



CANBERRA

Journal of the National Trust of Australia (ACT)

AUTUMN 2006

**File Copy
Do Not Remove**



Arriving in Cairo we were eager to explore despite being tired from our flight. Our first impression was the city traffic - after a hazardous walk from our hotel, a group of us was able to visit the Cairo Museum of Antiquities. There was so much to see. In particular we were interested in the section displaying the treasures of Tutankhamen and his funeral mask.

Our official tour of Cairo and its environs began in earnest the next day, with a visit to Memphis, the capital of ancient Egypt for over 1000 years. Memphis sites the huge statue of Ramses II, more than 12 metres in length, and the alabaster sphinx of Amenophis II. Djoser's Step Pyramid, the first pyramid to be built in Egyptian history, was a short drive away. Finally, we viewed the three great Pyramids at Giza and the Sphinx. It was an awesome spectacle to see these great monuments of antiquity and to wonder at how they were constructed.

The following day we had the opportunity of returning to the Cairo Museum and to be guided through the various sections including the Royal Mummies Hall. We all appreciated the efforts of our guide, Hussein, an Egyptologist, who was proficient in reading the Hieroglyphics. We then went to see the Citadel, which dates back to the 4th century AD. Later, we let loose in the Bazaar.

A trip to Suez and the famous Canal was next. Not only were we able to see the canal, we were able to drive under the canal through a tunnel to the Asian side. As if scripted, a large container ship was passing by and we were able to get a photograph, viewed through the sand dunes as if sailing through the desert. Lunch at the city of Suez was followed by a walk along the promenade that bordered one of the Canal lakes.

The last day in Cairo was spent at our leisure. A small group visited Old Cairo and went to the Coptic area with its narrow lanes and holy places, situated behind the walls of a Roman fortress.

An early rise the next morning and we flew south to Aswan. The Abu Simbel Temple of Ramses II and the smaller Temple of Hathor and Nefertari were magnificent. It was hard to imagine how these temples, complete with huge statues, had been rescued from the rising waters of Lake Nasser when it was created with the construction of the Aswan Dam.



The move involved dismantling the Temples by cutting them into large blocks, some weighing more than 10 tons, then reassembling them 90 metres higher up on an artificial hill. A worldwide campaign to salvage the ancient monuments in Nubia was promoted by UNESCO and involved the support of many countries.

On returning to Aswan we boarded our riverboat, the Moon Goddess, for a six-day cruise along the Nile to Luxor. Before sailing, we visited the Aswan Dam then journeyed on to the island of Philae where the great Temple of Isis was built during the Ptolemaic period. Returning to the boat for lunch, we could rest as we left Aswan and the serene sails of the feluccas behind.

The Moon Goddess was luxurious, each cabin having its own verandah and ensuite, and the meals were excellent. We relaxed and watched the various scenes pass us by as we cruised majestically down the Nile. What a joy it was to relive those Sunday School scenes - people working in the verdant lush fields on the river banks with crops of bananas, sugar cane, date palms and barsim (plant for fodder) - the barren desert only a kilometre away.

Next day the boat moored and we travelled in horse-drawn carriages to the Temple of Horus at Edfu. This temple is the largest and best preserved Ptolemaic temple in Egypt. Construction began in 237BC and work continued for 180 years. Although its walls are covered with hieroglyphic texts, most of the reliefs have been defaced in an attempt to destroy the pagan works. Returning to the boat we then cruised down the river through the barrage to a lower water level, while we relaxed and enjoyed our lunch on the top deck, taking in the scenery as we passed by.

Arriving at Luxor (ancient Thebes) we travelled by bus to the Valley of the Kings. Owing to our early start we arrived before the crowds so we were able to visit the tombs of Ramses III, Ramses IX and Ramses IV. At the Valley of the Kings, we were able to see the current excavation site, where a tomb containing at least 5 burials has recently been discovered.*

What an incredible experience! Being able to visit a land that has held an awesome mystique for centuries - and seeing the wonders we had so often heard and read about. We did indeed "Phollow the Pharaohs".

SCOTT CHADWICK
(TOUR PARTICIPANT)

*** EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Excavation and examination by archaeologists has revealed that this find is not a tomb rather an area where mummification took place. Examination of some of the 5 sarcophagi found in the underground room has shown that there were no bodies, but they contained mummification tools and equipment. Further examination is continuing.



REGULAR SECTIONS

- 3 WELCOME MEMBERS**
A letter from the President
- 4 PEOPLE & PLACES**
News, upcoming events & information for members, volunteers and the Old Parliament House Shop
- 6 HERITAGE TODAY**
Reportage from the Heritage Officer on current issues that affect your national heritage
- 8 TRAVELS WITH THE TRUST**
Join us for day, weekend, national & international travel opportunities
- 15 EDUCATION**
Update on important Trust initiatives in schools and within the community

FEATURES

- 1 TRAVELOGUE EGYPT**
We "Phollow the Pharaohs" from Cairo to the Nile
- 16 EL ALAMEIN**
Visit the graves of two Australian VC war heroes

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES 2006

Joining Fee	\$33.00 <i>not applicable to concession</i>
Single	\$55.00
Single, concession	\$40.00
Household	\$80.00
Household, concession	\$60.00
Corporate	\$250.00
Corporate concession	\$75.00
Affiliated Organization	nil
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 automatically 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 and cultural heritage

OFFICE

PO Box 1144 Civic Square ACT 2608
 Telephone 02 6230 0533
 Fax 02 6230 0544
 Email info@act.nationaltrust.org.au
 Net www.act.nationaltrust.org.au
 ABN 50 797 949 955
 ACN 008 531 182
 Opening times 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday
 Office Location Civic Square, Canberra City
 1st Floor (above The Hermitage Restaurant and Canberra Museum & Gallery)

SHOP

Shop Old Parliament House Shop
 Address King George Terrace, Canberra 2600
 Telephone 02 6273 4744
 Email ophshop@act.nationaltrust.org.au
 Opening times 9am to 5pm seven days a week.

PRESIDENT

Eric J. Martin AM

HERITAGE OFFICER

Dr Peter Dowling
consultants@act.nationaltrust.org.au

COORDINATION & PRODUCTION EDITOR

Tiffany Manning
tiffanymanning@bigpond.com.au

ADVERTISING AND SUBMISSION ENQUIRIES

Office Manager, Chris Davies
info@act.nationaltrust.org.au

CORPORATE MEMBERS

ACT Heritage Library, Bensley's Bus & Coach,
 Eric Martin & Associates, Patinations,
 Travelscene Canberra City.

BENEFACTOR MEMBERS

Justice Rae Else-Mitchell
 Mr Rob McL. Johnston

PUBLICATIONS GROUP

Chair - The Executive Director
 Office Manager - Chris Davies
 Dianne Dowling, Alan Kerr,
 Tiffany Manning, Maree Treadwell

PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIAL & IMAGES

Unless otherwise specified, images are printed with the kind permission of members and staff, and are not to be reproduced without authority.

PUBLISHER

This magazine is published four times a year as a supplement to the National Magazine "Trust News" with financial assistance from the Department of Environment and Heritage.
 ISSN 0727 - 9019 C 2006 National Trust of Australia (ACT)

Members,

The Trust has set up the opportunity for members or others to provide additional support through bequests. The Trust welcomes donations left to it in a person's will. In making wills the needs of family and friends are considered but what is often forgotten is to consider favourite causes. A bequest in your will is a gift that will live on. It is a means of sharing assets for a special cause when you no longer need the assets. We encourage you to consider this and should you wish to discuss further you can contact your lawyer, the National Trust Executive Director or myself.

Canberra's garden city heritage is under review again - Garden City Variation 200. This variation, enacted in 2003, grew out of a protracted campaign by the National Trust where it listed the inner Canberra suburbs as an endangered place several years ago. This variation is subject to a discussion paper by the ACT Planning and Land Authority and it is important that the National Trust contribute strongly to this debate. The variation placed greater restrictions on the heritage listed conservation zones, which has certainly provided greater protection to these areas. However, it created areas referred to as A10 Zones where it permits greater development opportunities and also permits more extensive development in all of inner Canberra. This has opened up opportunities to erode the garden city character of Canberra and places some of Canberra's key values under threat. It is important that the National Trust participate in this debate.

Canberra National Heritage

This is related to the garden city issues mentioned above. It is a study commissioned by the National Capital Authority last year but is yet to surface through any consultation process. This study should explore the real values of Canberra and should embrace all the garden city concepts. I would hope that this will help define heritage values in a way that will support protection and work with the national and local planning policies.

Canberra's Landscape

It is pleasing to see that Ken Taylor, our immediate past president, has been promoting the heritage values of Canberra's landscape with an article in *Historic Environment* (Vol 19, No 1, 2005) entitled: "Living with heritage: Canberra, City in the Landscape – can it remain a city not like any other?" and with his Canberra Day oration for the Canberra and District Historical Society.

One key item stressed by Ken is the need for planning rigour to be applied if we are to keep Canberra as a garden city different to other cities and one worthy of National Heritage and World Heritage listing and appropriate protection. Ken states:

"From the symbolic heart of the city and the nation in the National Triangle with its serene symmetrical beauty, out through the tree-lined streets, neighbourhood and district parks and open spaces to the hills, ridges, and valleys – the National Capital Open Space System (NCOSS) that articulates the city plan – it is the landscape nature of the city that predominates physically. In turn this tangible physical presence has inextricable, intangible meanings and values, confirming that landscape is not just what we see..."

He expressed concerns with some of the proposed urban infill such as parts of the Molonglo Valley which will begin to erode the open space between the arms of the NCDC's Y plan and link Belconnen with Weston Creek. The debate of how Canberra can expand without destroying the rich landscape heritage and open space system that defines the city's special character is with us all at the moment and it is important that the National Trust participate. I would be keen for members to express their views to me so that we can ensure that the heritage values of the Canberra we all love are adequately conserved.

Eric J. Martin AM

President National Trust of Australia (ACT)



C O V E R I M A G E

The spectacular cover image of Albert Hall in Autumn was taken by **Heide Smith**, well respected Canberra photographer. For over twenty years, her books & images have significantly contributed to the nation's visual legacy. This image was reprinted with her generous permission from her book "I love Canberra Two".

Heide Smith can be contacted for commissions, private workshops and stock images on 02 4476 1171 mobile 0409 911 048



novi ascriptii

TO MARCH 2006

Welcome to the following new members:

Norm & Roslyn Barker
 Sally Begg
 Mary Bennett
 Kathleen Bleakley & Kevin Prideaux
 Lynelle Jann Briggs
 Helen McLagan & John Chappell
 Frances & Gary Coble
 Miss Jan Conoplia
 Mrs Elizabeth A Cook
 Helen Cooke
 Graeme & Jennifer Coulston
 Adrian Cox
 Rebecca Curl
 Carolyn & Bill Cumow
 Mr & Mrs M & N Davey
 Wayne & Rhonda Delahoy
 Mr G & Mrs P Edwards
 Noni & Leo Edwards
 Judith Eisner
 Judith & Ted Evans
 Christopher & Mary Fogarty
 Vickie Forsyth & Warrick Potter
 Merryn Gates
 Dr Royston Gustavson
 Marilyn & Jon Hall
 Christiana & Gregory Hankinson
 Keith & Pamela Hammond
 Ester Clare Harding
 Mr Wayne & Mrs Jane Harris
 Bruce & Lynnette Hart
 Geoff & Sue Hill
 Mr & Mrs Ian Hill
 Phillip Lawrence Hingley
 Lorraine Holcroft
 Joyce Holder
 Karin Huckstepp
 Andrew & Leonie Leonard
 Phil & Jo Lynch
 Mary Lou & Rob Lyon
 Felicity Maher
 Mr Robert G Martin
 Sharyn McKay & Andre Penders
 Dr G & Mrs A McNeil
 Gillian Morrison
 Mr & Mrs Brendan O'Loughlin
 Shirley & Alf Pollard
 Keith Hale & Amanda Patience-Love
 Mr & Mrs Christopher J Pigram
 Rita Sheehan
 Lynn & Peter Skurka
 Stephen & Jill Small
 Gregory Tankard
 Mr Chris Taylor
 Peter and Bernadette Southwood-Jones
 Carol Stockall
 Marion and Alan Williams
 Richard Winnett

Next Members Evening...

At the next members evening our guest speaker will be Dr Peter Dowling. Peter recently led a National Trust tour to Egypt and his talk will focus on the history and archaeology of the world famous sites along the Nile, the pyramids at Giza, the Roman archaeology in Alexandria and a very special visit to the Australian Cemetery at El Alamain. Join us for drinks and nibbles at 5.30 prior to the presentation.

Date Thurs 20 July 2006
Time 5.30 pm
Place Bogong Room, Gorman House
 Ainslie Avenue, Canberra City
Cost Members \$ 10.00
 Friends \$ 12.00

Members who joined between February and June this year are invited to attend the evening free of charge. Please contact the office on 6230 0533 to make your booking.

Members Evening

On the 22nd of March members and friends enjoyed a very special evening with Ree Kent and Megan Rogers from Old Parliament House. We received an insight into the conservation of the building and some of the challenges the staff have had to face in the past. What was interesting is the new heritage philosophy they are putting in place, and the techniques aimed at assessing and quantifying the rate of wear to the internal fabric. We also learned about educational programs aimed at the younger generation, which introduce them to concepts of heritage and the importance of conservation.

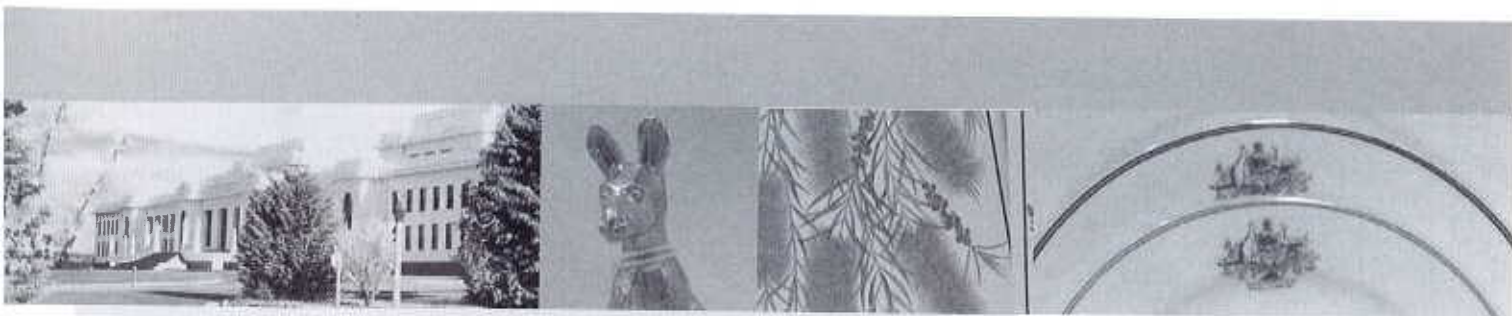
the membership committee

The committee is a vital link between members and the National Trust (ACT) Council. It looks at ways of increasing the benefits to members and also helps in arranging functions and activities for members and volunteers. We would like to welcome Mrs. Margaret Howard as the new Chair of the Membership Committee. Margaret has been on the committee since it began seven years ago, and was the first Secretary. She replaces Dianne Dowling who has been Chair for the last five years. If any one is interested in becoming a member of the committee, could they please contact Chris at the Office on 6230 0533 or Dianne or Margaret at the shop on 6273 4744.

The Members Page

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

Committee Members: Margaret Howard (Chair), Viggo Pedersen (Secretary), Rosiua Akhurst, Pam Beluke, Rita Bishop, Dianne Dowling, Anna Moreing, Adele Rosalky and Maree Treadwell.



S H O P N E W S

It doesn't seem that long ago since the last issue. Time is going by so quickly. Firstly I would like to thank all the volunteers, Barbara and Margaret for covering for me while I was in Egypt. Everyone and everything ran very well. Located in the shop are two tables. One has books that have been reduced by 40% and the other has specials from around the shop. It is worth keeping an eye on these tables as the range changes weekly. Something may be on special one week then if it is still on the table it goes back to the regular price. Our range of stuffed toys has increased, some are small and cuddly, some make a noise and some have very large appealing eyes. Do you know anyone going overseas? Let them know that the shop is definitely worth a visit. We have many light small things that will not take very much room in the suitcase. Lapel pins with the Australian flag joined with a flag of another country, eucalyptus leaves and jewellery, which has been copper and nickel plated, hand towels and face washers and also a range of napery embroidered with Australian motifs.

Tell them about the advantages of becoming a member of the National Trust:

- * *Helping to conserve our heritage*
- * *Free entry into all National Trust properties world wide*
- * *Free parking at National Trust properties in England, this is done by displaying your membership card on the dash of your car*
- * *Discounts in National Trust shops*
- * *ACT National Trust members receive a 15% discount in the Old Parliament House Shop (others receive 10%)*
- * *Memberships can be organised at the shop, cards issued on the spot*

Why not give a membership to a friend or relative as a gift, and help protect our heritage!

Dianne Dowling

AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

Please do not forget your nominations for this Year's Volunteer of the Year. We need your nominations by the 30th 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 whose activities have made a strong contribution to the success of the National Trust (ACT) throughout the calendar year. 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.

D E S P E R A T E L Y S E E K I N G A L I B R A R I A N

Computer technology has caught up with us! Our library cataloguing software is so far out of date that it is irredeemable. We urgently need a volunteer person to spend some time in our office to set up a cataloguing software program (we have MS Access on a brand new computer) and re-enter details of our books from our small but valuable library. If you have the skills, the time and the inclination to join us in the office and do this job please ring Chris, or Peter on 6230 0533.

You determine your own hours and we will make the coffee!

Contact/AGL Community Day

Trust members volunteered an hour of their time to talk to people about the benefits of joining the Trust at the Contact/AGL Community Day for the Multicultural Festival on February 12th.

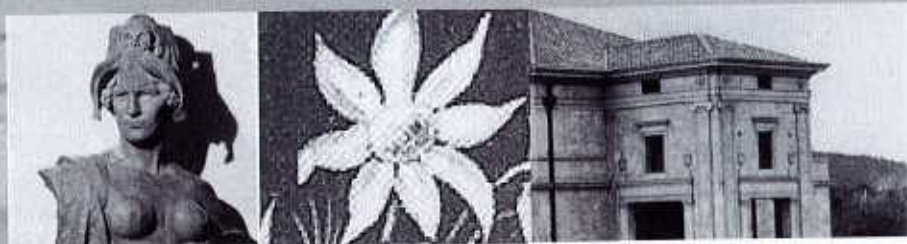
Maree Treadwell coordinated the day, but could not have done it without the help of these willing volunteers.

Special thanks are due to Margaret Howard from the Old Parliament House Shop, Chris Davies (Office Manager) and volunteer Audrey Sear who organised the roster of volunteers.

Peter Dowling (Heritage Officer) Maree Treadwell and Dianne Dowling of the Membership committee also promoted the Trust's educational activities to over 200 teachers in an educational and cultural expo for ACT primary and secondary teachers on Thursday 16th March. *Find more information on page 15 of this issue for upcoming education initiatives with children and young adults.*

I n M e m o r y

The Trust would like to thank Sylvia Jamieson and Serena Borges, daughters of the late Katherine Jamieson, for the kind donation of books from their mother's estate. Katherine Jamieson was a member of the National Trust and a volunteer at Lanyon. The Council and Staff of the Trust extend their sympathies to Katherine's family.



HEROES
AND



31 January, 2006

Dear Mr Stanhope,

The National Trust of Australia (ACT) is deeply concerned about the recent Productivity Commission's draft key recommendations and strongly supports the views and comments of the ACT Heritage Council expressed in a letter to the Canberra Times (11 January 2006). Of particular concern is the Commission's key recommendation:

Draft Recommendation 8.1

Privately-owned properties should be included on a national, State, Territory or local government statutory heritage list only after a negotiated conservation agreement has been entered into and should remain listed only while an agreement is in force.

This recommendation is proposing that privately-owned properties should be included on state or territory statutory heritage listings only after a negotiated agreement has been reached and that this agreement would lapse if the owner was unwilling to extend beyond the original period of the first agreement. Under the proposed Productivity Commission's framework it would mean that a conservation agreement between owner and government comes first, then listing, then heritage protection. It effectively means that owners decide on heritage listing and government bodies would not have recourse to any of the existing legislative mechanisms in place to prevent demolition.

The Trust also agrees with the ACT Heritage Council that such recommendations would destroy the balance we have now between development and conservation which has been achieved (in some cases by desperate arguments) over the last three decades. This balance is facilitated by heritage legislation enacted in all states and territories of Australia, and most recently renewed here in the ACT. The main aim behind the ACT Heritage Legislation is to protect the places in the Territory which are significant and representative of our cultural and historic development, and to preserve them for current and future generations. The recommendations proposed by the Productivity Commission seem to be solely driven by economic principles, and are diametrically opposed to the aim of this legislation.

The National Trust is an Australia-wide, non-government organization with affiliated organizations worldwide. As part of that organization the ACT National Trust is a body committed to conserving heritage places and objects of local and national significance. In the past the ACT National Trust has given long-standing support and assistance to the policies and practices of the ACT Heritage Council.

The Trust strongly urges you to consider the concerns and comments made by us and those of the ACT Heritage Council and respond to the Productivity Commission's report in a manner that will ensure the current ACT heritage legislation remains an effective instrument which will conserve and protect our significant historic and cultural places for us and future generations. If the Productivity Commission's recommendations were to be put into effect the ACT's heritage would suffer irreparable damage and severe loss.

We have adopted the Heritage Council's criteria for evaluating ACT places under consideration for heritage listing; we have on many occasions received funding from the Council to undertake research and where appropriate propose conservation objectives aimed at guiding the legislative process in protecting places of significance. In practice we have effectively worked hand in hand with the Council in preserving our shared heritage. This degree of rapport has been built up over many years and has been fostered and practiced under the umbrella of sensible heritage legislation.

The Productivity Commission's recommendations would, if they were to be adopted, tear down this strong working relationship. A swift result would be a return to the 'bad old days', where costly disagreements were fought out in courts and in some instances on the streets.

Dr Peter Dowling
Vice President of the National Trust (ACT)
Heritage Officer



Productivity Commission Report into Australia's Historic Heritage – A letter to the Chief Minister

The ACT National Trust, along with all other state and territory National Trusts, is deeply concerned about the draft recommendations of the recent Productivity Commission's review of historic heritage listed places in Australia. The Australian Council of National Trusts has recently produced a substantial document outlining the problems with the recommendations and the threat they impose to the long-term conservation and protection of historic heritage listed places. The ACT Trust has also written to the ACT Chief Minister expressing its concerns. This letter is reproduced here. In turn, the Trust received the following reply from the Chief Minister. We await hopefully, along with almost all other government and non-government heritage organisations, a sensible set of recommendations from the Productivity Commission which will ensure that our historic heritage places are conserved and protected. Conservation and protection is not just for us but for all future generations.

28 Feb 2006

Dear Dr. Dowling,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January 2006 about the Productivity Commission report into Australia's historic heritage.

I share your deep concerns about the Productivity Commission's Draft Report into historic heritage released in December 2005. Implementing all the key draft recommendations of the Commission would dismantle the current protective regimes through State and Local government planning and development controls in the ACT and elsewhere. This would leave the majority of historic heritage places in the ACT, for example, the icon Sydney and Melbourne Buildings, substantially unprotected and subject to inappropriate development and even demolition.

I have recently written to the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP, expressing my concerns and strongly recommending that the Commission take the opportunity of the further hearings and submissions scheduled during February 2006 to reconsider its draft recommendations.

The ACT Heritage Council, who advises me on heritage matters, has prepared a response highlighting the deficiencies of the report. The Chair of the Council, Dr Michael Pearson, presented these concerns at the hearings on 17 February in Canberra.

I appreciate the important contribution of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) to the conservation of our historic heritage and I look forward to working closely with your organisation in the future.

Yours sincerely

Jon Stanhope MLA

Minister for Arts, Heritage & Indigenous Affairs.

Heritage Committee

Two more former members of the Heritage Committee have volunteered their services on the new committee. The Trust would like to welcome Josephine Martin and Catherine Kiernan - both bring a wealth of expertise in architecture and planning to the team.

The Heritage Committee now comprises a range of expertise covering architecture, archaeology, history, planning, engineering, conservation, biology and ecology.

Belconnen Naval Radio Station

In the first issue of the new national magazine *Trust News* members would have seen an article on the Belconnen Naval Radio Station.

This article pointed out a decision by Defence (supported by the then Minister for Heritage) to dismantle important transmitters and antennae and remove them elsewhere.

The transmitting equipment is an integral part of the place and its removal would seriously detract from its heritage significance.

The transmitting station was officially opened in 1939 and acted as the Royal Australian Navy's primary communications system between its ships and shore establishments. Modern technology has caught up with the station and now the system is obsolete but still historically important.

The Trust has been in contact with a number of other heritage and interest groups, advocating for the retention of equipment within the building. A similar transmitting station in Sweden, also made obsolete by modern technology, was nominated and succeeded in acquiring World Heritage Status. Despite this our government is still willing to see much of the transmitting equipment dismantled and removed.

Dr Peter Dowling

TRAVELS WITH THE TRUST



A N Z A C



SOUTHERN AFRICA

DATE Fri 8 Sep to Sat 7 Oct 2006
COST \$10,800 pp dbl/tw
 \$12,200 pp sgl

Although it would seem that our exciting 30-day tour to Namibia and South Africa is full, cancellations do occur.

RING GARTH SETCHELL (PH 02-6290 1100) IF YOU WISH TO BE PLACED ON THE WAIT LIST.

FULLY BOOKED

JAPAN IN AUTUMN

DATE Mon 23 Oct to Nov 2006
COST* \$6,000 pp
EOI \$50 pp
DEPOSITS 5 May

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 pp based on the current rate of exchange between \$A and Japanese yen. Expressions of interest (\$50 pp) to be lodged with the National Trust office as soon as possible – we need to start confirming accommodation bookings VERY soon.

✈ INTERNATIONAL TRIP

APPROX 14 Nights in Japan

AIR, COACH & FERRY

Arranged in conjunction with Travel Makers

Level 1 Baileys Corner

Canberra City



Copyright 1999 Frantisek Staud

HENRY LAWSON TRAIL

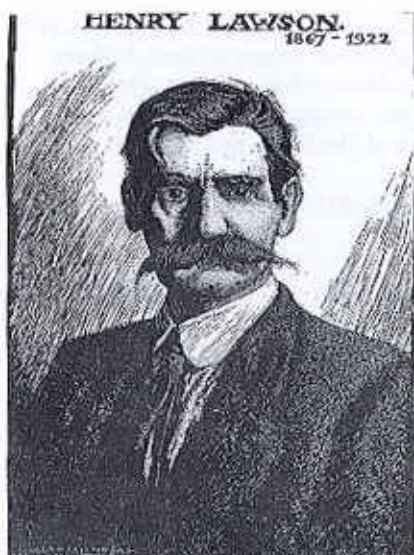
DATE	Fri 9 to Mon 12 June 2006
BALANCE	Incorporates Queen's Birthday W/end 8 May 2006
DEPOSIT	\$50 pp
COST DbI/tw	\$680 pp NT ordinary/ U3A members
	\$675 pp NT concession members
	\$690 pp Non members
Single	\$840 pp NT ordinary/ U3A members
	\$835 pp NT concession members
	\$850 pp Non members
CANC'N FEE	\$5 pp (at cost after 8 May)
LIMIT	24

Explore the life and times of one of Australia's best-known poets and writers. This coach tour will be led by Adele Rosalky and coincides with Gulgong's Henry Lawson Festival. The trip will offer an exciting mix of historic, natural and live attractions.

The first day will include a visit to Lawson's birthplace at Grenfell and a lunch-time stop in Canowindra (BYO lunch), where we will also visit the Age of Fishes Museum and the interesting private home of Ros Finn.

On Saturday, participants will be given a guided tour of Gulgong but are then free to enjoy the Festival program and sights of Gulgong. On Sunday, we will tour the Mudgee area, with visits to two historic properties - the home of Vanessa Cox and *Burrundulla* then lunch at Craigmoor winery, followed by a side trip to Rylstone and the edge of the Wollemi National Park.

On Monday we will return via the Hill End Historic Site and Sofala, thence through Oberon, Taralga and Goulburn. The ticket price includes 3 nights DBB accommodation at the Ten Dollar Town Motel, Gulgong, wine with dinners, lunch on Sunday and Monday, teas etc. en route, entry to various historic properties and site tours, and a night's entertainment at the Prince of Wales Opera House, Gulgong.



FOUR DAY COACH TOUR
INCLUDES MOST MEALS
BYO LUNCH ON FIRST DAY

CORNER COUNTRY, BIRDSVILLE & THE SIMPSON DESERT

DATE	Wed 14 to Thurs 29 June 2006
BALANCE	Payable to AEA by 28 April
EOI	\$50 pp to National Trust
DEPOSIT	\$150 pp payable to AEA
TOTAL DbI/tw	\$3,500 pp*
Single	\$4,090 pp*
CANC'N FEE	\$5 pp (cost after 28 April)

*+ o'nite accom Syd

Only a few places are still likely to be available on this outback adventure tour, being operated by Australian Eco Adventures (AEA) of Sydney. Although we already have 3 bookings from the ACT, the tour is not exclusive to National Trust/U3A applicants. However, we have a longstanding association with AEA and the Trust will meet the cost of your travel to Sydney on 13 June and back to Canberra on 29 June by a connecting Countrylink coach service.

From Sydney, the tour travels via the Hunter Valley to Bourke, Comeroo Station and Thargomindah before reaching the Dig Tree and Innamincka. After a day around Cooper Creek and the Coongi Lakes, the tour proceeds to Birdsville, then across part of the Simpson Desert to Poeppel's Corner before connecting with the Birdsville track and Marree.

Two nights are spent at Arkaroola (optional Ridgetop Tour), before heading to Tibooburra via the Strzelecki Track and Cameron's Corner. The last 3 days to Lake Cargellico include Sturt NP, Depot Glen, White Cliffs and Willandra NP.



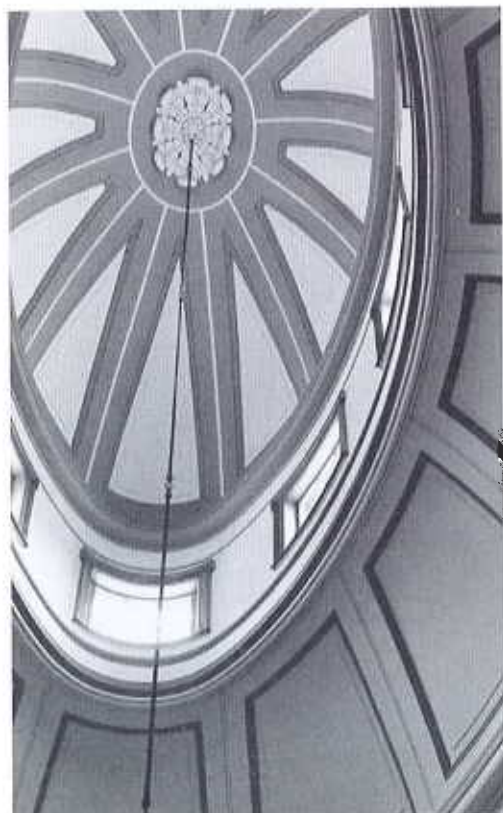
OPERA FANTASTICA

DATE	Sat 22 to Sun 23 July 2006
DEPARTURE TIME	7.30 am
BALANCE	19 June 2006
DEPOSITS	\$100 pp one opera only \$150 pp both operas
COST Dbl/tw	\$420 pp one opera only \$550 pp both operas
	\$490 pp one opera only \$625 pp both operas
CANC'N FEE	\$5 pp (at cost after 19 June)
LIMIT	45

This weekend coach tour to Sydney, to be led by Garth Setchell, is nearly full. It extends the option of attending either, or both, the following Opera Australia operas at the Sydney Opera House on Saturday:

Delibes' opera Lakme, with Richard Bonyngne conducting (between 1.00 and 4.00pm); and/or Puccini's opera Turandot, directed by Graeme Murphy (between 7.30 and 10.30pm).

The Saturday program involves departing Deakin at 7.15am, to allow sufficient time for you to arrange your own lunch at The Quay before the Saturday matinee. Those not wishing to attend Lakme will either be taken to our hotel (The Harbourview at North Sydney) where they can rest or they can be collected from the Opera House at around 4.15pm. Those not wishing to attend Turandot can opt to join the group for an ample one-course dinner at our hotel at 5.45pm (includes wine and tea/coffee) or enjoy a free night. On Sunday morning you can sleep in a bit. Leaving at around 9.30am, we will visit historic Elizabeth Bay House before proceeding to La Perouse, where we will view Bare Island Fort and visit the excellent La Perouse Museum (in the former Cable Station),



Things are looking up at Elizabeth Bay House - one of the features of OPERA FANTASTICA

followed by lunch at The Boatshed Café. We aim to return to Canberra by 6.00pm. The tour price includes A-Reserve seats at group concession rates, top class overnight B&B accom, transfers to one or both operas, a quick meal on Saturday evening plus entries and lunch on Sunday, and light refreshments whilst travelling.

AFTERNOON CONCERT SERIES AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

DATE	Thurs 26 Oct 2006
BALANCE	31 Aug 2006
DEPARTURE TIMES	Deakin 7.10am Civic 7.20am Braddon 7.30am
RETURN TIME	8.00 to 8.30pm
DEPOSIT	\$30 pp
COST A RESERVE	\$122 pp Members \$125 pp Non Members
COST B RESERVE	\$112 pp Members \$115 pp Non Members
CANC'N FEE	\$5 pp (at cost after 31 Aug)
LIMIT	50

Both A and B Reserve places are available on the last of our 2006 one-day concert tours to enjoy matinee performances by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

The program comprises:

CONDUCTOR
Jaap van Zweden

WAGENAAR
Cyrano de Bergerac – Overture

SCHUMANN
Concert-piece for Four Horns & Orchestra

TCHAIKOVSKY
Symphony No 4

The tour will be led by Garth Setchell. 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, subject to the balance being received by 31 August 2006. Reduced prices are available if joining and/or remaining in Sydney.

Departure times are 7.10am from Deakin, 7.20am from Civic and 7.30am from Braddon – with return between 8.00 and 8.30pm. 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.

Ring the Trust Office on 6230 0533 to enquire.

ANCIENT GREECE

DATE	April/May 2007
COST	Final costs should be known by June 2006*
EOI	\$50 pp will get you on the listing. Phone the office on 02 6230 0533
LIMIT	30

An archaeological and historical tour of mainland Greece, Cycladic Islands and Crete.

Dr Peter Dowling (archaeologist) will lead this tour taking in the sites of Ancient Greece and the ancient Mycenaean and Minoan cultures. 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 the mainland sites of Ancient 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.

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. After a free day in Athens we will embark on a cruise of 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 travel 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.

Do you want to come?

**THE ITINERARY MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES
AND THE FINAL COST OF THE TOUR IS YET TO BE CONFIRMED.*

Editor's note:

Dr. Peter Dowling led a group to Egypt touring the Nile Valley and took time out to visit the battle memorials of El Alamein in February 2006.

(Refer to page 16 of this edition).

All agreed it was both precious and unforgettable.

*With the tour to Greece in 2007, he will take a group to the graves of Australians who died in the **Battle for Crete** during WWII.*

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a profound experience.

→ INTERNATIONAL TRIP of APPROX 25 DAYS

AIR, COACH & FERRY

Arranged in conjunction with Travelscene Canberra



TRAVELS WITH THE TRUST - BOOKING FORM

SURNAME _____ TITLE _____ GIVEN NAME _____ M'SHIP NO _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE (H) _____ (W) _____

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (eg. Dietary needs, ground floor accom., etc) _____

PAYMENT ☐ CASH ☐ CHEQUE ☐ B/CARD ☐ M/CARD ☐ VISA ☐ AMEX ☐ DINERS

Card Number _____ Expiry date ____/____/____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

b o o k i n g s

AFTERNOON CONCERT SERIES AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE - Thurs 26 Oct 2006

Concert C - Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 4

A Reserve seats - deposit (bal \$92/95*pp payable by 31 Aug) _____ pers @\$30pp \$ _____

B Reserve seats - deposit (bal \$82/85*pp payable by 31 Aug) _____ pers @\$30pp \$ _____

Non-member surcharge - ADD \$3 pp when paying balances \$ _____

Coach pick-up point ☐ Deakin ☐ Civic ☐ Braddon

Join and/or remain in Sydney for Concert ☐

Names of others covered by this application: _____ SUB-TOTAL \$ _____

THE HENRY LAWSON TRAIL - Fri 9 to Mon 12 June 2006

All National Trust members - dbl/tw accom _____ mbrs @ \$680 pp \$ _____

All National Trust members - sgl accom. _____ mbrs @ \$840 pp \$ _____

National Trust /senior/ concession DEDUCT FROM RELEVANT RATE ABOVE _____ conc @ \$ 5pp \$ _____

Non-member/ U3A ADD TO MEMBER RATE ABOVE _____ NM @ \$10 pp \$ _____

Coach pick-up point ☐ Deakin ☐ Civic ☐ Braddon

Names of others covered by this application: _____ SUB-TOTAL \$ _____

OPERA FANTASTICA - Sat 22 and Sun 23 July 2006

Deposit - one opera only _____ pers @\$100pp \$ _____

Deposit - both operas _____ pers @\$150pp \$ _____

If **not** booking for Turandot join Saturday night dinner ☐ YES

Accom. requirement ☐ Sgl ☐ Dbl ☐ Twin

Coach pick-up point ☐ Deakin ☐ Civic ☐ Braddon

Names of others covered by this application: _____ SUB-TOTAL \$ _____

JAPAN IN AUTUMN - Mon 23 Oct to Nov 2006

Expression of interest _____ persons @ \$ 50pp \$ _____

Accom. requirement ☐ Sgl ☐ Dbl ☐ Twin

Names of others covered by this application: _____ SUB-TOTAL \$ _____

ANCIENT GREECE - April/May 2007

Expressions of interest (final cost to be confirmed) _____ persons @ \$ 50pp \$ _____

Accom. requirement ☐ Sgl ☐ Dbl ☐ Twin

Names of others covered by this application: _____ SUB-TOTAL \$ _____

CORNER COUNTRY, BIRDSVILLE & SIMPSON DESERT - Wed 14 to Thurs 29 June 2006

For expression of interest, please contact Garth Setchell on 02 6290 1100 immediately

POSTAGE DETAILS

The Ticket Secretary

National Trust of Australia (ACT)

PO Box 1144, Civic Square ACT 2608.

Queries to the Trust Office ph 02-6230 0533

or to the tour/walk leader where indicated.

PROCESSING YOUR BOOKING

Although requests for further details will be posted out as soon as possible, please note that activity leaflets, receipts, etc, are often only posted out a few weeks before each activity.

Unless otherwise stated, cheques should be made payable to the National Trust (ACT). Places are reserved in order of payment.

EARLY APPLICATION ASSISTS US WITH ARRANGEMENTS.

Where deposits or booking fees are invited, places are reserved in order of receipt, provided subsequent payments are received by the date(s) advised for payment.

FITNESS

Whilst the Trust makes every effort to ensure the quality and safety of the walks and tours on offer, applications are accepted only on the understanding that applicants participate at their own risk.

DISCOUNTS

Where offered, the junior (jnr) rate applies to children (under 12 years) and to full-time students, the senior (snr) rate applies to card-holding senior citizens and pensioners, and the adult (adult) rate applies to all others.

A surcharge is generally applied to non-members (NM) of the Trust (including U3A members) to encourage Trust membership.

All quoted prices include applicable GST.

REFUNDS

Unless otherwise indicated a **minimum fee of \$5** may be retained on cancellations - at cost after the Bookings Close date.

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, payments for such tours (other than the Trust's booking fees) will need to be paid to the relevant travel agent. Details will be advised to each applicant.

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 endeavor 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.

Travelscene

Canberra City

Licensed Travel Agent. Owned and operated by Jetaway Travel PTY. LTD
A member of the Travelscene American Express Travel Group
Corporate Member of The National Trust of Australia

We offer a onestop travelshop 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.

Lower Ground Floor, Ethos House,
28-36 Ainslie Avenue, Canberra City
Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday.

saturday morning & afterhours consultations by appointment only

Tel 6247 6544

Fax 6247 7638

website www.jetaway.com.au

Email jeataway@jetaway.com.au

Travelscene WINNER - Metropolitan Travel Agency of the Year 2002
Canberra City

BENSLEY'S BUS & COACH

Golf, Bows, Shopping & School Charters

Stadarm Pty Ltd.
ACN 003 066 448

Ian Bensley
Proprietor

19 Monkliffe Street

BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622

phone 02 4842 2689

mobile 0417 924 674

fax 02 4842 1248

Email: bensbus@braidwood.net.au

WWW: <http://www.ozebiz.com.au/bensleys>

PATINATIONS

Conservation & Restoration of
Fine Antique Furniture

Professional conservation and restoration services for antique furniture, interiors and related materials. Insurance, museum and private work with particular emphasis on minimal intervention.

10% discount for National Trust members

Member of the Australian Institute of Conservators of Cultural Material, Authorised Conservator to the National Trust of Australia ACT & Approved service provider of the Antique Dealers Association of Australia.

www.patinations.com.au

Phone: 02 6260 1112

Unit 4/157 Gladstone Street Fyshwick



Did you know?...

To this day, the National Trust is the only community organisation in Australia holding nationwide responsibility for the conservation and maintenance of our country's heritage. Our aim is to foster public knowledge about and conserve places and objects that are significant to our heritage.

A bequest in your will is a gift which lives on. It's a way of sharing assets – money, property or valuables – that you may need now, but can spare for a special cause that you believe in when you no longer need the assets.

In making a will, you will certainly consider what you may wish to do for relatives and friends. What people often forget is also to consider a favourite cause. The National Trust of Australia (ACT) is always grateful for donations or to be remembered in a person's will. Bequests are a vital source of income for the National Trust of Australia (ACT).

In fact, without bequests, it is doubtful that the Trust's mission, to safeguard and preserve our heritage for future generations, could continue.

* Established in 1947, the National Trust is Australia's leading organisation concerned with conservation and heritage sites that affect every community.

* The National Trust of Australia (ACT), which began in the 1970s, works to protect and conserve the natural and cultural heritage of our Territory.

* The National Trust of Australia (ACT) is a not-for-profit, community-based, voluntary organisation funded from membership subscriptions, donations and operational activities.

* The National Trust of Australia (ACT) does receive some support from the Commonwealth Government. Whilst very welcome, it represents only a small percentage of our operational budget.

* Bequests also allow the Trust to act quickly when unplanned opportunities occur and during emergency situations.

"I used to lie awake and wonder desperately what could be done about the destruction of our heritage when the great essential, of course, was permanence.....

It had to be some new organisation pledged to perpetual responsibility.

Moreover, it had to rise among the people themselves".

ANNIE WYATT

Bequesting

A bequest is simply a gift made through a will. Every bequest to the National Trust of Australia (ACT), whether an entire estate or a cherished personal item, counts and is appreciated. There are several types of bequests you might consider:

A percentage or fractional bequest

Expressed as either a percentage of your estate (eg. 25%) or as a fraction (eg. a quarter).

This method is preferable to a specific bequest, as it takes inflationary pressures over time into account.

Residual bequest

The remainder of your estate once all other beneficiaries have received their inheritance.

A specific bequest

Specifies the type of gift. For example, a gift of money, property, a life insurance policy, stocks and shares or a personal collectable or historic item.

The whole estate

This comprises your whole estate.

Recognition of your legacy

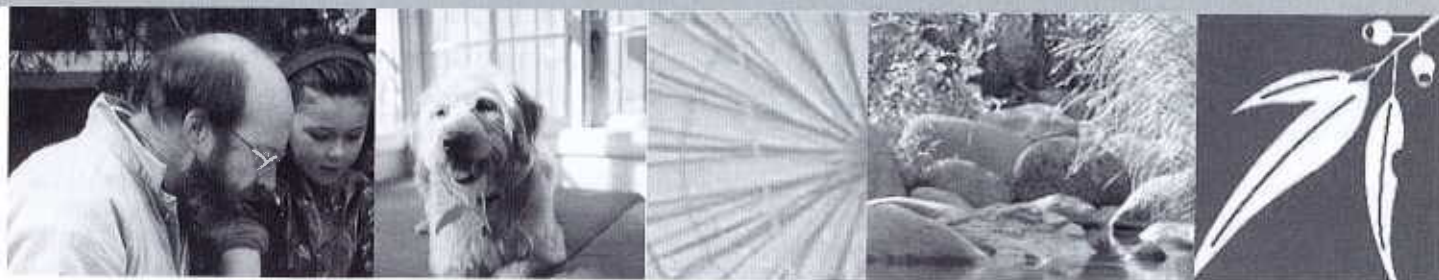
Should you wish, your contribution will be recognised in each Annual Report, you will be invited each year to a reception to meet with the members of the National Trust and its Council, and once departed you will be commemorated for all time on an Honour Board at the National Trust of Australia (ACT). The National Trust is a not-for-profit, community organisation and as such is required to raise all of its income from those who share the ideals expressed by Annie Wyatt. We hope you will help in this.

Other ideas for support

A memorial donation is also a very thoughtful way to remember the loss of a loved one or friend. With any celebration you plan, you could suggest that your guests make a donation to the ACT National Trust instead of bringing a gift.

Albert Hall circa 1928. This building continues to grace our Capital City, as seen on the cover this month. A vital part of our rich heritage.





Living Treasures

This exciting new competition encourages children and young adults to explore the heritage of older people from diverse backgrounds living in the ACT and region. Through interviews, it hopes to build communication between the generations and raise awareness of local multi-cultural history.

Entry formats include newer forms of technology such as DVD, Video & Power Point presentation - as well as traditional artwork styles.

"The competition also aims to promote historical literacy amongst young people" notes co-ordinator Maree Treadwell, "and it fits into the ACT and NSW history curriculum. The competition encourages social responsibility by forming connections with the past and future. It is also great training in the techniques of oral history".

Individuals or groups can submit entries. The National Trust can put you in touch with people who are part of our heritage - or you may know somebody who is part of the rich multi-cultural heritage of Canberra and its surrounds. The Trust can also assist by supplying links to other organisations such as the Canberra and District Historical Society and the ACT Heritage Library which has extensive records on the heritage of the ACT.

Prize pool is over \$1,000. Supplementary prizes will be given for other outstanding entries.

Closing date for entries is 2pm on Monday 16 October 2006.
Announcement of winners will be made as part of the ACT Heritage celebrations in November 2006.

Contact Maree Treadwell directly at the National Trust of Australia (ACT) by phoning 02 6230 0533
Mobile 0412 311 403 Fax 02 6230 0544 or
Email: maree@act.nationaltrust.org.au

Further information can also be found on the web
www.act.nationaltrust.org.au



Living Treasures

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND REGISTRATION

National Trust of Australia (ACT)
ATTN: Maree Treadwell
PO Box 1144 Civic Square 2608

Contact Name _____

Organisation _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Please post brochure & information ☐

Add me/organisation to mailing list ☐

I may know of somebody who
could be interviewed by a student ☐



ACT Government

War Cemetery

During a recent National Trust trip to Egypt, tour members were given the opportunity of spending some time at El Alamein where Australian soldiers fought in a bloody but decisive battle in 1942. After experiencing the magnificent wonders of ancient Egypt along the Nile the group travelled to Alexandria for a three day visit, then on the return journey to Cairo was able to take the coast road to El Alamein. They visited the outstanding Italian memorial to fallen soldiers and also the El Alamein Museum before spending some time at the El Alamein Commonwealth war cemetery.

The battles which took place around El Alamein during the second half of 1942 were the culmination of the Western Desert campaign which was fought between the Allied forces and the Axis forces of Germany and Italy. This campaign was bitterly contested between 1940 and 1942 over 1,000 kilometers of desert and coast between Alexandria in Egypt and Benghazi in Libya. The objects of both forces were control of the Mediterranean coast and the Suez Canal and the links they provided to the Middle East oil supplies and the supply route to Russia through Persia. During the first phases of the campaign the Allied Forces had been steadily driven eastwards along the coast towards Alexandria and Suez. With these strategically vital objectives threatened, the Allies took a final stand at El Alamein just 130 kilometers (80 miles) from the port of Alexandria.

History now records a decisive victory for the Allies which led to the collapse of the Axis forces and their eventual expulsion from North Africa. But what is often overlooked and overshadowed in the wide scope of the final battle is the role of the 9th Australian Division, AIF. This division, which had fought so effectively and bravely during the defence at Tobruk in 1941, had been assigned to regroup and defend Syria in 1942. As the final stand at El Alamein evolved and the opposing forces built up to a decisive battle, the 9th Division, under the command of Lieutenant-General Leslie Morshead, was brought in to hold the northern sector of the Allied defence line. It was at this section of the line that Rommel threw the bulk of his Panzer and infantry forces during the final phase of the battles in October and November 1942. The 9th Division held their line and were able to make inroads into the Axis defensive lines. The fighting was intense and relentless, revolving between attack, defence and counter-attack by both forces. Eventually the major breakthrough by the Allies was made further south in a defensive line. But it was the 9th Australian Division which played a major role in holding back the Axis forces, enabling the breakthrough to be made. Lieutenant General Sir Oliver Leese, 30th Corps Commander, British forces, reported on the bravery of the Australians:

"They drew on their front most of the Panzer Corps, of which they destroyed a great part with their anti-tank guns. It was a magnificent piece of fighting by a great division led by an indomitable character - Leslie Morshead"

On 10 November when the fighting was all but over and the Axis in retreat Winston Churchill said of this desperately needed victory: *"This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."*

In the great battle 620 Australians were killed, 1,944 were wounded and 130 taken prisoner – a casualty toll which was one-fifth of the entire Allied losses. It was for this reason that the National Trust group visited the Commonwealth war cemetery to honour those who had fallen and pay their respects to those who had fought. During the final battles at El Alamein three Australians won their country's highest award, the Victoria Cross. Unfortunately all three were posthumous awards.

During the all too brief stay at El Alamein, the group was able to locate the graves of two of the three soldiers who were awarded VCs - Sergeant William Henry Kibby and Private Percival Eric Gratwick. Both were members of the 2/48th battalion and were killed within two days of each other, fighting for the strategic position of Meteiirya Ridge. Pausing for a moment at each of the graves, the



Pausing for a moment at each of the graves, the tour group was able to listen to the official citations which recorded their acts of personal and selfless bravery in the face of enemy opposition...an experience I will never forget.

tour group was able to listen to the official citations which recorded their acts of personal and selfless bravery in the face of enemy opposition. Visiting the Australian section of the cemetery at El Alamein and seeing the line upon line of grave markers was a sombre but precious event for all the group. Standing next to the graves of these two VC winners and reading their citations was an experience I will never forget.

Peter Dowling

Dr Peter Dowling is the Heritage Officer at the National Trust (ACT). In February 2006, as part of the Trust's tour program "Travels with the Trust", he led a group to Egypt touring the Nile Valley, and the battle memorials of El Alamein.

References

- Australian War Memorial, 2006, www.awm.gov.au/database
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 2006, www.cwgc.org
- Coulthard-Clark, C. 2001 The Encyclopaedia of Australia's Battles, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, New South Wales.
- Staunton, A. 2005 Victoria Cross. Australia's Finest and the Battles They Fought, Hardie Grant Books, Prahan, Victoria.

Private Percival Eric Gratwick (WX10426) VC Citation (abridged):
Born Kataning, Western Australia in October 1902, enlisted in Perth December 1940, died 26 October 1942.

"During an attack at Miteiriya Ridge on the night 25-26 October, 1942, Private Gratwick's platoon was directed at strong enemy positions, but its advance was stopped by intense fire at short range which killed the platoon commander, the platoon sergeant and many others, reducing the platoon strength to seven. Private Gratwick, acting on his own initiative and with utter disregard for his own safety, charged the nearest post and completely destroyed the enemy with hand grenades. He charged a second post, from which the heaviest fire had been directed, and inflicted further casualties, but was killed within striking distance of his objective. By his brave and determined action, Private Gratwick's company was enabled to move forward and mop up its objective. His unselfish courage, his gallant and determined efforts against the heaviest opposition changed a doubtful situation into the successful capture of his company's final objective."

VC citations, while outlining unparalleled acts of bravery, can often be dry and insipid in their descriptions of what happened. One of Percy Gratwick's comrades, Corporal Frank Dillion, was with him on that day and in his own words described what Percy had done:

"Suddenly, without saying a word, Percy took out a grenade, climbed to his feet and galloped forward, holding his rifle in his left hand. It was so crazy and he was so quick, that the Jerries didn't realise what was happening. Percy gave them the grenade, dropped on to one knee, got out another one and let fly with that. Next instance he had scrambled forward and dropped into their pit."

Gratwick then charged a second German post, this time with a fixed bayonet. His friend again described what happened:

"Another Jerry, about twenty yards down the slope, was trying to finish him off with a Tommy gun. There were two others in another post with a mortar. Percy must have seen them, but apparently he had no more grenades. Next time we looked he was up on his feet charging with fixed bayonet. It was all over in a few seconds. Percy had twenty yards to go – and you don't miss much with a Tommy gun at that distance. But we saw him make it, and then disappear. He got the Jerry too, because we didn't hear that Tommy gun again, or that mortar."

When he had joined the army his commanding officer had described him as *"a quiet and unaggressive man; a good soldier and a solid, reliable comrade"*.



Private Percival Eric Gratwick (WX10426)

William Henry Kibby (SX7089) VC Citation (abridged):
Born in County Durham, England in April 1903, enlisted in Adelaide 29 June 1940, died on 31 October 1942.

"On 23 October, 1942, during the attack on Miteiriya Ridge, the commander of Serjeant Kibby's platoon was killed, and he assumed command. The platoon had to attack strong enemy positions holding up the advance of their Company. Without thought for his personal safety, Serjeant Kibby dashed forward firing his Tommy-gun. This courageous lead resulted in the complete silencing of the enemy fire. On 26 October, under heavy and concentrated enemy artillery attack, Serjeant Kibby not only moved constantly from section to section cheering the men and directing their fire, but several times went out and restored the line of communication."

On the night of 30-31 October, again undeterred by withering enemy fire which mowed down his platoon, Serjeant Kibby pressed on towards the objective. Finally he went forward alone throwing grenades to destroy the last pocket of resistance, then only a few yards away, and was killed. Such outstanding courage, tenacity of purpose and devotion to duty was entirely responsible for the successful capture of the Company's objective. His work was an inspiration to all and he left behind him an example and memory of a soldier who fearlessly and unselfishly fought to the end to carry out his duty"

Private Arthur Stanley Gurney

Unfortunately time precluded the group from visiting the grave of Private Arthur Stanley Gurney, the other VC winner. Gurney was in fact the first Australian of the three to win his VC during the El Alamein battles. His citation described his act of selfless bravery:

On 22 July at Tel el Eisa, Gurney's company was held up by machine-gun fire from posts 100 metres in front, and all the officers were killed or wounded. Gurney, without hesitation, charged the nearest machine-gun post, bayoneted three men and silenced the post.

He continued on to the second post, bayoneted two men and sent a third out as prisoner. Stick grenades were thrown at him and he was knocked to the ground, but got up and charged the third post. Gurney disappeared from view and later his body was found in an enemy post.

Gurney was also a member of the 2/48th Battalion together with William Kibby and Percy Gratwick.



William Henry Kibby (SX7089)



OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE SHOP
King George Terrace Canberra
9am to 5pm - 7 days a week
02 6273 4744



Visit my online gallery for
images of famous Australians,
of Canberra and Canberrans,
Aboriginal Australia, of
Landscapes and much more.

www.heidesmith.com



phone 02 44761171 email fotogheide@bigpond.com

Preserving the Past and the Present for the Future