



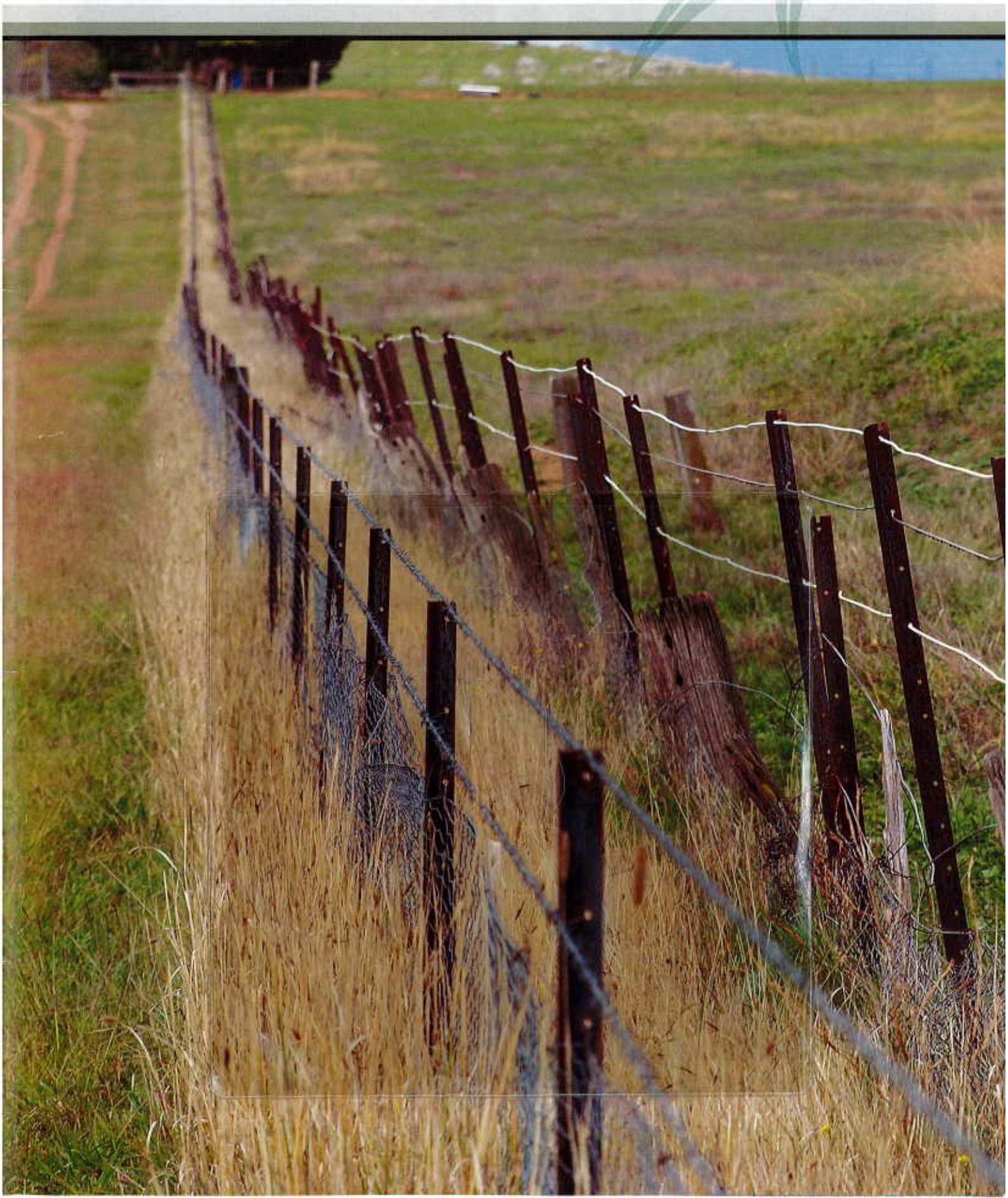
NATIONAL TRUST

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA

Heritage in Trust

APRIL 2010

\$2.00





Poplars along Molonglo River from 4 Beltana Rd
Source: EMA 2009



Richmond Fellowship are located in a former schoolmaster's residence
Source: EMA 2009



15 Kallaroo Rd – the property was called Duntroon Dairy
Source: EMA 2009



One of the many nurseries in the area.
Source: EMA 2009



Cover image: The 'straight line' ACT/NSW border.
 The first section on the border surveyed by Percy Sheaffe in 1910
 Photo: P. Dowling 2010

View across Pialligo from RMC Duntroon, early 1910s
Source: in Pender, A and Quiddington, P, 1987 Pialligo a Place in History p 16-17

Pialligo is an area of special charm and difference in the ACT.

The National Trust received an ACT Heritage Grant to undertake a Heritage Survey of the area. The survey was undertaken by local Historian Margaret Park and Heritage Architect, Eric Martin.

The Executive summary of the report is reproduced below together with a selection of current and historical photographs.

Pialligo includes some evidence of Aboriginal use of the area, particularly along the river, which is recognized by the three sites being listed in the ACT Heritage Register.

European settlement was from the 1830's when Pialligo became part of Robert Campbell's Duntroon Estate until resumed by the Commonwealth. Permissive occupancy of the rural land was granted to Martin Byrne from 1912.

The real development of Pialligo commenced in 1927 with the lease of two blocks for vegetable farming (18 Kallaroo Road and 20 Kallaroo Road). From this period there has been a gradual but steady increase in leases with most supplying fresh produce to Canberra.

The school for Duntroon and Pialligo children was established in 1936 near Woolshed Creek adjacent to the former Queanbeyan-Yass Road.

Post World War II there was an intensification of farming, change to orchards then nurseries and increased number of residences which has continued till today.

Pialligo has developed a unique character which is cherished by residents and the Canberra Community. It is one of a narrow winding road, heavily landscaped with many deciduous trees making it very colourful in autumn and an eclectic mix of buildings. The original

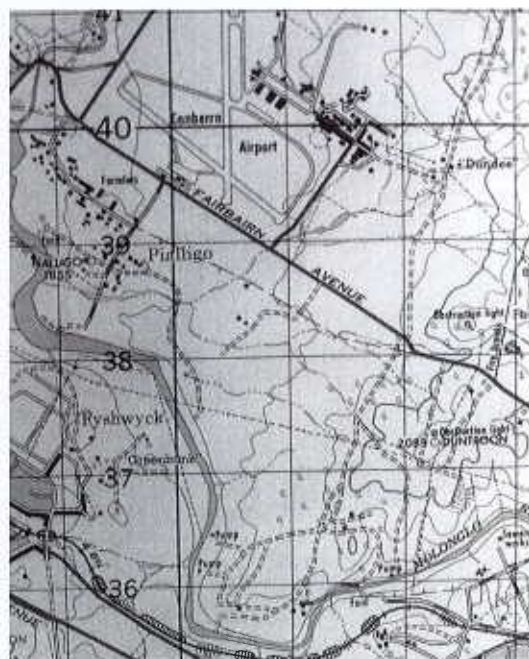
elements of the vegetable farming and houses have changed and modified with time, but still are part of the evolving and character.

In the analysis of this area against the ACT Heritage Criteria it was considered that while it is an important part of ACT history, this was not sufficient to justify inclusion on the ACT Heritage Register. However it was considered essential that there be some planning controls provided to ensure the character of the area is maintained and still permit it to evolve. These recommendations are:

- No further reduction of the current area by widening or changing Pialligo Avenue.
- The existing road structure remain as is.
- Current rural and river corridor zoning remain.
- Protection of Aboriginal and archaeological evidence as per the ACT Heritage Act 2004 with owners of the river flats being made aware of the requirement.
- The river flats be used for agricultural use only, with no residential accommodation.
- A Management Plan be implemented for the main plantation of trees. The Tree Protection Act 2005 provides general protection of trees.
- There is no need for specific controls on buildings other than the general planning controls that currently exist.
- The future of the former school building be determined as quickly as possible with sympathetic adaptive reuse preferred.
- Further investigation occur on the Fires Shed including a detailed condition assessment and research into ACT Fire Brigade records and equipment to ascertain if the shed has any individual significance.
- Interpretation of the area be improved by inclusion into the Canberra Tracks Network.



Aerial Photograph of Pialligo, 1949
Source: National Capital Development Commission



Map of Pialligo, 1967
Source: Canberra Map, Series R 753

Heritage Churches Conservation Work Progresses

The National Trust (ACT) Heritage Churches Conservation Project aims to complete the following works: the restoration of the Redemption Window at St Andrew's Church, Forrest, the conservation of the pews of St John's church in Reid, and installation of guttering and the restoration of the Sheffield Window in All Saints church Ainslie. The works are being funded from a Jobs Fund (Heritage Projects) grant as part of the Federal Government's stimulus package, and has the assistance of volunteers from the three churches.

All projects are proceeding well. The restoration of the two stained-glass windows has involved the removal of the glass, replacement with clear glass while the stained glass has been taken for specialist conservation work by Cummins and Stehn in Queensland, and the subsequent reinstallation of the windows. In March the Redemption Window was re-installed. The photograph shows Hans Sommer (volunteer at St Andrew's), Minister Peter Garrett and Eric Martin (President, NTACT) on a scaffold platform viewing the restored

window. The restoration is guaranteed for at least 150 years, so will be a true heritage legacy for the ACT. The guttering job at All Saints is interesting. The church building was previously a mortuary in Sydney and had open sides. When it was brought to Canberra it was rebuilt with sides – but no guttering. So, again, the new guttering will be a lasting legacy to protect a much loved Canberra heritage building.

The NTACT has been pleased to have facilitated these heritage church projects, which will all be completed by June this year. Across Australia, there are Jobs Fund heritage projects being managed by National Trusts worth some \$12million. This windfall has provided much needed funds to conserve many heritage properties to be enjoyed now and in the future.

Sue Chambers



This year's Heritage Festival has seen a number of exciting events promoting our heritage, and I hope as many people as possible came out and see Elm Grove, a rural property in the northern part of the Territory. The Festival focused on and promoted our heritage, and I am sure there was something in the diverse program for everyone.

There have been some new initiatives commenced which hopefully will have long term benefits. These include:

- Ginninderra Blacksmith's Shop - The Trust has played a significant role in its conservation and it looks like a more effective management plan may be possible. The active interest by the Chief Minister Jon Stanhope is appreciated.
- Border Walks - The Trust is working with a number of groups to promote the ACT border and its significance, particularly in this, its centenary year. We hope to establish a number of walks to promote the accessibility and importance of the border.

2010 - 2011 will be a challenging financial year for the Trust with the Federal Grant now tied to projects and the future of the shop uncertain. Without generating additional income we will probably be faced with another deficit budget. We must look at ways to move back toward a balanced budget. An integral part of this is the effective use of volunteers, which is expanding and is greatly appreciated.

As a result of rationalisation by the ACT Government, there have been a number of objects returned from Lanyon. These will be auctioned mid year and we hope there will be some interest by Trust members.

The active liaison of the Trust with various arms of Government on issues of concern to the Trust is very pleasing. These include both the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and the ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services on the Jerrabomberra wetlands and other issues. The National Capital Authority has also been keen to establish an ongoing dialogue on heritage issues which is also appreciated.

Eric Martin AM
President

CHARTER

At the National Trust of Australia (ACT) we see that:

- Our **Vision** is to be an independent and expert community leader in the conservation of our cultural and natural heritage.
- Our **Purpose** is to foster public knowledge about, and promote the conservation of, places and objects that are significant to our heritage.
- Our **Organisation** is a not-for-profit organisation of people interested in understanding and conserving heritage places and objects of local, national and international significance in the ACT region.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Joining Fee	\$35.00
Joining Fee, concession	\$25.00
Single	\$65.00
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Household, concession	\$70.00
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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

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:

Cornelia and Hans Bachor	Merril and Gary Markham
Stephen Bottomley	Ian and Helen McKenzie
Robert and Valerie Calvert	Roxley and Loretta McLennan
Kim Cameron	Lea-anne and Craig Mercer
Dianne Carroll	Ian and Jenni Myers
Brenda Coles	Therese Neal
Robyn and Bryan Cummins	Colin and Majorie Oliver
Jane Fisk	Ewa Radlinska
Bruce and Karen Green	Barbara Reeve
David and Constance Harrison	Patricia and Timothy Skinner
Margaret Hill	Nick Swain
Elaine and Arthur Hoyle	Brian and Penny Tetlow
Pamela Hubert	Heather and Gregory Thomas
Margaret Johnson	Michael and Rowena Warby
Allison and Owen Jones	Christine and Robert Wynton
Ina Koneczna	
Sandra Lodomirska	
Antony Lodomirski	
Chris and Julie Long	

Trusted Recipes

Easy Irish Tea Cake

375g currants or other dried fruit

1 cup cold tea	1 cup brown sugar
2 cups SR flour	1 egg

Put currants in a bowl with the tea and brown sugar and soak overnight. Next day add flour and lightly beaten egg. Mix well then pour into greased and lined loaf tin.

Bake in a moderate oven for approx 1 hr. Turn out and cool. Serve sliced and buttered.

Keeps well for at least a week.

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

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www.tams.act.gov.au/live/heritage



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Message from the Executive Director

For some years, all Trusts in Australia have benefited from financial support provided by the Commonwealth Government's *National Trust Partnership Project* grant. The program is becoming more project-oriented. Current national initiatives are being funded to achieve four outcomes:

- Identification and Recognition of Australia's Heritage;
- Celebration of Australia's Heritage;
- Protection of Australia's Heritage; and
- National NT Leadership.

In February 2010, the National Trust Executive Officers Network met in Canberra to workshop proposed national initiatives for 2010/2011, with advice from staff of the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. Several projects were recommended, with all Trusts contributing to each project, and in most cases taking the lead for one or more project.

The big initiatives are for the development of a national website (the National Trust, UK website was seen to be an excellent model), and for the continuation of *Trust News* and State/Territory insert magazines (including for NTACT the *Heritage in Trust* magazine). Several national initiative projects relate to Celebration of Australia's Heritage:

- National Heritage Festival;
- Accessible Heritage;

- National Trust Touring Collections;
- Australian Cultural Tourism;
- Education and Learning Program; and
- National Trust Awards Program.

These will draw on existing and new programs to provide members and the general public with a more integrated and exciting national program of cultural events and opportunities. Some projects will deliver national outcomes in 2010/2011 while others will test viability for delivery over the next three years.

NTACT will take the lead on development of a plan for Australian Cultural Tourism. Cultural tourism is a rapidly growing tourism market focused on the development of distinctive local experiences. National Trusts with their interest in the celebration and protection of our cultural heritage (built, Indigenous and natural) and as custodians of numerous heritage properties and collections are in a unique position to deliver great cultural travel experiences across Australia and let travellers know through the national website. What we need to establish is how Australian National Trusts can work together to deliver and coordinate such a program.

Sue Chambers
Executive Director

Shop news

After nearly twelve years working in the shop it is the first time without Barbara at my side, and a couple of years later Margaret. All the staff and volunteers wish Barbara, Robert, Margaret and John all the best for the future, and no longer can we say that we work with the wives of John Howard and Robert Hawke. As you can see from the photos at the back of the magazine a good farewell was enjoyed by all.

BEST WISHES AND GOOD LUCK TO YOU BOTH
FROM ALL OF US AND ALSO THE FRIENDS YOU
HAVE MADE OVER THE YEARS

It is the 83rd birthday of Old Parliament House and also the 1st birthday of the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, so to celebrate we are offering ACT National Trust Members a minimum of 25% discount store wide during the month of May. To qualify just mention the shop news and show your membership card.

Visitation numbers from the beginning of this year have increased from the corresponding period last year. The French Impressionist exhibition at the National Gallery has helped immensely and we are thinking of sending them a thank you card. The entire triangle area as well

as Kingston and Manuka have benefited from the long queues and waiting time to enter.

The current contract for the operation of the shop at Old Parliament House expires in June this year and with the uncertainty of the tendering process, this may be my final 'Shop News'. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their support and friendship and the staff and volunteers who have assisted me over the past 12 years. Hopefully this will not happen and in that case I still thank you all.

At the time of going to press the future of the shop was unknown but we will keep you informed via email news.

It is with sadness we learnt of the death of Marie Hodges. Marie started as a volunteer in the shop when it first opened at Old Parliament House and resigned due to ill health a couple of years ago. Our condolences to her daughter and family.

Dianne Dowling

Just a reminder our office hours are 9.30am to 3.00pm 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.

Heritage Officer's Report

The first three months of this year have been a busy time. Our major concerns have been the proposed development of the Nishi Building, which will overlook the landscape of Lake Burley Griffin in the West Basin area, and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands electrical infrastructure development. The Wetlands development is proposing, as one of its options, to excavate a 1,400 metre long, 1.25 metre deep, 4 metre wide trench across the heritage listed area. The Trust is opposed to both developments which we consider will have detrimental impacts on the heritage values of the respective areas. As such, we, along with several other organisations and individuals, have written substantial submissions to the ACT Government expressing our concerns. We await the results.

The Heritage Committee met in early March to formulate our top places for the 2010 *Heritage at Risk* programme. *Heritage at Risk* is a national programme intended to raise awareness of heritage issues in Australia. It was set up with the assistance of other prominent heritage organisations in Australia and is managed by the National Trusts of Australia. The program is a national initiative developed from the previous *Endangered Places Program*. In addition to being hierarchical, it differs from the previous program in that moveable heritage, objects and collections, as well as places, can be nominated as at risk. The programme remains holistic and will include built, natural and indigenous cultural heritage places and objects. This year there were 11 places in the ACT assessed as High Risk, nine as Medium Risk and nine in the At Risk category – a total of 29 places. The top 11 places assessed as High Risk will be published on the *Heritage at Risk* website (www.ourheritageatrisk.org.au) in the near future. Later in the year a top 10 places across Australia will be nominated. Last year Lake Burley Griffin was selected for the top 10 national places at risk. Our nomination for the risk to the Lake read:

Inappropriate use and development, including strong pressure to allow a pedestrian/cycle bridge over West Basin which could be a precedent for further encroachment, and subsequent loss of heritage values.

Unfortunately, the Trust Heritage Committee has assessed the Lake as still being in the High Risk category for 2010 for the same reasons. But there is some good news. The National Capital Authority (NCA) has produced the *Lake Burley Griffin Heritage Assessment* to guide further development on Commonwealth land surrounding the Lake. The National Trust reviewed this document in its draft form and considers it a good start in guiding developments and future management of the Lake. The NCA is also nominating the Lake for inclusion in the Commonwealth Heritage List which will afford its heritage values further protection.

We continue to play an active role in consultation with Commonwealth and Territory Government bodies

discussing proposed projects within heritage listed areas or which may impact on a heritage listed place. We have particularly welcomed initiatives coming from the NCA and the Department of Territory and Municipal Services asking us for comment and advice on projects which are in the early planning stages.

As part of the Trust's commitment to the Centenary of Canberra, we are producing a series of self-guided walks to parts of the ACT border. The areas of the border will be selected for their ease of accessibility (a not too strenuous walk), distance from busy roads, proximity to car parking areas, and sections within public, accessible land. Walks selected so far are in the Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve (2), Dunlop, Hume area and Angle Crossing. We anticipate that two brochures will be produced, each having five or more walks, in the northern and southern areas of the ACT. Each walk will have details of how to get to a starting point, walking directions, a history of the land the walk crosses through, information on the surveying of the border, and how the border affected the land holders who held properties dissected by the border.



The railway line border near Queanbeyan. The fence line (centre) adjacent to vehicle track is the ACT/NSW border
Photo: P. Dowling 2010

Research into the archives of the Lands and Surveys Department has already revealed some interesting things about the border survey. The straight line border between Mount Coree and One Tree Hill was not as easy as it would have first appeared to the surveyor, Percy Sheaffe, as he began his task in 1910. Sheaffe found that the previous survey to fix the rural property boundaries had been inaccurate and the existing boundaries did not agree with the survey. He had to spend many days rectifying this anomaly. Sheaffe might have thought that when he reached the Yass-Queanbeyan-Cooma railway line, which was to form a section, of the north-east of the border, his job would be much easier. But when he began his survey he found

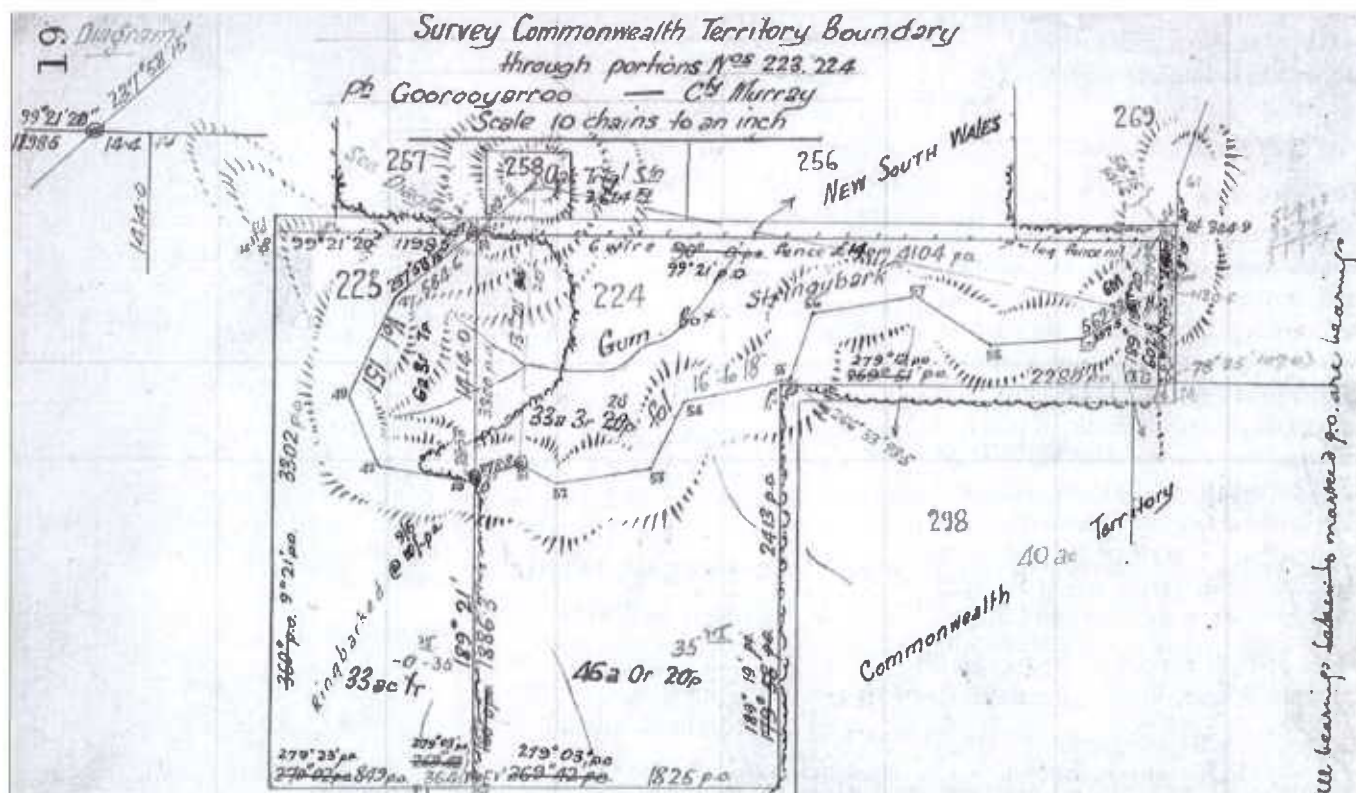
that the existing fence line which marked the rail corridor did not always comply with the survey data for the line. In some cases the fence line cut off sections of leased and private holdings and in other cases the fence line encroached on the survey portion of railway corridor giving the land holders extra sections of land. This caused a great deal of correspondence and headaches between Charles Scrivener directing the surveys and the Secretary of NSW Government Railways. Eventually both problems were rectified but only after long delays in the border survey project.



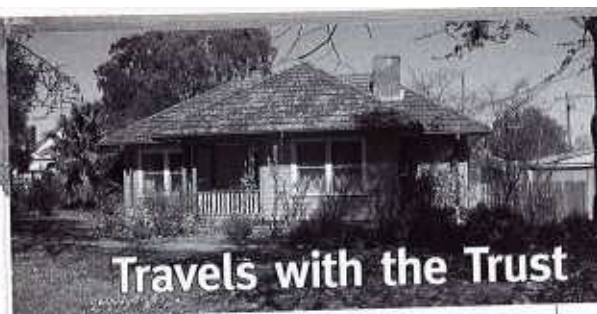
The Yass-Queanbeyan-Cooma Railway line leading into Melrose Valley, Tuggeranong. The ACT/NSW border runs parallel above the cliff line on the left. Photo P. Dowling 2010



The ACT/NSW border fence below Oak Hill at North Mulligans Nature Reserve takes a sharp turn to follow the watershed of the Molonglo River. Photo: P. Dowling 2010



Surveyed section of the ACT border below Oak Hill, 1910
ACT/NSW border survey original field books http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/tools_resources/maps_land_survey/surveying_data/surveyors_information/field_books



Travels with the Trust



Ainslie Walk

16 May 1-4pm

The pre-Canberra history and considerable character of old Ainslie, created in the 1920s and 30s to house workers building the federal capital, will be revealed to participants in this guided walk. It takes in All Saints Anglican Church, Corroboree Park, the 'artisan dwellings' which surround it, the Alt Crescent precinct for elite Federal Capital Commission staff, and Wakefield Gardens, with its attractive trees, modest cottages and shops.

The vision of the planners, who followed English garden suburb precedents, has produced neat residences in mature gardens merging into a beautiful environment enhanced by avenues of street trees and landscaped parks. The walk will conclude with afternoon tea at All Saints Ainslie Church.

Meet: All Saints Church cnr Cowper and Bonney Street, Ainslie

Cost: \$20 (members)
\$25 (non-members)

Bookings essential: 6230 0533

Hall Schoolhouse Museum

29 May 1-4pm

Professional storyteller and local Trust member Elizabeth Burness will immerse you in school life of last century. Come to the Hall School Museum - the Laurie Copping Heritage Centre, and relive your school days writing again in pen and ink and have a go at using a slate. Hall School turns 100 next year and this original one teacher bush school is set up in the style of the early 20th century. Afterwards we will enjoy afternoon tea at the Gumnut Café.

Meet at Hall School Museum, Hall Primary School, Victoria Street Hall.

Cost: \$20 (members)
\$25 (non-members)

Bookings essential: 6230 0533

Behind the Scenes Tour: Australian War Memorial Conservation Annex at Mitchell

21 July 2-3.30pm

Join us for a unique opportunity to visit the Mitchell Conservation Laboratories to see what is done with small objects, textiles, paper and large technology to restore them into good shape. John Kemister the senior conservator will guide us and asks that we don't touch relics being worked on or in storage, be careful walking around relics in laboratories and workshop, wear closed footwear, and ask lots of questions!

Meet at the Treloar Technology Centre, Cnr Vicars and Callan Streets, Mitchell at the large grey warehouse with red trim, SE corner of intersection at 1.45pm.

Cost: \$15 (members)
\$20 (non-members)

Bookings essential: 6230 0533

Restricted to 15 maximum.

Blandfordia 5

17 October 1-4pm

Enjoy a springtime viewing of one of Canberra's earliest planned town areas. Graceful streets, mature trees and significant parklands, and a distinctive architectural features of the Federal Capital Commission houses in their garden settings make this walking route attractive and of historical interest. The walk covers the middle area lying between the 'gentleman's residences' of old Red hill and the amenities of Manuka, where an afternoon coffee can end your walk. Local residents will tell the stories that bring the area to life.

Meet at the Lawns on Bougainville Street.

Cost: \$20 (members)
\$25 (non-members)

Bookings essential: 6230 0533

Anunga Bush College, Central Australia

17-23 October 2010

Come for a once in a lifetime exclusive invitation to visit the Pitjantjatjara Lands and Musgrave Ranges for a cultural experience exploring the Aboriginal songline stories of the Creation ancestors with Desert Tracks. Gain an insight into the law and culture of the Anangu people as you become students of your Anangu guides. Travel across a country mapped by the Songlines of the Creation Ancestors and learn the importance of Songlines to Anangu daily life. Your visit assists with their tourism business and this tour will contribute to their independent economic development.

This tour is designed for the adventurous National Trust members who have an interest in learning about our Indigenous culture. The tour begins from Yulara (Ayers Rock Resort) in central Australia and travel south into the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands. Accommodation is in swags under the stars with basic ablutions.

Cost: \$2,150 per person,
2 nights twin share accommodation at Ayers Rock Resort; Single Room Supplement \$490.00 per person; excludes airfares. Limited places. Swags and camping equipment provided

BYO sleeping bag or you can hire at extra cost \$33pp

Does not include: Domestic airfares and meals not included as above.

Booking Deposit: 25% - \$540 by May 30th

Bookings and details: 6230 0533



World Heritage of Italy Tour

This tour has been cancelled due to low numbers.

Note the following in your diaries.

Further information will follow shortly:

Flowers, Food and Whales

9-13 September 2010

A south coast spring treat with visits to Montague Island, Foxglove Spires, Tilba Valley Wines, Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens, a cruise on the Clyde and more.

Riverside Cemetery, Queanbeyan

31 October 1-4pm

De Salis Cemetery Walk, Tharwa

14 November 1-4pm



Report on Acton Walkways tour

18 people joined the National Trust "Acton Walkways" event from 5.30 pm on 27 February in the grounds of Old Canberra House. Kirsty Guster, a PhD student who has launched 'Acton Walkways' (www.actonwalkways.com) which is a resource for guided and self guided walks through Acton, briefed the group on her initiative which has attracted support from a range of sponsors. The ANU's Heritage officer comprehensively outlined the history of Old Canberra House on the ANU campus. The group inspected Constable's Cottage (a timber cottage built in 1913), the location of the ANU's former Lennox House, the limestone outcrop which gave Canberra its original name (Limestone Plains) and the ANU's international sculpture park. Jesse Stein, young Canberra artist, who is also a PhD student, provided a commentary on five works of art in the park. The weather was perfect as we wine and dined listening to a violin and watching the sun set over Lake Burley Griffin.

John Tucker

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A PROMISING PARTNERSHIP

The L.H. Rudd & D.E. Limburg architectural practice in Canberra during 1927 promised to contribute much to the Federal Capital, but sadly it lasted only twelve months.

David Edward Limburg had been one of over 200 subscribers when John Sulman's text book, *Town Planning in Australia*, was printed in 1921. He was, at the time, a Sydney University under-graduate student of Leslie Wilkinson, Australia's first Professor of Architecture, who had arrived from England in 1918.¹

David Edward Limburg, born in Marrickville in 1901, gained experience in Sydney working for architects on department stores such as David Jones, factories, wool stores, flats, churches and schools. Early in 1926 he graduated from the architecture degree course, and married Ena M. Grant.

Limburg joined the Federal Capital Commission (FCC) staff in Canberra, where he supervised the construction of the West Block and Hotels Kurrajong and Acton.² He assisted J. Hunter Kirkpatrick with working drawings for the Albert Hall³ and control drawings for the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings, designed by Sulman.⁴ In November that year he resigned from the FCC staff and joined Lawrance Henry Rudd in a private practice.⁵

1926 was a busy year for Canberra's Church of St John the Baptist. A new rectory was designed by Queanbeyan architect J.W. Sproule, and when construction began in March, Limburg, a member of the Parish Council, was appointed honorary supervising architect.⁶ In April, Melbourne architect Louis Williams reported that immediate action was needed to repair the church foundations, walls, arches, floor, gallery and roof. The Rector appealed to Australia at large to raise the £1500 required, and reported in November that "Mr David E. Limburg, a Canberra architect, has commenced the restoration".⁷ Limburg was so dedicated to this important undertaking that the work was completed by April 1927.⁸

Limburg became much involved in the Canberra community and in June 1927 he helped architect and artist Henry Rolland convene a meeting at the Albert Hall to inaugurate an art society. Although the society was steered by others into becoming the Canberra Society for Arts and Literature, Limburg later succeeded in forming the Canberra Society of Artists.⁹ *Canberra Times* reported "A vote of thanks was accorded Messrs Rolland and Limburg for services rendered in their respective capacities of acting president and acting secretary during the initial stages of the society.



St Gabriel's Church of England Girls' Grammar School under construction in 1927.
(Source: National Archives of Australia: A3560, 3701)



Front entrance 2010 Photo: Ken Charlton

Mr. Broinowski, in proposing the vote of thanks, referred to Mr. Limburg's untiring zeal and enthusiasm in launching the society. He had performed a great work which would never be forgotten." ¹⁰

While Limburg was working for the FCC, Lawrance Rudd commenced a busy architectural practice in Canberra in mid-1926. The first house Rudd designed, in the Mediterranean style similar to the first FCC houses, was his own, which survives at 5 Tennyson Crescent, Forrest. ¹¹ Then followed a house for Mrs G.L. Hudson, at 23 Mugga Way, Red Hill and another for Dr Blackall – the first residence on Northbourne Avenue, Civic. ¹² His commercial work included the T.J. Sheekey Ltd Cordial Factory in Mort Street, Braddon. ¹³ He was the architect for more than half of the Manuka shopping centre, where Sulman had designed a layout of alternating shops and modest residences. ¹⁴ He sought a partner to cope with the pressure of work, and who better than David Limburg?

When the Sisters of the Church of England required an architect to design a new boarding school for St Gabriel's Girls School, they turned to David Limburg, who they knew from his work at St John's. His practice with Rudd started well in November 1926 with this as their major project. The Sisters had opened the

school in the old parsonage of St John's, known as Glebe House, in Reid in May 1926, but that building was inadequate for their needs. By 17 February 1927, when tenders for the construction of its first stage were invited, the new school building had been designed to the satisfaction of the Sisters. Drawings had been forwarded to England for approval and to gain interest in the project. There, the drawings were highly commended.

The block chosen for the school, on the northern slope of Red Hill, was described in the press as "magnificent" and a "commanding one of ten acres at Blandfordia, on the western side of Melbourne Avenue at the intersection of Southland Circuit. Well wooded with fine gum trees on it, it forms an ideal location for a school of this kind". The accepted tender from Mr. F.J. McCarthy was for £10,500 and this first stage of the school, with two classrooms, was completed for its dedication on 10 September 1927. ¹⁵

Much building activity was happening in Canberra in 1927. The city was becoming a reality. Parliament House was opened in May and many associated government projects were underway. Private building activity complemented those projects, and St Gabriel's was the first of three church schools planned for the



David Edward Limburg
(1901-1973)

national capital at that time. Even before its construction, the press reported:

"The design of the structure is a modified Tudor, with flat pointed arched openings to the main entrance and pupils entrance, with half timbered work to the first floor typical of the buildings of that period, and symbolising the purpose of the building in a remarkable way".

The report added that the first stage "is the nucleus of the main

school, which when complete will form an "E" type of plan, with the arms of the E forming junior and senior quadrangles... Neither pains nor expense have been spared in the selection of the best site obtainable, and the design and equipment of a school designed according to the best modern practice and hygiene, and presenting a feeling of repose very reminiscent of the many old Tudor and Elizabethan mansions to be found throughout England. The architects Messrs. L.H. Rudd and D.E. Limburg, are to be congratulated on the results achieved in their design".¹⁶

The school was the first Canberra building in a style popularised in England by Richard Norman Shaw in the late nineteenth century. The style has been identified more recently, with the benefit of hindsight, as Inter-War Old English, and was often favoured by *nouveaux riches* in the 1930s for residences throughout Australia.¹⁷ Although more progressive architects were then pioneering modern architecture by following Art Deco and Functionalist styles, the architectural quality of Rudd and Limburg's design has much to commend it. The ground floor has red face-brick walls enclosing classrooms arranged symmetrically about the entrance leading to a small hall with galleries around all four sides, and a fireplace. The half-timbered first floor of dormitories has a prominent central gable over the projecting entrance hall and an attic floor with dormers in the terracotta-tiled roof. There are some lancet windows, but most are groups of three small-paned casements, some being oriels in the splayed corner gables. Tall brick chimneys complete the effect.

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Conservation Studies is a Canberra Architectural Historian.

The Rudd and Limburg story continues in our next issue...

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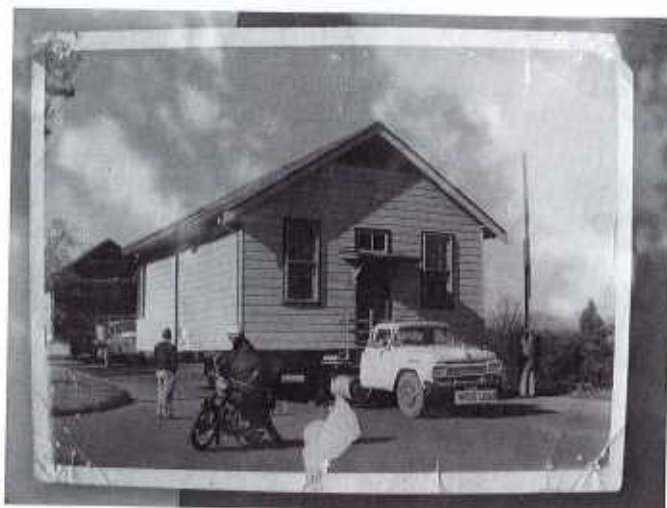
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13th Canberra Scout Group Hall



The members of 13th Canberra Scout Group meet in a wooden building at the corner of Hovea Street and Boronia Drive, O'Connor. Although there have been some additions and minor renovations, the building is largely unchanged and is one of only three timber community halls remaining in the ACT.

The uniqueness of the building is not its only claim to heritage significance. It commenced its service to the community in the 1920's as a Mess Hall for the construction workers of Old Parliament House and later became the meeting place for the United Friendly Society. In 1959 the building was relocated from Kingston to O'Connor where it was rededicated as a Scout hall.

In 2009 Eric Martin and Associates completed a conservation plan for the building and in March 2010 it was provisionally listed as having heritage significance.

Features of the building that contribute towards the heritage significance of the place which require conservation include:

- The timber hall building; and
- The use of the building for community activity.

The present caretakers of the building, the members of Scout Group who recently celebrated their 50 year anniversary, also have an interesting history. They are the last of the numbered Scout Groups in the ACT. When Scouting first officially started in the ACT in 1925, groups

were given numbered names rather than suburb or landmark titles. The odd numbers were allocated to the north side and even numbers to the south side.

Today the Group has in excess of 50 members and runs developmental Scouting programs for boys and girls aged 7 ½ - 17 years and its meeting place continues to be a focal point for the local community.

ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope, a former member of the Group and the current Treasurer Mr Alois Mikula (a foundation member) are two of the many adults who have have greatly contributed to the effectiveness of the Group to deliver the Scout program.

The provisional listing of the building as having heritage significance recognises not only the uniqueness of the physical structure but also the positive impact that it has



had in the Canberra community over several generations.

With a history as a meeting place to eat, discuss ideas, learn and play, the building has and continues to be a significant asset to the local community.

Peter Harris OAM

Scout Association of Australia
ACT Branch

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Theatre Organs



Photo: Trevor Bunning

The Albert Hall is a well known Canberra icon, but did you know that it houses a Theatre Pipe Organ? The organ comprises a gleaming white console, where one executant can sit and perform, generating music from several sets of pipes located in shuttered chambers on either side at the rear of the stage, and winded by a large electric blower in the basement.

Theatres have been venues for musical performance for a very long time. However, in the early twentieth century, a new development occurred. Electronic motion pictures appeared, initially in black and white with no accompanying sound. Some form of musical background was necessary, and in addition, most cinemas provided a live segment as part of each performance, requiring music. Sometimes, a sole pianist was engaged, but larger venues often employed live orchestras as well. Subsequently, the potential of using an organ was realised. Initially, instruments similar to those in churches were used, but progressively, a more distinctive technology and features were adopted for theatres. Many of the innovations were the work of an Englishman, Robert Hope-Jones in collaboration with Rudolph Wurlitzer of New York State, USA, and their efforts brought the theatre organ to its zenith. In England, the John Compton Organ Company built both theatre and church organs, as did another firm, Hill, Norman and Beard. The Hill family is renowned for its imposing organs in the Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide town halls.

The individual sets of pipes in an organ provide distinctive sounds, similar to the different instruments of an orchestra. A number of percussion and other effects were usually included in theatre organs, such as castanets, drums, fog horn, fire siren, bird whistles, etc. to enhance

the silent film accompaniment. In Australia, several cinemas in all state capital cities employed theatre organs for varying periods from the 1910's onwards. However, smaller establishments used lesser devices such as a Photoplayer, which consisted of a few sets of pipes together with a piano or reeds to provide an imitation "one-man" orchestra.

The Theatre Organ in the Albert Hall was built by the Compton Company, and originally installed in March 1933 for the opening of the Gaumont Palace (later re-named the Odeon Theatre) in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, UK. The organ had 602 pipes in eight sets, including a diapason (the distinctive organ sound), together with orchestral imitations comprising, tibia, flute, violin, celeste, krummet, vox humana and tuba. The organ has three manual keyboards and also a pedal keyboard, played by the organists' feet. In addition, four sets of tonal percussions were originally provided, namely vibraphone, glockenspeil, xylophone and chimes, plus drums, cymbals and other special effects.

The opening performance on the organ was played by the acclaimed theatre organist of the day, Frederick Bayco. The organ remained in continuous use in the theatre until 1968 when it was removed for shipping to Australia, being the first Compton theatre pipe organ to be "exported" from the UK. It was originally bought by a commercial concern which owned the Dendy Theatre in Brighton, Melbourne. However, a change in plans caused the Compton to be offered for sale in 1977 and a Canberra consortium successfully negotiated the purchase. Shortly after, it was offered to the Theatre Organ Society of Australia, ACT Division (TOSA ACT)



Photo: Trevor Bunning

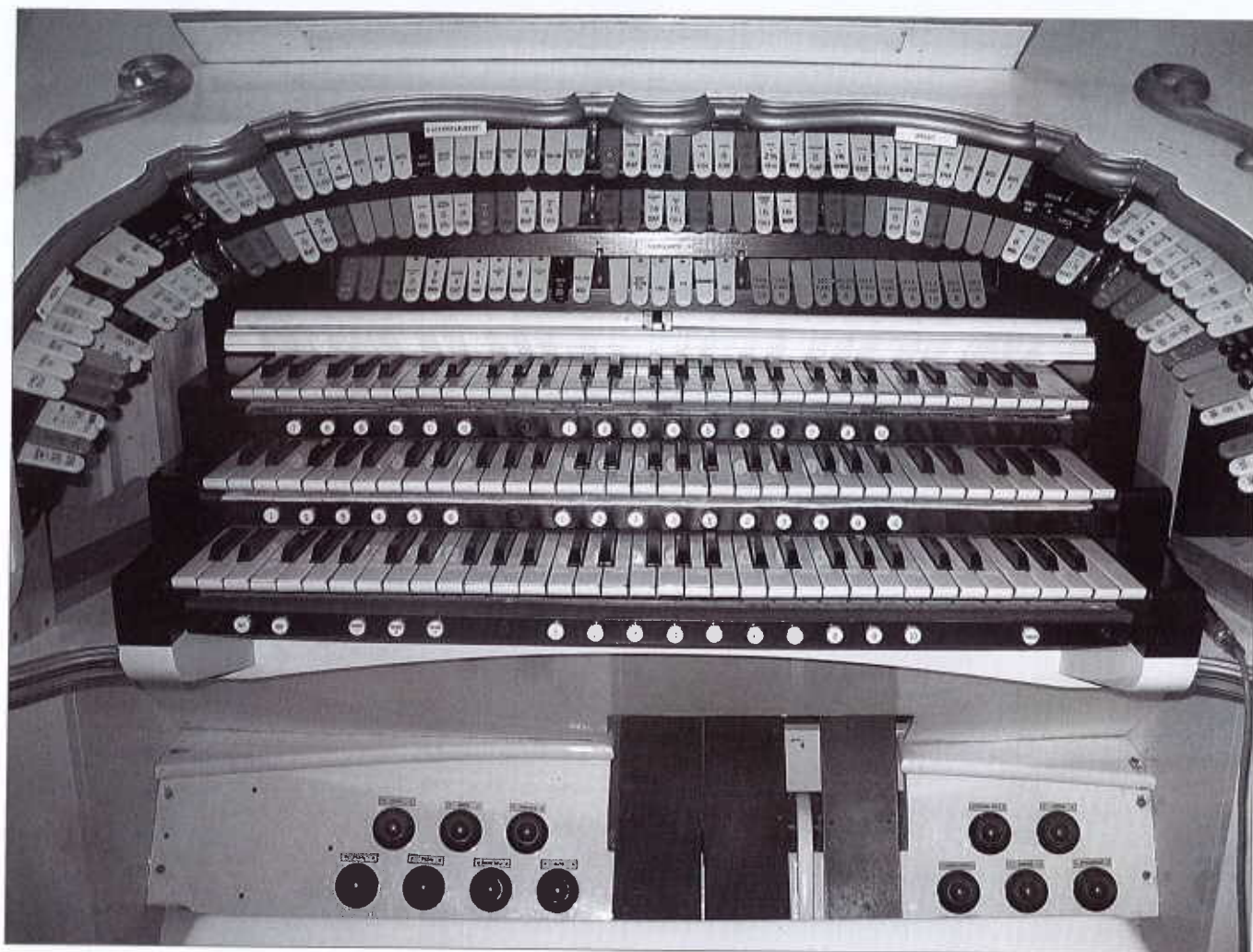


Photo: Trevor Bunning

and in October 1978 the Compton fell into the enthusiastic hands of the TOSA ACT restoration team.

The poor condition of the organ presented the restoration team with a daunting task but after thousands of man hours spent re-leathering, rewiring, mending, manufacturing, modifying and repainting, the organ was heard for the first time in the Albert Hall on Thursday, 7th November 1985. The inaugural concert on 17th August 1986 was performed by Tony Fenelon, a renowned Melbourne Theatre Organist and TOSA ACT's patron. The organ has subsequently been used for recitals, silent film screenings, and to provide background music for activities in the hall. Further upgrading was undertaken in time for the Albert Hall's 82nd birthday celebrations on 10 March 2010.

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'What's it Worth' Day

Sunday 1st August - Albert Hall.

Do you have an heirloom or other item at home and you're curious about its value? Well, commit Sunday 1st August 2010 to your diary.

Following on from the success of the inaugural event last year, 'What's it Worth', Canberra's very own Antique Road Show (and more), will be on again at the Albert Hall thanks to the Rotary Club of Canberra and the National Trust of Australia (ACT).

Organisers are promising an ever bigger and better 'What's it Worth Day' with a large contingent of local and interstate valuers on hand to provide estimates for a whole host of categories.

These include Antiques / Fine Art, Australian Art, Pottery, Banknotes and Coins, Gems, Jewellery, Porcelain, Stamps and Toys / Collectables with even more categories to be announced in the coming months.

According to the organising committee's chairman, Bruce Mackay "If you can carry it we'll try to value it".

The popularity of last year's event surprised even the organising committee which is why Rotary was delighted to forge a partnership with the National Trust of Australia (ACT) in helping to coordinate the event.

"Clearly the National Trust (ACT) has resources and expertise that are highly compatible with staging this type of event and we are really excited about the opportunities that this partnership is going to create. We are also delighted that The Canberra Times has again agreed to support us as principal sponsor" said Mr Mackay.

For more information about What's it Worth 2010 email: whatsitworth@emailme.com.au

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