

## HALL OF MEMORIES: OUR ALBERT HALL

What a day to remember!' was just one of the delighted comments overheard as people danced the night away at the Albert Hall's 80th birthday on 10 March. And what a day it was – the celebrations, hosted by Friends of the Albert Hall and the National Trust ACT, started with breakfast, provided by the CWA on the sunny northern terrace, and didn't stop until the last dancers reluctantly departed.

The day included no less than two official ceremonies. The first of these was made all the more memorable with an historical tableau performed by students of Canberra Girls' Grammar, to mark the school's 80-year association with Albert Hall. Among the young artists recreating highlights of past decades was one who prompted whispers of 'Our new Joan'. Talented young soprano Rochelle Dew's spectacular voice meant some in the audience closed their eyes and were back in 1950 when they heard the young Joan Sutherland on stage at Albert Hall, winning the Mobil Quest that started her grand career. By the time Chief Minister Jon Stanhope cut the cake – with the nervously efficient help of students of Yarralumla Primary School – the packed Hall was aglow not only with a sense of lived history, but of a vision of the civic and cultural future that will be the legacy of the present generation, for Canberra's future.

In the afternoon guests witnessed what was surely one of the most moving citizenship ceremonies of recent years. Australia's newest citizens in the birthplace of the very first, for Albert Hall was the venue for the ceremonies from the creation of Australian citizenship in 1949. The historic moment was appropriately marked with a dramatic fanfare from Duntroon's Royal Military College Campbell Trumpeters. With the Hall filled with the joyful sounds of Sing Australia's 72 voices, the audience clapped delightedly as the young children of the new citizens streamed up the aisles when Immigration Minister Chris Evans asked for their help to cut the celebration cake.

The organisers, led by Di Johnstone, brought off a day that had to be one of the best of Albert Hall's 80 years of grand days. The generosity of sponsors, and of the community groups for whom Albert Hall was their historic home, was everywhere evident from the stunning birthday cake, to the day's displays, from dancing to dahlias. More than two thousand people attended some – and a few all! – of the birthday events. Crowds filled the Hall and gardens with the happiest of sounds, that blend of music, conversation, official words, and shared experience that is the sound of community.

Perhaps the onsite broadcast by ABC 666 showed this most clearly, with people throughout the region listening in to interviews ranging from fascinating stories of Albert Hall's earliest years, to assurances by federal and ACT politicians that they shared the passionate commitment to Albert Hall's future as a public facility for civic and cultural uses.

Fittingly, Albert Hall's 80th birthday celebrations were no simple nostalgia trip. The great day was an affirmation of the importance an awareness of the past has in recognition of present responsibilities. Among the key undertakings were the National Trust ACT's oral histories project; the Friends of Albert Hall's proposal for a special Albert Hall collection within the ACT Heritage Library; and the Friend's initiative in calling for sponsors of an exciting proposal – production of a commemorative book on Albert Hall for Canberra's centenary in 2013.

It all made Albert Hall's 80th birthday a day to remember in that Hall of memories, not only for those whose histories it already holds, but perhaps especially for our youngest Canberrans.

> Lenore Coltheart Vice-President, Friends of Albert Hall



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#### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Joining Fee	\$33.00		
Joining Fee, concession	\$25.00		
Single	\$55.00		
Single, concession	\$40.00		
Household	\$80.00		
Household, concession	\$60.00		
2 year membership	5% discount		
3 year membership	7% discount		
Corporate	\$500.00		
Life memberships	\$960.00 Househ		

\$660.00 Single New members and renewal payments can be made by

post, telephone or in person at our city office or the Old Parliament House Shop.

Cash, cheque and all major credit cards are accepted. Membership renewal reminders are generated one month before 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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Museum & Gallery], entry from Civic

Square, Canberra City

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**Email** 9am to 5pm seven days a week Opening times

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to report that a very successful Albert Hall 80th Birthday Celebration was held on 10 March 2008 and was well supported by the ACT Community. This was a joint exercise with the Friends of the Albert Hall which was led by our Vice President Peter Lundy as President of The Friends of the Albert Hall and Di Johnstone a tireless worker and driving force behind the event. The focus on Albert Hall has been beneficial in raising the significance of the place to all Canberrans and hopefully will ensure a successful and long term conservation outcome. Active use of the Hall is essential so I would encourage all Trust Members to consider the venue for any function/activity.

We are in the process of assessing this year's Heritage at Risk. Unfortunately, two of our key items from 2007 have effectively been lost (Cameron Offices and the Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station) but others (such as the Tharwa Bridge) saved partly as a result of the strong National Trust membership support. We welcome members' contributions and nominations so we can concentrate efforts on protection of our heritage that is vulnerable.

There is a growing interest in nominating Canberra to World Heritage and this has been raised at both ACT and Commonwealth Government levels. The ACNT also support the development of a nomination at the February 2008 meeting. This will be a long process but the ACT National Trust is keen to play an active role in this and I am pleased that our past president Ken Taylor is assisting.

We are pressing for an UNESCO technical expert panel to discuss the proposal later this year. One of the key issues will be the curtilige or border for the nomination and no doubt this will be debated but we believe it can be defined.

My thanks are extended to the Trust members who assisted and participated in the general promotion of the National Trust as well as the Heritage Festival events from 5 -20 Appil.

Unfortunately, Adele Rosalky and Helen Carlile, two Council Members, have resigned. My thanks are extended to both for their contribution.

> Eric J. Martin AM President

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)

A the November 2007 Annual General Meeting of the National Trust (ACT), long standing Member, Garth Setchell, was unanimously awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his many years of dedicated work for the Trust. As we noted in Heritage in Trust last year, Garth worked tirelessly for the National Trust (ACT) for a number of years and in a range of capacities. He was a Councillor, Vice President and served on numerous committees. He was instrumental in bringing about the commencement of the National Trust Shop at Old Parliament House, which has proved to be a highly successful and profitable venture.

It was in his role as a Trust tour Group Leader however that Garth left his mark on the Trust's activities.

Garth was responsible for getting the Trust's tour program off the ground in 1992 and since then arranged or led over 300 local, national and overseas walks and tours with a total of nearly 8,000 participants. This involved an overseas trip at least every two years, the concert series every year and the additional tour of National Trust properties throughout Australia. Garth retired as a Group Leader last year but his legacy, the tours program, is on-going and continues to return a considerable profit to the Trust better enabling it to carry out its role of preserving our heritage.

In all his work with the Trust Garth displayed a great degree of enthusiasm, expertise and professionalism and enjoyed working with his colleagues as we did with him, in furthering the aims of the Trust.

## COUNCIL

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VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
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Mr John McDonald
Mr Arthur Pathmaperuma

Dr Sue Chambers Ms Helen Cooke

Mr Paul Cohen Mr Grahame Crocket

Mrs Dianne Dowling

Mr Michael Hodgkin

Mr Alan Kerr

Mr Jim Nockels

The Council and Members of the National Trust (ACT) congratulate Garth on his well deserved honour and wish him and Robin the very best for the future.

> Eric Martin President

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

## **NOVI SCRIPTI**

The National Trust (ACT) warmly welcomes the following new members:

Sue and William Bladwell

Nesta Bradley

David and Margaret Brett

Ross and Sandra Caddy

Marilyn and Brian Carle

Patrick and Victoria Callioni

Donald Cameron-Stephen and Judith Hall

Lee Chappell

James Collet

Mark and Kathleen de

Kleuver

Dianne and Bruce

Donaldson

Sue Dunkley and Phillip

Rees

Lyn Edwards

Keith and Susan Farguhar

David and Vicki Fell

Belinda Headlam and

Benjamin Rush

Neville Gill and Linda

Jackson

Chi Kang Gooi and Joan

Soon

Kerrie and Colin Gray

Sarah Green

Elizabeth Kennedy

David and Pamela Miles

Sam Kennedy and Matt

Naish

Geoffrey Langford and

Carol Thornton

Silvia Hogan

Vassilios Livanes

Alanna Mackay

Keith Mallett

Sylvia and Roger Marchant Helen Willson

Sue May

Anne and Lindsay McDowell

Robert and Joan Merrell

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Peter Charles Moye

James and Annette Neale

Janice and Annette Nelson

Richard and Kerri Nugent

Lorraine and Kathryn

Ovington

Penelope Ovington

Scott and Judy Pearson

Garry Plumb

Andrew and Renee Pocock

Anthony and Faye Powell

Brendan and Lydia Preiss

Norman and Susan Pushak

Kaitlin Rees

Graeme Reynolds

Jean Salisbury

Lajla and Beat Sidhu

Nicolai Sidhu

Roger and Lynda Steele

Bob and Helen Stephenson

Alan and Elspeth

Temperley

Jane Anne Temperley

Hank and Debbie Van de

Donk

Leonie Turner and Eddie

Vestjens

Richard and Elizabeth

Vickers

James and Anne Walcott

Jan and Rod Weeks

This Members page is an information page for all current and prospective members of the National Trust 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 organized by the various committees of the ACT National Trust.

## MEMBERS' AND FRIENDS' EVENING 11 IUNE 2008

Our next members' and friends' evening will be on Wednesday 11 June. The topic will be 'Prime Ministers' gift when heritage is hidden, so is our history'. In this talk Dr Lenore Coltheart tells an intriguing tale of the concealed collections of official gifts to our 26 prime ministers, and what they might tell us if ever they emerge from their hiding places.

Wednesday 11 June 2008 Date:

5.30 pm Time:

Place: Menzies Room

National Archives

\$10.00 Members Cost:

\$12.00 Friends

New members who joined us between August 2007 and the end of June 2008 are invited to attend the evening free of charge and will be receiving an invitation.

Contact the office on 6230 0533 to make your booking and please have your credit cards details handy.

## MEMBERS' AND FRIENDS EVENING' OCTOBER 2008

We are planning to hold another members' night mid to late October. The guest speaker will be Dr Peter Dowling who will be the tour leader of a National Trust Archaeology and History Tour following the Viking Trail through Scandinavia and ending up in York. More details on this event will be in the next issue.

## **CHRISTMAS DRINKS AT HUNTLY**

Keep Sunday 23 November free as this will be the date of our Christmas Get together at 'Huntly'. John Gale has very kindly invited us to visit his gardens again this year The change of format has been very successful and welcomed by all.

## VOLUNTEERS LUNCH

The date for this year's volunteers' lunch is Tuesday the 9th of December at Mugga Mugga. This is the time we recognize the assistance and time the volunteers donate to the operation of the National Trust. We would like to thank the ACT Government and Historic Places who have donated the use of the property to us again for this year.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

In the coming months, watch out for more interaction of the Trust with our members at the local level.

We began with a poster display in the Canberra Centre Mall during the National Trust Heritage Festival fortnight in April. After much searching we were able to borrow from the National Archives and War Memorial 13 easels on which to mount large posters which show different aspects of the views and activities of the Trust Movement. This involved John and Patricia Sullivan (see photo) and Don Chambers and myself getting the display mounted in situ. Many people appear to be interested in the display (see photo).



We are in the process of getting information together on a new website which will be consistent with other Trust websites. You will be able to join or renew your membership online.

We have begun to email members for their views on heritage issues such as the Tharwa Bridge, Heritage-At-Risk nominations and coming heritage events. We intend to send E-News about current heritage activities which will provide a means of more immediate communication with members than is possible in the quarterly Heritage-In-Trust magazine. If we do not already have your email address and would like to receive Trust E-News, do send us your email address.

We are planning several local walking tours later this year. The walks being considered are of the heritage precincts of Reid and Blandfordia 4, as well as Tharwa and Lanyon. Details will be provided in the next issue of Heritage-In-Trust. The Trust has brochures for more than a dozen Walking Tours in Canberra. Copies are available at no cost from the Trust Office and Shop. We would be pleased to see you in person.

Sue Chambers



# Trusted Recipes

## Carrot Cake

This cake makes one large cake or divided into two or three large loaf tins. It has been baked for several Trust activities and is a firm favourite with the volunteers in the Shop and has a long tradition as a treat on archaeological excavations.

1 cup Wholemeal Plain Flour

- 1 cup plain flour
- 2 tsp carb soda
- 2 cups raw sugar
- ¼ tsp salt
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 cup oil
- 4 eggs (lightly beaten)
- 3 cups grated carrot

Sift dry ingredients, add oil, stir well

Stir in beaten eggs, then add carrot and mix thoroughly.

Line 10" tin with grease proof paper and bake  $^{3}\!4$ - 1 hour at 180°

When cool ice with cream cheese and walnut icing

Just a reminder our office hours are 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

If any member has any query outside those hours they are quite welcome to contact the Shop at Old Parliament House which is open 9.00am to 5.00pm seven days.



## Travelling somewhere?

Even if you are not Travelling with the Trust you can still arrange all your travel details with Travelscence Canberra City.

Just contact Gay Boersma on 6247 6544.

Travelscene Canberra City is a corporate member of the ACT National Trust

## HERITAGE OFFICER'S REPORT



This edition of the Heritage Report is being written  $oldsymbol{1}$  in the great historic city of Istanbul (Byzantium, Constantinople). During most of March I have been leading a small but enthusiastic group on a National Trust tour of Western Turkey. The tour has focussed on the long and often turbulent history of Turkey. We have visited five UNESCO World Heritage places - Ancient Troy the site of the legendary Trojan War, Göreme National Park and the volcanic landscapes of Cappadoccia, the Hittite Capital of Hattusha, the Greco-Roman city of Hieropolis and the limestone formations of Pamukkale, and several places in the historic precinct of Istanbul including magnificent buildings of Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace and the remains of the Hippodrome. Other places of national heritage significance included on the tour were the Greco-Roman cities of Pergamon, Ephesus, Aphrodisias and Perge, the Neolithic settlement of Çatal Höyük and the Roman theatre of Aspendos which is still being used for special musical concerts today. The tour also included a comprehensive visit to the Gallipoli battlefields which are closely associated with Australia's history. While at Gallipoli the group walked from the beach area to Lone Pine and from there along the front-lines to the Nek. We also visited the southern battle sites at Cape Helles,

including the Turkish memorial, the landing area of V Beach, the hill of Achi Tepe which overlooks the whole battle sites and was the never-achieved objective of the Allied forces and the Plains of Suvla Bay.

Turkey has a rich human heritage which is currently exemplified in over 68,000 cultural and natural sites and 7,600 registered cultural areas. Added to this there are thousands more historical sites which have yet to be excavated or fully studied. Such a plethora of identified cultural places and potential cultural assets has placed a large financial burden on Turkish governments. Tourism and overseas funded projects have in the past eased the financial burden somewhat but the ever rising costs of ongoing conservation and further research is a concern to the Government. A new trend in is emerging in which the previous centralised government responsibility for heritage management and the services provided for conservation is being privatised. But this raises a question. Will sharing the responsibility of protection of cultural heritage with private initiatives solve the problems or will it create even more problems that the state would actually want to avoid? How do private companies perceive heritage – an asset worth protecting and maintaining irrespective of the cost, or an asset that can be exploited for financial gain? The jury is out on this.



## HERITAGE OF WESTERN TURKEY



## **GALLIPOLI**

During the visit to Gallipoli I again found human bone remains located on the surface in an area of high tourist activity. Members will recall that just last year the National Trust raised the issue of protection of unburied remains of our soldiers eroding to the surface in the areas of high tourist activity. We wrote of our concerns to the former Prime Minister, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Minister for Environment and Heritage and the corresponding Opposition Shadow Ministers. We outlined the problem of protection and preservation of these remains and suggested a simple but effective solution. In early March this year we again wrote of our concerns to the new government ministers. These new finds at Gallipoli in the near vicinity to the previous find has increased our concerns and has strengthened our argument for immediate action. The Trust will again be preparing a report on these new finds and approaching the appropriate Government Ministers.

> Peter Dowling Heritage Officer



Mustafa Kemal Atatürk standing proudly at Gallipoli'.

## TRAVELS WITH THE TRUST



## VISITING THE VIKINGS TOUR

Departing 11th August 2008 for 31 days

There are a few places left on this exciting tour which will be led by archaeologist Dr Peter Dowling. The itinerary will focus on Viking history and culture in Scandinavia and Great Britain. The tour will be in two parts.

Part one will take in Denmark, Norway and Sweden and will include a cruise in one of Norway's World Heritage fiords, a visit to see Denmark's famous bog body, Tollund Man; a three night stay on the Swedish World Heritage listed island of Gotland and tours of museums to see the famous Viking boats and artefacts.

Part two will take in Helsinki; three nights in the marvelous city of St Petersburg in Russia and then to York, England, to visit this city founded by the Vikings and experience the Jorvik Viking Centre where you can get face to face with the Vikings. Tour participants will have the option of doing just part one of the tour or continuing on to do part two. Note: this option does not extend to doing only part two of the tour.

**Full Tour (Parts 1 &2)** \$19,250 (single supp \$3,250)

Part One

\$14,750 (single supp \$2,300)

Includes air travel, hotels, breakfast & dinner each day, ground travel & entrance to all sites.

There are still a few places available on this tour.

For a full itinerary go to www.act.nationaltrust.org.au.

If you are interested ring the Trust on (02) 6230 0533 and place your expression of interest – \$100 (\$75 refundable if you decide later not to come).

## SPRING IN JAPAN

April 2009

Travels with the Trust in conjunction with Travelscene Canberra City is planning a two week tour to Japan in April 2009. Spring is one of the best times to visit Japan. The tour will start in Kyoto which has so much to offer. Kanazawa, Takayama, the Noto Peninsula, Matsumoto, the Nakasendo walk from Magome to Tsumago will also be included on the itinerary.

Final cost of the tour and itinerary is to be determined. However if you are interested in participating in this trip please contact the Trust on (02) 6230 0533 to register your interest.

## 5 DAY CENTRAL WESTERN NSW TOUR HOUSES, HERITAGE, GALLERIES AND GARDENS

September 15th to September 19th 2008

The National Trust, in conjunction with Travelscene Canberra City is offering a coach tour for up to 40 people to tour regional New South Wales. The tour will be led by Pamela Weiss, who is a National Trust member and also a volunteer guide at the National gallery of Australia.

First we travel via Boorowa to Cowra to visit the Japanese Gardens and the Art Gallery, then on to Blayney before stopping overnight at Bathurst. Next day we explore Bathurst, visit the Art Gallery, lunch at a National Trust home and tour Millthorpe before heading to Orange for our second night.

On day three, we explore Orange, visit the Art Gallery, lunch in Molong at a Cobb & Co staging post on our way to Dubbo for the night. In Dubbo, we will visit the Old Dubbo Gaol, the Art Gallery and Museum before heading to Dundullimal, our second National Trust home for lunch. On to Parkes for a close-up look at "The Dish" before heading to Forbes for our last night.

Our last day will be spent exploring Forbes and Grenfell before visiting Iandra Castle and enjoying lunch at Sunnyside Rose Gardens. We will make our way back to Canberra via Young, Wombat and Harden.

Cost: pp base on twin share

Members \$1100 Non Members \$1,120 (Single supplement \$160)

Covers travel in a first class chartered coach, accommodation in four star motels, breakfast on four days, dinner with drinks on four days, and morning tea and lunch on five days. Entry fees to all venues will also be covered by the fare.

If you are interested ring the Trust on (02) 62300533 to register you expression of interest - \$50 (\$25 refundable if you later decide not to go). Balance will be payable to Travelscene.

For further details of any of these tours
Phone 02 6230 0533
(Fax 02 6230 0544)

Visit: www.act.nationaltrust.org.au Email: info@ act.nationaltrust.org.au

Secure your place with an 'Expression of Interest' fee payable to National Trust (ACT) \$50 pp local tours

\$100 pp overseas tours

# TRAVELS WITH THE TRUST REGISTRATION FORM

#### POSTAGE DETAILS

National Trust of Australia (ACT)
PO Box 1144, Civic Square ACT 2608
Phane (02) 6230 0533 Fax (02) 6230 056

NAME OF TOUR	PAYMENT	ENCLOSED \$	Trust Member?
NAME			YES/NO
NAME			
NAME			
NAME			
POSTAL ADDRESS	3.0		
Email			
Phone (Daytime)			
mobile/other			
Please circle coach pick-up poi	nt if applicable		
Deakin Braddon	1		
Please circle form of payment:			
Cash Cheque M/c	card Visa	Amex	Diners
CREDIT CARD PAYMENT IN	FORMATION		
Name on card			
Card number			29
Expiry/			
Signature			
Please advise tour leader of my	individual need	ls with	
Diet Mobility Audio/	visual Med	ication Ot	her Conditi
have read, understand and ag	ree with the Ter	ms and Cond	litions

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Dietary needs, ground floor accommodation, assistance with alighting and disembarkling 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. Bush walking, 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.

All participants on overseas tours must carry personal health and travel insurance in accordance with the Travel Agent's requirements. It is recommended that participants on local tours consider such insurance if appropriate.

EARLY APPLICATIONS ASSIST 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 years). All quoted prices include applicable GST.

## TOUR WITHDRAWAL CONDITIONS

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 2007, this applies to all Trust tours which extend beyond one day. Full details will be advised to each applicant. As of 1 July 2007, 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..

## JOHN GALE AND HUNTLY

John Gale and Huntly. The names are synonymous. Over many years John has been a strong supporter of the National Trust having been a founding member of the Trust in the ACT. He is a life member and has been generous to the Trust in many ways. Notably, he has made his property Huntly available for all kinds of Trust activities, a generosity he has extended to many other ACT and National organisations.

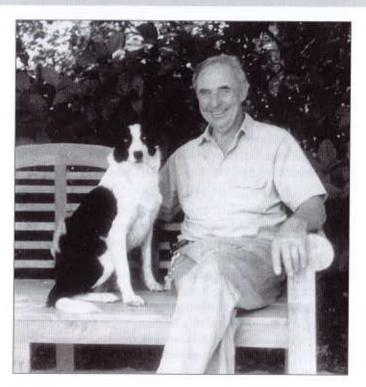
John came to Canberra in 1956 when he and his family acquired the property called Huntly. Huntly is on a ridge between the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee rivers. The Molonglo joins the Murrumbidgee at the end of the ridge. On one side of the property one looks down into the gorge worn down by the Molonglo and on the other side one looks over the Murrumbidgee and across the broad Uriarra valley to the Brindabellas beyond. It is to those mountains and the valley below that the aboriginals travelled to feast on Bogong moths in summer. There are signs of aboriginal occupation and stories linking Huntly to the local people.

Activity by squatters began over 170 years ago. Stock was collected there for overland droving to the future colony of Victoria. People like the Mowatt, Murray and Campbell families acquired land in the area and Charles Sturt was granted land on the opposite bank of the Molonglo. Captain E.H. Cliffe a part owner of the trading brig Phoebe was granted a parcel of land there, his interest in the area sparked like Sturt's by his connections with other land owners in the area. A paddock of Huntly is still called Cliffe's paddock. (Clifton Gardens in Sydney is also named after him.) Walker (of Concord) and Ashmore later acquired Cliffe's land and eventually Frederick Campbell acquired all of it. Now Huntly is the largest operational part of the former property of Yarralumla.

The land was resumed for the Federal Capital Territory in 1912 and was leased out. After the 1st World War, in 1926, the land was the last to be leased out in the FCT for soldier settlement. In 1932-3 the Milsons of Goulburn acquired the lease of several failed or relinquished soldier settlement parcels of land including Cliffe's original grant and named this new property Huntly, after a town in Scotland with which they were associated.

The Milsons built the main house and moved a soldier settlement house to a site next to it. They started the garden and many plants still survive, including a wisteria whose trunk now lies under an extension and snakes out a door in the foundations to climb a more recent extension wall.

In 1956 John Gale, two of his uncles and other members of the family took over the property and it has subsequently been extended by acquisition of The Rivers property in 1995.



John was educated at Knox Grammar School in Sydney and began his work as a grazier on a family property at Manilla. He moved to Huntly when it was acquired and has been there since, though still having a role in other family businesses. He takes a particular interest in the garden extending it until it is the beautiful place it is now. He has also significantly extended the house. He allows both to be used for a wide variety of charitable and promotional uses and for government hospitality. CHOGM participants were entertained at the property and there are photographs of Mrs Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher being surveyed by some of his sheep.

The land has been burnt many times notably by the great fires of 1939 and 1952. In 2003 the property was burnt by the fire that moved out of the Brindabellas to sweep over the intervening properties to the suburbs of Canberra. Huntly lost many structures including the house called The Rivers, the Huntly manager's cottage and another soldier settlement hut beside it. Shearing sheds, sheep and cattle yards and hay sheds also burnt down. The men fighting the fire near the shearing sheds were overtaken by the fire and almost lost their lives. At one point John found the back of his own truck had caught fire as he drove along. Only about 15% of stock was lost. Asked how so many were saved, John said they saved themselves. The horses survived but were not seen till the following day. It seems they might have saved themselves by taking refuge in a dam. A missing cat returned five weeks later. The main house was saved despite the fire reaching the garden, burning its northwest edge and the drive trees.

A great deal of rebuilding has taken place. Replacement of over 80 kilometres of fencing lost in the fire has only just been completed five years later and work to rebuild The Rivers house is just about to start.

continued on p. 16

## **MOLONGLO VALLEY**

## A GLIMPSE BACK INTO THE DISTANT PAST AND NEAR FUTURE

**Peter Dowling** 

Situated to the west of Canberra city the Molonglo Valley holds a rich natural and cultural landscape which reflects several hundred million years of land formation and over twenty thousand years of human activitiy. The valley is a key element in the unique landscape setting of the national capital.

The Valley as we see it today had its genesis some 425 million years ago when volcanic activity to the south initiated lava flows and air-borne volcanic material to form in the area. Evidence of this activity can still be seen in the granite outcrops and the 'tuff' formations caused by the build up of deep layers of air-borne volcanic dust throughout the valley. Marine deposits also played a part in the formation of the valley when it became innundated with a shallow sea which extended throughout much of what is now south eastern Australia. Limestone outcrops formed by the deposition of many millions of shelled sea creatures and shale deposits formed by shallow muddy waters can still be seen in the area of the lower Molonglo River. Following broad regional uplifting events which ceased around 65 million years ago the two major rivers, Molonglo and Murrumbidgee began to cut their way through the valley. Land stabilisation and weathering has produced the current landscape of low rounded hills and smaller valley areas within the major valley.

Although we do not know precisely when, the first humans to walk through the valley, probably did so around forty-thousand years ago. We do know however, that Aboriginal people were in the ACT and region by twenty-thousand years ago. Radio-carbon dates from Tidbinbilla have shown people using a rock shelter and using cooking fires from that time. Walking through the Molonglo Valley twenty-thousand years ago would have been quite a different experience than it would today. The surrounding hills and mountains would have looked the same from the valley floor but that would have been where the similarity ended. Twenty-thousand years was when the last Ice Age was at its most coldest. The climate in the Molonglo Valley would have been similar to today's high-alpine climate. Snow would have covered much of the valley floor for around half the year and snow-topped mountains would have been visible all year round.

The two rivers, the Murrumbidgee and the Molonglo would have had much more water flowing through them. Snow melting from the higher peaks and the hills within the valley during the warmer months would cause the rivers to swell annually and spread across large areas of the valley. The small water drainage lines and creeks we know in the valley today would also have carried more water into the rivers. Even though rainfall



The Molonglo Valley – an ancient landscape which still bears the evidence of its genesis and human use (Photos P. Dowling)

may have been less than today there would always have been water available for the Aboriginal groups living or passing through the valley. The vegetation in the valley would be similar to what we see today in the Snowy Moutains and Mt Kosciusko. Stunted alpine bushes interspersed with mosses would have been common across the valley floor. Alpine Eucalypts (Snow Gums) would have been scattered through the valley avoiding the colder frost hollows.

The people in the valley would have seen some sights which we can only imagine today. The Eastern Grey Kangaroos which inhabit the valley today were up to three times the size – giant creatures bounding across the snow covered ground leaving large footprints in their wake. A wombat-like animal the size of a hippopotamus would likely have been a familiar sight ten thousand years ago. It was a marsupial herbivore grazing on the grasses, mosses and low tree branches. We know it as Diprotodon today but only from the remains of its skeleton. If it is difficult to imagine such a creature, drop into the Australian National Museum which has a life size skeleton of this creature. Even the wombats we are familiar with today were no midgets - they were twice as long and tall and up to eight times more massive. As the Ice Age gradually gave way to the present climate these giant animals adapted to climate-change by reducing their sizes.

We also know that the Aboriginal people remained in the valley using it extensively right up to the recent past. Several stone artefact scatters have been found throughout the valley. Although an extensive archaeological assessment is yet to be done, we know that the artefacts were made from locally occurring rock sources and some could date back from several thousand

years ago. From around eight-thousand years ago, when the climate began to warm, the Aboriginal groups would gather in the valley during the early summer months. This was the time when the highly nutritious Bogong Moths migrated from the western plains and covered the cool walls of the caves and rock shelters above the Molonglo Valley. It was the men's job to collect them and the women would wait in the valley preparing to cook them in their thousands. Today in the grounds of Uriarra Station there is a flat rock which has been identified by archaeologists as a cooking stone often used to cook the very tasty months.

The Aboriginal groups regularly set fire to the valley floor to retain the grasslands and the open Eucalypt forests they preferred. It was this landscape that so attracted the European settlers and farmers who ventured into the valley during the 1820s. They came, they built their houses and they stayed. The Aboriginal people who had inhabited the valley for so long were displaced. The landscape was altered even more with the clearing of the trees and the planting of food crops. Sheep and cattle were now the main large animals roaming across the valley floor – they can still be seen there today. Properties such as Huntly, Fairlight, Brookvale, Woodstock, Uriarra, Sherwood and Springvale, which can trace their origins back to the ACT's rural past, are still operating today.

The ACT National Trust has the Molonglo Valley (or Uriarra Valley) classified as a cultural landscape still showing all the elements of its past formation and human use. But within the next decade or so the valley will undergo another change. The ACT Government has earmarked the Molonglo Valley as the next town and residential centre for the growing population of

Canberra. What will happen to these traces of the past as road networks and large and medium density housing blocks begin to replace the open fields? It is up to the National Trust and its members – you and I - to make sure that we can still understand the long history of the Molonglo Valley and preserve the forensic traces of its evolution.



Peter Dowling Heritage Officer

## AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

## LINKING THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT AT THE ALBERT HALL

From this time forward, [under God],\*
I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people,
Whose democratic beliefs I share,
Whose rights and liberties I respect,
And whose laws I will uphold and obey.

(\*A person may choose to make the Pledge with or without 'under God.')

After making the pledge of commitment before the presiding officer at a citizenship ceremony, new citizens celebrate becoming full and formal members of Australian society. By making the pledge, new citizens both accept their responsibilities and are able to enjoy the same privileges as all Australians. The full benefits of life in Australia are now available to them. Furthermore, new citizens feel a sense of belonging and identity with the Australian community. The decision to become an Australian citizen shows commitment and loyalty to Australia and a desire to share in a common future.

2009 will mark the 60th Anniversary of Citizenship in Australia. Australian citizenship did not exist until 26 January 1949 when the Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948 (now known as the Australian Citizenship Act 2007) commenced. Prior to that date, people born in Australia were British subjects.

The first-ever Australian citizenship ceremony occurred on 3 February 1949 in Canberra's historic Albert Hall. Representing each state and the ACT, seven men from Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Greece, Norway, Spain and Yugoslavia, were the first to be conferred Australian citizenship.

As the venue of Australia's first citizenship ceremony, the Albert Hall has had a long and significant connection with Australian citizenship. Over the years numerous citizenship ceremonies and citizenship events, such as citizenship conventions, have also been staged at the hall.

To reflect this important association, the Albert Hall 80th Anniversary celebrations on 10 March 2008 included a citizenship ceremony presided over by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Senator Chris Evans. Nearly 80 people from countries as diverse as Bolivia, Chile, Sudan, Iraq and Iran made their commitment to Australia at this site of the first-ever citizenship ceremony.

In warmly welcoming the new citizens, Senator Evans highlighted the importance of the decision to become an Australian citizen. He reflected on the contribution of more than four million people from more than 200 countries who have chosen to become Australian citizens since 1949. In joining them, he said the 80 new citizens "will further add to the diversity and vitality of modern Australia".

After the conferees had made their pledge of commitment to Australia and received their certificates from the minister, the Sing Australia choir sang 'I am, You are, We are, Australian' with great enthusiasm, passing their choir books to the conferees so they too could join in the chorus: 'We are one but we are many; and from all the lands on earth we come; we share a dream; and sing with one voice; I am, you are, we are Australian.'

It was a fitting song to reflect that citizenship is a common bond that unites us all and that the diversity of cultures and traditions of our citizens enrich Australia.

> Citizenship Information and Promotion Section, Department of Immigration and Citizenship



Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Senator Chris Evans, congratulates new citizen, Maureen Smith (photo by Daniel Balaban, "Eagle Eye" Photography)



Six of the seven men who became citizens at the first-ever Australian citizenship ceremony in Canberra, 1949. (Copyright Department of Immigration and Citizenship)

## A MILESTONE FOR ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH, AINSLIE

50 years ago, on 1 June 1958, the foundation stone of All Saints' Anglican church in Ainslie was laid. This was no ordinary church building. The sandstone was moved, block by block, from Rookwood cemetery in Sydney where it had served as a railway station from 1868. Designed by Colonial Architect James Barnet, this Gothic Revival building was the terminus for trains carrying coffins and mourners to funerals at Rookwood.

After World War II the station was no longer needed at Rookwood and fell into disuse. Tenders were called for the stone and All Saints' bid was successful. The £100 paid for the stone was overshadowed by the many thousands of pounds it then cost to transport the stone on 83 semitrailers and to reconstruct the building in Ainslie.

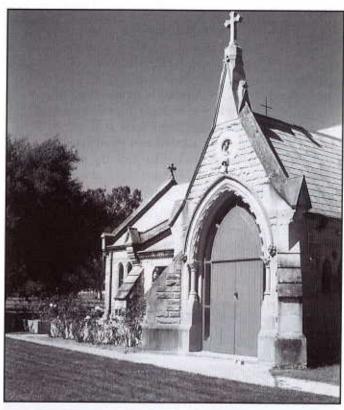
The work began in May 1958. Builder Stan Taunton supervised the operations, camping out at the cemetery as the station was dismantled and then overseeing the reconstruction in the young and growing suburb of Ainslie. Some minor changes were made to the building to adapt it for use as a church but it is substantially the same as it was when it was a mortuary station.

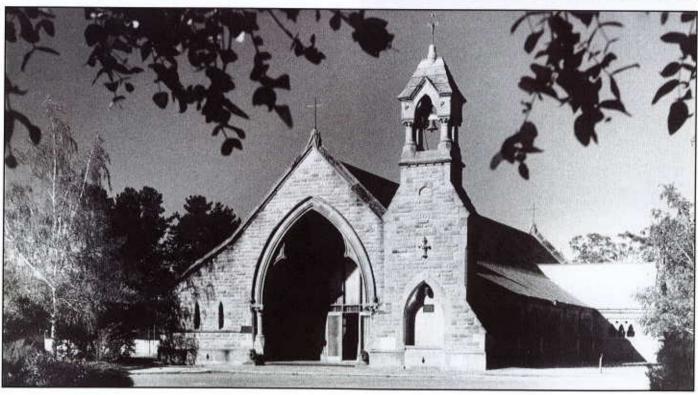
This amazing project took vision, faith and commitment. People poured effort and money into building a church for a growing community. The result is a beautiful and unique place of worship that has inspired many with its history and its beauty.

The building has stood up well to its transfer to Canberra and the rigours of the Canberra climate. However, continuous work will ensure it remains in good condition and some immediate remedial work is needed to the floor and the drainage system. In the medium term more work will be needed to preserve the integrity of the sandstone itself.

In recognition of its importance as a historic building, All Saints is listed on the ACT Heritage Register and on the Register of the National Estate. In 2007 the National Trust – All Saints Ainslie Heritage Conservation Appeal was launched and tax-deductible donations can be made through the Parish.

Sarah Macneil, Rector, All Saints' Ainslie





Despite the shock of all this and the need to tend the stock, only a month or two after the fire John allowed the garden to be used for a Greening Australia event to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

John has been helped in the work of the property by Margaret Wheatley. She was born in the old Canberra Community Hospital (now part of the ANU). Her father worked on the property and when he died she became stock manager. She retired to the coast in March this year having lived on the property all her life till then.

John's generosity is reflected in the many events he has allowed to be held at Huntly. Events held in the house or garden have included government receptions, opera in the garden and in the house, a sculpture exhibition, land care events and numerous National Trust events. This is not an insignificant task for John and his staff. His gardener once told me that it took at least two days to mow and prepare the garden and John has allowed people to take over his kitchen for catering purposes many times. So many people have enjoyed the ambience of the house and garden attending these events.

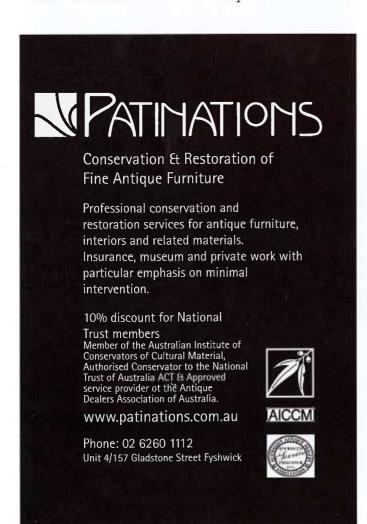
John's generous support for the National Trust has been expressed in other ways. He has frequently supported the Trust financially. He was the moving force behind the establishment of the Trust's Antiques Exhibition at the Albert Hall. With Marion Douglas and an active committee they ran it for many years. He extended hospitality to stall holders along the way including an annual breakfast at Huntly for all of them. He became a life member of the Trust and has been recognised by the Trust by being created an Honorary Life Member.

Huntly was heritage listed in the 1990s because of its historic interest to the ACT and because it is highly valued by the community for its cultural and social associations. That heritage listing was supported by the Trust and is a reflection of the esteem in which he is held. He is one of the Trust's treasures.

Judy Baskin

Do you have an interesting article or a point of view that you would like published in the magazine?

If so, send it to info@act.nationaltrust.org.au





## JOIN THE NATIONAL TRUST (ACT)

The National Trust is a non-profit, community based organization 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
- 15% discount at the Old Parliament House Shop
- An opportunity to participate in travel organized by the Trust
- Access to the National Trust's special events and activities
- An opportunity to help the Trust protect your local natural and cultural heritage

## **VOLUNTEERS AND THE NATIONAL TRUST ORGANIZATION**

The National Trust is a not for profit organization and the services of its many dedicated volunteers are greatly appreciated. The ACT National Trust operates with three part time employees in the office, and one full time employee, three permanent casual employees and three emergency casuals in the Shop at Old Parliament House. Because volunteers give up their own time to help the National Trust and in the past twelve months have given us over 3000 hours, which is over 250 hours per month or 8.5 hours per day. This equates to one full time employee. When this is calculated into actual paid time it amounts to over \$60,000, which is quite a saving for the Trust.

The various areas represented by Volunteers are; Membership Committee; Tours Committee; All Members of Council; Office; Old Parliament House Shop; Tours; Events These volunteers not only volunteer their time but also provide catering to assist in fund raising for the Trust. Many of the Trusted recipes now being published are old favorites and have been sampled by many.

Would you like to do more for the National Trust?

Would you like to be part of the planning of activities for the Trust?

Our Membership Committee is a group of volunteers who meet once a month to organize functions and events for members. The meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Old Parliament House Shop. We do have vacancies on the Committee and would welcome any additional help and skills.

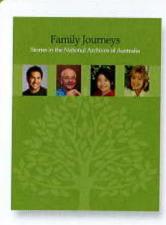
**Dianne Dowling** 



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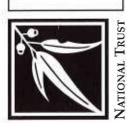
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31 days)

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