



NATIONAL TRUST

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA

Heritage in Trust

AUGUST 2012

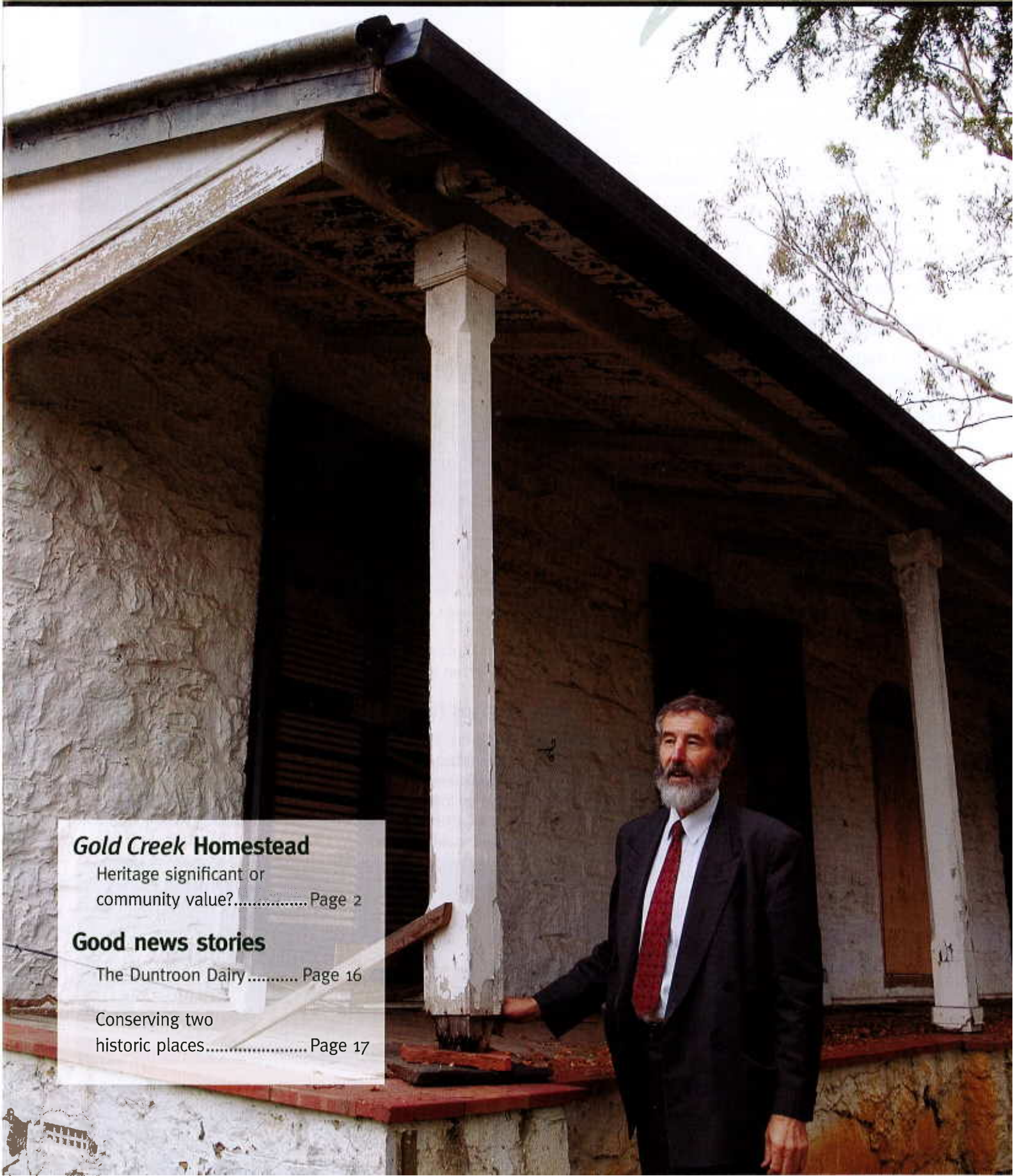
Gold Creek Homestead

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The National Trust has had an interest in preserving the *Gold Creek* site since 1974. The Trust assessed the site in 1995 for its heritage value and again in 1999. In both cases it was decided that the place should be recorded as having historic values but not nominated to the ACT Heritage Register. However, the Trust advised the ACT Government that the place was important as a community venue and should be retained. The ACT Heritage Council reviewed the Trust's assessment and agreed that *Gold Creek* Homestead, while having some heritage values, did not warrant inclusion on the Heritage Register. In 2009 the homestead was nominated for heritage listing by Mr Chris Newman on behalf of a *Gold Creek* lobby group. The ACT Heritage Council again considered the nomination and again rejected it because of insufficient heritage value to warrant registration.

There is now a groundswell of support from individuals and organisations in Gungahlin for developing *Gold Creek* as a community resource. The Trust supports this move and is considering a role in the future management and use of the homestead.

The Rolfe family and *Gold Creek* Homestead

In 1849 Anthony Rolfe came to Australia with his wife Catherine and family on the ship *Harbinger* to join his brother William, who had been transported to Sydney in 1835 for shooting a hare on his employer's estate.

Anthony arrived in time to join a new wave of settlement in this district. By the mid-1830s most of the good land had been granted in large parcels. A new wave began in the early 1850s with free settlers like the Rolfe, Shumack and Gribble families who established wheat and sheep properties such as *Gold Creek*, *Weetangera* and *The Valley*.



Edmund Rolfe c.1900, original owner of *Gold Creek*

Anthony Rolfe took the title on the *Gold Creek* area most likely as guarantor of the purchase for his son, Edmund, then 21 years old and newly married. *Gold Creek* was developed by Edmund Rolfe from the 1860s, the family initially living in a timber slab cottage around a stone chimney. Early settlers typically employed experienced axemen to build their cottages from local timber, consisting of tree trunks enclosed by earthen walls and covered by a bark roof.

The four walls were lined with hardwood timber slabs, hand fashioned from local eucalyptus, and a loft was installed inside the roof cavity.

The family lived in the slab hut for 14 years, until 1883, when Edmund commissioned the construction of a more

substantial bluestone homestead, consisting of three bedrooms with fireplaces, a dining room and a loft. The internal walls were constructed from handmade bricks and the bluestone was quarried from the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. Edmund continued to expand his holding, from 60 acres in 1861 to 2,401 acres in 1883.



Slab hut, Rolfe family home built in the early 1850s

Resumption of *Gold Creek* by the Commonwealth

Over a period of several years, Edmund Rolfe extended his family's land holdings to be the largest in the Ginninderra district. By 1907 the Rolfes' rural property had grown to 3,939 acres 6 perches. *Gold Creek's* outstanding success was due to the economies of scale that Edmund and his sons achieved by running large numbers of sheep on a sizeable land holding. The property remained at this size until 1915 when *Gold Creek* was resumed by the Commonwealth to form part of the Federal Capital Territory. At that stage the Rolfes left *Gold Creek* and retired to the property *Sherwood Grange*.

Following the First World War the Commonwealth made available leasehold blocks for ex-servicemen in the Federal Capital Territory under the Soldier Settlement Scheme. By 1926 a number of rural leases had been taken up throughout the Territory including by John (Rupert) Clayton who signed up to a one-year lease at *Gold Creek*.

1930s first round of extensions to the Homestead

In 1931, John Clayton purchased *Gold Creek's* fixed assets, including buildings, and commenced the first round of extensions to the homestead. A substantial weatherboard extension was made to the western end of the homestead, and additions included a new bathroom, kitchen, laundry and maid's room.



The Homestead's weatherboard extension as seen in 2006

The original standalone kitchen was converted into living quarters for a station hand. At around the same time the Claytons built a two-bedroom weatherboard cottage to the west of the homestead, a granary and a metal hayshed. Shearers' quarters were later added and mechanised shearing equipment was introduced.

1960s and the growth of Canberra

Gold Creek was sold in 1962 to John Bruce, a businessman from the Wollongong area. John and his wife Lys looked beyond the homestead's by then run-down state and commissioned a Sydney-based architect to draw up plans for a complete refurbishment of the homestead, taking *Elizabeth Farm* at Parramatta as their inspiration – in particular, its wide, shady verandas, brick fireplaces and French doors.

Builders completed the work in 1963 using reinforced steel joists to replace the shorter timber roof rafters that spanned the outer walls of the original bluestone house. Walls were removed to create an enlarged lounge room, the bluestone exterior was painted white and two brick fireplaces were installed in the lounge room. The front veranda was replaced with concrete and tiles.

The final phase of the homestead's evolution in 1972 brought its total floor area to 697 m² (76 squares), including the incorporation of the manager's residence and the stone kitchen block (built by the Rolfs in 1884), into the homestead.



The Homestead and lawn taken in the 1970s

1970s and the end of rural leases

The withdrawal of rural leases in 1974 triggered a minor exodus of leaseholders into New South Wales and negotiations for compensation to landholders echoed the experiences of farming families earlier in the century. In early 1975 *Gold Creek* was back in the ownership of the Commonwealth Government and by 1980 was under 99 year lease to Gold Creek Pty Ltd, with the homestead being operated as a function centre. Further development included the removal of the woolshed, shearers' quarters, stockyards, various building ruins and abandoned machinery from the property. The function centre operations of the building were plagued with financial problems and in 1998 *Gold Creek* was purchased by the ACT Government. What then ensued was the steady encroachment of suburban dwellings and the abandonment and subsequent deterioration of the homestead fabric.

Historical, social and community significance to Canberra

The significance of *Gold Creek* to Canberra can be summarised as follows:

1. *Gold Creek* Homestead is a locally distinctive property which retains evidence of early building construction techniques – the slab hut was made by local craftsmen from local timber and the handmade bricks and bluestone were supplied from the local region.
2. Evidence of a major transport route remains in the *Gold Creek* landscape with remnants of the pre-1915 Canberra-Yass Road located within block 363 Gungahlin.
3. The layout, landscape and fabric of the property reflect changes over 160 years in land title, from freehold to leasehold, a succession of ownership under leasehold arrangements, and a recreational, entertainment and function centre until acquired by the ACT Government in 1998.
4. Prior to 1983, *Gold Creek* was a grazing property for sheep and cattle managed by the resident owner, as had been the practice since 1860.
5. The property had been the venue for social functions and fund raising activities from the 1860s. It was common practice in the 1800s and early 1900s for properties to fill the social and welfare role in the community.
6. *Gold Creek* Homestead represents a layered history of the Canberra region's adaptation to changing circumstances and priorities over more than a century and, in the National Trust's view, presents a compelling case for the retention of the site for community use.

Lorraine Ovington

Lorraine Ovington is a researcher with an interest in Australia's social history and a passion for the "Bush Capital".

Two important sources for this article were Chris Newman's *Gold Creek, Reflections of Canberra's Rural Heritage*, 2004 and Phillip A. Kirk's *Gold Creek Homestead, Gungahlin - A second phase settlement*, November 1991.

All photos except the cover courtesy of the National Trust.



Gold Creek property boundaries as at 1915 with current suburbs overlaid in 1997

It is unfortunate that once again I need to report on the financial aspects of the ACT National Trust. The ACT Government has decided not to continue with any financial support for the National Trust which we have enjoyed over the past year. We are now left with no federal funding, except for support for the magazines *Trust News* and *Heritage in Trust* and The Heritage Festival which is greatly appreciated, and no ACT Government funding.

Our budget is left with an income base of membership fees supplemented by events which contribute a small but valuable amount and donations/sponsorships. The major cost is wages and there are a number of administrative expenses.

This is clearly not sustainable which will mean a number of changes:

- the need for greater support from our volunteers in the tasks we do
- the establishment of other income streams from activities such as the Canberra 100 Rally as part of the Canberra 100 celebrations; new ventures in managing historic properties such as *Gold Creek* Homestead and possibly others if new viable uses can be found for some ACT heritage places and the National Trust can negotiate acceptable management terms
- the establishment of regular and ongoing donations, endowments or bequests from people interested in the work of the National Trust and the benefits it offers the Canberra community
- review of staffing levels especially if other income streams are not established quickly.

To this end the Council welcomes any ideas, thoughts or contributions from its members or readers of *Heritage in Trust*. These can be mentioned to any member of Council, the National Trust office or direct to me.

We have had two resignations from Council. Helen Cooke has been a member of Council for a few years and a strong advocate for ACT heritage for decades particularly through the Canberra Archaeological Society. Helen leaves to undertake a PhD which will take her out of Canberra for extended periods.

Sally Brockwell is a more recent member but leaves as her ANU commitments will also take her out of Canberra for extended periods.

I thank them both on behalf of Council for their contribution and wish them both well with their work. It is pleasing to note that both will continue to work with the Trust and committees as time permits.

We are therefore looking for two members of Council who have skills to complement the existing members, particularly in the areas of marketing, business or finance to broaden our base and move to a sustainable future. If you have thoughts, or suggestions, I would welcome them.

Despite the above the Council is committed to ensuring the long term survival of the Trust and will work to achieve this. We see an ongoing and vital role for the National Trust in protecting ACT heritage.

On a brighter note the National Trust fully supports the proposed National Heritage listing for Canberra as it is something we have advocated for over a period of more than a decade. We have made comment on some of the detail in the consultation documents and hope that the national listing can be confirmed as part of Canberra's 2013 celebration.

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.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 37th Annual General Meeting of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) will be held in the Menzies Room at the National Archives of Australia on Thursday 18 October 2012, at 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 6230 0533 or email 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 ACT 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 or phone the Trust office on 02 6230 0533.

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Let us
help you
tell your
story.

contentgroup

(02) 6273 0232
www.contentgroup.com.au

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

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



The 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:

Ann and Ron Apps	Helen Kemmis and Michael Masters
Patricia Summerell and Maree Beaver	Brad and Jenny McGregor
Helen Bladen	Roslyn Membrey
Esther Davies	Geraldine and John Musgrove
Pauline McDonough and Richard Davis	Margaret O'Dea
Cecily Dignan	Jenni and Matt Philippa
Michael and Catherine Edwards	Steve and Penny Price
Darryl and Sandra Erbacher	Rosemary and Christopher Sankey
Anne Plunkett and Gary Gray	Rae and Lloyd Streeting
Keith and Sue Groves	Victoria McCormick and Sarah Tisdell
Anna Howe	Tara and Ryan Tuttle
Marel Dimo and Lesley Jackman	Carman Urquhart
Neville and Jacqueline Jones	Hugo and Cate Walker
April Leung	Terry Williams
Catherine Burrows and Peter Lyons	Graham Wilson
	Pamela and Peter Windsor

LIMITED EDITION PRINTS

Federal Territory Sketch Map

As Canberra heads towards the 2013 Centenary celebrations, the National Trust (ACT) is producing limited edition copies of the Federal Territory A3 sketch map presented to the Prince of Wales on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone in 1920.

The prints are available to buy from the office at a cost of \$25.00 for NT members and \$30.00 for non-members.

A great Centenary gift!

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 with the subject heading of: Subscribe to E News

Member Events

The Volunteers and Members Committee invites Trust members to their forthcoming members nights and other events. As usual, new members are invited free of charge, and other members and friends pay a small fee to cover catering (drinks and nibbles) and other costs. Members are also invited to the AGM on 18 October where the official proceedings are augmented by an excellent guest speaker.

The calendar for the remainder of 2012 is:

- Members Evening *Political Questions*. Proposed for a **weeknight early in September** at Albert Hall. 5.30 (for 6pm start) until 7.30pm. Have your say on the future of heritage in the ACT. Major political Parties will give their vision for the future of the ACT's heritage followed by a question and answer session. Look out for further details on the website and in e-news.
- Members Evening **Wednesday 21 November**, from 5.30-7.30pm, Causeway Hall, Kingston. *The History and Heritage Values of the Causeway Hall*. Members will hear about the history and heritage values of the Hall and about the people who built, used and lived around it in its early days. Our speakers will be Jenny Horsfield who will speak on C.S. Daley and his connection with early Canberra and well-known Canberran, Kevin Gill, who once lived in the area, and will tell the stories that he recalls of people who lived there. Make a diary note for a terrific night.
- Christmas Party at Huntly **Sunday 9 December**, 3-5.30pm. Once again John Gale has generously opened his garden at Huntly for Trust Members. All members and friends are invited to celebrate Christmas together at this annual festive event. Members: \$20, non-members: \$25.
- Volunteers Brunch **Sunday 16 December**, 10am-1pm at Manning Clark House. The National Trust (ACT) invites its valued volunteers to the annual brunch where we say thank you for your contributions to the Trust. The National Trust would not be able to function as well without the work of its volunteers.

Further information on all events will be posted on the website and included in e-news, or you are welcome to contact the Trust office. New members will be specially invited but all members and friends are welcome. Please RSVP for all events (except the September members evening) through the Trust office on 6230 0533, by email to info@nationaltrustact.org.au or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au.

The Committee welcomes ideas from the membership on speakers and topics for 2013. Topics under consideration include Oaks Estate at Oaks Estate, ACT winners of the National History Challenge, presentations by National Trust Award winners from University of Canberra Heritage Studies, book launches and Glassworks demonstration.

Trusted Recipes

This issue's Trusted Recipe comes from Multicultural Food Cooking Recipes published by the ACT Ethnic Schools Association in 2006. The National Trust (ACT) thanks the Association for permission to publish this recipe.

The Ukrainian school of Lesya Ukrainka has been established since 1953 and is part of the ACT's multicultural heritage.

Ukrainian Varenyky

Ingredients

- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg or 2 egg yolks
- About 1/2 cup water
- Potato and cheese filling (see below)

Method

Mix the flour and salt in a deep bowl. Add the egg and enough water to make a medium soft dough. Knead on a floured board until smooth. Do not over-knead. Divide the dough into two parts. Cover and let stand for at least 10 minutes.

Roll the dough quite thinly on a floured board. Cut rounds with a large biscuit cutter or end of a glass. Put the round on the palm of your hand. Place a spoonful of the filling on it, fold to form a half circle and press the edges together. Make sure the edges are sealed well. Place on a floured board or a tea towel and cover with a tea towel.

Drop a few varenyky at a time into a large quantity of rapidly boiling salted water. Stir very gently with a wooden spoon. Continue boiling for 3 to 4 minutes. Varenyky are ready when they are well puffed. Remove them with a perforated spoon to a colander and drain thoroughly.

Place in a deep dish, sprinkle generously with melted butter and toss very gently to coat with the butter. Cover and keep hot until all are cooked. Serve in a large dish without piling or crowding them.

Potato and Cheese filling

- 1 tablespoon grated onion
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 cups cold mashed potatoes
- 1 cup or more cottage cheese
- Salt and pepper

Cook the onion in the butter until tender. Combine with potatoes and cheese. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Volunteer with the Trust

Do you have some spare time? Interested in heritage? Do you have skills in administration, data entry or research, natural, Indigenous or cultural heritage expertise, event and/or volunteer management? The ACT National Trust welcomes offers of assistance from members.

Call Liz at the office on 6230 0533 or email info@nationaltrustact.org.au

Our CEO, Chris Wain, is on leave enjoying the cloudy delights of the United Kingdom and I have been asked to fill in for him for two days a week while he is away from his desk.

Our Canberra 100 Rally Committee, ably led by Bill Lewis, Alan Kerr and Chris Wain, has been quietly and very efficiently beaver away with the organization of this event. They have spent many hours of their precious time and vast expertise seeing to the countless large and small points of detail this event requires. There are still many hurdles to encounter in this project but many people in the different organizations involved have given and will continue to give their support. It promises to be one of the major events in the calendar of centenary celebrations for Canberra. Just imagine, several hundred vintage and historic cars, petrol and electric powered cars, and motor bikes of many kinds wending their way from the Jervis Bay Territory of the ACT across the ranges and into Canberra, then a parade along Northbourne Avenue. It will be quite a sight.

We were unfortunate in not receiving any allocation in the 2012 ACT budget. This is disappointing as the money sought in the submission the Trust sent to the ACT Government would have assisted us greatly in our role in the conservation of our cultural and natural heritage and the programmes we carry out to promote public knowledge of that heritage.

But there was some good news for ACT heritage places in the budget with the following allocations:

- \$281,000 to the refurbishment of heritage properties including the Yarralumla Woolshed and the Former Sewer Attendant's Cottage at Weston Creek,
- \$13,000 to Albert Hall to upgrade the main entrance and improve accessibility,
- \$43,000 to upgrade the Canberra Tracks signage,
- \$44,000 each to the Ginninderra Blacksmith's Shop and The Valley Ruin, Gungahlin, for further interpretation and public engagement, and
- \$230,000 over the three years to 2015 to the Lanyon precinct which will enhance and support new community activities.

The annual Heritage at Risk programme is getting underway and members would have received information by now from Bethany, our Research Officer, on how to participate. Have a think about this programme and if you know of a place which you believe to be of heritage significance that is under some threat, please contact us. This programme is important in identifying problems or threats to our heritage places, and relies especially on public participation to make sure the Trust is aware of unfolding issues.

Don't forget to look at our forthcoming events and tours – your participation is vital and much appreciated.

Peter Dowling

Research Officer's Report

The Heritage and Grants Committee has been very busy this last quarter with our fingers in many pies in order to both keep on top of ACT heritage issues and to continue work on our numerous grant projects. As an important voice within the heritage and ACT community we continue to be involved in a number of stakeholder groups, invited to public consultation sessions and provided with briefings for various developments and plans. By attending these sessions we are able to provide comments and submissions on behalf of the heritage community and our members in an informed manner and with an expert opinion. For example the Trust has provided comments on a number of Draft Development Control Plans (DCP) produced by the National Capital Authority; these DCPs provide policies for future development within the determined area so it is crucial that heritage is addressed and planned for when creating the policies. We have attended information sessions for and provided comments on areas such as the Gold Creek tourist area, Canberra Avenue near the Kingston Hotel and part of the Majura Valley. These comments can be found on our website. Other submissions we have completed relate to the Majura Parkway Development Application, Albert Hall Plan of Management and the National Heritage Listing for Canberra. I have also been taking part in the NCA's 'Have Your Say' website which encourages discussion on various issues throughout Canberra – one such issue was the rejuvenation of the Immigration Place memorial debate.

Whilst a big part of what I do is often reactive in terms of writing submissions, attending meetings and following up heritage issues I am also involved in and assist with a number of proactive projects that are funded through various grant programs. Thanks to a hired consultant we have just successfully completed a significance assessment of the ACT Trust classified files that are held in the office. This assessment has helped to determine what is in the files and their importance to the ACT community, and also provides suggestions for their conservation and future use. I am also working with Peter Dowling to complete the Southern Border Walks project which will complete eleven 'Centenary Border Walks' self-guided tours in time for the Canberra 100 celebrations. The Heritage and Grants Committee also had a busy time throughout April working on three other grant applications for a new round of ACT Heritage Funding. The projects we hope to have funded include the creation of a Smartphone App for some of our self-guided tours, an interpretation panel and interactive website for the Civic merry-go-round and a sample audit of three of the Garden City conservation precincts in Canberra. The outcome of these grants will not be known until later in the year but each project presents an exciting challenge that would highlight the diverse heritage we have in the capital and help to make it more accessible to a wide audience.

The next big projects for us here at the office are the Our Heritage @ Risk program and the launch of our new national website so keep an eye out for more information

on these in the next issue of *Heritage in Trust*. Finally, I would like to note that keeping up to date on important ACT heritage issues would not be possible without the help of our Heritage and Grants Committee, Expert Panel, Council and members. I would like to extend a big thank you to all involved in this side of the National Trust's advocacy work as it is a huge job made achievable through the volunteered time and commitment of these individuals. The Heritage and Grants Committee has sadly said goodbye to two people over the past few months, Helen Cooke and Serena Milne, both of whom were valued members of the Committee. We have, however welcomed a new member in Mr Graham Carter and look forward to working with him in the near future. If you would like to help in any way or if you are concerned about a heritage matter please contact me at the office as I am always looking for help and up for a chat.

Bethany Lance

Australia ICOMOS 2013 Centenary of Canberra – Imagined pasts, imagined futures...

Richard Flanagan recently wrote of James Boyce's colonial history *Van Dieman's Land*: "In re-imagining Australia's past, it invents a new future". The Centenary of Canberra in 2013 provides an opportunity for Australia ICOMOS to reflect on how heritage participates in the "imagined communities" and "imagined geographies" of the nation in a globalizing world. ICOMOS 2013 will explore how narratives of the past and visions of the future are entwined in place and how heritage is created at different scales to imagine different forms of communities and belonging – from personal heritage and local places, to virtual communities, diaspora, national and world heritage.

Dates: Thursday 31 October–Sunday 3 November 2013
Venue: Museum of Australian Democracy @ OPH

If you are interested in working on the planning and organisation of the conference over the next year or so, please email Tracy Ireland at Tracy.Ireland@canberra.edu.au

"What House is That" – A guide to the Australian Capital Territory's Housing Styles, by Eric Martin, AM, FRAIA, with sketches by Shibu Dutta, ARAIA. This A5 booklet covers 13 Canberra house styles from 1910 to 1970 and provides basic information on the style, materials, finishes, colours and gardens. It aims to provide information to owners and builders to understand a particular house and ensure changes are managed in the best possible way. It promotes innovation and quality design to ensure that houses are sustainable with greater energy efficiency.

Available from the National Trust office in Civic for \$10.00. For enquiries call 6230 0533 or email info@nationaltrustact.org.au.

National Trust of Australia Register of Significant Trees Workshop

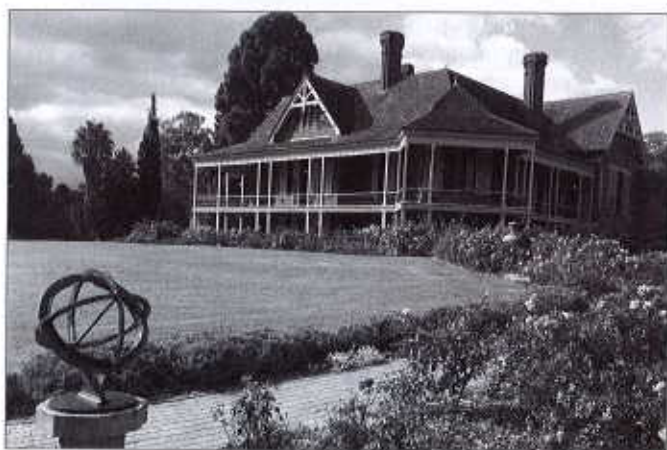
Adelaide 3-4 May 2012

I attended this workshop in Adelaide on behalf of the ACT Trust. The workshop and associated logistics were excellent which made the experience informative, enjoyable and in the end worthwhile. The workshop participants included staff and/or volunteers from each state and territory National Trust which helped to provide a variety of opinions and insights into the workings and processes of the other Trusts. We survived unseasonably cold and wet weather on the workshop days thanks to the addition of a large open wood-fire in the Conference Room at Urrbrae House, located on the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide. We were also exceptionally lucky to have a small amount of sunshine after we had finished on the second day which meant we could stroll through the grounds of the campus which included an Arboretum, maze and rose gardens – not too bad for 'a day at the office'!



The purpose of the workshop was to:

- Establish a *National Register of Significant Trees*;
- Develop and approve a national set of acceptance criteria for trees nominated for inclusion on the Register;
- Prepare an agreed context within which trees are deemed significant;
- Establish a database, repository and ongoing maintenance.



Each of these was achieved in theory and a number of items were generally agreed upon during the

workshop. These included the name of the register, the updated nomination form format and associated nomination questions to be addressed, that a national register should and will be established, and that a technical working group should be established with members from each Trust to ensure there was and is continued communication about the Register. The main concern for the Register was a lack of resources and funding. Should these issues be worked out and worked on I think it will be full steam ahead for the nation-wide initiative.

The ACT National Trust is in an interesting situation as we do have a very old Register of Significant Trees, originally created in the 1970s and minimally added to, but as we have ceased to officially 'classify' places, including trees, so as to not duplicate the current ACT Government Heritage and Tree Acts, we may have a limited contribution to the register. I would like to see the ACT Trust involved as it is a worthwhile initiative but it is yet to be determined how this may happen. The workshop proved a worthwhile first step for the creation of a national register and I look forward to continuing to work with the other Trusts on this initiative.

Bethany Lance

Photos courtesy of Bethany Lance

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Do you have a friend travelling overseas?

Tell them about the advantages of joining the National Trust including free entry into over 2000 National Trust properties around the world.

University of Canberra

– More on Cultural Heritage and Conservation Studies

Following the article in the May 2012 Heritage in Trust about Cultural Heritage education at the University of Canberra, below are reports of three more first-hand student experiences that show not only what the courses have to offer but also the possibilities for future employment within the heritage sector.

Sarah Webeck, Bachelor of Applied Science in Architecture (2008) and Bachelor of Interior Design (2010)



While studying for a Bachelor of Applied Science in Architecture at the University of Canberra (UC) I found that I was particularly interested in the history of architecture and wanted to know more about the conservation and management of historic sites. During my degree I sought out electives in cultural heritage, including *Cultural Heritage in Australia*, *Cultural Heritage Management* and *Building Conservation*. These classes accompanied the *History of Architecture* classes I was already attending, and helped to strengthen my knowledge in these subject areas.

After graduating I took six months off to travel to Europe and visited many of the significant architectural monuments and sites I had studied during my degree, with a new appreciation of the ongoing management and conservation efforts undertaken to preserve them.

Unsure of where to start in my career, I went back to UC to study a one year Bachelor of Interior Design, allowing me the chance to enrol in additional electives in cultural heritage. These classes included *A Brief History of Civilisation*, *Archaeology of Australia* and *Ethics and Professional Practice*. By this stage the Donald Horne Institute for Cultural Heritage had been established and it provided further opportunities for students to study in these areas.

Many field trips were offered through these courses to experience hands-on practical applications of conservation, heritage management and archaeology. I visited local ACT sites including the National Museum of Australia, Duntroon Dairy and the Latham Axe Grinding Grooves and further afield I visited St Clement's Monastery at Galong and Cooma Cottage near Yass. Our assessments were based on 'real-life' projects including developing building conservation reports, heritage register nominations, conservation management plans and archaeological zoning plans.

The courses were taught by industry professionals who provided valuable knowledge and insight into the heritage field. Their extensive experience and wealth of skills were extremely helpful in preparing us for careers in the industry. This engagement with professional contacts led me to apply for a job at leading heritage firm Godden Mackay Logan (GML), where I was offered part time work in 2010. I was also offered work part time at UC within the Donald Horne Institute where I was involved in the academic side of the heritage industry, participating in symposiums and assisting with research projects.

The cultural heritage courses at UC played a significant role in preparing me for my position at GML, where I currently work full time as a Graduate Consultant. One year on from graduation and I still refer to what I learned at UC and am aware that those projects were a solid basis for the types of projects I am working on today. I acknowledge and appreciate the diverse range of skills and experience I obtained from UC, which have been extremely beneficial in the early development of my hopefully long and successful career in the heritage industry.

Amy Guthrie, Bachelor of Cultural Heritage Studies (2006) and Bachelor of Applied Science (Honours) Cultural Heritage (2007)



I graduated with honours from UC in 2007. UC gave me both the theoretical basis and the practical skills which I now use in my everyday work as a Heritage Practitioner. I was able to diversify my studies to ensure I was broadly skilled. I studied across disciplines including heritage management, anthropology, museum studies, architecture, landscape architecture, Indigenous studies, sociology and tourism. I was also able to develop my skills and knowledge through field trips, workplace internships and practical assignments which mirrored the kind of projects undertaken in the workplace.

Undertaking Honours in 2007 allowed me to refine my research and writing skills and I was able to introduce new and relevant research into the field of heritage studies. Initially I was nervous stepping into the workforce; however, I found my qualifications from UC were highly desirable to prospective employers, giving me a choice of several career paths.

I have since worked as a Heritage Consultant for a specialist firm, at heritage sites all over Australia, in the

Indian Ocean Territories and at World Heritage sites in Cambodia. My work included project management, development of conservation management plans, heritage strategies, interpretation and tourism strategies, industry development projects, future use analysis and heritage assessments. I have recently started work as the Sustainability Officer in Heritage at the Australian National University.

Working in heritage is diverse and challenging, and it feels great to actively contribute to an industry which helps to conserve so many wonderful places for future generations.

Celia Cramer, Undergraduate student, Bachelor of Cultural Heritage Conservation

I put it down to a stroke of luck when the UC Heritage Conservation course was reborn at about the same time that my husband and I decided to move to Canberra. I'm not sure if it was bravery or madness to decide to go



back to uni with three young children but I couldn't let that good luck pass by unutilised. As I near the end of my undergraduate studies, I can see what a great decision it was. I now have a vocational skill in a field that I love and the scope and support to develop in the future.

One of the best features of the conservation course has been the opportunity to do work experience in conservation labs all over the country. I have had the privilege of working and learning at the Australian War Memorial, the Powerhouse Museum, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Australian Museum, the National Archives and Heritage Victoria's conservation labs. All the experience allowed me to try numerous aspects of conservation and to recognise that there is no one way of doing things but just a way that works best for each facility. The conservation course has not only taught me about the care of objects and artefacts in a museum context; curatorship, exhibitions, archaeology and interpretation skills are also included in the program to provide a bigger picture of the heritage profession.

The UC teaching staff encouraged us to pursue affiliation with professional organisations including the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM), Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the National Trust and the Canberra Archaeological Society. These in turn lead to

further opportunities. I became involved in the Australia ICOMOS mentoring program and had a chance to work with a fantastic mentor. I delivered my first professional paper at the third ACT Historical Archaeology Workshop last year and I contributed to the organisation of the AICCM National Conference held in Canberra in 2011.

It is this encouragement from the teaching staff at UC that has made all the difference for me. I'd be lying if I said that juggling the demands of uni and family was a breeze but when things became tricky, my lecturers were understanding and flexible. I even learned a few child management tricks from them.

Best of all, I have begun to put all that I have learned and experienced into practice in my first conservation job at Art & Archival. I'm looking forward to completing this year and may continue towards postgraduate study in the years to come.

From 2013 the University of Canberra will be providing a Bachelor of Heritage Museums and Conservation to promote the integration of practical and theoretical skills and knowledge from the conservation, museum and heritage fields and ensure graduates have a holistic understanding of the cultural heritage sector. To find out more visit <http://www.canberra.edu.au/courses-units/ug/cultural-heritage/215ja> or contact the University of Canberra.



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Our visit to Goulburn

On Sunday 10 June, a big group of members made an interesting day visit to Goulburn by bus. While there, we visited five quite different places - as well as fitting in lunch and both morning and afternoon tea. This can be only a brief review of an excellent day out.

The first feature which we inspected was the Historic Waterworks, in its picturesque setting down beside the Wollondilly River near Marsden Weir, still shrouded at 10.30 am in its morning mist. The visit was well timed: this was the one day of the month when the massive beam steam engine, installed in 1883, was operating, its boiler stoked with local logs - the only surviving municipal steam pumping system in the country, in excellent order, its huge moving beam a sight worth seeing.



Inside the Waterworks



St Saviour's Cathedral

In contrast, we then went on to the Anglican Gothic Cathedral of St Saviour in Bourke Street, completed in 1884 after ten years' work (except for the tower, which was built in the 1980s). The architect was the celebrated Edmund Blackett,

and the building reflects his skill: it achieves grace, style and grandeur without huge dimensions. The diocese covers the ACT as well as about 15 per cent of NSW. The building is beautifully maintained, and we were all given a thorough conducted tour by two devoted parishioners.

Our third visit was to the first of our two 19th century houses: this was Riversdale, managed by the National Trust since the 1960s, built in the late-1830s on the edge of the town area as a coaching



Gathering for lunch at Riversdale

inn, in what is now Twynam Drive, but rather by-passed by the way the town grew. After a mixed early history, it was for nearly a century the residence of the Twynam family, starting with Edmund Twynam the NSW Surveyor-General. It was an ambitious building for its time, and still contains much family colonial furniture and collectables worth visiting. The garden is extensive, and well-planned, with some old growth. This is where we had lunch.

We then drove out of town some 11 km towards Sydney up the Hume Highway to the site of the Towrang Stockade, the last stockade on the Great South Road towards Goulburn, occupied from 1833 to 1843 while the Road was completed. The spot is now well-marked on the highway. There remain the powder-magazine (built into the bank of the Wollondilly River) and the graveyard with three headstones for the free folk who died there. The sites of some buildings have been traced, but no more: the convicts slept in wooden huts on bare boards with one blanket each, the long-term men shackled. On the other, south-eastern, side of the highway are the stone bridge over the Towrang Creek and half-a-dozen stone culverts, along the line of the original road, all well constructed to last.



Inspecting gravestones at the Towrang Stockade

Our final stop, closer to Goulburn, was our second 19th century house, Garroorigang, built in 1857 as a teamsters' inn, Mulwaree Inn, on the Braidwood Road, but sold into private hands in 1868. The new owner, Samuel Belcher, ran a boarding school there for sons of grazing families for fifteen years, but then lived in retirement until 1920, when it passed by marriage to the family of Hamilton Hume the explorer who still occupy it today. Much of the original Belcher furniture and contents remain, and the house is largely unaltered: it remains an interesting reflection of the varied history of the Goulburn district.

Thanks to John Tucker for planning and leading the excursion and to John Jervis for expert commentary on the day.

John Brook

Photos courtesy of Wendy Whitham

Welcome

Congratulations to Amy Guthrie, the new Sustainability Officer - Heritage in the Facilities & Services Division of the ANU from the editors and the Council and staff of the National Trust (ACT). Amy is featured in this issue's article about University of Canberra cultural heritage management graduates. In 2006 she received a National Trust Award which was presented at Government House by Annette Ellis.



Travels with the Trust

Tour of the National Museum of Australia

Wednesday 15 August 1.30 – 3.30pm

The Museum Highlights tour provides National Trust members with an overall impression of each of the Museum's exhibitions. It offers an excellent general introduction to the National Museum. The tour will include the Open Collections which is part of the Gallery of First Australians that gives members a special 'behind the scenes' glimpse of more than 2000 objects from the NMA's Indigenous collections. Followed by afternoon tea.

Meet: At information desk at NMA

Cost: \$25 members, \$35 non-members

Bookings essential: 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au – click on *Bookings* under Events and Meetings tab.

Victorian Goldfields and More...

23 – 29 October

Our 7 day central Victoria tour will include the Bonegilla Migrant Experience near Albury, before we cross into Victoria to visit Beechworth then on to Ballarat. The Botanical Gardens, Fine Art Gallery and Sovereign Hill will be topped off with 'Blood on the Southern Cross' performance. The Garden of St Erth starts day 4 as we continue to Castlemaine then to Bendigo. The contribution made by the Chinese will be viewed at four sites, as well as the only English gothic cathedral in Australia, the Town Hall and Art Gallery. Explore the National Trust properties at Chiltern before returning to Albury to visit Adamshurst, recently opened to the public and boasting the only heritage-listed garden in this border city.

Cost: NT & U3A members \$1,500 per person twin share (\$295 single supplement)

Contact: 6230 0533 for full itinerary. Note that 30 August is the deadline for booking and payment of a deposit.

Booroomba, Braeside and Blythburn

Sunday 9 September 1-3.30pm

Set in the foothills of the Brindabella Ranges, the Booroomba property was established c1840 by James Wright, with Blythburn and Braeside constructed during the McKeachnie family's long-standing ownership of the property from 1860 – 1925. There are a number of outbuildings, such as the blacksmith workshop and adjoining slab cottage, including objects and artefacts, as well as mature plantings. Join Eric Martin

on this rare opportunity to view this heritage-listed private property.

Meet: At the property on Booroomba Road (off Tidbinbilla Road), Tharwa

Cost: \$25 NT & U3A members; \$35 non-members

Bookings essential: 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au – click on *Bookings* under Events and Meetings tab.

Blandfordia 5

Sunday 14 October 1-4pm

Enjoy strolling through the meandering streets of this heritage enclave. Distinctive early Canberra houses are set amidst private gardens and public parks which are at their best in spring. Hear the stories of the area and then join together over coffee and cake. Tour leader: Brendan Priess.

Meet: The Lawns, at the Canberra Tracks sign, Bougainville Street, Manuka

Cost: \$25 NT & U3A members; \$35 non-members

Bookings essential: 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au – click on *Bookings* under Events and Meetings tab.

7th Reid Open Houses and Gardens

Sunday 28 October 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 visits to three houses and gardens in this heritage-listed residential precinct, which have been selected for their sympathetic restoration or renovations. There will be 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. A delicious afternoon tea will be served at the Reid Pre-school.

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

Cost: \$25 NT & U3A members; \$35 non-members

Bookings essential: 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au – click on *Bookings* under Events and Meeting tab.

Radburn Housing Design

Sunday 4 November 1–4pm

Through the segregation of pedestrian and vehicular movement and the inclusion of communal spaces and parkland area, the Radburn design concept has left its mark in Canberra. The NCDC attempted to amalgamate bush capital planning with Radburn planning philosophy and a move to medium density housing in the 1970s. Was it successful? Come and join Paul Cohen as we visit Charnwood and Curtin. An afternoon tea at Curtin will top off the afternoon.

Meet: End of Leycester Place, Charnwood, UBD Map 27 D14

Cost: \$25 NT & U3A members; \$35 non-members

Bookings essential: 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au – click on *Bookings* under Events and Meeting tab.

Cooma Capers

Thursday 15 November 8am–6pm

Join caper coordinator Robert Abell to discover some of the rich history of Cooma. On reaching our destination in a comfortable chartered coach we will have morning tea in Centennial Park followed by a heritage tour of the town led by Suzanne Hill from the Cooma Information Centre. This will be followed by a guided tour of the Corrective Services Museum. Our next activity will be an inspection of the Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre which will also be our lunch stop. The day will conclude with a visit to the Cooma – Monaro Railway heritage precinct which also includes a short return train trip to Bunyan and afternoon tea.

Knowledgeable local guides will be available throughout our visit. There will be some easy walking but participants will need to get on and off the coach/train during the day. A BYO lunch is recommended, although light refreshments can be purchased from the coffee shop at the Hydro Discovery Centre.

Meet: Canberra Railway Station (Kingston) car park, for departure at 8am sharp.

Cost: \$70 NT & U3A members; \$80 non-members

Bookings essential: 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au – click on *Bookings* under Events and Meeting tab.

World Heritage Tour of Italy & Sicily 15 September – 14 October 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, 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 per person twin share: \$15,160
(includes air fares, hotels, breakfast daily and all touring)

Single supplement: \$1960

Bookings: Gay Boersma at Travelscene
Canberra City 6247 6544

Borobudur and Beyond

August 2013, 7-8 days

Jogjakarta is a quiet (by Indonesian standards) university town in the centre of the island of Java. It was the centre of ancient Buddhist and Hindu kingdoms and is the site of a number of world heritage listed ancient monuments, including Borobudur and Candi Prambanan.

Further details of this exciting tour are given on page 19.



Annual Queanbeyan Heritage Awards

The Mayor of Queanbeyan, Councillor Tim Overall, presented the 2012 annual Queanbeyan Heritage Awards at the opening of the Queanbeyan Heritage Festival on Saturday 28 April at the Queanbeyan Historical Museum. It is the 15th year that the awards have been made. The aim of the award program is to encourage conservation works in the whole Queanbeyan municipal area, not just in the city's large Conservation Area and not excluding the recent extensive rural and semi-rural additions to the municipality.

The awards are made across several categories, embracing such works as the restoration of heritage buildings, gardens and landscapes, construction of sympathetic additions, removal of unsympathetic additions and the adaptive re-use of heritage structures. The awards also seek to promote good modern building design to harmonise with existing heritage buildings and streetscapes.

Winners of awards by category this year were:

- Restoration of a Commercial Building: The Royal Hotel, 85 Monaro Street
- Restoration of a Residential Building: 95 Stornaway Road
- Restoration of a Residential Building (Certificate of Merit): 6 Morton Street

- Contribution to Garden/Landscape: Queanbeyan Historical Museum, Farrer Place
- New Building Design: 11 Park Street
- Outstanding Contribution to Heritage: Brendan O'Keefe

A noteworthy feature of the awards is that they recognise and reward the sometimes heroic efforts of local residents to restore woebegone heritage structures. Such is the case with the 1920s residence at 95 Stornaway Road. The home of Ray Colverwell for many decades until his death, the property was in ruinous condition when bought by Patrick Smith in 2000. He and his wife Bozana then spent eleven long and costly years fully restoring the house and garden. In presenting the award to the Smiths, Mayor Overall commented that a "lot of love and care had been placed in the restoration of this home".

Another notable transformation occurred with the residence at 6 Morton Street. It was a glaringly unaesthetic structure and a blight on the streetscape until new owner Roger Mohr started work on it. With advice from Council's Heritage Advisor, Pip Giovanelli, his work involved the removal of a most unsympathetic facade and the revealing or reinstatement of the building's original detailing. The house now makes a very positive contribution to the streetscape.

In the category of New Building Design, the owners of the property at 11 Park Street, David and Jeanette Loft, paid extraordinary attention to detail in erecting their new residence in one of the city's most picturesque streets in the heart of the Conservation Area. In design and scale, the house beautifully fits in with and complements the single-storey 1920s bungalows that line the street. Indeed, as the Mayor pointed out, it is virtually indistinguishable from the street's heritage buildings.

Over the fifteen years that the heritage awards program has been running, it has performed an important service in raising awareness and appreciation of Queanbeyan's heritage, sometimes in unlikely quarters, and in stimulating conservation works. The awards have become treasured official affirmations of the value to the community of works undertaken, often at great expense in time, labour and money by individuals, families and organisations. The awards reflect a deeply-held Council and community commitment to Queanbeyan's heritage and, in a city that is subject to strong development pressure, they demonstrate that heritage assets need not be sacrificed in the name of new development.



6 Morton Street before restoration/renovation



6 Morton Street after restoration/renovation



11 Park Street – built to harmonise with other residences in the street

Did you come to one of our Festival events?

The National Trust was again an important stakeholder in the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival, providing a diverse range of activities over the period from 14–29 April.

The two larger events, *What's it Worth?* and the Duntroon Dairy Open Day, attracted over 1,200 people. Di Johnstone has provided a detailed report (below) on *What's it Worth?* and there is a separate article on the Dairy, *Duntroon Dairy, past and present*, on page 16. As noted in that article, the Dairy Open Day is a regular feature of the Heritage Festival. This year visitors were able to enjoy performances of dancers, singers, musicians and a storyteller, or to watch wood-turning, lace-making and wooden shingle making. Tours of the heritage-listed Dairy were popular as were the badge-making, sausage sizzle and Devonshire teas.

Other Trust events included tours taking in architecture, natural heritage, older suburbs, the border (see below) and Magna Carta Place. Partnerships with the Architects Institute of Australia, Magna Carta Committee, Canberra Archaeological Society and Oaks Estate Progress Society are valuable in providing profile, relevancy and access for you, our members.

The 15-day festival period provided much sought after income for the Trust, amounting to \$4,200. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers who help make these activities a success.

As we approach the 2013 Centenary, the Festival Taskforce would value your input on how we can add the 'wow factor' to our events, befitting of this important milestone.

Linda Roberts

Another successful *What's it Worth*

This event, in which we partner with the Rotary Club of Canberra, was successfully held for its third year at Albert Hall on 22 April. The theme for 2012 was *Family and Things*. A steady stream of people came throughout the day and some folk received valuations that made them very happy indeed.

There were quite a few intriguing items brought in by members of the public, including a decorated cast iron shield, huge leather-bound ledgers from a local store with delicate copperplate records and an old-style printing plate used to print *The Canberra Times* on an historic occasion at the end of WWII. Many attendees also spent some time with representatives of Ancestry.com and the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra.

National Trust (ACT) volunteers were on duty all day and the event produced good proceeds for the work

of the National Trust. It was an opportunity too to help promote to a wider public one of Canberra's heritage treasures, Albert Hall, which is an ideal venue for such community events and is in sparkling good shape. Both partners greatly appreciated that the ACT Government allowed free use of Albert Hall for this Heritage Festival event. Our Rotary partners warmly appreciated, as does the National Trust, the commitment of our dedicated National Trust volunteers.

Di Johnstone

Sampling our northern border

The National Trust (ACT) arranged two border walks as part of the Heritage Festival.

The Straight Line Border

From the summit of Mt Coree in the Brindabellas to One Tree Hill north of Gungahlin, the ACT/NSW border is a straight line some 30 kilometres long. On 18 April Peter Dowling led a walk along a section of this border. We began the walk at the entrance to the rural property *Jarramlee* which is accessed via the suburb of Dunlop. From there, the walk (No. 2 in the *Northern Centenary Border Walks* brochure) is well sign-posted. Peter explained that the nature of the terrain in this area – basically flat – had meant there was no need for the border to follow a watershed. Even so, the surveyors faced opposition from local landowners who stood to lose property. Their preference was for a border that followed existing lease boundaries but the straight line approach won. A delicious lunch was provided for us at a picnic shelter on the edge of Belconnen West Ponds where Anka Maria Hoefer from Landcare told us about the frogs of the local area.

Oak Hill

East of One Tree Hill, the border zigzags as it again begins to follow the crests of hills. This section of the border crosses Oak Hill on *Elm Grove*, one of the last working properties in Gungahlin. On 23 April owner Paul Carmody led a walk to the top of the hill. We began with a sausage sizzle lunch at the woolshed and then followed Paul through the bush and up the climb to the summit where we were rewarded with superb views west to One Tree Hill, east to Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve and south to Black Mountain. Paul pointed out various boundary markers including a lock spit, and told us some of the history of *Elm Grove*, from its initial settlement in 1882 by James Gillespie to the purchase by the Carmodys in 1986. Part of the property, including the homestead, was heritage-listed in 2008. Participants thanked Paul for both allowing access to his land and leading the group.

Wendy Whitham



Have you visited the oldest standing built structure in the ACT? It's the Duntroon Dairy, built in about 1823 on the cool south-west slope of Mt Pleasant. It is also a fascinating archaeological site with very good interpretive signs, easy to find from Parkes Way near the Russell Offices.

The lower walls of the picturesque white building with its wooden shingle roof were built in about 1823 of local bluestone from a nearby quarry, set with lime mortar, possibly from small kilns on the bank of the Molonglo River.

The Duntroon Estate, now the Royal Military College, began with a land grant to the Scottish merchant Robert Campbell. In 1823 he sent an employee, James Ainslie, to find the fine land an Aboriginal man had described to him. Ainslie and a flock of 700 sheep arrived at Pialligo, guided by an Aboriginal woman. Campbell realized the land's potential and in 1827 received permission from the governor to buy more land; by the 1840s he owned a good slice of the Limestone Plains.

As well as sheep, Duntroon ran cattle and dairy cows, the latter enjoying the lush grass on the river flats below the Dairy. The Dairy had two bays, the larger being the cream room. The smaller windowless bay contained a seepage well or cistern which helped to maintain an even temperature.

The first dairywoman, Isabella McPherson, arrived at Duntroon in 1839 and a succession of families lived in or near the Dairy from the 1840s. In 1865 Ambrose Austen, a tenant farmer and brick-maker, built a cottage for his family on the western side, and probably laid bricks to raise

the height of the Dairy's walls and windows, lined the floor and well, and made internal walls and porches. He replaced the stringy-bark shingle roof which was later covered in corrugated iron.

Dairying eventually ceased in the aging building and from 1907 the Eddlington family raised sheep on the property, until in 1942 the Government required the farm to revert to a dairy because of wartime milk shortages. A new dairy was built nearby and the old Dairy was used for storage. In the 1960s vagrants damaged the old Dairy building and in 1968 the roof collapsed. In 1975 the Eddlingtons' house was demolished, being of 'little historic significance'. Community outrage at the dilapidated state of the oldest extant European structure in the ACT moved the National Capital Development Commission to restore the building and in 1977 archaeological excavations commenced to reveal the details of the structure, prior to restoring a shingle roof.

Since this restoration the ACT Government has maintained the Dairy and installed interpretive signs explaining the history and the outlines of former buildings. Each year the National Trust (ACT) hosts an Open Day at the Dairy as part of the ACT Heritage Festival. Visitors enjoy visiting the past with the chance to milk a cow, hear stories of yesteryear and buy heritage fruit as well as modern snags and Devonshire teas. Tours tell the history and the Canberra Archaeological Society, whose members participated in the 1970s and 1990s digs, explains the archaeological features of the building.

Congratulations to the ACT Government for maintaining this iconic site so that the community can enjoy our history

Letters to the Editor

The Trust encourages robust discussion of heritage issues and welcomes letters to the Editors of Heritage in Trust. Letters should be sent to The Editor, Heritage in Trust, at info@nationaltrustact.org.au.

Dear Editor

Further to the technical note provided in the last issue in response to Jon Stanhope's letter about Lake Burley Griffin's status on the Heritage @ Risk list, I would like to make a few comments regarding the reasons for listing and the significance of the lake itself.

The lake was deemed by the ACT Trust's Heritage and Grants Committee as being of both high significance and at a high level of risk, the principal risk being that a variety of potential future developments would greatly affect a number of the heritage values the lake is known for. As I do not have the time or space to go into depth about these values, I would refer readers to the 2009 Godden Mackay Logan Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands Heritage Management Plan and the 2009 Study of the Social Value of Lake Burley Griffin and its Setting by Shirley Pipitone for the ACT Trust both of which comprehensively outline the values of the lake.

I acknowledge that Mr Stanhope may feel that parts of the lake are a barren wasteland but heritage is more than just aesthetic appeal (although parts of the lake have this in abundance). The heritage significance of the lake also lies in its historical connection to the Griffin Plan, its landmark status, the social connections people have with it (such

as their appreciation of the views, vistas and open space that surround the lake) and also the significant range of endangered or important flora that can be found around the foreshores. In broad terms, it is these values that the Committee felt would be affected and degraded should large monolithic structures and random bridges be built on the foreshores.

It should be noted that the ACT National Trust is not against development in principle on the lake foreshore. As with any heritage site in Canberra the Trust would like to see it utilised and appreciated by locals and visitors alike, but any development or change needs to be sympathetic to the lake and take into consideration its heritage status both as a whole and in relation to its individual heritage elements.

The Heritage @ Risk programme aims to raise awareness and promote discussion of and eventually save our heritage places. I appreciate Mr Stanhope's letter and am happy to see that the programme has fulfilled a number of its aims by promoting this kind of discussion and I look forward to the 2012 programme being announced.

Bethany Lance, 5 July

Research Officer

National Trust of Australia (ACT)

Ed's note: For further information, the Lake Burley Griffin Management Plan is available at http://www.nationalcapital.gov.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=720&Itemid=389 and the NCP.

A Good News Story – Conserving Two of Our Historical Places

In the 2011 ACT Budget an allocation was given towards conservation works on several heritage-listed properties. Two of these properties, The Valley (Gribbles' homestead) and the Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop, are ruins which date back to the rural historic period prior to Federation. The financial allocations were to go specifically towards conservation of these places.

The Valley

Thomas and Catherine Gribble settled in Gungahlin in the 1860s, built a small slab hut above a creek and began farming their property. Once settled, their family increased, requiring more living space. They extended their home by building a pisé (rammed earth) section next to the slab cottage between 1874 and 1878 and then, as the family grew, a larger stone section in 1887. Other timber structures were built and an orchard was planted next to the homestead. By the beginning of the twentieth century the home had grown from a small slab hut to a substantial residence with four to five bedrooms, a sitting room with a large fireplace and timber mantle, a brick oven, a sewing room, a loft and a covered verandah.

After the Gribbles left the area in 1912, *The Valley* was occupied continuously until 1964 as a rental property. It suffered a fire in the early 1970s and the roofing was removed for sale. The exposed walls began to degrade with exposure to the weather. Stone was salvaged from the site and incorporated in the erection of the Pioneer Memorial Garden at St Ninian's Church, Lyneham.

When the Gungahlin area was being developed, a security fence was placed around the ruin. Several surveys were done on the ruin and surrounding area by the Canberra Archaeological Society and consultants; but until 2011 there had been little or no remedial repair or conservation work done on the existing stone and pisé structures which were overrun with periwinkle creepers.



The Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop

The Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop is situated adjacent to the southbound carriageway of the Barton Highway just a little south of the Gold Creek Village group. It was built in c. 1860, possibly by James Thomas Hatch who was the first recorded blacksmith. There was a succession of blacksmiths plying their trade in the small building until 1891 when a young Henry (Harry) Curren purchased the building. Harry and his wife Agnes operated the business as a free-standing commercial blacksmithing enterprise until Harry retired in 1949 in his eighties. Since then the

place has been largely abandoned and periodically used as a storage place when the surrounding lands were rented under short-term agistment agreements.

The building was entered to the ACT Heritage Register on 9 December 1994, but by 2000 the structure was rapidly deteriorating and at risk of collapsing. With the aid of several grants from the ACT Government, the ACT National Trust stepped in and with assistance from the Canberra Archaeological Society began a process of surveying the building and immediate grounds and organizing urgent conservation works to stabilise the building. The structure was stabilised but further requests for funding conservation works were unsuccessful.



Conservation begins

Then in 2010 things began to change. The Chief Minister at that time was Jon Stanhope. Following a visit to the two places, Mr Stanhope announced the Government would provide funding for conservation works on the two buildings. The funding appeared in the 2011 budget and was soon put to good use.

A set of conservation policies was drawn up for both buildings to guide the conservation works. The Valley was cleared of its invading periwinkle, and artefacts lying on the surface were recorded, photographed and placed in a shipping container next to the site. A new fence was constructed around the site. This was followed by the clearing of stone from the two front rooms and the verandah area. There was little that could be done for the remaining pisé walls as long exposure to rain and wind had steadily eroded and collapsed large sections. But now the site is cleared and further assessment work is being undertaken.

The Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop has a similar story. The grounds around the building were cleared of weeds, and surface artefacts were recorded, photographed, collected and stored in a nearby shipping container. An excavation was done to recover a cache of metal pieces which had been accumulated by the blacksmiths over the period of the site's operations (c.1860-1949). The recovered artefacts were also recorded and placed in the shipping container next to the building. A new fence was erected around the site.

During the 2012 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival both places were the centre of artistic interpretations as part of a programme, *What Still Remains*, managed by the ACT Heritage Unit. At The Valley artist Annie Trevillian

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Conserving Two of Our Historical Places

(continued from previous page...)

prepared a series of textile panels representing the homestead, the Gribbles and the rural community of Gungahlin in the late nineteenth century. An open evening event was held at the Blacksmith Shop featuring a one-off screening by video artist Janice Kuczkowski of a series of verse written by Joseph Falsone and read by local residents relating the lives and experiences of the Currens. Both events were designed to capture the layers of time, memory and place in a community and landscape of early Canberra that often goes unnoticed in this present age. Both were also successful in presenting a new way of interpreting the heritage-listed places and the people who lived and worked in them.

But there is still more good news about *The Valley* and the Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop. In the 2012 Budget the ACT Government has allocated \$44,000 to each place to continue with public engagement and interpretation. With this further funding these two important places in the rural history and development of the ACT will become better known and appreciated by the public. A good news story that will continue for some time.

Peter Dowling

Heritage in Trust

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Our tour to Borobudur and Beyond



Borobudur

Yogyakarta (often also called Jogja, Yogya or Jogja), located in the middle of the island of Java, is a unique combination of ancient temples, history, tradition and culture and is a great place to visit.

A thousand years ago, Yogyakarta was the centre of the prosperous and highly civilised Mataram Kingdom. This kingdom built Borobudur Temple, which was the biggest Buddhist temple in the world 300 years before Angkor Wat in Cambodia. Other relics of that time are Candi Prambanan, Ratu Boko Palace and many other temples and monuments scattered throughout Yogyakarta and the surrounding region.

In the 10th century the Mataram Kingdom moved its central government to East Java and the magnificent temples were abandoned and eventually partially buried under volcanic ash from several eruptions of the nearby volcano, Mt Merapi. (Borobudur, Candi Prambanan and others were 'rediscovered' after the Dutch conquest and have now been rescued and conserved – many of them are World Heritage listed.)

Six hundred years later, the Islamic Mataram Kingdom became established in the region. Once again, Yogyakarta became the centre of a kingdom that ruled Java Island and its surrounding area. The rulers built fortresses and royal tombs, now largely in ruins, scattered around the region.

With the arrival of the Dutch in the 18th century there was a civil war in Java (largely caused by debate over whether to submit to Dutch rule) and the kingdom split, with a separate sultanate being declared over Yogyakarta and the southern part of the Mataram Kingdom. A consequence of that split is that Yogyakarta remains the only Province of Indonesia which is still ruled by a monarchy. The sultan's palace (the Kraton) is still the residence of the present sultan and his family. Parts of the palace are open to the public and many public cultural performances are held there.

Yogyakarta today is a city which combines tradition and modern life. Throughout the city and its surrounds there are remnants of both the ancient Hindu kingdom and its Islamic successors, and it is a cultural and educational centre with many universities - the University of Gadjah Mada is one of the leading universities in South East Asia. There are many traditional markets and handicraft centres in the city and those coming on next year's tour will have time to do some shopping, particularly for the famous Yogyakarta batik. The city is surrounded

by a fertile agricultural region - the hotel where we will be staying is part of a community cultural centre in a traditional rural village on the outskirts of the city, surrounded by rice fields and farmland.

It is envisaged that our 7 to 8 day tour will include:

- Visits, with English speaking experts, to Borobudur, Candi Prambanan and other Hindu/Buddhist temple sites around Yogyakarta;
- an evening performance of the 'Ramayana' ballet at Candi Prambanan;
- a visit to the Sultan's palace and adjacent historical sites;
- an overnight tour into the hinterland around Yogyakarta, possibly to the Dieng plateau;
- batik shopping time; and
- accommodation in a four star hotel/ cultural centre (Rumah Budaya) in a traditional Javanese village near Yogyakarta.



Rumah Budaya

The total cost (subject to final booking confirmations) is expected to be around A\$3,950 per person twin share, including all fares, accommodation and meals. A single supplement of around \$500 would apply.

Maximum number of participants is 20.

As a bonus you could easily add on a stopover in Bali as the airfares would already be covered by the Yogyakarta tour.

Michael Hodgkin

Photos courtesy of Michael Hodgkin



Dancers of the Ramayana at Candi Prambanan

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