



NATIONAL TRUST

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA

Heritage in Trust

FEBRUARY 2012



John Gale at Huntly

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John Gale and Life at Huntly – Part 2

The following memories were recounted in an interview with John Gale OBE, a long-standing and Life Member of the National Trust ACT. In this second article, John relates more special stories of Huntly and recalls the 2003 bushfires on Huntly. The first article was published in the November 2011 edition of Heritage in Trust.

Animal companions at Huntly

When John knew he was to live at *Huntly*, he decided he should have a dog and wanted a collie. With a scrap of paper torn from the "dogs" section of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, and having checked for collies under "C", John went to see some collie puppies. Sadly those he saw were not in good condition and feeling deflated he went back to the scrap, looked under the next letter, and came across "Dalmatians" for sale. He visited a Dalmatian breeder and bought a puppy the breeder had called Lewis, after Lewis Hoad, the "star turn" in the 1956 Australian tennis championships. The puppy travelled by overnight train and John collected him from Canberra railway station. On the road to *Huntly*, Lewis sat on the front seat with his head on John's lap. Lewis was a constant companion for the next 13 years. Coincidentally, some years later Lew and Jenny Hoad and their children became friends and stayed at *Huntly*.

John later owned three poodles, who turned out to be "great country dogs", and a couple of "superannuated sheep dogs". His last dog was a kelpie/border collie stray called Strikey who lived at *Huntly* for 13 years and was comforting company during and after the terrible 2003 bushfires. Until 10 years ago there were also a few cats and now there are 16 very decorative peacocks, a fascination for visitors. The original peacock was brought to *Huntly* by a gardener, a bird fancier who couldn't keep it in a Canberra suburb. There is now only one white peacock, down from five who were born at *Huntly*. This is not an albino but has a white gene. John noted ruefully, however, that foxes are a problem when keeping peacocks.



Some of Huntly's many peacocks

Special visitors

Huntly hosted Prince Charles when he first came to Australia to attend *Timbertop* school in Victoria. Government House arranged for him to ride at *Huntly* and as the prince was being hounded by the press he was "secreted" out there. John rigged up a hitching rail on the two poplar trees by the drive and John, Edgar Wheatley, the manager, Graham Kidd, an RMC cadet, and Prince Charles rode across Uriarra Road to Mt Walker, to get a 360 degree view over the Murrumbidgee. On the ride back, the press discovered the riders and, although not allowed on the property, photographers managed to get long shots of the young prince with telephoto lenses. Prince Charles had afternoon tea at *Huntly* and was whisked back to Government House. He was about 16 at the time.

Memorable events

One of the most memorable events was a Sunday lunch at *Huntly* for the 1981 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). Mrs Tamie Fraser had asked John if he could host this lunch during CHOGM, which was being held in Melbourne. The delegates were flown to Canberra for the weekend. Security staff came to *Huntly* beforehand to go over the house "for bombs", and John suddenly remembered "that we had some old sticks of gelignite in the shed that we had to get rid of". On the day of the lunch a helicopter was parked in the Donkey Paddock in case someone had a heart attack.



John Gale in the lovely Bamboo Room at Huntly

When the many Heads of Government arrived they were welcomed in the Bamboo Room by then Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, Mrs Fraser and John, and then moved

into marquees in the garden for drinks. While drinks were in progress, staff whisked out much of the furniture from the Bamboo and Dining Rooms and quickly set up lunch tables for 90. John was amazed that it was possible in such a small space.

A sheepdog demonstration, with a professional dog trainer, had been organized to entertain the delegates. At a signal the sheep were let out of a yard about 300 metres away and the dogs brought the sheep down the hill to a gate near the garden and through the gate into an adjoining paddock. The sheep had not long been shorn and had a lot of energy; three or four sheep broke away and took off in the wrong direction. They had to be left behind when the mob was brought back through the gate, otherwise the dogs could not have held the big mob. John was standing beside a concerned British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who thoughtfully asked John, "Do you think if Denis and I went out after the sheep we could get them back for you?"

Over the years many government departments brought their visiting delegations to *Huntly* and *Huntly* hosted numerous charity events. The first such events were annual Red Cross dinner dances in the garden. Then there were musical events for Koomarri with the Canberra School of Music String Quartet, led by Ernie Llewellyn, and three other professionals on the staff also playing. At the first musical evening, one of the musicians missed the turn onto Uriarra Road and went to *Uriarra*. By the time he turned up, all the provided champagne had been drunk as well as most of John's own liquor supplies. It was a very merry evening. On another occasion held in the garden, an elegantly dressed volunteer had to sit on the side of a pond with her finger over a little "duck fountain" to stop fountain noise competing with the strings. On yet another occasion, the wind blew the sheets of music away and there was a rush to the clothesline to get pegs to hold the music in place on the stands. John remembers with some awe that during one concert held inside the house because of inclement weather, a string quartet, 15 lustily singing members of the Woden Children's Choir, an electric piano and about 100 people packed the house.

John was on the Board of the Australian Opera for five years and when the opera ensemble made their annual trip to Canberra for performances at the Canberra Theatre, John hosted a lunch for them at *Huntly*. Others who had events at *Huntly* included St John's Ambulance, organizations for breast and prostate cancer, the Heart Foundation, The Smith Family, School of Music and Canberra Opera – who would perform an act from an opera or excerpts. The operatic event, rather grandly called *Glyndebourne at Huntly*, was very popular. Families came and sat in the garden with picnic baskets. This was no longer possible after the damage done by the 2003 bushfires.

John's OBE, conferred at Yarralumla by Sir Zelman Cowan, cited his services to the community which included, of course, his considerable generosity in making *Huntly* available for so many charity occasions.

2003 bushfires

These were devastating. There were three fires on *Huntly*. Prior to the main fire day, Saturday 18 January 2003, fires had been burning for 10 days in the mountains in NSW. On the night of 17 January, John went to town to play bridge, thinking the fires would miss *Huntly*. However, on the Saturday morning, he received a report of a change in wind direction and to expect spot fires, as had happened in 1952. He was told two or three tankers were on their way. He drove along Uriarra Road undoing chains and locks on *Huntly's* gates. By the time he turned to return to the house he saw smoke over *Huntly* near Uriarra Crossing. The first of three fires had started. The small *Huntly* unit got there first; then other units and a helicopter arrived.

John and his manager, Margaret Wheatley, worked as fast as they could, without dogs, to move the sheep in the burning paddock to the back of the fire, and then rushed to the *Huntly* woolshed where they managed to get 600-800 weaner lambs into a holding yard, to save them from the fire. Without dogs it was a difficult task as frightened lambs kept ducking behind them. John then returned home to put fuel in his truck, while Margaret returned to her house to let her dogs off their leashes and shut the doors and windows.

By the time John had driven his refuelled truck back a couple of hundred metres to Uriarra Road, only moments later, the pine trees on both sides of the road were burning from bottom to top. They were "literally exploding". Across Uriarra Road the old wood sections of the cattle yards, with no vegetation around, were bursting into flames. Surrounded by very heavy smoke, John sheltered briefly with his dog, Stripey, behind silos and then drove through the smoke back to the house where he was shocked to see the Donkey Paddock alight and fire in *Huntly's* garden. Failing to extinguish the flames he eventually drove the vehicle in beside the house, and then noticed empty feed bags in the back of his truck had caught fire and were in flames. John could not stop the fire in the garden, and, totally exhausted, sought refuge inside the house, only to find as much heavy smoke inside as out. He later noticed a change in the smoke and rushed outside to see something alight on the roof. He thought the house was about to be lost. However, the tankers and light units that had earlier been elsewhere on *Huntly* had arrived at the house, having had to leave their positions in the paddocks as almost everything had been burned, and helped to save the house.

At some stage a helicopter evacuated a fire-fighter suffering from smoke inhalation, and devastating news came through to the fire-fighters on *Huntly* that some of their own houses had been burnt and some cars left at the Cotter Road depot had been destroyed. Around 5pm word came through for all fire units to leave *Huntly* and go immediately into Canberra where fires were out of control. Before they left, the fire-fighters pumped water out of the swimming pool and smothered the house with water and foam.

Huntly became a designated "refuge" and John made up lots of sandwiches just in case, but no one came. The night was eerie, with a risk that fire could return, and no power.

John had lost contact with Margaret Wheatley when she returned to her house and they did not see each other again until late afternoon after the fire brigades' personnel had left. He discovered then that, very sadly, Margaret, who had lived on *Huntly* all her life, had lost her house, her car and horse float, indeed everything except the clothes she was wearing. Miraculously none of her horses were lost, although several had slightly singed tails. Debbie Crisp, the tenant living in the old shearers' quarters, managed to save her house although part of this had been burned. Both Margaret and Debbie slept the night at the homestead and Margaret had to live at the homestead for some months until another undestroyed house was ready for her occupation.

There was terrible news the next day when John discovered the extent of the stock, buildings and fencing that had been lost. John recalls that he had never seen a fire of such intensity – it was a "firestorm". When he had gone to town on the Friday night, he had been asked if he was worried about the fires and had said "not really, because we have nothing to burn". He would never say that again. "There was nothing to burn but nothing will burn". Many of the eucalypts on *Huntly* burnt for many days afterwards.

The future of *Huntly*

Looking toward the next 100 years, John would like to think that *Huntly* will go on as a rural property, rather than be subsumed by Canberra's growth. While it has a heritage listing, he is not confident that this will protect it from development pressures. He mentioned that in the early 1970s the Federal government decided to extend the pine forest, which then ended at Stromlo Forest, and the other side of the river was subsequently ripped up and planted with pines as far as *Uriarra Station*. The government also wanted to plant pines on *Huntly* and join these up with the Stromlo pines. John wrote to then Prime Minister William McMahon, protesting about the plan. He pointed out that the government was promoting Canberra as the bush capital and the one remaining road with any semblance of being rural, because it weaves and winds through the countryside, was that through *Huntly*. The best view of the Brindabellas in close proximity to Parliament House was the first view along the Uriarra Road, and yet the government was planning to fill up the valley with exotic pine trees. John thought the Prime Minister must have accepted his arguments as pines were not planted on the *Huntly* side of the Murrumbidgee. John reflects that if the pines had been planted, the outcome of the 2003 fires for *Huntly* would have been a good deal worse.

Involvement in the National Trust

John is a Life Member of NSW National Trust, from a period before National Trust ACT became a separate

entity for constitutional reasons. He is also a Life Member of the National Trust ACT. He became involved in the ACT National Trust when it was formed, being invited to do so by then President Ken MacKay, Alison Hay (a later President), Sheila Braund and Ruth Gullet. John formed and chaired a committee for fundraising activities. He thoroughly enjoyed this and thought it very worthwhile. He expressed amazement that it took so long for a National Trust to be formed in Australia, and thought this a pity as a lot more could have been saved if it had been formed sooner. He considers the National Trust ACT a very valid and worthwhile institution and that "it has quite a few brownie points on its slate for the things of heritage value it has saved in the ACT".

Di Johnstone



John Gale in the garden at *Huntly*

Advertising rates for Heritage in Trust magazine

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

Inserts

Inserts are charged by weight.

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

From the President

2011 was a mixed year with some firsts with financial support from the ACT Government but the ongoing pressure of a negative budget remains.

Some initiatives are proposed for 2012 to refocus activities:

- Rally 2013 is aimed at promoting the historical link of Jervis Bay to Canberra as part of the 2013 Centenary Celebrations. We hope this will be a major event for the year and strengthen the relationship of the heritage places and vehicles and the part vehicles have played in developing Canberra.
- We are endeavouring to establish an ongoing philanthropic contribution for the National Trust from anyone that the National Trust can work with and who has similar goals.
- Bequests are a positive way people can provide ongoing support to the National Trust and we are interested in hearing from anyone who may wish to support the National Trust in this way.

The Heritage challenge for 2012 appears to be the ongoing battle of the Rond Terrace Memorials. Despite the revised design they will still dominate the vista from the lake or south of the lake to the War Memorial and detract from the heritage values of the area.

St Patricks in Braddon appears set for a battle as despite its heritage nomination and provisional listing by the ACT Heritage Council, which the National Trust supports, there is a proposal to rezone it to permit demolition and construction of housing.

This year we will have an expanded involvement in the ACT Heritage Festival with a diverse and imaginative range of activities. We hope that you will be able to join with us in celebrating our heritage.

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 in 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:

Kaye Alland	William and Debora Lewis
Barbara and Ray Banvill	Jocelyne MacLeod
Rev Paul Black	Jacinta Nelligan
Julian Blackham	Christine and John Sandow
Geoffrey and Susan Davidson	Jon and Robyn Stanhope
James and Jeanette Dyer	Kate Taylor
Janice and Donald Gordon	Peter and Lawrence Taylor
Peter and Menna Haddon	Jane and Philip Trigge
Bethany Lance	Peta Wilcox
	Athol Yates

Trusted Recipes

Trust members are invited to share recipes through the magazine - please send your recipes to Liz at info@nationaltrustact.org.au.

This recipe comes courtesy of Bob and Rosina Akhurst. The slice was a great hit at the Christmas function at Huntly.

Ingredients Honey Oat Bars

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup sultanas
- 1/2 cup wholemeal self-raising flour
- 1/2 cup raw sugar
- 1/2 cup coconut
- 155g butter
- 1 tablespoon honey

Method

1. Combine oats, sultanas, sifted flour (return husks from sifter to basin), sugar and coconut in basin.
2. Melt butter, add honey and mix into dry ingredients until mixture clings together.
3. Press evenly over base of well-greased 28cm x 18cm lamington tin.
4. Bake in moderate oven (suggest 180° or 170° fan forced oven) 15 to 20 minutes or until golden.
5. Cut into bars while hot. Remove from tin when cold.

Members who try this recipe might like to report results, particularly about oven temperatures.

Thank you

Special thanks to Shirley and Peter Harris who stepped into the breach to edit and compile our quarterly Heritage in Trust and have carried the torch for several years. The Harrises would be among the busiest folk in the community and we really valued their contributions. The President, Council, staff and grateful members send heartfelt thanks and best wishes for their many community endeavours.

Welcome and thanks to Maree Treadwell and Wendy Whitham for taking over as editors for Heritage in Trust. You would make them very happy if you sent in articles and images of National Trust places you have visited or alerted them to stories in the press that could be followed up.

Volunteers

The National Trust ACT depends on the efforts of volunteers to help us achieve our core objectives from serving on our Council, committees, in the office, managing and helping with events and at sites of historical and cultural importance for the education and enjoyment of the community. In return we provide friendship, a chance to use those skills and even learn some new ones.

Many of our volunteers have been with the National Trust ACT since close to its 1976 formation. Many were recognised for this achievement and presented with certificates at our volunteers function at Manning Clark house in December.

The National Trust ACT congratulates Leonie Turner on being awarded National Trust ACT Volunteer of the Year 2011. Leonie has made a valuable contribution to the smooth running of the Trust through her regular volunteering at the office.

Volunteers Liz Kennedy and Alan Kerr have just completed several years work cataloguing the library and filing hundreds of important historical documents, enabling important National Trust documents to be accessible to researchers and students. Whilst this work is ongoing Alan has now taken over the role of the Chair of the 2013 Canberra 100 Historic Vehicle Rally and will be recruiting fellow volunteers to help organise and provide support for this important national event.

If you have some spare time and would like to join our dedicated team, whether you like old buildings, indigenous heritage, natural heritage or helping out with events, please call Liz at the National Trust Office on 62300533.

The National Trust ACT would like to thank all volunteers for their outstanding work in 2011 but a group that we would like to especially thank is the loyal team of Lanyon Volunteers for their ongoing commitment.

Eric Martin, the Council and staff.

Message from the Executive Director

The National Trust ACT has received funding from the ACT Government to organise an event linking Jervis Bay to Canberra in 2013. The event, called the Canberra 100 Rally, will take the form of a historic vehicle rally from Jervis Bay. It will include vehicles from Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane on separate routes. The Trust is investigating including significant ships at Jervis Bay and a steam train on part of the route. It has also been decided to include some alternative energy vehicles to demonstrate a possible future direction of cars including electric cars and perhaps steam cars. (A technical difficulty may be that most modern electric cars can only go for roughly 160 kilometres under normal motoring conditions on a charge, about the same as the early electric cars dating from the foundation of Canberra back in 1913 – the Rally distance is 224 kilometres.)

Canberra Serbian Orthodox Church

A hidden treasure in Forrest is the St George Free Serbian Orthodox Church built in 1968. It features an amazing series of murals painted in a European style by artist Karl Matzek. The Battle of Kosovo 1389 contains 1400 individual and highly detailed figures. The artist was 72 years of age when he started, finishing 16 years later. He worked on the extensive ceiling murals perched on the top of a ladder many metres above the ground. It is well worth a look. The Church is open 10am-4pm every day including public holidays.

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



History Challenge

The National Award Ceremony took place on 22 November in the Mural Hall of Parliament House, Canberra.

At the ceremony the national category winners and the national year level winners were presented with their prizes and the State and Territory Young Historians announced. We congratulate the National Young Historian for 2011, Ellen Trevanion from Narrabundah College, Canberra. Set out below are the names of the ACT winners in the various categories. Also in this edition of *Heritage in Trust* is the essay by Abigail Meadley who, as shown below, won the ACT prize for the 'Australian Heritage' theme. We hope to publish Ellen Trevanion's essay, which related to 'the Life and Times of John Curtin', in the next edition of *Heritage in Trust*.

ACT and National Young Historian	Ellen Trevanion	Narrabundah College
Year Level 11 -12	Jane Webber	Narrabundah College
Year Level 9 – 10	Philip Taleski	Marist College Canberra
Year Level 7 – 8	Lindsay Bassett	Alfred Deakin High School
Asia and Australia	Erika Nguyen	Narrabundah College
Australian Heritage	Abigail Meadley	Belconnen High School
Immigrant Experiences	Correa Driscoll	Belconnen High School
In War and Peace	Alexandra McKinnon	Narrabundah College
Indigenous Australia	Philip Taleski	Marist College
Museum Exhibit	Vanessa Farrelly	Belconnen High School
The Life & Times of John Curtin	Ellen Trevanion	Narrabundah College
Using Archival Records	Yun Fei Ou Yang	Canberra High School

Chris Wain
CEO

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

Research Officer's Report

The past few months have seen a lot of discussion about and pressure on our open spaces. These open spaces, such as the hills, ridges and river corridors, are what make Canberra the 'Bush Capital' that it is so well known for and as such should be retained and appropriately managed. In September 2011, the National Capital Authority (NCA) released a discussion paper as part of its Review of the National Capital Open Space System (NCOSS). The National Trust responded with a submission. I worked with experts John Gray, Robert Abell, David Shorthouse and Gary Scott to ensure we provided an informed submission. We addressed issues such as the lack of corporate knowledge, funding, education and interpretation of the System which has been detrimental to its overall use.

Another important Report we have provided a submission for is the Report of the Independent Review of the National Capital Authority by Dr Allan Hawke. This Report addressed a number of issues including those we outlined in our submission to the NCOSS Review (such as funding and interpretation) but we were particularly concerned with the so-called 'heritage gap'. The 'heritage gap' relates to heritage properties and sites located in Designated Areas but which are on Territory Land; the concern is that their legislative protection, and subsequent conservation, are tangled up in the different layers of management and planning in the ACT. We have highlighted this problem in other submissions but it has still not been rectified and while the Hawke Report provides recommendations on how to address it, the proposed solutions are not ideal. Working with some of our members and some of the Friends of the Albert Hall we were able to provide a submission which outlined the complexities and realities of the Recommendations provided in the Hawke Report and suggested ways of resolving the current situation. Both these submissions are available on our website.

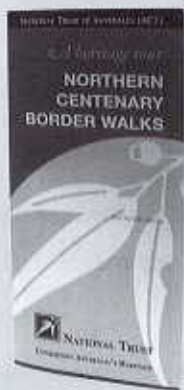
In September and October the NCA also opened up public consultation on their website in relation to three potential sites in the Yarralumla/Red Hill area for new embassies to be built. The potential sites are on Stirling Ridge, near the Yarralumla Brickworks and near the Federal Golf Course on Red Hill. All received much comment and opposition on the 'Have your say' website. The National Trust contributed to the discussions on two sites, those at Stirling Ridge and near the Yarralumla Brickworks. We outlined

the significant heritage aspects near the sites, drawing the NCA's attention to the Conservation Management Plans that are currently guiding the management and development of these sites and the impact that the buildings may have on the area. While a Consultation Report outlining the issues raised for each site has been released we have received no further word as to whether the sites will be used for future embassy development.

The past few months have again seen a large number of places being added to the ACT Heritage Register. It is a pleasure to see so many places being provisionally registered and others fully recognised on the Register. We commend the Heritage Council for continuing to work its way through the large backlog of nominations and hope to see this hard work continue. Sadly the controversy over the heritage listing of St Patrick's Church in Braddon continues as its heritage status was set aside by the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal in September due to a technicality in the listing process. The listing process has now started again as the Heritage Council is standing by its original decision and has again Provisionally Registered the Church. We continue to support the listing of this important site and have made our thoughts known to the Heritage Council and the media. Time is of the essence for the Church site as it is now under further pressure from development with the recent release of the ACT Government's plan for redevelopment of land in Braddon and Reid. The 'Draft Variation 308: Cooyong Street Urban Renewal Precinct' indicates that redevelopment is dependent on the demolition of the Church and use of the land. Comments on the Draft Variation are due by 20 February and we intend to provide a substantial submission outlining the impacts on the significant heritage places in the area.

The Heritage and Grants Committee continues to comment on the numerous other heritage issues which arise and we are involved in a number of community consultation sessions such as those held for the Kingston Arts Precinct, the proposed Ginninderra and Murrumbidgee Falls National Park, the Hotel Acton Reconstruction and Adaptive Re-use and the new Bowen Place underpass. Involvement in these community consultations ensures we continue to be seen as an independent and expert community voice for the conservation of ACT heritage.

Border Walks Wrap-up



The first part of the ACT National Trust's latest project, the Centenary Border Walks, was launched at our AGM on 19 October 2011 by the former Chief Minister Jon Stanhope. The Northern Centenary Border Walks brochure provides a series of short self-guided walks and drives around parts of the ACT/NSW border. From the peaks of Mount Franklin to the historic Old Coach Road the walks not only provide stunning views and scenery at any time of the year but also provide information about the area's history and glimpses into the arduous and sometimes hazardous job that surveying the border was.

The Border Walks project was assisted by funding from the ACT Heritage Grants Program and has been completed in conjunction with the ACT Heritage Unit which has helped to supply signage and markers for the walks. Used together, the brochure and interpretive signs provide information such as why the border is shaped the way it is, who surveyed it, the problems they met and the ramifications for the property owners around the border. Images of the surveyors and original maps and documents accompany the stories and help to transport you to the early

1900s, providing the perfect accompaniment for your trip around the border.

The Northern Border Walks brochure is just one half of our Centenary Border Walks project. The second half – the Southern Border Walks brochure – we hope to have completed by December 2012 in time for the 2013 Centenary celebrations.

The National Trust will be conducting tours along the Old Coach Road, the Zig Zag Border and the Straight Line Border, led by Dr Peter Dowling, in February and March and during the Heritage Festival but brochures are available at any time at the Trust Office in Civic or via our website for anyone who wants to give them a go.

Trust Tour Reports

Lake George Basin (Weereewa) and Collector, Sunday 9 October 2011

Led by National Trust member Robert Abell

Lake George is a shallow body of water (130-160 sq.kms) which shows large fluctuations in level and salinity which are mainly attributable to relative changes in rainfall, evaporation and runoff.

The statement above seems inconceivable to me as I came to live in the ACT in 2001 and I have only glimpsed patches of water in the far distance from the Federal Highway. I was therefore very interested to learn the evolution of the Lake George drainage basin. Our first stop was the lookout at Gearys Gap where Robert explained, in very easy to understand language, with the visual aid of information boards he had prepared, the geology and history of the basin. Most of the other 20 members on the excursion have seen Lake George full in their lifetime but to me it is still very hard to imagine. Robert explained the care taken in the building of the Federal Highway to lessen any impact on the environment. We continued on, making three further stops learning about European discovery and the life of Sir Thomas Mitchell, a surveyor and explorer in the Lake George region during the late 1820s. Our luncheon stop was at Collector and the local historical society very kindly allowed us the use of the bookshop and provided hot drinks on a very chilly afternoon. A representative of the society gave an interesting talk and we were then taken for a walk through Collector to end a very informative, fascinating and pleasant day tour.

Suzie Paul



Looking at Lake George

Our Visit To Lake Bathurst

On Wednesday 16 November the Trust conducted a visit to Lake Bathurst. The visit attracted a lot of interest, and a waiting list - and the event fully justified this interest. The visit was conducted by Bob Abell who also led our recent visit to Lake George and has done extensive field work on the natural lakes around Canberra. His expertise is probably unequalled in our neighbourhood. At Lake Bathurst we had the help of Colin Dennett, a village resident who has written a published history of the lake.

Lake Bathurst is a 'perched' lake, rather higher than Lake George. It depends on natural rainfall and consequent seepage, and is therefore usually next to empty. Nearby is what is known as the "Morass", also normally swampy at best. But at two periods in the last 125-odd years (in the 1890s and in the 1950s), when the lake has been full, it has attracted crowds of visitors. In the 1890s a railway branch-line to the lake shore was built. The siding platform is still in fair condition, though the line was removed in the 1920s. Today the lake is almost dry.

Access today is along a track across private land from the Queanbeyan-Goulburn road, with the cooperation of the land-holder. Our bus was expertly managed up to and along the former lake shore, where ruins remain of the structures built during the second period of crowd use, in the 1950s, when people came mainly to watch water-skiing and for picnics.

Lake Bathurst was first visited by Europeans in 1818, two years before Lake George was found, led by the NSW Assistant Surveyor-General, James Meehan, who named the lake after the then British Colonial Secretary. There is a memorial on land beyond the lake (to which access is now refused by the current land-holder) marking the church service held in 1820 during the visit to the area by Governor Macquarie.

After visiting the lake, we made a second visit, this time to the fuel storage built in 1943, as one of about 30 storages dispersed around the country to hold aviation fuel in time of war. Five underground tanks, with a total capacity of some three million litres, were built into the hillside near Lake Bathurst village, above the Goulburn-Cooma railway line, and are still in fair condition. By the time they were completed, the threat of war was easing, and they were never filled. A small service building at the site has recently been restored. The land is now owned by the Dennett family as an historic site.

John Brook

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 Cleggett Sts, Forde.

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

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

The Zig Zag Border at Little Mulligans

Sunday 4 March 4.30-7.30pm

What are locksplits 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 – click on Bookings under Events and Meetings tab.



Do you have a friend traveling overseas?

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Tasmania—Convicts and Colonists

Friday 27 April 2012 – Saturday 5 May 2012

Afascinating 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

Contact for further information: Jenny at Southland Travel 6286 5540 or jenny.sltravel@bigpond.com



Dunlop Marker

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



Collector Lockup-small

CANBERRA AND REGION HERITAGE FESTIVAL

INNOVATION • 14-29 APRIL 2012

Yarralumla Guided Walk

Established in 1928 Yarralumla is one of Canberra's oldest suburbs. The name comes from the Ngunnawal word for the area. Many streets are named after botanists and colonial governors. Yarralumla is home to some of Canberra's early buildings and the diplomatic community. Come and join heritage architect David Hobbes on this tour, enjoying afternoon tea at the end.

Sat 14 April 1pm - 4pm

\$25 NT members / \$35 non-members

Bookings essential: 02 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au

Dirk Bolt: South Woden Neighbourhood Centres

Meet at Farrer Shopping Centre.

In partnership with Australian Institute of Architects

Dirk Bolt is a lesser known but important Canberra architect who contributed to Canberra's planning and some important buildings. This tour explores his work at suburban shopping centres in Pearce, Torrens, Farrer and Swinger Hill and the multi-unit housing directly associated with the shopping centres. The tour is led by Graeme Trickett and Ken Charlton who are writing a monograph on Dirk Bolt on behalf of the Australian Institute of Architects. There is an option of afternoon tea at the end of the tour (at participant's cost).

Self drive tour with arrangements for rides on request.

Sat 14 April 1.30pm - 3.30pm

\$15 NT & Institute members / \$20 non-members

Bookings essential: 02 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au

London Bridge & Googong Guided Walk

Meet at the turn off to Googong Dam from the Old Cooma Rd

London Bridge is a naturally eroded limestone arch on Burra Creek, NSW. Come along and enjoy a sausage sizzle in the London Bridge car park before taking the tour with an archaeologist and historian.

Sun 15 April 11am - 3.30pm

\$25 NT members / \$35 non-members

Bookings essential: 02 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au

Dunlop Straight Line Border Walk

From Hugh Mckay Cres, Dunlop. Take the off shoot road towards Jarramlee Homestead.

Starting near the front gate of Jarramlee, the log entrance leads northeast into a fenced corridor, picking up a tiny part of the Australian Bicentennial Trail. The timber post fence is most likely the original fence constructed along the border in the 1920s. There will be refreshments provided at Belconnen West Ponds and a talk from Ginninderra Landcare before we return with Dr Peter Dowling who will be leading the way.

Wed 18 April 11am - 2.30pm

\$25 NT members / \$35 non-members

Bookings essential: 02 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au

Honeysuckle to Booroomba Rocks

Namadgi Visitors Centre, Naas Rd

Join geologist Robert Abell on a walk from the Honeysuckle Camp Ground in Namadgi National Park through eucalypt forests to the imposing Booroomba Rocks - massive granite boulders. Learn about the former space tracking station of Honeysuckle which was instrumental in monitoring the Apollo program which landed the first people on the moon. Bring your own lunch.

Sat 21 April 9am - 3pm

\$25 NT members / \$35 non-members

Bookings essential: 02 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au

Dirk Bolt: Live and Learn

Meet at Burgmann College, Gungahlin

In partnership with Australian Institute of Architects

Dirk Bolt is a lesser known but important Canberra architect who contributed to Canberra's planning and some important buildings. This tour explores his work at Burgmann College and Hackett housing. The tour is led by Graeme Trickett and Ken Charlton who are writing a monograph on Dirk Bolt on behalf of the Australian Institute of Architects. There is an option of afternoon tea at the end of the tour (at participant's cost).

Self drive tour with arrangements for rides on request.

Sat 21 April 1.30pm - 3.30pm

\$15 NT & Institute members / \$20 non-members

Bookings essential: 02 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au

What's it Worth 2012

Albert Hall, Commonwealth Ave

What's it worth 2012 will again provide a wonderful opportunity for Canberra and regional collectors to have personal/family treasures, from art to artifacts, silver to stamps and much more valued by experts and to hear the stories behind them. Disabled access available.

Sun 22 April 10am - 4pm

\$5 adult / \$5 per item

Enquiries: 02 6230 0533

A Walk up Oak Hill

Start at the woolshed at Elm Grove, Bonner

Start with a sausage sizzle before embarking on the hour's walk up to Oak Hill to enjoy a wonderful panorama and view the century old border marker on the NSW/ACT border. Elm Grove, one of the last working properties in Gungahlin, is heritage-listed. Owner Paul Carmody will lead the tour and talk about its history. A great school holiday activity.

Mon 23 April 12pm - 3pm

\$25 NT members / \$35 non-members

Bookings essential: 02 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au

Ainslie Open Houses & Gardens

Start at Baker Gardens Pre-school

A conducted walking tour around Corroboree Park crescents, inspecting three different 1926-7 cottages, specially designed by Federal Capital Commission and private architects, and various once-productive, now mature gardens close-up. Hear fascinating stories of the residents who created a community while building the national capital. Afternoon tea is included. Walking (approx 1 km) at a comfortable pace will be involved, including across grassed or unpaved areas. Limit of 30 adults.

Sat 28 April 1pm - 4pm

\$25 NT members / \$35 non-members

Bookings essential: 02 6230 0533 or online at www.nationaltrustact.org.au

Duntroon Dairy Open Day

Duntroon Dairy, Kelliher Rd

Come and milk a cow or churn butter at the heritage listed Duntroon Dairy, one of the oldest buildings in the ACT. Enjoy an in-depth tour of this site, see how it has been interpreted, what the archaeology reveals and the structure of the dairy. Dancers, singers, car displays, wood turning, food and more will entertain the whole family.

Sun 29 April 10am - 3pm

Gold coin donation

Enquiries: 02 6230 0533

The National Trust has for a number of years been a partner and sponsor of the annual National History Challenge in association with the History Teachers Association.

The Challenge is a research-based competition for students. It gives students a chance to be an historian, investigating their community and exploring their own past. It emphasizes and rewards quality research, the use of community resources and effective presentation. The National Trust sponsors a theme of 'Australian Heritage' in which students are asked to present a project which exemplifies the diverse heritage of Australia.

The 2011 winner of this theme in the ACT is Abby Meadley who researched the history of the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. Abby's essay is printed in full below. ACT winners of other categories in the 2011 Challenge are listed in the report *From the Executive Director*.

For more information about the National History Challenge, and how to enter, click on to their website: www.historychallenge.org.au.

The First Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras by Abby Meadley

As a nation, Australia was born on the shores of Gallipoli during the First World War. While we may have officially received the title in 1901, it was the courage of our troops, and the qualities of mate-ship, bravery and comradeship that led to the development of the national character that makes us as a nation internationally recognisable. Throughout Australian history new conflicts have led our nation in new directions. Indeed, it can be argued that much of Australia's national character has been born through conflict, as smaller groups and individuals challenged the establishment for their right to autonomy, justice and free speech. With this in mind, I would contend that the first ever Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, held in Sydney on the 24th June 1978 stands as a significant turning point in our culture. The implications for the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgender (GLBT) community have been enormous in terms of acceptance, individual and community rights, and personal freedoms. I would further argue that this first Mardi Gras, and all the ones that would follow, have changed the face of Australia, to ourselves and to the outside world.

The Mardi Gras was Sydney's contribution to the international Gay Solidarity Celebrations¹, an event that had grown up as a result of the Stonewall riots in New York, where the persecution of sexual minorities by the establishment had led to public disobedience and eventual rioting. The GLBT community had begun to "push back" after years of oppression and discrimination. In the years between the Stonewall riots and Australia's first Mardi Gras there was a growing dissatisfaction with the way the GLBT community was treated in many parts of the western world. A growing sense of global unity was linking the GLBT community as it struggled to find its place in a changing world. The Mardi Gras was one of a series of events by the Gay Solidarity Group to promote the forthcoming National Homosexual Conference, and offer support to San Francisco's Gay Freedom Day and

its campaign against California State Senator John Briggs' attempts to stop gay rights supporters teaching in schools².

Prior to the first Mardi Gras in 1978, the NSW police had many rights surrounding arbitrary arrest of citizens³. Protestors in the Sydney Mardi Gras had requested the right to parade peacefully down Oxford St and into Hyde Park, and this request had been granted, however on their way down Oxford St the paraders were accosted by police telling them to disband. The encounter became violent when police began to arrest men for wearing female attire, which was at the time illegal. Many fought against police to prevent their fellow marchers being thrown into police vehicles, and what started as a peaceful protest became a raging riot. 53 people were arrested and gaoled that night including the driver of the only float, who was pulled from it and then taken to the police station where he was assaulted by two officers.⁴ In the months following many more marches and protests were held, this time against the brutal behaviour of the police. In April, 1979, the NSW parliament repealed the NSW Summary Offence Act, which had permitted the police to make the arrests, and formed a new piece of legislation called the Public Assemblies Act.⁵ This effectively allowed participants to hold marches without a permit so long as the police had been notified in advance. It was this first Mardi Gras that so greatly changed the power of the police in the NSW area, the consequences of that one march went a long way in remedying the corrupt and brutal nature of the then police force.

Before 1984 male homosexuality was illegal and punishable by law.⁶ Sexual minorities were forced to keep their sexuality hidden from the outside world. Post 1984 things were quite different, but in the time of the first Mardi Gras many of the protestors chose to hide their identities from the general public. The 53 people arrested that night did not have the same luxury and their names were printed in newspapers across Sydney. Many lost jobs, were forced out of their houses, and were shunned by their neighbours as a result of their forced "outing".⁷ As a society, we have seen many important changes in the rights and status of the GLBT community. With the repeal of laws that categorised homosexuality and much of the GLBT community as "deviant", much of the stigma associated with homosexuals no longer applied. It became illegal to discriminate against a person because of their sexual preferences.⁸ We now have openly gay politicians, athletes and pop-culture icons. While the GLBT community still faces obstacles in Australia, much of the progress made can be attributed to the first Mardi Gras and the momentum it began.

Political policies that were active in Australia before the Mardi Gras in Sydney reflect a homophobic society led by the religious belief that homosexuality was a sin and a disease. These religious groups do not support the gay and lesbian movement, and they have been the Mardi Gras' main opposition for the past 32 years.⁹ As the

2 www.mardigras.org

3 www.news.com.au

4 www.news.com.au

5 www.mardigras.org

6 www.dictionaryofsydney.org

7 www.dictionaryofsydney.org

8 *A history of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras*

9 Fuse magazine

1 www.mardigras.org

political power of the religious right has waned, many government policies surrounding homosexual freedoms and rights have been changed. Sodomy laws were part of Australian law from 1788 through to 1994 under *Human Rights (Sexual Conduct) Act 1994*. The punishment for “buggery” (sodomy) was reduced from execution to life in prison in 1899.¹⁰ It is not just the policies that have been affected by this historic event, but the politicians too. We now have openly gay politicians who have just as much power as their heterosexual counterparts. The first Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras lobbied for equality, and it has become a tradition from then that the floats paraded at the Mardi Gras have references to the main political issues for gay people at that time.¹¹ For the past few years same sex marriage has been heavily featured throughout the celebration in the hope that, like equality, it will one day be achieved. If and when same-sex marriage becomes law, how great a role will the Mardi Gras have played in raising awareness and provoking discussion?

With the laws of the time not permitting acts of homosexuality and the society of the time shaming admittance of homosexuality, it was difficult for gay people to fight to be recognised. The first big change for the homosexual community came after their first march in the Mardi Gras where NSW police’s powers were lessened, and this first outcome inspired the gay population of Sydney to begin the struggle that has been obtaining equal rights. From then everything has snowballed and the GLBT- gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual- alliance has become an ever growing body, fighting for the rights of the GLBT community. Every year the Mardi Gras grows, demonstrating the ever growing support that our nation now has for all elements of our society. This accepting and celebratory outlook has been much influenced by the gay community, and their influence was inspired by that first Mardi Gras.

Much like the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge, Sydney’s Mardi Gras has become a tourist attraction, drawing people from across the globe to take part in this celebratory event of acceptance and unity. Since its birth the Mardi Gras has been not only about the rights of the gay community but also about encouraging homosexual people to be proud of who they are. Today, the Mardi Gras encourages others to celebrate along with the gay community and this open and welcoming attitude is what has inspired people of all races and religions to participate in the parade down Oxford St. The Mardi Gras has taken on a festive feel, its crowds swelled with families, revellers and well-wishers. Famous actors, politicians and athletes have all taken part in the parade, some serving as Grand Marshal for the event.¹² It is an accepted part of Sydney’s cultural calendar, drawing more than 30 million dollars into the New South Wales economy each year.¹³ It is Australia’s second largest tourist event and the largest festival of its kind in the world.

Australia’s cultural identity and heritage have been changed forever by the first Mardi Gras. We are a radically different society, politically and socially, from what we might have been if those first brave individuals had not

taken to the streets of Sydney in June of 1978. And the Mardi Gras continues to bring change, challenging our perceptions, with its joyful, and frequently confronting refusal to be ignored. It is a celebration of us and our journey. It stands as a turning point for us as a society and has certainly changed the course of Australian history.

Bibliography

Books:

Carbery, G 1995, *A history of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, Australian lesbian and gay Archives, Victoria*

This text was factual and direct. It is a secondary source written to provide information on events and this made it useful. The writing is for a competent reading level, however it does not require an extensive vocabulary.

Magazine:

Copland, S, *The Political History of the Mardi Gras*, Fuse Magazine, pp 10-11

This secondary source shows strong biases and a lack of specific information. Its value is purely based on the representation of emotions and this is not enough to recommend it as a valuable source. As it was written for a magazine it was written for a specific purpose and this one’s was to provoke feelings, not to inform.

Websites:

Homosexuality Legislation Twentieth Anniversary, 31 August 2004, viewed 19 July 2011, <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/PARLMENT/hansart.nsf/V3Key/LC20040831083>

Although this secondary text was factually accurate, it has been written in a way that shows obvious bias. The information glosses over many undesirable details and focuses on the eventual solution being agreeable. It was helpful only in that it provided facts; it did not contain any clear insight or opinion and was ultimately unhelpful.

Wotherspoon, G 2008, *Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras*, viewed 18 July 2011, http://www.dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/gay_and_lesbian_mardi_gras

This secondary source provided a comprehensive, insightful, detached, and hence un-biased, account of events. The information was easily read and useful because it was chronological and unemotional leaving just the raw facts to be gained. It was very useful in understanding events and the actions of people involved.

Leo, A and Temple, W 27 February 2008, *Is it time to say sorry?*, viewed 18 July 2011, <http://www.news.com.au/features/is-it-time-to-say-sorry/story-e6frfler-111115658679> A dictation of an interview, the primary source showed heavy biases, however no accounts appear to have been embellished. This text was highly emotional and as a result this text cannot be relied upon for facts. It was however slightly useful in discerning the feelings of the involved at the time.

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, 2012, viewed 18 July 2011, <http://www.mardigras.org.au/about-us/history/index.cfm>

This text was a secondary source covering the information in a concise and detached way. There did not appear to be any bias however it was deliberately emotive. Overall this information was very useful and easy to comprehend.

10 www.murdoch.edu.au

11 www.dictionaryofsydney.org

12 Fuse Magazine

13 www.mardigras.org

Women's History Month, March 2012

Di Johnstone and Helen Cooke have relayed the following information from the Women's History website for those interested:

Women with a Plan: Australian women architects, town planners and landscape gardeners

The aim of Australia's Women's History Month 2012 is to turn the extraordinary into the ordinary. By choosing the theme Women with a Plan we want to remove any surprise at the number of women among the urban planners, architects, and landscape architects who shaped our surroundings and our history in the past century.

Some of these women helped lay the foundations of these professions in Australia. Others, from early 19th century First Lady Elizabeth Macquarie to fighting feminist Bessie Guthrie 150 years later, had a more singular impact on the planning and design of their surroundings.

We have selected just a few women from Australia's planning and design history for an online gallery of Women with a Plan to be unveiled in Women's History Month in March 2012. As there are many more whose role is worth recording, we will continue to add entries on others to our Who's Who feature. We invite your ideas on new additions – and of course new contributors to the Australian Women's History Forum are just as welcome!

The history of women's professional involvement in architecture and town planning in Australia is a fascinating one. We hope you will join us with your own Women's History Month event to commemorate the history of Australia's women architects and town planners. Please enter your event's details in the on-line calendar on our website at <http://www.womenshistory.com.au/events.asp>.

The Australian Women's History Forum portal is at <http://www.womenshistory.com.au/>

18 Squadron NEI – A fighting squadron formed in Canberra

Following Japan's entry into World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbour and the attacks on Malaya, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia, the Australian Government was forced to take immediate steps to defend the home coastlines. RAAF Base Canberra became a temporary base for the 8th Pursuit Squadron of the United States Army Air Corps which had reached Australia on 2 February 1942. They spent just a short period in training before departing in April for operational flying from Darwin.

What followed at RAAF Base Canberra was an extraordinary and successful experiment in international co-operation between Australia and contingents of the Netherlands Air Force. Before the outbreak of the Pacific hostilities, the Netherlands, then the colonial power in the East Indies (Indonesia), had maintained a small air force. It was mainly independent of the Royal Dutch Air Force with some of its personnel being trained in Australia. When Java was lost to the Japanese, the military command was moved to Melbourne and those airmen who had escaped were formed into an integrated squadron with an equivalent number of RAAF personnel acting as ground and air crew.

The 18th Squadron, Netherlands East Indies (NEI) was formed on 4 April 1942, at RAAF Base Canberra. A week after formation, the five officers and 100 other ranks comprising the squadron were welcomed in a formal visit by His Excellency, Lord Gowrie, Governor-General of Australia. The Squadron was equipped with US B25 Mitchell medium bombers, and besides training operations from Canberra, undertook regular coastal patrols and anti-submarine patrols from a forward operational base at Moruya.

Early in the Squadron's existence it claimed a convincing victory. Flying Officer W.F.A. ('Gus') Winckel and his crew sank a Japanese submarine 115 kilometres east of Sydney. The submarine was believed to have been involved with the midgeet submarine attack on Sydney Harbour.

Winckel's flying log reported:

5th June 1942

Aircraft: B25 N5-151

F/O W.F.A. Winckel

Sgt Hiele

F/Lt J.V. Loggan

Sgt Rienshra

Sgt N. Wyliok

Sgt Oosten

Sgt Weakly, V.R (RAAF)

Duty: Anti Submarine Patrol

Time up: 0700 5/6/42

Time down: 1045 5/6/42

Description of operations: Sighted and sunk Japanese submarine in position 34° 22' S 152° 36' E on course 205 O.T. at 0800 hours. Bomb load used 3/300lb with 1/10th sec delay, 3/300 lb with 0.45 sec delay. Submarine approximately 300 tons.

The stick of six heavy bombs exploded along the deck of the submarine, which submerged with oil seen gushing out of the stricken vessel. Circling over the site the crew reported that five minutes later the submarine rushed to the surface with its nose high in the air out of the water. The crew of the aircraft were officially credited with the 'kill'. On their return to Canberra, Winckel and his crew were personally congratulated on their success and thanked by Prime Minister Curtin.

Not all patrols were a success however. On the same day and in the same vicinity as Winckel's aircraft F/Lt L.J. Jansson, piloting B25 N5-134, also on anti-submarine patrol, made a forced landing at Point Perpendicular (entrance to Jervis Bay) at 1100 because the plane had run out of fuel.

After flying many coastal defence operations the NEI Squadron was transferred to the Northern Territory in December 1942. The Squadron personnel had for most of

the year been keen to take their war close to the Pacific theatre of operations, particularly Indonesia. Following 18 Squadron's departure, a second B25 squadron (119 NEI) was formed in September 1943 but quickly dissolved when manpower shortages became apparent in December the same year. By that time the tide of the war in the Pacific had turned in favour of the Allies, and by early 1943 the role of the Canberra base for coastal defence was diminished.

By the end of the war 18 Squadron had lost 110 aircrew (25 of whom were Australians) and 21 B25s in operations against the Japanese. During a 1987 reunion of members of 18 Squadron a tree was planted at the Australian War Memorial. It has a plaque which states:

*To commemorate 18 Squadron's formation in 1942
And in memory of 110 comrades who lost their lives
1942-1945.
They died with the brave.*

In 1995 a second plaque was placed at ground level near the Darwin Cenotaph to commemorate the Dutch and Australians who lost their lives while serving with 18 Squadron.

References:

Australian War Memorial Operations Reference Book No 18 Squadron NEI Canberra, AWM 64 Roll 20.

National Trust of Australia (ACT) Classification records 'Wartime Bomb Dumps Buildings', Canberra.

Wallace, G. 1984 *Are you there Don R? The True Story of 18 Squadron NEI/RAAF Forces from 1942 to 1950*, Gordon Wallace, Surrey Hills, Victoria.

Peter Dowling

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Haig Park is located on the northern edge of Canberra City and covers 25.5 hectares stretching from Limestone Avenue, Braddon in the east in a 143m wide and 1760 m long belt along to Froggatt St, Turner in the west. It is bounded by Condamine and Greenway Streets in Turner and Henty Street in Braddon on the northern boundary and Masson Street in Turner and Girrahween St in Braddon on the southern side. The park is crossed by Torrens Street, Braddon, Northbourne Avenue, McCaughey St, Turner and the Sullivan's Creek stormwater channel, dividing it into five sections.

The Park is recognized as significant and was:

- classified by the National Trust of Australia (ACT) on 1 July 1982;
- listed on the ACT Heritage Register (Entry No 20063 of 24 April 1998). It is listed as a significant landscape feature and for the mass plantings of nine different species of tree; and
- defined in a variation to the Territory Plan Heritage Places Register which was tabled in June 2000.¹

Heritage

*Haig Park commenced its life in 1921 as the "East-West Shelter Break", its prime function being to protect from wind and dust the first suburbs in the vicinity of the Civic Centre about to be developed. The National Capital site at this time was bare and windswept - hot winds, cold winds and dust were a significant problem as there was no established parkland. Haig Park would in time serve as a park as well for the nearby first residents of the new city.*²

The Park was one of three shelterbelt plantings proposed, the others being for Commonwealth Avenue and the Power House at Kingston.³

Haig Park was named for Earl Douglas Haig, Commander in Chief of the British Empire Forces during World War I, after his death in 1928.⁴

The planting was designed by Charles Weston, Canberra's first Officer in Charge Afforestation (later to become Parks and Gardens) from 1913 - 1926. Haig Park was the first shelter break established with the majority of the planting (7000 trees) undertaken in 1921. It was

laid out in fourteen rows using predominantly exotic evergreen and deciduous trees.

Gray provides the following reasoning for this planting structure⁵:

The dominant tree was Monterey Pine (Pinus radiata), of which he planted nearly 2000, reflecting Haig's⁶ desire to achieve quick results. Another tree heavily planted was Roman cypress (Cupressus sempervirens 'Stricta'), perhaps reflecting Haig's⁷ intentions to pay tribute to the many Australians who had not returned from the war. In western society this latter tree has been traditionally recognised as a symbol of death and immortality.

Haig Park remained a strong landscape feature delineating the northern edge of Canberra till the early 1950s. Developments to the north of Haig Park were dubbed "South Yass", a nickname which has followed progressive developments further north.⁸

During the 40s and 50s work undertaken consisted mainly of maintenance and the removal of some plantings⁹ with significant pruning undertaken in 1946.

Park management has emphasised the historic nature of the park maintaining the original design even though thinning has been found necessary.

The majority of the buildings were added c1950 and probably included adjacent car parking.

In the early 1970s public concern about the management of the Park led the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) to restrict vehicular access and construct car parks, a fitness track and picnic areas. Based on survey plans prepared by the Department of Interior (identifying tree species, location, trunk diameter, buildings, gravel areas and log barriers) a set of plans were developed in 1971 for lighting, bridges, irrigation and grassing. At one stage it was proposed to construct a tourist information centre within the park.¹⁰ Some upgrading work was undertaken during 1973/4.¹¹

In 1984 the NCDC commenced a tree and landscape management program that was due to be completed in 1991. This program was designed by Margules and Partners Pty Ltd and was implemented by ACT Administration, Parks and Conservation Service.¹²

Significance

Haig Park is significant due to its association with Thomas Charles George Weston who designed the layout, supervised the initial planting of the Park and played a seminal role in the early landscape design and

1 Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No 145, October 1999

2 Gray, J *The Historical and Cultural Background of Selected Urban Parks in Canberra*, 1997, Canberra

3 Boden, R, *Haig Park Tree Management Plan*, 2000, report to Canberra Urban Parks and Places

4 Gray, J, *ibid*

5 ACT Government, RFT Haig Park 2009

6 We believe that this is an error, and that this statement should be attributed to Weston not Haig.

7 We believe that this is an error, and that this statement should be attributed to Weston not Haig.

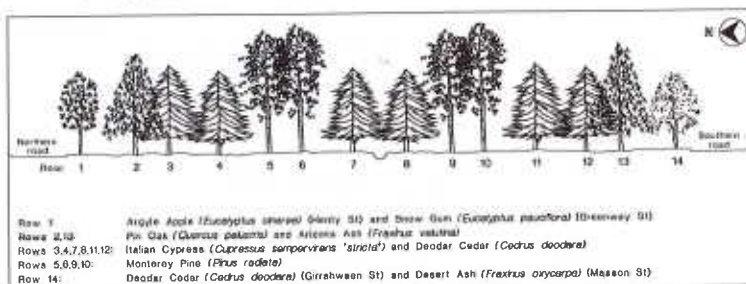
8 Clarke, D personal communication with Hince, B, 1994, p278

9 Hince, B *ibid*, p 284

10 Gray, J, referenced in Boden, 2000

11 Altenburg, K, *Canberra A Landscape History 1958 - 1980*, Nov 1993, p135

12 Margules & Partners, Haig Park Preliminary Concept Proposals.



Original plantings in Haig Park (schematic) (ACT Heritage Library)

planting program in the national capital. It demonstrates a high degree of innovation, technical and creative achievement to overcome the problem of protecting the new city from the north-western winds and climatic extremes while beautifying the landscape.

The park is a significant landscape feature of Canberra, originally forming a northern edge to Canberra and following expansion of the city further north, the Park has become an integral component of the landscaped open space between the adjoining suburbs, reflecting contemporary Garden City planning.¹³

Following extensive planning and consultation processes through the early 1980s, Haig Park became the first example of a windbreak/shelter belt within the City which is to be conserved in perpetuity through an ongoing program of tree replacement, in accordance with leading arboriculture and cultural landscape management practice.¹⁴

This is a rare example of windbreak planting on such a large scale and remains highly intact.¹⁵ The selection, mix and layout of trees are part of the design and aesthetic quality of the park.

Haig Park is highly valued for its history and heritage and recreational opportunities afforded the Canberra community, particularly the local Turner and Braddon residents.



Haig Park Today

In 2010 the Urban Forest Renewal team prepared a replacement strategy program for the *Pinus radiata* in recognition of the 'Haig Park Tree Management

Plan' prepared for Canberra Urban Parks and Places by Robert Boden & Associates. A total of 50 trees were replaced in 2010 with a *Pinus radiata* of superior genetic stock as suggested by Dr Ken Eldridge.¹⁶

Eric Martin & Associates, together with Envirolinks Design, have prepared a Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan for the Park. These are currently in the final stages of community consultation.

Bronwynne Jones

¹³ *ibid*

¹⁴ *ibid*

¹⁵ ACT Heritage Citation.

¹⁶ Ken Eldridge, *Breeding Better Trees for Urban Areas* presented to the 2nd National Urban Tree Seminar in Canberra 8-10 May 1994

The National Trust ACT has recently received a Community Heritage Grant to undertake a significance assessment of our 'Classified Places' files. These files have been consistently added to over the past thirty years and are invaluable for anyone interested in ACT heritage as they feature a broad range of heritage sites, places and objects of interest throughout the Territory. Looking around the office though, it is apparent that we hold a lot of valuable resources and collections that complement these files and add to their research potential.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many volunteers and workers over the years our files, records, books and reports are gradually being ordered, catalogued and digitised and, as a result, are becoming more widely available. As the Research Officer I use the resources at the Trust Office on a daily basis but I fear that these resources are not being used to their full potential. Our office is open five days a week and anyone is more than welcome to come in and use them for work or personal interest. Our collections and resources are something extra that we can offer members; there is something for everyone including:

- An extensive library holding a vast range of books and reports about the ACT and Australia in general.
- A catalogued collection of heritage reports, and conservation and management plans for heritage sites throughout the ACT.
- Transcripts and original oral history recordings from a number of significant pioneer families and influential people who contributed to the creation of Canberra as we see it today.
- Heritage guidelines and useful publications for the conservation, interpretation and management of heritage sites, collections etc.
- Our 'Classified Places' Files which hold information on over 400 ACT heritage sites, places and objects.
- Back copies of Heritage Trust journals.
- Self-guided tour brochures.
- The Ken Tutty Collection of over 3,000 photographic negatives.
- The Living Image Library.
- ACT maps, both historic and current.

We are only just beginning to understand the potential of some of our collections as well. I am currently working on a project to scope a collection of assorted Kodak 35mm slides that have been donated to us over the years. These slides range in date and subject matter. They include scenes from the Canberra swimming pool in the 1950s, the 'doors' of significant ACT buildings from the 1990s and various huts throughout Kosciuszko National Park. Often the donor, date and location of the slide subjects are unknown and this is where we need help. I am slowly photographing some of the slides, an example of



which you can see here, and they will be put on our website and new Facebook page. If you have any information on them let us know so we can learn more and add to the significant collections held at the office.

Bethany Lance

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I attended an International National Trust Organisation (INTO) conference in Victoria, Canada in mid-October 2011.

The theme was *Connecting People, Places and Stories* and a wide range of papers were presented. They reinforced the critical component of social significance which identifies people and their stories and how they assist in understanding the significance of a place.

Other themes for the workshops included successful organisations and benefiting from how others do things. In this capacity I worked with Heritage Canada for a day to discuss how they may set up a national organisation. They sought information on Australia as there are similarities (and differences) between the two countries.

At the conference 'The Victoria Declaration' was signed. This takes the 'Dublin Declaration' (from the previous conference) a step further in considering the implications for cultural sustainability of climate change. A copy of the declaration can be accessed at <http://internationaltrusts.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/INTO-THE-VICTORIA-DECLARATION-Final-Version-12.10.11.pdf>.

A key-note speaker of particular interest was Jim Lord from the US, a renowned fundraising consultant and author. He spoke on 'What kind of world do you want' and included the following points about philanthropy:

- People need to have hope that the future will be better.
- Organisations need to understand the donor's objective in any donation is what is important to them.
- Organisations need to be clear and consistent about what the organisation has and that participation will make a difference.

Papers from the conference are available at <http://heritagecanada.org/eng/conference.html#pres2011>

Eric J Martin, AM
President

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!

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Thanks to the National Trust ACT whose generosity helped me to attend this conference. Our Research Officer Bethany was there too – she qualified for the session ‘Meet the young professionals’ but I did not. This photo is the Polly Woodside, the National Trust’s historic barque, where we were welcomed at the start of the conference.

I wasn’t sure what I was going to grasp and take away from presentations on water heritage, but I enjoyed the lot and the good networking with colleagues and volunteers from National Trusts in other states.

I had taken for granted public swimming pools and Learn to Swim campaigns, but I was fascinated by the histories of the development of community pools and latterly the campaigns to keep them. We are fortunate with our historic pools in the ACT and could see them as part of the nation’s emphasis on water safety and public health as well as good places to take the kids on hot days.

Presentations on the engineering feats involved in providing safe water for communities and agriculture were excellent and reminded me of the current expansion of the Cotter Dam. We all need water! Professor Gray Brechin of the

University of California at Berkeley stole the show with his presentation on the role of press barons in increasing the size of western US cities at public expense. I am sure there are some thesis topics in Australian examples of the manipulation of water rights, costs and responsibilities. Apparently Professor Brechin’s book on the history of San Francisco is hilarious.

I grew nostalgic seeing presentations on lovely sandy beaches, but took heart that our diligence in keeping the Murrumbidgee clean helps all those souls downstream. There were many comments and examples that sank into the brain cells and will add value to future thinking about heritage sites, wet and dry.

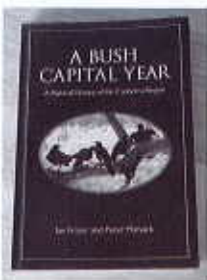
Helen Cooke

* Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation of cultural heritage professionals formed as a national chapter of ICOMOS International in 1976. Australia ICOMOS’ mission is to lead cultural heritage conservation in Australia by raising standards, encouraging debate and generating innovative ideas.



The National Trust’s historic barque the Polly Woodside in dry dock in front of the Convention Centre

Book Review



Ian Fraser and Peter Marsack, *A Bush Capital Year, a Natural History of the Canberra Region*, CSIRO Publishing, 2011

With Canberra’s centenary approaching, we’re being reminded of the factors that were taken into account in the search for a site for the new federal capital. These included that the city should be located within

NSW, at least 100 miles from Sydney, having both a suitable climate (which meant that the city would be inland and at a reasonably high altitude) and an adequate water supply.

It seems unlikely, however, that the decision-makers who finally chose Canberra as the site for the capital could have appreciated just what a special natural environment they had selected.

In the Introduction to *A Bush Capital Year* by naturalist Ian Fraser and natural history artist Peter Marsack, Ian Fraser notes that the ACT has a great diversity of wildlife because of the “immediate juxtaposition of three major habitat types, a most unusual situation”. Each of these three habitats (the great western woodland grassy plains, the inland edge of the coastal hinterland mountain forests, and the northern

reaches of the Australian Alps) “has its own rich suite of plants and animals, so a great diversity of life can be found within an hour’s drive of Parliament House”. This results in the ACT being a “treasure trove” for the naturalist.

A Bush Capital Year is something of a treasure trove for the reader. Rather than being divided into chapters, the text is presented by season and month. For every month, beginning in summer, there are ten stories, each featuring a particular species. The topics for February, for example, are striped legless lizard, meat ants, varied sittella, dragonflies, hobby, northern corroboree frog, mountain grasshoppers, common bluebell, glossy black-cockatoo and river oak. Ian Fraser’s observations are vividly described and the accompanying paintings by Peter Marsack are beautiful as well as an aid to identification.

The book shows not only how much there is to see and appreciate in the ACT but also the wonderful range of locations to visit, from Namadgi and Tidbinbilla, through the various components of the Canberra Nature Park, to the suburbs in which most of us live. It must surely inspire the majority of readers to get out and look for themselves. I’ll be starting in March with a visit to Woods Reserve to look for some of the greenhood orchids that Ian describes!

Wendy Whitham

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