



HERITAGE IN TRUST

Journal of the National Trust of Australia (ACT)

WINTER 2009 \$2.00





Figure 3. Distant view of National Library and Parliament House from Commonwealth Park



Figure 4. View of National Museum and Black Mountain from Flynn Drive path

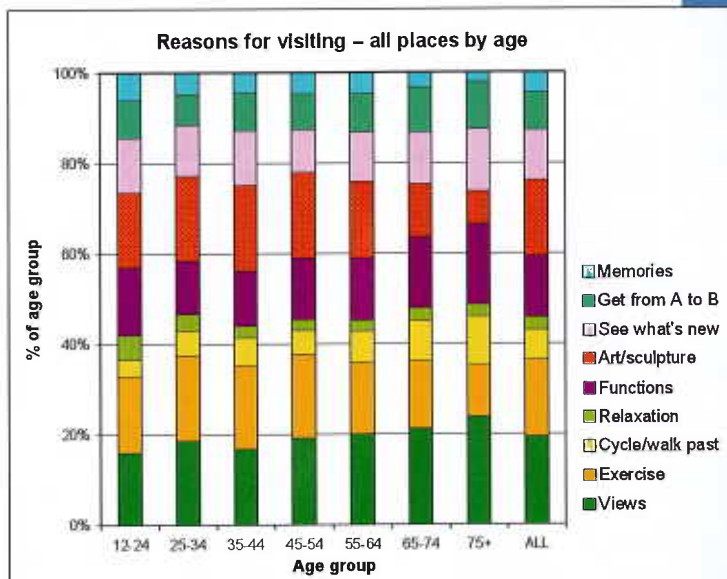


Figure 5. Reasons for visiting all places by age group



Figure 6. Swans seen from Commonwealth Bridge

THE SOCIAL VALUE OF LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN AND SURROUNDS

The ACT National Trust recently commissioned a study of the social value of Lake Burley Griffin and its surrounds. The study sought to establish how Canberra people use and value the lake and what views around the lake are significant. Information from this study can be used to ensure the continuing beauty and social value of Lake Burley Griffin whether by maintaining, enhancing or developing its special places.

THE SURVEY

A questionnaire was developed to seek information about people's familiarity, frequency of visits, purpose of visits, and likes or dislikes about 22 broadly defined places around the lake. Places were chosen to cover as much of the surrounds of the lake as possible while keeping the questionnaire a manageable length. The survey was launched on 13 February with a closing date of 6 March 2009. The questionnaire was available both in hardcopy and on the ACT National Trust website. Responses were anonymous.

FINDINGS

The survey has generated a large amount of information which is available from the Trust in the full report. The basic findings are outlined here.

The survey population. 758 responses were received. The survey population is regarded as representative of the ACT population. While the average age of respondents (50.5) was significantly higher than that of the ACT population within the same age groups (40.9), the survey population was similar to the ACT population in both gender distribution and indigenous status.

The visitor experience. People were very positive about their experience of the lake and its surrounds. An average of 15 "liked" comments were made per person compared with only one "unpleasant" comment. A total of 28,779 "liked" and 6,031 "unpleasant" comments were made altogether. Figure 1 shows the total number of "liked" comments made about each place, with places in the same popularity order as Figure 2. The average number of times each place was visited was strongly related to the total number of "liked" comments made about the place but only weakly related to the number of "unpleasant" comments.

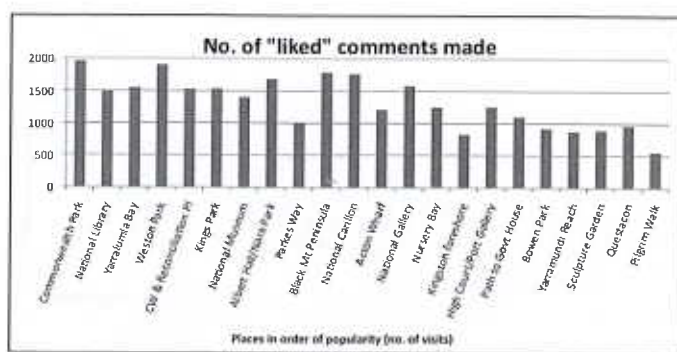


Figure 1. Total number of "liked" comments made about each place

Visitor numbers. Over 80% of respondents have visited all 22 places around the lake. Figure 2 shows the average number of visits to each place.



Figure 2. Average number of visits per year to each place

In the questionnaire respondents were asked whether certain views were important to their enjoyment of each place. The 10 views rated important by the most people were:

1. Distant view of National Library and Parliament House from Commonwealth Park (Figure 3)
2. View from Parkes Way to War Memorial and Anzac Parade
3. View of National Museum and Black Mountain from Flynn Drive path (Figure 4)
4. View towards Civic from Lennox Gardens path
5. View of Black Mountain along side of National Library
6. Distant view of Government House from Weston Park
7. View towards Yarramundi Reach past swimming area of Yarralumla Bay
8. View to Regatta Point through agapanthus plantings
9. View of National Library from under Commonwealth Bridge
10. View towards Yarralumla Bay and Canberra Yacht Club from Lennox Gardens

Comments on the survey and in the public debate seemed to suggest that people fall into two distinct "camps" with one group preferring more "natural" places and the other preferring more structured places.

"Keep this oasis for all our well being!" urged one respondent.

"More cafes around the lake!" cried another.

continued on p 11

CONTENTS

- 1 THE SOCIAL VALUE OF LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN AND SURROUNDS**
- 3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
- 3 FROM THE PRESIDENT**
- 4 PEOPLE AND PLACES**
- 6 HERITAGE OFFICER'S REPORT**
- 8 TRAVELS WITH THE TRUST**
- 12 THE PROPOSED IMMIGRATION BRIDGE**
- 14 ACT HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOP**
- 16 2009 CANBERRA AND REGION HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Joining Fee	\$35.00
Joining Fee, concession	\$25.00
Single	\$65.00
Single, concession	\$45.00
Household	\$95.00
Household, concession	\$70.00
2 year membership	5% discount
3 year membership	7% discount
Corporate	\$600.00
Life memberships	\$1200.00 Household \$750.00 Single

New members and renewal payments can be made online, 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

OFFICE

PO Box 1144 Civic Square ACT 2608
 Telephone 02 6230 0533
 Fax 02 6230 0544
 Email info@act.nationaltrust.org.au
 Net www.nationaltrustact.org.au
 ABN 50 797 949 955
 Opening times 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday
 Office Location 1st Floor, North Building [above Canberra Museum & Gallery], entry from Civic Square, Canberra City

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

PATRON

The Hon. Margaret Reid AO

PRESIDENT

Eric J. Martin AM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr Sue Chambers
sue.chambers@act.nationaltrust.org.au

HERITAGE OFFICER

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

RETAIL MANAGER

Dianne Dowling
ophshop@act.nationaltrust.org.au

ADVERTISING & SUBMISSION ENQUIRIES

Office Manager, Patricia Sullivan
info@act.nationaltrust.org.au

PUBLICATIONS GROUP

Chair – Dianne Dowling
 Jenny Cox – Production
 Dr Peter Dowling, Alan Kerr,
 Maree Treadwell,
 Patricia Sullivan, Sue Chambers

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Old Parliament House Library
 Eric Martin & Associates
 Patinations Conservation
 Services Pty Ltd
 Travelscene Canberra City
 Contentgroup
 Slater & Gordon

BENEFACTOR MEMBERS

Mr Rob McL. Johnston

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

Heritage in Trust is published four times a year as a supplement to the National Magazine 'Trust News'

COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

Mr Eric Martin AM

VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Peter Lundy RFD

SECRETARY

Mr John McDonald

TREASURER

Mr Arthur Pathmaperuma

Ms Antoinette Buchanan

Dr Sue Chambers

Mr Paul Cohen

Ms Helen Cooke

Mr Grahame Crocket

Mr Michael Hodgkin

Mr Jim Nockels

Ms Linda Roberts

Dr James Warden

It is with pleasure I welcome Antoinette Buchanan as a new member of the Council. Antoinette is the Librarian at the ACT Heritage Library and has had a long association with ACT Heritage. Her appointment broadens the Council's experience in this area.

2008-2009 has been difficult for the National Trust in financial terms as the move of the National Portrait Gallery from Old Parliament House has meant a substantial reduction in the income to the shop and a greatly reduced profit. The tour to eastern European cities was cancelled due to lack of numbers, due in part to the global financial problems and impact on world travel. There has also been a reduction in memberships, also partly due to reduced travel to the UK. These have meant the profit for the year is well below budget.

The flow on is that the budget for 2009-2010 will be a deficit. We cannot sustain this so changes will be required. We have had a review of the operation of by Dr Irene Irvine who has made a number of suggestions on enhancing business performance. The Executive

is considering these and will implement a number of changes over the next few months. It will not be easy but some of our operations will need to change if we are to be sustainable.

Heritage at Risk is an ongoing program where we identify heritage places at risk of deterioration or loss of heritage values. There was an increase in the public nomination this year which in some ways is saddening that there is more of our heritage under threat. It was however pleasing to see that there is a widening interest in our heritage among the community. There is a separate article on Heritage at Risk in this issue of *Heritage in Trust*.

The National Trust welcomes the appointment of Gary Rake as Chief Executive of the National Capital Authority. He has met with us and we are looking forward to an improved dialogue with the NCA in the future.

Eric J. Martin, AM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Exciting news! We are delighted to receive \$260,525 funding for the National Trust (ACT) Heritage Churches Conservation Project as part of the Australian Government Jobs Fund Program. Our grant is for the restoration and reinstallation of the Redemption Window at St Andrew's Church in Forrester; the upgrade of guttering and restoration of a stained glass window at All Saints Church, Ainslie; and the restoration of pews at St John's Church in Reid. The National Trust (ACT) has Heritage Appeal Fund agreements with these three churches. The grant is in support of jobs in the local area, and will provide a lasting legacy to the heritage of the ACT. Our grant is one of many heritage projects across Australia which will share in the \$60 million allocated for heritage projects in the Jobs Fund Program. See www.heritage.gov.au for details of the projects announced so far. We have a further application for conservation work at the three churches which, if successful, would make an even greater contribution to ACT's heritage.

We have been very pleased with the number of members who have come forward as volunteers to work in the Trust Office. This has enabled us to work on the file organization of our heritage classifications and furniture at Lanyon plus the establishment of a Volunteers' Register – new members are welcome. The recent "Good Giving Guide" book and Griffith Review point to the great advantages for individuals and not-for-profit organizations of volunteering, participation and giving.

At the June National Trust Workshop in Melbourne, Executive Officers across Australia worked on strategies for delivering national approaches to increase

administrative efficiencies using knowledge based content management systems, sharing expertise and promotion of enjoyable heritage experiences that appeal to all ages. Celebrating Australia's heritage was the focus. Optimism was spiced by the recent announcements of many successful heritage grants of Trusts across Australia.

Sue Chambers

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 34rd Annual General Meeting of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) will be held in the Menzies Room at the National Archives of Australia, Thursday 16th October 2009, 6.30pm for 7.00 pm.

In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the following Councillors will stand down at the AGM, but are eligible for re-appointment: Eric Martin, Peter Lundy, John MacDonald, Michael Hodgkin, Helen Cooke and Jim Nockels.

Members are invited to nominate persons for election to Council. Nominations must be made and seconded, in writing and signed, by current members of the Trust accompanied by signed consent from the nominee.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Trust office and must reach the office 30 days before the AGM.

Our guest speaker is yet to be confirmed. For further information please check our home page on the website www.nationaltrust.org.au, or phone the Trust office on 6230 0533, or OPH Shop on 6273 4744.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

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 welcome to contact the Shop at Old Parliament House, which is open 9am to 5pm seven days.

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 organised by the various committees of the ACT National Trust.

NOVI SCRIPTI

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

Tim and Lisa Alsop	John and Andrea Donovan
Dale Baker	Michael and Margaret Flanagan
Bill and Rosemary Bencke	Cheryl and Brian Gallagher
Ruth Blunden	Rodney and Glynis Garnett
Tony and Margaret Carmody	Rosemary Greaves
Darren Brown and Gillian Gordon	Lewis and Louise Griffiths
Des Brown and Jane Young	Ann Irving
Antoinette Buchanan and Richard Ware	Alison Kendall
Catherine Campbell and Andrew Turner	Gareth and Rosie Lloyd
Steven Chugg	Seona McDonald
Gail and Robert Clements	Claire McGurk
Doreen Collett	Judy McGurk
Barbara and Langton Connelly	Mary and Philip Miles
Susan and Alan Cowan	John and Valentina Nikolovski
Bryan and Rosemary Cutter	Michael and Rita Parker
Ian and Maureen Davenport	Liz Perry
	Michelle and Neville Potter
	Wendy and Neil Quarmby
	Samual and Alison Roberts
	Gerard and Sharon Rollings

Trusted Recipes

GINGER SLICE

1 ¾ cups plain flour	125g jellied ginger
1 cup caster sugar	1 egg
185g melted butter	

Mix dried ingredients and ginger and add butter and beaten egg.
Brush top with milk and sprinkle with slivered almonds.
Cook mod oven 30-40 mins

This slice is a favourite at functions and is very quick and easy to make by mixing it all together at once.

The worst part is cutting the ginger.

MEMBERS EVENING

The next Members Evening will be on Thursday September 3rd. This is an evening where new members are invited to join us to meet members of our Council and existing Trust members and to listen to a presentation by a guest speaker.

Mr Eric Martin, the President of the National Trust ACT, will welcome you all and introduce our guest speaker Margaret Fleming.

Margaret is a National Trust member and was the Education Officer at Old Parliament House and Historic Houses at Lanyon, Mugga Mugga and also at Calthorpes' House. She is currently working at National Archives leading the Education team. Margaret was also instrumental in getting the Canberra Montessori School up and running. Her illustrated talk will be about engaging student learners with the past: using real places, real objects and real people as well as using original records.

Place:	Menzies Room National Archives of Australia Queen Victoria Terrace
Date:	Thursday 3rd September 2009
Time:	5.30 pm
Cost:	\$10.00 Members New Members Free of Charge (new members will receive an invitation and we would ask them to RSVP by August 28th, thank you)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO MORE FOR THE NATIONAL TRUST?

The ACT National Trust has several committees to assist in the operation of the Trust. Included in this is the Members Committee which is a group of volunteers who meet at 5.30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Old Parliament House Shop.

We do have vacancies and would welcome someone with new ideas and skills and willing to assist in planning and organizing functions and activities for our members.

The National Trust (ACT) currently has about 1700 members which is the highest per capita membership of any State/Territory branch of the National Trust movement in Australia.

Would you like to be part of this committee? Contact Margaret Howard or Dianne Dowling at the OPH Shop on 6273 4744.

MEMBERS REWARD CARDS

The National Trust (ACT) is producing a reward card for members. This card can be used for most of our events, functions and local tours. When advertising these events our members will be advised if the event qualifies. When attending one of our functions get your card stamped and every fourth eligible function will be free.

The cards will be posted out with membership renewals and will also be available at National Trust events.

Be rewarded for enjoying yourself and support the National Trust at the same time.

VOLUNTEERS LUNCH

Once again it is time to thank our volunteers.

Our Lunch will be held once again at Mugga Mugga and we would like to thank ACT Historic Places for their continued support in making the property available to us. For those who have not attended previously, there is ample room under cover, so the event will go ahead whether the weather be wet or dry.

An invitation will be sent to all those members who have volunteered their time to assist the National Trust in the past twelve months. This luncheon is for you, in appreciation for giving up your free time for the National Trust. It is organized by our Members Committee who are volunteers themselves so they are fully aware of the value of the time and effort you give to the National Trust.

This event pays homage not only to National Trust Volunteers, but to members of the Trust who are volunteers at Lanyon, Calthorpes' House and Mugga Mugga.

Day: Thursday
Date: 10th December
Time: 12 for 12.30

On receipt of your invitation could you please RSVP to the Office or the shop at Old Parliament House

Also at this event we recognize those National Trust members who have volunteered for a continuous period of ten years or more. If you are one of these valuable people, could you please contact Dianne Dowling at the Old Parliament House Shop with your particulars?

CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

Don't forget our get together at 'Huntly'.

If you do not have transport or wish to relax for the afternoon we will be operating a bus service again for a small fee; so at the time of making your booking let us know if you would like a bus ride. The two pickup points are behind the shops in Deakin and in front of Civic Square on London Circuit. Look for a Rogers Coach.

Come and join us for a peaceful start to the hectic Christmas Season.

'Huntly' is just past the outer slopes of Mount Stromlo on the road to Uriarra Crossing, the entrance is on the right hand side of the road and there is a sign with the property name for all to see.

Why not come out and join us. Relax and enjoy the afternoon wandering around this beautiful garden oasis. Drinks and refreshments included.

Date: Sunday 29th of November 2009
Time: 3pm until 5pm
Cost: \$20.00 Members
\$25.00 Non-members
Bus: \$10 for the return trip

We appreciate all the support John Gale gives the National Trust by opening his property to our members each year. You will all appreciate the peace and serenity of the surroundings and all the hard work involved in keeping the property alive in these hard times.

SHOP NEWS

By the time you have received this our annual stocktake will be well and truly over. I would like to thank all our staff and volunteers who gave up their time on the 30th June to help in counting our stock. Their help was invaluable and enabled the shop to be reopened for much needed trade in the early afternoon.

We have four staff members and twenty five volunteers who work on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly roster to assist us in the day to day running of the shop. Just recently a circular was sent out to all National Trust members who have indicated their interest in becoming a volunteer and the shop now has a short wait list, thank you all.

The past year has been a very quiet one for the shop. Visitation was down 25% which equates to quite a considerable drop in profit. We are hoping that the opening of the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House will prove to be popular and bring the numbers back up to where they were when the National Portrait Gallery was in residence.

Now is the time to start thinking of those gifts to send overseas. We have a good range of Australian souvenirs and gifts. Think about that gift to give to your host when you travel and remember that all ACT Members of the National Trust receive 15% discount in the shop.

If you know of someone travelling overseas remind them about the benefits of being a member of the National Trust and the reciprocal arrangements throughout the world. Free entry to nearly 2000 properties worldwide and also free parking on production of your membership card. Your membership not only gives you these benefits but it is also helping the National Trust to conserve the heritage of the ACT.

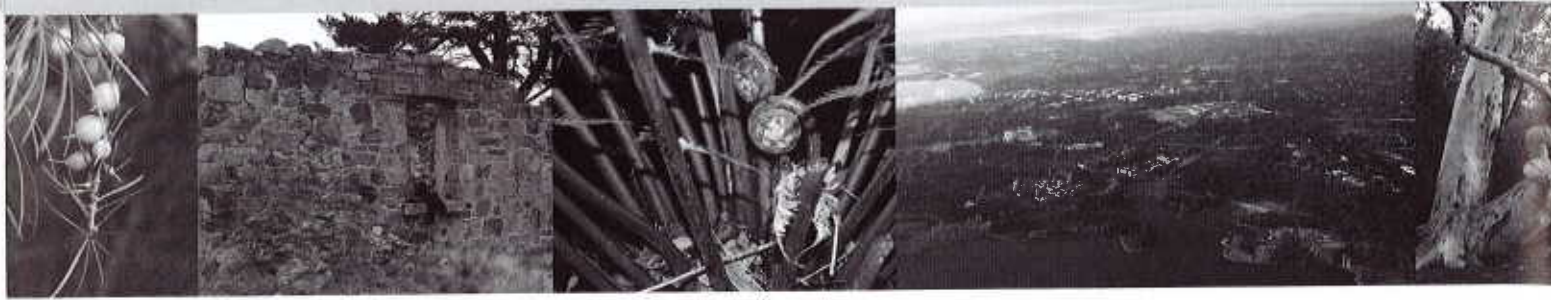
The Old Parliament House Shop is open seven days from 9am to 5pm. Entry to the shop can be made through the front door or via the terrace door week days only.

Dianne Dowling

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

We would like you, our members, to nominate one of our volunteers who has been actively and regularly involved as a volunteer throughout the calendar year and whose activities have made a strong contribution to the success of the National Trust (ACT). The nominator and nominee must be current financial members of the ACT National Trust. For further information and nomination forms contact the Office or the Shop.

HERITAGE OFFICER'S REPORT



ACT HERITAGE PLACES AT RISK 2009

Each year the National Trust in each of the States and Territories nominate a number of cultural or natural places which they consider to be most at risk of loss or deterioration. The nominations come not only from within each Trust but from the general public. The nominations are put through a selection process where the top places at risk are identified. These places are then presented to the respective government bodies and through media releases made known to the public. It is a process which in the past has seen some definite and positive action by government bodies but at the same time there are places which keep on turning up on this list due to inaction, neglect or destruction of intrinsic heritage values.

The Heritage Committee recently reviewed thirty places in the ACT which had been nominated at risk. Eleven places were considered to be at high risk. The remainder were assessed at being of moderate or low risk at this time. Our top places at risk are:

Lake Burley Griffin and Foreshores – Sections of the shore and the Lake are subject to inappropriate use. For example, an open car park has been built on the eastern shore of West Basin and a pedestrian bridge, Immigration Bridge, is being considered in West Basin with in-principle support by the National Capital Authority.

It should be noted that, while NCA protocols provide for public consultation on a Draft Amendment to the National Capital Plan, there are no statutory development controls in place and no right of appeal for third parties against a NCA decision. The construction of the Immigration Bridge could become a precedent for further encroachment into the lake's landscape setting.

Molonglo Valley Historic Sites – The Molonglo Valley is the next area for large-scale urban development. The Preliminary Assessment of Draft Variation 281 (August 2007), while recognizing Aboriginal cultural remains in the proposed development area, has not adequately assessed the European historical sites. Ruins such as 'Riverview', former home of Isaac and Emily Blundell (Shumack) on Block 491, Stromlo and the former homestead '12 Mile' on Richard Moore's Lease no 13/43 on Block 1196, Weston Creek. These ruins represent just two settlements by well known early pioneering families in the Molonglo Valley. There is most likely more physical evidence of settlement in the Valley that remains unrecognized.

Yarralumla Brickworks – The brickworks ceased operation in 1976 and since then the kilns and infrastructure have not been used for their original purposes. Lack of regular maintenance and wilful neglect of the structures by successive government bodies over the years has led to a continual deterioration of the entire fabric of the place. In 2008 the ACT

government called for tenders to develop a management plan for the site, including the brickwork buildings. This process has stalled and as yet there are no definitive plans for this place. Meanwhile the long-standing neglect of the Brickworks buildings continues. The Brickworks were on the 2007 and 2008 Heritage at Risk list – an indictment of the ACT Government's poor management of this heritage listed place.

Brian Lewis Houses, ANU Campus – Five houses were designed by Professor Brian Lewis and completed in 1954 for the Australian National University. Professor Lewis had a strong association with the ANU being involved in designing the layout of the first part of the University in the 1940s. The houses, built of brick veneer, are of simple construction but were sited on a slope to specifically overlook the then Molonglo River Valley. The ANU intends to demolish them to make way for further high-density accommodation. A 1993 heritage study identified the houses as being of significant value and recommended their retention. A further study in 2009 by the ANU came to a similar conclusion but stopped short of recommending their retention. At the time of writing, the decision to demolish or retain the houses rests with the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

Dickson & Lyneham Flats – These flats were on our 2008 Heritage at Risk list. ACT Housing has made no clear decision on the future of this complex. The main threat is the danger of demolition and/or decay by neglect. A draft Conservation Management Plan was prepared but it was far from perfect and has stalled. The Flats remain as Category 1 (nominated) on the ACT Heritage List and as such have little or no protection under the Act until the nomination has been fully investigated and assessed.

'The Valley' Ruin – The ruins of 'The Valley' homestead in Gungahlin consist of stone walls and footings, pisé (rammed earth) walls and orchard trees. Although a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and a CMP implementation plan were done for the site over five



years ago, no conservation work has been started and the site has been left to deteriorate even though it is heritage listed. The outdated CMP should be reviewed and revised and an implementation plan drawn to properly conserve the site in accordance with the conservation objectives outlined in the Heritage nomination. The highly friable nature of the pisé construction puts this place at a very high risk of irreparable damage.

Constitution Avenue – Draft Amendment 60 to the National Capital Plan originally proposed a plan for Constitution Avenue as an ‘elegant and vibrant mixed use grand boulevard with shops, cafes and a mix of commercial, entertainment and residential uses, linking London Circuit to Russell’. It was aimed at ‘increasing the vitality of the Central National Area and completing the National Triangle’ in a way which Walter Burley Griffin envisaged. However, the amendment was passed by the Commonwealth Government allowing for a substantial multi-story building to house the Australian Security Intelligence Organization. This building is now under construction and is not in accord with the original concepts for Constitution Avenue. This has set a precedent whereby the Commonwealth government can substantially change the nature of a Draft Amendment by imposing alterations which were not part of the public consultation process

Kowen Historic Sites – The Kowen area contains a number of historic buildings associated with the early settlement period. Glenburn Homestead (1880s-1890s) is rapidly deteriorating. Several slabs have become detached from the wall and the cottage now has a distinct lean, probably because rabbits are undermining it. The cracks in the walls of the adjacent pisé building are rapidly widening and wind/rain erosion has penetrated one of the walls.

The Glenburn Shearing Shed/Shearers Quarters complex (1860) is deteriorating and a CMP needs to be prepared and implemented as a matter of urgency. Before that, the rubbish around the shearing shed and inside the shearers’ quarters should be removed.

The stone walls of Colliers Homestead ruin (1860) need to be stabilised and the orchard needs renovating in accordance with a Conservation Management Plan produced by the National Trust.

Register of the National Estate Places – The Register of the National Estate (RNE) is a list of natural, Indigenous and historic heritage places throughout Australia. It

was originally established under the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975* and gave listed places legislative protection. In 2004, responsibility for maintaining the Register shifted to the Australian Heritage Council, under the *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003 (AHC Act)*. The RNE was subsequently frozen, which means that no new places can be added or removed.

While the RNE still continues as a statutory register of heritage places, it will no longer afford protection after February 2012. By that time it is expected that states, territories, and local governments throughout Australia will be able to provide the legislative protection and conservation controls over the former RNE places. In the ACT there have been delays in the process of transferring protection of many affected places to the Territory register thus putting them at risk. Also, because the RNE is now frozen, places that are on Commonwealth owned or managed land in the ACT are at risk of falling into the legislative gaps affording them no legal protection.

This problem was highlighted on our previous Heritage at Risk listings but no resolution is yet in sight. The ACT Trust submitted a draft report to the ACT Government on this problem in 2008 but was recently informed that further input by the Trust was no longer required.

Australian National Botanic Gardens – The Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) is one of the icons of the national capital and was established to grow, study and develop Australia’s flora. In recent years the Gardens have suffered during the drought through lack of available water. However, further problems have been caused by a recent cut in Commonwealth funding leading to essential staff constraints. As a result there has been severe degradation in the condition of parts of the living collections and a loss in the level of botanical research conducted by the Gardens. A plan is on the drawing board to deliver water from Lake Burley Griffin by pipeline to the Gardens but this will not be operational until sometime in the future. There is yet to be an announcement of further funding to continue the research on Australian plants, a major reason for the establishment and function of the ANBG.

The ACT National Trust urges the Commonwealth government to make a serious commitment to increasing funding to the ANBG to enable it to fulfil its scientific role and to ensure the long-term health of the living collections.

Peter Dowling

TRAVELS WITH THE TRUST

SHERWOOD HISTORIC SITE

(with the Australian Historic Gardens Association)

The Sherwood site is a remnant garden first established by Henry and Eliza Phillips in 1863. Very little surface evidence of the homestead where the Phillips raised their family remains, other than a number of exotic trees. Catching the display at its best is tricky – contingent on drought, frost and rain but join us anyway to see what we can find of the secret garden on the edge of the forest.

We will need to go into the site as a party as access to the site is through the once dense pine forests devastated by the 2003 bushfires. Bring the children, a picnic, something to sit on, and your camera.

We will meet along the left hand side of the Brindabella Road, just past the Uriarra Homestead at 10.30am. From there we will drive, first to the Blue Range camp ground – site of an Italian internment camp during WW2 – and then on to a spot where we can park cars and walk into the Sherwood site.

If you have any doubts about where to meet please contact Judy Pearce.

Total walking will be less than 5 k on easy forest tracks. We plan to be back in civilisation by 3.00pm.

Further information and bookings: Judy Pearce
expertco@ozemail.com.au, Ph 6257 6970).

Date: Saturday 12 September 2009.

Cost: \$10 Members and \$15 Non-members.

Bookings are essential as numbers are limited

4TH REID OPEN GARDEN AND HOUSES (with the Reid Residents' Association)

The National Trust (ACT), in collaboration with the Reid Residents' Association Inc, will host its fourth Open Houses and Gardens afternoon in Reid. The guided visit includes four homes and gardens which highlight the sympathetic transition of Federal Capital Commission (FCC) 1920s and Department of Interior 1930s houses in the heritage listed part of Reid to meet the needs of families in the 21st Century. The houses and gardens illustrate creative adaptations and plantings for sustainable gardens. Afternoon tea (from 4 to 4.30 pm) will conclude the afternoon's activities.

There will be the opportunity to visit a fifth garden in Reid open under the Australian Open Garden Scheme. An additional cost of \$5 payable at the garden.

Date: Sunday 27 September 2009

Time: 1.30-4.30 pm

Meeting Point: Reid Heritage Sign at the corner of the Reid Tennis Court, Dirrawan Gardens, and Currong Street

Cost: \$20 Members and \$25 Non-members.
(inc. afternoon tea, National Trust Reid Walk brochure and "The Heritage of Reid" book).

ROCK VALLEY AND BIRRIGAI TIME TRAIL (with the Canberra Archaeological Society)

Learn about early European settlement in the Tidbinbilla Valley with Dr James Warden through visiting the restored ruins of historic Rock Valley Homestead. This pise construction was built by George Green and George Hatcliff in 1895. After a picnic lunch there we will return to the main car park at the Visitors Centre to undertake an easy 3km walk with a Ranger. The Birrigai Time trail will lead us across grassland, showing evidence of European pioneers and to the ancient Birrigai Aboriginal Shelter. On completion we will enjoy afternoon tea at the Moon Rock Café across at the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex.

Date: Sunday 18 October 2009

Time: 11.00am – 4.00pm

Meeting point: Rock Valley Heritage Site within Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve (2.5km past the Visitors Centre and Nature Discovery Playground) on the right.

Bring a picnic lunch, chairs, sturdy walking shoes.

Cost: \$10 Members and \$15 Mon-members
The above cost does not include any entrance fees to Nature Reserve

Note the following in your diaries.

Further information will follow shortly.

GOLD FIELDS AND CAVES

The National Trust (ACT), in conjunction with Travelscene Canberra City is planning a two night coach tour to visit Cabramurra, Kiandra, Yarrangobilly Caves and Adelong. You can register your interest at the Office. Full details will be available through the Office, Shop and on our Website.

Date: 14 -16 November 2009

LAKE MUNGO AND THE MURRAY

Experience 40,000 years of human history in Australia. This tour will depart from Canberra by air-conditioned coach, overnight in Griffith and then proceed on to Mildura arriving in time for a dinner on or by the Murray River. The next day the coach will drive to the World Heritage listed Lake Mungo National Park where experienced guides will explain the prehistory of human occupation. The coach will then return to Mildura. The coach will depart Mildura the next morning for an overnight stay at Rutherglen to sample the area's wines and cuisine. Return to Canberra the next day.

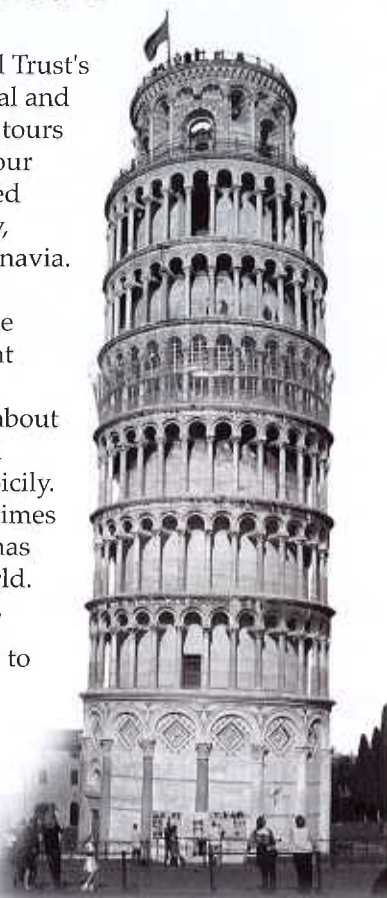
A planned five day tour from Canberra/Mildura and return in March 2010.

ANCIENT ITALY – A HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR OF ITALY

Another in the National Trust's very successful historical and archaeological series of tours to Europe. In the past four years we have conducted tours of Western Turkey, Egypt, Greece & Scandinavia. This tour will cover the fascinating history of the Roman World from right within the heart of the empire. We will spend about two weeks on mainland Italy and one week on Sicily. Experience the ancient times of this civilization that has shaped the modern world.

Planned for September/
October 2010 – itinerary to
be advised soon

If you are interested
in any of these tours
please contact the
Office on 6230 0533.



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 and Approved
service provider to the Australian
Antique and Art Dealers Association.

www.patinations.com.au

Phone: 02 6260 1112
Unit 4/157 Gladstone Street Fyshwick



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 ACT
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

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 one-stop travel shop with a full range of travel
services including:

- international and domestic flights • great hotel rates • holiday
packages • group tours • coach tours • cruises • car rentals
- rail travel • sight seeing • event tickets • travel insurance •
travellers cheques • visa information etc

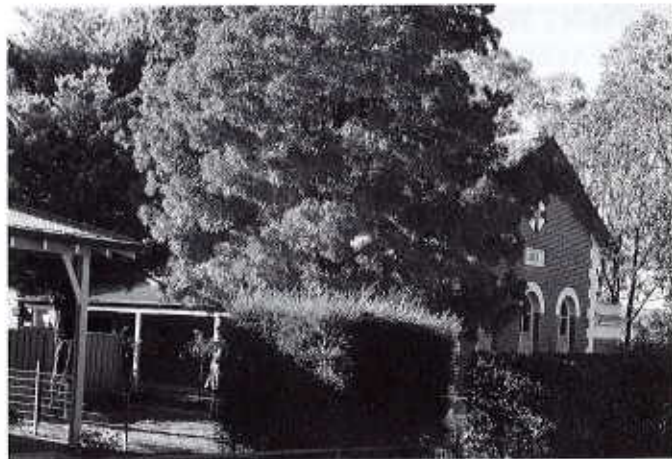
Lower Ground Floor, Ethos House
28-36 Ainslie Avenue, Canberra City

Open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday
Saturday morning and after hours consultations by
appointment only

**Tel 6247 6544
Fax 6247 7638**

website: www.jetaway.com.au
Email: jetaway@jetaway.com.au

WINNER – Metropolitan Travel Agency of the Year 2002



The tour on Saturday was brilliant. The 7 of us that joined the uni students on this informative tour all enjoyed the day. John Arnes first spoke at Cooma Cottage then Pip Giovanelli guided us through the very 'intact' main street of Binalong. The weather and autumn colours all added to the success of the day.

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

Obituary

MISS GLADYS JOYCE

It is with regret that we note the passing of Gladys Joyce, aged 91, on 31 January 2009, some 2½ years after ill health had finally forced her to move to Carey Gardens from her treasured Red Hill home and garden.

Gladys was a long standing member of the National Trust, a former volunteer guide at Lanyon and an enthusiastic participant on no less than 17 significant Trust walks and tours. She was also a member of the local National Parks Association, a Red Cross volunteer and, for a number of years, on the Morling Lodge Auxiliary.

She followed her family to Canberra in January 1934, working initially at the Statisticians Department and then at Tax. In 1941, she joined the office of John Curtin, then a Labor opposition member. She continued working for him as his personal secretary when he first became Prime Minister and then, for the remainder of his time through the darkest period of World War II, until his untimely death in 1945. Always dedicated, but possessing a wonderful sense of both humility and good humour, Gladys recalled of this time – 'my job was onerous and involved long hours ... it changed my life very much. Curtin was a wonderful man to work for, very patient, and I found it a good job'. Gladys will be sadly missed.

Obituary

BETTY MOREING

29/07/1917 to 30/06/2009

Betty joined the NSW National Trust in 1973. When she moved to Canberra in 2000 to be closer to her son Michael, she joined the ACT National Trust and continued her membership with the NSW National Trust.

Over the years Betty was a constant supporter of the Trust movement by participating in tours, talks as well as donating her time by supplying many events with a plate.

Betty would always ask, how many additional batches do I need to make, particularly cheese biscuits. One of our members stated he always knew when he was eating Betty's biscuits – the difference was in the bite!

Betty will be sadly missed not only for her "plates" but for her attendance and support of the Trust.

Editors note

Betty's son, Michael, was a councilor and held the position of treasurer of the National Trust ACT for nearly seventeen years. Her cheese biscuits were the first in our series of Trusted Recipes.

THE SOCIAL VALUE OF LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN AND SURROUNDS (cont... from p.11)

To test this hypothesis, places around the lake were categorised as "hard" versus "soft" landscapes, and "new" versus "established" places. "Hard" landscapes are those with predominantly hard ground surfaces in the areas where people walk. "Soft" landscapes have mostly soft surfaces such as gravel paths, grass and mulch, and would generally be regarded as "natural" because of the variety of plant material. "Established" places were defined as those which have existed more or less in their current form for several decades.

There was a slight tendency for hard landscapes to be visited more often by people aged 25 to 44 and for soft landscapes to be visited more often by people aged over 45 but these tendencies were not statistically significant. There was a strong and statistically significant tendency for established places to be visited more frequently by people aged over 45. However most people clearly visited all types of places.

Reasons for visiting places were also examined by age group (Figure 5). People in the 75+ age group may be less likely to describe themselves as exercising, but they and the age 65-74 cohort were much more likely to be cycling or walking around the lake than other age groups. The desire to see what's new was strong in all age groups.

"Special memories" was an important reason for people aged 12-24 and for people born in the ACT compared with people born elsewhere. These results suggest that attachment to place is only just starting to form in the ACT, given the importance of memory in creating sense of place¹. As sense of place necessarily involves both an individual and a community response², it may take another generation or two for a shared sense of place to develop in Canberra. This issue is worthy of further investigation.

THE WILDLIFE

97% of respondents rated seeing wildlife as important or very important and nearly 80% had seen wildlife six or more times last year. Figure 6 shows the most frequently seen view of wildlife. 409 respondents made some general comments about wildlife, one writing: "Seeing wildlife around the lake is one of the great joys of living in Canberra!"

And to end on a balanced note, another respondent wrote: "I enjoy the natural areas of the lake and I also welcome development that lets more people enjoy its beauty without flies and mosquitoes."

Shirley Pipitone
Designing bush

This project was assisted by the Australian Council of National Trusts Guerrier Bequest Program.

- 1 Schama, S. (1995). *Landscape and Memory*. London: Harper Collins Publishers.
- 2 Vanclay, F. (2008). Place matters. In Vanclay, F, Higgins, M, and Blackshaw, A. *Making sense of place. Exploring concepts and expressions of place through different senses and lenses*. Canberra: National Museum of Australia.



We are experts in:

- ▶ Motor vehicle claims
- ▶ Public liability claims
- ▶ Work injuries
- ▶ Industrial/employment claims
- ▶ Conveyancing

Call us

 **02 6257 1922**

LEVEL 1, 71 LEICHHARDT ST, KINGSTON ACT

Call our Legal Help Line

 **1800 555 777**

Reputation & Results™

www.slatergordon.com.au

Do You Need Heritage Advice?

**Free heritage and architectural advice
is available for heritage property
owners and purchasers.**

The **Heritage Advisory Service** provides guidance on renovating or extending a heritage home. The service is provided by Philip Leeson Architects Pty Ltd.



Call Philip Leeson or David Hobbes on
6295 3311 for one free appointment
either on site or at their Manuka office.

This is an independent service supported by the ACT Government

Canberra Connect 13 22 81
www.tams.act.gov.au/live/heritage



THE PROPOSED IMMIGRATION BRIDGE

The proposed Immigration Bridge crossing Lake Burley Griffin has been a highly debated issue during the course of this year. Immigration Bridge Australia (IBA), a consortium brought together to build a permanent monument to commemorate the contributions of migrants to Australia, is the driving force behind the proposal. Their choice of a monumental structure to commemorate immigration is a bridge which will span West Basin from Nara Park, across to the grounds of the National Museum of Australia on Acton Peninsula. The debates have fallen into two clear and separate groups: those supporting the construction of the bridge and those against. There does not seem to be any common ground between the two. As many members will be aware the National Trust is firmly in the group which is opposed to the bridge. But, let me say here quite plainly; the ACT National Trust is not opposed to a national monument to commemorate the contribution which immigrants have made to the history and culture of this country. That is not the issue! The issue which the Trust is opposing is the construction of a bridge spanning the West Basin reach of Lake Burley Griffin.

The debates over the bridge have been covered widely in the electronic and print media by journalistic articles, talk-back radio, letters to the editors of local and interstate newspapers and articles by local writers both for and against the construction of the bridge. In most cases there has been an underlying strong passion in the arguments over the proposed bridge. These debates have reached the ears of our government with such a resounding clash of voices and opinion that a Joint Parliamentary Inquiry was conducted to investigate the issues. The ACT National Trust tendered two written submissions and attended the public hearing phase where we gave a verbal submission to the Inquiry panel. The Inquiry made three recommendations. Two of the recommendations were concerned with the operations of IBA, and funding for future maintenance of the bridge if it were to be built and are not directly the concerns of the Trust. A third recommendation concerns the heritage impacts of the bridge and that is plumb in the middle of our concern.

The Inquiry recommended that:

Immigration Bridge Australia seeks to reconcile competing issues relating to Lake users, vista and heritage value of the Lake and its foreshores.

If IBA finds that this challenge cannot be met or its development application for the proposed bridge is unsuccessful then IBA should consider:

- *changing the location of the proposed bridge; or*
- *proposing an alternative memorial to migration.¹*

The biggest impact that the proposed bridge would have would be the impairment of the current vistas across the West Basin which would result not only in a loss of aesthetic values which the Lake portrays but as I will argue, a grave affront to the vision which Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahoney Griffin had for this city.

One of the Griffins' main visions was to have a national city which addresses the main natural elements of the landscape in which it is situated. In other words, they wanted the hills and mountains, which are part of and surround the city, to be reflected in the plan of the city and the city, in turn, to be an extension of the natural landscape. They did this in a simple but very effective way by planning the city around land and water axes which would align with the immediate and distant landscapes beyond the city.

For the 'heart' of the national capital the Griffins planned a great National Triangle – with a circular anchor point on Capital Hill where they wanted a grand Capitol building for popular assembly and commemoration aligned on, and expressing, the Australian landscape and the diagram of democracy.² They further planned major avenues radiating out from the central circle (State Circle) on axes aligned with, and named after, the state capital cities. While the Griffins' original plan for the city underwent subsequent revisions these major planning concepts can be clearly seen in today's Canberra.

To see this alignment of city and landscape you only have to drive to, or from the city, along Commonwealth Avenue or King's Avenue to Parliament House; routes which Canberrans have taken many times. The two bridges across Lake Burley Griffin – Commonwealth Avenue, aligned with the southern slopes of City Hill and northern slopes of Capital Hill, and Kings Avenue Bridge, aligned with the eastern slopes of Capital Hill and western Russel Hill - clearly and symmetrically define the boundaries of the Parliamentary Triangle and link it to the surrounding land features. All you need do is take a moment to look out of car or bus windows, or look up while walking along these avenues to see how the



The land and water axes and the Parliamentary Triangle bounded by Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue Bridges. The built elements blend into the natural landscape. (Photo Dianne Dowling 2009)

roads align with the hills of the immediate landscape. Take another moment while crossing Commonwealth Avenue Bridge and you can clearly see how our city is surrounded by more distant features – the impressive Mount Stromlo now displaying the white astronomical structures and further in the distance the dominating Brindabella Ranges. It is truly a sight which is to be appreciated even when strap-hanging in an Action Bus. The landscape and city elements are aligned and there is a definite symmetry between the two bridges crossing Lake Burley Griffin and defining the boundaries of the Parliamentary Triangle which is what this city is all about.

The proposed Immigration Bridge to be set at an angle to Commonwealth Avenue Bridge is not aligned with any land feature other than its northern termination on Acton Peninsula. What is more, it is likely to be a greater height than Commonwealth Avenue Bridge – so if you were to cross Commonwealth Avenue Bridge the meaning behind that spectacular view of the city and the bush would be gone. The proposed bridge would detract from the city to landscape relationship which was a major feature of the Griffins' design.

The much used counter argument to this is, that if we look at Griffin's designs for the city we will indeed see that he planned a road crossing in the area where the Immigration Bridge is planned. This is the main argument put forward by IBA and supported by the National Capital Authority who seem to see a bridge across West Basin as part of their Griffin Legacy policy.

But all is not what it seems. In his 1911 winning entry plan and subsequent 1912, 1913, 1915 revision plans for Canberra, Walter Burley Griffin drew in the two main bridges we now have – Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue Bridges – and a lower road crossing from the southern edge of Acton Peninsula towards Springbank Island, across to Lennox Gardens towards Lotus Bay. This is quite some distance from the IBA location and would have had no impact on the aesthetics or the symmetry of the Parliamentary Triangle.³

Further scrutiny of the Griffins' plans reveal that the two main bridges were always to be the dominant crossings of the Lake, defining the limits of the Parliamentary Triangle and linking the city to the landscapes beyond. The third, a lower level crossing, gives way in landscape dominance to the two main bridges and the city / landscape link is not impaired. Walter and Marion were very conscious of the importance of the Water Axis created by the Lake. Running a straight east west crossing over the north-south (more or less) Land Axis, it was conceived as a Nature Axis, ascending to Acton Ridge and Black Mountain westward and to the East Basin and

upper East Lake to the east. The proposed Immigration Bridge would gravely detract from the landscape and the geometric power of the Water Axis.

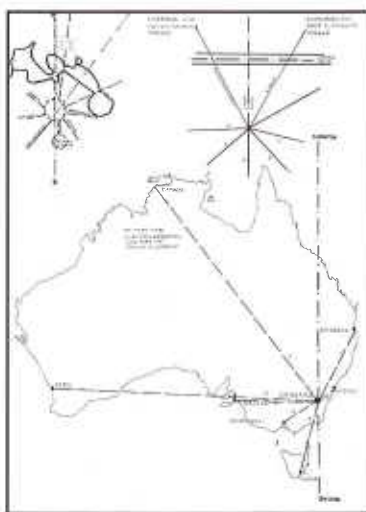
Returning to the third recommendation made by the Inquiry there is a reference to the impact of the bridge on lake users. While we have many ways of enjoying our Lake one of the most prominent users are the yacht clubs. During the public hearing program of the Joint Inquiry we learnt from the presentation by the Canberra Yacht Club that the proposed Immigration Bridge would have a strong impact on sail boat activities and events in the West Basin. They pointed out some of the impacts from the proposed bridge. The in-water support pylons of the bridge and the height of the bridge would impose the risk of collision and thus severely restrict sailing in that part of the basin. The club could not set race courses to go under the bridge because of the manoeuvrability of the boats. The bridge would also obstruct entry into the northern section of West Basin in what is now used as a safe haven for the sail craft in the cases of strong winds. Overall the bridge would reduce the already restricted usable sections of the basin.

Such restrictions to sailing activities would have a high impact on the aesthetic nature of the lake. West Basin full of sailing boats can be a magnificent sight, even when briefly viewed while crossing the lake over Commonwealth Avenue Bridge. Construction of the Immigration Bridge, blocking the viewscape from Commonwealth Avenue would seriously reduce the visual and pleasing impact the yachts convey. Such an imposition would then have an impact on the heritage values of the Lake.

There are other major impacts relating to the Immigration Bridge proposal which I have not discussed here such as the form and scale of the major on-shore supporting pylons, the access way up to the bridge and the road and path alignments leading to the bridge on both shore lines. I leave these issues and the problems they involve

up to the engineers and civic planners. But what I can say is that construction of any major bridge crossing the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin should not, and must not, impact on the relationship the present bridges and Lake have to the surrounding landscapes and horizons. A severe loss of the Lake's heritage values would be incurred by a third bridge of such a dominate nature as has been envisaged by IBA.

Author's note: I would like to thank Mr Shibu Dutta and Mr Brett Odgers for their help and comment on this article. Of course, all opinions expressed are mine.



The land and water axes, envisaged by the Griffins in their concept of a national capital city which addressed the local landscape and the nation's capital cities (drawing by Shibu Dutta 2009)

1 <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ncet/IBA%20proposal/Report/Front.pdf>

2 James Weirick quoted in P. Reid, 2002, Canberra Following Griffin. A design history of Australia's national capital, National Archives of Australia, Canberra.

3 P. Reid, 2002, *ibid*.

ACT HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOP

23 MAY 2009, NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK



Left to right: Sandy Blair, Helen Cooke, Michael Pearson, Tracy Ireland, Peter Dowling, Marilyn Folger, Wayne Johnson, Faye Powell, Brian Blundell

This inaugural Workshop was held during National Archaeology Week, in May 2009. The impetus behind holding the workshop came from concerns held by members of Canberra Archaeological Society (CAS) for the disappearance and neglect of archaeological and historic sites in the ACT. The National Trust of Australia (ACT) supported the Workshop and provided admirable support in administration and hospitality.

CAS was keen to find the best way to advise the ACT Heritage Unit and the Heritage Council of these sites, particularly those in the path of current residential development. The workshop provided a forum to raise awareness of specific sites and aspects of their history and for sponsoring groups to combine in providing information to the heritage authorities.

Historian Dr Sandy Blair gave the opening speech and Helen Cooke, President of CAS, chaired the workshop.

Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, Isabel McBryde, attended for part of the day and expressed her thanks to the organisers for bringing such fine speakers together; she also gave her support to the intent to find ways to promote and protect local heritage.

12 Mile House: Trish Frei's research on a property near the Molonglo River in the area soon to be developed as North Weston was presented by Helen Cooke. Some archaeological evidence of a slab building and a hearth is surrounded by fragments of ceramics, glass and bricks. Aboriginal artefacts were also visible. Trish has collected and noted many other fragments from the site.

CAS wrote to the Chief Minister and Minister for Arts and Heritage to alert him to this site and recommend thorough archaeological investigation prior to some representation and interpretation within the new development. The response assured us that ACTPLA has ensured that heritage surveys were being undertaken.

Dr Michael Pearson, Chair of the ACT Heritage Council advised CAS to keep on writing to alert the ACT Heritage Unit, the Minister and the Council to threatened sites. Eric Martin, President of the ACT National Trust, said that cultural heritage surveys should be undertaken earlier in

the planning process when there is more opportunity to address conservation or interpretation.

Conservation of Historical Archaeological Sites In Situ:

Dr Tracy Ireland from the University of Canberra presented examples of conservation of historic sites and artefacts in the Sydney area, including The Rocks, First Government House, a Walter Burley Griffin incinerator at Glebe, and the first hospital.

It is clear that conservation presents many challenges and requires continuing vigilance and management forever. She wondered if these examples educated the public or were just sensory.

Tracey was also concerned about the security of artefacts displayed in cases in public places and raised the need to track small collections of historic artefacts.

Celebrating the subtle signs of the past - archaeology, place and landscape:

Dr Mike Pearson showed more examples of sites which are not so well identified, conserved or presented to the community, or generally seen as important. He tracked the older routes of the road past Lanyon to Tharwa over the Murrumbidgee, serving the many properties in the valleys beyond. Mike also showed an earlier alignment of one of the roads in the Parliamentary Triangle which had included several bends; the trees which were planted followed the proposed route although it had been constructed straight. Mike also showed the earlier alignment of St John's Church Reid which does not match the grid pattern for the later suburb of Reid and the alignment of the old railway line that ran past the church.

Mike summed up these subtle sites with: 'Not until you tell the story do people get excited' and 'there are compelling stories about our past rooted in places'.

Kowen, Charnwood and Palmerville; and two Good News stories: Rock Valley and Nil Desperandum:

Marilyn Folger started with pictures of Palmerville as it is today and some of the lost buildings. She hoped CAS gets an ACT Heritage Grant to revise the conservation plan for this historic site and install signage to explain how important the former property was to early settlers. She then told the story of Henry Hall, the first land holder to live on his estate in Ginninderra and his property Charnwood which also requires interpretive signage.

Marilyn presented some information compiled by Colin McAlister on the sites in Kowen forest. Several buildings have been conserved under ACT funding but the latest letter from the Chief Minister advises that there will be no further funds available. Conservation is a long term project, as evidenced by nearly 20 years of supported work on Crinigan's Hut ruin, a heritage listed site in Amaroo.

Marilyn also showed the conservation of Rock Valley homestead and the excellent reconstruction of nearby Nil Desperandum, both pisé houses in Tidbinbilla, after they were damaged in the 2003 Canberra bush fires. A camellia nursery was also protected by kangaroo-proof fencing and the burnt bushes are shooting again from the stumps.

The Conservation of the Cumberland Street Dig Site in the Rocks and the Sydney Harbour Youth Hostel Development:

Dr Wayne Johnson of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority explained the history of the 1960s campaign to save the Rocks and allow the people, who had lived in the area of generations, to continue to live there and the subsequent archaeological excavations. The Rocks Discovery Centre presents some of the artefact collection and provides facilities for further research.

Wayne told stories of the colourful characters who lived in the Rocks in the early days; there was a Blundell who had been a convict and may be related to those in the region that became Canberra. GT Palmer, absentee owner of Ginninderra estate, also had an estate at Woolloomooloo.

Emily Shumack & Isaac Blundell's House Ruin: Brian Blundell presented research also compiled by Sandra Whichelo, a Shumack descendant. The remains of Emily and Joseph Blundell's house, called Riverside or Eastern Corner, are on the south side of the Molonglo River near the Coppins Crossing Road. Brian shared details of the lives of the residents on the property, including convict origins and legal battles with the Federal Capital Commission on resumption of the land.

The descendants of these pioneers would like to see the site conserved in public open space so that others can learn and understand the lives of the former residents. This site is threatened by the same residential development as 12 Mile House and is part of the history of the Molonglo Valley and the pastoral settlement of the ACT.

Orroral Valley & Honeysuckle Creek Space Tracking

Stations – From Space Research to Space Archaeology: Dr Peter Dowling, ACT National Trust, discussed the remains of the space tracking stations and explained their pivotal role in the NASA moon landing project and echoes of the Cold War politics of the 60s. Peter spoke of the human side: the logistics of working long hours in these remote locations and the networks which still bind the former workers. The subsequent removal of most of the technical and industrial equipment after the stations had closed in the early 1990s had left the buildings prone to neglect and vandalism. Today just the building footprints, roads and pathways are left with little interpretation on the importance these places had in the history of ACT and Australia.

From Stone Tools to Squatters and Beyond to Outer

Space. Faye Powell followed and complemented Peter's talk with her special research on visitor trails and signage, including pictures of the remaining historic properties in the Orroral Valley. None of the signs are in good condition, well maintained or very informative. Although removed in time and location from the first settlements and Canberra planning, these Indigenous, rural and space sites are part of the wide history of Canberra and its role in the twentieth century.

CONCLUSIONS

The sites presented ranged from early settlement sites, some of which are in areas also rich in Aboriginal artefacts; to landscape elements relating to the Walter

Burley Griffin plan for Canberra which were altered during the city's construction; to sites important in world politics and technological development in the twentieth century.

The participants:

- Agreed that these stories are important for residents and visitors to understand and appreciate the history and culture of this area.
- Agreed that signage and interpretation will encourage interest in each site and tell a bit more. It may not be possible to preserve all these sites in their physical entirety – some are too ephemeral or subtle to survive conservation in the midst of development and some are already reduced to footprints.
- Expressed concern that these sites are not just forgotten as they add a rich history of early settlement, convicts and ex-convicts, social networks and cultural development in the world scene.
- Stated that full and detailed study, historic and archaeological, be done well before detailed planning in areas due for development is essential to collate the fabric and the history of the generations of people associated with the land and the developing social system.
- Pointed out that Informed choices can then be made on how to conserve and/or commemorate the sites, retain the archaeological collections and materials and present interpretations in a way that encourages and educates all visitors to the significance of these sites.
- Agreed to maintain this forum and to write to the ACT Heritage Unit, the Minister for Heritage and the Heritage Council of the ACT with further information on places that have not been fully studied or documented.
- Agreed to meet once more this year and at regular intervals thereafter.

While heritage legislation and involvement in the planning process is a good first step, active conservation and interpretation outcomes require a more targeted approach. Such an approach could be developed by the non-government cultural collective groups in the ACT getting together at biannual meetings. This will be critical to get good outcomes for important sites from the Molonglo structural planning/heritage surveys etc.

Tracy Ireland offered to host the next forum through the Donald Horne Institute at the University of Canberra in mid to late October.

The Canberra Archaeological Society wish to thank the sponsors, Centre for Archaeological Research, the National Trust (ACT), the ACT Heritage Unit, Institute for Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts, and the Donald Horne Institute.

Helen Cooke
President

Canberra Archaeological Society



The 2009 National History Challenge theme is ...

'Triumph over Adversity'

You may enter

- As an individual
- In a small group (Up to 4)

Your type of entry may be

- An essay
- An interactive ICT entry
- A performance
- A 3D model

Dates to know

A.C.T. entries close:	11th September
State and National judging:	9th–10th October
Notifications Mailed:	13th October
National Presentation:	24th November

Information and Registration Details

www.historychallenge.com.au

A.C.T. Co-ordinator
Mrs Nanette Bragg

nanette.bragg@cggs.act.edu.au
or by phone on 6202 6432

2009 CANBERRA AND REGION HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Did you enjoy a gin and tonic at the Shine Dome with the jazz duet? Or perhaps a high tea after a heritage tour of the Hyatt was more to your liking. Your school holiday duties as a grandparent were undoubtedly made easier with some panning for gold at Bywong or an excursion to the local library to hear storyteller Elizabeth Burness bring Canberra's rural past to life.

These are but a handful of over 75 events that made up this year's successful Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. After a few years in the wilderness, the National Trust and many other stakeholders were delighted to see it return to its two week format embracing World Heritage Day in April. The many outdoor activities thrived in the glorious autumn weather.

In line with other states, this year's theme was Space. There are currently celebrations around the world commemorating Galileo's use of the first telescope 400 years ago, which eventually led to man landing on the moon 40 years ago. The National Trust organised visits to Mt Stromlo and Canberra Deep Space Communications Complex, to re-live Canberra's role in this historic event.

Canberra and the Region are rich in Aboriginal, natural and built heritage. The festival celebrated all these sectors and the inclusion of events in Goulburn, Queanbeyan and Bywong added wonderful diversity to the program. There were walks, talks, workshops, launches, open days and performances. I got to 14 events and marvelled at the dedication of volunteers and others as they proudly showcased their offerings in celebrating our local heritage.

The Chief Minister (also Minister for Arts and Heritage) officiated at four events. The variety of those events alone: the Tidbinbilla Extravaganza, the launch of a new brochure and plaques at the English Garden at Weston Park, the unveiling of interpretive signs with the Queanbeyan Mayor at Riverside Cemetery and opening an exhibition on the Cotter at the historic Canberra Glassworks; are a credit to the organisers.

The reinvigorated festival benefited from a new logo and a 12 page festival lift-out in The Canberra Times. As we near the centenary there is added momentum to reflect on not only the past 100 years, but what was here before the Yass-Canberra site was selected for the nation's capital.

Next year's dates have been confirmed as 10 to 24 April – so join us in 2010.

Linda Roberts

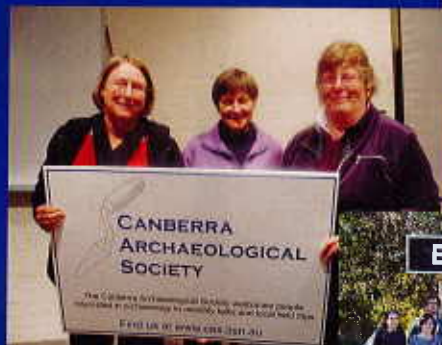
Councillor and Chair, Tours Committee

MOUNTAIN DAYS, MOUNTAIN WAYS

As part of Heritage Week, Friends of the National Museum of Australia and Members of the National Trust held a joint meeting on 15 April in the Friends Room at the National Museum. Our guest speaker was Mathew Higgins who gave an interesting talk about the lives of the early settlers in the Namadgi region. He illustrated his presentation with a recording of the recollections of an elderly lady who had spent her childhood in Namadgi and a video, which had been made by the Australian Heritage Commission, of the construction of a slab hut by skilled axmen using traditional tools. We all came away from the meeting with a greater understanding of the importance of oral history as a method of preserving cultural heritage.

Margaret Howard

CANBERRA AND REGION
**HERITAGE
 FESTIVAL** 09
 ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE



Changing your address?
Return this sheet with your new address.

If undeliverable please return to
National Trust of Australia (ACT)
PO Box 1144
Civic Square ACT 2608
Print Post Approval PP349181/00414
www.nationaltrustact.org.au



NATIONAL TRUST

POSTAGE
PAID IN
AUSTRALIA

PRINT
POST

