



NATIONAL TRUST

HERITAGE IN TRUST

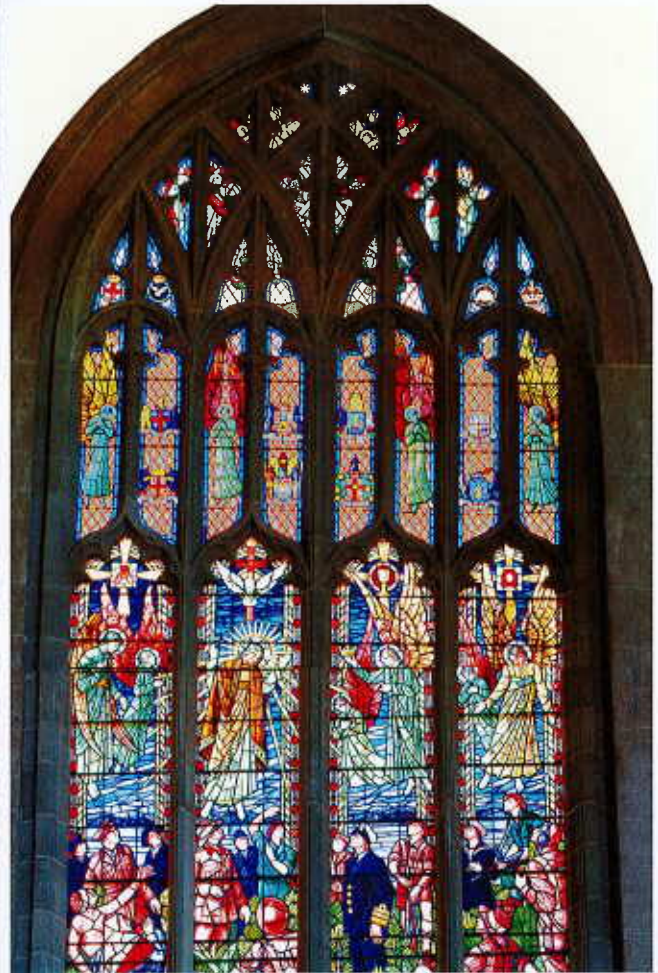
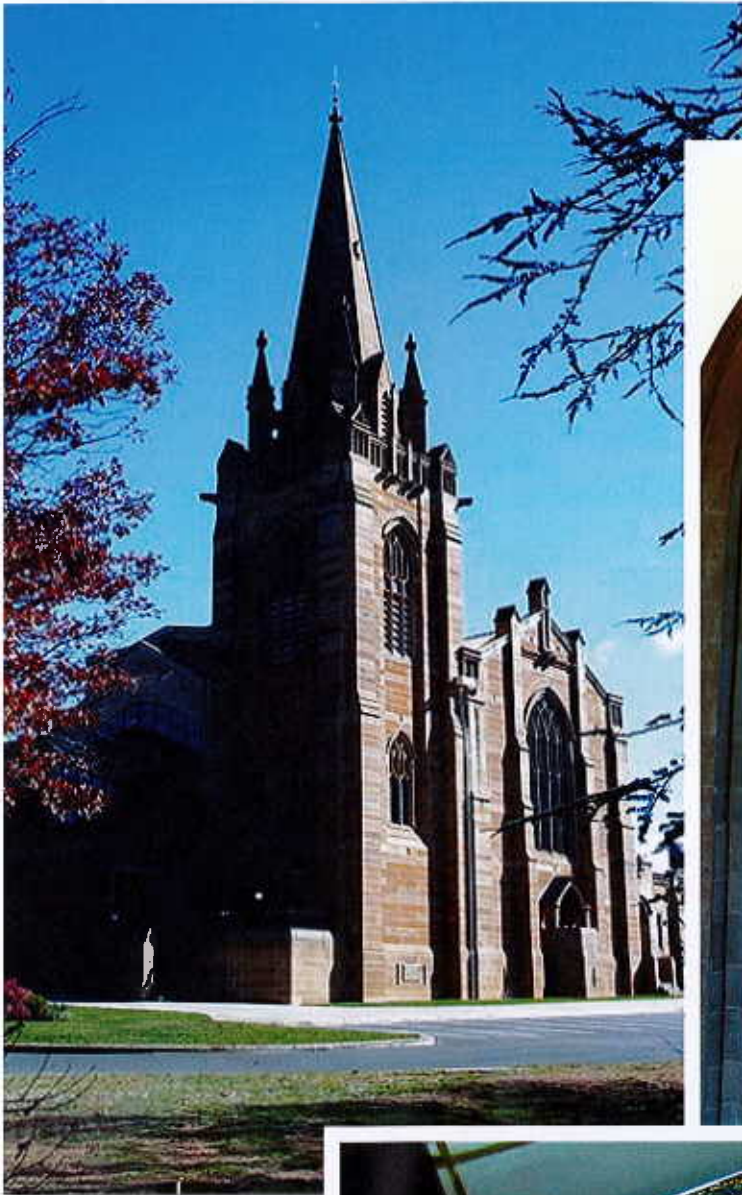
Journal of the National Trust of Australia (ACT)

AUTUMN 2009 \$2.00



*Bust of Perikles, 2nd century
AD Roman. Cast made for Old
Parliament House Collection
by the British Museum.*

THE WARRIORS MEMORIAL WINDOW



*Photos courtesy of
St Andrew's Church*

On Monday 24 September 1934, *The Canberra Times* reported as its main headline, 'Dedication of the Church of St Andrew - Historic Event in Canberra.' The architect was John Barr of Sydney and the builder was George Simmie and Company. Incorporated into the design was the Warriors' Chapel described in the order of service for the opening as a memorial '... intended to commemorate the grace and favour of Almighty God in a time of great national peril, and to perpetuate the memory of men and women by whose willing service and sacrifice the cause of freedom was maintained.' At the time of opening the Chapel was unfurnished due to a lack of funds and the window, a major focal point of the Chapel, was plain glass. It was not until 1948 that the Chapel was furnished and the stained glass window installed.

The window was designed, produced and installed by Norman Carter of Sydney. The design is symbolic of victory through sacrifice of those Presbyterians who gave their lives in war and is based on a verse from the Warriors' hymn, *O Valiant Hearts*.

*'These were His servants, in His steps they trod,
Following through death the martyred Son of God:
Victor He rose, victorious too shall rise
They who have drunk His cup of sacrifice.'*

Depicted in the lower sections of the window are men and women in the subdued colours of khaki and green battle garb representing the armed services. In the middle sections earth and sea colours dominate depicting Christ rising victorious to Himself, bearing the crown of Glory and the cup of Sacrifice. Towards the apex of the lower section the burning bush is entwined with the cross of St Andrew, symbolic of the Presbyterian Church. In the middle section Angels are portrayed in a blaze of glory representing the Ascension to glory of those who have made the supreme sacrifice. The upper and middle sections contain coat-of-arms elements to denote that the memorial is Australia wide.

WHY THE RESTORATION?

In 1992, as part of the Church's listing as a building of heritage value St Andrew's commissioned a Conservation Plan which advised that the condition of the significant stained glass windows needed investigation. The plan was approved by the National Trust and the ACT Office of Culture and Heritage.

Two reports identified a range of issues which were borne out in the subsequent restoration work. For example, when many of the stained glass windows were commissioned, there was a skill shortage and a lack of quality materials post World War II. This resulted in the poor cutting of glass, underfiring and poor installation. Commercial machine-made and imperfect mouth blown antique glass, plated glass and low grade leads and solders were also used.

THE NATIONAL TRUST

The Church is listed on the Register of Classified Places by the ACT National Trust, on the ACT Heritage Places Register and on the former Register of the National Estate. On 15 April 1996, the National Trust of Australia (ACT) entered into a deed with the Presbyterian Church (ACT) Property Trust, on behalf of the congregation, to establish a fund for the purpose of receiving donations for conserving and restoring the Church and associated buildings and grounds in accordance with the conservation plan. The fund is administered by trustees appointed by the National Trust and the Church. It is this fund which has facilitated to a very large extent, the raising of the \$152,000 necessary for the restoration of the Window.

RESTORATION

The restoration of the Warriors' Chapel Memorial Window was identified to be the top priority. The work was carried out by Gerry Cummins and Jill Stehn Pty Ltd, Stained Glass Artists of Eumundi, Queensland. The work required the removal of four lower lancets with six panels in each and eight upper lancets comprising four panels each. These were transported to the Eumundi studio in April 2008. A studio inspection prior to dismantling the window revealed some broken and shattered pieces. Rubbings were also made to ensure perfect reconstruction. The window was then dismantled, cleaned and broken pieces joined (using very fine spaghetti leads). Shattered pieces were replaced. The window was then reassembled.

During the restoration new materials were used including German machine antique and Lambert mouth blown flushed glass, Consolidated Alloys lead calmes, and leadlighters' putty.

The Window was reinstalled in October 2008 and rededicated on Sunday 9 November 2008.

The St Andrew's Church Conservation and Restoration Appeal Fund is a Deed of Trust between the National Trust of Australia (ACT) and the Presbyterian Church (Australian Capital Territory).

CONTENTS

- 1 THE WARRIORS MEMORIAL WINDOW
ST ANDREW'S CANBERRA
- 3 FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- 4 PEOPLE AND PLACES
- 6 HERITAGE OFFICER'S REPORT
- 6 PERIKLES, DEMOCRACY AND THE MUSEUM
OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY
- 8 TRAVELS WITH THE TRUST
- 9 REMEMBERING ROCK VALLEY: ORAL
HISTORY OF EDDIE GREEN
- 12 WILLIAM COLLIER'S STONE COTTAGE
(KOWEN)
- 14 MOUNT STROMLO OBSERVATORY
- 16 NATIONAL TRUST - ST JOHN'S CHURCH
HERITAGE CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

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 H'hold \$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

Dr Sue Chambers

Mr Paul Cohen

Ms Helen Cooke

Mr Grahame Crocket

Mr Michael Hodgkin

Mr Jim Nockels

Ms Linda Roberts

Dr James Warden

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The ACT Heritage Festival was strongly reinforced by a welcome return to the April timeframe which meant it co-ordinated with the National Trust Heritage Festival in New South Wales and other events celebrating Canberra and Region Heritage. This promises to be a preferred time slot for all and we look forward to an expanding program in future years.

It is pleasing to note that two independent nominations of Canberra to the National Heritage List have been made and they are now being considered by the Department and then the Australian Heritage Council. The National Trust strongly supports this nomination and looks forward to a favorable outcome.

The public interest in Lake Burley Griffin has been reinforced by the enormous response to the questionnaire on the lake. This project was made possible by a grant from the Guerrier Foundation and an enormous effort by Shirley Pipitone who had the task of preparing the questionnaire and doing the analysis. This has been provided a solid base of the social values of the lake which has already been used in submissions to Government and will continue to be a worthwhile report for future advice to Government.

The Council has adopted a 2009-2012 Strategic Plan and a revamped Committee structure including:

- Promotions Chair – Peter Lundy
- Members Chair – Margaret Howard
- Heritage Chair – Paul Cohen
- Finance and Audit Chair – Peter Lundy
- Tours Chair – Linda Roberts
- Communication Chair – James Warden

There are Councillors on each committee and other members but we would welcome new members offering their services to one or more committees or as a volunteer for any activity that can assist the Trust. Those interested should contact the National Trust Office.

This rearrangement and tightening up of our governance places us in a position to move forward. There is always ongoing pressure to maintain financial stability and viability and this is under constant review but even in tightening financial times we believe we are in a sound position to work together to meet these challenges.

I believe it is important for the National Trust to continue to be a strong and public voice in support of Canberra and region heritage and I am looking forward to the next few years as Canberra moves toward the Centenary of its naming in 2013.

Eric J. Martin, AM
President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

An exciting outcome from recent Federal legislation "Nation Building and Jobs Plan" is the commitment of \$60 million for heritage infrastructure, as part of negotiations between the Treasurer and Leader of the Australian Greens. The funds are for the "preservation of National heritage-listed buildings and historic properties managed by the National Trust; community heritage projects including locally significant buildings; and Natural heritage projects such as walking trails and upgrade of public spaces". Australia's National Trusts have bid for projects in all States and Territories – we eagerly await the results.

The ACT Trust Council has adopted the Strategic Plan for 2009-2011 and Terms of Reference for Committees. Once approved members have been notified via email and on the website. There are a number of new Committees: Communications, Finance and Audit, Promotions and existing Committees: Executive, Members and Tours. If you are interested to contribute to any Committee please contact me: sue.chambers@act.nationaltrust.org.au or 6230 0544.

We will be using our website and email more to advise members of tours and local walks as they are approved, and important heritage issues– if you would like to join our email list, email us info@act.nationaltrust.org.au

We welcome member volunteers for work at the Trust Office and Old Parliament House Shop. At the Office there are opportunities to assist in developing electronic databases; research projects and Trust events and activities. If you have administrative or research skills and can spare one day a week most weeks, please contact us. If you would like to work as a volunteer at the Old Parliament House Shop contact our Retail Manager, Dianne Dowling by email ophshop@act.nationaltrust.org.au or by phone 6273 4744. The more assistance we get from our member volunteers, the more Trust activities we can support! So do consider – you would be most welcome and have fun.

Sue Chambers

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 quite 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:

Heidi Blain and Jonathon Bromley	David Kendall and Libby Quinn
Sandy Blair	Rhonda Kerr
John and Cynthia Blount	Marie Kesina
Gordon Bower and Margaret Jones	Chris and Svetlana Kunz
Andrew Campbell	Anne Lander
Stewart and Iris Campbell	Robyn Long
Carol and Geoffrey Chapman	Mary and Ken MacDonald
Margaret and Ron Chapman	Ann Mathas
Genevieve Chapman	David and Angela Menz
Charmaine and David Gorter	Tom and Jennifer Murdock
Paul and Mae Cotterell	John and Lynette Nott
Paul and Susan Graham	Elizabeth Rogers and William Brassell
Robert and Wendy Hansen	Denis Taylor
Neville Horne	Lilian Toms
	Francis and Jacquelin Turner
	Margaret Webber
	Jennifer Wright
	Vasilios and Marion Zissis

SHOP NEWS

Old Parliament House has a new name and is about to embark in a new direction.

By the time this issue of Heritage in Trust is delivered to your door the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, Australia's first and only museum dedicated to the history and practice of democracy, would have opened its doors.

It is an exciting time and the staff and volunteers of the Shop look forward to working with the management, staff and volunteers of The House. We would also like to welcome and congratulate William McInnes on becoming the Chair of the Old Parliament House Advisory Council.

The balcony door to the shop is now open weekdays. This makes entry to the shop easier and more direct and all on one level with the cafe. Visitors are free to use this entrance.

WHAT'S NEW:

Building a Free Australia: Places of Democracy. This publication by John Hirst, is beautifully illustrated and is the story of the people

Trusted Recipes

When Old Parliament House opened on the 9th of May 1927 the dessert listed on the menu was "Canberra Pudding". There is no recipe on file at Old Parliament House and the Historian, Michael Richards, was unsure exactly what it was. As a result of a Google search we found a listing on the ABC Canberra site sent in by Lorna Fazldeen, who remembers her grandmother making the dessert for her as a child and we have listed her grandmother's recipe below.

CANBERRA PUDDING

1 and a half cups of flour
1 tsp baking powder
2 tbsp of dripping
Three quarters of a cup brown sugar
A pinch of salt
Half a cup of currants
Enough water or milk to make a soft dough
Blackberry or plum jam
A handful of sultanas

METHOD:

Mix together a cup and a half of flour and the teaspoon of baking power.
Rub in 2 tablespoons of dripping and a pinch of salt.
Add half a cup of currants and enough water or milk to make a soft dough.
Roll out the dough on a floured board in a rectangular shape.
Spread a layer of jam over the dough.
Sprinkle a handful of sultanas over the dough/jam.
Roll up the dough and place it in a baking dish
Mix a cup and a half of water with three quarters of a cup of brown sugar and then pour over the rolled up dough.
Bake in a moderate oven until brown.

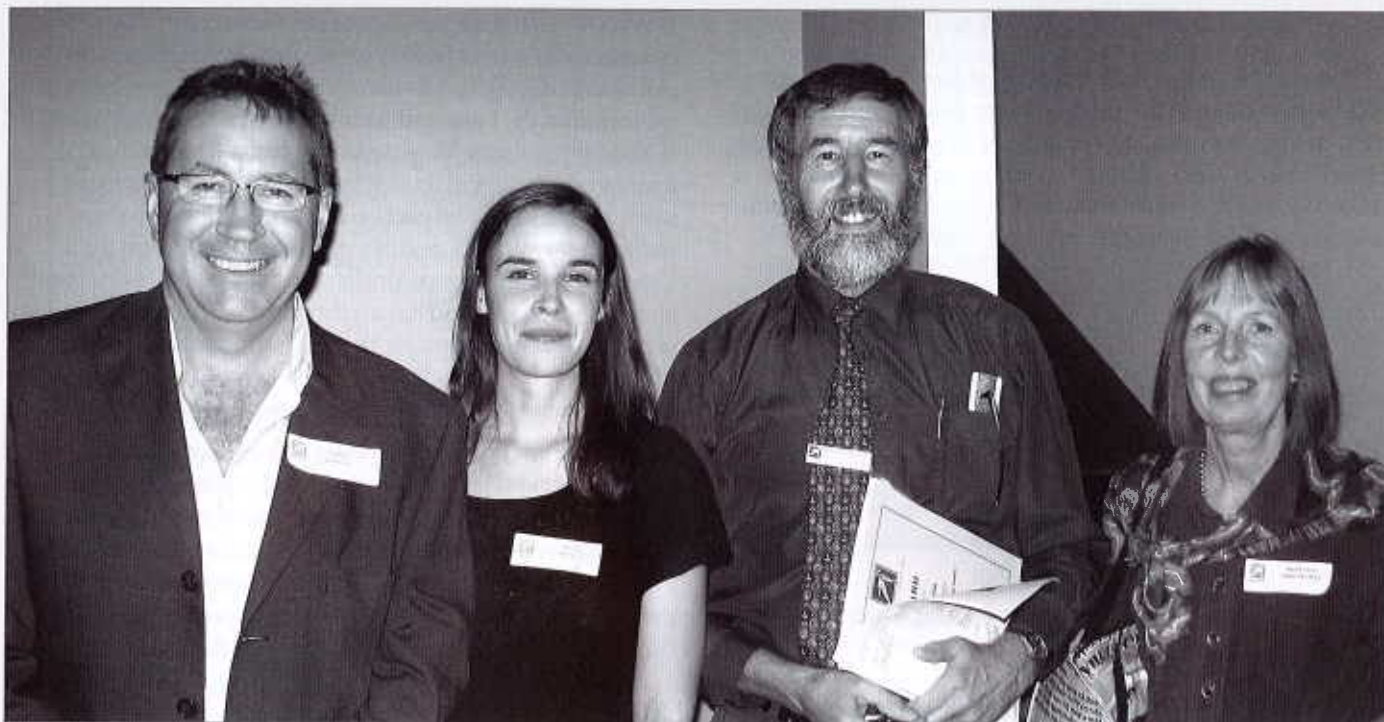
If anyone out there has a different recipe for Canberra Pudding could they please contact Dianne Dowling at ophshop@act.nationaltrust.org.au.

and events that made our democracy, set in the places where politics happened and decisions were made. The buildings are also revealing of the nature of the democracy. Commissioned by the Australian Heritage Council, this engaging work will help you to understand why these 'places of democracy' are important in our nation's history. When the first Commonwealth Parliament opened in May 1901, it did so in Melbourne's exhibition Building, the city's largest enclosed space. Along the path to self-government the nation's political life had been played out in a great many other buildings and locations across the entire nation. These were the sites of political struggle, the places where people discussed, argued, and protested, but also where they voted, governed, and legislated.

Other new books are continually making their way onto the shelves so come in and peruse and buy. A range of stationery by David Foot, featuring our native birdlife, has just arrived, and already the original order has been repeated.

Although Christmas has been and gone, it is coming again. Christmas tree decorations of our native animals are always popular, they are light and small, and make ideal for gifts to take overseas – a nostalgic reminder of home for family overseas.

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA & NATIONAL TRUST (ACT) HERITAGE AWARD



L to R Dr James Warden, Marie Kesina, Eric Martin AM, Meredith Hinchcliffe

Each year the National Trust (ACT) awards a prize to the best final year Bachelor of Cultural Heritage Studies student at the University of Canberra. The 2008 prizewinner was Marie Kesina who was presented with her certificate and a cheque for \$500 by Eric Martin at our Members' night on 29 January. Marie's main area of interest is in cultural heritage and the final work for her degree involved a research project at the National Library Oral history collection cataloguing and describing the John Meredith Collection.

ACT Historical Archaeology Workshop

(and some sites that are not yet archaeological but are heading that way!)

**Saturday 23 May 2009, 9am - 4.30pm
Conference Room: Old Canberra House
Lennox Crossing, Acton**

Themes: specific historic sites, regions, conservation examples or priorities, ghosts of heritage past, cultural heritage surveys and their implementation.

If you have a paper you would like to present at the workshop or for further information please phone Helen Cooke 0408 443 243 or contact@cas.asn.au

Registrations : please contact the Old Parliament House Shop
Email ophshop@act.nationaltrust.org.au or phone 02 6273 4744

A National Archaeology Week event sponsored by:

Canberra Archaeological Society Inc; Donald Horne Institute for Cultural Heritage UC; Centre for Archaeological Research; Institute of Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts; National Trust (ACT); Research School of Humanities ANU

There will be a modest charge to cover refreshments and light lunch.

The day will end with drinks.

For further information on Archaeology Week go to <http://www.archaeologyweek.com/>

HERITAGE OFFICER'S REPORT

OF LAKES, BRIDGES AND VIEWS

One of the major issues the Trust has been recently involved in is the Immigration Bridge proposal. This bridge, a pedestrian bridge, is planned to span the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin from Flynn Place to the National Museum of Australia on Acton Peninsula. If constructed, the bridge will be a highly visual intrusion across the lake particularly on landscapes viewed to and from the Central and West Basins of the Lake. The National Trust is not opposed to a more suitably designed commemorative place celebrating the contribution that immigrants have made and still make to the culture of Australia, but it is strongly opposed to this proposed bridge.

The Trust has had Lake Burley Griffin and surrounding foreshores listed as a Classified Place since 1986. In part our statement of significance reads:

The Lake and its adjacent foreshores possess historic, scientific, social and aesthetic importance. It was an integral part of the early design for Canberra, and adopted by Walter Burley Griffin as an essential landscape element of his plan. Aesthetically, the Lake and its foreshores provide an area of beauty and interest, highlighted by the changing colour of the seasons.

In March the Commonwealth Government announced a Joint Standing Committee Inquiry into the proposed bridge. The Heritage Committee of the Trust with assistance from our Expert Panel of advisors prepared a response to the Inquiry. We presented our case to the Committee on 30 March.

The Trust response is available on our website.



The Trust has been concerned about the types of development which have been implemented and are planned along the Lake's shorelines for some time. In 2008 we included the Lake and foreshores in the national 'Heritage at Risk' programme because of what we considered to be a range of inappropriate development and development plans which would impact on its heritage values – these included the construction of open car parking areas by Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, and planned developments around Albert Hall, on the northern shoreline of West Basin and another bridge linking Weston Park, across Tarcoola Reach to the bicycle path adjacent to Lady Denham Drive. We will be monitoring the course of these future plans closely.

Recently the Trust conducted a public survey to determine which views of Lake Burley Griffin are most appreciated by Canberrans. We had 750 responses to this survey which in itself shows that the Lake is a very important feature to the people of Canberra. A preliminary finding, based on 320 responses has shown the top five view scapes – the view of the National Museum of Australia from Flynn Drive and the view to Civic from Lennox Gardens – were in the top five of 62 views. These are the views which will be most impacted upon by the proposed construction of the Immigration Bridge. The analysis of this survey is still in progress. The study was funded by the Guerrier Bequest Programme with Ms Shirley Pipitone as the consultant.

HERITAGE AT RISK

The 2009 Heritage at Risk Programme is now up and running. Nominations closed on 18 April and the Heritage Committee met in early May to discuss our 'Top Ten' listing of places we consider to be most at risk. This list, along with the other state/territory lists will be announced in July and the National Top Ten list will be announced in August. For details on this programme you can go to the special web site: www.heritageatrisk.org.au.

Peter Dowling

PERIKLES, DEMOCRACY AND THE MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

Australia's most treasured possession is the democratic system of government we all live under. We might occasionally grumble about the way we are governed and more so about the politicians who do the governing, but a democracy is what we are and we owe it largely to ancient Greece.

The Greeks were not, however, the first to practice forms of democratic governing. Democracy in its most basic form is the right to vote. It most likely had its origins in prehistoric hunter-gather and agricultural societies where making decisions on leadership and direction were discussed and influenced by members of the society. A more advanced form of democracy, in which

the power of a government rested with the mass of free male citizens, has been traced back to ancient Sumer in Mesopotamia. Other forms of democracy were most likely practiced in India in the 6th century BCE. It is often stated, however, that it was the democratic ways of the ancient Greeks, particularly the Athenians, on which our form of democracy was built.

Ancient Greece was not a single political entity but consisted of many single cities scattered around the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Plato, most likely with tongue in cheek, described them as 'like frogs around a pond.' These cities or city-states were governed by oligarchies (where the power lay in the hands of the

PERIKLES, DEMOCRACY AND THE MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY

richest citizens) and by monarchies (where the ruler, or tyrant, has obtained power by force rather than inheritance). A few cities, however, were being ruled by democratic practices.

The oldest, most stable and longest lasting democratic city was Athens. Perikles, its most famous ruler, is now seen historically as the initiator of modern democracy. But Perikles must share, to some extent, this title with two of his Athenian predecessors, Solon and Cleisthenes who laid the foundations of Athenian democracy – Solon around 600 BCE and Cleisthenes some 100 years later. Solon, a poet and statesman and Cleisthenes, the son of a foreign city tyrant, were both in their time rulers beleaguered by foreign threats and internal disputes. In order to hold on to power they put together radical constitutional reforms which increasingly involved the will of the Athenian people. (Or perhaps we should say Athenian men). It was from these reforms that Perikles nurtured and developed Athenian democracy.

Perikles (c. 495-429 BCE) was born into a powerful, wealthy and influential family. He was destined to be a leader. His mother, Agariste, dreamed she was about to give birth to a lion, an animal traditionally associated with greatness, and so her son was given the name Perikles meaning 'surrounded by greatness'. Perikles was an impressive orator, an able general (he fought against the Spartans in the Peloponnesian Wars) but his greatest ability was that of a statesman. As the ruler of Athens he initiated massive public works, the likes of which we now see in the buildings of the Acropolis including the Parthenon. Athens and its democracy was again threatened, this time by the Persians, in the 5th century BCE and after victories at Marathon and Salamis the Athenians demanded a greater say in the running of their city. Perikles, along with Ephialtes, another soldier/politician, instituted reforms that gave even the poorer members of Athenian society a choice in who was to lead them. Athenian officials and all jurymen were selected by voting, by the peoples' voice. Perikles did not, however, go all the way so to speak. He allowed only men the vote and only men born of parents who were Athenians.

So the grand experiment of citizen self government began, but it had its ups and downs, its challengers, until in Greece it was finally destroyed by the Romans. It rose again in the modern era and today it is a way of life that we have come to take for granted and which we have and will defend.

To celebrate our democratic principles and commemorate and understand our democratic achievements we are about to have a new museum devoted entirely to democracy. After three years of intense preparation, plans for the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House have become a reality. This museum is one of a kind and is the only museum in Australia dedicated to telling the story of Australian democracy. A major redevelopment in Old Parliament House includes new exhibitions in the

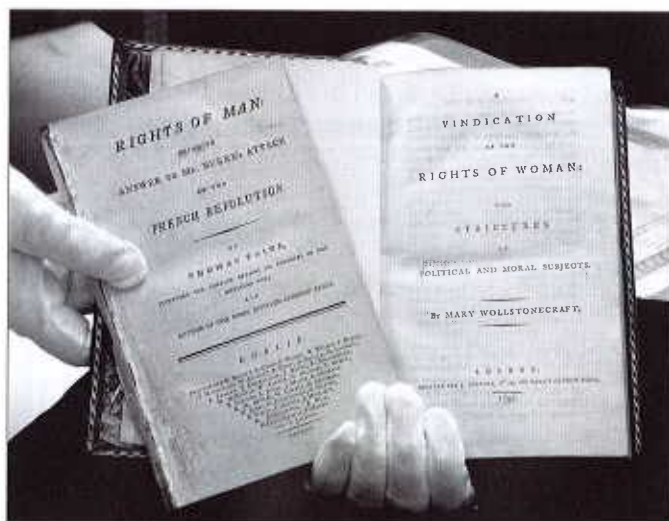
former Parliamentary Library, interactive technology and substantial enhancements to the visitor experience. At the same time, the utmost care will continue to be taken to preserve the unique historical and architectural significance of Old Parliament House.



Protest crowd on the lawns of Parliament House "Throw out the squatter and cur [sic] too". Courtesy of the National Library of Australia.

The Museum of Australian Democracy will encourage visitors to understand and participate in our democracy, by showing that democracy is about ordinary people using their voice to do extraordinary things. Visitors will discover that democracy isn't words on a page, or numbers on a ballot paper, but a day-to-day lived experience.

The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House opened 9th May 2009.



*Rights of Man: being an answer to Mr. Burke's attack on the French Revolution 1791
Thomas Paine
Dublin pamphlet edition
Old Parliament House Collection*
and

*A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: with strictures on political and moral subjects 1792
Mary Wollstonecraft
First edition
Old Parliament House Collection*

TRAVELS WITH THE TRUST

FROM SEA TO LAND

SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2009

Departs from the car park behind the National Archives.

Become a geologist for a day, join National Trust Life Member and geologist Robert Abell and experience the geological evolution of Central Canberra by visiting local sites millions of years old. At all sites visited there will be discussions on conservation and heritage values. Bring a packed lunch / water / sunscreen etc.

Wine and nibbles provided at end of tour.

Limit 20, travel by private car pool.

9.30am-4.00pm

Cost: \$10.00 Members, \$15.00 Non-members

For bookings phone 6230 0533

OTHER TOURS

Check our website for details as they become available-
www.nationaltrustact.org.au

- Rock Valley and Birrigai Time Trail at Tidbinbilla – 13th September
- Reid Open Houses and Gardens Afternoon – 27th September
- Old Coach Road – 18th October
- Yarrangobilly Caves & Coolamine Homestead – 13-15th November

**BOOK IN FOR THESE UPCOMING TOURS
— CALL 6230 0533**

Great Cities of Eastern Europe Tour

The Trust reluctantly has had to postpone this tour for 2009 because of a very low subscription rate. This is no doubt due to the current world economic situation. The decision by the Trust was not done easily and we apologise for the disappointment and inconvenience caused, but as we are sure all would know the situation was beyond our control. We will be monitoring the financial situation over the coming months and hope to run this tour in September 2010.

**Slater &
Gordon**
Lawyers

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

Travelscene Canberra City

**Licensed Travel Agent, owned and operated by
Jetaway Travel Pty Ltd**

**A member of the Travelscene American Express Travel Group
Corporate Member of the National Trust of Australia**

We offer a 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

REMEMBERING ROCK VALLEY: ORAL HISTORY OF EDDIE GREEN

Rock Valley Homestead was always the entertainment centre ... it was the meeting place of all the relatives because of being the ancestral home ... we were related to nearly everybody – so everybody came back here.

As we approach the centenary of Canberra – a celebration of a century of life in the Australian Capital Territory – we are reminded how important it is to recognise not only our achievements as the nation's capital, but also to acknowledge our social and cultural heritage. We can best understand the patterns of development and the layering of our history by appreciating the commitment and contributions of the people who settled here. The ACT National Trust has pursued this complex task in many ways for many years. One way is to record the stories of those who have descended from Canberra's pioneering families and at the same time preserve the collective memory of the ACT. In 2008, via an ACT Heritage Unit grant, Eddie Green was interviewed as part of this program.

Eddie's story provides us with an image of a young ACT rising out of the Limestone Plains of New South Wales. His knowledge of his family's migration story, adventures and journeys on the way to the Tidbinbilla region and involvement in the growth of the district was recorded in two separate interviews.

The first interview was conducted in September 2008 as a guided tour of the remains of the Rock Valley Homestead and surrounding outbuildings and gardens located within the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Unfortunately, the property was badly damaged by the 2003 bushfires and required substantial restoration to the house and gardens. This work is underway by the ACT Government with a strong contribution by the members of the Tidbinbilla Pioneers Association (TPA).

A prominent place in the nature reserve, Rock Valley offers visitors another layer of its history – that of its European settlement and transition from a bush to a rural landscape before its return to bushland. Utilising the recordings of Eddie Green, students from the University of Canberra will produce a landscape plan for the Homestead's garden. Eddie's knowledge of the garden, assisted by a collection of photographs carefully preserved by the TPA, was recorded step by step, plot by plot, plant by plant. His words bring the former rose garden, shasta daisies, vegetable plots and orchards back to life.

On this side of the pathway opposite the triangle garden was a bed of shasta daisies. They [were] waist high ... There are two Czechoslovakian eucalyptus cutters standing in front. It was on Christmas Day... You can see the big trees down behind. It was right along this path. [The eastern side of the house]. It was only a narrow garden, just enough for the daisies, nothing else.

Although Eddie arouses our interest in the height of the shasta daisies, his fleeting mention of the eucalyptus cutters presents an air of intrigue. Why were these men photographed in the daisy garden of the Homestead? Who were they and what were they

doing in the Tidbinbilla area? Why were they 'cutting' the eucalyptus tree? Eddie recounts that they were from Czechoslovakia:

That part which is now Slovakia is where they came from. There was Martin Teckle. He was the oldest and he was the father-in-law of Jan Jandora Lucek, who was the first naturalised Australian, and Steve Lajcin, who went back to Czechoslovakia, after the war, which everybody thought 'going back to a Communist country might be the last we'll ever see of him'. Then he came back to Tidbinbilla and went on eucalyptus cutting and then eventually he went back to Czechoslovakia. ... Martin Tekle also went home to Czechoslovakia, but Jan Jandora stayed in Australia and he worked at the glassworks area in Sydney for years and years. ... I don't know whether they went to Melbourne or Sydney. I think Melbourne because that's where the oil used to go to. All the eucalyptus oil was processed and sent on from Melbourne. They were sent to Queanbeyan to W C Cranswick who used to be some sort of real estate agent. ... He took them out to Tidbinbilla. That's how they came here. ... I think they knew that [eucalyptus oil] was a good market, which Australians didn't – they were too busy farming sheep – and these eucalyptus cutters in the Tidbinbilla Valley, not that the locals knew, were actually making much more money than what people were with probably 1,000 sheep or something.

Edward George Green (Eddie) was born at the Allawah Private Hospital, Queanbeyan, New South Wales, on 16 April 1933. George Thomas Green from Rock Valley and Mary Elma Woods from Paddys River were Eddie's parents; he had one older brother, Keith and a sister, Dulcie May who sadly died only hours after her birth. George Green, Eddie's grandfather, along with George Hatcliff migrated from England to Queensland before ending up in the Tidbinbilla Valley. Having learnt the art of pise building, Green and Hatcliff constructed the earliest building on the site in this method. They proceeded to build other pise homes and structures throughout the area and became well-known for their craft and ability.

Outside the fence about where the car park starts there was a pise building which was an old hay loft on the top and it was a machinery shed for buggies and horse drays and things on the bottom. The top part had a floor in, and that was mainly put there to store hay and fodder and things like that, but later on it became just a storage shed. Later, on the left-hand-side of that, about where the road comes down more, or just this side, there was a double carport put alongside as well. ... George Green and George Hatcliff built this. That was one of the first things the nature reserve bulldozed down when they came, unfortunately. It was part of the heritage. It should have been left there ... It was in the late 60s. ... It was built around about 1900... they were great builders of pise in this area.

During Eddie's school years he helped his parents at home and on the property, but he also attended the local 'Gibraltar School' until it closed in 1942. For a short time during the Second World War, he went to Hall School finishing his schooling at the Tharwa School. Most of Eddie's school time memories focused on the amount of time it took to get to and from the school as the only method available was either on foot or at times by bicycle. Pumping out air raid shelters at Hall is but one memory Eddie easily recalled when discussing his time at school, walking long distances was another.

I do remember going to school because we used to have to walk from Rock Valley to the Gibraltar school, which was down about a kilometre east of the present-day visitors' centre. ... It was three miles. And of course I had to walk with my older brother, who was five years older, and he took bigger steps. So I used to be dragging along behind. And for some reason, instead of walking down the road, he always thought it was shorter to take a short cut over the hill, which I'm sure was longer by the time you climbed up over and down and up again. Then the school teacher, Norman Cornwall, would give us a lift off to Tidbinbilla turn-off in the afternoon, which cut off a little over a mile. So it wasn't quite as far to come home in the afternoon. But in the winter-time it used to be so cold coming back in the snow and the sleet, and the winters were so cold then that the little pools and things along the way used to freeze. When we came home from school at half-past-three or 4 o'clock in the afternoon, quite often we could still skate on the pools with our boots. They were still frozen.

I went to Gibraltar until it closed in February 1942. The teacher just announced, after we all assembled and went inside that the school was closed and we could all go home. Well, we all cheered and laughed and thought it was great. We were mystified why our parents didn't think likewise.

After that I went to Hall and boarded with Mum's sister, Beryl Fisher and Uncle Pat for the rest of that year. That's where I knew something about the war because we had to dig air-raid shelters at school because Canberra was so small that they thought the Japanese might mistake Hall for Canberra as they came here. We enjoyed Monday morning, us kids, because we had to pump the air-raid shelters out. There were no lessons.

After completing his schooling, Eddie continued to work at the Homestead. Following the death of his parents in 1957, Eddie and his brother, Keith, inherited the Rock Valley property. Public land had been set aside for a nature reserve in the Tidbinbilla area as early as 1936. By the early 1960s, the Government's land acquisition program had progressed with the Reserve officially gazetted in 1971. The newly established Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve included the Rock Valley Homestead

land. The Green family was pursued for years to sell its lease and over the years parcels of land had been resumed. After a protracted battle to receive proper compensation, Eddie finally sold what remained of his property and moved to the suburb of Lyons, ACT. He relates the story of the government's land resumptions beginning with the initial offer in 1916.

In 1916 they offered all the properties in Tidbinbilla to be resumed, which most people thought, "This is a really good idea because we can get paid for them and still go on and live there and just pay this rent". But what they didn't think about with the leases: the rents would keep going up and up and they didn't have any secure tenure over them even though they could sell them. But Grandfather Green wouldn't agree to having his resumed, so that's why we still had the freehold. ... I had negotiations with them over a period of time because they kept taking little bits. Then eventually the homestead block was gone and then I had just 35 acres where Turkey Hill is now. ... Then eventually there was a change of government

Eddie's lifetime association with Rock Valley and its environs has resulted in a passion and commitment beyond family ties.

from the Department of the Interior to whatever it became after that and they decided: oh no; they couldn't have 35 acres of freehold sitting in the middle of the national park. They decided that they were going to take it. So I negotiated with them and couldn't get any satisfaction. Eventually – we had Canberra and Bushland Tours in those days. Then one day I went out there and they had bulldozers working on my property where they were going to build the visitors' centre. They hadn't

come to any arrangements with me whatsoever, so I just went over to the guys who were working there asked what was going on and they told me. The next morning I got up bright and early and took the bus out and parked it across the gate. ... I said 'nobody's getting into that property'. And I said, "If I haven't heard by this afternoon I'm going to the press and it'll be in the paper tomorrow." Then about 4 o'clock Dave came over and said, "You can come over to Rock Valley and ring your solicitor, and you'll find out that your money's there and been paid."

It is no surprise that local knowledge and experience along with a great love of his homelands led him and his brother to take on a tour operating business. Calling themselves *Canberra and Bushland Tours*, they conducted guided tours of Canberra's landmarks and scenery. On the itinerary was always a stop at Tidbinbilla.

But I also drove for Canberra Mini Tours. That was the main tourist company in Canberra. I liked showing people round Canberra, and I was so enthusiastic and I knew everything in those days. ... The Canberra City Tours – the War Memorial, Parliament House, all the embassies, Red Hill, the National Mint, and National Library when it was built, and general sight-seeing. Oh, the Academy

of Science. Things that probably wouldn't rate a mention now, but there wasn't much in Canberra back in the '60s – and then with the Canberra Bushland Tours – we had an arrangement with the people who had the boat cruises on the lake at that stage – Barry Myer and Mrs Reid. They'd meet us up at the Fyshwick Bridge, Dairy Flat, from the airport, they'd just come straight there and pick them up and then put them on the boat. And that was their introduction to Canberra. You'd arrive by boat, go down and under the bridge and down to the Acton Ferry Terminal and then we'd pick them up there on the bus and the first stop would be Tuggeranong Homestead, where McCormicks lived. One of the guys would shear a sheep for them and then we'd go out across Point Hut, which was always just a fjord in those days, even though it was concrete and people always thought that was marvellous driving across the Murrumbidgee and the water. We'd go to Lambrigg Homestead, William Farrer's old place, then up to Gibraltar Falls, where we'd have a picnic lunch, and then on to Corin Dam and from there back down to the nature reserve. There wasn't much there then, but there were always kangaroos. We knew where to find kangaroos. And then, of course, when the tracking station was built we'd finish up there and end up about 4 o'clock in the afternoon at Casuarina Sands for afternoon tea because that kiosk was operating then. ... It was a marvellous introduction to Canberra because you'd come in the airport, which was terrible in those days, and just drove about and got on the boat and leisurely down, and then suddenly you had all this beautiful view.

Eddie and other Green family and friends held a reunion at the Nature Reserve in January 1983 to commemorate their 100 years of Australian settlement. Having a strong link and commitment to his former family home and its surroundings and as a result of the successful reunion, they formed the TPA. This is still a vibrant organisation that meets on a regular basis, produces a newsletter and advises the government on matters relating to the restoration and preservation of the Rock Valley Homestead and the extant buildings within the Tidbinbilla nature reserve

Eddie's lifetime association with Rock Valley and its environs has resulted in a passion and commitment beyond family ties. At the end of the last interview I asked Eddie if he could describe his feelings when he sees Rock Valley today. His words remind us how important it is to have a sense of place in a rapidly changing world.

In lots of ways I feel proud to be associated with it. I feel sad for the people of Tuggeranong and places like that where their properties have gone under housing and you can't even recognise where the place was, whereas Rock Valley is still there, even though it might be in the state it's in. It'll never be built out and it's still home. It still retains that, even though it's going back to scrub, which it was in the original state when my ancestors, the Sheedys, first came there.

Eddie Green's knowledge of the Rock Valley Homestead site, his former home is of immense value to the ACT's history and heritage. The ongoing restoration of the Rock Valley Homestead, after the 2003 bushfire, has been made possible with the assistance of Eddie Green and his family and friends within the Tidbinbilla Pioneers Association. Their interest in the European history of the Tidbinbilla/Tharwa area has led not only to the formation of the TPA, but also to an archive of rich documentary and pictorial information which provides a detailed and memorable view of this region's past and its pioneering spirit. Eddie's words, thoughts, recollections and stories demonstrate a vibrant history. This is a history which can be shared and experienced today by visiting the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and viewing it for its landscape, its past Aboriginal and European land-use, as well as its natural beauty and native flora and fauna. Listening to Eddie's words helps us to gain an understanding of the Australian Capital's Territory's story as told by a descendant of one of its settler families.

Margaret Park

This project was assisted through funding made available by the ACT Government under the Heritage Grants Program.

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



WILLIAM COLLIER'S STONE COTTAGE (KOWEN)

The National Trust through Peter Dowling and Eric Martin and Associates have completed a Conservation Plan for this ruin within the Kowen Valley on the edge of the Molonglo Valley. The project was assisted through funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program.

KOWEN

European settlement in the area of Queanbeyan and the Australian Capital City began in the early 1820s, even before government surveyor, Robert Dixon, surveyed the area and the official proclamation of the County of Murray in 1829. The first European settlers in the Kowen area were Luke and Mary Colverwell who were living in a hut beside the Glenburn Creek at "Dirty Swamp" (eastern Kowen) in 1831. For several years the Colverwells were the only residents of the area. An 1841 census of pastoral properties includes "Cowen" with a population of six people (the Colverwell family) and one wooden dwelling. Fifty years later, the 1891 census reported "Cohen" as having 83 inhabitants and 24 dwellings. The increase in population can be attributed to two factors: the 1861 Land Acts which allowed free selection of small holdings for grazing and agriculture and the lure of gold mining following the 1850s gold rush. The Kowen district was part of the Gundaroo Goldfield, proclaimed by the New South Wales government on 13 August 1881. Whilst there may have been great expectations of riches by those who settled the Kowen area, there was little gold found and the primary means of living was through cropping and grazing, which continues today albeit at a limited extent.

The 1880s were the heydays of Kowen. A school was needed; and in 1881 Fredrick Campbell lodged an application for its establishment in the Glenburn area. Five families first undertook to send 15 young students to the school. Of these, William Collier sent his six children. Kowen Public School continued until October 1906 but a subsidised school operated in the building until 1913. The road to this school branched off from the Queanbeyan/Bungendore Road, crossed the Molonglo and skirted Collier's stone cottage immediately to the west.

The 1913 Census included G McGinnes household (10 males, 6 females) at Kowin (sic).

There were a number of forestry camps at Kowen and the 1928 Electoral Roll included William Harrigan and Silas Shumack.

The 1929 Census reads only George McInnis at Kowen and the 1935 – 1945 Census does not mention Kowen but in 1959 it includes Kathleen and Leslie Bateup, Robin and Ian Lamb, Jim Moore, Roseanna and Donald Wilson plus Lydia and Sidney Woolcott.

Kowen is now owned and managed by the ACT government which uses it for the growing of softwood timber. Those areas not under plantation, including the area around Collier's Stone Cottage, are under short-term grazing leases.

COLLIER'S HOMESTEAD

Collier's homestead takes its name from William Collier who lived in the homestead with his family during the 1880's. Collier never owned the land on which it was built (Portion 20, Parish of Amungula – see survey plan of 30 July 1873 below) and it has not been established on which basis he occupied the homestead. However, he did conditionally purchase eight portions (Portions 44, 45 and 75 to 80) to the west, north-west and north of Portion 20 in 1882 and 1883. He probably farmed these from his homestead base on Portion 20.

Despite attempts to purchase Portion 20 by Archibald McDonald, George Campbell and trustees of George Campbell, it was not sold until 1906. The eventual sale for £177-8-6 was to John James Edmonds and the crown grant was issued in 1909. The sale price was just over half George Campbell's declared value of the stone house alone on the portion in 1880.

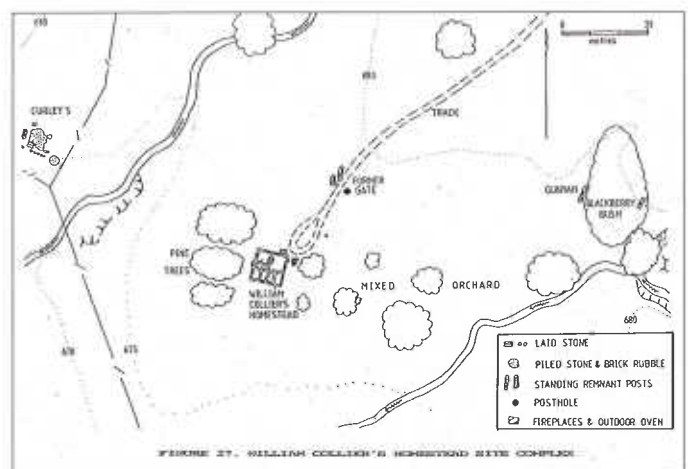
It is believed that George Campbell built the small homestead in the first half of 1880 as part of a tussle with Archibald McDonald to acquire the land. George Campbell was a wealthy man and the construction of such a substantial house would have strengthened his claim to the land.

The homestead has been described by surveyor Moriarty in January 1913 as follows:

Stone walls, rough plastered within, iron roof, 2 brick chimneys and bakers oven, scrim ceilings, wood floor, 5' (1.53 m) verandah on two sides (77' (23.49) long). Very dilapidated (condition) probably 50 years old.

36X36 (10.98m x 10.98m)

200 pounds (value)



1990s Plan

Source: Bulbeck and Boot (The Study Area was the whole of the area shown)



Photo: EMA 2006

CURLEY'S HUT

The footings of Curley's hut lies 100 metres across a creek line north-west of Colliers. It is believed that the hut probably takes its name from Bridget Curley, William Collier's wife.

Although it is now only a jumble of rocks, it is believed the hut would have been about 10m square. The footings, near what would have been the south wall, contains some squared stone steps and steps and some flat stones that could have been part of a paved area.

The only possible description of Curley's hut was one by land valuer Futter in 1913.

Cottage

Slab walls, iron roof

Neglected and falling down

30x24' (9.15m x 7.32m)

30 pounds (value)

It is believed that Curley's hut was built sometime between 1881 and 1884 after Collier's Homestead and was built very close to Colliers Homestead on adjacent land owned by Collier. It is likely that Collier built it as an outlying structure to the homestead he occupied (but did not own) on Portion 20 during the 1880's.

The buildings were dilapidated by early 20th century and gradually decayed to their current condition. The site currently includes evidence of orchard, fences and an access road.

The general area of the two huts has some evidence of Aboriginal use with a range of surface artefacts having been recorded and the potential for more sub-surface material. The area has been grazed for some time and is mainly pastures with scattered trees and some selected tree plantings associated with the cottages.

The statement of significance described in the Conservation and Management Plan states that Collier's Cottage is an important part of ACT history and heritage because:

The place of Collier's Cottage and surrounding area demonstrate a way of life for people who settled in the Region in the second half of the nineteenth century and the struggles they had.

It is therefore representative of settlement of the land and of construction of that period. There remain some rare elements such as the externally accessed room.

The elements that reinforce this is the remains of Collier's Cottage, orchard, gunyah, tracks and crossing point.

There remains a high potential of archaeological deposit in the area around Collier's Cottage which could provide information that will contribute to a wider understanding of the aboriginal history of the area.

The report concludes that the site is an important part of ACT Heritage and needs to be included on the ACT Heritage Register and conserved as outlined in the CMP. The National Trust looks forward to this recommendation being implemented.

Eric Martin

References:

- Dowling, P. & C. Cosgrove, 2002, Glenburn (Kowen) Conservation and Management Plan, National Trust of Australia (ACT), Canberra.
- Gugler, A. 1999, The Builders of Canberra & Where They Lived, 1913-1959, A. Gugler, Canberra.
- McAlister, C. 2007, Twelve historic Sites in the Glenburn and Burbong Areas of the Kowen Forest, ACT, National Parks Association of the ACT, Canberra.

This project was assisted through funding made available by the ACT Government under the Heritage Grants Program.

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

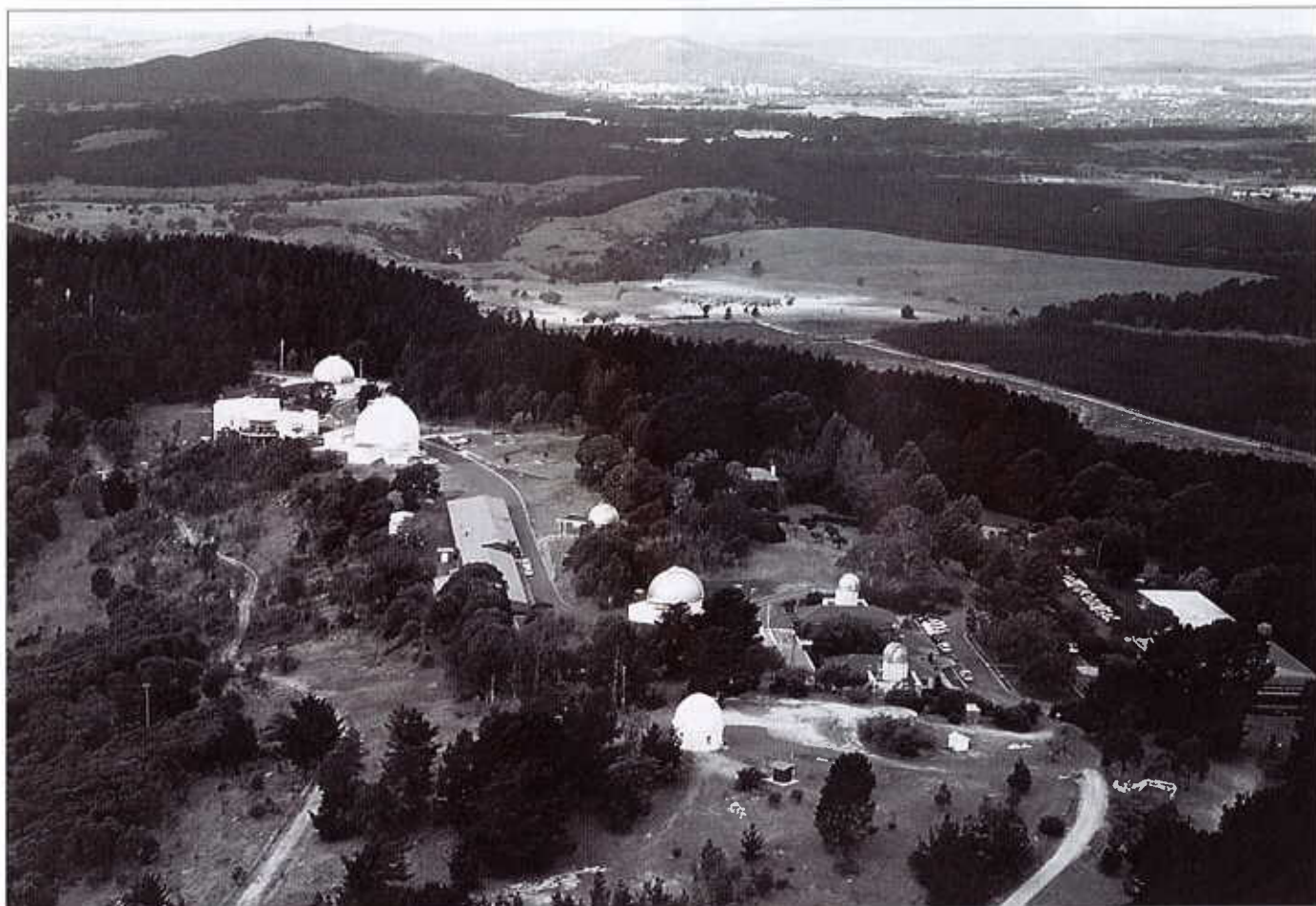
Phone: 02 6260 1112

Unit 4/157 Gladstone Street Fyshwick



MOUNT STROMLO OBSERVATORY

This year (2009) is the International Year of Astronomy and one of Canberra's most familiar sights is the cluster of buildings and telescopes of the Mount Stromlo Observatory just beyond the city.



Mt Stromlo – Aerial view of the main body of the Observatory in 1999. Every building in the image other than the Visitors Centre (top left) and Duffield and Wolley buildings (far right) were destroyed in the 2003 firestorm (image by permission from the Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Australian National University)

For over 80 years the astronomers of Mount Stromlo Observatory have been at the forefront of astronomical research in Australia. The first telescope on the hill was the 9" Oddie refractor, arriving in 1911 to check the suitability of Stromlo for a national observatory.

The observatory was founded in 1924 as the Commonwealth Solar Observatory (CSO) and up to World War Two the research concentrated on Solar and atmospheric physics. During the war the observatory became an optical munitions factory, designing and building prototypes of optical instruments for the Australian and American forces.

After the war the research emphasis shifted to stellar astronomy. The Reynolds 30" telescope, donated to the observatory in 1927, was joined by the 50" Great Melbourne Telescope (GMT), purchased from the defunct Melbourne Observatory. The GMT was redesigned and refurbished and became one of the most productive telescopes on Earth. Most of the theses published from Stromlo during the 1960s to 1980s depended on data from the GMT.

In January 2003 a severe firestorm swept through much of the ACT reaching the outlying suburbs of Canberra. At the time of the firestorm the GMT was involved in front-line research in observational cosmology, MACHOs¹ and Trans-Neptunian Objects². Stromlo gained its largest telescope in 1954 when the 74" went into operation. For 20 years this was the largest telescope in the southern hemisphere. With this suite of telescopes Stromlo became a world leader in stellar, galactic and extra-galactic astrophysics. In the mid-1990s, for example, Stromlo astronomers discovered the mysterious 'Dark Energy' that dominates the expansion of the Cosmos.³

By the late 1950s it was obvious that the growth of Canberra would limit the type of research that could be done at Stromlo. An Australia-wide search was made for the best site in the country and Siding Spring, near Coonabarabran, was chosen. This is now the site of the largest and most technologically advanced telescopes in Australia.

Stromlo astronomers and engineers are leaders in the design and construction of telescopes and instruments. They produced one of the first fully robotic telescopes with the final refurbishment of the GMT and in the 1980s constructed the first of the modern thin mirror, computer-controlled, altitude-azimuth mounted telescopes⁴ – the 2.3m at Siding Spring. They have made two instruments for the 8m Gemini telescopes in Hawaii and Chile and are currently helping design the world's largest telescope, the 30m Giant Magellan Telescope (another GMT) which will be situated in Chile, and instrumentation for it.

The 2003 fires destroyed the original 1924 CSO building, all but one of Stromlo's telescopes, the workshops, administration offices, archives and library. The surviving telescope, the 1886 6" Farnham refractor, is now used as one of the observatories outreach telescopes. Fortunately the main offices and computer areas, holding most of the current research data, survived. Research continued with only a few weeks interruption, using the telescopes at Siding Spring and overseas.

Since the fire the Commonwealth Solar Observatory building has been restored and the workshops replaced by a new Advanced Instrumentation and Technology Centre. The GMT has been replaced by the new 1.3m Skymapper telescope at Siding Spring.

Stromlo astronomers are now involved in every branch of modern astronomy and are still at the forefront of astronomical research.

The ACT National Trust Classified the Mount Stromlo Observatory complex in 1980 identifying it as a significant astronomical institution associated with the National Capital.

Vince Ford*

* Vince Ford was a research astronomer at Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring observatories for 41 years. He has published over 30 research papers and used every major optical and radio telescope in Australia. In 1998 he was awarded the Michael Daley Eureka Prize for the Promotion of Science.

- 1 Massive astrophysical compact halo object (MACHO) is a general name for any kind of astronomical body that might explain the apparent presence of dark matter in galaxy halos.
- 2 A trans-Neptunian object (TNO) is any object in the solar system that orbits the sun at a greater distance on average than Neptune. The first trans-Neptunian object to be discovered was Pluto in 1930 (though it was not called as such until recently; it was considered to be the ninth planet until 2006).
- 3 A form of energy that permeates all of space and tends to increase the rate of expansion of the universe. Dark energy is the most popular way to explain recent observations that the universe appears to be expanding at an accelerating rate.
- 4 Altitude Azimuth Telescopes. The name refers to the way the mounting system allows the telescope to be moved in altitude, up and down, or azimuth, side to side, as separate motions.



Mt Stromlo Painting – Mt Stromlo observatory painted by Kim Nelson in 2003. It depicts the Tarantula Nebula as viewed from Mt Stromlo in a dark threatening sky above the Observatory reminiscent of the 2003 firestorm about to hit the buildings (ACT National Trust).

Limited edition, numbered prints of this painting are available from the National Trust Old Parliament House Shop, Canberra.

NATIONAL TRUST - ST JOHN'S CHURCH

HERITAGE CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

The National Trust-St John's Heritage Conservation Trust Fund was established in 2006 to help fund the conservation of the heritage listed area of the St John the Baptist Church site in Reid. This includes the Church, Rectory, Schoolhouse Museum buildings and the Graveyard as well as a portion of the surrounding landscape, including hedges, trees, native grasslands and the habitat of the Golden Sun Moth. The heritage site is listed on the Register of Classified Places and Sites kept by the National Trust and on the A.C.T. Heritage Places Register.

The Trust Fund is administered by trustees on a continuing basis, subject to the terms of the Trust Deed and to trust law. The Parish Council nominates 3 of the 5 trustees and the National Trust 1; the Trust Fund has greatly benefited from the contribution that Eric Martin has made to its activities. Trustees serve in an honorary capacity. Donations to the Trust Fund must be spent on conservation of the heritage area and to meet the costs of administering the Trust Fund. Three percent of donations are paid to the National Trust (ACT). No donations can be spent on normal running costs of the Parish. The Trust Fund does not undertake conservation expenditures; it raises funds and reimburses the Parish for eligible conservation work undertaken by the Parish.

The Fund has been operating for almost 3 years. Tax Free donations have aggregated to \$87,000 and some \$21,000 has been reimbursed to the Parish from donations and other sources in respect of conservation work undertaken. Reserves of the Trust Fund are invested in term deposits and cash with the Anglican Development Fund.

Conservation activities to date have included:

- the installation of smoke alarms in the Church and the Schoolhouse Museum and CCTV cameras in the Church thus improving the safety of both buildings. The ACT Government provided a grant of \$17,000 towards the cost of the smoke alarms;
- the restoration of both lynchages;
- the re-establishment of a rose garden on the South side of the church. The original rose garden is thought to have been established in the early 1930's or perhaps earlier; and
- finally a native garden is being established behind the back garden of the Rectory to replace a hedge that was burnt in 2008. It is expected that the garden will attract or help retain a variety of birds to the site.

During 2009 the Fund will be supporting the following conservation activity;

- consultants are currently preparing a Landscape Conservation and Management Plan for the heritage area, including tree management, conservation of native grasslands, the graveyard, hedges etc. There are many trees on the site that were planted in patterns in the 1880's and to a different pattern in the 1920's by George Weston there have also been subsequent plantings mainly to no pattern. Some trees are very large. Others are dead or unsafe. The plan

will set the pattern of conservation of the heritage area for several decades. There will be consultation with the St John's community and discussion with ACT heritage authorities and others before a long term plan is adopted. The estimated cost of the Plan is over \$25,000. The ACT Government is funding \$6,000. The Trust Fund will provide the remainder;

- the Schoolhouse Museum is improving the display of its exhibits and may ask the Trustees to fund a portion of the project. The Schoolhouse Museum building was the first combined school and teachers' residence built in the region and remains a valuable source of local history and social values;
- three cracks in the church walls are to be monitored and measured to determine the most appropriate method for their repair and conservation; and
- The Friends of St Johns are managing the conservation of the church furniture and contents. A project to record and photograph the contents of the church, including the stained glass windows, antique furniture and plaques etc is being undertaken by Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society with assistance from the Parish.

Tax deductible donations to the Trust Fund can be made by calling the Parish Administrator at St John's on 02-62488399 between 9.30am and 3pm Mondays to Fridays. Bequests will also be accepted. A receipt will be sent to each donor.

Enquiries to George Pooley on 02-62812949 or email: fgbp1@ozemail.com.au

The St John's site contains small remnants of native grassland, insufficiently large to be of national significance, but they are worth retaining for scientific experimental and other purposes. The wallaby grasses and some others are hosts to the critically endangered Golden Sun Moth. The Fund is financing this conservation. A feature article will be printed in the next issue of Heritage in Trust.

Richard Griffiths
Chair, Trustees





Trust Activities

City and Country



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

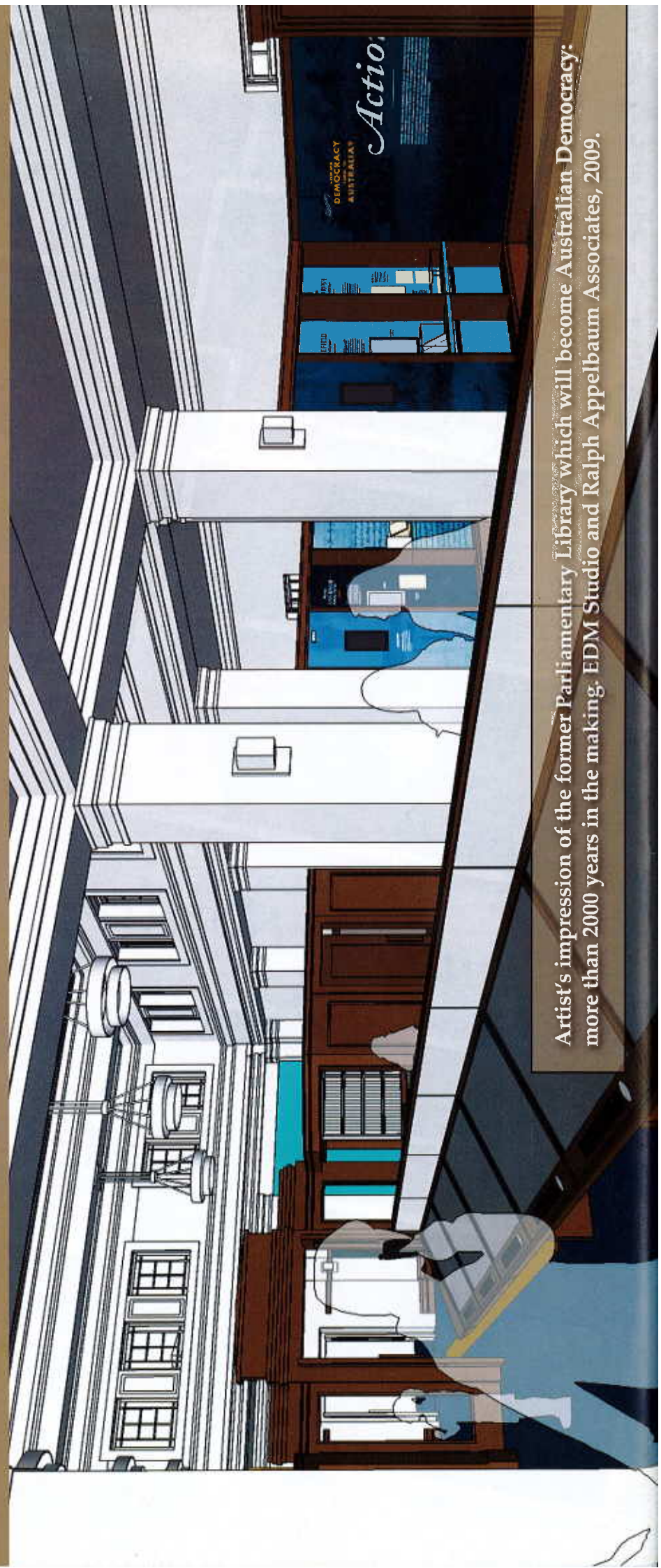
www.nationaltrustact.org.au



NATIONAL TRUST

PRINT
POST

POSTAGE
PAID IN
AUSTRALIA



Artist's impression of the former Parliamentary Library which will become Australian Democracy: more than 2000 years in the making. EDM Studio and Ralph Appelbaum Associates, 2009.