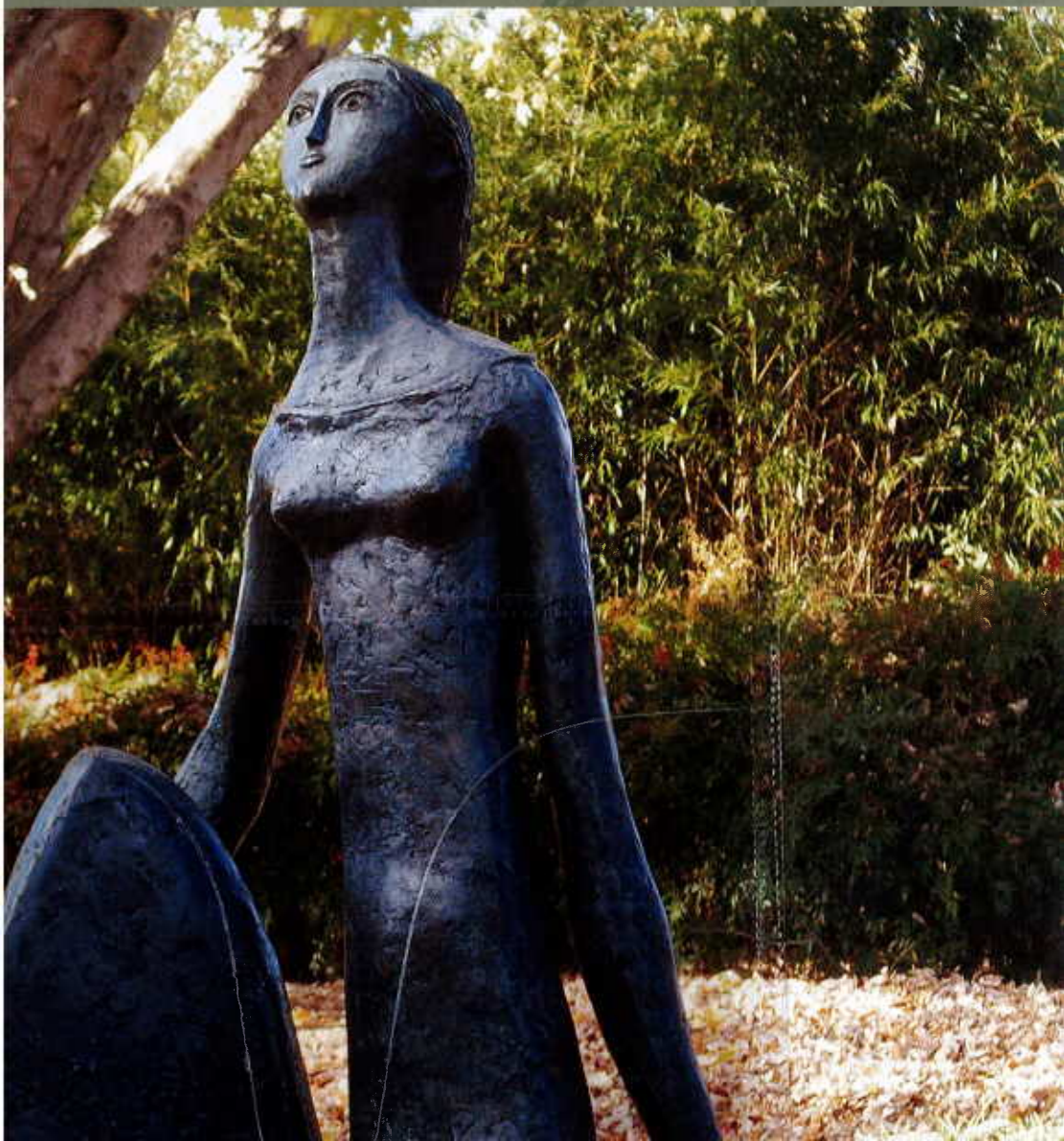


# NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA

## *Stage in Trust*

EST 2011

\$2.00





## The Canberra Services Club Building – a loss that cannot be replaced



*The Club building, as it was*

Many of us awoke on Thursday morning, 28th April this year, to the distressing news that one of Canberra's heritage buildings was burning fiercely. Sometime in the early hours of that morning a flame started in the floor spaces of the Canberra Services Club and spread rapidly through the timber construction. When the flames were finally extinguished the apprehension became starkly real that we had lost not only an important part of Canberra's landscape but also a tangible reminder of the city's cultural heritage.



*The Club building, on 28 April 2011  
Photograph by Dianne Dowling*



*Another view of the building on that day  
Photograph by Dianne Dowling*





The Canberra Services Club was a product of the Second World War. Following the outbreak of the war and an influx of service personnel in Canberra, the Canberra Volunteers' (later Services) Welfare Association was formed. Its main role was to provide hospitality to the serving people - initially, local units included personnel of the 3rd Battalion, the 7th Light Horse and Canberra men in the 6th Division, but as hostilities continued hospitality was extended to anyone in uniform, including personnel from Allied services. In July 1940 the Association proposed that a rest hut be constructed in Manuka at a cost of around 1,000 pounds.

Lady Gowrie, the wife of the Governor General Lord Gowrie, gave her support to the project and played a major role in raising the funds for the project. Among the many raffles, community stalls, and direct gifts, one particular fund raising event was hosted by Lady Gowrie and held in the grounds of Government House. Another was the sale of 2 000 cakes baked in the kitchens of many Canberra families. In March 1941, 'The Hut', as it was colloquially known, was constructed. It provided a place where the service men and women could enjoy meals, dances, and concerts, play billiards or just sit quietly and read. The Hut was staffed by volunteers - over 500 women of Canberra and the surrounding region gave their precious time to help the serving personnel. It was been estimated that over a million meals were served in the club over the war years. It was one of Canberra's contributions to the war effort on the home front.

At the end of the war there was uncertainty about the building's future for it had been originally built as a temporary structure. In fact it had been sited on part of a gazetted public road. But the need for a permanent club was recognised to assist the ex-service men and women who returned to Canberra. Consequently the Lady Gowrie Services Club Council was formed as lessees of the building.

After alterations and extensions were constructed the building was officially opened as the Canberra Services Club in April 1948. There were further alterations and extensions in 1957 when it became the very familiar building known to us next to the Manuka Oval. It continued to operate as a club for serving and ex-service personnel and later for the Federal Police and Fire Brigade members as well.

Until that tragic April day it was the only publicly funded, purpose-built wartime services recreational venue surviving in Canberra. In 1997 the ACT National Trust recognized the building's heritage values and placed it on their Classified Places listing. Following a recommendation from the Trust the building was gazetted to the ACT Heritage Register the following year.

The National Trust Statement of Significance reads:

*Canberra Services Club, dating from 1941... is historically significant for its association with the provision of hospitality to service personnel by Canberra volunteers during the Second World War. The building is also directly associated with the then Governor General's wife, Lady Gowrie, who played a major role in raising finance for construction in the early 1940s.*

*Reflecting the characteristics of Inter-war Georgian Revival architecture, the building with its surrounding plantings is an important element of the Canberra Avenue streetscape in Manuka.*

*Having provided a recreational venue for the ex-service community for over fifty years, the Club is socially important to that group.*

What of the future? The words of the current President of the Canberra Services Club best answer that question:

*What is left of the building will be knocked down soon, but we will save as much as possible: parts of the building, donated presentations and anything else that is able to be saved. But the Club is more than just the building, and the Club continues while we decide what to do next.*

Whatever the future holds - whether or when a new building is constructed on the site, what form it will take, what elements of the original building will be included - Canberra has lost one its most recognizable heritage places and such a loss with its intrinsic built and cultural heritage elements cannot be replaced.

**Peter Dowling**

National Heritage Officer  
Australian Council of National Trusts

#### References:

ACT National Trust Classified Places files  
Canberra Services Club [www.canberraservicesclub.com.au](http://www.canberraservicesclub.com.au)

Images of former Club building from National Trust ACT Website Archives

#### Footnote

As this magazine goes to the printers there has been another fire in a landmark heritage place. Late in the afternoon of 23 June a fire broke out in the former Acton Hotel. The Hotel, designed by John Smith Murdoch, was constructed in 1927 as Hostel no. 4, to accommodate Commonwealth public servants and families coming to the new capital city. It was heritage listed by the National Trust in 1997.



On a most perfect Canberra autumn day, an assembled few had the pleasure of having the history and design of Commonwealth Park explained on site by the esteemed Canberra landscape sage, Dr John Gray. John commenced his talk by standing on the stone mosaic of Walter Burley Griffin's 1913 plan for Canberra, describing some of changes that occurred to the lake outline from its original conception to its modern expression. John then drew our attention to the mature trees north and east of Regatta Point hill, pointing out a cluster that included Robinias (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), Stone Pines (*Pinus pinea*) and a Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), all remnants of substantial plantings by Charles Weston in the 1920s. Weston's tree planting was enthusiastically continued in the 1930s and 40s by Lindsay Pryor, who like Weston was responsible for afforestation and the development of parks in a landscape that was, at the birth of Canberra, mostly devoid of trees. It was also during the 1940s that part of the park area was annexed for a government hostel, Mulwala House, a sprawling hostel complex that was set within the early tree plantings.

John noted how Commonwealth Park has been a recipient of gifts to the nation, such as cherry trees from Japan and native trees from New Zealand, and as well, had been subject to commemorative and memorial plantings by visiting dignitaries. We then strolled along the rhododendron walk, an area heavily shaded from the now tall mature trees that have recently been appropriated by a sizeable colony of fruit bats, that hang like washing from the tree tops, conversing in squealing bat language, and languidly extending their wings



Fruit bats

## CHARTER

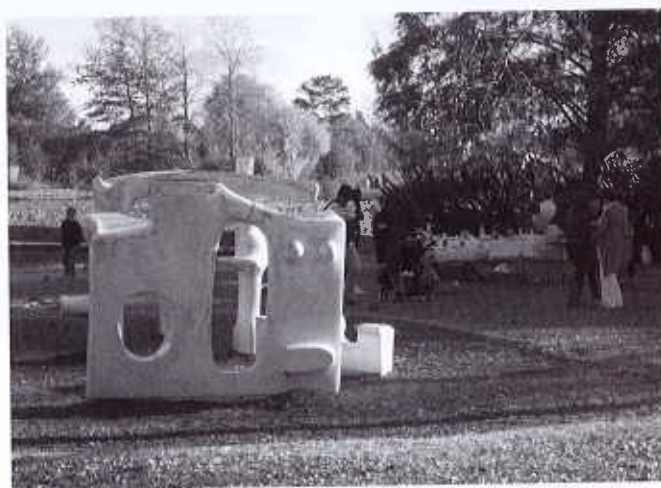
At the National Trust of Australia (ACT) we see that:

- 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.

for a dose of sun warmth. The fruit bats, more correctly called grey-headed flying foxes, enjoy a 'vulnerable' status in Commonwealth legislation and therefore for the time being, we need to swallow our concern at the damage they are causing to the park's tree-tops.

Canberra's park development languished during the war years but was reinvigorated in the 1950s and 60s by the government of Prime Minister Robert Menzies and the establishment of the National Capital Development Commission (the NCDC) in 1957. The eminent English planner Sir William Holford was invited to review the Griffin plan and amongst other recommendations he simplified the delineation of the lake and suggested establishing a lake park. The NCDC landscape architects Richard Cough and a young John Gray worked on the extensive landscaping works commissioned by the NCDC for the lake setting. By this time broad concepts for the landscape of the park, now called Central Park, were in place and included an aquarium pool. Pryor's successor David Shoobridge wanted the park to be a place for traditional horticulture with a conservatory and his vision was seen as complementing the Botanic Gardens being established for native plants.

By the mid 1960s, Central Park had become Commonwealth Park and a well-known English landscape architect Sylvia Crowe was invited to develop a masterplan for the park. Miss Crowe (later Dame Sylvia Crowe) was able to build on the previous plantings and spaces created by Weston and Pryor. She proposed a framework of large trees close to Parkes Way and emphasised particular use areas, such as the children's play area, the amphitheatre, and a hierarchy of water features, ponds and streams that flowed into the large Nerang Pool. Mulwala House was removed.



Play sculpture

On our excursion, we did note fairly recent plantings of Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) near the water edges and the new Menzies walk, along with abundant clumps of an attractive pinkish tall grass

continued on p7



The long term financial viability still remains the biggest concern for the ACT National Trust.

We have been extremely fortunate in negotiating with the ACT Government for \$60,000 to deliver a range of heritage related services.

We have an ongoing role with another round of National Trust Partnership Programs which are funded by the Federal Government. These projects are worked with other National Trusts to help some of our core activities such as the Magazine. In addition, hopefully, some of the other programs will enable a more effective heritage product such as work on our web site. Other initiatives include looking at a range of philanthropic opportunities with support from the Australia Council. New initiatives/events for 2013 are being investigated.

We have also increased our annual subscriptions for the first time in many years. The bottom line is that the substantial loss for 2010-2011 (about \$80K) should be reduced by half in 2011-2012 (to about \$40K) and we need to have a balanced outcome within another 2 years. It is a challenge for us all and we need the support of members.

We are extending the opportunities for members by an expansion of our tours, expanded Heritage Festival and a variety of events.

We are also developing associations with other conservation related institutions/organizations including UCAN/ANU and Canberra Archaeological Society and co-hosting events such as seminars on ACT Heritage issues.

Despite the financial difficulties, this should be an exciting year.

Eric J. Martin, AM  
President

## Advertising rates for Heritage in Trust magazine (Aug 2010)

Full page colour	\$600
Half page Black and white	\$300
Quarter page black and white	\$150
Smaller than quarter page	\$130

(These prices include GST)

Discounts of 10% can be negotiated if advertising over more than one issue. Discounts apply for non-profit community groups and Corporate members of the Trust. Advertisers should supply copy to the Trust Office on CD or by email.

Enquiries to Liz McMillan ph: 6230 0533 or email [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au)

### Inserts

Inserts are charged by weight.

Standard rate for low weight insert is \$270 (GST inc)

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## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Joining Fee	\$35.00
Single	\$65.00
Single, concession	\$45.00
Household	\$95.00
Household, concession	\$75.00
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.

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 magazines 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:

Denis and Jan Appel	Sara Lock
Russell and Samantha Atkins	Campbell and Lorraine MacKnight
Keith and Janice Bateman	Gwenyth McNeill
Colin and Robyn Brick	Dianne Nixon
Priscilla and Robert Chapman	Kelly, John & Pamela
Natalie Dolnik	Mark Pierse
Camille Dolnik	Leonie and Mark Price
Ian and Grace Dunlop	Clement Sheil
Peter Dwyer	Vladimir and Joylyn Shevchenko
Stephen and Adele Etheridge	Diana Shogren
Pam and Pal Ferras	Barry and Beryl Smith
Maurice and Joy Galt	Pamela and Graham Thomas
Beryl Hicks	Caroline Turner
Tony and Helen Holmes	Graham and Rewa Utley
Norma Laing	Susan Webb

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 36th Annual general meeting of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) will be held in the Menzies Room at the National Archives of Australia on Wednesday October 19, 2011, 6.30 for 7pm.

Council vacancies will be notified in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association prior to the meeting. If you wish to receive an individual notification please advise the National Trust office on 02 62300533 or email [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au).

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

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

For further information please check our home page on the website [www.nationaltrustact.org.au](http://www.nationaltrustact.org.au) or phone the Trust office on 02 62300533.

## Old Tuggeranong Schoolhouse

Volunteers are needed to be Friends of the Old Tuggeranong Schoolhouse at 34 Enid Lorimer Crescent, Chisholm. National Trust member Elizabeth Burness is the tenant and curator of a small collection of items from the school and a large collection of her own on display in the rooms of the attached residence. The Schoolhouse will be open on the second Sunday of every month from 2pm to 4pm (the Tuggeranong Homestead Markets are held on the same day) and also some weekdays for school visits. Elizabeth is a story teller and has ample material to entrance visitors. She would like volunteers who remember the 1950s to help on the open days, explaining past ways of life and the old utensils to visitors and keeping an eye on the treasures in one of the five rooms open to the public. Please call Elizabeth on 6161 6383 or 0400 391 440 to discuss your involvement. She promises a cuppa and access to her collection and her extensive library of social history and fashion.

And if you can't be a Friend you can visit the Schoolhouse on open days and you can look forward to an article and some images of this historic place in our next issue.

Helen Cooke

## Trusted Recipes

### Welsh Rarebit

This is very popular either hot or cold - a very old family favourite and handed down so there are no quantities, but 'rule of thumb' is a good handful of grated cheese.

Whisk an egg in a bowl and add the following:

Cheese (tasty vintage is good)  
Bacon (about 3 rashers cut into small strips or diced)  
Onion (red for the extra flavour)  
Salt & Pepper to taste  
Little milk

The above filling is spread on 2-3 day old bread, with the crusts cut off.

Bake in a moderate oven about 180 degrees until lightly brown (don't overcook)

If you think you will have any left overs keep the thickest as they are good cold.



## Message from the Executive Director

Over the last 30 plus years the ACT National Trust has grown from a small group of enthusiasts to over 1700 members interested in understanding and conserving heritage places and objects of local, national and international significance.

We are not an exclusive club or solely concerned with bricks and mortar, but an organisation working in partnership with its members to protect our heritage whether it be Indigenous, built or natural. We aim to be dynamic and changing, relevant to all generations while advocating for our past and the achievements of the pioneers who developed our uniquely Australian national character and environment.

Our history and heritage is central to today's communities, to help grow a sense of belonging, and encourage local pride and identity. We need to guarantee future generations that our vulnerable heritage will always be safe. To do this we need to maintain our independence from government, but we also need to work hard to raise money to ensure that we can maintain this independence. The ACT Council are currently looking at ways that members can be more involved. Currently this can be done through a donation, a bequest or joining our dedicated team of volunteers who do everything from producing this magazine, lending their expert advice on committees and on Council to assisting with Trust events and venues.

I have heard a lot about the ACT Government and its approach to Heritage, not always positive. I must say that in my dealings with the previous Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, I was impressed by his knowledge and respect for the history of the ACT and his belief in the work of the Trust. In Government, and particularly in a small jurisdiction, I understand that finances are tight and balances have to be made between development and keeping the coffers topped up, but the achievements are still formidable.

Below I have listed some that I am aware of, members may recall others:

1. Tharwa Bridge rebuild which is near completion - \$25,000,000. (\$15M from ACT Government and the balance was from the Commonwealth)
2. Albert Hall refurbishment - \$3.5M approximately. (\$500,000 was from the Commonwealth and the balance from ACT Government).

And in context of the current budget:

1. \$175,000 - Ginninderra Blacksmith's workshop improvements including conservation works (bellows) and subsurface testing
2. \$65,000 - The Valley Homestead ruins upgrades
3. \$165,000 - Tralee Slab hut restoration and Implementation. A contract has been set up with Kosziusko Huts Association to undertake the works using traditional methods.
4. \$165,000 - Robertson House upgrades/stabilisation
5. \$150,000 - Cargill's cottage
6. \$100,000 - heritage signage projects

ACT government agencies received approximately \$450,000 for repairs and maintenance projects including Huts in Namadgi and Kowen forests, Tuggeranong school house, Tuggeranong Homestead, Gorman House ....just to mention a few. The ACT National Trust have also received funding for works at St John's and also All Saints churches.

For the Year 2011 / 12 the ACT Government have provided \$60,000 to the ACT National Trust.

I hope that under the new Government arrangements the Heritage of the ACT will receive at least as much prominence as it has in the past. Concerns are already emerging with rumours of the possible separation of parts of the Heritage Unit and its new closer ties with ACTPLA.

**Chris Wain**  
CEO

### 2012 National Trust Desk Diary

#### Historic Places of the National Trust

This is the theme for the 2012 Desk Diary

Numbers will be limited so please place your order by phoning the Office on 6230 0533

They should be available from early October

At this stage we do not know the design of the Christmas Cards but will place the images on our web site as soon as we are advised.

Visit [www.nationaltrustact.org.au](http://www.nationaltrustact.org.au)

### Combined Charities Christmas Card Shop

The Combined Charities Christmas Card Shop will be operating from the second week in October at

The Uniting Churches Centre  
Pilgrim House  
Northbourne Avenue, Canberra City  
(Same place as last year)

The National Trust will be participating in the Combined Charities Card Shop this Year

If any members would like to assist on one of the two rostered days please contact the office on 6230 0533.



The past few months have been a busy time for me settling into the office and staying on top of any ACT Heritage issues that arise. In mid-March a new round of ACT Heritage Listings were announced, The Trust was pleased to see that eight sites were registered and a further seven were placed on the Provisional Register. The Trust has previously expressed its concerns about the large backlog of heritage nominations that await consideration by the Heritage Council so this substantial number of registrations can be seen as a step in the right direction. The Trust has voiced its support of all the Provisional Registrations in a letter to the head of the ACT Heritage Unit. Four of the Provisionally Registered sites are already on our list of Classified Places; their heritage significance has been evident to us for some time so we can only hope they get the recognition they deserve by being fully listed. These sites include Belconnen Farm, the Yarralumla Nursery, Westbourne Woods and Canberra's Garbage Incinerator.

The National Trust has made a number of submissions to both the ACT and Federal Governments in regards to local and Commonwealth Heritage Places. Some places of note include proposed development near Griffith Oval, the privatisation of Westridge House, and the archiving and destruction of two Commonwealth Heritage Listed Buildings on the CSIRO Black Mountain Campus. I have also attended public consultations for the planned development of the Molonglo Valley and the creation of a Heritage Management Plan for the historic Mugga Mugga site. These public consultations and comments to the Government are crucial in ensuring our significant heritage is conserved and that it is at the forefront of future planning. By participating in these

consultations and comments I attempt to alert and further educate people about the heritage of the ACT and in doing so ensure it is still accessible to the wider public and managed appropriately.

The Trust hopes to continue the work Peter Dowling commenced on the 2013 Centenary Border Walks and has applied for Grants from ACT Heritage in order to do so. The brochure and signage for five self-guided walks along the Southern ACT/NSW border should soon be available for anyone to utilize and we hope to provide similar information and resources for walks along the Northern border.

Two big events coming up in the near future include the National History Challenge and Our Heritage @ Risk program. I attended the National History Challenge Launch in May which announced this year's theme will be 'Defining Moments'. The National History Challenge is a competition for school children which encourages them to undertake historical research into Australian history. The National Trust sponsors the special category of 'Australia's Heritage' and has an additional prize for the 'Best Entry using a Trust Resource.' I am looking forward to working with some school students on this project and encouraging them to learn more about the diverse heritage of the ACT whilst utilizing the resources our Office can provide. Our Heritage @ Risk program has begun again for this year. Nominations closed on the 10th June and each state is now in the process of judging these nominations. The announcement of the National Top Ten Heritage @ Risk places will be held in October but look out for a full list of our top ten nominated sites for the ACT in the next Heritage in Trust issue...

## Historic Oaks

Bethany Lance

York Park, located on the corner of State Circle and Kings Avenue in Barton was officially re-opened on May 9th 2011, 84 years after the first tree was planted at the site.

The park, based around an original Oak plantation of 78 trees, has a layered history that contributed to the creation of Canberra as the Capital City. The first trees were planted at the site by The Duke of York, later King George VI, to signify the opening of the Provisional Parliament House on the 9th of May 1927. The original trees planted by the Duke include an English Oak, shipped to Australia from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and a native Bunya Pine. These trees and a number of other native and English species were strategically planted around Old Parliament House as they were intended to provide the basis of separate coppices which would complement the Parliamentary Vista. Both the English Oak and Bunya Pine planted by the Duke still survive and are prominent features of the park.

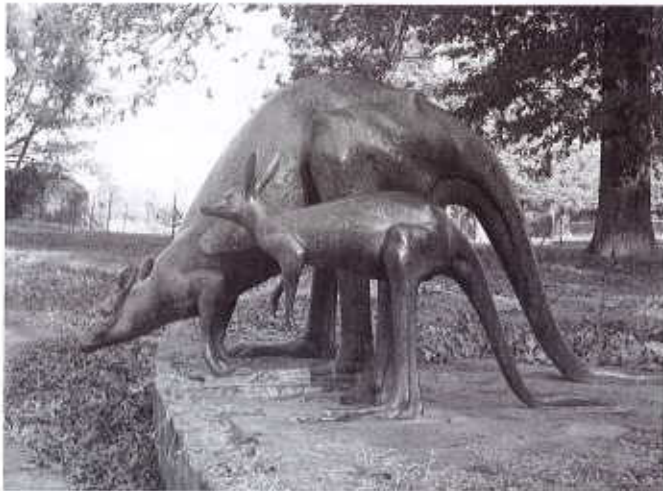
The site was Commonwealth Heritage listed in 2004 as a reflection of its importance to the Nation and its contributions to the history of National capital. The park not only represents the event of HRH Duke of York

planting the commemorative trees but also the early urban planning designs for the Capital as reflected in the outlaying of the trees. The grid-like Oak plantation around which the park was formed, was created in the late 1920's or early 1930's as the Government provided funding for 78 Oaks to be planted in an attempt to generate jobs for the unemployed during the Depression, of these original trees 49 still remain.

Having been listed as a classified place in 1996 The National Trust was heavily involved in saving the park from being bulldozed and used as a car park in 2004. This lobbying and persistence resulted in the subsequent Commonwealth Heritage Listing and the protection that comes with such recognition. Many years have passed, consultations ensued, in which the National Trust and its members were an integral part, and the completion of a Heritage Management Strategy has enabled the park to be re-opened. The heritage values of the park have now been assessed and, as prominent features of the park, adequately conserved. The park is now more public friendly and accessible with walking paths, stone walls and seating, all of which have been designed to complement and contribute to the aesthetics of the original oaks and park.



close to Nerang Pool. We admired the sculptures dotted throughout the park and kept our views to ourselves on the wisdom of public money being spent burying one of these works. We also noticed the unfortunate effects of lack of water or use of pumps – ponds were dry and streams were muddy puddles.



*Kangaroos in the park*

Although John claims to be an octogenarian, he led those of us of a slightly younger vintage at a galloping pace and a few of us had a little difficulty in keeping up with him - but then the distractions were many. We were constantly reminded that parks are for people and people were enjoying the park; there were walkers, dogs and cyclists on the lake shore, children were cavorting in the playground, young adults were playing bongo drums in the amphitheatre and an almost naked individual was boldly sunning himself somewhere near the hallowed ground of the buried Flugelman sculpture. There were also many feathered friends to entertain us, a family of swans had attached themselves to a wary family of picnickers, red beaked purple swamphens strutted around exhibiting their extremely long toes while a few cockies let their presence be known with the odd bark from the tree tops.

However, the ambition for Commonwealth Park to become a horticultural park of excellence for the nation has not yet been realised but the park has become unquestionably a most important and well-used venue for recreation and events. But there are limits to how much pressure a park can take and although Canberra is often regarded as having much open space, it is not richly endowed with usable open spaces and parks in its central area. Canberra's central parklands and its lakeshore parklands are treasures to be safeguarded for the pleasure and recreation of future generations of park users and future generations of lakeshore walkers.

We greatly enjoyed this talk by John and appreciate his years of devotion to Commonwealth Park that may stem, not from his NCDC Service, nor his years of research on Charles Weston, but because it was in the

park area (actually Mulwala House) where he met his wife Pixie. John's book *A Park for the Nation* provides more detail and history than this article and the lucky few that came on the walk, not only did they finish up with a sumptuous slice of cheese cake they were also given a copy of John's book.



*Four Johns - John Tucker, John Brook, John Moten and Dr John Gray OAM*

**Juliet Ramsay**

Photos by Belinda Bentley and Joan Adler

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## Travels with the Trust

### Historic Braidwood – Heritage Town

*Saturday 3 September (date subject to final confirmation) 8.30am – 5.40pm*

A full day's coach trip to the heritage-listed town of Braidwood is planned for September. A guided orientation tour of the town as well as two architecturally distinguished churches (St Andrew's 1889, and St Bede's 1858), the Braidwood Museum (1845) and a visit to the historic pastoral property "Bedervale" (1842, architect John Verge) are planned inclusions together with a catered lunch at the Braidwood Hotel (1859) and afternoon tea at Bungendore on the return journey. Tours to Braidwood by the Trust have proved popular in the past and expressions of interest are being taken by the Trust Office now.

**Cost:** \$105 members, \$110 non-members.

**Meet:** 8.30am by chartered coach at the car park adjacent to the Deakin shops.

**Bookings essential:** 6230 0533 or online at [www.nationaltrustact.org.au](http://www.nationaltrustact.org.au) – click on Bookings under Events and Meeting tab

### 6th Reid Open Houses and Gardens

*Sunday 16 October (date subject to final confirmation) 1.30–4.30pm*

This popular event is to be held again in collaboration with the Reid Residents' Association. The program features a guided walk and visit to three different Reid houses and gardens in this heritage listed residential precinct, which have been selected for their sympathetic restoration or renovations. An introductory talk on Reid and its heritage significance by a heritage expert and the opportunity to hear the owners provide a short talk on their homes and gardens which can then be inspected at leisure are included, as well as a delicious afternoon tea at the Reid Pre-school.

**Cost:** \$25 members, \$30 non-members

**Meet:** Cnr of Dirrawan Gardens and Currong St, near the Reid Tennis Club Pavilion. A guided walking tour with a total distance of approx. 1.5kms (return).

**Bookings essential:** 6230 0533 or online at [www.nationaltrustact.org.au](http://www.nationaltrustact.org.au) – click on Bookings under Events and Meeting tab

### Historical and Scientific Tour of Lake Bathurst and Environs

*Wednesday 16th November 8am–5pm*

An all day, fully escorted bus tour visiting the bioreactor at the old Woodlawn mine, Lake Bathurst and its historic railway siding, World War 2 emergency fuel stores, Lake Bathurst village and inspect other sites of national and historic interest (dependant on time).

**Cost:** \$75 members, \$80 non-members.

Cost includes bus trip, morning tea at Bungendore, catered two course luncheon at Lavender Garden Tea Rooms (Lake Bathurst village) and commentary by Robert Abell (National Trust) and Colin Dennett (Lake Bathurst Tours).

**Meet:** Canberra Railway station car park. Start at 8.00am and finish 5.00pm.

**Expression of Interest:** 6230 0533 or email [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au)

### Upcoming Tours 2012:

#### 'Convicts and Colonists'

*Friday 27 April 2012 – Saturday 5 May 2012*

A fascinating tour of Tasmania focusing on the heritage of the early settlers and convicts – we will visit historic towns such as Oatlands and Ross and convict establishments at Port Arthur and Sarah Island in Macquarie Harbour. A number of National Trust properties such as Runnymede, Home Hill and Clarendon and a private garden with a fortified barn will be included on the tour. We will also ride a steam train on the West Coast Wilderness Railway from Strahan to Queenstown, walk among the trees on the Tahune Airwalk and visit Tasmania's newest attraction, MONA (Museum of Old and New Art) in Hobart. The tour will start and end in Launceston.

**Cost:** TBC

**Expression of Interest:** 6230 0533 or email [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au)

### World Heritage Tour of Italy & Sicily

*September 2012*

This tour will experience the long history and archaeology of Italy by concentrating on many of the UNESCO listed World Heritage places dating from modern times back to the ancient past.



Draft Itinerary subject to change: Beginning in Rome the tour will take in the famous sites of the capital city including the mysterious Etruscan sites. Staying in beautiful Sorrento we will visit the famous archaeological sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum, take a day trip to Naples to visit the National Archaeology Museum in Naples, take a drive along the world famous Amalfi coast. Sicily is next where we will be exploring the history and culture of the island including Syracuse, Palermo and the archaeological area of Agrigento. After leaving Sicily, the tour will make its way north along the eastern regions of the mainland 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. The tour will depart Italy from Milan.

**Cost:** TBC

**Expression of Interest:** 6230 0533 or email [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au)



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## Ainslie Open Houses and Gardens

*Original Canberra 'Artisan' Dwellings and Cottages on display*

**SUNDAY 10 APRIL 2011**

The wet weather in the days and morning leading up to this event did not bode well for the Trust's first Ainslie Open Houses and Gardens, as part of the 2011 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. Despite the overcast conditions, thirty one people showed up to take the guided tour and inspection of three houses and gardens – a Federal Capital Commission (FCC) T16 design "Artisan Dwelling", courtesy of Ken & Marilyn Charlton; a recently and sympathetically extended FCC T13 dwelling, courtesy of Mark Howden and Kirsten Sharman; and a three bedroom timber residence designed by noted Canberra architect, Ken Oliphant, courtesy of Ann Somers and her tenant, Yvette Blackman.

All three largely timber houses were constructed in the period 1927-1929. The gardens, laid out along traditional lines, were developed by the owners in the following years. The houses and gardens are listed in the ACT Heritage Register. All of the houses had undergone some degree of sympathetic renovation or extension but were still clearly representative of their type, being set on large blocks of land in picturesque settings.

The tour commenced with an introductory talk on Federal Capital architecture by noted Canberra conservation architect and Trust member, Ken Charlton OAM. The tour then divided into two smaller groups and set off on the guided walk with a commentary provided by guides on the heritage significance of the Ainslie Housing Precinct in between each house and garden inspection. Before each inspection, the owners and a tenant gave a short introductory talk about their homes and gardens, including information on what had changed and the reasons for the changes, supported by photographs and other material. Comprehensive hand-outs on each of the three houses were provided at each inspection. Questions and answers followed. At the conclusion of the guided walk, the group made its way back to the Baker Gardens Pre-school for the sumptuous afternoon tea provided by the Parent's Association.

Special thanks are due to Ken Charlton for identifying the homes and gardens in Ainslie and persuading the owners to open them, and for the high standard of research prepared for this event.

Hopefully, a similar guided walk might be offered by the Trust in 2012 as comments by all of those attending were very positive and enthusiastic.

**John Tucker**

## 'What's it Worth 2011': a great day for Canberra collectors

Another popular "What's it Worth" was held this year in the beautifully refurbished Albert Hall. Once again co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Canberra and the National Trust of Australia (ACT), the day saw hundreds of collectors come to hear stories about their treasures and to get valuations. One lucky collector discovered that an impressive vase was worth over \$20,000, a great outcome for a mere \$5 entry and \$5 valuation fee! Newly included areas this year were maps, vintage clothes and heritage lace.

A key to success of the day was the wonderful assistance of volunteers from both organizations. A hearty thanks to all those volunteers who gave their time to assist with this event.

We will look forward to another "What's it Worth" at a time yet to be announced. Heritage in Trust will keep you posted on the date. In the meantime we hope you enjoy the photos of the event.

**Di Johnstone**

Photos by Chris Wain





## Lake Eyre & Flinders Ranges Trip

*What is the connection between Breaker Morant, the rare Yellow-footed Rock wallaby, copper and Sir Hans Heysen?*



*They all featured on our tour!*

This six day trip provided enormous variety to the 20 participants hailing from Perth, Brisbane and, of course, Canberra. It ranged from the remoteness of Lake Eyre with its vastness, patterns and colours, to the rugged beauty of the Flinders, the mining history of Burra and the lavish gentility of Ayers House.

We enjoyed contrasting flights above Lake Eyre and the Flinders Ranges. Whilst some may have been let down with the few pelicans and sea gulls in the flooded salt basin, the day in the region that inspired Hans Heysen was a hit—especially spotting the elusive Rock wallaby.

Our coach captain Gaylene, drove our 4WD bus through rugged terrain and narrow gateways. Her expert commentary and skill in picking out the abundant flora and fauna added much to our tour.



The discovery of copper at Burra in the 1840s, predating the goldrush of 1851, saved South Australia from bankruptcy. Another sparkling day enhanced a wonderful tour by Leigh from the National Trust, who provided an informative and witty commentary.



Our candlelit dinner and tour on the final night at Ayers House was a brilliant finale to the trip. Actors portrayed the butler, housekeeper, cook and various housemaids and brought to life the household of Sir and Lady Ayers, who had made some of their considerable wealth from Burra.

And Breaker Morant? Well you'll have to go to Burra for that.

**Linda Roberts**  
Tour Escort

## A Day out to visit Bellevale and Yass



In glorious Autumn weather a bus full of ACT NT members journeyed to the historic Bellevale homestead in Yass for a morning of gardens and afternoon of history. The homestead, named after Hamilton Hume's sister and established in the early 1800s, provided a perfect venue for the popular Australia's Open Garden Scheme Plant Fair. Trust Members were able to stroll in the garden, meet and talk with specialist plant growers, purchase plants and bulbs and view and purchase botanic illustrations by fine regional artists. As well as hearing a lecture on the historic property we were able to meet a few of the locals including the current owner and two amazingly large young Great Danes, both in the flesh and also carved from wood.

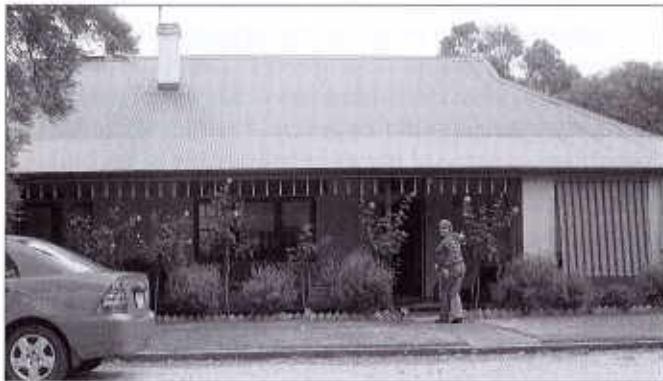
After lunch we boarded our bus and proceeded a few minutes down the road to Yass where we were given a brief overview of the historic town before undertaking a locally guided tour of some of its notable buildings. A leisurely drive back to Canberra on a lovely Autumn afternoon was the final touch to an almost perfect day."

**Jim Nockels**



## **'Ellerslie' Homestead, Bacchus Marsh, Victoria.**

My sister, niece and I recently stayed in this charming bed and breakfast which is also a loved private home. It has quite a story of connection with the National Trust in Victoria.



'Ellerslie' is on the last remaining block of what was originally one of the first 89 acre (14ha) allotments subdivided in the Bacchus Marsh valley by the Government Surveyor in 1839. It is significant as a rare remnant example of the small farm complexes that were prominent within the early settlement of the valley and as an illustration of the way of life associated with them.

The first owner was a Scottish merchant, Mr. Peter Inglis who bought it at auction in 1841. He gave it to a friend, Mr Archibald Fiskin, who married his daughter, for "Thirty pounds and a promise never to go into debt". Both men became early pioneers of the cattle industry. In the late 1850s, Archibald Fiskin built a brick cool room and then a linked three-roomed brick cottage to accommodate first himself and then his workers.

This cottage still has, *in situ*, its standard fire insurance plaque which I believe indicated to the fire brigade that they were paid in advance to try to save this property in the event of fire.

Robert Langmuir, a Scottish immigrant, leased 'Ellerslie' from Fiskin in 1856 and purchased the property in 1861 at the expiration of the lease. The Langmuirs built a second four-roomed cottage for their family of three daughters and one son. 'Ellerslie' operated as a dairy farm for many years and then also as an orchard, producing apples and apricots. One very old apricot tree remains close to the house, split into three trunks but still growing.

In 1901 'Ellerslie' was bought by the McGrath family and kept until 1983. The larger house, in which we stayed, was built by extensions around Langmuir's 1870s cottage.

'Ellerslie' was bought by the current owner in 1984 in an attempt to stop the Local Council from knocking the whole of the property down to construct a through road. Two protracted fights with the local council took place in 1984-5 and 1990-91. 'Ellerslie' Homestead was the first property in Australia to be protected by a tripartite covenant with the National Trust, the Minister

for Planning and Environment and the owner under an Act of Parliament (April 1984) to protect the land, the gardens and all the buildings, thereby preserving them for the enjoyment of generations to come.



The owner told us that when the National Trust expert came to assess the property he more or less bypassed the house and became very excited over the cool room. His report describes this cool room as "square in plan, originally with a sunken floor and with a pyramidal roof clad in corrugated iron over the original shingles. The walls are constructed of bricks laid on edge in an interlocking cavity system thereby providing improved insulation. The system is English, invented by Silverlock of Chichester and was commonly used in the south of England in the 1860s. 'Ellerslie' appears to provide the earliest surviving example of its use in Australia". You can still see the meat hooks in the lathe and plaster ceiling of the cool-store, although you can only peer through the windows as the structures are in need of conservation.

We were fascinated by an old claw-footed bathtub, with drainage, standing on the terrace, open to the elements. The gardens retain some elderly plants and interesting designs. The stay was very pleasant and comfortable; we can recommend 'Ellerslie' to anyone drawn to Bacchus Marsh for family occasions or a holiday. Further temptations are the nearby fruit markets which include pick-your-own strawberries and heritage apple varieties.

For more information, refer to <http://www.ellersliehomestead.com/>

**Helen Cooke**

Photos by Helen Cooke





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Many of you will know some of the current burial places around Canberra, principally Woden and Gungahlin cemeteries, Norwood Park Crematorium and St John's Churchyard in Reid. It may come as a surprise to many that the Australian Capital Territory has many more official and unofficial burial places. Apart from the current "active" cemeteries, churchyards and crematoriums, there are a number of older, no longer used cemeteries, many "lone graves" and some small "cemeteries". I have included Jervis Bay as part of the ACT for the purpose of this article. The following is a description of some of the more interesting older burial places in the ACT.

The oldest known (marked) burials of Europeans in what we now know as the ACT are the graves of two members of the Colverwell family buried in Kowen Forest on Glen Burn Creek close to the old *Glenburn* homestead in 1837. Margaret, aged five years and Elizabeth (*sic*), aged eight years, died in December 1837. Possibly four or five other members of the family are also buried in this small cemetery in unmarked graves.

There are a number of other small burial places, some with markers, some without. Michael Herbert's death is commemorated by an obelisk beside the road at Naas, on the south bank of the Gudgenby River. A plaque inscribed with the words "*This cairn marks the resting place of Michael Herbert, the first known settler in the district of Naas, who died about a hundred years ago. These stones came from one of his buildings. March 1957*". In contrast, Joseph Acton is thought to have been buried in a field at Naas in July 1864, his grave now marked only by a star picket, with no plaque to record his death. The grave site of Henry and Eliza Phillips and their infant son Henry, who died in 1878, overlooks the site of the former *Sherwood* homestead at Uriarra. A plaque, erected by their descendants in 2000, marks the site. It is known to many bushwalkers mainly due to the spectacular display of daffodils each Spring. A long walk from Blue Range Hut is the only access.

Close to the southern border with NSW in Namadgi National Park is Westerman's Hut. Buried nearby are Elizabeth Mary Shiels née Westerman and her baby brother. Baby Westerman died in 1886, Elizabeth in 1922. A descriptive plaque marks the site. Harriet McIntosh lies buried close to Gudgenby Homestead in an unmarked grave. She died in July 1891. Another unmarked grave belongs to Jane Ann Hall, who died as the result of a horse-riding accident on 11 October 1897 and is buried under a large tree beside the Orroral Valley Road in Namadgi National Park.

Within the grounds of the Birrigai Outdoor School at Tidbinbilla lies the infant son of George and Margaret Hatcliff, William George Hatcliff, who died on 29 July 1897. In contrast to the simple grave of William is the magnificent monument and side-by-side graves of William Farrer and his wife Nina née de Salis at *Lambrigg*, on a hill overlooking the Murrumbidgee. Farrer is famous for his wheat experiments, many of which were



carried out at *Lambrigg*. He died in 1906, Nina in 1929. A tall granite and marble obelisk was erected by the Commonwealth in 1938. The site is a national monument under the *National Monuments Act 1928*. It is on private property, access by request to the owners. Another Commonwealth site is the grave of General William Throsby Bridges, first Commandant of RMC Duntroon. Wounded at Gallipoli, he died of wounds aboard the hospital ship *Gascon* three days later, on 15 May 1915. The grave is on the left-hand side of the road to Mount Pleasant within the grounds of Duntroon.

Few visitors to Mount Stromlo Observatory realise that its first Director, Dr Walter Geoffrey Duffield has his last resting place high on the western slopes of the Mount, together with his wife Doris. He died in 1929, Doris in 1956.

There are several old historic cemeteries in the Territory. The property known as *Parkwood*, although not strictly in the ACT is quite close to the border with NSW and can only be approached from the ACT. Several members of the Southwell family are buried there; the earliest took place in 1858. A memorial plaque records the thirteen known burials.

Probably the largest of the private-property cemeteries is at *Lanyon*. First established after William Wright was accidentally shot on the property in 1837, it has about 35 known burials, although only a handful are marked. A quite unusual cemetery is on the banks of the Murrumbidgee, near present-day *Cuppacumbalong*. Known as *Cuppacumbalong* or *de Salis Cemetery*, this unique raised burial ground was first used in 1876.

Cemeteries at Weetangerra (an area now known as Belconnen) and Ginninderra were both church-established. The Glebe, Ginninderra, also known as St Paul's Church of England Cemetery is located in the suburb of Evatt. During construction of that suburb, a road (Sharwood Crescent) was bulldozed through the site. A plaque, erected by the Southwell Family Society in 1995, lists the eighteen known burials, the earliest being 1872. The Weetangerra Methodist Cemetery lies in farmland behind *Lands End* homestead to the west of the suburb of Hawker. It originally surrounded a wooden Methodist church which was demolished in 1955. Although it was dedicated in 1873, the first burial was that of Joseph Roffe in 1876.

There are three cemeteries at Jervis Bay: Christians Minde, Green Patch and Wreck Bay, containing a total of thirteen known burials. The earliest was in 1905.

Other cemeteries are the well-known St John's, Reid and public cemeteries at Woden and Gungahlin. There is also a cemetery at Hall and a small burial-ground at Tharwa.

Finally, a mention of two leading political figures of their time who remain forever in the Nation's Capital. The eighth Prime Minister of Australia, Stanley

Melbourne Bruce had his ashes scattered over Lake Burley Griffin at his request, making him the only PM whose last remains were laid to rest here. A memorial cairn marking the occasion is located in Commonwealth Park close to the lake shore. The Woden Cemetery is the last resting place of former Labor leader and also former President of the United Nations (1948-1949), Herbert Vere Evatt. An impressive headstone marks his grave in the Anglican section.

Further information on these and other burial places can be obtained from:

Lea-Scarlett, E.J. *Queanbeyan: district and people*. Queanbeyan, Queanbeyan Municipal Council 1968.

Selth, P.A. *ed. Canberra Collection*. Kilmore, Lowden 1976.

Cameron, Ernest and Ewan. *The story of the Weetangerra Methodist Church*. 1956

O'Connor, Maura. *Report on the Weetangerra (Methodist) Cemetery*. Prepared for the National Trust (ACT). 1988.

Salisbury, Jean. *Canberra: St John's Churchyard 1844-1998*. Canberra, The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. 2000\*.

Mountain, Don *ed. Monumental Inscriptions: Australian Capital Territory including Jervis Bay*. The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. 2001\*.

Mountain, Don. *Lone burial sites in the Australian Capital Territory and surrounding areas*. Canberra, Don Mountain. 2000.

\*copies of these books may be purchased from The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. <[www.hagsoc.org.au](http://www.hagsoc.org.au)>.

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# A Century of RMC at Duntroon

*Continuing the story, begun in our last issue, of the Royal Military College of Australia which celebrates its centenary in 2011.*

## 1937 College Rebuild

When Australia (and the rest of the world) experienced the equivalent of this century's Global Financial Crisis, RMC was removed from Duntroon in 1931 and relocated at Victoria Barracks in Sydney as an economy measure. Co-incident with the college's return to Canberra in 1937, and reflecting the improved financial conditions by that time, plans were finally made to provide the long-promised permanent buildings at Duntroon. This program of works involved such an extensive amount of remodelling of the site that the whole look of the college was transformed. Duntroon assumed the distinctive appearance which has characterised it for the past seven decades.

The collection of fibro-cement buildings surrounding the parade ground square were all demolished, and the parade ground itself extended almost to the gardens of Duntroon House. At the same time, new two-storey barracks blocks and a two-storey cadets' mess and recreation block were constructed on the uphill side, on a terrace overlooking the parade ground. Along the north-eastern side were two new instructional buildings: a two-storey block of classrooms and a single storey block to house chemistry laboratories. Facing these structures from the opposite side of the square was a block of administrative offices which became the headquarters building.



*Duntroon Parade Ground*

The design adopted for all these structures—Mediterranean in character, white roughcast cement walls and red terracotta-tiled roofs—came from the chief architect in the Department of the Interior's works and services branch, Edwin Henderson. It was interesting that he applied a remarkably similar architectural solution (rendered white walls, tiled roof) to the remodelling of Government House at Yarralumla carried out in 1938, shortly before he suicided at his Red Hill home in Canberra in June 1939. An additional barracks block, matching the style of the previous two, was also built off the western end of the cadets' mess in 1939.

## Post-World War II development

At the end of the Second World War, the Australian Army moved from being primarily a militia force, needing only a cadre of staff officers to administer and train it in peacetime, to a standing army run by a corps of regular officers. Planning for the post-war service that was carried out in the late 1940s foreshadowed a large increase in the number of graduates required from RMC, with a commensurate growth in the facilities at Duntroon. The problem of providing housing for staff families began to be properly addressed from 1951, initially by the importation of the first pre-fabricated houses from England. This enabled removal of the last of the unsightly shanties of 'Toorak' or 'Squatters Ridge' from their location behind Mount Pleasant by late 1956.

In 1953 construction began on the accommodation building known as Anzac Block opposite the hospital. That same year an engineering laboratory was also completed. The hospital received a new ward in 1953, and the cadets' mess was also extended that year (and again in 1959). Canteen facilities were built in 1956, and in 1957 a new single-storey wing was added to Duntroon House to accommodate single officers. A new sergeants' mess was also built in 1957, after part of the old wooden mess was destroyed by fire two years earlier. During 1960 the three-storey block for military instruction (containing lecture and model rooms, offices for the military staff, and the college library) was completed, along with a physics block including laboratories, lecture room and offices for academic staff.

With the growth of Canberra it was also recognised that the northern college entrance through the Yass Gate (or Gun Gate, as it became known) was becoming less important than the western approach from the city centre, which actually ran through the college grounds. To eliminate the collection of old buildings on the city approach which then housed the post office, and the barber's, bootmaker's and tailor's shops, a new brick community canteen and a services block were erected on the southern side of the airport road in 1955-56. This change was followed in 1960 by the beginning of work to construct a bypass road that took traffic closer to the Molonglo River. This also enabled planning to begin on a new approach road to RMC known as Jubilee Avenue; opened in 1961, this new main entrance was lined by low walls featuring the badge of each corps of the army, and hence was commonly called the 'Badge Gates'.

With cadet numbers still growing, in 1962 a new three-storey accommodation block was erected on the slopes of Mount Pleasant, followed by a companion block in 1965. Construction was also begun in February 1964 on a long-awaited project to provide RMC with a permanent chapel. Planning begun in the 1920s had originally envisaged this structure occupying the knoll where General Bridges' grave stood, with the tomb actually enclosed within the floor of a bell-tower. This idea was finally abandoned, in favour of a structure



located in the area between Bridges' House and the Captains' Quarters. Called the Anzac Memorial Chapel of St Paul, the new building was opened in April 1966.



*Anzac Memorial Chapel of St Paul*

Although talk of establishing a new tri-service officer institution for the Australian Defence Force had begun to be heard during the 1970s, continuing pressure on available accommodation at Duntroon ensured that this—the most protracted development phase in the RMC's history—had to continue. A new barracks block higher up the slope of Mount Pleasant was constructed in 1974, and an extension of the MI (Military Instruction) Block had become so necessary that this also had to be carried out in 1977-78.

### **ADFA-related redevelopment**

Once plans were set in train to open an Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) on an adjoining site across the hill from RMC at Duntroon, to begin operations in 1986, the college also underwent a program of new construction and refurbishment—and not a little demolition—so that once again the face of Duntroon was effectively transformed. The MI Block underwent a major renovation, while Anzac Block was restored to its original purpose as cadet accommodation after many years of use as academic offices. The two-storey academic block beside the parade ground, formerly used by the Chemistry department, was also converted to accommodate specialist officers undergoing post-commissioning training in the Military Skills and Field Training Wing.

A major extension of the cadets' mess, involving a new dining hall, meant removal of the old gymnasium in 1984 and construction of a new physical fitness centre to the west of the MI Block, on a site occupied by married quarters since 1913; the new centre was opened in 1986. The former engineering building was refurbished to become the college clothing store in 1989. A new Duntroon Medical Centre to replace the old hospital and dental centre was also opened in 1991, on a site different to that occupied over the previous 70 years. An extension to this centre was completed in 1996.

During a second stage of redevelopment, beginning in 1994 and not completed until late 1997, a new logistics complex was erected, along with a new headquarters building set at the apex of a new main entrance to the college grounds from the western end. The new HQ housed all the administrative and technical facilities required for RMC, including the offices of the commandant and his staff, and was constructed in a style sympathetic to that of the 1937 rebuild. Begun in 1994, the HQ structure was opened in December of the next year and named Patterson Hall (in honour of the first RMC graduate killed in action). The new main entrance road, called Staff Cadet Avenue, was opened in 1996. Duntroon House also underwent a major new extension at this time, receiving a new kitchen and dining room in 1996, along with live-in accommodation for 12 junior officers. Here, too, the new extension was carefully designed to harmonise with the original homestead structures.

Buildings that date from the two post-1945 phases of RMC's development comprise the great majority of the structures currently occupying the Duntroon site. These stages reflect the growth of Australia's regular army after the Second World War, and the change in officer training that accompanied the establishment of the Australian Defence Force Academy in the mid-1980s. Unfortunately, most of the buildings from the last six decades were mostly constructed with an eye to functionality rather than aesthetic appeal. Among the few structures that exhibit sufficient architectural merit likely to warrant consideration for preservation in future decades are Anzac Block, the Chapel and Patterson Hall. When taken with the surviving structures from the earlier periods in the site's history, these will ensure that Duntroon's landscape will continue to present a rich heritage feast for Canberra residents and visitors to the national capital.

**Dr Chris Clark**  
RAAF Historian

Images from National Trust ACT Website Archives



*Bridges House, Duntroon*



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The National Trust ACT added nine events to this year's program of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. Partnering with other organisations enables us to provide a varied program. Friends of Albert Hall, Canberra & District Historical Society and Rotary all brought their expertise to the events: Albert Hall: inside and out, Academy of Science and What's it Worth.

Events were diverse with Robert Abell leading a bush-walk in Namadgi National Park, inspections of Canberra landmarks in Capital Buildings, an industrial precinct in Kingston, a heritage area in Ainslie Open Houses & Gardens, landscape design in Dr John Gray's Commonwealth Park tour and an open day at Duntroon Dairy.

Many thanks to Eric Martin and John Tucker of the Festival Taskforce and to the many experts including: Philip Leeson, Nicholas Goodwin, Graeme Trickett, Peter Freeman, Lenore Coltheart, Alan Roberts and Ken Charlton—all so vital in providing a high quality experience.

Duntroon Dairy was abuzz with activity. With 1000 people through the gate, entertainment included wood-turning, lace-making, lime-wash and butter churning demonstrations, tours, car and motor bike displays, cow milking, storytelling and face painting. Performances were from the Monaro bush-dancers display group, the RMC band and the Sing Australia Choir.

Our volunteers assisted with serving Devonshire teas, sausage sizzles and taking gate donations. The magnificent autumn weather not only brought many satisfied patrons but also good media coverage.

**Linda Roberts**

Chair of Tours Committee



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*The Heritage Festival in full swing photo  
Photo by Linda Roberts*