

# NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA Heritage in Trust (ACT)

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## Heritage Festivals—do we still need them?

Perhaps you attended a Pipes and Pews Tour back in 2001 or visited Albert Hall when it staged a collection of stalls during ACT Heritage Week in the 1980s. Thousands of events over 34 years, while eclectic, all point to the same purpose of raising awareness of the importance to conserve, protect and promote our special heritage places and objects. Initially this may have featured mainly European heritage, but today we also embrace and celebrate natural and Aboriginal heritage. Has the heritage festival had its day?

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### From the Editors

Welcome to this first edition of *Heritage in Trust* for 2017. As foreshadowed last year, we will now be publishing three, rather than four, editions each year, in line with the decision at the national level.

The main articles in this issue address the history of heritage festivals in the ACT, and the Australian National Museum of Education which is located at the University of Canberra. Mary Johnston has reviewed Christine Maher's book on Richard Brooks, an early settler in this region, while a number of contributors, notably newcomer Ann-Mari Jordens, have written up recent trips and other events. We also present an exciting array of the Trust's events for the forthcoming Heritage Festival.

We thank all the authors for their contributions.

As usual, if you have any comments or suggestions, please email them to us at <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u> or write to the Editors, c/- the National Trust Office.

## Heritage Festivals – do we still need them? cont from p1

I believe it is as important today as it ever was. The delivery and promotion of events may have changed with hashtags and blogs, but as we rush to everincreasing material change, the 'sense of place' that heritage provides helps us to know where we have come from and to define our identity. Heritage also gives the community a sense of connection and continuity in the story of progression through time, enabling our journey to continue into the future.

The annual National Trust Heritage Festival was initiated in Victoria in 1980 to raise widespread community understanding of the value of heritage and the contribution it makes to the present. It was taken up with gusto by the NSW Trust the following year. In 2016, National Trust Heritage Festival coordinators registered nearly 15,000 events nationwide. The heritage festival has fascinating roots. The 1970s saw a growing awareness of the need to protect and celebrate the national estate. In 1974 the Historic Buildings Act was passed in Victoria, the first of any legislation nationally providing statutory protection for heritage at risk. 1975 saw the inauguration of the Australian Heritage Commission and growing community engagement resulted in Sydney's legendary Green Bans.

It was time to capitalise on the growing public awareness of what could be lost, and the part communities and individuals could play in saving heritage of all kinds if they understood what was at stake, and took it to heart. The National Trust embraced the challenge and devised an annual state-wide heritage festival in Victoria. Identification, celebration and enjoyment were key elements in the strategy, and the National Trust led the charge with 'signature' events and special celebrations run by properties and branches. Success breeds success and in 2012 the heritage festival was taken up by National Trusts in other states and the Northern Territory to become a national celebration.

So where does the ACT fit into this bigger picture? The first ACT Heritage Week was held in 1982, organised by the government of the day. This has continued to the present day with an annual theme designed to inspire a variety of events. Throughout, the National Trust ACT has remained a key stakeholder supplying sometimes up to a dozen events. The Trust has been able to partner with numerous smaller groups, providing the necessary insurance to allow them to participate in the festival.



Peter Sutton, manager of the National Area ACT Parks and Conservation, leads a tour through Telopea Park in 1986. ACT Heritage Library 006812

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It has been a privilege to deliver the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival since 2009. After a move to November in 2006 and '07 the festival was returned to its rightful place in April. Over its 34 years, festival duration varied from three days to a month and it has always been wonderfully supported by a breadth of community groups and government agencies. Over the years I've enjoyed liaising with a range of event organisers from national institutions like Questacon and National Archives through to other agencies, galleries, 'Friends of' groups, small businesses like Benedict House and Endangered Heritage, and personalities like Tim the Yowie Man.



A small sample of the festival posters from each decade (1986, 1994, 2000, 2011)

Over the years it's been interesting to see events about one's own heritage increase, be it caring for a family heirloom, learning about the story of your house or family origins. Canberra with its collection of archives, maps and oral histories is a wonderful place to begin this search.

The attempt to attract new audiences has seen the development of activities such as cycling, art installations at heritage sites and themed food events.



Mountain biking in Namadgi National Park with Aboriginal ranger Dean Freeman providing commentary (2016).



In 2012 'What still remains' was an innovative project that brought artists' interpretations to heritage sites. Here Annie Trevellian produced printed textiles connecting the Gribbles' life and times with The Valley Ruin.



From the collection of feedback forms from 2009 through to 2016: Have you attended a Heritage Festival event before?

Closer links with the ACT Heritage Grants Program bring not only awareness of recently completed projects but keep the program dynamic and fresh. Often a special condition within the grant's terms and conditions requires the applicant to provide a festival event showcasing successfully completed works.

Gaining access to places normally closed to the public is rewarding to offer during the festival. Highlights over the years include Environa, Elm Grove, the former Forestry School, Robertsons' House and Duntroon Dairy.

Celebrating a large variety of anniversaries at each Heritage Festival provides an occasion for reflecting and recognising achievements from the obvious 2013 Canberra centenary to 50 years of the Shine Dome (2009) and Canberra Bushwalking Club, 150 years of Collector Pub (2010), a centenary for the first train arriving into Canberra and Yarralumla Nursery (2014). We look forward to Ainslie Primary School's 90<sup>th</sup> in 2017. The festival also provides a focus for launching capital works projects. Heritage signs have been unveiled. The Gudgenby-in-a-Box shelter behind the Namadgi Visitors Centre was well attended (2013). As with other events, the inclusion of descendants connected to these sites adds so much and provides the community with the continuity they so crave.



Former timber used for a slab hut at Gudgenby was incorporated into an interpretive shelter at Namadgi. The timber had been stored for decades in a shipping container, hence the name 'Gudgenby-ina-Box'.

The region is a vital part of our Heritage Festival, providing a plethora of activities. Each neighbouring shire is usually represented and a glance in their car parks confirms the keenness of Canberrans to get out and discover historic homes, gardens, industrial estates, entertainment, tours and food events.

The 2017 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival will take place from 18 April (International Day of Monuments and Sites) until 7 May. Our theme 'Questions and Change' was initiated to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1967 Aboriginal referendum. The Trust has again arranged an open day and will be delivering another exciting Urban Polaris. They will join a hundred plus other events supported by an army of dedicated and passionate volunteers eager to showcase our unique heritage.

The festival remains relevant and continues to be an important contributor to the event calendar. Look forward to seeing you there!

Linda Roberts, Festival Co-ordinator ACT Heritage, Environment & Planning Directorate ACT Government

## **From the President**

#### Dear Members

Well, it seems no time since we were enjoying a few pre-Xmas drinks in the wonderful surrounds of Old Tuggeranong Schoolhouse. Sincere thanks to Council member Elizabeth Burness who made the property available and took the time to show people around and tell a few stories. I was personally surprised at the extent of the grounds around the building which really did provide a beautiful setting in what is essentially suburban Canberra. On the subject of beautiful settings, our Open Day this year will be held on 22 April at the amazing Gungahlin Homestead located off Bellenden Road in Crace. The Homestead, built in the 1880s, is privately owned and not open to the general public, so this will provide a wonderful opportunity for people to explore the bluestone building and learn how wealthy landowners lived and worked within the local community before Canberra came into existence. Make sure you put it in your diary as it is highly unlikely that an opportunity such as this will come up again in the foreseeable future!

The first edition of the revamped national magazine was circulated to members recently, and the feedback from within the network and members of the public outside of the Trusts has been overwhelmingly positive. There have since been some negotiations done on postage costs which will see future editions being able to be sent to members at a much more affordable rate. The upgrade of the national magazine would not have been possible without the financial support of the Federal Government through the National Trusts Partnership Program and I thank them for their investment in this initiative. On a related note, the National Trusts of Australia will open its first "The Store" out of Old Government House in Parramatta in early March and at Como House, Melbourne shortly afterwards. These, together with several other initiatives, will lift the Trust's profile within the community and lead to other opportunities for commercial partnerships.

Scott McAlister President



## **People and Places**

### ACT National Trust 2017 Council

Scott McAlister	President /Treasurer
Bethany Lance	Vice President
Mary Johnston	Secretary and
	Chair Tours & Events committee
Elizabeth Burnes	s
Graham Carter	Chair Heritage & Grants committee
<b>Dianne Dowling</b>	
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

## 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

## Volunteer of the year 2016 Judy Brooks

At the AGM last year, President Scott McAlister announced that the Volunteer of the Year for 2016 had been awarded to Judy Brooks.

Since providing invaluable help during the Rally in 2013, Judy has been a regular volunteer in the Trust office, coming in to help at least once a week, sometimes more, to do whatever needs to be done, from sorting out newspaper clippings and paperwork to phoning overdue memberships, stocktaking, and cleaning out the fridge and kitchen cupboards (in the new premises).

In particular, Scott noted that Judy deserved recognition and thanks for her practical help and moral support during the office move. Judy continued to volunteer for the Trust throughout 2016 on a weekly basis and assisted Alan Kerr with the classifications files.

#### Honorary Life Membership Alan Kerr



At last year's AGM, the membership conferred Honorary Life Member status on Alan Kerr. Alan joined the Trust back in 1996 and subsequently joined the Council in March 2000, serving until 2008. Alan is still an active volunteer in the office and has, along with fellow volunteer Liz Kennedy, sorted, categorised and re-filed all the paperwork on the ACT classification sites and converted all the citations into an electronic format. Personally, I got to work alongside Alan on the National Trust Centenary Car Rally which, after some initial problems, turned into a brilliantly run and attended event. Congratulations and thanks, Alan, for many years of service to the Trust.

Scott McAlister

### Needed – a new Editor for Heritage in Trust

One of our two joint editors, Maree, won't be able to continue in her role past the end of this year. So, we are looking for someone to work with Wendy from 2018. With the overall guidance of two members of the Trust Council, Wendy plans the content of each issue, seeks the input and edits the received material, while Maree designs and lays-out the magazine, using Word. If you have design skills and can use Word, or have access to a desktop publishing program, and would like to join this team, you may be just the person we're looking for. If interested, please contact Liz at the office on 6230 0533 or email info@nationaltrustact.org.au.

#### Liz McMillan

### **Trusted recipe** Baked pears with chocolate sauce

(Keeping with a chocolate theme – Easter is coming, here is a delightful dessert for autumn)

Serves 4

#### 1 hour preparation and cooking

#### Ingredients

4 medium (1kg) ripe beurre bosc pears, peeled, halved lengthways

¼ cup (90g) golden syrup or honey
25g butter, chopped
50g dark chocolate, chopped
½ cup (125ml) cream
4 scoops vanilla ice-cream

#### Method

- Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan-forced). Line an oven proof dish large enough to fit pears in a single layer with baking paper
- 2. Remove cores from pears with a small spoon. Place pears cut side up in the dish. Drizzle with golden syrup or honey, then dot with butter
- 3. Bake pears for 45 minutes, turning and basting occasionally, until soft
- 4. Meanwhile, combine chocolate and cream in a small heavy-based saucepan. Stir over low heat until combined. Remove from heat.
- 5. Serve pears and ice-cream drizzled with some of the pear cooking liquid and chocolate sauce.



from Womens Weekly "Our naughty book of chocolate"

#### **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?

### **New members**

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

Paul Boschen Stephanie Runge and Matthew Coble **Richard Dixon** Peter Evans Mary Falvey **Margaret Firth Etel Fletcher Corille Fraser** Xavier Izzard Ann-Mari Jordens Irene Kaspar Deirdre and James Kiorgaard Belinda and Thomas Larner Judith and John Lawson Claire Leonard Susanne Mander Hella Mundav **Trevor and Jennifer Powell** Kim Psaila **Rebecca Scouller** Nancy Smith Fiona and David Spencer Marta Stachurski Sue Skermer Miklos Tifan Judith Tifan John and Jeannie Whittaker Jillian and William Worrell

#### 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.





## National Trust Open Day – **Gungahlin Homestead**

**Bellenden St, Crace** Saturday 22 April 10 am - 3 pm



Gungahlin Homestead is a former pastoral property dating from the 19th century. The Homestead was built in two major stages - a rendered brick Georgian house built in 1862-65 and the grand sandstone Victorian addition of 1883 by Edward Crace.

Soldier On, the current tenant of Gungahlin Homestead, is our partner for this Open Day. Soldier On supports those who have served by focusing on their physical and mental health, their community and their future.

- Tours of the Homestead
- Entertainment Warehouse Circus, Sing . Australia, Jumptown Jammers, Monaro Society Folk Dancers, Boots and All choir
- Stalls, including crafts such as woodcraft and lace ٠ making
- Classic cars
- Refreshments

Gold coin donations for entry will go to Soldier On.

Please note that dogs or other animals will not be allowed as this is a wildlife research station.



The Open Day is supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program. The Australian Heritage Festival is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Trusts Partnership Program



## Lake Burley Griffin Heritage Walk 1: **Central Basin**

### Sunday 23 April 9.30am-12noon

The first of four walks which will visit a variety of heritage places on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, interpret their various heritage values and explain the current and potential threats to this unique national icon.

This is a 5 km walk around the Lake's central basin to explore the fascinating history of Canberra's central area, the Griffin Plan and the heritage status and values of the landscape and buildings. Meet at lookout on Mt Ainslie for introductory overview then drive to National Library of Australia car park to start walk.

Gold coin donation. You should be capable of walking at least 3 km in an hour to enjoy these walks and keep up with the group. Bookings are not required. Please try to arrive about 10 minutes before the walks commence.



## **Oaks Estate Walk**

Sunday 23 April 1.30-3.30pm

A walk led by Dr Karen Williams, continuing her story of the junction of the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers at Oaks Estate; exploring a convergence of landscape histories; overlaying Aboriginal landscape with pastoralists, surveyors, the railway tracks and river crossing, and of natural environment.

Note: The walk includes a shallow creek crossing and moderately difficult stairs. Wear closed shoes.

#### \$10 per person

Book with the National Trust (ACT): 02 6230 0533 or info@nationaltrustact.org.au



## Urban Polaris

#### Saturday 29 April 6.00am-3.00pm

The Urban Polaris is a seven hour navigating and biking event where teams of two must find their way around a series of control points spread throughout Canberra. Each control point is given a point value that the competitors accumulate throughout the day. For more information, go to <u>www.urbanpolaris.com.au</u>.

### Lake Burley Griffin Heritage Walk 2: Acton and West Basin Saturday 29 April 9.30am- noon



Where modern Canberra began - a 4 km circular walk to explore the history and heritage features of the site of Canberra's first European settlement and the first administrative centre for the Federal Capital. Learn more about the City to the Lake project, proposals to reclaim part of West Basin and plans for private residential and commercial development on the lake foreshore at Acton Park. Meet at Constables Cottage Car Park, Lennox Crossing, Acton (opposite entrance to Old Canberra House). Gold coin donation. You should be capable of walking at least 3 km in an hour to enjoy these walks and keep up with the group. Bookings are not required. Please try to arrive about 10 minutes before the walks commence.

## Lake Burley Griffin Heritage Walk 3: Scrivener Dam to Yarralumla Nursery Sunday 30 April 9.30am-12noon



A scenic 4 km one way walk at the western end of the Lake. Explore the fascinating history and heritage values of Scrivener Dam, Government House, the original 1820s Yarralumla estate, Warrina Inlet Wetlands, Westbourne Woods, Yarralumla Nursery and Weston Park. Meet at car park for Yarralumla dog park, cnr Brown St and Banks St, Yarralumla. Car pool to start of walk at Scrivener Dam.

Gold coin donation. You should be capable of walking at least 3 km in an hour to enjoy these walks and keep up with the group. Bookings are not required. Please try to arrive about 10 minutes before the walks commence.

## Living and Working in Canberra in the 19th Century: Two Heritage Sites in Belconnen Sunday 30 April 2.30 - 4.30 pm

Join a guided ramble to discover what we know about life on two early settlements on the Limestone Plains the Charnwood Homestead site in Fraser and Palmerville in McKellar. Joint event of the Australian Garden History Society and the National Trust (ACT).

\$10 per person, including refreshments. Please wear closed shoes.

Book with the National Trust (ACT): 02 6230 0533 or info@nationaltrustact.org.au (Details of meeting place etc will be provided after booking.)



## Lake Burley Griffin Heritage Walk 4: Yarramundi Shores, a forgotten corner of the Lake

#### Sunday 7 May 9.30 – 11.30am

Off the beaten track. Venture where few Canberrans have trodden to explore the heritage values of Yarramundi Inlet Wetlands and Grassland, Green Hills, arboreta, cork oaks. Discover more about possible futures for the Lake's shores in this special area. A 4 km circular walk, some bush tracks and long grass, wear waterproof shoes if wet. Meet at the car park on the lake side of Lady Denman Drive opposite main entrance to National Arboretum.

Gold coin donation. You should be capable of walking at least 3 km in an hour to enjoy these walks and keep up with the group. Bookings are not required. Please try to arrive about 10 minutes before the walks commence.

### **Reid Revelation: Heritage Tour and Delicious Afternoon Tea** Sunday 7 May 2017 2.00 pm - 3.45 pm

Canberra's first urban church, the Reid Uniting Church, opened 90 years ago this year as the South Ainslie Methodist Church. It is now the home of the Korean Uniting Church congregation in Canberra. Talks and a tour of the Church will be followed by refreshments including Korean food.



A joint event of the Reid Uniting Church Restoration Works Committee, Canberra Korean Uniting Church, Reid, Heritage Conservation Appeal Committee, and the National Trust (ACT).

\$20 per person/children \$10, including refreshments.

Book with the National Trust (ACT): 02 6230 0533 or info@nationaltrustact.org.au

Current restoration works at the church supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program.

## Jerrabomberra Wetlands World War 1 Trench Tours

Various dates: 21 April 10am-noon; 22 April 1pm-3pm; 30 April 10am-noon and 4 May 1pm-3pm

At the eastern end of the lake the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust is offering a tour of the Duntroon World War I training trenches, Canberra's most recent heritage attraction, led by history writer Mark Butz. Meet at Jerrabomberra Wetlands Offices (2 Dairy Rd). More details on www.woodlandsandwetlands.org.au



## Travels and at Home with the Trust

### Quarries and homesteads bus tour Places still available

#### Saturday 25 March, 7.30am to 6.00pm

Come and join us on an historic exploration of the area around Marulan, where we will visit two quarries and two homesteads.

It was not just pastoral enterprise that brought European settlers and wealth to the region. There are a number of mines on both sides of the Hume Highway around Marulan that were important to the district's development. We will visit two quarries as well as the property of 'Longreach' at Braydon which has the oldest Argyle mine site where marble was first extracted in the 1810s.

'Lockersleigh' is another delightful historic property we will visit that some may remember from our February 2013 Towrang tour.

John Jervis and Linda Roberts will accompany this bus trip.

Pick up points are behind the shops in Deakin at 7.30am or on Northbourne Ave, Lyneham at 7.45am – please specify preference and any dietary restrictions when booking.

**Cost**: members \$85; non-members \$95. Includes bus, entry to properties, morning tea, afternoon refreshments and lunch.

Bookings required. <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u> or 6230 0533



#### Lightning Ridge Big Sky Country A few places still available 20-25 May

6 Day Coach Tour - Orange, Molong, Dubbo, Lightning Ridge, Stanley The Big Bird, Opal Cave, Chambers of the Black Hand, John Murray Gallery, Garvin, Warrumbungles NP, Coonabarabran, Mudgee.

Lightning Ridge, located in outback NSW on the world's richest deposit of black opal, is a place that abounds with colourful characters, barrels of dreams, opportunities and experiences!

The 'Ridge' as it is known to the locals, will welcome you with classic country hospitality but it will certainly not be more of the same. They are a unique bunch out there and pride themselves on a wonderful eccentricity. It is something about the pioneering spirit that allowed this area to develop and many visitors become so enamoured with the place that a short holiday can turn into a lifetime for the many who are so captivated by the place that they stay.

Famous for the elusive and distinctive Black Opal unique to the area, it is also famous as a thriving frontier town full of the iconic Australian characters that remind the visitor that the Australian spirit is not a thing of folklore but the exact qualities that makes the 'Ridge' so unique. We will experience sculptures underground, a cactus farm, a castle, astronomy monuments and visit hills with names such as 'Lunatic', 'Pig' and Bald'.

And how do you find all these things? It's easy, just look for the coloured Car Doors! While this may not make immediate sense, it will when we get out there and experience Lightning Ridge.

**Cost:** members \$1075 per person twin share (\$1360 sole occupancy); non-members \$1150 per person twin share (\$1435 sole occupancy). Price inclusions, details and itinerary on request.

Bookings required. <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u> or 6230 0533



### **Speaker's Night**

#### Thursday 1 June 5.30pm for 6pm at the National Archives

\$10 members, \$15 non-members

Bookings required. <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u> or 6230 0533

Jennifer Gall will talk about her new book, *Looking for Rose Paterson: How Family Bush Life Nurtured Banjo the poet.* 



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You can help us to conserve and safeguard places of heritage significance for future generations by making a tax deductible donation.

CONTR	RIBUTIO	N FORM				
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## Private Gardens of the Monaro

#### Tuesday 24 October

The spectacular Monaro High Country is home to some of Australia's most stunning private gardens, situated on historic merino sheep and cattle stations, and we will visit three of these. This will be a self-drive tour. More details, including prices and booking arrangements will be available in April.



	Please return to National Trust of Australia (ACT) Office.
	PO Box 1144 Civic Square 2608 ACT
	Fax 02 6230 0544
	For the amount: 2 \$25 2 \$50 2 \$100 2 Other
a	Become a major donor on our Patron Program (your name will be listed on our website):
	Patron S1,000 Major Patron S2,500
	Principal Patron 35.000 Burley Griffin Patron 310.000
	A receipt will be sent for donations over \$2.
	Please select one of the following payment options:
	I enclose a cheque made out to the National Trust of Australia (ACT) for the amount indicated above. Or
2	Please charge the above amount to the following credit card:     Visa      Mastercard      American Express
	Cardholder's name:
	Card no:
	Expiry date:
	Please send me information about:
	The National Trust of Australia (ACT) Benefactor Program
	Making a bequest to the National Trust, as I have included/
	would like to include the National Trust of Australia in my will

The National Trust of Australia (ACT) is collecting the information on this form to process your contribution and your preference for further information about the National Trust fundraising, and where relevant, to update your membership details. This information will not be given to a third party other than in accordance with the Privacy Act 1958.

## **Heritage Diary March to October 2017**

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

Details of National Trust (ACT) events, including Heritage Festival events, are provided on page 8 - 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	<i>History with a Difference</i> . 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/calthorpes -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 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 Historic Places	http://www.historicplaces.com.au/mugga- mugga-cottage
Tuesday 21 March 7pm	<b>General Meeting:</b> <i>Public Housing in the ACT</i> Harmonie German Club, 49 Jerrabomberra Ave, Narrabundah	ISCCC	http://www.isccc.org.au/
Thursday 23 March 12.30pm – 1.30pm	IGPA Lecture. <i>Infrastructure Priorities of the</i> <i>ACT</i> . Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, 189 London Circuit, Canberra City	IGPA	Free. To confirm book through Eventbrite www.governmentinstitute.edu.au
Friday 24 March to Sunday 16 July	Indigenous Australians at War from the Boer War to the Present. Exhibition at National Archives	National Archives	www.naa.gov.au
Friday 24 March	Senior Citizens Open House at Lanyon	ACT Historic Places	See <u>www.historicplaces.com.au</u> for more details.
Saturday 25 March	Senior Citizens Open House at Calthorpes' House	ACT Historic Places	See <u>www.historicplaces.com.au</u> for more details.
Saturday 25 March 7.30am-6.00pm	Quarries and homesteads bus tour	National Trust	Bookings required. <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u> or 6230 0533
Sunday 26 March	Senior Citizens Open House at Mugga-Mugga	ACT Historic Places	See <u>www.historicplaces.com.au</u> for more details.
15-17 April, 25 April and 27-28 May	<b>Special viewings – Federation Gallery.</b> National Archives	National Archives	www.naa.gov.au
Tuesday 18 April to Sunday 7 May	Canberra and Region Heritage Festival		For the full program, go to www.act.gov.au/heritagefestival
Wednesday 19 April 6.00pm	<b>CAS/CAR lecture</b> – Wally Bell, <i>Topic to be advised</i> . National Museum of Australia <sup>1</sup>	CAS	www.cas.asn.au/ Please RSVP.

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Date and time	Event and location	Organiser	Contact
Saturday 22 April 10.00am-3.00pm	National Trust Open Day at Gungahlin Homestead. A Heritage Festival Event	National Trust	Gold coin donation.
Sunday 23 April 9.30am	Lake Burley Griffin Walk - the Central Basin. A Heritage Festival event	National Trust	Gold coin donation.
Sunday 23 April 1.30-3.30pm	Oaks Estate. A walk led by Dr Karen Williams. A Heritage Festival event	National Trust	Bookings required. <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u> or 6230 0533
Saturday 29 April 6.00am-3.00pm	National Trust Urban Polaris – a Heritage Festival event	National Trust	See <u>www.urbanpolaris.com.au</u> for more details.
Saturday 29 April 9.30am	Lake Burley Griffin Walk – Acton and West Basin. A Heritage Festival event	National Trust	Gold coin donation
Sunday 30 April 9.30am	Lake Burley Griffin Walk – Scrivener Dam to Yarralumla Nursery. A Heritage Festival event	National Trust	Gold coin donation
Sunday 30 April 2.30-4.30pm	Living and Working in Canberra in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century: Two heritage sites in Belconnen. A Heritage Festival event	National Trust and AGHS	Bookings required. <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u> or 6230 0533 \$10 per person.
Sunday 7 May 9.30am	Lake Burley Griffin Walk – Yarramundi Shores. A Heritage Festival event	National Trust	Gold coin donation
Sunday 7 May 2.00-3.45pm	<b>Reid Revelation: Reid Uniting Church tour and afternoon tea. A Heritage Festival event</b>	National Trust	Bookings required. <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u> or 6230 0533 Adults \$20, children \$10.
Sunday14 May	<b>Open House at Lanyon, Calthorpes' House and</b> <b>Mugga-Mugga,</b> for Mother's Day	ACT Historic Places	See <u>www.historicplaces.com.au</u> for more details.
Saturday 20- Thursday 25 May	Lightning Ridge Big Sky Country 6-day bus tour	National Trust	Bookings required. <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u> or 6230 0533
Sunday 21 May 1.30-3.30pm	Sylvia Curley Oration. Prof Saul Cunningham, at Mugga-Mugga	ACT Historic Places	Free but bookings essential. RSVP by Thursday 18 May. See <u>www.historicplaces.com.au</u> for more details.
Saturday 27 May to Saturday 3 June	<b>National Reconciliation Week at the Archives.</b> National Archives	National Archives	www.naa.gov.au
Thursday 1 June 5.30 for 6.00pm	<b>Speaker's Night.</b> Jennifer Gall will talk about her new book, <i>Looking for Rose Paterson: How family</i> <i>bush life nurtured Banjo the Poet</i> . National Archives	National Trust	info@nationaltrustact.org.au or 6230 0533
July – date to be advised	ACT Heritage Symposium	CAS and National Trust	
Saturday 26 August 10.00am-2.30pm	Australian National Museum of Education – Open Day. Building 5, University of Canberra	University of Canberra	www.anme.org.au
Wednesday 20 September 6.00pm	<b>CAS/CAR lecture</b> – Elizabeth Burness, <i>Tuggeranong Schoolhouse Museum</i> . National Museum of Australia	CAS	www.cas.asn.au/ Please RSVP.
Wednesday 18 October 6.00pm	<b>CAS/CAR lecture</b> – Dr Oliver MacGregor, <i>Failures, disasters, fractures and lithic technology.</i> National Museum of Australia	CAS	www.cas.asn.au/ Please RSVP
Tuesday 24 October Day outing	<b>Private Gardens of the Monaro.</b> A self-drive trip to visit three stunning private gardens	National Trust	More details, including cost and booking arrangements, to be provided in April. <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u> or 6230 0533

<sup>1.</sup> The CAS Committee has decided this year to replace the winter monthly lectures with some day excursions. The dates of these excursions are still being planned and will be added to the CAS website as they are decided.

Note: AGHS is the Australian Garden History Society. CAS is the Canberra Archaeological Society. CAR is the Centre for Archaeological Research. CDHS is the Canberra and District Historical Society. IGPA is the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis. ISCCC is Inner South Canberra Community Council. 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 Report**

### **The Deserted Castle**

Young and landra Bus Tour 30 October 2016



Iandra Castle from the rose gardenPhoto: Linda Roberts

On the second last day of October 2016, as I wandered through those of the 57 rooms of landra 'Castle' that had been restored, I was moved by the foresight and engineering imagination of its owner, Irish-born George Henry Green, who in 1908 constructed this home on his property of 32,000 acres between Cowra and Young that was extraordinarily modern in its design and conveniences. George built this two-storied Romanesque mansion with its three towers of steelreinforced concrete, around the shell of his more modest earlier home. He intended it to be both a monument to his lifetime achievements as a wheat grower and grazier, and a lasting, comfortable home for his family for generations to come.

Lit by gas-generated electricity, its many bathrooms had hot and cold running water, showers, baths and flushing toilets serviced by a septic tank whose treated water was recycled for agricultural use. Water collected from a large dam on his property was filtered then pumped by a windmill to a large rooftop tank on the mansion, and to its stables and nearby cottages. A 20line telephone switchboard enabled family members to contact their household staff of 27 from the family and guest bedrooms, stables and cottages. The stables had steel roller doors, manufactured in Sydney in 1907.

I was thrilled by the beauty of its interior design, much of it attributable to George's wife Ellen (neé Crawford). The generous windows of its main rooms capture sweeping views over the property that are also framed by the massive arches of the verandas on both levels. I was particularly delighted by the art nouveau stainedglass windows in the main rooms and Ellen's sewing room at the base of a rounded tower. Its semi-circular windows would have flooded it with sunlight as she taught needlework to the daughters of neighbouring farmers. Even the housekeeper's bedroom had a generous window overlooking the garden. The carefully landscaped gardens in front and behind the house were filled with many-coloured roses in full spring bloom and hedges of lavender alive with butterflies.

landra also saddened me. George enjoyed its beauty for only three years, dying in 1911. His son and heir, William, was not interested in farming and he, his mother and three sisters left for England in 1914. Ellen died there in 1921 and her body was returned to join her husband in the graveyard of the little gothic church he had built on the death their son George in 1886. No other family has lived there since. In the 1950s it was sold to the Methodist Church as a home for delinquent boys, and its owners in the 1970s restored and furnished in Edwardian style many of the rooms that are now on display, but never lived there.

On our journey home we were treated to a tour of Young, the site of the Lambing Flats anti-Chinese riots of 1860-61, walking in light rain around the beautiful Chinese garden on the outskirts of the town with its spring flowers and lake with its Chinese sculptures. I was delighted to visit a part of NSW I had never seen before and to contribute my little bit to the maintenance and refurbishment of a precious heritage building, now entirely reliant on income generated by tourism.

#### **Ann-Mari Jordens**

### March 2017



The Chinese Garden at Lambing Flats

ats Photo: Linda Roberts

### **11<sup>th</sup> Reid Open Houses and Gardens 13 November 2016**

John Tucker reports below on the very successful 11<sup>th</sup> Reid Open Houses and Gardens. Separately, we are fortunate to be able to include Ken Charlton's Welcome document, prepared for participants on the day.

Once again, the ACT National Trust joined with the Reid Residents' Association to put on the popular Reid Open Houses and Gardens on Sunday 13 November 2016. Each year, for the past eleven years, the event has been held through the cooperation of householders in Reid who have been prepared to open their home and garden to Trust and U3A members and their friends. The aim of the event is to provide an opportunity for Canberrans to see mainly heritage-listed houses and gardens in Reid which have been adapted sympathetically to life in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century – some 80-90 years after the houses were built and gardens tentatively laid out. Each year three different properties are offered for inspection that have not been previously opened for the Trust.

The Reid Housing Precinct is the largest heritage-listed group of residential houses in Canberra entered in the ACT Heritage Register. It comprises around 230 detached dwellings, nearly all of which were built by the government in the 10-year period between 1926 and 1936 and which were heavily influenced by the English Garden City movement (see accompanying article by Kenneth Charlton AM). The houses exhibit an attractive unity in design and are carefully located on generally large blocks in wide, treed streetscapes. Over the years, most have been renovated or extended to cope with larger families, 2-3 cars parked on-site, the increasing cost of water and energy, and to provide for less maintenance-intensive gardens. This process of adaptation can be achieved without degrading or destroying the intrinsic features that led to the heritage-listing of the Reid Housing Precinct in the mid 1980s. The event provides an opportunity to meet with the owners, view their homes and gardens to see the changes made (or not made), and to be able to learn about the challenges of living in a heritage-listed property.

Just over 60 people joined the Trust's event last November, with another 13 on the waiting list. The three houses opened were a Federal Capital Commission (FCC) Type "4" (1928), a Department of Interior Type "P" (1936) and the privately-built rectory for the Anglican St John the Baptist church (1926). All of the houses had been renovated and extended with a great deal of care to avoid compromising the heritage qualities of the property.



Homeowner Sue Byrne outside her FCC Type 4 home with National Trust ACT Council member John Tucker. Photo: Jay Cronan

The Euree Street home of Sue Byrne and her late husband, Tony Byrne, attracted a good deal of interest. It was formerly the home of lawyer and senior public servant Ewart Smith, who lived there with his young family for several years in the early 1950s. In 1987, during his retirement, Mr Smith played a significant role in the defeat of the controversial Australia Card after identifying a technicality in the legislation that helped the Coalition-dominated Senate force the shelving of the Labor government proposal under Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

The event raised \$325 for the Reid Preschool, \$315 for the Reid Residents' Association, and over \$1,000 for the National Trust (ACT). The Trust would like to record its appreciation to the home-owners for their willingness to open their property for this event.

#### John Tucker

# WELCOME TO REID, our marvellous garden suburb.

Australia has no better suburban environment inspired by the Garden City movement. This has been achieved by the way the suburb was designed in the early twentieth century, planned with quality houses, generous space for private gardens, and parks for community recreation.

The conditions here were ideal for such an outcome, with virtually no constraints of space or land value when our national capital was planned by Griffin on its spectacular site. Although Griffin envisioned American-style residential areas, the planner who took over from him in 1921 and chaired the Federal Capital Advisory Committee looked to England for

inspiration. He was John Sulman, the leading planning educator in Australia at the time, who was familiar with the English Garden City movement, advocated in 1898 by Ebenezer Howard for ideal new communities planned to relieve congested conditions in English cities. From Howard's ideas came Letchworth Garden City in 1903 and Hampstead Garden Suburb in London in 1912.

Sulman realised Hampstead's ample provision of communal parks and avenues of trees along suburban roads could be studied to advantage, but its tight rows of two-storey houses would be unacceptable in Australia. Here the ideal was a detached single-storey house with a large back yard, so it is this type of housing which sets Reid apart from its English models.

Reid is the centrepiece of a set of precincts developed for the first permanent housing for Canberra in the 1920s. Taken as a whole, these precincts represent a remarkably cohesive ensemble of garden suburb settings. The first, Neighbourhood No 1 of 1921, each side of Doonkuna Street in Braddon, is much as Griffin intended in his 1916 plan. But the common space he planned behind the houses was rearranged by Sulman to be more visible and accessible in front of the houses, in the manner of garden cities. Such an arrangement is seen to greater effect in Dirrawan and Geerilong Gardens in Reid. Their origins are in the English village



Geerilong Gardens https://weekendwalks.wordpress.com/2010/12/09/sunday-5december-2010-railway-embankment-reid

greens with carriageways, as are the central walkways leading to them, which provide a variety of experiences.

The flat land allowed formal rectangular planning within Griffin's broad layout in Reid, whereas the slopes of Red Hill produced streets with informal curves along the contours. There, senior public servants were provided with large blocks and distinctive houses, after a 1923 competition for their design. Those houses were required to cost a minimum of £1500. Reid was for middle-range public servants, where the requirement was for houses of at least £1000. The cost of weatherboard houses around Corroboree Park in Ainslie, "for officers having small salaries and a family", could be as little as £700. This reflection of social planning in Canberra is another facet of Reid's heritage value.



FCC type 7 house, Block 10 within Reid Housing Precinct, 1927-28

### March 2017

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



Reid House within Reid Housing Precinct. Photo: ACT National Trust

In 1925 the Federal Capital Commission was established with broad powers to build Canberra in earnest. The Chairman, John Butters, announced in 1926 "Canberra is going to be the finest garden city in the world". Its architects under Rolland designed houses influenced by related styles of the period – Georgian Revival, Mediterranean and Spanish Mission, but these are original designs, rather than pure examples of those styles.

Building continued in the 1930s under the Department of the Interior, and its architects Henderson and Whitley designed houses to complement those by the FCC, but with more Art Deco forms and details. We will be visiting an FCC house and a Department of the Interior house today

Backyards were planned to be private, and garages were sited there so as not to detract from the street picture. Front gardens were intended to be semi-public to add to the aesthetic effect, blending into the nature strips, separated only by low hedges. Carefully chosen trees were allowed to grow free of power lines, which were consigned to the rear of properties. Sulman wanted formal plantings of single species of trees along nature strips. Charles Weston selected the species, with eucalypts along the perimeter roads, conifers on major through roads and deciduous trees, to provide greater intimacy and enclosure, on subsidiary streets. Another important aspect of the Garden City movement seen in Reid is the provision for community facilities and recreation, first the Methodist church in 1928, then the tennis club in 1929. During the 1940s came Reid Progress Association and the pre-school.



Reid Heritage Suburb sign

**Photo: ACT National Trust** 

Taken as a whole, Reid and the other early precincts set the standard for later residential landscapes throughout Canberra. It took many years for hedges and trees to reach maturity, but by the time heritage legislation was enacted in the late 1970s, Reid, with well cared-for houses and gardens, was ready for recognition and protection. With the support of residents, Reid was one of the first entire urban precincts placed on the Register of the National Estate by the Australian Heritage Commission and Classified by the National Trust. The heritage values of Reid are now much appreciated by the broad community, and the precinct is protected under ACT heritage legislation.

The third house we are privileged to be visiting today is the Rectory of St John the Baptist, built in 1926 to a design by the Queanbeyan architect Wal Sproule. He had designed Queanbeyan's Municipal Council Chambers in 1923 and was, in early 1925, the first architect of non-government buildings in the Federal Capital, such as the JB Young store in Kingston. Several of his houses can be seen in the Wakefield Gardens precinct in Ainslie. David Limburg, as an honorary architect, supervised the rectory's construction and amended the design slightly. At the time he was on St John's Parochial Council and was working for the Federal Capital Commission, drawing up the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings and designing the Albert Hall.

I hope you enjoy your afternoon in Reid.

#### **Ken Charlton**

November 2016

### March 2017

#### Mount Stromlo Observatory Reborn Mt Stromlo Heritage Walk

Saturday 26 November 2016



Participants viewing three new telescopes Photo: Mary Johnston

I am ashamed to say that my visit to the remains of the Mount Stromlo Observatory on 26 November 2016 was my first in the 46 years I have lived in Canberra. That afternoon I felt deeply the truth of the saying 'you never know what you've got till it's gone'. The fireravaged steel telescope domes and the now restored exterior of the grand home built in 1928 for the family of its first Director, Walter Geoffrey Duffield, are powerful and lasting memorials to that dreadful afternoon of 18 January 2003, when the life's work of generations of astronomers and their supporting technicians was destroyed, four Canberrans were killed and over 500 Canberra families lost their homes.

The site, however, is not just a place for sad memories. Thanks to the knowledge and enthusiasm of our guide, the ANU's Heritage Adviser Amy Jarvis, our group was able to understand its new role in facilitating Australia's participation in astronomical research in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and in training our future scientists and engineers. This rebirth began in 2005 when three small telescopes (pictured above) were installed in newly built domes to encourage public interest in astronomy and provide facilities for local amateur astronomers. The construction of the Advanced Instrumentation Technology Centre in 2006 revived the long tradition of design and manufacturing of astronomical instruments that began there in the 1920s. In 2010 Mount Stromlo astronomers and engineers joined an international partnership to build the Giant Magellan telescope in Chile. Mount Stromlo is again supporting world-class Australian research and the development of the next generation of instrumentation for astronomy and space science.

The destruction of the gloomy pine forest that previously shut in the Observatory has revealed the spectacular landscape below - a view that delighted me as I sipped my coffee in the café at the end of my tour.

#### Ann-Mari Jordens

### Back to School: Trust Christmas Party Sunday 4 December 2016

Councillor Elizabeth Burness is the best possible tenant the ACT Government could have for Tuggeranong Schoolhouse. Why? Because she is so passionate about its history and has her wonderful, eclectic collection on display throughout the schoolmaster's house and schoolroom. History is brought to life by Elizabeth and many delighted in touring the premises viewing the punishment book and other items on 4 December at our annual Christmas Party.

The current building was constructed in 1880, although two temporary facilities operated from 1870. Most members attending had never been here before.

The hot day was made more bearable with the cloud rolling in and plenty of punch, wine and food. Thank you to those assisting with set-up and refreshments, and to the musicians—adding to the ambience of the afternoon. The Trust acknowledges the musos donating their time. Special thanks to Elizabeth for the work in preparing for the event and engaging with our members.

Next time I'll be ready for the audience of mannequins and dolls in the bathroom!

Linda Roberts



Elizabeth Burness sharing her passion for heritage with President Scott McAlister. Note the unique aerial of 3 bicycle wheels—a quirky part of the Schoolhouse's heritage Photo: Linda Roberts

### March 2017



A new meaning to Garage Band

**Photo: Linda Roberts** 



Enjoying the surrounds at Chisholm's hidden gem: Tuggeranong Schoolhouse Photo: Linda Roberts

# Political Life at the Hotel Kurrajong from 1927

#### High Tea at the Hotel Kurrajong Saturday 4 February

As I sipped my cold champagne in the ballroom of the Hotel Kurrajong on the afternoon of 4 February, historian Dr Peter Dowling transported me to the earliest days of Canberra's political life.

I was astonished to learn that from 1927, not only did the politicians from all over Australia work closely together in Canberra's new Parliament House, they also lived together in one of two Commonwealth hostels. When Parliament was in session, most Conservatives resided in the Acton hostel (no. 1, now the Hyatt Hotel). Labor politicians generally preferred the cheaper hostel in Barton (no. 2, now the Hotel Kurrajong), and breakfasted together each morning in the room in which I was sitting, discussing the day's scheduled legislation. This hostel was also a venue for important social events for Canberra's small, but rapidly growing, population. The 400 members of the Canberra Tennis Club could not wait for this hostel's official opening in early 1927. Their Christmas ball in December 1926 became its first social event.



Attending the high tea – the three Mrs Roberts Photo: Sandra Bowe

In Ben Chifley's modest bedroom upstairs, Peter explained that Chifley chose to live there from his election in 1940 until his death in June 1951. As Prime Minister Curtin's right-hand man during the difficult war years, he was elected to succeed him eight days from Curtin's sudden death in June 1945. Even during the three years he was Prime Minster, this son of a blacksmith and former train driver chose hostel living over residence at the Lodge, regarding its running as an unacceptable financial burden on the taxpayer, then enduring the stringent economic restrictions of the immediate post-war years. Every morning he would bring his toothbrush and shaving gear to the communal bathroom before walking to Parliament House. This hard-working politician suffered his fatal heart attack in this bedroom at the age of 66.

Architect Eric Martin then treated us to a tour of the building, helping us see how sensitively the original building had been restored to conform to both contemporary building regulations and the expectations of modern guests. Ben Chifley's bedroom now has its own ensuite. Photographs of some of the hostel's most important resident politicians adorn the corridors. A photo of the hostel itself, taken shortly after it was completed, standing alone in a dry, barren plain, I found particularly poignant.

Returning to the ballroom we were treated to high tea cucumber sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, and other less traditional delicacies - while being entertained by Mabel from Melbourne (aka the ebullient Elizabeth Burness). Newly arrived in 1927 as a typist grade 1 in the Prime Minster's Department, Mabel intended to catch a husband in Canberra. She probably never visited this hostel as she lived in the 'hen coop' - the much more down-market women's hostel, Gorman House. Clad in a fetching cloche, fox fur, long ropes of pearls and a feather boa, Mabel's alter ego, Elizabeth, drew from her large leatherette suitcase an array of garments of the period poor Mabel would never have been able to afford - delicate eau de nil bloomers and ecru lace scanties, silk stockings and exquisite evening gowns. One rather drab brown day dress, however, she might have worn, as women working in Parliament House were required to wear only subdued colours. What could have been Mabel's Underwood typewriter was also on display.



Mabel's typewriter?

**Photo: Linda Roberts** 



Essential underwear for the elegant flapper Photo: Linda Roberts

Sadly, typists like Mabel could never advance much in the public service as only male typists could apply for the better-paid level three positions. Her marriage prospects, Elizabeth concluded, were also dim because of the government's policy of transferring mostly family groups from Melbourne to Canberra.

**Ann-Mari Jordens** 

#### The Bunker Girls Speaker's Night with Dr Peter Dowling Wednesday 8 February

We are all familiar with the challenges that we personally, as well as businesses and governments, currently face in protecting our cyber security. As Peter Dowling explained in his talk at the National Archives on 8 February, this was probably a greater challenge when Australia communicated with the rest of the world through cablegrams. In 1926, two office blocks were constructed adjacent to Parliament House to accommodate its support staff – East Block, now the home of the National Archives, and West Block, that housed the staff of several major government departments, including that of the Prime Minister. One small and unobtrusive section of the Prime Minister's secretariat, largely staffed by young women, was responsible for the encryption and decryption of his, and all External Affairs Department, cablegrams using the cumbersome, but very secure, 'Typex ' machines, similar to Germany's 'Enigma' machines.\*

By 1942, with the fall of Singapore and the perceived threat of Japanese invasion exacerbated by the bombing of Darwin, the numbers and workload of these women increased and West Block was no longer adequate to accommodate them. In 1943, Prime Minster Curtin himself, appalled by the conditions under which these now 100 young women were working, ordered the construction of an unobtrusive, red-brick building at the rear of West Block, known as 'The Bunker'. There they worked in shifts 24 hours a day seven days a week, lived in the women's hostel, Gorman House, and were generally referred to (even by the Prime Minster) as 'girls'. They were all security cleared and made to swear an oath not to talk about their work to anyone. Peter presented a vivid personal insight into life in the Bunker from the memoirs of Nancy Metcalfe, who worked there from 1941-43.

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The children of two 'Bunker girls' were in the audience. One, Nancy's son John, had been told by his mother of her work, but the daughter of another only realised what her mother had done that night when Peter showed a photo of six attractive 'Bunker girls' sitting on the lawn outside the West Block in 1942. She had taken her secret to the grave. The building, so central to Australia's security during the Second World War, is now an unobtrusive but heritage-listed, bike shed.

#### Ann-Mari Jordens

\*For details of the operation of these machines, see Peter Dowling, "The West Block 'Bunker' and the Cable Girls", Heritage in Trust, August 2014, pp1-5.

## Heritage Happenings

#### **Heritage Committee Activities**

The role of the Trust's Heritage Committee is broad, and its activities are diverse including:

- providing expert advice and priorities on heritage matters to the Council;
- developing and implementing income streams, financial and human resources required;
- identifying current natural, Indigenous and historic heritage matters in the ACT and NT ACT's planned actions;
- promoting best practice conservation eg community heritage education including public speaking events, heritage awards, annual symposium;
- liaison with the Heritage Experts Panel for advice on identified priority heritage matters including submissions;
- developing a process for prioritising and responding to heritage planning and other issues that affect ACT heritage as and when they arise;
- identifying a staged schools outreach program, initially seeking contribution to schools anniversaries;
- maintaining the heritage information provided on the Trust website;
- identifying and developing grant applications for heritage research and monitoring project management of grants, aiming to increase grant income;
- incorporating the implementation of the National Trusts Partnership Program (NTPP) grant's heritage national initiative projects into the heritage program of the NT ACT;

- planning and ensuring expert heritage articles are prepared for Trust magazines, website and local media; and
- supporting constructive and regular liaison on heritage matters with the ACT Heritage Council, ACT and Commonwealth governments, National Capital Authority (NCA) and the Australian Council of National Trusts (ACNT).

The members of the Committee are: Eric Martin, Steve Clay, Simon Cullen, Ken Charlton, Peter Dowling, Bronnagh Norris, John Tucker, Hannah Griffiths, Scott McAlister (ex-officio) and Graham Carter.

Already this year the Trust has been dealing with ten heritage issues, as follows:

- 1. Bruce Hall providing a submission
- 2. Forrest Fire Station 2 Fitzroy Street assisting an appeal to ACAT
- 3. Kingston Power Station Precinct making representations
- 4. Section 52 Braddon submission about heritage impacts
- 5. Ginninderra Blacksmiths Shop supporting proposal for adaptive reuse
- Listing of Canberra and Lake Burley Griffin meeting with Gai Brodtmann MHR and NCA planner
- 7. NCA planning issues meeting with Gai Brodtmann MHR and NCA planner
- 8. Manuka Oval and Pool submissions to ACT and Commonwealth Government
- 9. Yarralumla Brickworks attending meetings with LDA
- 10. Railway Museum meeting with Minister for Heritage.

(For more information on some of these matters, see Eric Martin's report which follows below.)

#### More help needed

The Trust has an ongoing need for people to contribute their time and energy to the benefit and success of our organisation and to provide an important link with local communities.

A variety of roles are available for people with either specialist or generalist knowledge, experience or skills in areas such as: heritage, research, architecture, landscaping, engineering, project management, finance, administration, tour guides, event management, communications and marketing. Contact Graham Carter on 6247 2095 or Mary Johnson on 0427 381 380.

At the same time, we would particularly like to hear from people who would like to become members of a Heritage Experts Panel, who can provide specialist advice for specific issues as they arise. Contact Eric Martin on 6260 6395.

#### Impact Study for the Heritage Industry

The Trust is continuing to press the ACT Government for the collaborative preparation of a 10-year industry plan for the growth and development of the heritage industry across the ACT.

A study of the cultural, social and economic impacts of the heritage industry is an essential pre-requisite to develop of the plan. We need to form a Steering Committee and we would like to hear from people with knowledge and skills in areas such as strategic planning, heritage, tourism, consultation, finance, economics, communications or marketing. Contact Graham Carter on 6247 2095.

#### **National Park Feasibility Reference Committee**

The Government has announced the formation of a Committee to conduct a feasibility study into a new northern national park, with a focus around Mount Ainslie, Mount Majura and Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve. We would like to hear from anyone who might want to represent the Trust. Contact Graham Carter on 6247 2095.

#### Graham Carter Chair, Heritage and Grants Committee

#### **Report from Eric Martin**

Heritage continues to suffer at the hands of some ACT Government and developers' decisions and there is an ongoing lack of information about what is happening through poor communication.

The following outlines some issues the Trust has been involved with over the past few months.

#### **Bruce Hall, ANU**

The future of the existing Bruce Hall is now in doubt as the National Capital Authority (NCA) has approved the demolition of the residential wing. The works approval was cunningly crafted to not include the Dining Hall which is an item of great interest to the Alumni. The interesting item with this is that the ANU Heritage Study identified the place as significant, recommending that it be listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List. This action was not taken by ANU.

There is artwork and other memorabilia which will be retained but the future of the Dining Hall is unclear.

The NT wrote to NCA and ANU seeking information and expressing its concern re assessment and process. It did not receive a response.

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

No 2 Fitzroy Street has been the subject of two Development Applications (DAs), and some stop work orders, and the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) has resolved that no appeal is possible as it is in a CZ5 zone. The proposed development will substantially fill the corner block, pave the site for parking and build to both side boundaries. The Trust expressed great concern with the massing within the single block, the negative effect the development would have on the total Precinct and the loss of soft landscaping, all of which are part of the heritage significance of the area.

If the total Precinct was to go the same way, most of the heritage values would be lost. The flow-on effect to other areas of Canberra needs to be assessed and the Trust will be following this through.

The proposal was supported by ACT Heritage.

#### **Kingston Power Station Precinct**

This has been developing for years and now has an approved developer – GEOCON. Unfortunately the Switch Room, a fundamental part of the operation of the Power Station and a significant feature on the site, will be demolished despite its inclusion on the ACT Heritage Register.

The approval to demolish was given in 2014. There is no indication as to what will replace it and why the need for it to be demolished.

#### Manuka Pool

The Pool is a significant item and is potentially under threat by the Manuka Oval Precinct future plans.

Without the knowledge of residents, the owner and the Trust, a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was completed in 2006. We have not seen nor were we aware of this CMP. It is unfortunate that there is no public review and the CMP remains confidential, even when considered by the ACT Heritage Council.

#### Section 52 Braddon

The National Trust raised concerns about the impact on the setting of the proposed development and the scale beside heritage-listed Braddon housing and Gorman House.

Despite setting and context of heritage-listed places being identified as critical items to consider within citations, they are ignored as heritage controls cannot extend beyond the listed boundaries. Therefore, despite the work on controls and significance in the citation, they have no power or effect outside the narrowly-defined site boundary of the heritage-listed place.

#### **Ginninderra Blacksmith**

It looks as if the place might have a new life with the interest of an individual who wishes to establish blacksmithing in/adjacent to it and to encourage people, especially children, to visit and appreciate the work of a blacksmith. This looks to be a promising outcome and the National Trust is assisting the resolution of its use.

#### Listing of Canberra and Lake Burley Griffin

The push for listing is mainly by the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians but the National Trust fully supports it.

#### **Eric J Martin AM**

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

## Government denies funding for Key Heritage Organisations Opinion piece from Council of National Trust of Australia (ACT)

Heritage not only records the past, it also frames our future. It relates not only to people, places, objects and events but also to our regional and national identity and is a major determinant of our societal and cultural values. A very valuable asset in a rapidly changing world.

The Trust is recognised as a respected, balanced and expert heritage voice within the community by providing comments, advice and information to the Government and the community on many aspects of ACT heritage, planning and conservation of natural, Indigenous and historic heritage. We also offer an independent and objective voice for the community in the areas of research, conservation, advocacy, community education and information-sharing between interested parties.

The Government expects Key Heritage Organisations (KHOs) to continue to provide ongoing sector development, career pathways for heritage conservation, and to support a diversity of activities, events and access opportunities for the community. It also expects KHOs to have strong and strategic governance, management and heritage leadership through dynamic and vibrant programs.

History and heritage places, events and associated activities generate a wide range of social, cultural and economic benefits. It is a major driver of tourism in the ACT and creates a significant amount of employment.

National Trust (ACT) and other organisations in the ACT are totally reliant on income from members' subscriptions, their fundraising activities and the tireless work of dedicated volunteers. We only receive occasional small grants from the ACT Government for specific projects. NTACT received grants totalling \$20,650 this year to assist with the running of our Open Day and Urban Polaris, two major events that broaden the community's awareness of the region's heritage.

Unlike Arts, Sport and Recreation organisations, the Trust does not receive any funding support for its ongoing operations. The Government's grants programs for these activities have twin streams for Projects and Operational Support. At least seven Arts organisations receive over \$250,000pa between them for operational support.

The Trust identified Operational Funding for KHOs as a major issue in the recent ACT election, and the Liberal Party and the Greens have included it in their respective heritage policies. NTACT representatives have made a detailed submission to the Government and met with Mr Gentleman, Minister for Planning and Heritage, in January to discuss this inequitable situation. The Minister's response was to indicate that the budget is tight and that heritage is not necessarily a high priority. Obviously, NTACT is not satisfied with this response and will continue to pursue this issue.

National Trust (ACT) Council

## Lessons from the Past: Profiles of the Australian National Museum of Education

The Australian National Museum of Education (ANME) at the University of Canberra was founded to promote an understanding of the history of Australian education through the interpretation and preservation of heritage aspects of Australian schooling over the past decades.

The museum was established in 1996 by Dr Malcolm Beazley AM, following a grant from the Australian College of Educators. Its aim is to bring together, in the form of a website, databases, documents and artefacts, a record of educational archival material which contributes to the many and diverse stories of schooling spanning two centuries.

As a distributed collection the museum is making vital links to educational archival repositories across the nation. This museum is a resource for teachers, students and the wider community. The website includes a directory of personnel, current displays, current events, past features, school archival links, education history research reports and examples of items and documents in its collection. The ANME website also contains an index of Schoolhouse Museums in all Australian States and Territories.

The ANME offers the following services and facilities to the teaching fraternity, community groups and the general public: Research Opportunities; Field Trips; Seminars; Annual Lecture; Professional Advice, Publications and Online Resources and Databases.

The museum has a repository of archival education material and artefacts; an extensive collection of published school and institutional histories; school ephemera; a photographic archive and representative examples of teaching and learning items from past centuries - all housed at the University of Canberra.

Bruce Campus Information Map





Location of ANME within University of Canberra campus

One of the Museum's most utilized facilities is a research collection of approximately 6,000 nineteenth and early twentieth century school textbooks, school syllabuses and historic curriculum items representative of the evolution of primary and secondary school curricula from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century.



19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Research Collection

Included within this collection is an extensive collection of colonial and state education department school readers, dating from the 1890s to the 1970s, covering

## March 2017

all former Australian colonies and, after Federation, Australian states. Such resources continue to be donated by educators and retired educators who no longer have use for their material. These collections are named in honour of the donors, to perpetuate their memory and work in education.

The day-to-day running of the museum is the responsibility of the Director and Curators and is overseen by a Management Committee, comprised of specialists in a variety of areas in the history of education. There is also a network of State and Territory representatives who coordinate activities and provide a contact point in their areas. An important role of the Curators is the mounting of annual displays and exhibitions in the University of Canberra Heritage Gallery.



A section of the Display Gallery

During the last few years the ANME has mounted Gallery exhibitions on the following themes:

- Schools, Students and The First World War;
- Geography in the School Classroom;
- Nineteenth Century School Architecture; and
- Music in the School Curriculum.

To provide a means of organization of data, items are categorized, as they relate to education, by the following strands: Policy, Administration, Curriculum, Practice, and Innovation.

These strands have been found to be adequate in recording data and allowing for thematic interpretation and trends in the history of education in Australia. Categories of items comprising ANME's collections are as follows: text books, curricula, teaching resources, policy documents, school rules, school architecture, teaching programmes, student work books, a representative collection of vintage annual school magazines produced by schools, with examples from 1905 to 1985, and copies of education reports such as the Wyndham Report, the Karmel Report and colonial department of public instruction reports to colonial parliaments dating from the 1860s.



Commonwealth School Paper 1915

The ANME collection also includes a collection of educational award certificates such as an 1879 teacher's "Licence to Teach", numerous NSW Primary Final Qualifying Certificates from the period 1916-1930, and a certificate certifying a child as having been "Sufficiently Educated," issued in the 1890s. On display are examples representing the early use of technology in teaching and learning, and items relating to innovation in education and classroom teaching, including 1950s, 1960s and 1970s multi-media kits, early film/slide projectors and a 1930s spirit duplicator.

Among the items keenly sought and greatly appreciated is a collection of pupil exercise books, containing examples of children's written bookwork from 1873, and in each decade till the 1970s. This collection contains exercise books from children in schools in each colony/state of Australia, covering most of the subjects of the respective state primary and secondary school curricula. In addition to examples from 'core' curriculum areas such as Arithmetic, Grammar and Ancient History, the collection includes pupil exercise

books from such syllabus subjects as needlework in the 1920s, poetry from the 1890s, and drawing exercise books which contain original artwork examples by the children. The pupil exercise book collection numbers approximately 120 items, and represents a valuable source for research in the changes over time in children's handwriting, and changes in the subject matter or content of the various state department of education curricula over the century.



Pupil Exercise Book 1905

The ANME is proud of its very extensive School Ephemera collection which numbers over 1,000 items and includes examples of:

- School Speech Day programmes;
- invitations to special official education department events such as the opening of a new school;
- school concert programmes;
- annual school examination reports on a student's progress;
- school newsletters;
- special Anzac Day Services and programmes of commemorative events held by schools;
- school prospectuses;
- school administrative leaflets;
- school syllabus documents;
- external examination papers from various states, e.g. Leaving Certificate Exam Papers;
- Teachers' Lesson Programmes;
- class rolls; and
- Inspectors' Reports on schools and teachers.

The museum is an essentially people-centric organization and has a number of patrons and friends. The 'Friends of ANME' are responsible for organizing a number of seminars and a field trip, each year. In addition, since 2007, there is an annual historical perspectives on education lecture in Canberra, given by an eminent educational historian, and the museum is showcased each year, at the University of Canberra Open Day. Such events assist to promote the museum's cause and provide opportunities for the general public to gain an insight into the history of education and schooling. While viewing of the museum's repository in Canberra is by appointment, these other opportunities allow times for people to visit.

The virtual museum may be accessed at any time from our website, <u>www.anme.org.au</u>, or the University of Canberra's website. The museum welcomes volunteers to assist with the documentation of items. The museum's 'Portraits of Distinguished Educators' is a developing virtual gallery which pays tribute to those who have made a significant contribution to education in one or a number of ways including teaching, learning, curriculum, policy and administration.

#### **Geoffrey Burkhardt**

Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt is former Senior Curator and currently Curatorial Adviser to the ANME.

The University's 2017 Open Day will be on Saturday 26 August. The Museum will be open from 10.00am to 2.30pm and staff will be in attendance to assist visitors. See map in article for location.



#### New Trust Office Hours from 1 December 2016

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

### March 2017

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

**BOOK REVIEW** 

Christine Maher, *Richard Brooks: From Convict Ship Captain to Pillar of Early Colonial Australia,* **Rosenberg Publishing, 2016** 

Captain Richard Brooks made six voyages to Australia between 1801 and 1814 bringing convicts, supplies and, of course, spirits to the colony. He subsequently settled in the colony bringing his wife and family to Sydney and became a merchant, magistrate and colonial squire who established the colony's first cattle empire.

The author's extensive research in Australia gives readers a fascinating insight into the Captain's life and that of social, political and domestic life of early settlers of the colony.

From a seafaring family involved in trade in the North Atlantic, Brooks went to sea when he was ten years old. After some years, the trade with Newfoundland went into decline but Brooks was an experienced mariner who found other opportunities as a privateer and trader. His first trip to Australia was notorious as "the worst single voyage in a convict ship" - 73 people died from disease and neglect on his ship *Atlas*. Subsequent voyages established him as a merchant captain, shipowner and financier in New South Wales. In 1813, while returning to England, he was shipwrecked in the Falkland Islands from where he and a small group made a remarkable journey by longboat. They travelled 1,350 nautical miles to port in Buenos Aires where a rescue of the castaways was arranged.

On his return to England, he soon arranged to take his whole family to New South Wales where they arrived in March 1814. As a settler, he became immersed in business and colonial trade, and supplied spirits, imported cattle from South Africa and India, and provisioned convict transports with supplies for their return voyage. He was also keen to acquire pastoral land in New South Wales.

As the largest cattle owner in the country he was at the frontier of exploration and Aboriginal dispossession. From Sydney and his home, *Denham Court*, near Minto, Brooks pushed further and further seeking grazing land for his cattle. By 1824, Brooks had established the first pastoral run south of Lake George at Bungendow [Bungendore].

Brooks survived numerous scandals but was also friend (or foe) to six governors of New South Wales. He was revered by those who worked for him and held in high regard by William Charles Wentworth and others.

My interest in the book came about because of our ownership of *Ashby* near Bungendore which was part of Brooks' estate. The land was left to his daughter Maria who, with her husband Henry Zouch, built *Ashby* where they lived for several years and produced seven children. I found the book well written and a fascinating read about Richard Brooks – "privateer, smuggler, convict sea captain, rum trader turned respectable magistrate and colonial squire" - and about the early years of the colony.

#### **Mary Johnston**

This book is available through local bookstores, and copies are held by the ACT Library. One copy is available free for the first reader who contacts Liz in the office after 28 March to say that they would like a copy.



<b>Keeping up</b>	with the Trust
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#### E- news

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 to keep up to date with events and find opportunities to contribute to the valuable and important work of the Trust.

Email <u>info@nationaltrustact.org.au</u> with the subject heading of: Subscribe to E News

#### **Social Media**

For a more interactive communication with the Trust follow us on Twitter and like us on FaceBook and join the conversation!



follow us on

To sign up and follow us on Facebook, simply go to <u>http://www.facebook.com</u> and enter your email and some personal details to get started, then navigate to

http://www.facebook.com/nationaltrustact and click the like button near the top of the page.

For Twitter, go to <u>http://www.twitter.com</u> and enter your name and email, and choose a password to sign up and then navigate to <u>https://twitter.com/NatTrust\_ACT</u> and click the follow button.

We encourage you to join us on Facebook and Twitter and look forward to hearing from you!

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9.30am to 3.00pm Tuesday to Thursday

Patron: The Hon. Margaret Reid AO President: Scott McAlister Office Manager: Liz McMillan

#### National Trust (ACT) Membership Rates

.50

\$1,622.50

Joining fee	\$35
Annual Membership	

Individual	\$65
Individual Senior	\$60
Individual Concession	\$45
Household	\$95
Household Senior	\$85
Household Concession	\$75
Life Membership	
Single	\$1,137.

Household

#### About Heritage in Trust

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

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