

November 2016

ISSN 2206-4958



The Minister for the Interior, Doug Anthony, (left) and Sir John Overall with the commemoration stone inaugurating the District of Belconnen, 23 June 1966. (Source: The Canberra Times)

## **Belconnen's 50th anniversary**

## **Developing Belconnen in the** 1960s and 70s

On 23 June 1966, amid heightened security resulting from the shooting of the Leader of the Opposition, Arthur Calwell, in Sydney a few days earlier, the District of Belconnen was

inaugurated by the Minister for the Interior, Doug Anthony. A commemoration stone was laid in the Aranda playing fields. Cont p 2

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## From the Editors

Belconnen turned 50 this year and we join the celebration in this issue of Heritage in Trust with two articles, one by Brian Rhynehart who is a longterm Belconnen resident and amateur historian for Belco, and the other by National Trust Councillor Linda Roberts. We are grateful to both of them for their contributions.

This issue also records the passing of two people of importance to the Trust, Professor John Mulvaney and Huntly resident, John Gale. Peter Dowling writes of John Mulvaney while Di Johnstone and Dianne Dowling remember the contribution made by John Gale.

This edition of Heritage in Trust will be the last quarterly issue. Next year, we will be following the national magazine by producing three issues per year. The precise timetable for the national magazine is not yet known, but we will be aiming to release our first 2017 magazine in early March, in plenty of time to provide you with information on the forthcoming Heritage Festival.

As always, we welcome suggestions and feedback. These should be emailed to info@nationaltrustact.org.au or write to the editors at the ACT National Trust office.

## **Developing Belconnen in the** 1960s and 70s

cont from p1

Some of the officials present were: Eric Keehn (First assistant secretary (lands), Department of the Interior), Lou Engledow (Secretary and manager, NCDC), Richard Kingsland (Secretary of Interior), Jim Pead (chairman, ACT Advisory Council) and Peter Harrison (director of town planning, NCDC).

This action signified the displacement of the pioneer settlers of some 140 years, just as the granting of a lease in 1829 to Alick Osborne for 987 acres on Ginninderra Creek near the Ginninderra Falls displaced the Aboriginal people who had occupied the lands for some 50,000 years.

Construction of some of the required infrastructure such as roads and utilities had commenced several years earlier but early access was still via the unsealed Weetangera Road. The first residential leases in Aranda were offered at auction in March 1967, and in April 1967 blocks 18-20 of section 14 Aranda were sold to J.B. Young for retail use. By the end of 1967 the first residents were moving in, a bus service had commenced and planning for the future Town Centre was underway.



Minister for the Interior Doug Anthony at a ceremonial 'sod turning' for the new District of Belconnen in 1966. (Source: The Canberra Times)

On 30 January 1968 the \$550,000 Macquarie Primary School opened. By March the Macquarie Shopping Centre and the Service Station had been completed and Canberra High School, on the corner of Belconnen Way and Bindubi Street, was nearly completed. In August 1970 a contract was let and construction of the \$8.6 million Cameron Offices complex in the Belconnen Town Centre, designed by John Andrews, commenced. The first licensed club in Belconnen, the Western District Rugby Union Club at Jamison, was opened for trading, along with the Jamison Shopping Centre.

In early 1971 the Belconnen Rotary Club was formed. The Canberra College of Advanced Education, now known as the University of Canberra, enrolled 1,968 full time students in five schools, and 50 residential places were available. The Jamison Oval was available for the 1971 football season. In the census of 30 June 1971 the population of Belconnen was 19,900, spread across the suburbs of Aranda, Macquarie, Cook, Page, Scullin, Weetangera, Hawker, Higgins and Holt.

Soon after, the Police, Ambulance and Fire stations opened along Lathlain Street.

In 1972 work began on the dam across Ginninderra Creek that would form the Lake. During 1973 the populating of Latham, Melba, Flynn, Macgregor, Charnwood, Evatt and Spence continued and the Australian Bureau of Statistics began to move into the partly-constructed Cameron Offices.

On 1 September 1974 the Rotary Club of Canberra-Belconnen held its first 'Trash 'n' Treasure' market in a section of the Jamison Centre car park. Populating of Fraser, Kaleen and McKellar was proceeding at a brisk pace. Lake Ginninderra was filled. In 1975, after a false start caused by the failure of the original contractors, construction commenced in Benjamin Way of the Belconnen Western Government Offices designed by McConnel Smith & Johnson. Work began at Bruce on the National Athletics Stadium and in December 1975 the bulk earthworks for the Belconnen Mall commenced.



The view towards the future Belconnen Town Centre from Blackman Crescent, Macquarie in 1968. The car is on the dirt Weetangera Road, later to form Belconnen Way. (Photo courtesy of Linda Roberts)

June 1976 saw Belconnen's population at 58,800. Construction of the \$24 million Belconnen Mall commenced in September 1976. The chosen site was not the originally intended site which would have complemented the design philosophy of the Cameron Offices where a pedestrian spine linked each building, the Bus Interchange and a large retail complex as depicted in the original Town Centre layout. The innovative, 'Brutalist' style Cameron Offices, between Benjamin and Chandler streets, were officially opened.

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In July 1977 Kippax Fair, in the Kippax Group Centre (named for Alan Falconer Kippax), Holt was opened and work was finished on The Australian Institute of Sport – National Athletics Stadium, designed by Philip Cox.

Following the completion of stage 1 construction of the Belconnen Mall, designed by Cameron, Chisholm & Nicol, the Mall's first day of trading was on 28 February 1978. The design sought to utilise natural light where possible and included Canberra's first 'Travelators' for access between floors.

On 9 April 1978, a fire at the Jamison shops caused extensive fire damage to Youngs and fire, smoke and/or water damage to other shops. When the centre was rebuilt/refurbished, in spite of rumblings from politicians and ACT Legislative Assembly members about enclosing public space, the owners took the opportunity to enclose the open areas and install heating and cooling. In the same year, the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre undertook pre-commissioning testing, using treated effluent. On 11 July stage 2 of the Belconnen Mall, featuring the 'Centre Stage area', a spiral staircase, a 23-person glass lift and an additional 60 traders, was opened making it the largest shopping centre in Australia at the time. On 19 July a permanent, covered, Belconnen Retail Market (fruit and vegetable markets) opened at the Belconnen Way end of Lathlain Street, replacing a temporary location in Oatley Court. With the \$14.8 million stage 1 completed, 400 Immigration and Ethnic Affairs staff moved into Benjamin Offices, built over two blocks along Benjamin Way in the Belconnen Town Centre. In September 1978 the Ginninderra Community Council publicly criticised the NCDC's proposed development around Lake Ginninderra foreshores and along the Ginninderra Creek corridor.

On 27 January 1979, after years of delays and design reviews, the 'Brutalist' style Belconnen Bus Interchange, designed by John Andrews, was opened amid persistent controversy. Calvary Hospital, a 220-bed public district general hospital, was blessed by Reverend Edward Clancy, Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn and officially opened by the Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, on 2 March 1979. Providing some relief to the stressed public housing stocks in central Belconnen, work began on the development for the NCDC of 78 flats named Illawarra Court (designed by Daryl Jackson) and several blocks of town houses along Emu Ridge (designed by Graham Gunn). Housing 250 buses undercover, the Belconnen Bus Depot, located in Cohen Street, was opened.

With the start of the 1980s the bulk of the district of Belconnen had been provided: most road infrastructure was in place, most of Belconnen's suburbs were developed, government and private sector offices were occupied, the Mall and fresh food markets were operating, local shops, a range of schools, sporting grounds and associated venues, swimming pools, churches, clubs, halls, parks and public transport had been provided. A service trades area was growing on the edge of the town centre. Belconnen had a library, a hospital plus associated health/medical facilities, and public housing areas. On 23 June 2016, to celebrate these achievements, a committee representing Belconnen Community Council, Belconnen Arts Centre and Belconnen Community Services held a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party at the Commemoration Stone in Aranda Park attended by early residents, members of the general public, and government representatives.

### **Brian Rhynehart**

## **Belconnen heritage remembered**

The 42 people from the Belconnen area who enlisted for World War I are commemorated on the latest Canberra Tracks sign, erected in partnership with the local RSL Club. The people were part of a small rural community from the Weetangera Parish and beyond. In 1915 there was no concept of 'Belconnen' other than the 1837 land grant given to the explorer Captain Charles Sturt. In 2016 Belconnen, the second town centre established in the ACT, celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

So what is there in Belconnen today to remind us of yesteryear? The Belconnen Heritage Track includes a range of places that uncover our Aboriginal and pastoral history as well as connecting us to recent sites that distinguish Belconnen from other town centres in the ACT.

The latest sign is at Ellen Clark Park in Weetangera. It's located where pupils of the original Weetangera school planted pine trees on Arbour Day in 1928 or 1929 to remember the 11 former students who went to war one hundred years ago. The occasion of the current school's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2013 provided an opportune time for the school to learn about the first school, with the unveiling of a sign and planting of Aleppo Pine seedlings to replace some of the senescent pines. The choir sang on the cold August day. Descendants from pioneering families attended, as well as a woman who went to the original slab school, which closed in 1937!

Children from the Southwell, Shumack and Smith families, who attended the school from 1875 onwards, would be surprised that streets in the area are named after them, that their names feature on the WWI commemoration sign in the same park and that their families' lives are remembered at a number of places around Belconnen.

## November 2016

## Heritage In Trust



With the old pines in the background, Weetangera PS former principal Margaret Clough speaks to students, Minister Corbell and the community, which included descendants of pioneering families of Belconnen, at the original site of Weetangera School.

'Shumack's Folly' was the term William Davis gave to Richard and Samuel Shumack's property, deriding their acquisition of what became *Spring Vale* in today's Cook area. Davis, the cricket-tragic manager of Palmerville, which included the outstation at *Emu Bank*, was obviously unhappy when this hardworking family left his employ at *Emu Bank* to make a go of farming on their own land.



The Shumacks worked at Emu Bank for 11 years, followed by Matthew and Catherine O'Brien who went on to Legge's property at Cranleigh. The site at Belconnen Library is marked by the old elm tree.

*Charnwood*, in what is now Fraser, was the property of one of Canberra's earliest pioneers, Henry Hall, who arrived in Australia just 45 years after the First Fleet. As at the old school site, exotic trees including olives and osages, mark where the original house stood.



An osage tree (Maclura pomifera) is an unusual looking plant from USA used at Charnwood as a windbreak. The local children found use for the inedible fruit (referred to as 'brain fruit') as cricket balls.

Old fruiting trees are also the only evidence of General Legge's *Cranleigh* property that spread over today's Latham, Higgins, Scullin and Florey. The former commandant of the Royal Military College at Duntroon tried his hand at potato farming and a piggery, but neither venture brought home the bacon.

The Commonwealth Soldier Settlement Scheme after WWI provides the Belconnen Heritage Track with stories both good—Private Frank Owen Southwell and his *Crowajingalong* farm from 1922 originating from the former *Charnwood* estate— and bad—a story revealed on Gossan Hill (in Bruce) titled *Death by the pickle jar* of poor Robert Butt.

Long before the annual Skyfire, a Palmerville celebration in 1863 with 200 guests marked Prince Edward's wedding: 'A grand pyrotechnic display took place, which lasted about two hours, the rockets being let off on the top of the [Percival] hill facing Ginninderra house where they had a brilliant effect, scattering their stars in fanciful coruscations amid the far-off gloom of night, and descending like the crown of fallen angels, never more to rise. A tremendous bonfire crowned the hill ...'\*.

*Palmerville*, in today's Evatt, also boasts some of the oldest exotic trees in the ACT: three oaks planted in 1848. There are other stories there about convicts, cricket and drownings.



Former Chief Minister Jon Stanhope unveiled the five signs at Palmerville in January 2010. He is photographed with Lionel Moore, last resident before CSIRO acquired the land in 1959, and Marilyn Folger, descendent of John Crinigan, assigned convict to this property.

On the other side of Evatt is the unmarked cemetery once associated with the 1861 St Paul's Church of England. Its first burial was in 1872 and, over a century later, the building of Copland Drive disturbed one of those interred.

In the district's newest development, Lawson, the former Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station was once the most powerful shortwave naval wireless station in the Commonwealth, integral to naval communications through WWII, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. On a brighter note, the results of the 1956 Melbourne Olympics were relayed from here in Belco to the world.

The most recently built sites on the Belconnen track are the first and last stop, almost closing the loop. At the end are the 'egg-cartons' at the University of Canberra. This award-winning design, nestled into the slope, provided a more autonomous model of student accommodation than the Ox-bridge style of strictly regulated, single sex colleges managed by staff and where students dined communally. We start the tour and conclude this article with the jewel of Belconnen—the V-shaped Lake Ginninderra. This central scenic feature was achieved by damming Ginninderra Creek as it flows west towards the Murrumbidgee River, thus making practical use of the flood plain associated with the creek. The lake collects stormwater from a 9800-hectare catchment and is one of the most successful constructed lakes in the ACT.

So if you've wondered why there is a vacant block in the midst of suburbia or noticed majestic exotic trees, there is usually a rich history to be discovered. Heritage is about connecting with those stories that are brought to life by people such as a little school girl in Weetangera. Come and explore Belconnen on this its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.



At West Macgregor learn about one of the richest and densest Aboriginal artefact sites in the ACT near Ginninderra Creek — a total of 1,799 artefacts.

http://www.canberratracks.act.gov.au/heritagetrails/track-6-belconnen

#### Linda Roberts

ACT Heritage, Environment and Planning Directorate (Belconnen resident since 1992)

\* As reported in *The Golden Age* 1863.

#### Belconnen Heritage Remembered cont: photos



The slab construction of Rosebud Cottage in Skinner Street, Cook is a delightful bed and breakfast.



One of the National Trust's Northern Centenary Border Walks takes you along part of the straight-line border near Dunlop. One Tree Hill is seen in the distance.

Photos: Linda Roberts

## **From the President**

#### **Dear Members**

I attended Ainslie Primary School in late August for the announcements of successful applicants under the ACT Government's Heritage Grants Program for 2016-17. I am pleased to advise that the National Trust was again successful with its two applications:

- \$11,900 for our 2017 Heritage Festival Open Day
- \$8,750 to assist with the running of the 2017 National Trust Urban Polaris cycling event.

The National Trust thanks and commends the ACT Government for this important initiative. Readers should have a look at the list of successful projects at <u>http://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-and-the-</u>

<u>community/heritage\_grants\_program/successful-</u> <u>projects-for-2016-2017</u> to get an idea of the broad range of activities that the Grant program supports.

The Trust held its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting on 20 October and I thank the many members who attended and in particular Allen Mawer who provided us with a wonderful presentation after the close of the meeting. (See Peter Dowling's report on Allen's talk on page 16). Your office bearers for 2017 will again be myself (President and Treasurer), Mary Johnston (Secretary) and we have a new Vice President in Bethany Lance. Bethany won't mind me telling you that she is by far the youngest member of our Council and she has volunteered to establish some programs to encourage younger people to associate with and enjoy heritage and what the Trust has to offer.

Can I also congratulate Judy Brooks as 2016 Volunteer of the Year and Alan Kerr who was bestowed with Honorary Life Membership of the Trust for his longstanding contribution over many years. A detailed feature on Judy and Alan will appear in the next edition of *Heritage in Trust*. A copy of our 2016 Annual Report is up on the website.

Thank you for your continued support.

Scott McAlister President



## **People and Places**

## ACT National Trust 2017 Council

Your new council is: Scott McAlister **President /Treasurer** Bethany Lance **Vice President** Mary Johnston Secretary and **Chair Tours & Events committee Elizabeth Burness** Graham Carter **Chair Heritage & Grants committee Dianne Dowling Eric Martin** Jim Nockels **Linda Roberts** John Tucker **Chris Wain** There are two vacancies on Council.

Members are welcome to nominate to council or to volunteer with the committees or on other tasks and activities including Heritage Tourism Project and Internship program. EOI and enquiries to info@nationaltrustact.org.au

## **Benefits for ACT Trust members**

Reciprocal visiting arrangements with 19
organisations worldwide, including the UK and
Scottish National Trusts. See
www.nationaltrust.org.au/international-places/.

Access to the International National Trust

- Organisation newsletter.
- Free entry to all Australian National Trust properties.
- Member rates on shop items which are for sale online or through the ACT Office.
- ACT Members Reward Card.
- Access to the *Friends of the NLA* lounge and discounts at the NLA bookshop.
- Regular national and ACT magazines, invitations to participate in outings and tours, access to information held in the Trust office.
- Access to events and other benefits arising from collaboration with organisations having similar interests to the Trust.
- Concession entry to ACT Historic Places and 10% discount at Lanyon Homestead shop

## 2017 National Trust Desk Diary Life and Art in Outback Australia

## On Sale now!

This diary hopes to show, through the art of painting and of photography, some of the ways that people come to terms with life in the Outback....from pre-colonial Indigenous communities to the first European settlers, to explorers, cattlemen, miners....to present day Indigenous Rangers caring for country, mainstream environmentalists working to preserve wilderness; the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the School of the Air, modern transport all making life safer and more enjoyable for outback communities, while revealing to all Australians the wonders and glories of Outback Australia.



Produced by the Women's Committee of the National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Members: \$22.50 Non-members \$25.00

To order your copy call 6230 0533 or email info@nationaltrustact.org.au



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

### Trusted recipe Chocolate Walnut Slice

(For those times when there is a desperate need for comfort food)

#### Start with a base:

½ cup of self-rising flour
Pinch of salt
1 cup of rolled oats
½ cup of brown sugar
3 tablespoons of Sunshine milk
A dob or two of butter (to taste – remembering the calories!)

#### The filling:

A dob of butter

½ packet of chocolate bits (if you dare, you can eat the rest of the packet) ⅓ cup of sugar

1 egg

⅓ cup of self-rising flour

⅓ cup of flour

3 tablespoons of Sunshine milk

¼ cup of water

- 1/2 cup of chopped walnuts
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla essence

#### Now for the icing:

½ packet chocolate bits (you shouldn't have eaten the rest of that packet of chocs)

A dob of butter

¾ cup of icing sugar

- 1 teaspoon of vanilla essence
- 1 tablespoon of water (no calories here!)

#### The Base:

Combine all dry ingredients. Stir in melted butter and mix well (this will burn off a few calories). Press the mixture into a greased tin (28 x 18 cm is a good size) and bake in a moderate oven for 10 minutes. Pour filling over hot base and bake for a further 20-25 minutes. Cool. Ice with chocolate icing.

#### The Filling:

Melt the butter and chocolate bits over a very low heat. Fold sugar and egg and mix well (more calories burnt off in this process). Add sifted dry ingredients alternately with water. Mix in walnuts and vanilla essence.

#### The icing:

Melt the butter and chocolate bits over a low heat. Add icing sugar, vanilla essence and water. Beat vigorously until smooth (even more calories can be burnt off here!). Spread the luscious icing over the slice.

#### Then:

Enjoy a sneaky slice before sharing – remembering that all those calories you burnt off with the mixing can now be replaced with a yummy chocolate and walnut slice.

**Dianne Dowling** 



## **New members**

The National Trust (ACT) warmly welcomes the following new members:

George Bailey Dan and Heather Buchler Brigitte and Roger Curnow Susan Davis Phillip Dodd Mr Woody and Janet Elliott John and Louise Foster Stephen Paterson and Matthew Jackson Alastair and Diane Kinloch John Matthews and Claire Leonard **Margaret Pender** Stephen Blackburn and Rebecca Scouller Gay and Charles Stuart Douglas and Anthea Tinney Kate Armstrong and Paul Wayper

#### Partnership with the Friends of the National Library http://www.nla.gov.au/friends

#### **Trust Member Benefits**

A reminder of the benefits of your National Trust membership at the National Library of Australia.

- 10% discount at the NLA bookshop,
- Friends discounted price for Friends events
   Access to the exclusive Friends Lounge at the NLA.

#### **Reciprocal Benefits**

In return the Friends of the NLA members can attend National Trust ACT events and tours at the Trust member prices.

The National Trust acknowledges the support of our Corporate Members and Benefactors:

> Museum of Australian Democracy ContentGroup

Benefactor: Mr Rob McL. Johnston

## National Trust (ACT) Members Reward Card

The Tours Committee has revived the Members Reward Card so if you attend 3 member activities then the 4<sup>th</sup> activity is free for you, or you can bring a friend (nonmember or member) free of charge.

Your card can be stamped at all fee-paying events, including bus trips, speaker's evenings and the Christmas party but can only be redeemed at events to the value of \$25. New and renewing members will receive new Reward Cards but existing cards can also be used.

It's up to members to mention when booking for an event that you are due for a free event. In order to redeem your free activity, you must produce your card (with 3 stamps) and have the 4<sup>th</sup> ticked off on arrival at the event.

### **Mary Johnston**

Chair, Tours Committee

## University of Canberra Winner 2015 National Trust Prize

Each year the ACT National Trust donates a \$500 prize to the best final-year student in Cultural Heritage Management Studies in the undergraduate degree course at the University of Canberra. The 2015 winner was Rebecca Brenton. Rebecca tells her story below. Congratulations Rebecca!

### **My Heritage Story**



My first clear memory of a museum experience is from a very hot summer day in Canberra, 2006. The airconditioning unit in our family home was not quite up to the challenge before it, so instead of sweltering at home, my parents took my brothers and me to the National Museum of Australia to see the *Captivating and Curious* exhibition. In the midst of carriages, crazy vehicles adorned with knick-knacks, and dinosaur bones, I remember being drawn to a giant kewpie doll. I was captivated by the doll, not only because I was a twelveyear-old girl and it was outrageously sparkly, but also because it was strangely familiar.

At that moment, the memories came flooding back to me from several years before. I was seven years old again, in my living room with my parents, watching the closing ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games on the television. I remembered being filled with pride and excitement, fascinated by the glitter and the sheer size of the dolls being wheeled around the stadium. As I viewed the kewpie doll in the gallery, I felt part of something much bigger than myself, part of the nation, simply because I had shared the amazing experience of the 2000 Olympics with so many other Australians.

This museum experience sparked a deep interest within me and inspired me to explore more of our nation's heritage as I got older. It is for this reason that I decided to study heritage and museums at a tertiary level. Throughout my university education I loved learning about heritage and how to be a good steward of it. Now, having completed my degree, I would like to make heritage my vocation.

I believe that heritage is important because of the particular way that it brings people together. I love the way that heritage tells the story of us. It draws us in and includes us. It brings the past into the present, and provokes questions about how we will shape the future. It is not static, for the way that we view and value heritage changes as we grow as people and communities. Nor does heritage consist simply of impersonal facts. Heritage involves precious memories of individuals and communities, and thus forges personal, emotional connections between places and people, and people with each other. Heritage embodies the narrative of our nation, and helps us to identify with it.

Perhaps one day I might be able to contribute to the collective memory of this country. That process starts right now, in my small sphere. I can take care of the heritage that I come in contact with, and I can share its stories so that others may identify with it and value it too, making it even more treasured. Like my experience with the kewpie doll at the museum, I hope that the heritage that we pass on will encourage and inspire Australians to connect with our past and our present together. I am so excited to see what will happen in the heritage field in this country's future.

#### **Rebecca Brenton**

Photo of Rebecca by John Parson

## Travels and at Home with the Trust

#### **11th Reid Open Houses and Gardens** Sunday 13 November, 1.30-4.30pm

Once again, the National Trust (ACT) in collaboration with the Reid Residents' Association (RRA) and the owners will open three privately-owned houses and gardens from the 1920s and 1930s in Reid's heritage precinct. The houses and their gardens, which have not been previously opened, will be available for inspection. Meet the owners and view inside the houses and also their gardens. The houses comprise a Federal Capital Commission Type 4, a Department of Interior Type P, and a privately built house for a church in Reid.

The ticket price includes:

- a guided tour of the three houses and gardens,
- a copy of The Heritage of Reid by Shibu Dutta,
- an introductory talk on the Reid heritage-listed Housing Precinct by a heritage architect,
- a printed hand-out on each house and garden, and
- a delicious afternoon tea at the Reid Pre-school, which first opened in 1944.

Walking is involved on paved and unpaved surfaces. The event is not suitable for children. Numbers are limited, so please book early.

**Bookings are essential**. Phone 6230 0533 during office hours, or via email to <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u>. **Cost**: \$25 (Trust, U3A & RRA members); \$35 (non-members). Mt. Stromlo Heritage Walk

Saturday 26 November, 2.30-4.00pm



Mt Stromlo Observatory is the headquarters of The Australian National University's (ANU) <u>Research School</u> <u>of Astronomy and Astrophysics (RSAA)</u>. It is one of two key sites for the School, the other being at Siding Springs near Coonabarabran, NSW. Mt Stromlo Observatory is a highly significant site to both the ANU and Canberra and is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

Canberrans will be aware that the Mt Stromlo site was badly damaged in the 2003 bushfires and no longer has working research telescopes. However, some buildings have been rebuilt while others, such as the Director's residence, have been partially restored and have audio and video interpretative installations.

For this tour, our guide, Amy Jarvis, ANU's Heritage Officer, will lead us on the <u>Mt Stromlo Heritage</u> <u>Trail</u> stopping at key points of interest along the way. You will learn about the history and scientific aspects of this interesting place, while taking in the natural beauty of Mt Stromlo, and the stunning views over Canberra.

The Visitors Centre and cafe will have re-opened by the time of this tour so we will finish the tour with afternoon tea there. This is a walking tour but not a strenuous walk. There will be a limit of 30 people.

Bookings are essential. Phone 6230 0533 during office hours, or via email to info@nationaltrustact.org.au.
Cost: \$25 (Trust and U3A members); \$35 (non-members) – includes afternoon tea.

#### **National Trust Membership benefits**

Did you know your National Trust membership gets you entry into Lanyon Homestead , Mugga-Mugga and Calthorpes House at concession rates, and 10% discount at the Lanyon Homestead shop?

### National Trust (ACT) Christmas Party

Sunday 4 December, 3.00-5.00pm Tuggeranong Schoolhouse Enid Lorimer Crescent, Chisholm

This year's Christmas Party is at a new venue, the historic Tuggeranong Schoolhouse in Chisholm.



The usual Christmas fare will be provided while you enjoy visiting the Schoolhouse and its surroundings.

**Bookings are essential**. Phone 6230 0533 during office hours, or via email to <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u>. **Cost**: \$20 members; \$25 non-members.

### High Tea at the Hotel Kurrajong

Saturday 4 February 2017, 2.30-5.00pm

Join the National Trust (ACT) for high tea at the Hotel Kurrajong. The hotel turned 90 years old just last year so it's worth a celebration as the stately lady begins her approach to the centenary.

Historian Dr Peter Dowling will talk about its history and heritage and architect and Councillor, Mr Eric Martin AM, will tell us about the architecture and conservation of the building over its 90 years. There will be an opportunity to visit the room where Prime Minister Ben Chifley stayed.

While we enjoy high tea, another Councillor, Elizabeth Burness, will entertain participants with an engaging and amusing 'show and tell' featuring her 1920s/30s collection. Original clothing, dresses, hats, shoes, furs and accessories will be shown and reference will be made to 1920s Canberra, particularly the balls at the Hotel Kurrajong!

There will be a limited number of places available for this very special afternoon. Please book now to make sure you are part of this special event.

Bookings are essential. Phone 6230 0533 during office hours, or via email to info@nationaltrustact.org.au.
Cost: \$55 (Trust and U3A members); \$65 (non-members).

### Speaker's Night with Dr Peter Dowling, Secrets, Ciphers and Codes – West Block, 'The Bunker' and 'The Cable Girls'

Wednesday 8 February 6.00-7.30pm National Archives, Queen Victoria Terrace



Bookings are essential – book by Monday 6 February. Phone 6230 0533 during office hours, or via email to info@nationaltrustact.org.au.

**Cost**: \$10 (Trust and U3A members); \$15 (non-members).

We are also planning the following events for 2017. Dates are still to be confirmed for most events (see individual notices below) and bookings are not yet being taken.

### **Quarries and Homesteads Bus Tour to Marulan** Saturday 4 March TBC

### **Canberra and Region Heritage Festival**

Tuesday 18 April to Sunday 7 May Open Day Saturday 22 April (date to be confirmed) Urban Polaris Saturday 29 April

### Lightning Ridge Bus Tour

Saturday 20 May-Thursday 25 May, 5-day trip (dates to be confirmed)

## Lake Mungo Bus Tour (TBC)

September

U3A ACT is organising a joint U3A/ACT **weekend trip to Mudgee**, from Friday 24 to Sunday 26 March next year. There is already a waiting list for this trip which was advertised by E-News in mid-September. If you wish to make an enquiry, contact the tour leader Garth Setchell on 6290 1100.

## Heritage Diary November 2016 to June 2017

### A selection of heritage-related events of interest to members

Details of National Trust (ACT) events are provided on page 11 and 12

Date and time	Event and location	Organiser	Contact
On-going Every Saturday 11.30am - 2.30pm	<b>Blundell's Cottage.</b> Open every Saturday with tours at 11.30am and 1pm. New exhibits interpret Ginn and Sainsbury families – the first and last families in occupation. Numbers limited, bookings recommended.	NCA	https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/blundells- cottage-families-of-workers-tickets- 16854262553
On-going monthly Second Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm other times by appointment	History with a Difference. Popular Canberra storyteller Elizabeth Burness brings stories of Canberra's pioneering past alive with tales of the old schooldays. Admission: gold coin Tuggeranong Schoolhouse, 34 Enid Lorimer Circuit, Chisholm	Tuggeranong Schoolhouse Museum	Elizabeth Burness 6161 6383 or 0400 391 440 http://www.historywithadifference.com.au/t uggeranong-schoolhouse- museum/index.html
On-going Each Saturday and Sunday 1pm – 4pm	<b>Calthorpes House.</b> Open each Saturday and Sunday afternoon, taking you back to Canberra in the 1920s. Tours at 1.00, 1.45, 2.30 and 3.15pm. 24 Mugga Way, Red Hill	ACT Historic Places	http://www.historicplaces.com.au/calthorpe s-house
On-going Tuesday–Sunday 10am – 4pm	Lanyon Homestead. Exhibitions include Within Living Memory, The Convict Years and Cunningham Family album. Tharwa Drive, Tharwa.	ACT Historic Places	http://www.historicplaces.com.au/lanyon- homestead
On-going Each Saturday and Sunday 1pm – 4pm	<b>Mugga-Mugga cottage.</b> A testament to the one of the Limestone Plain's great pastoral estates. Conserved and furnished with household items that belonged to the Curley family. 129 Narrabundah Ln, Symonston ACT 2609	ACT Historic Places	http://www.historicplaces.com.au/mugga- mugga-cottage
From Thursday 15 September to Sunday 13 November	The Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize 2006. Features finalists from Australia's premier natural science art prize. A travelling exhibition developed by the South Australian Museum. National Archives, Queen Victoria Terrace.	NAA	Bookings not needed. Free 6212 3600 <u>naa.gov.au/visit-us/exhibitions</u>
From Saturday 12 November to Sunday 19 March	<i>Memory of the World in Canberra.</i> This exhibition is an opportunity to learn about the long history Canberra shares with the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme for safeguarding documentary heritage. CMAG.	CMAG	http://www.cmag.com.au/exhibitions/
Sunday 13 November 1.30 – 4.30pm	11th Reid Open Houses and Gardens. Three homes and gardens from 1920s and 1930s will be open for inspection. Numbers limited.	National Trust	Bookings required. info@nationaltrustact.org.au or 6230 0533
Wednesday 16 November 6.00pm AGM 6.30pm Lecture	CAS/CAR lecture – Marilyn Truscott on Oman's Heritage, Manning Clark Centre, Theatre 6, Bldg 26A, Union Court, ANU	CAS	www.cas.asn.au/
Saturday 26 November 2.30-4.00pm	Mt Stromlo Heritage Walk	National Trust	Bookings required. <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u> or 6230 0533
Saturday 3-Sunday 18 December 1.00-4.00pm	<b>Christmas decorations at Mugga-Mugga and</b> <b>Calthorpes' House.</b> Tours of Calthorpes' House at 1pm, 1.45pm, 2.30pm, 3.15pm	ACT Historic Places	http://www.historicplaces.com.au/whats-on
Sunday 4 December 3.00 – 5.00pm	National Trust Christmas party – Tuggeranong Schoolhouse. Enid Lorimer Crescent, Chisholm	National Trust	Bookings required. info@nationaltrustact.org.au or 6230 0533

## <u>Heritage In Trust</u>

## November 2016

Date and time	Event and location	Organiser	Contact
Sunday 4 December 10-11am, 11am- 12noon and 12-1pm	<b>Concert at Mugga-Mugga.</b> Canberra pianist, Anthony Smith, is collaborating with the Gryffin Ensemble to bring the Mugga-Mugga sitting room to life with a selection of piano pieces from the house music collection.	ACT Historic Places.	Free, bookings by Thursday 1 December at gryffinensemblemugga.eventbrite.com.au
Saturday 10 December 5.00-9.00pm, carols commence at 7pm	Christmas Carols and Picnic at Lanyon	ACT Historic Places	http://www.historicplaces.com.au/whats-on \$10 per car, bookings not required.
Thursday 26 January 10am-4pm	Open Day at Lanyon Homestead	ACT Historic Places	http://www.historicplaces.com.au/whats-on Free entry to homestead, bookings not required unless intending to dine at the Lanyon Cafe.
Saturday 4 February 2.30-5.00pm	High Tea at the Hotel Kurrajong	National Trust	Bookings required. <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u> or 6230 0533
Wednesday 8 February 6.00- 7.30pm	<b>Speaker's Night,</b> Peter Dowling will talk on Secrets, Ciphers and Codes – West Block, 'The Bunker' and 'The Cable Girls', National Archives	National Trust	Bookings required – by Monday 6 February info@nationaltrustact.org.au or 6230 0533
Wednesday 15 February 6.00pm	<b>CAS/CAR lecture</b> – <i>Topic to be advised</i> , Manning Clark Centre, Theatre 6, Bldg 26A, Union Court, ANU	CAS	www.cas.asn.au/
Saturday 4 March TBC	Quarries and Homesteads Bus Tour to Marulan	National Trust	Bookings will be required but are not being taken yet.
Wednesday 15 March 6.00pm	CAS/CAR lecture – <i>Topic to be advised</i> , Manning Clark Centre, Theatre 6, Bldg 26A, Union Court, ANU	CAS	www.cas.asn.au/
Tuesday 18 April to Sunday 7 May	Canberra and Region Heritage Festival		Information on Trust events will be provided in the next edition of Heritage in Trust.
Wednesday 19 April 6.00pm	<b>CAS/CAR lecture</b> – <i>Topic to be advised</i> , Manning Clark Centre, Theatre 6, Bldg 26A, Union Court, ANU	CAS	www.cas.asn.au/
Saturday 22 April (To be confirmed)	National Trust Open Day – a Heritage Festival event	National Trust	Information on Trust events will be provided in the next edition of Heritage in Trust.
Saturday 29 April	National Trust Urban Polaris Heritage – a Heritage Festival event	National Trust	See <u>www.urbanpolaris.com.au</u> for more details.
Wednesday 17 May 6.00pm	<b>CAS/CAR lecture</b> – <i>Topic to be advised</i> , Manning Clark Centre, Theatre 6, Bldg 26A, Union Court, ANU	CAS	www.cas.asn.au/
Wednesday 21 June 6.00pm	CAS/CAR lecture – <i>Topic to be advised</i> , Manning Clark Centre, Theatre 6, Bldg 26A, Union Court, ANU	CAS	www.cas.asn.au/

Notes: CAS is the Canberra Archaeological Society. CAR is the Centre for Archaeological Research. NAA is National Archives of Australia. NLA is National Library of Australia. Information on events run by organisations other than the National Trust (ACT) is provided in good faith, but readers should check dates and times with the contacts indicated above.

## Trust Tour and Event Reports Sherwood in springtime splendour Sunday 11 September

After numerous wet days we welcomed the sun and hoped access along the dirt Blue Range Road would not be hazardous. Arrows and extra signage guided people, most of whom had not been to this remote campground which, prior to the 2003 fires, was part of ACT Forests.

Unlike previous walks undertaken into *Sherwood* by the three groups that made up our group of 39, 11 September's starting point was Blue Range Hut. Both this site and our destination were added to the ACT Heritage Register in 2015.



Rangers welcome at Blue Range Hut

ACT Parks and Conservation ranger Brandon Galpin welcomed us, relaying the interesting history of this site where Italians were interned during World War II. Here near the foot of the Brindabella Mountains these men prepared the land for planting, raised pine seedlings and produced charcoal from hardwood. The National Trust (ACT) welcomed members of the Australian Garden History Society and a dozen descendants of Henry and Eliza Phillips. It was in 1863 that the Phillips established the property of *Sherwood*.

This walk was more arduous as we headed up and over a ridge but we were indeed rewarded with a delightful display of daffodils, snowdrops, jonquils, blossoms and tiny violets under the leafless but grand oaks and elms. Eliza named the property after her English home in Nottinghamshire. The family legend states that she brought out an acorn from that forest of Robin Hood fame. As historian Anne Claoue Long informed us, pioneers' attempts to tame the alien landscape with plantings from the homeland helped their transition.



Walk to Sherwood



Among the Daffodils

After a picnic lunch we inspected the gravesite, officially titled Uriarra Anglican Cemetery. The interment of Henry in 1913 (aged 89), Eliza in 1922 and an infant son occurred prior to Commonwealth legislation normalising burials at cemeteries and churchyards.

A phone signal from Ropers Hill at the grave site enabled a call through to the Cotter Depot to have the gallant ranger come and ferry back three of the walkers.

Hats off especially to 85-year-old June Nicholson who had organised her clan, which included a couple from Victoria and great grandsons who rode their bikes along the fire trails. Eight-year-old Jack's feedback stated: "[I liked] seeing where my descendants lived and spending time with my family. [I least liked] lots of hill and lots of blackberry bushes that scratched me".



**Coffee at Blue Range Hut** 

Afternoon tea back at Blue Range Hut topped off a great day. Many thanks to Anne and Brandon for providing commentary and helping out. It can be hit and miss timing the visit to *Sherwood* to catch the wonderful spring display. In February 300 bulbs were dug up (previously undisturbed for 150 years) to be on display at Floriade. Judging from our visit, the blooms of the heirloom Rip van Winkle daffodils will have been spent before the masses could have appreciated them. Lucky us!

Linda Roberts (Text and photos) Tour Leader

## AGM Speaker presentation: Allen Mawer, *Editing Captain Colnett*

Throughout the colonial history of Australia (or any nation's history for that matter) there are a host of people who have influenced, to some degree, the course of our social and political development. Historians tend to study those who had prominent lives and who have made the greater contributions such as the first land and sea explorers, the governors, the politicians, the land, agricultural and industry developers and those on the other side of law and order.

## A Voyage to New Holland and Round the World

By Captain James Colnett RN Introduced and edited by G. A. Mawer



More often than not the countless others who have made a mark in their own right have either been left out, or at best, relegated to footnotes in the wider historiography of Australia. At the Trust's Annual General Meeting, held on 20 October, our guest speaker, historian Allen Mawer, brought one of the 'countless others', Captain James Colnett, RN, out of obscurity. Allen has recently edited and published the journal of James Colnett written during a voyage he made to Australia (New Holland), the original of which is held by the National Library of Australia. Allen presented those present with a fascinating story.

James Colnett began his naval career as an able seaman in HMS Hazard on 28 June 1770. In September of the following year he became a midshipman under James Cook on HMS Scorpion, and later transferred to HMS Resolution prior to Cook's second Pacific voyage. During the expedition, Colnett sighted New Caledonia on 4 September 1774, and Cook named Cape Colnett on that island after him. Colnett had a long career in the Royal Navy commanding several voyages to the Pacific including North America's northwest coast, Hawaiian Islands, Japan and China. He investigated trade routes and trading opportunities for Britain and the East India Company. In 1788 Colnett established a post at Nootka Sound, Vancouver Island, which was followed by an international incident between Great Britain and Spain over control of the then lucrative fur trade. He later investigated Pacific ports for their suitability for British whalers.

And so we came to Colnett's last Pacific venture, his connection to Australia and the subject of the journal held by the National Library. During a pause in the Napoleonic Wars named the Peace of Amiens, the British Home Secretary decided warships would make safer and more reliable convict transports than the usual method of chartering private vessels. Colnett, with his knowledge of Pacific voyaging and navigation, was just the man available to command a warship and take another group of the ever-increasing number of convicts sentenced to transportation. He was given command of HMS Glatton, an East Indiaman of 1,200 tons (56 guns) purchased by the Royal Navy where she enjoyed a brief but eventful fighting career off Copenhagen in 1801 commanded by one Captain William Bligh. The ship was modified to take convicts and a raft port was cut in the bow so that she could backload shipbuilding timber from New South Wales.

On 23 September Colnett sailed from England carrying over 600 on board including male and female prisoners, free settlers and crew. All slept in navy-fashion in hammocks that the women convicts would call 'whirligigs'. True to convention, the male convicts came aboard in double chains. Any relief for them was a privilege that had to be earned. The women were indulged. Allowed the freedom of the quarterdeck, most were soon partnered for the voyage with crew members, not excluding Captain Colnett. The Glatton was a speedy ship and had been selected for the purpose to make a quick transition to Sydney and thence back to England for another cargo of convicts. In fact, this trip by Colnett was seen by the British Government as an experimental convict voyage. It was hoped by the Government to be able to establish a sixmonthly service with two ships (12 months to Australia and back) thereby transporting the condemned convicts in a speedy and safer manner (all for the good of home law and order and for the distant colony of New South Wales).

Colnett was very displeased with the organisation and discipline he encountered in the colony. He was not happy with the navigational organisation in Sydney Harbour (Aborigines were still fishing in canoes on the harbour waters) and he found no redeeming feature of the harbour at all despite Arthur Philip's assessment of it being safe for a thousand sail of the line. What incensed Colnett more was the power of the Rum Corps who he thought were absolutely mutinous. He could not abide the Governor, Phillip Gidley King, whose limited control of the officers trading rum ran counter to his notions of military discipline. His relationship with King was further soured when he requested that his onboard 'wife', Mary Sargeant, who had been transported for seven years, be released and taken back to England as his partner. It would have been more than King's position as Governor was worth to have allowed a convicted felon to leave the colony less than 12 months after arrival. But Colnett would not see it that way and fell out with the Governor.

The *Glatton* remained in Sydney for nine weeks while timber was cut and loaded. During that time Colnett claimed that only once had he been ashore for more than eight hours, and that was for a row up the river to Parramatta which he also found very disappointing. Colnett left Sydney only partially loaded with timber but freighted with complaints about King's administration from his own observations and no doubt from the Governor's enemies in the colony.

This was Colnett's last venture into the Pacific and his first and last visit to Australia. On reaching England he brought his opinions of the colony and his complaints of Governor King to Lord Hobart, Secretary of State for War and Colonies. Hobart must have taken Colnett's opinions seriously as they, along with others Hobart had received, contributed to his decision to recall King. The next governor of New South Wales was that former commanding officer of the *Glatton*, William Bligh (and we know what happened to him).

But Colnett had done his job. With this voyage in the *Glatton* he had taken ten months off the record for a voyage to Australia and back which he completed in two days less than the twelve months he was allowed by the British Government. Colnett continued to command the *Glatton* in home waters for the next 18 months, after which he retired, probably from ill-health. He died in some obscurity at his lodgings in London on 1 September 1806. But as our speaker, Allen Mawer, pointed out, that so-called obscurity does not take into account the map of the Pacific which is scattered with places named by him or named for him.

The ACT National Trust thanks Allen for bringing Captain James Colnett out from the obscurity of a historical footnote to a place in Australia's history.

#### **Peter Dowling**

Historical archaeologist, Di-Petaia Research

## Emeritus Professor Derek John Mulvaney AO CMG FAHA

26 October 1925 – 21 September 2016



(http://alchetron.com/John-Mulvaney-273820-W)

The ACT National Trust was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Professor Mulvaney on 21 September 2016. John Mulvaney was a long-standing member of the ACT National Trust, deeply committed to the heritage of Australia and its protection and conservation.

John was one of the giants of Australian archaeology and was often referred to as the 'father of Australian archaeology'. He was the first university-trained prehistorian to make Australia his primary subject and led the way for many to follow in his footsteps. In the 1960s while excavating at Kenniff Cave in Carnarvon National Park, Queensland, John was the first to show Australia and the world indisputable evidence of the long antiquity of Aboriginal occupation of this continent - dating back into the Pleistocene era. He was also the first to discover the oldest recorded dingo remains in Australia. Following his research at Kenniff Cave John wrote the very first book on the long human history of Australia – The Prehistory of Australia – in 1969 when so little was known of Aboriginal origins and cultural development. The book went through several reprints and was revised and republished with co-author Johan Kamminga in 1999.

John then began a long career at the Australian National University. In 1971 he was appointed to the Foundation Chair in Prehistory in the Arts Faculty of ANU and in the following year began teaching the fledgling discipline of Australian Prehistory as an undergraduate course (the first of its kind in Australia).

He was an inspired and inspirational teacher, quietly but scholarly leading many undergraduate and postgraduate students in the world-class discipline it is today. John retired from his teaching position in 1983 but never really stopped teaching and guiding the next generations of archaeologists.

On a personal note I came to know John, not just as a lecturer, but as a mentor. John had the dubious task of marking my MA thesis, and while he remained officially anonymous as markers should be, I knew by the comments made that it was John who had rigorously scrutinized my work. I felt pretty cool when he passed the thesis and recommended an MA degree. In later years, during my PhD research I would button-hole John whenever the chance arose and ask for his opinion and advice. When he quietly nodded at my ideas and conclusions I knew I was on the right track. John gave inspiration and confidence to me and many, many other students.

Later, during my work with the National Trust on heritage assessment and conservation I came to know John as a friend, but he always remained that trusted mentor from the past. We discussed many issues concerned with the cultural heritage of Canberra and the ACT. I found it very humbling that John would ring me at the National Trust and ask for advice on a particular issue of heritage protection about which he was concerned. But that is the mark of a great thinker and scholar and John was certainly that.

John will be greatly and sadly missed, but his pioneering work and revelations in archaeology and the deep human history of Australia will never be forgotten.

The ACT National Trust extends its deepest condolences to John's family.

It was an honour to have known him.

Dr Peter Dowling October 2016

# Remembering a generous philanthropist and a great supporter of the National Trust

## John Bowen Ross Gale OBE (1924 – 2016)



John Gale at *Huntly* Photo courtesy of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

With the passing of long-standing and esteemed resident John Gale OBE, the Canberra community has lost a most generous philanthropist, a great benefactor to many of Canberra's community and cultural organisations and a highly valued supporter of the National Trust.

Born in 1924, John Gale grew up in Sydney and attended Sydney's Knox Grammar. After working on family properties in northern NSW he moved to Canberra in 1956 when he settled at *Huntl*y, now a heritage-listed property, through the research and nomination by the National Trust. For the next 60 years, he managed *Huntly* as a successful sheep and cattle property. He was active in volunteer rural bushfire brigades, including as long-serving President of the Rivers brigade, hosting numerous brigade meetings and forums at *Huntly*, and from 1960 to 1984 served on the ACT Bushfire Council as a representative of rural ACT brigades. An exemplary landholder, John Gale was strongly committed to environmental care and rehabilitation, and extensive landcare work on *Huntly* by both John Gale and manager Margaret Wheatley was recognized in 2001 with a prestigious ACT Landcare award for primary producers. In 2002 both John Gale and Margaret Wheatley featured on the cover of a special edition of the Canberra White Pages celebrating Landcare activity and achievements.

With a passion for re-establishing native vegetation, during a 17-year partnership with Greening Australia he was also involved in seven major projects, establishing more than 7000 native tubestock, with 4km of fencing to protect revegetation sites and carrying out 15km of direct seeding of native seeds. He hosted workshops and field days, and two long-term bird-monitoring sites are now located on *Huntly*. He was, too, featured in the 2012 Greening Australia calendar.

John Gale supported many community and cultural organisations and was a significant, quietly generous Canberra philanthropist. He not only gave financially. He also invited charities and cultural groups to use his beautiful garden at *Huntly* for their events. The garden was a terrific drawcard and fundraising opportunity for those organisations. These included the Australian Opera, where he was on the Board for five years, St John's Ambulance, organisations for breast and prostate cancer, the Heart Foundation, The Smith Family, Woden Valley Youth Choir, Canberra School of Music and Canberra Opera.

As a Life Member of both the ACT and NSW National Trusts, John Gale strongly supported the National Trust and its role in protecting heritage. Former National Trust ACT President Eric Martin AM recalled heritagelisted *Huntly* was "developed and nurtured by John who also established the magnificent gardens". When the ACT National Trust was established in 1976 he formed and for some years chaired the Fundraising Committee. For several years he also organized the highly successful annual National Trust Antiques Fairs at Albert Hall, held as part of the Canberra Festival.

Always supportive of National Trust activities, Vice-President Di Dowling recalls, when she was Manager of the National Trust shop at Old Parliament House, that he took an interest in the shop and on many occasions he would visit "not always purchasing but just to say hello", a great morale boost for the shop staff.

Many successful National Trust ACT events were held at *Huntly* in the garden, including popular Christmas parties, often with musical accompaniment. Di Dowling recalls when sitting with John Gale to discuss these events, "he quite often remarked how he enjoyed the Trust events because he could relax in his favourite chair and enjoy the music from the student quartets" and that "one of the highlights was the plates of leftovers (which we always put aside) and he received as he had a bit of a sweet tooth and enjoyed home cooking".



Student quartet at a Christmas party at Huntly

One year he was persuaded to speak to members about *Huntly* and about his garden and his talk was so very engaging it was decided an account should be made available to all members. He generously agreed to an extensive interview over tea and scones in the sun-filled Bamboo Room at *Huntly*. This was published in November 2011 and February 2012 editions of *Heritage in Trust*. The interviews were republished in 2016 in booklet form for the National Trust Open Day at *Huntly* before the auction of contents of the house and this is available at <u>www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/</u>. John Gale also opened his house to the National Trust NSW when they had a weekend in the Canberra Region several years ago. The National Trust is enormously grateful to John Gale.

Over the years John Gale frequently hosted visiting delegations, official visitors and official events for government departments. Famous visitors included a young Prince Charles when a student in Australia, numerous Prime Ministers, rock stars such as Mick Jagger, diplomats and others. A highlight was the 1981 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) lunch at *Huntly* when Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser hosted Commonwealth Prime Ministers. John Gale's Visitors Books will be donated to the ACT Heritage Library.

In the 1981 Queen's Birthday Honours, John Gale was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE), conferred by Sir Zelman Cowan, in a well-deserved recognition of his service to the community.

A considerate and kind man, John Gale was a true gentleman. He was also a fine bridge player and a delightful and meticulous host. He was, too, a collector of fine art and he donated paintings, valued at over \$1.2 million, to the New England Regional Art Museum in Armidale. These include works by Sir Arthur Streeton, Rupert Bunny, Elioth Gruner, Adrian Feint, JJ Hilder, Hans Heysen, Herbert Badham, Harold Septimus Power and Desiderius Orban. A significant, longstanding benefactor to Sydney's Royal Rehab, a leading rehabilitation Centre specializing in rehabilitation of brain injury and spinal injury clients, his support recently included funding and sculptures for a garden providing therapeutic and relaxation benefits for rehab patients. The garden, called 'Granny Gale's Garden', honours John Gale's grandmother and is now in development.

John Gale was also a skilled raconteur with a prodigious memory for detail and a dry, gentle wit. There was also a hint of whimsy. He had a large collection of porcelain donkeys. The collection began with one given to him by his mother and became a passion, with many more china donkeys bought on his travels and given to him by friends. At one stage he was presented with two real donkeys (Samantha and Driftwood) that then lived out long and very comfortable lives in the aptly named Donkey Paddock at *Huntly*. He also owned a number of well-loved dogs and several magnificent white peacocks which delighted visitors to *Huntly*, elegantly strutting in his beautiful garden, and surprising unprepared arrivals with dramatic cries.

In January 2003, *Huntly* was directly in the path of the devastating bushfires that swept across large parts of Canberra. John Gale, his manager Margaret Wheatley and the fire brigade battled to save *Huntly* and the livestock. The bushfire brigade saved the house but some of the garden was lost and *Huntly* also lost 100 cattle, 800 sheep and 86 kilometres of fencing and buildings, including Margaret Wheatley's house. When later recalling this time, John Gale ruefully reflected that, as the fire was approaching, he had thought that "There was nothing to burn, but nothing will burn". When restoring the property, his priority was to make the garden was soon back in use.

On 6 October 2016, John Gale died after a brief illness at the age of 92. He is sadly missed by his sister Gwillian, his devoted cousin and godson Andrew, who moved onto the property to support John during his last five years, his nieces Penny and Bronwyn, nephew David and extended families, his dear friend Ellen Blunden and a wide circle of other good friends.

John Gale will be fondly remembered by the many Canberrans, National Trust members and others who, over 60 years, enjoyed his wonderful hospitality and his garden, and by the many organisations he so generously assisted.

The article has been prepared by Di Johnstone AM, former National Trust ACT Councillor and Vice-President Dianne Dowling, who gratefully acknowledge the assistance of John Gale's family and friends.





## Huntly - history and heritage

The property of *Huntly* is situated among the low rolling hills just to the east and south of the confluence of the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee Rivers. Today the property lays either side of Uriarra Road with the lower western areas bordering the Murrumbidgee corridor.

The first to occupy the land and the rivers were the indigenous groups who had for well over 25,000 years utilized and manipulated the environment and natural resources. Over fifty separate stone artefact sites have been identified in the Stromlo/Belconnen districts in close proximity to the two rivers, indicating that the region was widely used by the indigenous groups. These sites, now recorded on the ACT Heritage Register, are the physical evidence of a traditional way of life of these first people which is now no longer practised. These people left their mark on the landscape by manipulating the plant species and regularly firing the slopes to produce and control their desired food resources. It was this landscape of open space interspersed with woodland that attracted the first European settlers. They saw the lands as good grazing and cropping opportunities, often not realising that the lands had been the result of thousands of years of human management.

The *Huntly* property, as we know it today, was first legally acquired by Captain E.H. Cliffe who purchased 4,200 acres in 1837. Prior to this, the land had most likely been grazed by Francis Mowatt who had, in 1836, purchased three lots of lands of what was to be the extensive estate of *Yarraluml*a.

Around this time Captain Charles Sturt was granted 5,000 acres of land opposite to *Huntly*, north of the junction of the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo Rivers. Sturt probably never spent much time there and in 1838 sold it to Charles Campbell to form part of the holdings of the *Duntroon* estate.

Following the 1860s Robinson Land Acts designed to break up the large land estates and free up land for purchase, the large landholders retaliated by buying up further tracts. In 1877 Charles Campbell's son, Fredrick, took over the management of *Duntroon* estate and in 1882 built up his holdings by finalising the purchase of the *Yarralumla* lands.

## November 2016

Much of the land north and south of the Molonglo River, including *Huntly*, was in the hands of a few wealthy property owners.

Fredrick Campbell was eventually to lose his holdings along the rivers. Following Federation, the lands within the borders of the Federal Capital Territory were resumed by the government. Land owners were required to sell their holdings to the Federal Government. Fredrick Campbell was given notice in 1912 to quit his land and very reluctantly he left. The once vast holdings, including what is now Huntly, were given as short-term grazing and cropping leases. Following the First World War another legislative process, the Soldier Settlement Scheme, allowed the smaller holdings to be leased to returning servicemen and their families. Huntly, then designated as Block 7 Stromlo, was leased to Leslie William George Lee in 1926. Lee, who had served in the 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, was to struggle financially on his holding, like many other returned servicemen of this time. He mortgaged his stock and finally had to recover his debts by returning the lease.

The next lessees were the Milson family who had farmed nearby *Uriarra*. The Milson brothers acquired and consolidated many of the failed or short-term soldier leases in the 1930s and gave their property the name *Huntly*. They further developed the land for sheep grazing and built the main house together with a small cottage garden. They were to hold it for thirtythree years. In 1956 the lease of *Huntly* was again up for sale and the Gale family acquired the property. John Gale became the resident and managed the property for close on sixty years, creating the present magnificent garden around the homestead during his tenure, until his death this year.

*Huntly*, as many of you would know, is now a heritagelisted property. The ACT Heritage Register states:

*Huntly* has historic associations with the development of the Limestone Plains and has associational significance with local figures of the pastoral era – for example, Mowatt, Murray and Campbell. It is the largest surviving part of the former *Yarralumla* property and is associated with the establishment of the Federal Capital Territory and the last phase of soldier settlement in the Territory. *Huntly* is a representative element of the rural setting of the National Capital. The property is an example of a 20th Century grazing property, a characteristic land use of the ACT before the expansion of the National Capital in the second half of the century.



Huntly showing Plane Tree at front entrance

The homestead garden merges the European garden designs with the Australian landscape. The aesthetics are consistent with late 20th Century standards appropriate for staging cultural, political and social events.

The very fact that *Huntly* has these heritage characteristics and has maintained them today is largely through the efforts of John and his passion and commitment to the rural and post-federation history of the ACT.



View from study c1933

Peter and Dianne Dowling

Heritage in Trust

## <u>Heritage In Trust</u>

#### **References:**

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**Photos** are from *Conservation Study and Assessment of Significance* by Judith Baskin prepared for the National Trust (ACT).

## **Heritage Happenings**

### **Activities of the Heritage Committee**

The activities of the Trust's Heritage Committee reinforce the Trust's position as a respected and expert heritage voice within the community by providing comments, advice and information on many aspects of ACT heritage, planning and conservation. This year the Committee has dealt with a diversity of natural, indigenous and historic heritage matters affecting 38 sites or issues in and around the ACT.

Recent activities of the Heritage Committee have included the following:

#### Forrest Fire Station Precinct, 2 Fitzroy Street

There has been unapproved work happening and an amended DA submitted for substantial work which has the potential to adversely affect the heritage values of the area. A detailed submission of concerns has been submitted to the ACT Planning Authority.

#### Bruce Hall, ANU

The National Trust has been supporting the Alumni of Bruce Hall to try and obtain details of the proposed demolition of Bruce Hall and to gain access to details of how the proposal impacts on the heritage values of Bruce Hall as identified in the ANU Heritage Management Plan. No response has been received from either the ANU or the National Capital Authority.

#### **Dickson Development**

The National Trust has provided some advice to the residents' action group about the possible impact of the development on the heritage-listed Dickson Library which is now subject to an ACAT Appeal.

#### Yarralumla Forestry Precinct

The signage prepared for the Open Day in 2016 has been provided to the foresters to assist them with permanent signs to be erected as part of a 2016 Heritage Grant.

The work of this Committee is very interesting and rewarding and requires the involvement of people from a variety of professional, managerial and administrative and other backgrounds. The Council welcomes members or other interested people, who may wish to become involved or assist with these activities. Contact Liz McMillan at the office on 6230 0533.

### **Eric J Martin AM**

### Partnership with University of Canberra

This year the Trust formed a partnership with the Business, Government and Law Faculty of the University of Canberra. The program is intended to provide high-calibre students with practical on-the-job training opportunities. Work undertaken by interns is unpaid, typically one day per week, across a three or four-month period. Successful completion of the project earns the student academic credit toward their degree.

The first two students have successfully completed projects. Next year it is intended to widen the scope of the program to include Heritage, Planning, Architecture and Tourism projects which will involve other Faculties.

### **ACT Election**

In the lead up to the ACT election, the Council identified a number of issues which it believes should be addressed by the incoming Government over the next four-year term. (See page 9 of *Heritage in Trust*, August 2016, for the full list.) Meetings were held with the major parties and some independent candidates in an effort to have them adopt a Heritage Policy and influence their commitments should they be elected.

## <u>Heritage In Trust</u>

A Forum was held on 22 September 2016, which was attended by 100 people and chaired by Mr Ian Meikle Editor of the City News. Presentations were made by: Mr Mick Gentleman MLA (ACT Labor), Mr Alistair Coe MLA (Canberra Liberals), Ms Veronica Wensing (ACT Greens), Mr Richard Farmer (Canberra Community Voters Party) and Ms Marea Fatseas (Independent).

For its part the Labor Party did not produce an election policy and did not respond to the issues which the Trust had identified. The Liberal Party did produce a Heritage Policy and responded to many of the issues, particularly the need for a long term industry plan and funding for peak bodies. The Greens produced a detailed policy supporting all the 12 heritage election issues identified by the Trust.

Now the election is over, meetings are being sought as early as possible with the incoming Government as well as other parties.

Graham Carter Chair Heritage and Grants Committee

## National Trust of Australia (ACT) Heritage Awards 2016

### **Report from Judging Panel**

### Announced on 13 September 2016

For this, the third year of these awards, the judging panel consisted of Dr Tracy Ireland, Associate Professor of Cultural Heritage at the University of Canberra; George Bailey, a member of the ACT Heritage Council and its expert in object conservation; and Ken Charlton, an architectural historian who is a member of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) Heritage Committee.



Award Ceremony

The high standard of entries in these awards in previous years has been maintained and all eight projects nominated had much to commend them, which is most pleasing.

Four entries each received an Award for an Outstanding Project:

### Mount Stromlo Observatory Precinct Heritage Management Plan

This excellent Heritage Management Plan by GML Heritage includes an innovative 'Heritage Snapshot' which captures the essence of the precinct's history, highlights key management policies and is presented in an effective manner. The 2004 Conservation Management Plan by Tanner Architects completed soon after the firestorm was revised and expanded to take in the landscape, including ruins, and Indigenous, archaeological and natural values. It establishes Mt Stromlo as the key precinct commemorating Canberra's 2003 bushfires and its recovery from them.

### Listening to the Past

This project has taken the appreciation of historic places in a new direction, by introducing the sound of music, singing and oral histories to websites, ready for inclusion in digital guides to enhance visitors' experiences at three house museums. Dr Gall has undertaken significant historical research and has given recitals and lectures. Mugga-Mugga's restored violin has been played there and pianos at Mugga-Mugga and Lanyon have been restored and played. It is great to hear primary sources used to produce the dimension of sound from the past.

### Conservation of Front Facade, Old Parliament House

This project was undertaken with the utmost regard for retaining original fabric wherever possible. The iconic character of the facade has been retained to a remarkable degree, honouring the architect's design and the original craftsmanship. The way the public has been allowed to observe the conservation process and share in it through social media is most commendable.

## November 2016



British Coat of Arms before treatment, OPH



British Coat of Arms after treatment, OPH

**Conservation of King's Hall, Old Parliament House** The amount of original fabric retained in this key interior space while it has undergone conservation work is remarkable. The attitude of those managing the work inspired the workers to complete the work in a scrupulous manner. A high standard of conservation work at Old Parliament House has been maintained in a challenging fiscal environment. The use of social media and other innovative ways of sharing the progress of work with the public is worthy of commendation.

Two entries were each awarded a certificate for a Significant Contribution to Heritage Conservation:

### **Conservation and Management of the Barton Heritage Precinct's Streetscape**

It is great to see people in a neighbourhood looking after their own heritage. The enthusiastic residents are to be commended for completing a thorough survey and report, with recommendations for caring for elements of the public spaces in their suburb. The need for a conservation management plan as a basis for future conservation work was stressed effectively in the executive summary of the report. Now that an ACT Heritage Grant has been received to conserve the remaining concrete pillar signposts, a nomination for a future heritage award should be made after the work is completed.



Two original lamps & updated posts, Darling Street, Barton



Complete Pillar Hydrant, opposite 46 New South Wales Crescent, Barton

Pillar Signpost at corner of Belmore Gardens and Darling St, Barton

### The Birth of Canberra: Archaeological Study of Springbank Island, Canberra's Earliest Owner Occupied Homestead

A well organised community project worthy of recognition for raising awareness of Canberra's Indigenous and European history and for the high level of expertise evident in its inception, research, survey and excavation. The considerable amount of public involvement at all stages of the study is particularly noteworthy. The interest by the media proves how valuable the study has been in promoting the community's appreciation of its heritage.

Two entries did not receive awards

#### New Office Hours from 1 December 2016

Members should note that the new office hours of the National Trust (ACT) are from Tuesday – Thursday only from 9.30am – 3.00pm.

## Canberra Korean Uniting Church, Reid, Heritage Conservation Appeal Fund

Members may recall the reports in earlier editions of Heritage in Trust announcing the launch of this Appeal (November 2015) and later reporting on the successful lunch that formed part of the ceremony (February 2016). Here, John Tucker summarises progress to date.



Members of the Appeal Committee and Korean Uniting Church,November 2015Photo courtesy John Tucker

The Canberra Korean Uniting Church, Reid, Heritage Conservation Appeal Fund was established in 2014 by the ACT Trust and the Uniting Church Property Trust, with the support of the Canberra Korean Uniting Church congregation and the wider Canberra community. The Fund's purpose is to help fund the conservation of the Church and its ancillary buildings and grounds in accordance with the approved Conservation Management Plan.

The Canberra Korean Uniting Church in Reid, formerly the Methodist Church and later the Reid Uniting Church, was constructed and opened for worship in 1927. The Church, its ancillary buildings and grounds were recorded by the Trust and are listed in the ACT Heritage Register. It was the first urban church to be constructed in Canberra after the naming of Canberra as the national capital.

The Conservation Appeal Fund was jointly launched on Sunday 1 November 2015 by the President of the Trust, Mr Scott McAlister, and the Rev. Jangwon Seo, Pastor of the Canberra Korean Uniting Church, Reid. Nearly 100 people attended the Korean-style lunch in the large hall of the church which preceded the launch. The Appeal Fund balance at 30 June 2016 was \$2,221.07.

Donations to the Appeal Fund, which is managed under Trust auspices, are tax-deductible and donations may be made to the Trust Office in Civic. Under the terms of the Deed, the Trust receives 3% annually of the balance of the Appeal Fund as at 30 June.

John Tucker Chair, Appeal Committee

## Heritage Worth Saving – Manuka Oval

*This article was first published in* The Canberra Times *on Monday 12 September 2016.* 

Manuka Oval is an important heritage-listed site and the National Trust (ACT) supports the ACT government's decision to reject the massive redevelopment proposed by a consortium comprising Grocon and the GWS Giants Football club. The site includes the oval, caretaker's cottage and setting, grandstands, seating areas, practice areas, parts of road verge and surrounding landscape areas.

The iconic site was established alongside other historic buildings such as Parliament House and Albert Hall. The prominence and importance of the oval has not wavered in the community, and remains highly valued as a place for sporting matches, recreation and social activity. It is heritage-listed because the oval and the landscape demonstrates the importance of recreational and sporting venues for the community. The heritage value of the site is vested in its tangible fabric and intangible values – the history of the place and activity gives Manuka Oval its strong historic, cultural and social heritage significance for the ACT community.

The oval and the landscape is an integral component of a collective of 19 neighbouring heritage-listed places in the Griffith, Kingston and Barton areas that were identified in Walter Burley Griffin's and the Federal Capital Advisory Committee's plans for the new city and were among the first developed as part of the emerging nation's capital. They comprise Telopea Park, Telopea Park School, Manuka Swimming Pool, the former Griffith Child Welfare Centre and Old Jazz School, Brassey and Kurrajong Hotels, the Baptist Church

Kingston, Kingston Power House, Manuka Shopping Precinct, Kingston Shopping Precinct, St Christopher's Cathedral Precinct, St Paul's Church, the Kingston, Red Hill, Forrest and Barton Housing Precincts, Blandfordia 4 and 5 Housing Precincts, and the former Canberra Services Club site.

All these sites are subject to the provisions of the Heritage Act 2004 (ACT).



Manuka Oval and the other sites must be conserved and appropriately designed and managed. Photo: Colleen Petch, *Canberra Times* 12 Sept 2016

The Trust's general position is that the best way to conserve a heritage building, structure or site is to use it. When properly done, adaptation links the past to the present and projects into the future. Individually and collectively Manuka Oval and the other sites must be conserved and appropriately designed and managed in a manner respecting their heritage significance and the features intrinsic to that heritage significance, and consistent with a sympathetic and viable use or uses.

Any development that has a potential impact on significant fabric (and/or other heritage values) is required to be guided by professionally documented assessments and conservation policies relevant to that area or component. This includes the ACT Planning and Development and Heritage Acts, the National Capital and Territory Plans, Heritage Registrations, Conservation Management Plans, Development and Control Plans. These are essential considerations that must be addressed before any masterplan is developed.

Unfortunately, the government in its conflicted concurrent roles of regulator (planning, development and heritage), owner and developer seems in public eyes to subjugate heritage and environment considerations in favour of private profits and/or government revenue. This appears evident in the proposed developments such as Thompson, West Basin and Manuka Oval. This is something about which the Trust and other community organisations are becoming increasingly worried. They are also concerned that their capacity to represent legitimate concerns about major developments at ACAT is being made untenable. These issues are compounded by the lack of transparency and a largely ineffective FOI Act.

The vision of the National Capital is supposed to be a 'great and beautiful city', within the landscape setting of the city and the distant mountains. The inner areas have a unique character and help to set Canberra apart from other cities. They form part of the soul of our city and are recognised both nationally and internationally as the best examples of how the principles of the Garden City movement were applied in Australia.

Over recent years the ACT government has made many references to the need to maintain control over areas of 'national character', including the parliamentary triangle and roads into Canberra. What the ACT government has failed to do is maintain control over areas of "Canberra character" which generally pertains to the inner suburbs and the landscape.

Currently these inner areas are being decimated by illconsidered high-rise developments and urban infill. Although these suburbs and the overall streetscape cannot be frozen, it is important to retain the essential design qualities of the inner areas as part of the overall heritage and character of our Garden City.

Unfortunately, these areas are being lost to our community due to poor planning and management by government and the interests of developers, as has been demonstrated by the recent unsolicited proposal for the development of the oval and surrounding areas.

Consequently Canberra is starting to look like any city anywhere.

The future of the oval must be predicated on the application by EPD and NCA of heritage values, sound town planning, urban design principles, and proper broad scale community consultation. It is essential that there is a proper and agreed vision for development that includes consideration of the 'Canberra character' of the site and surrounding suburbs.

There must also be a full and transparent assessment of social and economic impacts as well as opportunities and broad community agreement on the desired aims, objectives and outcomes of all stakeholders including residents, who will inevitably be affected.

This is an essential exercise that must be undertaken before calling for expressions of interest or the formation of the consultative panel as is now being proposed by the government. Given the obvious constraints of development of this site there should be a transparent comparative cost benefit analysis of both

Manuka and other alternatives sports venues such as Phillip Oval, which is larger and is proximate to the Woden Town, which would benefit from revitalisation.

This would assist the development of design options in terms of their desirability, viability and feasibility and exploration of different ways that the project vision can be achieved. The outcome of this analysis would determine which site and surrounding area should undergo master planning and the terms of reference for a community panel.

### **Graham Carter**

Graham Carter is a member of the National Trust (ACT) Council and Chair of the Heritage and Grants Committee.

Manuka: History and People



In this article, author Nick Swain describes this recently published book on Manuka. Nick advises that the book is almost out of print – there may be a small number of copies at the Canberra & District Historical Society in Curtin.

This book is about the 90-year history of the Manuka shops - the shop keepers, their customers and the evolution of the centre. The first property owners and shopkeepers took big risks. They included experienced investors from Sydney, wealthy local landowners, small business people from afar and single women with little or no experience.

Many stories had to be included. Gus Petersilka had his first café, with outdoor seating, in the Thetis Court. Tom Wilkinson was famous for his pie van. Sylvia Curley established her third career in Manuka, running an employment agency. The many colourful characters included Archie Campbell the bookie, Gordon Kothoff who ran errands, Ken Hile of the Salvation Army and the prostitute known as Manuka Jane.

Manuka gradually expanded and the biggest change was the cottages adjoining each shop being converted into more shops. Some blocks were consolidated and the commercial area expanded to surrounding blocks.

The tea rooms and cafes changed with the arrival of Greek families who encouraged eating out. After WW II delicatessens supplied a sophisticated array of foreign delicacies. The arrival of full-line supermarkets saw the demise of greengrocers and butchers. Increasing wealth saw haberdashery shops replaced by women's and men's clothes shops.

By the 1980s Manuka was pretty proud of itself, even claiming to be Canberra's Double Bay! Local satirists had a field day.

This garden city designed shopping centre has stood the test of time and remains a highly desirable destination. Originally it met the basic needs of daily life but now it is a place to catch up over a coffee and indulge in retail therapy.

Nick Swain

National Trust of Australia (ACT)

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From next year *Heritage in Trust* ISSN 2206-4958 will be published three times a year, in March, July and November as an electronic magazine (complementing the national magazine) specifically for ACT members. It is produced and edited by Maree Treadwell and Wendy Whitham assisted by Dianne Dowling and Mary Johnston.

The editors invite articles and letters from Trust members with an interest in the heritage of the ACT and these should be addressed to The Editor, Heritage in Trust, at <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u>.

#### **Deadlines for copy**

mid February(for March issue)mid June(for July issue)mid October(for November issue)

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