



NATIONAL TRUST

# NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA

## *Heritage in Trust*

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## John Gale and Life at Huntly – Part 1

Members will know John Gale OBE, a long-standing and Life Member of the National Trust ACT, who has most generously opened his home at Huntly and its lovely garden for National Trust functions and for many other charities and community organizations. In this interview, and in the lead up to Canberra's Centenary, over tea and home-baked scones in the sun-filled Bamboo Room of Huntly, overlooking the garden, John Gale reflects on his life at Huntly and in the Canberra District in earlier times and tells some special stories. This account builds on excellent articles by Judith Baskin in 1999 about the garden at Huntly and in 2008 about Huntly itself.

The first part of the article deals with John Gale's early days at Huntly and some special stories about Huntly.

### Why Huntly?

Before John's family bought *Huntly*, they owned a property, *Glen Barra*, at Manilla in northern NSW. This was a large and difficult place to run and manage - it was about 17,000 acres - and the family decided to sell it and buy another property. John looked at quite a few, mostly in the north and central west of New South Wales. While he was in Perth visiting his sister at Christmas in 1955, he received a telegram from his Uncle Ray, the senior member of the family (John's father, the oldest son, had died in 1950) saying, "We have seen a property in Canberra and we are very interested in it". Shortly after, John received another telegram saying, "We have settled and decided to buy *Huntly*". John "hadn't set eyes on it". John's Uncle Ray had been alerted to *Huntly's* availability by Woodgers and Calthorpe, then a leading land agency. It had not been advertised as the owners didn't want publicity.

The family company purchased *Huntly* because Ray Gale, chairman of the family company, had always been interested, as an observer, in the progress of the Federal Capital. He had never intended to live at *Huntly* and after it was purchased merely visited two or three times a year. Many other family members also visited *Huntly* but John was the only Gale family member who lived at *Huntly*. There were no Gale family connections in the area and John's family were not connected in any way to well-known Queanbeyan newspaper publisher John Gale.

### First impressions

After Christmas, John returned from Perth to stay at *Huntly* with the Milsons for two or three days and had his first



John Gale in his garden with the Mark Grey-Smith statue



John Gale sitting at the historic piano at Huntly.



The woolshed on Huntly



view of the property, which had been owned by the Milson family since 1933. Part of the present *Huntly* had been a grant in 1836 to Captain E. H. Cliffe, an owner and master of trading ships. Cliffe's grant had been named Craven (part of Craven is located in present-day *Huntly* and is now known as Cliffe's Paddock). Frederick Campbell had purchased *Yarralumla* in 1881 and Cliffe's grant and surrounding areas (including all the areas of present-day *Huntly*) were incorporated into *Yarralumla*. *Yarralumla* was subsequently resumed by the Commonwealth in 1912 and Frederick Campbell vacated in 1913. Some areas of *Yarralumla* became part of a post-WW1 soldier settlement scheme. In 1932-33 the Milsons acquired the leases of several failed or relinquished soldier settlement blocks and these land parcels were consolidated into the present-day property which they named *Huntly*. The original house on *Huntly* was built by the Milsons.

Neville Milson and his wife Katheen had long-standing connections in the district beyond *Huntly*. Prior to his marriage, Neville Milson had lived at *Uriarra* with his two brothers, a property owned by Neville Milson's father. Kathleen was formerly a Retallack and her father owned the property called *Woodstock* over the river from *Huntly*, and it is still owned by the Retallack family today.

When he visited, John liked the area but his first impression of the property was one of disappointment as he felt it was badly watered for running stock. Despite his first impressions, when John moved into the house on 3 February 1956, he recalls that it was with a feeling of excitement. He was then 31 years old and had spent most of his life in the country. Although then in partnership with his Uncles Ray and Robin Gale, by the early 1970's he would become the full owner of *Huntly*.

### Meeting the neighbours

When staying with the Milsons, before coming to live there, John was taken to a rural bushfire brigade meeting held on an adjoining property, *Spring Valley*, owned by Jean McLennan (formerly a member of the National Trust). This was his first introduction to the neighbours who were kind and welcoming. *Huntly* had only three adjoining landholders, unusually few in those days, because two boundaries were mostly rivers. His neighbours were the Tanners at *Piney Creek*, Jean McLennan and her brother Bob Shepherd at *Spring Valley*; and Vernie Buckmaster at *The Rivers*. However the neighbours John came to know best were the Hyles and Retallacks at *Uriarra* and *Woodstock*.

### Social life and connections with Canberra

Even in 1956 the district around *Huntly* was a "suburban rural community". With Canberra only 25 minutes away on a mostly tarred road, socialising was largely bound up with people in Canberra. There was no lake then and Civic Centre was the largest shopping area but John liked to shop in Kingston as, "that was more like the country town I was used to". The closest part of Canberra was Banks Street, *Yarralumla*. Deakin was built to Kent Street and the Campbell family still resided in the homestead at

Yarra Glen, now under the Yarra Glen roadway beside St Andrew's Village.

### Local associations/major events in the district

Annual meetings of the bushfire committee were important social events. These were held in members' houses and after the formal meeting there was always supper and a few drinks. In 1956, bushfires were very much in people's minds after the 1952 bushfires that were second in magnitude only to those that were to come in 2003. In 1952, *Huntly* had been largely burned. Although no buildings were burnt, there were remains of many burnt fences when John arrived.

The other major organization that brought people together was the local Farmers and Graziers Association, whose Molonglo Branch was based in Queanbeyan. However, more important were social events such as the Canberra Picnic Races, held in an area now under Lake Burley Griffin. These were fun and it "was a nice little course" if "a bit stony". After the day-long races, the "matrons" used to hold a "pretty grand cocktail party" in one of the courtyards at the Hotel Canberra and after that would be a black tie ball at the Albert Hall followed by supper in the Hotel Canberra. The Red Cross Blood Bank also held an annual blood donations day in the Albert Hall around this time and John recalls with some amusement that, "one night you would be dancing in the Albert Hall and two days later you would be lying on your back giving blood to the Blood Bank". Other social places for meeting were the Canberra Show, in those days at, "a lovely little rural showground" at the village of Hall, and the Albert Hall where there were concerts, which were rather cold in the wintertime because of poor heating in the Hall. Performers who came to Canberra complained that Canberra audiences were "cold" and "they were, literally".

### Water on *Huntly*

John found his initial assessment of the property had been correct. He quickly learnt that Edgar Wheatly, an overseer, who had been with the Milsons since 1933 and stayed on the property, had spent most of his time in summer "going around and trying to find soakages". Having lived for 2-3 years in far west NSW, John knew a good deal about drought conditions and it "seemed to me rather silly" that a property situated on the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo, "didn't have access to this water". Within the first year he had a diesel piston pump installed on the Murrumbidgee River which raised water about 500 feet from the river to supply the property and houses. Ironically, however, 1956 turned out to be an exceedingly wet year and *Huntly* was mainly a "large bog hole". He remembers that the first year was very hard work although at least he got the fencing done, including repairing fences that had been burnt in the 1952 fires and had not been replaced.

### Annual shearing

Until 1961, *Huntly* took the bulk of its sheep to the *Yarralumla* Woolshed which was built in 1904. Up until the end of WWII, John recalls the government used to

(continued on page 2)



run the shearing, and local graziers, including many soldier settlers, took their sheep there. As none of the local properties were very big, shearing for individual properties would be done in a couple of days, as there were 11 shearing stands in the shed. After WWII, local landholders, headed by Neville Milson and George Campbell at *Yarra Glen*, formed a private company with around 6 rural lessees and were allowed to rent the Woolshed and 50 acres around it.

Annual shearing began on the last Monday in October and, as Neville Milson was the Chairman of the company, the *Huntly* sheep always went first. The wether sheep would be mustered over the weekend and moved as close as possible to Yarralumla by the Saturday night. They would be put in the Uriarra stock reserve on the south east boundary of *Huntly*, and were moved there a thousand at a time. John and his staff would be up before daylight next morning, on horses with their dogs. They would drive the sheep down the Uriarra and Cotter Roads to Yarralumla. The sheep would be shedded on Sunday night and shorn on Monday. The shed managed to shear about 1000 sheep per day. *Huntly's* ewes were shorn on *Huntly*. Sheep that had been shorn the day before would be taken back next day to *Huntly*. The trip back with the shorn sheep took about a quarter the time it took to take the woolly sheep up. On the way back without their wool "they were running all the way to get back". The last time *Huntly* sheep were shorn at the Yarralumla Woolshed was in 1961. After this the *Huntly* shed was expanded, shearers quarters were built and all sheep were then shorn on the property. Shearing ceased at the Yarralumla Woolshed in 1964.

### The historic *Huntly* piano

Among the many "heritage treasures" at *Huntly* with a special story is the piano. John's mother had been a talented pianist and John had played piano, "not very well", from a young age. His father had bought him a "boudoir grand", a Steinway, now 100 years old. John was told that, when owned by Steinway's Sydney agents, Nicholsons, the piano was loaned to Dame Nellie Melba for use in her suite on her visits to Sydney. John brought this piano to *Huntly* with him and started having tuition again. The piano at *Huntly* has been used quite a lot for musical concerts and two notable recitals were performances for charity by John Winter, then Director of the Canberra School of Music and Margot Anthony, wife of former Deputy Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Doug Anthony AC CH.

### Unusual statues in the garden

In 1989 John agreed to have an exhibition of sculptures in the garden, produced mainly by local sculptors, who were asked to make something appropriate for a garden. There were 26 pieces and the exhibition was open to the public over four weekends and attracted many visitors to *Huntly*. The prominent sculptor Mark Grey-Smith, then with a studio at Murrumbateman, produced three large

pieces, one of which was a voluptuous female standing-figure that was firmly secured to a large eucalypt in the garden. After a year, Grey-Smith was returning to Perth and asked if he could come to get them back. John decided to purchase the figure attached to the tree, where it still stands. Another was bought by University House.

### The Donkey Paddock

When John arrived, the paddock at the back of the house was called the Cow Paddock. A delightful story lies behind its change of name. Before John came to *Huntly* his mother and stepfather bought him a pair of small and appealing pottery donkeys. A year or two later another donkey ornament had been bought for John by his mother from the famous Nymphenburg factory in Munich which produced a classic three porcelain donkey set. On his first overseas trip after moving to *Huntly*, John visited the Munich factory and bought the other two porcelain donkeys in the set and his collecting career began. After that, wherever he went, John collected various donkeys, some 30 of which are now scattered liberally around the house. When John returned to *Huntly* after an overseas trip, a cousin and his wife walked him to the back gate which opened into the Cow Paddock, pointed up the hill and "what do I see, but two donkeys". They had bought John two real donkeys, a mother, called Samantha who was "rather sweet" and an unnamed foal. The Cow Paddock promptly became the Donkey Paddock. John's many horses apparently loathed the donkeys and acted up if they could see or smell them, but the donkeys remained at *Huntly* until they eventually died of natural causes in old age.

Di Johnstone

*Many thanks to Di and to John for this most interesting insight. We will learn more about life at Huntly and the 2003 bushfires on Huntly in the next edition of Heritage in Trust.*

*Photographs by Di Johnstone*

### 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)

The National Trust is undertaking some bold new initiatives in an endeavour to overcome our annual deficit.

## 2013 Rally

We have put forward a proposal to undertake a major vintage and veteran car rally from Jervis Bay to Canberra as part of the 2013 Canberra Centenary Celebrations. It is envisaged that this will commence from the Steam Ship activity, organized by the Navy, and take two days to arrive at Canberra with an overnight in Braidwood. The end will work in with a "Wheels" activity being organised by others.

## Sponsorship/Support

With the assistance of Artsupport Australia, we will proceed to develop philanthropic fundraising. This hopefully will enable a better connection with a wide diversity of our community to assist with continuation of funding and interest to make us more viable.

## New Councillors

We welcome two new members of Council – Lisa Norman and Sally Brockwell who will, I am sure, make valuable contributions to Council. There are further details on both elsewhere in the Magazine.

## 2010 – 2011

The result from this financial year was a loss of about \$45,000 which was slightly better than expected but this does not make us sustainable in the long term. This is why new initiatives as mentioned above are essential.

## Heritage Issues

These remain at the forefront of the National Trust with the ACT Heritage at Risk Selection being forwarded to the Australian Council of National Trusts (ACNT) for National Consideration. The aspect which continues to concern us is that some items appear to be unresolved and in the meantime, our heritage continues to decay or be threatened by the pressure of new development. This includes the Brickworks and Dickson/Lyneham Flats and Lake Burley Griffin. We are also pursuing discussions with ACT Heritage for an audit of the effectiveness of existing conservation controls on our Conservation Areas.

The National Trust role is critical to ensure all our heritage is appropriately conserved and we seek the support of all our members in achieving this.

Eric J. Martin, AM  
President

## CHARTER

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

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

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## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Please note there has been a 10% increase of National Trust (ACT) membership fees as of July 2011

### New Members \$35.00 Joining Fee

Individual	Annual	2 years	3 years
Standard	\$72.00	\$136.00	\$199.00
Concession	\$50.00	\$94.00	\$138.00

### Household

Standard	\$105.00	\$199.00	\$292.00
Concession	\$83.00	\$157.00	\$230.00

### Corporate \$660.00

### Life Membership

Individual	\$825.00
Household	\$1320.00

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



## People and Places

*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:

Maurice Austin	William and Margaret Miller
Geoffrey and Lorraine Corner	Lisa Norman
Courtney Crane	Simone Spano
Steven and Edna Gavin	Isabel Mudford
Nicholas Harisson	Rodney and Helen Piper
Julien Francia	Steve and Kay Provins
Mary-Anne and John Kitchen	Diane and David Tait
Lionel and Esther Loader	Meera Rajendran
Heather Millar	Hans and Michelle Van Brakel

### Trusted Recipes

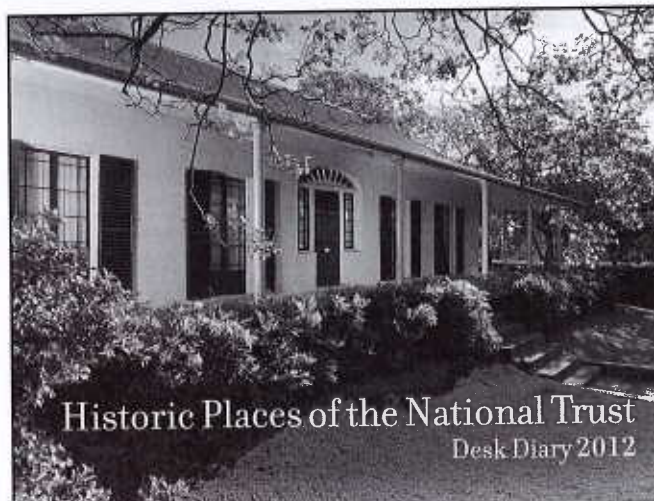
#### Bread 'n Butter Pudding

##### Ingredients (serves 6)

- 50g unsalted butter
- 2 slices white bread, fruit loaf or any bread that is going stale
- 50g sultanas
- 6 eggs
- 100g caster, raw or any sugar
- 600ml milk or include that cream you need to use up
- Vanilla pod or essence optional

##### Method

1. Lightly butter a 2-litre baking dish. Butter the bread, remove the crusts if you wish, and cut each slice into 2 triangles, little rectangles or whatever artistic fancy takes you.
2. Arrange pieces in layers in the dish and sprinkle sultanas in between layers. Don't put any sultanas on the top layer as they will burn.
3. Whisk together the eggs and sugar. Place milk or cream in a saucepan (with the vanilla pod or a drop or two of vanilla essence) and bring to scalding point. Pour milk/cream over the egg mixture and whisk lightly to combine.
4. Strain mixture over bread slices, making sure not to dislodge them. Set pudding aside for at least 30 minutes - this ensures that the pudding will be light and not stodgy.
5. Preheat the oven to 180°C.
6. Place the baking dish in a large roasting pan and pour enough boiling water into the pan to come halfway up the sides of the baking dish.
7. Cover the dish loosely with foil, place in the oven and bake for 15 minutes. Remove foil and bake uncovered for a further 15-20 minutes or until golden.



### 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.

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)

**Note that National Trust Christmas Cards and the 2012 Desk Diaries will also be available from the Office.**

### Combined Charities Christmas Card Shop

The Combined Charities Christmas Card Shop is operating at The Uniting Churches Centre, Pilgrim House, Northbourne Avenue, Canberra City (Same place as last year). The shop operates from Monday 24 October to Thursday 15th December and it is open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm.

The National Trust is again participating, and is on duty in the shop for the day on Friday November 11. If any members would like to volunteer to help, please phone the Office on 6230 0533.

### Public meeting on park proposal

A group working towards the declaration of a Murrumbidgee-Ginninderra Gorges National Park will hold a public meeting in Canberra on Monday, 31 October 2011, 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm. The venue is the ACT Legislative Assembly reception room, South Building, London Circuit, Civic. The Member for Ginninderra, Meredith Hunter, will host the event, which will include a question-and-answer session with an expert panel. All are invited to attend.



## Message from the Executive Director

Having just returned from a National Executive Director's meeting in Melbourne, it is alarming to see the financial trials that most of the State National Trusts are facing across Australia.

In recent years it has become a trend for government and for private funders to allow organisations such as ours to apply only 10 percent of direct project costs toward administration, while some refuse to support operational costs at all. The resulting financial strain challenges even the most efficient organisation, forcing the taking on of additional projects. This in turn increases the amount of capital needed, creating a vicious cycle which perpetually starves organisations such as ours of capacity.

Many studies have concluded that providing general operating as opposed to project support yields better results for funders and donors alike. Still, the majority of funding bodies continue to focus on project funding, preferring its ability to generate concrete results and demonstrate a funder's impact in a specific funding area. The presumption is that the funder knows more about how to address a given problem than its recipients - studies have proven that this is usually not a correct presumption.

It has been proven time and time again that Governments cannot meet the efficiencies in the management of historic properties that can be achieved by properly funded volunteer and membership based organisations such as the National Trust. If the Trust movement is forced to continue on the project funding spiral then the unthinkable may happen - it will eventually collectively be forced to close its doors - then it will be up to Governments to take the responsibility for the magnificent buildings that the Trust movement

and its band of volunteers struggle to maintain. The full cost will be borne by taxpayers.

Governments must also accept that the use of project funding stifles advocacy and other valuable services as organisations use all of their energy developing and completing projects to raise revenue in an attempt to stay viable. This serves to weaken Governments' capacity to deliver and sponsor services that respond to community aspirations/needs.

The National Trust and other non-government organisations need your support to advocate for less restrictive funding policy.

On another note, I am continually surprised by the number of historic properties here in the ACT that are not in use or have been restored and then virtually forgotten. One such property recently encountered was the Duntroon Woolshed, a building that has a remarkable history and is one of the oldest buildings in Canberra. It was beautifully restored but then abandoned, now being maintained by the lessee of surrounding land at his own cost. He says that his holding of the surrounding land is tenuous to say the least in the centre of the new Majura Road upgrade. Any old building or object needs to be used regularly and adequately maintained. This was demonstrated to me, when I borrowed a low mileage, half century old, on the surface pristine and very valuable E-type Jaguar from a national and respected museum to use to promote an event. The monocoque hybrid (frame), whilst still looking good from the outside, was rusted from the inside making the car worthless and virtually ready to collapse. This risk applies equally to any old structure.

Chris Wain  
CEO

### *Members' Christmas Get-Together at "Huntly"*

*Sunday 4 December 2011, 3-5pm*

*Members: \$20    Non Members: \$25*

*Drinks and refreshments included*

*There will also be light classical music for your enjoyment*

John Gale has generously agreed to speak at the Christmas party about the development of the garden at "Huntly" and its significant features and plants and about the "Huntly" peacocks.

**Bookings are essential. Please RSVP by Wednesday 30 November**

NT ACT Office on 0262300533 or book online at [www.nationaltrustact.org.au](http://www.nationaltrustact.org.au)

"Huntly" is situated just past the outer slopes of Mt Stromlo on the road to Uriarra Crossing. The entrance is on the right hand side of the road and there is a sign with the property name for all to see. There will also be a National Trust sign next to the road.

*We look forward to seeing you there!!*



Yet again it has been a busy couple of months at the National Trust office. Much of my time has been spent compiling the Heritage @ Risk nominations (see the full article Heritage @ Risk for more information) and putting the final touches on our Northern Border Walks brochures for the Centenary Border Walks project. In late July I had a fun day out walking the Northern Border Walks with Peter Dowling, Linda Roberts and Chris Wain; we heard all about the surveying history of these borders - and even got to see a light dusting of snow at Bulls Head Reserve!

On behalf of the National Trust, the Heritage Committee and I continue to be involved in a number of ACT heritage issues; we have provided comments and advice on the development of the Kingston Fitters Workshop; a Senate Inquiry regarding the heritage of Parliament House, and Lake Burley Griffin's rejected Emergency National Heritage Listing, among others. We were glad to see another round of places put up for Provisional Registration on the ACT Heritage Register and the full listing of St Patrick's Church in Braddon. Many of the original nominations for these sites were supported by the National Trust so their Provisional Listing can be seen as a positive step towards their heritage values being recognised and conserved.

A major project the Trust is embarking on regarding the Garden City Heritage Precincts throughout Canberra

has come directly from discussions about our Heritage @ Risk program. While Reid Housing Precinct has been listed as being at risk, it is representative of the general decline of the Garden City design heritage values across all twelve of the housing precincts. The issues surrounding development, demolition and renovations in these precincts have been known for some time and were brought up in the Marshall Review of the ACT Heritage Act 2004. The Trust is looking to work with the Heritage Council and various community groups to undertake an audit of these areas to first see if the heritage guidelines in place are working to conserve the heritage values and if not, figure out what can be done to fix them. This is an exciting project which will hopefully see some positive outcomes for a major part of our city's heritage. To keep up to date with the development of this project and any other heritage issues the Trust is involved in, be sure to check out the Heritage News or Heritage Issues sections on our website.



Peter Dowling, Chris Wain and Linda Roberts walking the 'Old Coach Road' border walk at Mulligans Flat.  
Photograph by Bethany Lance

## 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](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/heritage)**



## KEEP UP TO DATE

*Are you up with the latest National Trust happenings? Maybe you have been missing out on our E News bulletins! Make sure you are on the E News list and are kept up to date with events, have access to National Trust media releases and opportunities to contribute to the valuable and important work of the Trust.*

*Email [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au)*

*with the subject heading of:*

*Subscribe to E News*



## Enhancing the Tour Experience



As chair of the Tours Committee, I've seen many a tour guide in action. In my work for ACT Heritage the writing of heritage signage is a challenge. In both cases whatever is written and spoken without enthusiasm will be listened to, or read, without interest. In both cases you must be in love with your material, and you must be in tune with your fellow man to make the desired impact.

The old adage that 'through interpretation, understanding; through understanding appreciation; through appreciation, protection' is at the crux of my work. I believe it is the clear duty of heritage officers, rangers and museum curators not to merely conserve a piece of hallowed ground or artefact, but to make it full of meaning to the visitor. This is interpretation.

There is much skill required in relaying the message to an audience. For a majority of people visiting a site, their first, and unfortunately, only impression will come from an interpretive sign. If they cannot readily understand the sign, or label, the person may easily conclude that the place is a little beyond their normal capacity to enjoy.

Mt Ainslie Lookout is often at the top of the list for tourists or for locals taking their guests. Prior to the installation of Canberra Tracks signs there in late 2006 I would watch the tour buses come, visitors disembark and many head to the stately bronze signs for information on what was magnificently stretched out before them. I have also listened as parents and teachers attempted to engage their charges by reading the text only to give up after a few sentences. The writing, commemorating the worthy contribution of Sir John Butters and Sir John Overall to the building of Canberra, is impenetrable. The more recent signage, whilst not perfect (a further 100+ signs have been written and installed throughout ACT since these) tries to engage with the audience.

Canberra Tracks, as mentioned in earlier issues, is a network of, now six, self-drive heritage trails. They encompass the local Aboriginal story, pastoral history, the building of the capital, burial grounds, Gungahlin heritage and shortly Belconnen heritage. Its purpose is to enhance the experience of the visitor or local by revealing our past. And while many believe historical Canberra is an oxymoron, interpretation through signage and guides is an instrument of safekeeping our heritage through education.

Interpretive signs and museum labels will usually be read by people standing. So let's be succinct without a telegraphic or SMS texting style, so that the message conveyed is adequate. The premise should begin with 'What would the prospective reader wish to read?' not 'What is it I wish to say?'

At Mt Ainslie it is: what are those buildings—is that Questacon? And why is there this agreeable symmetry and pattern? Not necessarily, without meaning any

disrespect, the work of Butters and Overall. So without the availability of face-to-face guides, the written word assumes a greater responsibility to interpret and engage.

The ideal is to have a guide. Someone with such a thorough love and knowledge of the subject that they need not memorise and recite notes, but can improvise, staying fresh, energised and able to adapt the content to the audience. It is no surprise then, that on our National Trust walks the expertise of the guide is paramount to the enjoyment of the tour. So the coffee wasn't that hot and the parking tricky, but if the guide displayed those qualities mentioned above, those things are forgiven. On our feedback forms, this is usually the first point mentioned, and reports of the two recent tours in this issue, both mention the knowledgeable guides.

It is a logical extension that if the written word is to be succinct, so too is the spoken. On one of my many tours of Parliament House (taking a variety of visitors) a new young guide was rostered on. The volume of information from the marquetry maker, designer, woods used, to every detail of the building, spoken at such a speed, proved that he had the knowledge, but was poor in engaging and interpreting to the predominantly 'English as a second language' group. The power of understatement and showing restraint, which can be appropriately unleashed when questioned by a provoked visitor, are proof where 'less is more' succeeds. And us guides love those provoked listeners.

The advent of new technologies will have an exciting impact on interpretation. Today's fantastic audio-visual displays, ipod downloads and phone apps can open up new opportunities, engage with a wider, tech-savvy audience, that needs to be embraced. So whether you are downloading our heritage or ipodding the landscape, these tools can never supplant the need for succinct, engaging and informative interpretation. Where signs are a blot on the landscape, where signs are a constant target for vandals, this future is exciting and is a new chapter to be shortly included in Canberra Tracks.

There has been a continuing partnership with ACT Heritage and the National Trust ACT—particularly in the area of interpretation. A number of signs are co-branded and shortly another six signs highlighting portions of the ACT border will be installed.

So until you can download an app that will enhance your experience walking these short sections of the border, I encourage you to attend our border walks in the new year with a face-to-face guide Dr Peter Dowling. He, like so many of our tour guides, are true interpreters and not threatened by new technologies—instead using them as a future adjunct to the experience on offer.

**Linda Roberts**  
Chair, Tours Committee



## Travels with the Trust

### The Border at the Old Coach Road

Sunday 19 February 4.30-7.30pm

Why is the ACT shaped the way it is? Join Dr Peter Dowling and enter the predator proof fence in the Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve and learn about the layers of history on offer: the Aboriginal occupants, pastoral developments and just what villages the Old Coach Road connected. Then reflect back 101 years to when Surveyor Percy Sheaffe and his team mapped out this part of the border. The walk is relatively flat and is 6km return. Refreshments will be served after the walk.

**Meet:** Mulligans Flat car park on the corner of Amy Ackman and Clegget Sts, Forde.

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

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

### The Zig Zag Border at Little Mulligans

Sunday 4 March 4.30-7.30pm

What are lock splits and why is the border here so zig zag? The Commonwealth authorities wanted a clean and healthy water supply from a catchment they could control for the new national capital. This border walk will elaborate just how the watershed is captured. Join Dr Peter Dowling on this 3km return walk which does have a steep but short incline to the hill crests. Refreshments will be served after the walk.

**Meet:** Take the Mulligans Flat Rd from Horse Park Dr in Bonner. At the junction of Mulligans Flat Rd with Old Gundaroo Rd there is a small car park lay by to your left and the entrance to the nature park.

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

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

### 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:** Twin Share - \$2760 Members; Twin Share - \$2860 Non-Members  
Single - \$3911 Members;  
Single - \$4011 Non-Members

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

#### World Heritage Tour of Italy & Sicily

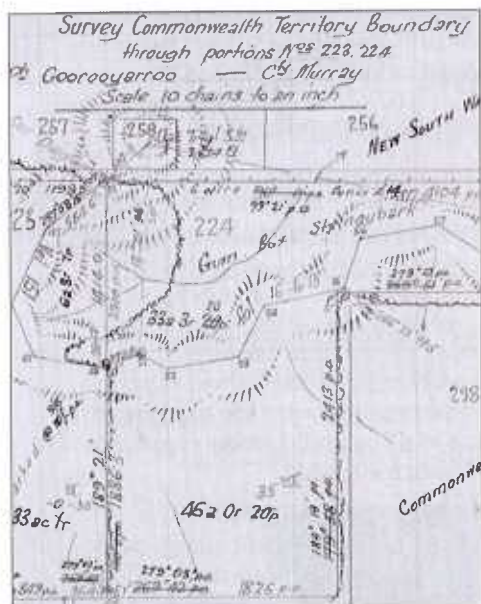
September 2012

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.

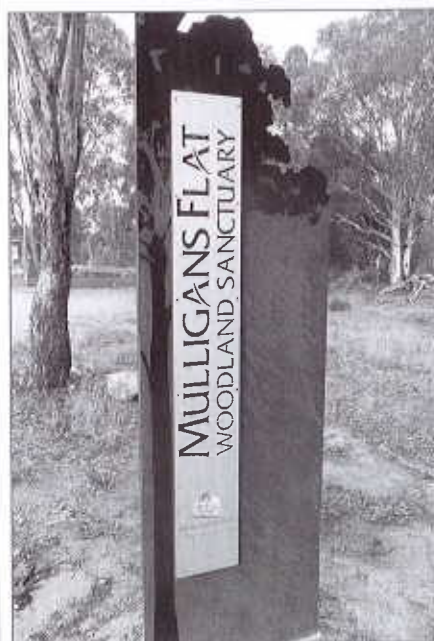
**Cost:** TBC

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



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To celebrate the latest addition to the suite of National Trust tour brochures, there will be border walks based on two of the six described in *Northern Border Walks*. Stay tuned for our contribution to the program of the 2012 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival 14 – 29 April.

## Destination Tuggeranong Homestead

After a National Trust member read Jennifer Horsfield's book *Jane Cunningham: An Australian Life*, a tour of Tuggeranong Homestead was requested and duly delivered on 26 June by a wonderful guide, Rebecca Lamb.

As advertised, there are many layers of history which our knowledgeable guide from MOTH (Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead) elaborated upon and was able to answer our many questions. It's a gamble planning a tour in winter, but we were blessed with sunshine.

The 22 attending the tour learnt about the Aboriginal occupants and the pastoral period. We saw stables, the meat house, maids quarters, sheds, an old petrol bowser and the highlight—the homestead itself. The initial 1949 blond brick facade may be off-putting, but this is quickly pushed aside viewing the interior and learning about the inhabitants from 1919 to 1925: Dr Charles Bean and staff undertaking the writing of the official history of World War I. An extra bonus for us was seeing the engine pump in operations in one of the sheds.

The homestead today is run as a function centre by Neil Gillespie, the son of historian Lyall Gillespie. The plentiful supply of scones and slices was a lovely end to a most informative tour.

Linda Roberts



Old Farming Equipment  
Tuggeranong Homestead



Tuggeranong  
Homestead



Tuggeranong  
Homestead Tour

## Noel Butlin Archive Centre Tour

This tour was my introduction to the role of tour leader although, as the participants were so friendly and co-operative, it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Of course with the wonderful archivist Sarah Lethbridge leading us through this mine of information, I merely counted heads to make sure I did not lose any of the group, which numbered 23.

I would recommend a trip through this archive which houses an amazingly diverse range of historical documents and photographs. These cover such topics as industry, commerce, media, unions, migration, politics, the role of women in the workforce and a large section on HIV AIDS with emphasis on protection and education. With so many people now interested in family history this Centre caters for the family detective.

At the conclusion of the tour we all walked to the Ivy Cafe in the delightful Old Canberra House. As a tour leader I quickly learnt that the best laid plans can go awry, however, a cuppa and food was soon forthcoming.

For anyone taking advantage of the research available here, I would just recommend the wearing of warm clothes as it is a very cold building or alternatively make your trip in the summertime!!!

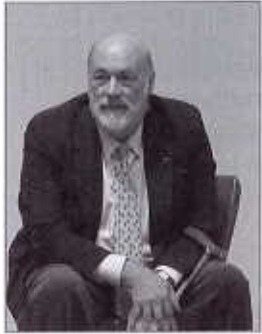
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**Born:** Renmark, South Australia, 1949  
**Died:** Perth, Western Australia 2010

David Sutton Dolan was posthumously made a Member of the Order of Australia in June 2011 for outstanding achievements in heritage and education.

Throughout his career Dolan held a variety of positions and responsibilities related to heritage and education.

From 1995 until his death he was the inaugural Professor and Director, Research Institute of Cultural Heritage at Curtin University, Perth. In this role he has left an enduring legacy in Western Australia. The Institute won several prestigious awards, including the Australian Business Arts Foundation's Marsh Partnership Award in 2008, and in 2006 its Indigenous Curatorial Traineeship Scheme was awarded a Western Australian Business and the Arts Partnership Award.

Prior to that Dolan built on his experience as a tutor and lecturer in the history and theory of art at the South Australian School of Art (now part of University of South Australia) to play significant roles in related fields in the ACT and NSW. In 1983 he was appointed Fine Arts adviser within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Throughout his career he was committed to clear and concise communication in both the written and spoken word. One of Dolan's special qualities was his ability to walk with those learning new skills, providing encouragement and support in the right amounts and at the right times.

Many people in Canberra will remember Dolan as the first Curator of Lanyon Homestead. His belief in allowing an object to "talk for itself", whether it was a building or artwork, and his insistence on thorough research, underpinned his persuasive advocacy for the homestead and associated historic precinct. His ongoing support of the National Trust included training volunteers and facilitating exhibitions and competitions highlighting the ACT's heritage values.

His subsequent role was Director of the Nolan Gallery, purpose built to house a significant collection of Sidney Nolan's paintings gifted to the nation by the artist. Dolan focussed not only on Nolan's works but also gave the gallery the status of a quasi regional gallery for the ACT by showing travelling and specifically commissioned exhibitions for the Canberra community.

After his work in Canberra, and before his appointment at Curtin University, Dolan became Senior Curator of Australian Historical and Decorative Art, and subsequently Manager of Collection Development and Research, at the Powerhouse Museum (Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences) in Sydney.

Dolan thrived on the diverse political, social, technical and educational aspects of cultural and natural heritage; was never deterred by contentious issues and had the ability to remain on good terms with those who held opposing views. While in Western Australia he played an active part in many community organisations. He was President of the Friends of the Art Gallery of Western

Australia; a member of the Heritage Council of Western Australia, from 1996 to 2001 and then from 2006 until his death in 2010, and Chair of its Communication Committee and Deputy Chair of its Grants Committee 1998-2000.

He was also a trustee for Fairbridge; member of the Maritime Archaeology Advisory Committee, WA Maritime Museum; member, Management Committee and Museum Sub-committee, of the Francis Burt Law Education Centre; member of the Board of the Australian Prospectors and Miners Hall of Fame; and member, Lotteries Commission (WA) and of the Heritage Grants Committee.

Dolan's national and international contributions included being a member of the Australian Council of National Trusts, an Expert Adviser to the National Museum of Australia (1999), Director on the Board of AusHeritage (1995-97), Australian Delegate "University and Heritage" Forum UNESCO, Valencia, Spain (1996), Member of Council of the Australian Association of the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Science since 1992, and member of the Australiana Society since 1984, including being its Vice-President 1984-85.

In the wider arena he spoke at the international conference of National Trusts in Alice Springs in 2000, and Washington DC in 2005. He was also a keynote speaker at conferences in Australia, England, Germany, Hong Kong, New Zealand and the US and was published in professional journals in several of those countries, as well as in Canada. He also wrote several books, including an appreciation of the works of artist Basil Hadley and a history of Fairbridge which he wrote in conjunction with his wife Christine Lewis.

His interest in diverse aspects of heritage, the arts and education was also reflected in the nature of his studies. Having studied Art and Literature for his Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the Flinders University of South Australia, and Master of Arts from the University of Adelaide, he embarked on another academic path; his Doctorate from the University of Wollongong on the history and philosophy of science.

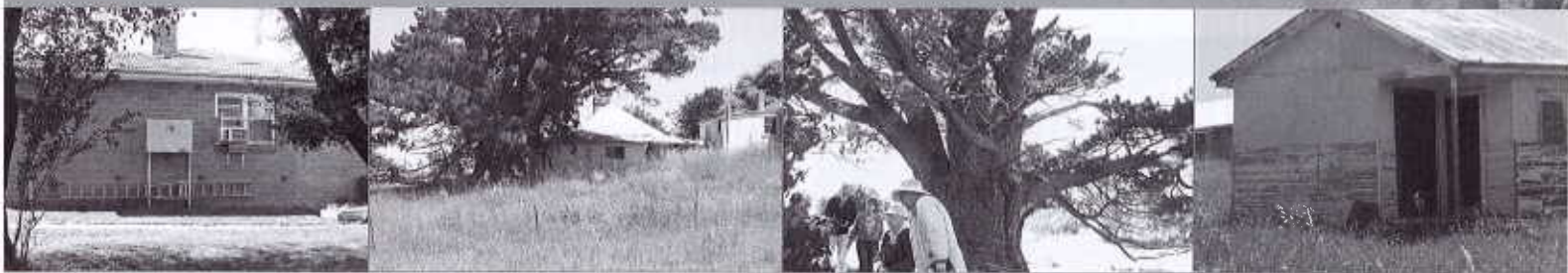
Dolan's parents Tim and Nora were both schoolteachers, and his maternal grandfather the Reverend Canon CWE Swan, played a prominent role in the Anglican Church in South Australia, and fostered Dolan's abiding interest in church architecture.

David Dolan was a larger than life personality whose intellectual generosity, refreshing enthusiasm for every new project, encyclopaedic and eccentric knowledge, enjoyment of good food and wine, and genuine interest in others will be remembered with great affection by all who knew him.

Dr Dolan died at home in Perth. He is survived by his wife, Christine, 2 daughters Janey and Jerusha (from his marriage to Liz Kiwat) and three grandsons, Otto, Antony and Arlo.







In March 2011 the Belconnen Farm, situated just inside the territory's western border and hidden from general view by the former west Belconnen landfill site, was afforded provisional heritage listing. This property contains one of only two intact structures within the district of Belconnen that pre-date federation. Unlike the "Rosebud Cottage" on the edge of the suburb of Cook, the Belconnen Farm has remained largely unseen and unknown for the last fifty years. Features intrinsic to the Farm's heritage significance include: the rural outlook over the Murrumbidgee River, the 1850's stone residence, the 1930's woolshed, the 1930's shearers' quarters, the 1930's meat house, the 1950's Oliphant designed house, the 1950's station hand's cottage, the 1970's machinery shed and extensive windbreaks from various periods.

The property dates back to 1835, when, in consideration of losses sustained and his exploration of the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers, a section of land in the County of Murray was granted to and first owned by Captain Charles Sturt. Sturt was an absentee landlord who reportedly used the property for a short time as agistment in a failed attempt to fatten some stock before sale. Subsequently the property was bought in 1838 for £1,000 by Charles Campbell of Duntroon and renamed 'Belconnen' after a comment from an aboriginal tracker that took Campbell's fancy. The property, however, reportedly remained locally known as "The Grant". In 1850 Charles Campbell had a two-roomed stone house constructed at 'Belconnen' beside a small creek fed by a spring (Spring Creek). Charles Campbell installed a succession of managers / overseers till his death in 1888 when his son Fredrick inherited the 'Belconnen' and other Campbell properties. The 'Belconnen' property was being run in conjunction with Campbell properties on the other side of the river such as 'Yarralumla' which had been acquired in 1881. In 1898 stables and horse yards were built by James Kilby & Evan Cameron. The appointment of overseers appears to have continued up to resumption by the Commonwealth in 1913; some of the overseers being Richard Vest, D. McDonald and Duncan McInnes. Some other improvements had been

added such as a woolshed which was subsequently isolated by the new border.

Following resumption, the property was embroiled in controversy when it was acquired by the Administrator for the Federal Capital Territory (Colonel David Miller) for his own use. Control was subsequently passed on to his son Selwin Miller following the suspicious involvement of the Minister for Home Affairs, King O'Malley. The Millers improved the property with some workers' accommodation and a laundry. The Millers left the district in 1922.

From 1924 some 720 hectares were leased to A.N. Shepherd under soldier settler arrangements. In the 1930s a weatherboard schoolroom had been added to the stone house and a fibro cement dining room. In 1936 Austin Shepherd built a new woolshed and yards with materials sourced from Duntroon. He also added a machinery shed and shearers' accommodation. The three-bedroom, Oliphant-designed house was built in 1950 by G.W. Furlonger from decorated cement bricks manufactured on site. In 1958 a fibro extension was added. In 1962 Austin Shepherd retired and the lease was taken over by his son Bob who ran merinos and cattle, growing wheat and rye. By the seventies Bob's primary interest was his car dealership, Shepherd Ford, in the Belconnen Town Centre and the property was subsequently rented to Peter Canham of the neighbouring property "Strathmairn".

The farm avoided the fire storm that had crossed the Murrumbidgee up stream in 2003 and the lease minus the land used for the Belconnen Landfill area was acquired by Corkhill Bros. who maintained a beef herd.

With the much appreciated permission of the current lessees and the indulgence of the tenants, The Belconnen Community Council Incorporated were able to show off the property to an interested group of about 35-40 residents during the Heritage Week celebrations held in April. Unexpected, but most welcome among the visitors were Bob Shepherd and his sister Jean who were able to impart to the visitors the history of the property from the early 30s with a personal perspective.





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Our Heritage @ Risk is a national program intended to raise awareness of heritage issues in Australia, by identifying those places and objects we value which are at risk. Each year the National Trust in each of the States and Territories nominates a number of cultural, natural and indigenous places, sites or objects which they consider to be most at risk of loss or deterioration. The nominations for the ACT originally come from both Trust Members and general public and are then assessed by the Heritage Committee. The top places identified by the Committee are done so for their level of heritage significance and level of risk. Once identified these places are presented to relevant government bodies and public through media releases and our website. Our list is then taken to a judging committee who decides the top place for each State and Territory and produces an Australia wide list. By identifying these sites the program hopes to draw community and media attention to the kind of threats facing our heritage and in doing so work together to reduce them.

For our 2011 list the Heritage Committee reviewed over twenty nominations and from this we identified seven places as being high risk, twelve as medium risk and the rest as low risk. As with 2010 the majority of places on this year's final list have been nominated before. The top places deemed at risk for 2011, in priority order, are:

### Lake Burley Griffin and Foreshores

There are various pressures on the open spaces around the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, in particular the central and west basins. The proposed development of two War Memorials on Rond Terrace will have a severe impact on the Land Axis Vista between the Australian War Memorial and the Parliamentary Zone. The two large monuments would also compete with the War Memorial for commemorative events and considerably reduce the amount of space around Rond Terrace which is so highly valued by the Canberra community for social and recreational events. The potential new Australia Forum site on the west basin is also a potential risk as it could compete with the open space of the lakes foreshores. The Trust would like to see the Heritage Management Plan for the whole Lake and surrounds endorsed and its policies enforced so that there is no development which impacts on its heritage, visual and community significance. We also support the National Heritage Listing of the Lake and surrounds.



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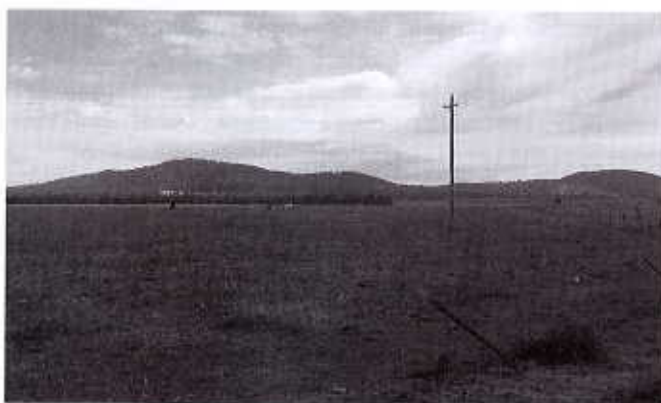


## The Register of the National Estate

The 2006 amendments to the EPBC Act and the AHC Act 2003 will change the status of the Register of the National Estate – from February 2012 it will no longer have a statutory basis and it will merely become an archive document. The loss of the RNE puts at high risk a number of listed places in the ACT which are under National Capital Authority planning control, and do not have legislative heritage protection from the Commonwealth. In addition, the RNE represents a major national asset developed over decades through the investment of considerable financial and intellectual resources. This valuable and important asset will be wasted by the changes to be made. The Trust would like to see a strategic review of the range of heritage registers in Australia undertaken. Such a review is expected to see the RNE information retained and developed as a part of an overall national database of heritage registers.

## Majura Valley

The Majura Valley is the location of the proposed new Majura Parkway, a major roadway which will replace the existing Majura Road between Fairbairn Avenue and the Federal highway. The Majura Valley has a wide variety of indigenous, natural and cultural heritage sites which will be affected by the new Parkway. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was issued in 2009 for the proposed Parkway, yet the information provided on the heritage impacts of Parkway alignment were unclear and the Trust made public comments in regards to this. We would like to see a revised EIS for the area and a more transparent process involved in the design and construction of the parkway in which the community are consulted. We would also like to have an experienced archaeologist and representative from a Registered Aboriginal Organization present when any major excavation is done during the road building.



## Reid Housing Precinct

Inconsistent and incomplete application of heritage and planning requirements is a major contributor to the ongoing decline of the original Garden City design heritage values within the Reid housing Precinct. The heritage fabric of the precinct is being allowed to run down, municipal works are often inconsistent with the stated heritage values and a lack of meaningful compliance action by ACT Government is compromising heritage values which

have resulted in their deterioration. Development of private leaseholds in ways that are inconsistent with the heritage and planning requirements is an increasing concern, especially where there is substantial demolition of historic fabric and loss of significant elements. Lack of effective compliance monitoring and enforcement action greatly increases these risks. The degradation of heritage fabric and values in Reid is representative of a trend throughout all twelve of the Conservation Precincts in Canberra, it serves as an example for these heritage areas that are at risk. To judge the level of risk and deterioration throughout all the Conservation Precincts in the ACT the Trust would like to see an audit undertaken by the ACT Government to determine the success of the heritage guidelines for these precincts and any recommendations from the audit adopted.

## Places without Fire Protection

Heritage places are at a potential threat because they do not have appropriate or adequate fire protection. The Trust would like to see a fire audit of all heritage properties undertaken by the ACT Government. This fire audit would include both private and public places and ensure that the heritage sites have fire protection as per current standards and codes. Outcomes of the audit would include the production of a report which outlines principles and requirements for the adequate fire protection of heritage listed sites in the ACT. Further to this we would like to see the Government budget for the upgrades of these sites accordingly and some assistance for private owners would be necessary to ensure all ACT Heritage places are up to the same standards.

## Dickson/Lyneham Flats

These buildings have been on our Heritage @ Risk List in 2008, 2009 and 2010; their continuing nomination is due to lack of action and no clear decision as to their future. The main threats are still the danger of demolition and/or decay by neglect and as they are still only nominated to the ACT Heritage register they have no statutory protection. We would like to see a Conservation Management Plan for the flats completed and endorsed by the ACT government which identifies the heritage values and outlines policies to conserve these and that they are fully listed on the ACT Heritage Register.

## Yarralumla Brickworks

The Yarralumla Brickworks have continuously been on our Heritage @ Risk list since 2007, inaction by the ACT Government has led to the continual decline of the fabric of the place. The infrastructure has not been used for its original purpose since 1976 when operation ceased and as such it continues to deteriorate. While a Heritage Management Plan was created for the site last year there has been no action to implement the Management Policies and no word on the completion of a Planning Strategy. The Trust would like to see a more transparent process involved in the creation and implementation of the Planning Strategy and HMP with the community and stakeholders kept up to date and consulted with these processes.



## So you want a career in cultural heritage?

*Canberra is a great place to study cultural heritage. There is a wide range of courses on offer for students pursuing future career opportunities in the heritage and museum sector or for those already working in the field and seeking to update and consolidate their skills with further training.*

*Three students currently enrolled at the Australian National University describe in their own words the experience of studying for a career in cultural heritage:*



**Meg Travers, Graduate Student,  
Masters of Liberal Arts  
(Cultural & Environmental Heritage)  
2009-2010**

"Enrolling in a Masters degree at the Australian National University, I was seeking a world-class educational experience. The Masters of Liberal Arts (Cultural

and Environmental Heritage) program provided such an experience. Within this program, short courses offered as collaboration between the program, the Institute for Professional Practice in Heritage & the Arts, and the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority built on this experience and provided immeasurable benefits to my ongoing education.

During 2010, I undertook two short courses offered as part of this collaboration 'Best Practice in Managing Heritage Places' and 'World Heritage: conserving cultural heritage values'. A major influence in my choice of topics was their applicability to the heritage industry and opportunity for skills and knowledge enhancement and both of these courses provided these things. These courses provided both a supportive environment for skills development and exposure to leading industry professionals with a wide range of local and international experience in the field of heritage management. Through each course we actively worked with staff of the ANU and Port Arthur Historic Site, the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority, professional development attendees and heritage experts such as Sharon Sullivan and Michael Pearson. As a student, such active engagement with industry professionals was a unique and appreciated opportunity.

In different ways, these courses provided me with cutting-edge knowledge on managing heritage places from both a university and industry perspective. They combined the knowledge I had gained from other courses within the program and applied this to a 'real life' situation which encompasses: staff pressure, budget constraints, politics, community interest, and visitor concerns. As the courses were run at the Port Arthur Historic Site we were given the opportunity to learn firsthand best practice for managing heritage places. In particular, to undertake a course on World Heritage within a site that was at the time undergoing the process of World Heritage

inscription was exceptional. As students, we were given an understanding of Commonwealth and international processes otherwise not available.

The program and the breadth of impact it had on me undoubtedly led to my current position as a PhD candidate within the Department of Archaeology and Palaeoanthropology, University of New England. The knowledge, and experiences gained through undertaking the program, and the skills developed through the short courses, gave me a competitive advantage by providing me with a unique combination of research and industry skills and an understanding of industry processes.

I can say without a doubt that each course undertaken as part of the Masters of Liberal Arts (Cultural and Environmental Heritage) program has had an exceptional impact on my learning and opportunities, and will continue to positively influence my career".



**Bethany Lance, Graduate  
Student, Masters of Liberal Arts  
(Cultural & Environmental  
Heritage) 2009-2010**

"After completing my Bachelor of Arts (History and Archaeology) undergraduate degree at the ANU I took six months off to decide whether or not I wanted to do honours in history. I met up with Dr

Sally K. May to discuss the courses available. Initially, I enrolled in the Museums and Collections stream but after a semester I decided to switch to Cultural and Environmental Heritage as I felt the courses provided a broader overview of the heritage profession.

I was initially drawn to the Masters program as the coursework appeared to be (and has subsequently proven to be) more practical, providing a wide range of information and skills. I chose a wide range of subjects from both the heritage and museum streams. I also completed a number of intensive courses (particularly in Port Arthur, Tasmania) which were useful in that they lessened the work load throughout the semester in terms of assessment and required readings. Being on site the courses were highly practical; we could work through real issues and talk to the people involved in them. The combination of Professional Practice people and students on these courses assisted in our education as the experiences of others could be discussed and utilised.

The flexible learning model was a deciding factor for me to start the course; it enabled me to work full-time and do a full-time university load as I only had classes two days a week. The freedom to do research projects and internships was another deciding factor for me as I was able to focus on areas that interested me. The flexibility in all the courses I did in terms of assessments



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The inaugural ACT Symposium was held on Saturday 23 July 2011. The Canberra Archaeological Society (CAS) and the National Trust of Australia (ACT) collaborated in organising this event. Topics included heritage and planning in new areas, archaeological techniques, conservation projects and priorities, and the significance of local heritage places. In particular discussion was invited on what works well, what hasn't been a success and what has fallen through the cracks.

The day was a great success with 75 attending and some lively discussion. Our colleagues from Sydney were very impressed with the event and hope we will have more in the series.

The program can be seen on the CAS website at: <http://www.cas.asn.au/Documents/ACT-2011-symposium-programme.pdf>. The presentations will be available on the National Trust (ACT) website soon.

We were reminded that many people who feel ownership of our national Capital and are concerned for its heritage don't live in our city. Can planning meet new needs? Unfortunately **planning is not based on one common philosophy but a wide variety of opinions.** We don't need grandiose visions, but there are too many under-achieving plans that plan for just what is there now rather than what might happen in the future. Access and movement create issues where transport engineers want to make traffic flows quicker in contrast with planners who want people to enjoy the spaces.

In particular 'Greenfields' cultural heritage surveys need to be robust and completed early in the planning process, with agreement between the planning authorities, clear systems and guidelines and a common approach. The Registered Aboriginal Organisations are included in consultation and management of Indigenous sites, but the system should include a role for all relevant community parties. There is a need for a strategic plan to consider which heritage places, including archaeological sites, should be conserved or interpreted to provide an understanding of the past so that people and visitors are able to appreciate the history of the ACT.

Speakers shared examples of good and bad planning from around Australia and the Pacific. The question: 'Is it possible to achieve heritage and planning aims at the same time?' drew presentations of several examples, including Sydney's iconic area of The Rocks. The Sydney Harbour Authority receives income from leases in tall development in areas of less significance which they invest in conservation and interpretation of the historic area.

Only when heritage is given equal weight with density, good transport and environmental considerations will they be equal partners. Several good examples of 'brownfields' sites with previous functions are the former Prince Henry hospital site and Kanahooka, the site of the 1895 Dapto smelter in Sydney. Archaeological studies preceded final planning and contributed to retention of some structures and relationships like roads and landscapes, using the footprint and form of the earlier use of the site in the residential development.

The high level of skills and passion contributed by archaeologists, historians, landscape designers and other professionals into cultural heritage surveys, heritage reports and master plans shone clearly in the excellent presentations. Sadly once these professionals deliver their reports to the client,



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the outcomes usually are out of their hands. We hope that symposiums in future years will attract more planners to see how professional research and the community views can enhance their developments.

In Australia, 90% of heritage places are in private ownership, as revealed by the 2006 Productivity Commission Report. Built heritage is a public good and underfunded; left alone the heritage sector has little chance of surviving and the psychological connection, identity and narratives would be lost. Consistency and dependability are needed for owners and development; capital is also needed for repairs and maintenance, to stimulate investment and employment in the heritage sector and to increase technical knowhow.

The Friends of Glenburn homestead have conserved a range of structures and the graves of two little Colverwell girls who drowned in 1837, now resting in the oldest marked immigrant graves in the ACT. The McInnes Shearing shed built in the 1860s is still used for shearing small flocks and needs a benefactor to help fund surveys, conservation and management plans to conserve the shearing shed complex.

The costs to the community of challenges to poor decisions are hidden, yet the value of land goes up in these heritage areas which the community has fought for and the government gets increased income from them. In all suburban heritage areas, real estate sale notices and development applications should note that properties are within a heritage precinct. Audits should be required to check compliance and why the heritage system is not protecting listed places. ACTPLA has accepted all Heritage Council advice but there is little capacity to undertake compliance and enforcement.

A snapshot of how our neighbours in the NSW Shires employ Heritage Advisers showed mixed results, depending on the will of the Council. As the original owners move on from established heritage areas, there is a new wave of occupants who have chosen to live in a heritage area and are keen to keep its values.

There is now a now large community who cares about safeguarding the spatial integrity of Canberra. Organisations whose basis is heritage support the qualities of the Griffin vision which they see as compromised by recent flawed planning approval processes. Particularly contentious are the proposed War Memorials on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. The proposed monoliths are not related to human scale or with the land form.

## Next steps

The former Kenmore hospital in Goulburn has recently been bought but no one is sure what is happening with it. Concerns have been raised by CAS and the National Trust (ACT) on the retention of cultural sites of significance in the new Molonglo development stages. The linear park designs appear to be very focussed on natural habitat values. Both organisations will continue to monitor the situation and support retention of the history of the area.

The National Trust will consider the recommendations in the report on the ACT Heritage Act, and respond to the resident groups' assertions that there is a lot of development pressure in the residential precincts of ACT, such as Corroboree Park, Reid, and Blandfordia 5. The committee will draft a plan of actions, including heritage audits, for a collaborative project with the Heritage Unit which will include input from residents groups.

One way to unite all the causes and efforts of the heritage groups would be to nominate Canberra for World Heritage listing, especially as the centenary is imminent. This would also give politicians and others a focus for conversation on many levels. Inclusion on the National Heritage List is the first step, and this is currently under consideration and due for a decision within 12 months.

## About our two new Councillors

### Sally Brockwell

Sally Brockwell is a Research Associate with the Department of Archaeology and Natural History at the Australian National University. She has on-going archaeology projects in northern Australia and East Timor. She also has a small ACT Heritage grant with Penny Taylor researching Art Deco influence in Canberra. She is public officer for the Australian Archaeological Association and secretary for the Canberra Archaeological Society.

### Lisa Norman

#### Managing Director, Jelk Solutions Pty Ltd

Lisa Norman is a specialist business consultant supporting boards and executive groups nationally across public, private and not-for-profit organisations.

She is a high-level facilitator, trainer, executive coach, consultant and governance evaluator.

As a short-intervention specialist, Lisa works across multiple and varied client environments applying her extensive management and consulting experience to aid decision clarity for complex organisational agendas. Lisa holds relevant post-graduate and professional qualifications and is accredited in a range of profiling tools and methodologies to aid leaders and their teams. Lisa is an expert facilitator who is highly sought after for her ability to drive difficult agendas with clear process. Her inclusive and informal facilitation style is well received by people at all levels and she is a demonstrated executive leader who readily shares her knowledge and methodologies for meaningful results.

Lisa has been an executive across all three sectors and holds three Masters degrees in Public Policy, Business Management and Public Sector Management and two Graduate Certificates. She is a Certified Practising Project Director (CPPD) and a Certificate IV Trainer and Assessor. She is an accredited graduate from various professional institutions relevant to her fields of expertise, including the Australian Institute of Company Directors and CoachU (NY).



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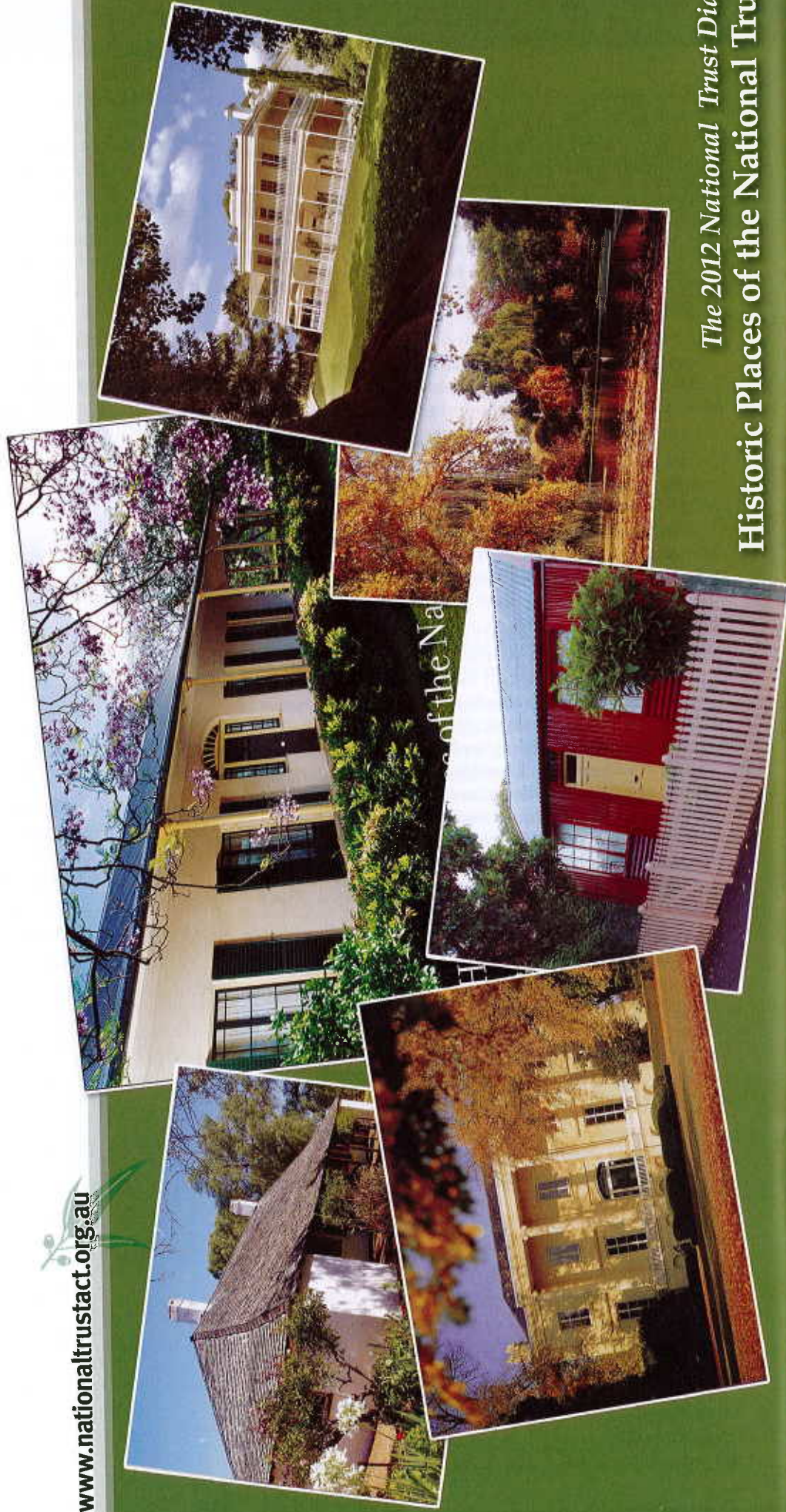


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