



NATIONAL TRUST

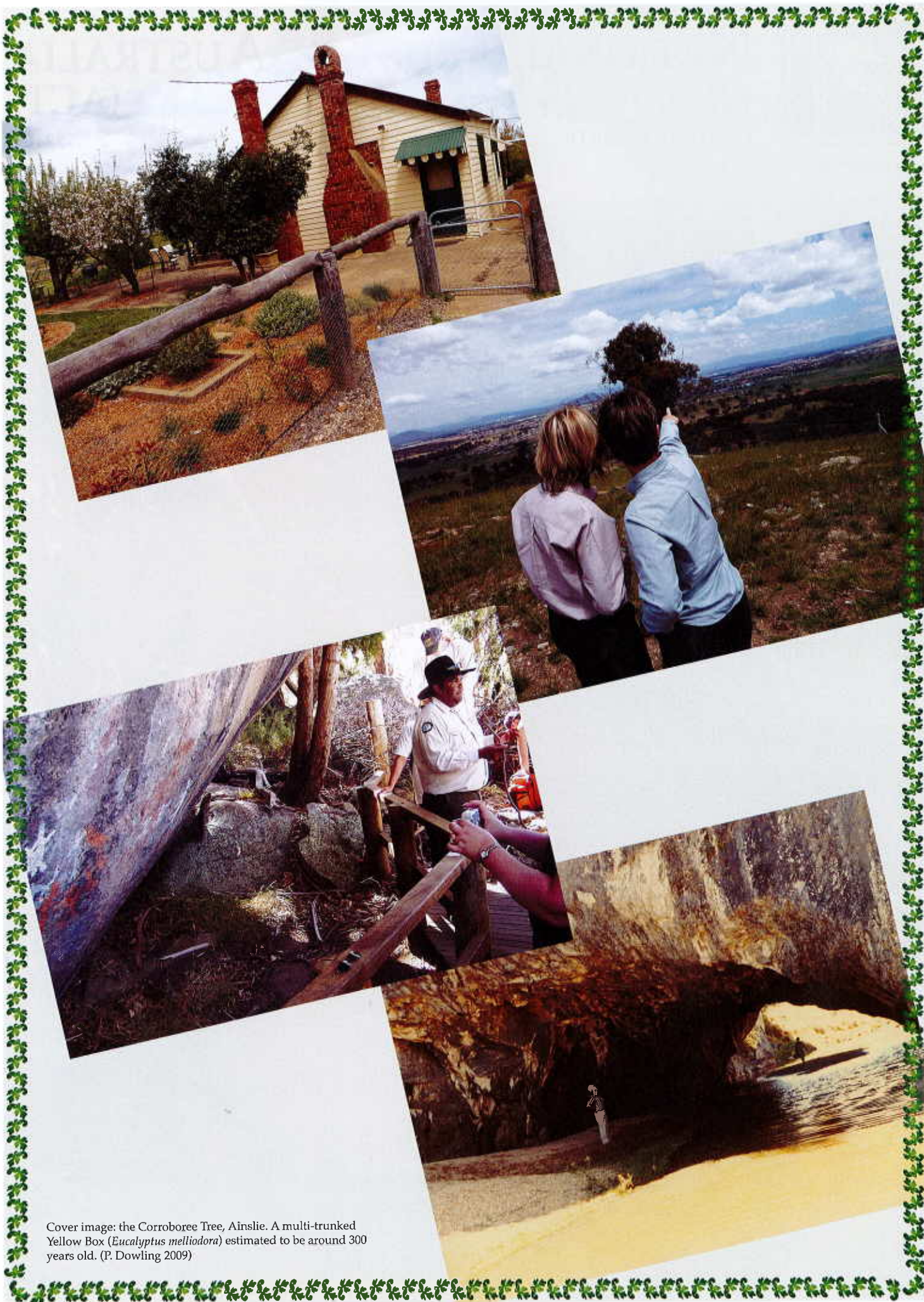
NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA

Heritage in Trust

JANUARY 2010

\$2.00





Cover image: the Corroboree Tree, Ainslie. A multi-trunked Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) estimated to be around 300 years old. (P. Dowling 2009)

Canberra & Region Heritage Festival

10 – 24 APRIL 2010

National Trust (ACT) Events

Heritage at Risk Bus Tour

10 April 1pm–4pm

Each year the National Trust identifies heritage places they consider most at risk of deterioration, destruction or inappropriate development. This tour will visit some of the places on the 2009 Heritage at Risk list and discuss the issues involved in each place. Places will include Lake Burley Griffin, Yarralumla Brickworks, Lewis Houses at ANU, 'The Valley' ruin in Gungahlin and the Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop ruin.

The tour will start and finish at the front Old Parliament House.

\$30 members / \$35 Non members

Bookings essential 6230 0533

Reid Garden Suburb: A Heritage Journey

10th April 2.00–4.30 pm

The National Trust, in collaboration with the Reid Residents' Association Inc, will conduct a leisurely guided walk around Reid. The walk will cover a total distance of about 5km (with

frequent stops) including the old Canberra railway line easement and a brief tour of the St John's Church precinct. Reid has been described as one of Australia's finest suburbs of the 1920s and 30s, and the area demonstrates influences of the English garden city movement. The limited range of houses, designed specifically for Canberra, established the architectural character of the area. Afternoon tea will be provided by the Reid Preschool Parents Association at the conclusion of the walk. A good pair of walking shoes, water and a hat will be required.

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

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

Bookings essential 6230 0533.

Yankee Hat Walk

11 April 10.30am–2.30pm

Rock art is a rarity in this part of Australia, however Namadgi National Park boasts up to 4 sites. Come and see the Yankee Hat Rock Shelter a most significant site for Aboriginal artwork. Some of the Yankee Hat figures painted on the granite rock wall represent identifiable animals present in the area today, but there are other more abstract and human-like figures. Radio-carbon dating of cultural deposits has shown that Aboriginal people occupied the rock shelter 800 years ago or longer.

Bring your lunch with you and listen to expert interpretations by locals working on the Rock art conservation project funded by the ACT Government.

Meet in the Namadgi Park Visitors Centre, Naas Road, Tharwa for an introduction—then drive in convoy to Yankee Hat.

\$20 members / \$25 non members

Bookings essential 6230 0533

Lake Cruises

Wednesdays

14 & 21 April 11am–2pm

All Aboard for a delightful cruise on Lake Burley Griffin. View Canberra's icons and nature from the lake on this fun family school holiday event. Shirley Pipitone, will guide take us on a journey around the lake, mooring on Springbank Island for a picnic lunch.

Departure from Questacon jetty. BYO picnic.

\$20 Members / \$25 Non members. Check office for children / family costs.

Bookings essential 6230 0533

Elm Grove

17 April 10.30am–3pm

Come and enjoy plenty of activity at this newly heritage listed rural property. Owner Paul Carmody has opened the property up for your enjoyment. There will be storytelling, the Monaro Bush Dancers, sheep shearing demonstration, garden tour by Mark Carmody, a walk up Oak Hill for a magnificent view of Canberra and have a peek at an original border marker on the ACT boundary. There will be Devonshire teas and a sausage sizzle and more.

Tour of Lindsay Pryor & International Arboreta

18 April 11am–3pm

Trees are essential to Canberra's landscape history. Celebrate the visions of today and yesterday. We will start at Canberra's International Arboretum and see the plans and plantings for a forest of trees from many countries. Then we will visit the Lindsay Pryor Arboretum on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin. There we will see the plantings supervised by Lindsay Pryor in the 1950s who monitored which species were suitable for planting in Canberra. Many trees were destroyed in fires earlier this decade. Gary Rake and others will explain the current plans for the Arboretum's revitalization.

Contact the office for directions of the meeting point.

\$20 Members / \$25 Non members

Bookings essential 6230 0533

Geology & Archaeology & History at London Bridge

24 April 12noon–3pm

London Bridge geological site is a naturally eroded limestone arch on Burra Creek, NSW and the London Bridge Homestead was established in 1870 with progressive additions up to the 1890s. Both are classified by the ACT National Trust. Come along and enjoy a sausage sizzle in the London Bridge Car Park car park and reserve before heading off to walk to the geological site of London Bridge with the option of visiting the homestead on the way back to the car park. The tour will be conducted by Trust members qualified in geology, history and archaeology and is in partnership with the Canberra Archaeological Society.

Meet at the London Bridge car park. Directions available from the office.

\$20 Members / \$25 Non members

Bookings essential 6230 0533

Using Brochures and Signage to highlight our unique Heritage

Highlighting the unique value of our Garden City and other Heritage Precincts to locals and visitors to Canberra is the aim of a collaboration between the National Trust and ACT Heritage.

A suite of brochures is available from the Trust's shop at Old Parliament House, our office, our website www.nationaltrustact.org.au and The Canberra & Region Visitors Centre. These brochures have been updated, rewritten or created from scratch, as is the case with Ainslie.

New signage, similar to the Trust's sign at Reid - the result of an ACT Government Heritage Grant, will be installed at Barton, Forrest, Griffith, Kingston, Braddon, Reid, Commonwealth Park and Ainslie in 2010. The signs, to be erected in 2010, have illuminating images sourced from the ACT Heritage Library, the National Library and the National Archives. Consultation and input from residents has resulted in signs that celebrate these heritage precincts. The accompanying National Trust brochures will direct peoples' route and provide further information, thanks to the work of Ken Charlton, Dr Peter Dowling and Dr Margaret Park.

So why all this attention? The underlying element in many of the brochures is 'garden city' and 'city beautiful' planning principles. As the nation's capital was forming in the early 20th century these movements were beginning to affect town planning across the world. Initiated by an English urban planner, Ebenezer Howard in 1898, the philosophy was to create healthy working and living environments. Fundamental was the notion of specific zones of land for specific purposes,



including a hierarchy of roads, from major tree-lined boulevards and avenues to narrower residential streets.

Canberra's early planning was influenced by both these movements, with the early siting, design and development featuring mass planting, open parks and spaces, and a carefully considered street layout.

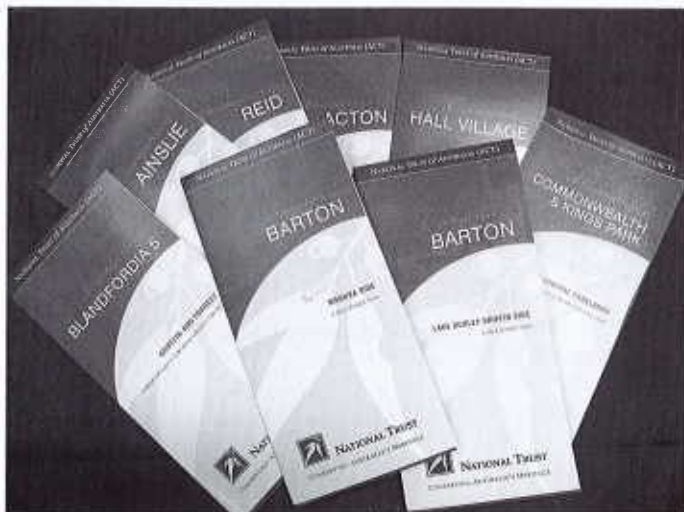
Also carefully considered at that time was the deliberate omission of water tanks in the young capital. Being designed from its outset as a town with electricity, such a modern town was not going to have old fashioned water tanks, which were equated then with mosquitoes and disease. How times have changed! Today, ACT Heritage responds to many requests for advice from homeowners in these precincts on installing water tanks without compromising the heritage values.

The Canberra Tracks brochure (included with this issue) complements the National Trust brochures by bringing heritage to the fore. The four self-drive heritage trails aim to enhance the ACT and Queanbeyan visitation experience by linking existing sites by theme.

Advertised on the Tours Page are the first of a series of walks through these precincts and others featured in the new set of brochures. Come along to Acton in February, Barton in March, and to others through the year. We guarantee that even long-time residents will discover something new.

Linda Roberts

The following Heritage Walking Tours Brochures are available: Acton, Ainslie, Barton (Lake Burley Griffin Side), Barton (Manuka Side), Belconnen (around Lake Ginninderra), Belconnen, Blandfordia 5 (Griffith and Forrest), Gungahlin North, Gungahlin South, Hall Village, Hall (Bicycle Tour), Military Heritage, Reid, Tuggeranong (Through the Valley), Tuggeranong (Tharwa & Lanyon), Yarralumla 1, Yarralumla 2.



I welcome new members of Council Di Johnstone and Scott McAlister. Di comes with a very active and successful campaign for Albert Hall under her belt and Scott, who has an accounting and financial background, has taken on the role of Treasurer.

Many thanks are extended to former Treasurer Arthur Pathmaperuma who has resigned for business reasons. My appreciations are also extended to Colin Griffiths who nominated for Council but was not elected: that we needed an election is a sign of healthy interest in the Trust.

2010 will be a very challenging year for the Trust, from both a business and financial perspective. The partnership program through the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, which has been the backbone of our grant money for some years, is becoming very focused on specific projects, so we must ensure that our other income streams cover administrative costs.

The other major issue is the Trust shop contract at Old Parliament House which ends in June 2010. The opportunity to continue will be through a new tender process. Over the past eighteen months, following the departure of the National Portrait Gallery, visitation numbers have been down, and this has lowered our income.

The issues outlined above will be discussed by Council. The decisions made will inform the proposed business plan to take the Trust forward in these changing and challenging financial circumstances.

The Trust congratulates Elizabeth Kennedy and Alan Kerr, joint winners of the 2009 Volunteer of the Year award. Both have been organising the Council minutes and records, which date back to the 1970s, to make information easily available. They have also been sorting, reviewing and refileing the Trust's 30 years of classified place records, to create an easily accessible, more effective research and reference tool.

Heritage at Risk for 2010 is being initiated early in 2010, and the Trust welcomes nominations. This is an opportunity for our members to bring to our attention heritage places that may not be adequately protected, or are under some threat. It is primarily an awareness program, but one that has been effective in the past in raising issues and triggering action. We look forward to receiving nominations.

Eric J. Martin, AM
President

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

New members and renewal payments can be made online, by post, telephone or in person at our city office or the Old Parliament House Shop.

Cash, cheque and all major credit cards are accepted. Membership renewal reminders are generated one month before the anniversary of due dates.

The National Trust of Australia (ACT) is a non-profit, community-based organisation that aims to preserve Australia's heritage for future generations. Membership of the National Trust offers a number of benefits.

Among them are:

- Free entry to National Trust properties around the world
- Complimentary copy of National Trust magazine(s) quarterly
- Discount of up to 15% at National Trust Shops
- An opportunity to participate in travel organised by the Trust
- Access to the National Trust's special events and activities
- An opportunity to help the Trust protect your local & cultural heritage

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:

Shaun Andrews	Dianne Lantry
Pauline Avis	Scott McAlister
John Besemeres	Gillian McFeat Lin
Tom and Mayanne Boom	Liz McMillan
Kath Boyd	Paula Meiklejohn
Margaret Bradshaw	Dennis Oram
Sally Brockwell	Pam Quick
Lorraine Buckley	Alla Reynolds
Sandra Chambers	Emily Ridge
Frances Corcoran	Paula Robb
Peter Duffy	Tanya and Mark
Anne Faris	Rutherford
Miles Farwell	Margaret and Norman
Marilyn Folger	Schroeder
Mavis Gardiner	Kathleen Sinclair
Barbara Hawke	Richard Snashall
Ken and Mary Horsham	Elizabeth Westlake
Scott Jenkinson	Jane Williams

Correction

In the last issue (Spring) of *Heritage in Trust* we published some photos of the excavation at Crinigan's Hut. The photos were incorrectly credited to the Canberra Archaeological Society. In fact the photos were supplied by the Marilyn Folger and the Crinnigan families.

Dianne Dowling

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



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Message from the Executive Director

Our two end of year functions – the Christmas Get-Together at Huntly and the Volunteers Lunch – were great successes. Some intrepid members gathered in John Gale's beautiful Huntly garden (umbrellas in hand), and 38 members who had volunteered in the past 12 months gathered for lunch at Mugga Mugga. It was great to celebrate the year's achievements and enjoy the company of our members. Thank you to the Promotions Committee members who organized the two events.

We are now planning events and tours for 2010. We have 15 self-guided tour brochures available in hard copy, free from the Trust Office, Shop, Canberra Visitors Centre, and on our website. The brochures range from walking tours of heritage precincts to self-drive tours. The ACT Heritage Unit have supported the updating and reprinting of seven of the brochures and commissioned the development of two new ones: Ainslie and Commonwealth Park. Linda Roberts' article in this issue provides more information.

Our tour program for 2010 includes guided tours of some of the walks, including Acton, Barton and Ainslie. We are planning several tours and events in the 2010 Heritage Festival (10 to 24th April), including a Heritage at Risk bus tour, lake cruises, an Elm Grove day, Yankee Hat Walk, International and Lindsay Pryor Arboretum tours and a London Bridge tour. Other planned tours are the Lake Mungo tour in March and a tour of Italy's World Heritage sites during September. Looking ahead, we are planning to provide a more extensive National Trust Australian Heritage tours program as part of a national initiative for all National Trusts in Australia. The tours will focus on historic, natural and Indigenous heritage across Australia, and be of interest to Australian

and overseas members and others keen to experience heritage-focused Australian tours.

Our Jobs Fund projects are being actively pursued: the restoration of pews at St John's Church is well on the way to completion; the Redemption Window at St Andrew's Church is being transported to Queensland for restoration; at All Saints Church the guttering work is ready to begin and the restoration of part of the Sheffield Window is in train. Conservation work on graves and installing markers on unmarked graves at St John's Church is proceeding. The Trust is pleased to support all of these projects as part of our objective to protect Canberra's heritage. The Trust supports Annual Conservation Appeals at these three churches, and is interested in hearing from organisations that manage other heritage sites that could benefit from National Trust support.

Thank you to all who completed the Members Survey. The results are being analysed by our Communications Committee and will be invaluable in planning activities for 2010. Congratulations to John and Esther Tucker the winners of the Survey Competition.

Following the note about Lanyon items in the last edition, the Council has decided to sell some antique items that are surplus to our needs by silent auction to members. More details will be sent to members.

Our next Members Evening will be on February 17th at the Exhibition Centre, Regatta Point. Gary Rake, CEO of the NCA, will speak on "NCA and Heritage".

We wish all members and their families seasons greetings for 2010.

Sue Chambers
Executive Director

Shop news

After more than ten years each of faithful and friendly service to the shop and the National Trust, both Barbara Hawke and Margaret Howard have resigned.

Barbara will be retiring here in Canberra where all their family resides and when they need a break, from the cold weather, they will travel up the coast to Lennox Heads.

Margaret will be retiring down the coast at Berri, where they have a unit waiting.

Both Barbara and Margaret have been connected with the shop since I began, Barbara as a weekend casual and Margaret was down at Lanyon. There is nothing I can say about the loyalty, support and friendship we have received from these two ladies whom I have often referred to as my right hands.

I am sure that all our customers join us in wishing them all the best and hope they will continue to call in when in town.

Congratulations to John and Esther Tucker of Reid who won the competition connected to the recent Members survey by the National Trust. John and Ester were the recipients of a \$100 gift voucher to spend in the shop.

Visitation to the shop has improved slightly during the past six months but we still have a lot of catching up to do after the financial crisis at the beginning of 2009.

Our current contract finishes in June this year and we will work with Council in the tender review for the new contract.

All of us hope everyone had a safe end to 2009 and wish all a prosperous 2010.

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.



Canberra's Trees

You will all be aware of the tree management programmes which have been announced by the ACT Government for trees on ACT land, and by the National Capital Authority for trees on Commonwealth land. Many of the trees we see around our city are dead, are dying or are suffering. This is a result of several factors. Many have reached an age where they can no longer survive in an urban environment, in particular many of the exotic trees planted in the 1920s and 1930s. The extended drought has also been a factor in some cases where we see healthy trees, both native and exotic, dying or showing signs of stress. The National Trust is aware of this problem, and the need for the relevant authorities to monitor the health of urban trees and develop a management strategy that will ensure our city retains its verdant character. We have been attending public consultation meetings regarding proposed removal and management programmes, commenting and assisting with advice, particularly where individual trees are historically significant and where trees are in heritage areas such as the Parliamentary Triangle.

The 'Corroboree Tree' located in Corroboree Park, Ainslie, is causing local residents some concern. This tree, a multi-trunked Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) forms a centrepiece for the park. It acquired its name due to the observations, in about 1880, of a group of Aboriginal people gathered around an elder sitting beneath the tree. The tree was often referred to locally as the 'Corroboree Tree' and when the suburb of Ainslie was planned, the park took its name from the tree. Its age has been estimated at around 200 to 300 years. Recently the tree has begun to show signs of stress, probably related to the drought and its age. Nearby residents have expressed concerns over the health of the tree and have asked the ACT Government to take action to mitigate the circumstances causing the stress to the tree. There is, however, no intention to remove this tree from the park.

Another tree in the park, a manna gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), thought to be the tallest in the ACT, is in a much poorer state. A large branch fell from this tree recently, and following examination, was found to have a substantial amount of internal rot. Little Falcons birds (also known as Australian Hobby) and Gang Gang Cockatoos are using the tree for nesting. The Little Falcons are uncommon visitors to the ACT and do not often breed in this area. In the week leading up to Christmas 2009 this tree was lopped of all its branches leaving just the main trunk standing stark to express its former magnificence.



Peter Dowling

*The recently lopped Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), once the tallest tree in the Canberra area.*

(P. Dowling 2009)

Book Review: *A Federation in These Seas*

By Alan Kerr. Published by Attorney-General's Department, 2009, Robert Garran Offices, National Circuit, Barton, ACT 2600

A Federation in These Seas is a detailed account of Australia's acquisition of external territories, commencing pre-federation. It explores the means by which Australia acquired the territories of Papua, New Guinea, Norfolk Island, Nauru, Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Antarctica, Heard and McDonald Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and the Coral Sea Islands.

Kerr notes, importantly, that the British *Commonwealth of Australia, Constitution Act 1900* repealed The Federal Council of Australia Act. The Federal Council's authority for relations with the islands of the Pacific was re-enacted in the Constitution, giving the newly formed Commonwealth of Australia the same power.

In Chapter 3, Kerr explains the history of Papua and New Guinea – the unilateral action by the State of Queensland which failed, and the subsequent annexation by Britain. It was not until 1905 that the *Papua Act 1905* was passed.

In respect of New Guinea (Chapters 4 & 5) under the United Nations mandate, Australia developed New Guinea socially, economically and politically under a separate administration from Papua until World War II.

During and following World War II, New Guinea was administered jointly with Papua. On 16 September 1975 Papua New Guinea became an independent nation.

Chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9 deal with the acquisition of Norfolk Island, Nauru, Ashmore, Cartier Islands and Antarctica. At the end of each chapter the relevant constituent documents are set out in facsimile impressions. Chapters 10 and 11 deal with the acquisition of Heard and McDonald Islands and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The transfer of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands from the United Kingdom to Australia was announced in June 1951. Difficulties over the precise legal mechanism to give effect to the transfer saw the transfer finally occur in November 1955. The delay was caused by political sensitivities, difficulties with Australian citizenship of the local residents and the interests of the Clunies-Ross family.

Christmas Island occupies 135 square kilometres in the Indian Ocean, 2650 kilometres north-west of Perth. It was annexed by Britain in 1888, and administered as part of the colony of Singapore for a number of years, before sovereignty was transferred to Australia in 1958. The *Christmas Island Act 1958* came into operation on 1st October 1958. It is interesting to note Kerr's report at page 324:

Difficulties with Lim's colleagues delayed any public announcement for several months. Those difficulties were not eased by press misreporting of remarks by Professor Mark Oliphant, who was interviewed when passing through Singapore late in March. He was asked about possible British atomic tests on Christmas Island (meaning the British territory of Christmas Island in the Pacific Ocean) and said that radioactive fallout would certainly

scatter over many neighbouring regions. This was reported in the Singapore press as threatening Singapore, after the reporter assumed that it was Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean which was involved. The External Affairs Department sent a cable to the Australian High Commission in London, suggesting a sentence for inclusion in Minister Casey's proposed statement to make it clear that Christmas Island, Indian Ocean, should not be confused with Christmas Island, Pacific Ocean.

The delay also raised again the question of detachment from Singapore before transfer, and Lim had to persuade his Singapore colleagues on this aspect.

However in a "Confidential" note dated 26 September 1958 from the United Kingdom High Commissioner, Lord Carrington, to the Prime Minister of Australia, Robert Menzies, in relation to "Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean" the following paragraph appears:

(b) The Australian Government agrees that if the United Kingdom Government so request, the Island might be used for weapon testing on a basis to be agreed between the two Governments, having due regard for safety and any special considerations which may arise.

By letter dated 30 September 1958 from the Prime Minister of Australia, Robert Menzies, to the United Kingdom High Commissioner, Lord Carrington, the Prime Minister noted as follows:

(b) The Australian Government agrees that if the United Kingdom Government so request the Island [Christmas Island] might be used for weapon testing on a basis to be agreed between the two Governments, having due regard for safety and any special considerations which may arise;

(c) If the United Kingdom Government so request, the Government of Australia will consult with them should a proposal be put forward at any time for the establishment on the Island of a United Nations Control Post. This proposal might be made if Christmas Island were to become an essential adjunct of the Woomera Range.

It is clear, however, that the reporter was correct in assuming it was the intention of the United Kingdom and Australia that Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean could be used for weapons testing.

Chapter 13 deals with Coral Seas Island Territory, and Chapter 14 is a useful summary of the legal steps in the acquisition of the Australian territories.

A Federation in these Seas makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the legal/political status of the acquisition of Australia's external territories. Alan Kerr is to be congratulated for tackling such a challenging subject and presenting such a thoughtful and well-documented treatise.

Alan was a valued member of the ACT Council of the National Trust and continues to his support for the Trust through exemplary volunteer service.

Peter Lundy
Canberra 2009

World Heritage of Italy Tour

Departing 19 September 2010
28 Days



This tour will experience the long history and archaeology of Italy by concentrating on many of the

UNESCO listed World Heritage places.

Rome 4 nights, Sorrento 4 nights, Palermo 3 nights, Agrigento 2 nights, Syracuse 3 nights, Alborabello 2 nights, Florence 5 nights, Venice 2 nights, Lakes area 3 nights.

Beginning in Rome the tour will take in the famous sites of the capital city including the Coliseum, Roman Forum, Vatican City and St Peters Basilica. From Rome we will make our way south to Sicily stopping to explore Pompeii and Herculaneum and drive along the world famous Amalfi coast. After Sicily we will make our way back to the mainland and travel slowly north stopping to experience the sites of Alberobello, Assisi, Venice, Pisa, Florence, Sienna and the northern lakes area. While in the north we will visit the Valcamonica Cave art in the Alps. Dating back to the Palaeolithic (5,000 years ago) there are depictions of animals and humans. The tour will finish in Milan.

Cost: \$15,351 (twin share).

Supplements: \$100 non-members, \$4,149 (single pp).

Expressions of Interest: 6230 0533



Acton Walkways

Saturday 27 February
5.30pm-7.30pm

There are many rich layers of heritage, sculpture, nature and architecture to explore at the ANU and Acton. Come and join us on this gentle walk starting from Old Canberra House (Lennox Crossing, ANU) and learn from experts about the surrounds. We will return to our starting point to retrieve our picnic dinners and dine at a magical site with stunning views of the Lake. Listen to Kirsty Guster explain her current work on making this area more accessible through partnerships with the ANU, the Molonglo Group (NewActon), the National Film & Sound Archives and the ACT Government.

Meet at Old Canberra House (Liversidge Street, ANU). Bring a picnic dinner and chair.

Bookings essential: 6230 0533

Barton Heritage Precinct

Sunday 14 March 1pm-4pm

To celebrate the printing of the updated Barton brochures, come and join Eric Martin on a stroll through this suburb incorporating 'garden city' principles. The streetscapes are distinctive with their varied setbacks, street trees, hedges and 1920s street signs and lamps. Barton was designed for occupation by the middle income public servants, contrasting with Ainslie, a tour we will be doing in May, that comprised of smaller weatherboard houses for public servants in 'blue collar' roles. An afternoon tea will round off a lovely afternoon.

Cost: \$20 members/\$25 non-members

Depart from carpark on southern end of Telopea Park, across from Manuka Swimming Pool.

Bookings essential: 6230 0533

Lake Mungo And The Murray

25-29 March 2010

Experience 40,000 years of human history in Australia

The Walls of China, Lake Mungo National Park

Lake Mungo is part of the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area. Two million years ago a chain of lakes, emanating from the Lachlan River and Willandra Creek, was strung out across the inland plains on NSW. The chain of lakes provided a rich environment for the area's flora and fauna and later attracted a large population of humans.

A geological change blocked off the Willandra Creek from the Lachlan and Lake Mungo dried up around 14,000 years ago. Today, a great crescent-shaped dune, called the Walls of China, stretches along the eastern shore of the Mungo lakebed. These dunes, of mud and sand, are continually eroding by wind and water. Along the shores of Lake Mungo, 40,000 years ago, walked some of the earliest modern humans.

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

Tour leader: Dr Peter Dowling

Cost: Members \$1667pp (twin share)
Supplements: \$50 non-Members, \$405 single pp

Bookings & details: Travelscene 6247 6544

Macassan tour – Following the Winds

June 23 – July 1

A modern sea voyage tracing Macassan-Aboriginal encounters across the Arnhem Land coast.

Expressions of interest are called for an 9 day sea voyage from Gove in East Arnhem Land by the launch to Darwin. This voyage drops anchor at 8 historically and culturally significant locations between Darwin and the eastern tip of the Northern Territory, and takes in some of the most pristine and breathtaking coastal scenery in Australia. Voyagers will explore magnificent ancient rock art galleries with senior traditional owners, visit some of the largest known Macassan campsites on the north Australian coast, and be welcomed into the homelands of the Yolngu people to hear their stories, and experience their culture and daily lives in one of the most remote parts of Australia. This is a unique experience of Arnhem Land that has never been on offer before.

It is expected that the tour departs Gove on 23 June 2010 and travel by sea for 9 days to Darwin. Participants will be assisting in the development of a new tour product that links emerging Indigenous tourism ventures across the coast of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

Cost: \$5290

Expressions of Interest: 6230 0533

Women In Arnhem Land Tour

Expressions of interest are being sought for women who are interested in meeting Yolngu women elders of East Arnhem Land who have lived on their ancestral homeland all their lives. Participants will learn about Yolngu women's cultural ways including stories, song, weaving, hunting, collecting mud crabs and edible bush tucker. Two communities will be visited – Maparu and Bawaka. Both communities are developing their tourism businesses and this tour will contribute to their independent economic development. The Gay'wu Women's Program has been designed specifically for women by Yolngu elders and has been running for several years (see www.isx.org.au/productservices/1236907303_18875.html) and the Arnhem weavers at Maparu specialise in teaching their methods of weaving (www.arnhemweavers.com.au).

Meg Switzer has worked with the East Arnhem Land Yolngu Tourism Hub, Diverse Travel and Two Way Tours to develop this week long camping tour in May 2010 specifically for adventurous National Trust women who have an interest in learning about our Indigenous culture. Tour begins in Gove on the Gulf of Carpentaria, travels by 4WD to the tropical coast, south of Gove and then inland to Maparu. Cost approximately \$2600 ex Gove. Please provide your expressions of interest as there are only 8 places available.

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ACT Historical Archaeology Workshop 2

The second workshop sponsored by the Canberra Archaeology Society, the National Trust (ACT) and the Donald Horne Institute showcased little known Canberra and district history and raised some issues of concern.

The Valley homestead, Gungahlin, was built by Thomas Gribble in the 1860s. It went through several additional structures before being abandoned in the mid 1970s. Today it is a ruin, but a valuable reminder of the past rural lifestyles and economies of the district. Although heritage listed with the ACT Government little conservation work has been done on the remaining structures despite a conservation and management plan being done. It is fenced, largely forgotten by the ACT government and certainly forlorn.

Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop was first constructed around 1860 and served as a privately owned and managed blacksmith, farrier, cartwright and wheelwright establishment until it ceased operations in the late 1940s. Like The Valley ruin nearby, the blacksmith shop is heritage listed but is still fenced in. The National Trust applied for and received three grants from the government to protect and conserve the building and a preliminary archaeological survey was conducted jointly by the Trust and CAS. A revised conservation and management plan is needed for the building with a strong emphasis on future interpretation which would lead to the place being made more accessible to the public.

Eric Martin stated that 'Fenced and Forgotten' is not the best solution to our rural heritage. Using examples such as Lanyon which is well protected but costly to maintain; Horse Park homestead which is now protected but is compromised in part because of the loss of its rural setting to residential sites; Elm Grove, recently heritage listed; Tralee homestead complex with its setting compromised by planned development; Gungahdera homestead, heritage protected but its context compromised; Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop, The Valley and other rural sites, Eric discussed the dilemmas of funding, reuse, loss of rural context and setting of buildings, management and adaptive reuse. A further issue is the problem of protection and conservation of a place which has not reached the criteria for heritage listing even though there is a degree of historic importance to the place.

The need to identify, conserve and/or interpret places important in Canberra's past heritage, Indigenous and rural, was raised in a letter to the Chief Minister from CAS and the workshop. Eric's suggestion of forging partnerships between developers and the ACT Government to fund places within and adjacent to new developments was put forward. The focus of 2013 is on the story of the ACT, but the foundations of our present culture add dignity and depth to our history and should not be ignored or obliterated.

Sidney Nolan was one of Australia's most prolific and well known artists. The Nolan Gallery building at Lanyon

was purpose built to house a collection of his paintings bequeathed to Australia. The paintings have been removed from the gallery and are now housed in Civic at the Canberra Museum and Gallery. This move has been done without the approval or support of Lady Nolan who has frequently expressed her great disappointment that the paintings have been removed from the rural setting of Lanyon where the artist requested they be housed. Of the 24 works bequeathed to Australia for housing at the Lanyon gallery only 9 are now showing for public display at CMAG. This presentation received a great deal of comment from the floor.

The following stories were happier.

The workshop recommended that CAS write to the Prime Minister urging him to consider the fate of the Nolan Collection as it belongs to all of us Australians. Its rightful setting, the Nolan Gallery, requires only minor refurbishment and could add to the tourist interest of Lanyon and Tharwa.

The Molonglo First World War internment camp in Fyshwick was originally built to confine German nationals held in China but ended up holding civilians who had connections to Germany. After the camp was closed at the end of the War the remaining barrack houses were used for workers who were building Canberra and it became known as the Molonglo Workers Settlement. Tours are led most years by Alan Foskett, author of several books on the site.

A slab house was constructed at Tralee in 1905 by the Morrison family but this may have been relocated from another property (possibly Angle Crossing). Today the slab building is in fair condition and a later weatherboard house 'Couranga' is fenced and in good condition. Tralee tells the story of a poor Irish immigrant family making a home in Australia, prospering through hard work to finally own a substantial amount of property. The fate of Tralee today is uncertain as it is not heritage listed and the land has been earmarked for industrial development, but after some publicity the Chief Minister has displayed interest in the site.

Adelong Falls Gold Mill Ruins 1870 1909 were created from the time that alluvial gold was discovered at Adelong in 1850 and reef gold in 1856. The existing Reefer Battery built in 1890 was one of the most efficient of its time and operated up to 1914. A committee has been created to research and look after the site and to make recommendations to the local council for its continued protection and to promote the site to the local and wider communities. The committee is also active in raising funds to continue the conservation and management into the future. This is one of the successful stories of conservation which was largely made possible by a dedicated and professional team from the community working with the local council.

Captains Flat was surveyed in 1882 as a mining town which initially flourished. In 1962 the mines closed and much of the associated structures and machinery were sold at auction. 190 houses went up for sale. The cemetery

A tribute to the Life and Work of Eddie Green

By Dr Margaret Park

Eddie Green, a former owner of Rock Valley Homestead at Tidbinbilla, died in September. It is with great sadness, but also joy for the person he was, that I write this tribute to him, the life he dedicated to helping others, and his efforts to conserve an integral part of European settlement history of the ACT.

I had the great privilege of interviewing Eddie Green in 2008 through a grant from the ACT Heritage Unit awarded to the National Trust. The Trust's Heritage Officer, Dr Peter Dowling, who knows only too well how much of the ACT's rural history has been lost was instrumental in securing this grant. One of the few ways available to ensure that all is not lost is to interview the people who played a significant part in it. Many of these families have passed on or moved away, so the task of securing any remnant of the knowledge of land settlement, rural lifestyle, land production and subsequent development has become difficult.

Eddie's knowledge of the Rock Valley Homestead site, his family home, is of immense value to the ACT's history and heritage. 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, its natural beauty and native flora and fauna.

Listening to Eddie's words helps us to gain an understanding of the ACT's story as told by a descendant of one of its settler families.

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.

The documentation by the Tidbinbilla Pioneer's Association and the interview with Eddie on the Tidbinbilla region's European heritage has ensured that this surviving homestead remains as a viable and evocative place in our hearts and within the pages of history.



Eddie Green at his home in Batlow, NSW, October 2008

Photo: G. Imashev

Fenced and Forgotten (continued from previous page)

is an important element and reminder of this past era. Like many such cemeteries much of the headstones and grave furniture has deteriorated making some plots unidentifiable. Once somewhat forgotten the cemetery is now being studied by a local group.

Archaeological survey and excavations were conducted prior to the construction of the HQ Joint Operations Command Centre at Dairy Station Creek, between Queanbeyan and Bungendore. Surface survey revealed a few Indigenous and historic artefacts on the surface but subsequent excavations revealed a wealth of subsurface cultural material. For example, 22 Indigenous sites revealed 40,000 stone artefacts and 10 historic sites gave up over 20,000 separate items. Further excavations on stone footings revealed the floor plan of the former Hibernian Hotel which was rediscovered and briefly recorded in 1990 as a two-room stone rubble structure. Excavations revealed the structure to be a six-room complex.

The lesson here is that where major development is going to take place, surface surveying is often an inadequate method of assessing the past Indigenous and historic occupation of the sites. Much valuable cultural material and history can be lost under the blades of the

bulldozers if surface surveying is the only method used for cultural assessment.

The Donald Horne Institute for Cultural Studies at the University of Canberra began teaching Cultural Heritage and Conservation in 2009. Their charter is largely to reinvigorate cultural heritage studies in Canberra and to foster and integrate with other institutions and organizations concerned with cultural heritage. The Cultural course is multidisciplinary drawing on the theory and methods of history, archaeology, anthropology and other cultural and technical studies.

The ACT Archives are now accessible through a website; www.archives.act.gov.au The archives commenced on 1 July 2008 holding ACT records over 20 years of age, including papers, audio recordings, ACT/NSW border survey books, photos, maps, plans, building files, leasing files and more. Search and request facilities are on the web site where you can request copies. The reading room for the archives is at the ACT Heritage Library, Woden town centre.

Helen Cooke

President Canberra Archaeological Society

In 1821 Charles Throsby, naval surgeon, settler, explorer and would-be colonial entrepreneur stood on the east bank of the Murrumbidgee River in what is now the Australian Capital Territory. He had many reasons to be pleased with himself. In 1818 he had found an overland route to Jervis Bay by way of the Shoalhaven River and had found good pastoral land around the Bathurst region; but on looking at the waters of the Murrumbidgee he was bitterly disappointed.

He saw that this substantial river, which had been on his mind since he had heard about it from the Aborigines, flowed in a northerly direction away from the coast. He had desperately wanted this river to flow to the south - towards the sea and to the bays on the east coast of New South Wales. He reasoned that if it did indeed flow south it would provide a navigable water highway, carrying produce from the potentially rich grazing plains he had just crossed, to the sea and thence to the growing settlements of the colony. He may also have reasoned that if he was the first colonist to discover this route he would gain the high favour of Governor Lachlan Macquarie and gather the financial benefits, which he desperately needed. It was not to be.

A year before, Joseph Wild, a former convict and consummate bushman in the employ of Throsby, had followed up on information given by Aborigines of a large inland lake they called *Wee-ree-waa*. In August 1820, Wild and a small party reached the lake which was later named Lake George. With this discovery, Throsby enticed Governor Macquarie and a party of gentlemen including Commissioner John Bigge and Surveyor, General John Oxley, to visit the Lake in October. The Vice-regal group camped on the southern shore of the Lake. Throsby, along with Wild and Constable James Vaughn, explored further south of Lake George, reaching the Yass River before returning to join Macquarie.

Throsby was still determined to find the (Murrumbidgee) river, so he despatched his twenty-two year old nephew, Charles Throsby Smith, recently arrived in the colony, along with Wild and Vaughn to press on further south.

I am instructed by His Excellency the Governor to desire you to proceed ... with all possible dispatch to Lake George (Wee-raa-wee) from thence you are to take your departure, and proceed to the stream of water (Boonga-roon) [later named Yass River] which I discovered running to the southward, the spot will be pointed out by James Vaughan, who was with me, from thence you are to trace it. If possible until you meet the tides away.

In the heat of December the small group started out from Lake George, following the route of Charles Throsby and crossing the Yass River. They headed in a southerly direction, approximately along what is now the route of the Federal Highway, to encounter the open grassy plain of the Molonglo River. They erected a

rough hut and Throsby Smith recorded large quantities of limestone around the margins of the plain. The name 'Limestone Plains' was to be given to this area. Their campsite on the bank of the Molonglo was probably in what is now Commonwealth Park or the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin.

Young Throsby Smith, along with Vaughn, then climbed the slopes of Black Mountain. From the top they had an extensive view all around and saw that the river they had just found continued in a south west direction then turned to the north west. From their vantage point they would also have seen further plains to the south (Woden and Tuggeranong) and looming in the distance, the forbidding heights of the Brindabellas. They returned to camp and stayed the night, the first Europeans to dwell, albeit briefly, on the land that is now the national capital.

It seems that Throsby Smith was convinced that the river his uncle had been seeking was a fantasy, and decided to go no further. He and his group turned back towards Lake George giving up the quest, without following further the course of the river.

Uncle Charles was mightily displeased at his nephew's unwillingness to press on. If Throsby Smith and his group had proceeded on from the Limestone Plains and followed the downstream course of the Molonglo River they would have reached the Murrumbidgee in a day or two - the first Europeans to do so - and seen that the river flowed to the north and inland. But he had returned to his uncle without this knowledge. He later wrote:

I was sent by my uncle by order of the Governor in charge of half a dozen men and pack horses to explore the country to the south of Lake George, and to trace down a river an imaginary one so I found and to my great vexation, being so led astray by my uncle's report, and on my return we had a serious quarrel and I left him and rented a farm at Appin.

Charles Throsby still held to the vision of this large river flowing south towards the sea and providing the transport route for the new agricultural lands. He also well knew the profits that could be made by those who first utilised the routes. His young nephew may have lacked the determination to go further into unknown lands in search of the river but Uncle Charles was made of sterner stuff.

The next year Throsby was again at Lake George with the reliable Joseph Wild at his side. He followed the shoreline around the base of the Cullarin cliffs to where Bungendore now stands, and then headed towards where he suspected the fabled river would be flowing. They were now crossing country familiar to Wild. In May 1821 Throsby and Wild reached the Limestone Plains. Wild would surely have pointed out to Throsby his nephew's former campsite by the Molonglo and then taken him to the mountain his companions had climbed just a few months before and looked towards

the distant mountains in the west. By now Throsby's health was failing, but his vision of a highway to the sea was still as strong as ever, and he would have known that he was close to reaching his destination. They pressed on, following a route through the low hills, finally reaching his fabled river.

We can never know the full extent of Throsby's disappointment at finally reaching his river and seeing it flowing strongly to the northwest away from the sea. He would have had to finally reconcile to himself that his vision of a navigable route connecting the inland to the sea had come to nothing – it was, as his nephew had hinted, all in his imagination. He later wrote:

...from the appearance of the country, I am bound to say that the apparently continued chain of high mountains extending from South to North, leaves no hope of a river of any magnitude being discovered running to the south eastern coast of colony.

Throsby returned to his home near Moss Vale with a heavy heart. Governor Macquarie granted him 700 acres (283 ha) of land to adjoin his property of Throsby Park, or any part of the new country he desired. In 1825 Throsby was appointed to the Legislative Council of the colony, but continued ill health, financial difficulties, drought and the falling price of wool drove him to take his own life on 2nd April 1828. He was just 51 years of age. Joseph Wild returned to the Limestone Plains and the Murrumbidgee in 1823, guiding an expedition led by Captains Mark Currie and John Ovens. After Charles Throsby's death, Wild stayed on with the family as head stockman for Charles Throsby Smith, who had been awarded land in the Wollongong area.

Charles Throsby, Joseph Wild and John Vaughn were the first Europeans to reach the Murrumbidgee River, but their names are seldom mentioned in the history of Australian exploration. Urban streets in the ACT and Queanbeyan bear their names in recognition of their contributions to the exploration and prosperity of the colony. Their reports of good grazing lands, well watered plains and the routes to access them from the eastern colonial frontiers were received with high interest in Sydney. A rush for these lands followed, bringing many to try for their fortunes in grazing and agriculture. While Charles Throsby's vision of a navigable river route to the sea was not fulfilled, his vision of a prosperous rural community was. I wonder how he would view the establishment of a national capital city of federated colonies on the lands he crossed looking for the Murrumbidgee, and whether he would concede that his disappointment at seeing the river run the wrong way had not been in vain.

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Murrumbidgee River at Pine Island near where the first Europeans saw the river.
Photo P. Dowling 2009

The use of new media to capture and preserve the past

By Richard Snashall

I am a child of the digital video age. I purchased one of the first digital video cameras released in Australia some 13 years ago. My earliest work was filmed overseas as it was combined with a love of travel, but as time has moved on I am doing more locally based projects.

Exactly ten years ago I made my first serious attempt to capture and produce what I should loosely describe as a heritage project. My family and friends shook their heads at my ambitious plan to make a solo documentary about the Troubles in Northern Ireland using a small digital video camera.

With little more than regional radio broadcasting and print experience, I had ideas of single-handedly capturing 500 years of highly complex history in a one hour film, and then selling it to a reputable broadcaster.

I managed to make the film, and boldly called it *Troubled: A Personal Look At Northern Ireland*. After months of anguish – mine - SBS Television bought it - much to my disbelief. That I covered every aspect of Northern Ireland's complex history is perhaps debatable.

Having no film experience, I chose a simple working method that involved roaming the six northern Irish counties with my small digital video camera interviewing as many people from the various political and denominational factions as were willing to speak: there were plenty. I did my homework before commencing, taking advantage of the relatively new world of the internet to establish contacts, find interview subjects and listen to BBC Northern Ireland streamed online.

As basic as my little film was, it has gained some standing: it is considered the first one hour film made singlehandedly to screen on Australian television (according to Graeme Blundell, television critic for *The Australian*).

I recently uploaded a few excerpts of *Troubled* to my YouTube site, including a section that featured the police on patrol. One of the featured officers contacted me and pleaded that I remove the piece for fear of repercussions. He said there had been a lot of low level activity against the police recently, and despite *Troubled* being ten years old, having their faces and names clearly displayed posed a threat. The Australian broadcast of *Troubled* was fine, but YouTube means an international broadcast. Of course I removed the piece, and it struck home how powerful and accessible the broadcasting landscape is today.

For me, capturing heritage on film, using portable digital video cameras, working alone and producing something that could be broadcast began with *Troubled*. The idea that one could write, film and present, and more importantly, edit and post-produce a television program from the kitchen table was astonishing to me, but very exciting.

Plenty of people – including a senior SBS documentary commissioner - told me there was no way I would get anything broadcast unless I had a team of experienced people to assist in all aspects of the production. After all, I didn't have a "track record".

Once SBS had run *Troubled* and I had developed a relationship with the programmers, they gave me some creative freedom and I've since produced another seven self-made, cottage-style programs, all of which were shot overseas.

In just ten years, the idea of making television programs from home is now acceptable, and happening all over the world. The camera equipment is cheaper, more portable and High Definition is readily available. Computers are more powerful than ever, enabling people to perform sophisticated editing and post production from their homes. This allows a small operator to put out material of a quality that would have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to produce 15 years ago.

Ten years ago *Troubled* was broadcast on television; today I do not even have to leave my house to broadcast my material. Now anyone can post a program on YouTube, their own website, Facebook or any one of thousands of other sites and then invite viewers to not only watch, but provide immediate feedback.

The internet has made today's broadcasting environment very different, and that makes it interesting for getting material out there. Surely that can only be good for the production and broadcast of material about our heritage?

This can benefit local communities, offering opportunities for filmmakers and digital artists using cheaper, high quality technology to produce material for and about their neighbourhood. Bringing to life stories from the past with images and sound can help to provide a stronger sense of community identity and make local history more attractive to younger audiences. If you combine history with today's modern gadgetry, it will become more appealing to younger people.

As the "noughties" have progressed, internet speeds are faster and software programs easier to use, so putting multimedia on the web has become routine for the even the most non-technical person.

I did a project in 2006-2007 that was pretty ambitious – making 20 short stories about the Australian Alps. The project was funded by the ABC's regional production fund and the Australian Alps Program.

From A Trickle To A Roar: Alpine Stories started out fairly simply, with the production and presenting of material as audio stories for ABC radio. As the ABC was keen to keep up with technology and have an online presence, I also wrote some articles and took photos to go on the web.

The ABC asked me to film the stories for the web and broadcast on the newly established ABC2 network. Making 20 radio, online and film programs alone was quite demanding. I gained an enormous respect for the landscape and the people who are connected to it, and hopefully I succeeded in conveying that to a wider audience.

Developing and producing a project that has a complementary radio, TV and online presence is

another step in the progress of using new technologies for broadcasting. The term for this type of project is "multiplatformed," which usually makes me think of scaffolding!

Today we have an amazingly powerful tool in the broadcasting landscape, the Apple iPod. It didn't stay still as a music player for a moment, and has developed into a full multimedia unit, which can hold photos, videos, TV shows and movies. The iPod (and other brand portable devices) have become yet another means for broadcasting.

I am working on a pilot project with the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service to produce media for the iPod. Our first location is the town of Kiandra in the Snowy Mountains; a town rich in gold mining and skiing history, where only a few buildings survive.

Jen Hewitson, the National Parks heritage expert managing this project, took a group of former Kiandra residents and descendants up to the town site where we conducted interviews, focusing on personal memories and connections to the town and the mountains. From there we are developing material for broadcast on the internet and the iPod, as a mix of film with audio, and also just as sound. These are known generally as Vodcasts and Podcasts respectively.

The idea behind this project is that if you want to visit Kiandra or are just interested in the town and would like to enhance your experience, you can go to the website and download the Vodcasts and Podcasts to your iPod, and see and read the other material displayed. You can then head up to the mountains and walk around the Kiandra heritage trail and listen to, and even watch, the stories of Kiandra by the people who lived there.

The general idea is not new; it is just a further development on hiring an audio guide and wandering around the National Gallery. The technology has improved, and with the addition of film, offers so much more. You do not have to go anywhere to get the material, all you need is a broadband internet connection.

The technology is ploughing on ahead, and it will continue to evolve and amaze us. Young people who have grown up with technology will continually have higher expectations for "everything to be available anywhere at any time".

I believe that new technologies have a critical role to play in recording and preserving our past, and by bringing history alive, new media tools can encourage young people's interest in history. However, a five minute video on the iPod will not replace a thoroughly researched and well written 300 page book and nor should it. A video or other form of multimedia that is creative and interesting should act as a hook to stimulate interest, which that well written book will satisfy.

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The ACT National Trust would like to congratulate Jeeven Nadanakumar and Stephen Boyle of Marist College, the ACT winners of the National History Challenge. The National History Challenge is a research-based competition for students. It gives young students a chance to be a historian, investigating their community and exploring their own past. It emphasizes and rewards quality research the use of community resources and effective presentation. Students from years 5 to 12 submit their research at school level and can progress through Regional, State, Territory and National Finals.

The two boys developed an interactive website to tell the story of the Franklin River dam protests in summer of 1982-83 and its implications on Australia's heritage. The issue dominated Tasmanian and Federal politics throughout the late 70s and early 80s and caused great rift between those who supported the construction of the dam and those who sought the preservation of the wilderness values of the region. The implications went further than Tasmania politics when the Federal Government intervened in 1982, successfully nominating the Franklin River as part of the Western Tasmanian Wilderness UNESCO World Heritage site. Using the successful nomination the Federal Government overrode Tasmanian legislation for the dam and stopped the construction.

Jeeven and Stephen used the national theme for the competition, 'Triumph over Adversity' as the basis of their discussion. They spoke about the importance of saving the Franklin River from being dammed and how it has affected political, social and environmental heritage in Australia. The boys discussed the heritage values of the Franklin River including examples of the campaigns from both sides of the case and the intense propaganda that was widely disseminated (remember the statement by the Tasmanian Premier, Robin Gray, "Nothing but a brown ditch, leech-ridden and unattractive to the majority of people"). The judges were extremely impressed with their entry – it was one of the most effective uses of the medium seen in recent years of the Challenge and met all the judging criteria – historical accuracy and fairness, understanding of the issues and its implications on heritage.

The boys' entry was the runner-up to the National winning entry by Queensland entrant, Natasha Gromof, who wrote a short thesis on Ned Kelly. They were awarded the ACT winning prize by Dr Peter Dowling at the ACT National History Challenge award ceremony held in the Australian National Archives. Their entry will be on the ACT National Trust website soon.

Details of the 2010 National History Challenge can be found at:

<http://www.historychallenge.com.au/>

The ACT National Trust will be awarding a special prize in the 2010 Challenge for a student who submits a written essay on the national theme. The winner will receive a monetary prize and have their essay published in *Heritage in Trust*.

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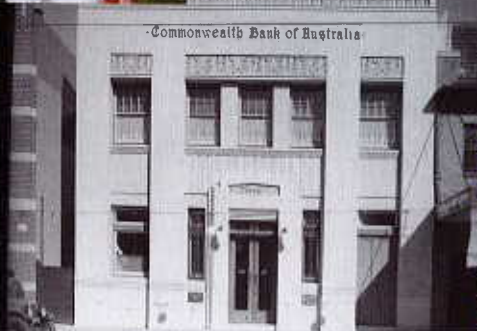
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Canberra & Region Heritage Festival

10 – 24 April 2010

Heritage at Risk Bus Tour

10 April

Reid Garden Suburb: A Heritage Journey

10th April

Yankee Hat Walk

11 April

Lake Cruises

14 & 21 April

Elm Grove

17 April

Tour of Lindsay Pryor & International Arboreta

18 April

Geology & Archaeology & History at London Bridge

24 April

Travels with the Trust

World Heritage of Italy Tour

Departing 19 September 2010 – 28 Days

Barton Heritage Precinct

Sunday 14 March 1pm–4pm

Acton Walkways

Saturday 27 February

Lake Mungo And The Murray

25–29 March 2010

Macassan tour – Following the Winds

June 23 – July 1

Women In Arnhem Land Tour

