of disrepair, left us guessing at methods of working in the 1800's.

At Duntroon, a recent addition accommodates present day functions while complementing the careful restoration of the old home. Looking across Limestone Plains from Mugga Mugga towards Duntroon, you realise what a large expanse it must have seemed to those early settlers; the sense of isolation and exposure they knew. And how easily we travel across that same ground today!

Chris Davies



Photograph by D. Dowling of National Trust ACT tour group in front of Duntroon House - a grand example of our local history.

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JAPAN - TRADITIONS, DEPARTURES & MEMORIES

Flowers on their graves

It may have ended more than 60 years ago, but the echoes of World War II still occasionally reverberate. Now, the remains of more than 30 Japanese aircrew, killed when their aircraft were shot down over Northern Australia, have been identified and laid to rest in the NSW town of Cowra, which has the only official Japanese war cemetery outside Japan. It's more than 60 years since Japanese bombers began attacking Darwin in 1942.



Japanese War Cemetery, Cowra. NLA 12275588-23 PIC P1456/1-32/R 1935

At least 243 were killed in the first two devastating raids. The vital port would be bombed more than 60 times in the months that followed. War-time newsreels show Japanese pilots and their crew drinking sake before being waved goodbye. But not all of them would return.

Mitsuko Yamazaki's brother was one of them. Kiyoshi Akamatsu was the pilot of a twin-engine bomber shot down in Darwin in November 1942. His family never knew where he was buried, although the remains of all of those shot down ended up in Cowra, buried alongside hundreds killed in a break-out from the Japanese prisoner of war camp. The graves of the airmen were marked 'unknown'.

Former RAAF historian Bob Piper and his wife Masako have spent five years tracing the identities of the airmen. At the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, they studied documents collected from the crash sites. Flight records, maps, diaries and a Japanese bank book were cross-checked with Australian intelligence reports, and then with Japanese military records, with the help of staff from the Japanese embassy in Canberra.

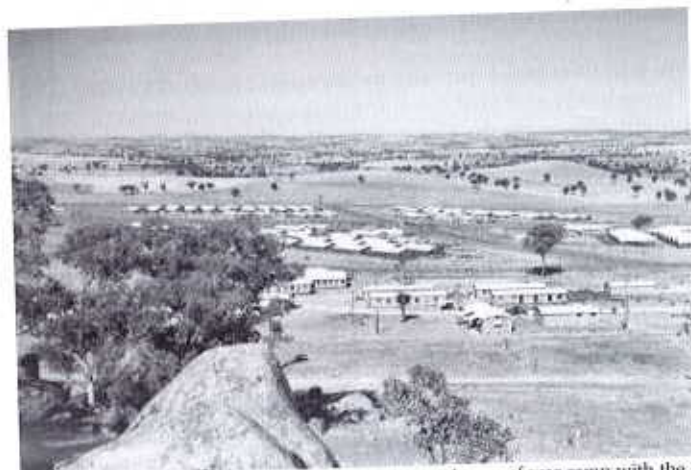
Bob says, "Perhaps these names could be found and it's a pretty sad thing that they're sitting over here at Cowra for the last 60 years. The Australians don't know really who they are and neither do the families back in Japan. I thought initially I could identify a few of the crews, but we never dreamed that we'd get the whole 31. But eventually, of course, we did."

For Mitsuko Yamazaki, the news of her brother's fate ended six decades of uncertainty. At the age of 91, she is on her first overseas trip. She's travelled from her home near Hiroshima to the plains of NSW. It's a pilgrimage to the final resting place of her youngest brother, who was lost when the Second World War arrived on Australia's northern doorstep.

Now, at Cowra's Japanese war cemetery, Mitsuko Yamazaki can pay her final respects, with incense, sake and tears for the younger brother she lost so long ago. Mitsuko Yamazaki says "We didn't know where to find him. We didn't know which mountains, or which regions to look for him. And really, it was very painful, not knowing where he was. I am relieved a little. From now on, I think about him here and then I pray for him. I have gone to see him and saw that he was well looked after."

For dignitaries from both countries, the service to finally lay the Japanese aircrew to rest under their own names carries a broader significance. Hideaki Ueda, the Japanese Ambassador notes, "I pray here today that they may rest in peace, and I again express my thanks to the Australian side for their wonderful and kind effort."

Veterans Affairs Minister Bruce Bilson acknowledges their role as a significant part of Australia's war history, and believes we are showing these men our respect for paying the ultimate price in serving their country.



Looking west showing compounds of the Cowra prisoner of war camp with the group headquarter buildings in the foreground. AWM 064284.

"We don't want to become total hostages of the past" said Major-General Bill Crews, National President of the RSL, in his speech, "while understanding what happened and regretting what happened seriously and respecting the views of those who suffered personally, we must then move on." War widows laid flowers on the graves of the other Japanese airmen.

Dawn Ward's late husband Jack, a former President of the Cowra branch of the RSL, is buried nearby. He fought the Japanese in the Second World War, and never visited the Japanese cemetery. Dawn says "I thought, well, you know, my husband's been dead for about 12 years and that's then and this is now and things are moving on and I think it's gone on long enough. 60 years, isn't it - it's a long enough time".

Dawn promised Mitsuko Yamazaki she'll visit her brother's grave after she leaves. When back in Japan, Mitsuko plans to visit the graves of her parents, with a message about their son buried in a distant land.

Tiffany Manning

Photographs reproduced with kind permission of the Australian National Library and the Australian War Memorial. Also thanks to ABC 7.30 report for translated interview with Mitsuko Yamazaki.

2006 Australia – Japan Year of Exchange

I don't know whether people have noticed (hopefully they have!) but there have been a lot of Japan related events happening around Australia this year. At a meeting in Tokyo in 2004 the Prime Ministers of Australia and Japan agreed that 2006 would be the official Year of Exchange between Australian and Japan. It commemorates:

The 30th anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Japan and Australia;

The 110th anniversary of the establishment of the first Japanese consulate in Australia (in Townsville!);

The 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Australia-Japan Foundation.

THE YEAR OF EXCHANGE AIMS TO

Deepen mutual understanding and relations between Australia and Japan through exchanges in many fields, including culture, arts, tourism, economics, business, politics, education, sport, science & technology, society and the challenges of an ageing society;

invigorate grass-roots exchanges through various events initiated not only by governments but by private sectors;

Promote direct person-to-person contacts and exchanges between Australian and Japanese through collaborated activities between Australia and Japan.

In Canberra it started, literally with a bang, with a wonderful concert on 27 February at the Llewelyn Hall showcasing the talents of 'Taikoz', a Sydney-based Japanese 'Taiko' drum group, and a visiting Taiko drum master from Japan, Hayashi Eitetsu. It was an absolutely breathtaking experience!

Since then there have been craft exhibitions, photographic exhibitions, concerts, visits from various performing groups from Japan, visits from Japanese schools, Japanese cooking classes at 'Cooking Coordinates' at the Belconnen Markets, events on the social calendars of the various Japan related groups in Canberra, etc, etc. And, of course, there is a lot more to come. One which comes particularly to mind is the Canberra – Nara Candle Festival on 21 October. This will be the third year of this event and it is always a lot of fun but this year promises to be outstanding.

The National Trust is doing its bit for the Year of Exchange, with another tour to Japan. This year's tour is in autumn, to see the spectacular autumn colours in some places a little off the usual beaten track for overseas visitors to Japan.

The tour group will start in Kyoto, spend a couple of nights in a Zen Buddhist enclave in Wakayama, visit the Iya Valley in Shikoku (the 'fourth island' of Japan), travel on to Matsuyama (still in Shikoku) and visit one of the best remaining original Japanese castles, then take a ferry across to Kyushu (the third island) for four days before winding up back in Kyoto on the main island.

Keep an eye out for more events on the calendar for the remainder of the Year of Exchange – there's a LOT happening! One way to make sure you don't miss anything is, of course, to check regularly on the appropriate web sites:

http://www.japan.org.au/2006_Exchange_Year.htm and www.yoe.australia.or.jp/english/

Mike Hodgkin

Mike Hodgkin is a longstanding Trust Councillor and was a valued member of Staff for over 15 years. He leads the tour to Japan for the third time - an expedition he is well qualified for as an active executive of the Japan-Australia Association. Mike speaks Japanese and by all accounts is a delightful guide and travel companion.

For further information on our Japan tour this Autumn, refer to the 'Travels with the Trust' section or ring the office on 6230 0533 for further details.





Who are Canberra's Living Treasures?

Maybe somebody like National Trust member, Dawn Waterhouse, who came to live in Canberra as a child and whose childhood home, Calthorpes House, is one of the ACT's showcase

Living Treasures

Historic Places. Dawn Waterhouse is indeed part of the ACT's heritage. For the last two years the National Trust of Australia (ACT) has held a heritage competition for children and youth based on the theme of the ACT Heritage Festival. In 2004, children and teenagers interviewed older people of the ACT about a *Place in their Heart* and last year they talked to older people about their *Connections* to Canberra and the region.

This year, the ACT National Trust is asking school children and teenagers to interview an older person about a *Living Treasure* of the ACT. The older person may be the 'living treasure' because they, like Dawn Waterhouse, have contributed in a major way to our heritage. But you don't have to be famous or have donated your home as a house museum to be a 'living treasure' of the ACT. Of course, a living treasure does not have to be a person - it may be a living community, such as a school, church, temple or sacred site, or community organisation, that has contributed to the multi-cultural heritage of Canberra. Many of the people interviewed over the last two years could be considered 'living treasures' because of their wealth of knowledge and experience of the ACT and region. The National Trust can put you in touch with people like these.

The winner of the secondary competition in 2004, Jenni Hodgman, wrote about local resident Carl Thompson and his 'place in his heart', his rural home in Parkers Gap near Captain's Flat.

Emily Colonna, winner of the primary competition, entered a poster about her grandmother, Barbara Adams, and her family home in the ACT from when she married and moved into the then sheep paddocks of Yarralumla to the sad day she left the house. Barbara saw and shared many changes in Yarralumla and Canberra and her story is part of our heritage.

Runners-up, Monika and Vaughan Upward-Garcia wrote a fascinating account of their grandmother, ACT resident Penny Upward's childhood 'place in her heart'. While Penny did not grow up in the ACT, her interesting childhood and exciting stories she brought with her added to the heritage of the ACT and attributed to the marvellous mix of people that Canberra has become. Penny comes from a remarkable background - her grandfather was a stage painter with Her Majesty's Theatre and created a magical childhood for Penny. Penny now brings this magic to life for her grandchildren here in the ACT.

Other winning entries brought into Canberra an intercultural flavour so much a part of Canberra's diverse multi cultural heritage. Mai Thi Nguyen (runner-up in the secondary competition) of the ACT Vietnamese school, wrote about her mother's 'place in the heart', Vietnam.

Mai Thi Nguyen entered the competition again in 2005 - this time her subject was her school principal, Ms Rita Daniels (of St Clares College) and her 'connection' to Canberra, the heritage-listed Manuka Pool. Students from the Woden School - Edward Little, Tom Gray and Jesse Hawley-Walker - also presented an art poster on their teacher whose special 'place in the heart' is playing music in the dark.

Smitha Machumpurath created a poster on her family's friend, Mike, from England, who moved to Canberra many years ago. In 2005, Smitha won the *Connections* competition with her audio/visual CD on the connections of local resident, John Rees, to the aircraft G for George on display at the Australian War Memorial. John's connection to G for George goes back to when he was aged 12. He later flew bombers in WW2 and was involved in the restoration of G for George. He still volunteers at the War Memorial, sharing Australia's and Canberra's military heritage with people from all over the world. The War Memorial also holds special connections to Ngui Bui's mother who has made Canberra her home since migrating from Vietnam.

Two entries in the Primary section wrote about connections to the Cotter, a living treasure in itself. Eleanor Smith, aged only nine, won first prize for her story about her grandmother, Valerie Smith, and their family picnics to the Cotter. A generation later, the Cotter Dam was also important to Lawrence, Declan and Lewis Oswald's father, David Oswald.

Sebastian Hogan created a Power Point presentation on the lost heritage of the sporting fields now under Lake Burley Griffin which held special memories to his grandmother, Margaret Tudor, who also has seen and grown up with many changes in Canberra.

Lake Burley Griffin itself was special to Hannah and Simon Weichard's grandmother, Trust volunteer Audrey Sear, because of its connection in her mind to the waterways of England, her home country. All these people, whether they grew up in the ACT region or came here from elsewhere, have contributed to the diverse heritage of Canberra and its region and they (and some of their connections and places in their heart) can truly be called 'living treasures' of the ACT.

The *Living Treasures* heritage competition is open to all children and teenagers aged 9 to 18. Information and entry forms have been sent to all schools and community groups and can be obtained from your school or organisation or from the Trust office and the website www.act.nationaltrust.org.au

The total prize pool is in excess of \$1000. You don't have to be a school student or from a community group to enter. Individual and group entries are welcomed. **Entries close 16 October 2006 and prize winners will be announced.**

Maree Treadwell

Maree Treadwell is on staff at the Australian Council of National Trusts, and assists the ACT National Trust with Education and Promotional activities.

She is the co-ordinator of the *Living Treasures* programme and can be contacted for further information on: **0412 311 403.**

See the website for details. www.act.nationaltrust.org.au.

The Molonglo Mystery by Alan Foskett

The Molonglo Internment Camp was conceived in 1918, when the British government asked Australia if it could provide an internment camp for some 3,500 German nationals expected to be expelled from China. J.S. Murdoch selected the site for the camp in what is now the suburb of Fyshwick, and the camp was planned and constructed in a period of three months, with 40 'tenement' blocks each 140 feet long, store huts, a butchery, bakery, hospital, fire station, post office, electricity and water supply and sewerage, and a camp for the military guard. The area was surrounded with flood lights, but there was no perimeter fence or wall. The title of the book comes from the initial 'mystery' surrounding this, officially, secret hive of activity.

However, the internees from China never arrived- instead about 200 internees who had been housed in camps at Bourke and Berrima were transferred to Molonglo from May 1918. These internees came from the Asia/Pacific region, along with the officers, crews and office staff of the German merchant shipping companies operating in Australia and the Pacific. The statistics on the makeup of the internees is sobering - in September 1918 of 199 internees 58 were men, 65 were women and 76 were children. A number of the women were the Australian-born wives of German nationals, and a number of the internees were naturalised British subjects of German/Austrian origin. There was relative freedom of movement for the internees, who set up a theatre, built up a good library and two tennis courts, bought a piano and ran concerts and dances. The Internees began to be released in May 1919, most being repatriated to their homelands, mainly Germany and Austria. By 1920 the tenements were being sold off, but in 1921 a decision was made to use the remaining buildings as accommodation for Canberra's rapidly growing population of building workers. 200 people lived there by 1922, growing to about 800 in mid-1926, at a time when another 2,700 workmen were living under canvas elsewhere in the territory. Again, Molonglo was the home for families, a school operating there from 1922 to 1942, with an enrolment of 150 in 1926, the second largest in the Capital Territory after Telopea Park. From the 1940s the remaining buildings were gradually sold off, though 10 families still lived there in 1948.

From 1943 to 1946 the school buildings functioned as the Molonglo Wireless Telegraph Station, an out-station of HMAS Harman. Vacant until 1960, it then became the ACT Companion Dog Club until 1983, and was finally demolished in 1985. As the vestiges of the internment camp became fewer, the suburb of Fyshwick grew, until today the last traces of the camp are the water reservoir on Radio Hill, the avenue of pines planted opposite the school site in Tennant Street, and the railway remnants of the Molonglo siding, originally built to service the internment camp.

This well-produced book uncovers this forgotten part of Canberra's history, and gives it a human face. The story is told through the diaries of those who lived there, the official reports of the administrators, newspaper articles and the works of Canberra historians, and is richly illustrated with original photographs. The graphic design by Robina Gugler serves the story well. Foskett brings alive the experiences of the internees and later occupants, and quietly places the Internment Camp in the context of today's detained immigrant camps, a comparison that says much for the relative tolerance of the earlier time. "These people were basically intelligent, industrious, caring people, incarcerated because of their origin, not because posed any threat to Australia or its allies. Need one say more?"

Michael Pearson

Trust questions School Closures

As you would all be aware the ACT Government, in its Budget announcement, proposed to close a number of schools across the ACT. Two of those schools, Tharwa Primary and Hall Primary, are heritage listed by the National Trust, the Commonwealth Government and are nominated to the ACT Heritage Places Register.

The planned closure of these schools, leaves open the question of their future use and threatens the conservation of the existing fabric, particularly that of the early structures.

Not only would the closure of these schools erode the historical, heritage and social values of Tharwa and Hall, it would also be a loss to the ACT as a whole.

The National Trust has written to the Chief Minister asking him to reconsider the closures of these two historically important schools.

National Trust -St John's Heritage Conservation Appeal Trust Fund.

The Trust fund was established in June 2006 to help conserve the heritage listed area of the St John the Baptist Church site in Reid, Canberra. The site includes the Church, Rectory, Schoolhouse Museum buildings, Graveyard and a portion of the surrounding landscape. The heritage site is listed on the Commonwealth Register of the National Estate, the ACT Heritage Places Register, and is classified by the National Trust of Australia (ACT).

The Trust will be administered by 5 trustees on a continuing basis and they will serve in an honorary capacity.

Donations to the Fund must be spent on the conservation of the heritage area and to meet the costs of administering the Fund. No such funds can be spent on the normal running costs of the Parish. The costs of conserving the heritage listed area are many thousands of dollars each year and have mostly been funded from the St John's Parish budget.

While the heritage buildings, graveyard and landscape are in reasonable shape, there are substantial expenditures that should be undertaken shortly. These include: conservation of the lych gates and the organ, implementation of a tree replacement plan to maintain into the future the exotic species that adorn our grounds, installation of fire safety sprinklers and smoke alarms in the church so that the church can remain open in greater safety most of the day the re-establishment of a small garden around the schoolhouse museum and so on.

St John's Church has been a focus for the religious and social life of the Canberra region since the 1840's. The Schoolhouse Museum was the first combined school and school teacher's residence built in the region and remains a valuable source of local history and social values.

Please contact George Pooley on 02 6281 2949 for any enquiries.

George Pooley, Trustee

Continued from inside cover story on page 2.

The Smiths, like the Daltons, had several sons and John Smith extended his landholdings to accommodate his growing family. The homestead itself makes an imposing impression on the landscape, particularly with its high veranda and the entwined vines, giving us some clue as to the age of the house. The current owners have been great supporters of the National Trust for many years and Boree is now open for inspection phone (02) 6364 2007 to arrange a viewing.

Suma Park

Travelling back into Orange and then onto the Ophir road, Suma Park is located approx 5kms from the centre of town on the Northern side. The home cannot be seen from the roadway but is entered through an area of many closely growing trees. One emerges to the spectacle of a glorious garden and home which has a commanding view of Suma Park dam, Orange's water supply. The gardens are both extensive and tranquil, with abundant bird life. The home is now owned by Mrs Char Daniel, who has painstakingly undertaken restoration of this glorious Federation home. Although the house has had a number of owners, the most well known was Sir Neville Howse MD, who gained prominence due to his distinguished service in the Boer War. He was the first Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross.

Mayfield

This drive also takes us to Mayfield, where the countryside breaks into sloping sun-drenched hills with hundreds of grapes successfully growing. Now a thriving vineyard and restaurant owned by Dr Richard and Mrs Kathy Thomas, the light-filled atmosphere within the house is that of a splendid still life painting - no doubt due to the decorating skills of Kathy and National Trust architect Howard Tanner.

It is however, the magnificent gardens and striking trees that put Mayfield into a league of its own. This is the legacy of love left by former owners the late James and Margaret Crawford, who sold the house in 1998. It was therefore a rare surprise on the day to enter the library and see Mrs. Margaret Crawford, the previous owner, sitting in the corner, talking to the visitors. This well known identity captivated her audience with vibrant stories about her life at Mayfield, local families, and advice on planting trees. I heard her say, "you can always plant pansies, but to plant a tree.....you leave a growing legacy".

Mayfield is not far from Byng as the 'crow flies'.

To get there one needs to navigate a number of country lanes. Byng is a corner of the world where the early Cornish settlers attempted to transfer a little of their beloved Cornwall to the countryside of Australia. With them they brought not only fruit trees and plants, but the hawthorn hedges that grow abundantly. Many of the local homes bear homage to Cornwall - when Cornish men were referred to as 'Cousin Jack' and the women as 'Cousin Jenny'.

Springfield

Along one of the narrow country lanes, only just visible in the distance, we head to 'Springfield', a two-storey Georgian homestead built of sandstone. Of all the homes open over the weekend, this has arguably the most significant history, as it was the house built by Pastor William Tom. Pastor Tom and his wife were renowned immigrant pastoralists overcoming adversities that included surviving a shipwreck & having their home razed by fire. William Tom Junior, along with neighbour John Lister, discovered the first *payable gold* in Australia. After a protracted and bitter legal struggle lasting many years over the rights for this claim, John Lister died four days before they won their case. Some of the original Tom family treasures have been donated to the Orange & District historical society and include a heart-shaped gold nugget, the family bible and portraits of Pastor and Mrs Tom along with the organ he played at his church services. The gold panning 'cradle' that unearthed the first nugget is now in the care of the Australian Museum. *Springfield* has been owned by Dr & Mrs Hawke for many years.

Bookanon

Leaving Springfield, we drive back up the lane - past the site of the remains of the first chapel built in the area. It is now fenced off with a memorial plaque. and some of the stones were taken and used for the Uniting Church in Byng. The site of Bookanon is seen when approaching from Springfield. This site was once the property of John Glasson who also came from Cornwall. John Glasson and his wife Annie began building their home at Bookanon in the 1840's. It was constructed over some years, and resembles the Glasson's family home in Cornwall. Extensive restoration work has been carried out recently by Will and Barbra Hawke (no relation to the above Dr and Mrs Hawke) whose descendants bought it in 1888.

There are many more houses of interest in Orange and the district - some small cottages, some mansions, but it is only with the stories of the people who lived there that they gather the 'flesh on the bones of history'. In the passage of time we come to fully appreciate the importance of valuing home, family and friends. Hopefully, some of us leave a legacy as Margaret Crawford has so aptly done.

Marie Hammond

Marie Hammond is a member of the National Trust. She is a life member of the Orange and District Historical Society, and an active member of both the Marsden Rural History Group & the Orange Heritage Group. Marie is a direct descendant of pioneer settlers of the Orange /Molong district. Her tireless work as a tour guide and writer of local history contributes greatly to the appreciation of heritage in the area. She classifies herself as an 'enthusiastic amateur historian' - and this is an excerpt from her essay detailing the history of the houses selected for the 'Orange Open Homes & Gardens' tour this year. Thanks to all the owners of the properties referred to in this article.



Ammerdown



Mayfield



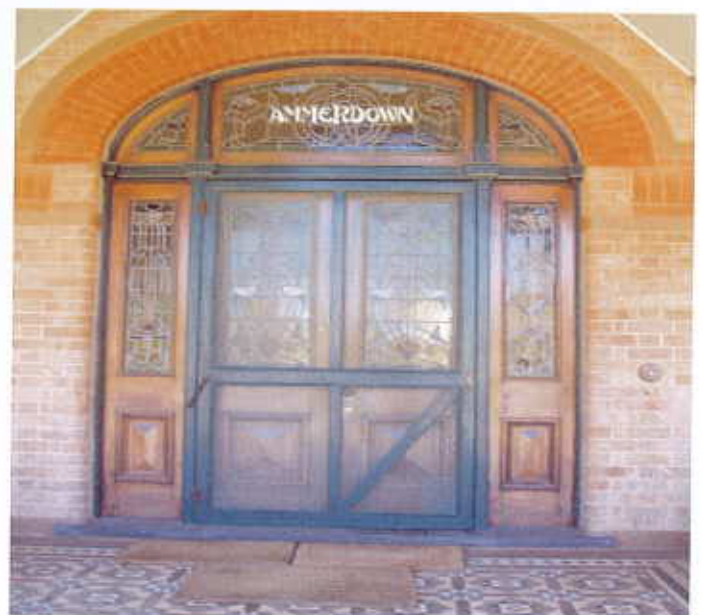
Mayfield



Mayfield

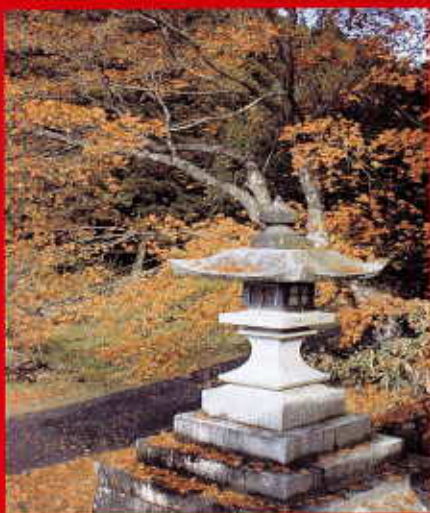


Mayfield



Ammerdown

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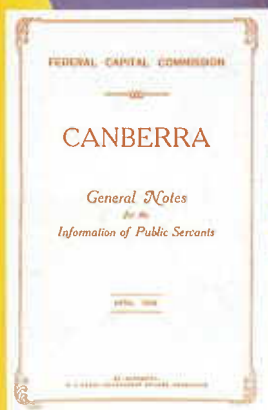
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