



NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA

Heritage in Trust

November 2017

(ACT)

ISSN 2206-4958



Blundell's Cottage exterior

(Photo: courtesy NCA)

Real History: The women, children and workers of Blundells Cottage Canberra

A remnant of Canberra's rural past, this humble dwelling is in the centre of Australia's capital city, within sight of Parliament House and close by Lake Burley Griffin.

Closed for restoration three years ago, Blundell's Cottage presented the NCA with an interpretative challenge. Blundell's cottage precinct is a visible reminder of Canberra's rural history before it became Australia's capital, but every district has its own rural heritage, similar buildings and similar stories.

So why is the story of Blundell's cottage worth telling? Roslyn Hull of National Capital Authority explains on page 2.

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From the Editors

After six years and 22 issues of *Heritage in Trust*, my co-editor Maree Treadwell will no longer be working on the magazine. Maree and I responded independently to an advertisement from the Trust back in 2011 for people interested in becoming editors of *Heritage in Trust*. We formed a team and produced five issues of the printed version and then developed the on-line version when it became clear that the printed version could no longer be afforded. Maree designed the new format and has been setting up the magazine since that time. It is notable that she continued to do this following a move from Canberra to Darwin and subsequently to Kuranda in north Queensland. This couldn't have been done without modern communications technology and a lot of hard work.

Elsewhere in the magazine, the President records his thanks for Maree's work on the magazine. I would also like to record my thanks to Maree and my appreciation of what she has given to *Heritage in Trust* and hence the ACT National Trust more generally over this 6-year period.

Liz McMillan has kindly volunteered to take on Maree's role and I look forward to working with her on future editions.

Wendy Whitham

A note from Maree

It is with mixed feelings that I put my last issue of Heritage in Trust together. I have been a volunteer for the ACT Trust since late 2000 and involved with the magazine before Wendy and I took over its editorship. It is very sad having this era come to an end. I wish Wendy and Liz well and look forward to reading the new magazine under their leadership.

As always, if you have ideas or comments, please email them to us at info@nationaltrustact.org.au or write to the Editors, c/- the National Trust Office.

Real History: The women, children and workers of Blundells Cottage, Canberra

Constructed of rough local stone in 1860, the two-room cottage was part of the Duntroon Estate. It was just one of more than 20 constructed around the same time, built to house married workers and their families, with each of these households also given a small parcel of land to run livestock and produce food. Sometime in the mid-1860s a second internal wall was built to create four rooms out of two, and a two-room extension was added in 1888. The curtilage also includes a slab building, which may predate the stone one.

The cottage operated as a community museum from 1964 to 1999 and since then has been managed by the National Capital Authority (NCA) as part of the National Estate within Canberra. Three years ago when, like any heritage building, it needed substantial conservation and maintenance, the displays were removed and it was closed to the public. This allowed work on both the internal and external fabric of the building to be carried out. It also offered the NCA an opportunity to revisit the heritage value of the property and the display collection.

Work done during the closure included fitting double glazing to the windows, repairing and whitewashing the interior, repointing a section of the stone exterior and stabilising the foundations of the rear extension. Work will continue into the New Year with the installation of a discreet lighting system, repairs and stabilisation to the slab building and extensive, interpretive landscaping which will also make the property much more accessible for visitors.

During the assessment of the display collection, the NCA often heard how much people loved Blundells Cottage and what fond memories they had of it. However, it seemed to be the *idea* of the cottage, rather than the *fact* of it, that nestled in the hearts of locals and visitors – it was a romantic notion of what life was like 'then', as opposed to 'now'. The reasons for this may be either that they had never visited and had only seen the quaint exterior, or that the displays (which had not changed greatly since the 1990s) depicted what was fondly thought of as a pioneer dwelling.

The interpretive project team understood the significance of the buildings as a visible reminder of the rural history of the Canberra district in our very modern capital but another question proved more difficult: if every town in Australia has its own district history, its own version of Blundells Cottage, why is **this** story worth telling?

After discussions with community representatives and heritage authorities, a breakthrough was made. Blundells is special, not because one family lived there, but because so many families were tenants over the 100 years it was a home. The changes in numbers of tenants, their occupations and their landlords illustrate the changes to the place that became Australia's capital.

So the question became: could we bring not one but four of those families to life? Could we tell the historically accurate story of real but disparate lives, without losing the relatable narrative that visitors loved? Could we create pockets of time within such tiny spaces?

I would suggest that the only way to see if the NCA has succeeded is to visit the cottage. The interpretive project team exercised great restraint in what has actually been put on display, asking many questions about what each item adds to the story before cluttering the room with it. Interpretive themes now continue through each era, such as workboxes, or sewing baskets, medicine and food items. The rooms then become a timeline of working class domesticity specific to the Canberra region. This is particularly fascinating to our school visitors and helps bring the residents to life when students discover 'lamb chops' under an enamel plate.

The two front rooms are now devoted to William and Mary Ginn and their children, as a main room and bedroom, with sea trunks and belongings stacked as if it is the day they are moving in. Besides running the household, Mary worked as a house servant at Duntroon, and William was described by his employer, George Campbell, as the best farm hand he'd ever employed. The Ginns were assisted migrants, so we have a good idea of what belongings they were required to bring from England.

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The front or Ginn room, depicting the 1860s

When the slab building is restored it will contain displays on the Blundell family. Flora and George moved in as newlyweds in 1874 and spent the rest of their lives at the cottage that now bears their name. They had eight children and when their youngest was born the extension to the stone building was built. We know that the family used the two rooms of the slab hut as a kitchen and gathering space and, at times, a bedroom.

Photos and archaeological evidence of burnt earth and the remains of two large posts suggest the existence of a huge corrugated iron fireplace at one end of the slab. Oral histories from descendants suggest that the Blundell boys slept in the slab building.

In 1933 the last resident Blundell died, and Harry and Alice Oldfield moved in the following year. Once a horseman of renown, Harry was semi-retired and worked as a shepherd. Alice had a farmlet raising chickens, dairy cows, fruit and vegetables which she sold to locals. Harry died in 1942 so the two middle rooms now illustrate the life of a widow during the Second World War. Alice's era is also important as housing the influx of workers to Canberra from the Second World War through to the 1960s was very difficult. To augment her tiny income Alice took in boarders, with whole families living in just two rooms.



The rear extension or Sainsbury rooms, depicting the 1950s

Blundells Cottage is open to the public each Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm and entry is free. For group or school bookings please contact us on: 02 6272 2902

Roslyn Hull

National Capital Authority

All images are courtesy the NCA. The photographer who took the internal photos was Martin Ollman.



One of the centre rooms, Mrs Oldfield's kitchen, depicting the 1940s

The last family to live in the cottage was the Sainsburys, who moved in about the time Alice died in 1958 and remained there until government housing could be found for them. They rented the 1888 extension so these two rooms illustrate life there in 1960. Two of the three Sainsbury children were old enough to have vivid memories of their life there and have provided some wonderful details of their lives at the cottage. The cottage has never had town water or sewerage and only had electricity once it became a museum. However, the Sainsbury children loved living there and the NCA hopes visitors will love the new, accurate displays.



Do you have a friend travelling overseas?

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

National Archives of Australia

Due to remedial works being undertaken on the East Block building, the National Archives has moved just around the corner to Old Parliament House.

You can visit our reading room and view facsimiles of the Constitution and other founding documents at our new location in Old Parliament House.

We will be back in East Block in late 2018 with an exciting new program. Visit our website for more details:

naa.gov.au



Photo National Archives Australia

From the President

Dear Members

The Trust held its AGM on 19 October and in a change of tradition the venue was Craft ACT's gallery space in the North Building (across the hall from our former lodgings!).

Our guest speaker was Penny Spoelder, Director ACT Historic Places for Cultural Facilities Corporation, who gave us an in-depth update on Lanyon Homestead, Mugga-Mugga Homestead and Calthorpes House. Thank you to those members who attended.

For those who couldn't make it, our 2016/17 annual report is available on our website and gives an insight into the activities of the Trust during the year and the wonderful work that your hardworking Council and Committee members do. From a financial perspective, 2016/17 again saw a small shortfall of circa \$9k. On a positive note, for this financial year to date we are running at a slight surplus and we have been advised that the Trust has again secured grants through the ACT Government's Heritage Grants Program to assist us run our annual Open Day and Urban Polaris events.

At this stage the Council has not elected office-bearing positions for the upcoming year but will do so at our November meeting.

I know I sound like a broken record but the bulk of the Trust's work is undertaken by a small but very dedicated and hardworking group of individuals. We desperately need more volunteers and Council members and would welcome any new additions to our team. Even if you would like to work on your own project or activity under the auspices of the Trust, we would love to hear from you.

And while on the subject of hardworking individuals, I would like to take this opportunity to express my and the Council's sincere gratitude for the work done by Maree Treadwell as one half of the dynamic editorial team (Wendy Whitham being the other half!) that has put together *Heritage in Trust* for members for many years now. Unfortunately for us, Maree has too many other activities on her plate and has called time on her work on the magazine which is put together professionally and efficiently, ALL on a volunteer basis.



The Trust just can't function without commitments like these. I'm sure members will join me in wishing Maree well with her future endeavours.

Thanks for your continued support.

Scott McAlister

New members

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

Mr Tony & Ms Helen Agostino
Mrs Emma Anderson
Mr Peter & Mrs Jennifer Anderson
Mr Raymond & Mrs Lindy Babington
Ms Linda Bailey
Mr R & Mrs S Bastian
Mr Robert & Mrs Corrinne Brown
Mr John Cheeseman
Ms Audrey Cornish
Professor John Dearn
Mr Andrew & Mrs Margaret Donaldson
Rev John & Mrs Susanne Downs
Ms Hannah Griffiths
Ms Michelle Hodge & Mr David Leonard
Mr Peter LeCornu & Ms Pamela Cunningham
Mr Ken & Ms Jane Lowes
Mr Keith Mallett & Ms Erin Cotton
Mr Peter & Mrs Christine McGaghey
Mr B McKay & Mrs G Ferguson
Mr Steve & Mrs Teresa McMaugh
Mr & Mrs David & Heather Minol
Mr Gary & Mrs Lynn Monk
Mr Peter Murray
Ms Jennifer Norberry & Dr David Keightley
Mr Ian Oliver
Ms Lorraine Ovington
Ms Rosy Pate & Mr Ray Tracey
Mr Barry Pepper
Mrs Marie Plunkett-Cole
Ms Christine Power
Mr Garry Reynolds
Ms Lucille Roe
Ms Penny Spoelder
Ms Samantha Sumner
Mr James & Mrs Anne Walcott
Mr Gary Watkins
Mrs Sandra Whichelo
Mr John & Mrs Jenny Wilson

Trusted recipe

A Date Slice – a little piece of ancient history

The Filling:

- 2 cups stoned chopped dates
- 1 cup water
- ½ cup sugar

The Crumb Mixture:

- 1 ¾ cups plain flour
- ½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 185 g butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 ½ cups rolled oats
- Extra caster sugar, optional

Method

1. Combine all ingredients for the filling in a saucepan. Cook over low heat, stirring occasionally, until liquid has evaporated. This should take about 15 minutes. Leave to cool.
2. For the crumb mixture stir the flour, bicarbonate of soda and salt. Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Stir in sifted ingredients with rolled oats and mix well. The mixture should be nice and crumbly.
3. Lightly grease a biscuit slice tray – non-stick would be preferable. Press half of the crumble on to the bottom of the tray. Cover with the date filling. Sprinkle remaining crumb mixture over the top.
4. Bake in a moderately hot oven (190°C) for 35 to 40 minutes or until cooked and golden brown on top. Then cut into bars or squares while still warm – best to do with a plastic knife. To be just a wee bit decadent, sprinkle a little (or a lot) of caster sugar over the top. Then keep it away from the kids!

A Little bit of history:

Dates are those delicious, sticky fruits from the flowering species of date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*). Dates were one of the earliest food crops cultivated during the origins of agriculture in the western Mediterranean area historically known as the Levant or the Fertile Crescent (Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Israel). Archaeological evidence has shown that dates were cultivated in the Levant, Mesopotamia and later in the Indus Valley from around 7,300 years ago. They soon became a staple food of the area and the ancient Egyptians and Mesopotamians liked them too.

Recipe from Di Dowling, history from Peter Dowling

People and Places

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 4th activity is free for you, or you can bring a friend (non-member or member) free of charge.

Your card can be stamped at fee-paying events which cost \$20 or more, including tours, bus trips and the Christmas party, and can 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 4th ticked off on arrival at the event.

Mary Johnston

Chair, Tours Committee

Travels and at Home with the Trust

Bowning, Binalong & Yass Tour

Saturday 11 November



Have you just finished reading Jennifer Gall's *Looking for Rose Paterson*? Well, this bus tour will take us through Banjo Paterson Country and the author will be along to bring it to life. We begin in style with an inspection of the c1841 built Cliftonwood Homestead

and property in Yass. The current owner, Tony Wade, has taken on the task of restoring this historic property.

Morning tea follows at the Rollonin Cafe, a reconstructed slab hut, next to the Cobb & Co coaching station in Bowning. Heritage consultant Pip Giovanelli will introduce us to Binalong where we will have lunch before heading back to Yass for a guided stroll and visit to the Antique Farm Machinery Museum.

After further refreshments, we will return to Canberra.

Bookings: email info@nationaltrustact.org.au or phone 6230 0533

Cost: \$85 (National Trust/U3A members/Friends of NLA); \$95 (non-members)

Heritage Walk 3 Oaks Estate with Dr Karen Williams

Sunday 26 November

9.30 – 11.30am

Part of the National Trust monthly heritage walks. For more information on this new walking program and this walk in particular, see the article *Walking into our Heritage* on page 10.

Bookings: Bookings essential through Eventbrite. <https://eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-walk-act-3-oaks-estate-tickets-37629326328>

National Trust (ACT) Christmas Party

Sunday 3 December

3.00-5.00pm



Nestled under Simpson's Hill for 130 years, in the southern suburb of Chisholm, the old Tuggeranong Schoolhouse will be the venue again for this year's Christmas Party. The usual Christmas fare will be provided with music, drinks and nibbles, while you enjoy the house and surroundings. There will be some chairs available but BYO if you need a seat.

Cost: \$20 (members); \$25 (non-members)

Address: Parking and entry are via 34 Enid Lorimer Circuit, Chisholm. Please don't park or enter via Chase Place (disabled access only).

Bookings Essential: Please RSVP by **Wed 30 November** (for catering purposes). Call the office on 6230 0533 or email info@nationaltrustact.org.au.

Heritage Walk 4 Acton with Trevor Lipscombe

Sunday 31 December 9.30 – 11.30am

Heritage Walk 5 Mt Stromlo with Amy Jarvis

Sunday 21 January 2018 9.30 – 11.30am

Heritage Walk 6 Callum Brae Nature Reserve with Linda Roberts

Sunday 25 February 2018 9.30 -11.30am

For information on all the above walks, see the article, *Walking into our Heritage* on page 10.

Bookings: All Bookings through Eventbrite. Please see relevant entry for each walk in Heritage Diary on page 9.

6-day Coach tour to the South Australian Riverland

Friday 27 April to Wednesday 2 May 2018

The Riverland of South Australia covers an area of nearly 10,000 square kilometres along the Murray River from where it flows into South Australia from NSW and Victoria downstream to Blanchetown. The Riverland's history is strongly linked to irrigation and the area's suitability for growing crops. The region enjoys a warm Mediterranean climate, and has vast acres of fertile soil and a readily available water source in the Murray River.

It also has a very interesting history and who better to tell us all about it than a local – our guide will be Dr Peter Dowling who grew up in the Riverland. Peter and his wife, Di, will help us learn about the history of this region as we enjoy seeing locks, paddle steamers, an internment camp, the Irrigation and Steam Museum, the historic Overland Corner Hotel, Banrock Station and many other interesting and historic sites. The journey will take us to Hay for the first night, then across the Hay Plain to Mildura, Renmark and Barmera where we stay for three nights at the Barmera Country Club Motor Inn. While in Barmera we will walk in the footsteps of some notable Australian explorers, Charles Sturt, Edward Eyre and John McDouall Stuart, and learn about the Ancient Ice Age landscapes and the Aboriginal People who lived in the area.

The return journey will be through Loxton, Pinnaroo, Ouyen and back to the Murray River. The final night will be at Echuca before travelling home via the Rutherglen Wine Region and Albury.

We will be travelling with Potter Travel, a very experienced tour company, and we know this will be a very good tour following our successful Lightning Ridge tour. With our very well-known guide Dr Dowling and his wife, Di, it is likely to be very popular so we encourage you to put in an expression of interest as soon as possible.

Cost: \$1,260 per person twin share, \$1,570 sole occupancy (National Trust members/U3A members/Friends of NLA); \$1,330 per person twin share, \$1,650 sole occupancy (non-members)

Deposit of \$100 per person is required by **Monday 29 January 2018**. Final payment will be due Monday 19 March 2018.

Expressions of interest: For a copy of the full itinerary and to put in an expression of interest please contact Liz McMillan, info@nationaltrustact.org.au or 6230 0533.



Your guides: Peter and Di Dowling

Heritage Diary November 2017 to June 2018

A selection of heritage-related events of interest to members

Details of National Trust (ACT) events are provided on pages 7 & 8

Date and time	Event and location	Organiser	Contact
On-going Every Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm	Blundells Cottage. Blundells Cottage is one of the few stone buildings of its type to have survived intact in the ACT. It reflects continuity and change in the local area, from functioning as a rural estate to becoming the capital of Australia. Displays in the Cottage now reflect occupancy by families of workers over more than 100 years.	NCA	Entry is free. For group or school bookings please contact us on: 02 6272 2902 Blundells Cottage
On-going monthly Second Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm <i>Other times by appointment</i>	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/tuggeranong-schoolhouse-museum/index.html
On-going Each Saturday and Sunday 1pm – 4pm	Calthorpes House. 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 <i>Within Living Memory</i> , <i>The Convict Years</i> and <i>Cunningham Family album</i> . Tharwa Drive, Tharwa.	ACT Historic Places	http://www.historicplaces.com.au/lanyon-homestead
On-going Each Saturday and Sunday 1pm – 4pm	Mugga-Mugga cottage. 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
7-16 November	Canberra Modern, 2017 University House, Australian National University. A series of interconnected events celebrating the mid-century modernist heart of our National Capital. Part of DESIGN Canberra, celebrating and promoting Canberra as a global city of design. Featuring walks, talks, markets, martini masterclass and a themed dinner.	Canberra Modern	For information and tickets: https://canberramodern.com/ https://www.facebook.com/canberramodern/
Saturday 11 November Day trip	National Trust coach tour to Bowning, Binalong and Yass	National Trust	Bookings essential info@nationaltrustact.org.au or 62300533
Wednesday 15 November AGM 6.00pm Speaker 6.30pm	CAS/CAR AGM and lecture – Amy Way, <i>The Archaeology of Lake George</i> . National Museum of Australia	CAS	www.cas.asn.au/ Please RSVP
Sunday 26 November 9.30-11.30am	NT Monthly Heritage Walk – Oaks Estate	National Trust	Book at https://eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-walk-act-3-oaks-estate-tickets-37629326328
Sunday 3 December 3.00-5.00pm	National Trust (ACT) Christmas Party , Tuggeranong School House, Chisholm	National Trust	Bookings essential – please RSVP by Wednesday 30 November at info@nationaltrustact.org.au or 62300533

Date and time	Event and location	Organiser	Contact
Sunday 31 December 9.30-11.30am	NT Monthly Heritage Walk – Acton	National Trust	Book at https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-walk-act-4-acton-peninsula-tickets-37629538964
Sunday 21 January 9.30-11.30am	NT Monthly Heritage Walk – Mt Stromlo	National Trust	Book at https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-walk-5-mt-stromlo-tickets-37631019392
Wednesday 15 February 6.00pm	CAS/CAR lecture , National Museum of Australia	CAS	www.cas.asn.au/ Please RSVP
Sunday 25 February 9.30-11.30am	NT Monthly Heritage Walk – Callum Brae Nature Reserve	National Trust	Book at https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-walk-6-callum-brae-nature-reserve-tickets-37630332337
Wednesday 15 March 6.00pm	CAS/CAR lecture , National Museum of Australia	CAS	www.cas.asn.au/ Please RSVP
Saturday 14 to Sunday 29 April	Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. The theme this year is <i>My Culture, My Story</i> .	ACT Government	More information in the next <i>Heritage in Trust</i>
Wednesday 19 April 6.00pm	CAS/CAR lecture , National Museum of Australia	CAS	www.cas.asn.au/ Please RSVP
Friday 27 April to Wednesday 2 May	6-day coach tour to the South Australian Riverland	National Trust	For a copy of the full itinerary or to put in an expression of interest, please contact the NT office on info@nationaltrustact.org.au or 6230 0533.

Note: CAS is the Canberra Archaeological Society. CAR is the Centre for Archaeological Research. 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.

Walking into our Heritage

24 September 2017 saw the first walk in National Trust (ACT)'s new Monthly Heritage Walks Program. These Heritage Walks offer a fantastic opportunity for the Canberra and wider community to learn more about Canberra's rich and varied cultural and natural heritage, and some of the threats and issues our heritage faces in this fast-changing city. They are open to anyone, not just Trust members. A program of walks for the next few months can be found at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/>. A nominal charge of \$7 per person will cover publicity, public liability insurance and printing costs for illustrative material used on the walks.

One of the key objectives of the Trust is to ensure that we have a local community that is aware of, appreciates the value of, and protects our cultural and natural heritage. We see these walks as an important

step in achieving this goal and in engaging with a wider audience beyond our membership. In a period of rapid growth and change in our city, which is also the nation's capital, it is particularly important that we raise the profile of its rich heritage to better ensure its protection.

The idea for the monthly walks program sprang from the interest created by the walks we put on during the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival in April and May 2017. The Trust cooperated with other local heritage bodies to put on a varied program of walks centred on Lake Burley Griffin. These focussed not only on the traditional built heritage found in the Acton Conservation Area, but also on an aspect of heritage that gets less exposure - natural heritage. At Yarramundi near the National Arboretum we were able to interpret the natural heritage values of the

grasslands, wetlands and arboreta to an enthralled audience, with help from Friends of ACT Trees and Friends of Grasslands.

For our first Monthly Heritage Walk in September we returned to Yarramundi, with a focus on the layers of history and heritage evident there from the Aboriginal, pastoral and national capital eras. Walter Burley Griffin's 1915 plan for the western fringe of the city featured arboreta with trees from all the continents, to cover the bare plain left by the pastoralists. Charles Weston's practical understanding of the realities of trying to grow trees from around the world on a windy plain with poor soils and Canberra's climatic extremes soon disabused Griffin of his notion. A few of the hardy Roman Cypress trees that Weston's men planted instead, nearly a century ago, are still to be seen atop nearby Roman Cypress Hill. The arboretum theme was perpetuated in the 1950s when Governor General Sir William Slim called Lindsay Pryor, one of Weston's successors, to Yarralumla and requested that he plant arboreta at Yarramundi to improve the vista from Government House.



Walkers engrossed in the pastoral history of Yarralumla Station

Today we have many hectares of mature trees, including cork oaks and eucalypts, on the lake shores as a result. Across the busy Tuggeranong Parkway we have another generation of Griffin's idea at the National Arboretum.



Amidst Pryor's cork oaks (above and below)



On 22 October, around 30 people enjoyed the Heritage Walk around the streets of Griffith and Manuka in the area known as Blandfordia 5. The guide was Brendan Preiss.



Participants enjoying the walk around Blandfordia 5 on 22 October

The Trust plans to offer walks around three themes: built and cultural heritage, natural and Aboriginal heritage, and heritage under threat.

In the latter category, our November Monthly Heritage Walk on Sunday 26 November takes us to Oaks Estate. The ACT Government recently rejected the 16-year-old nomination for heritage listing of this unique Canberra enclave.



National Trust Online Shop

Find your Christmas presents at the National Trust Shop: <https://shop.nationaltrust.org.au/>

Read more about Oaks Estate on page 16 and at <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/the-village-people-how-years-of-neglect-created-oaks-estates-unique-character-20170414-gvkygk.html>). This must-do walk will be led by Oaks Estate historian Dr Karen Williams.

Our December walk will take us to Acton, another area of built heritage. Acton is Canberra's veritable Sydney Cove. The first Europeans to settle on the Limestone Plains arrived at Acton in 1824. The first house, stone-built and full of associations with our early European history for more than a century, survived until it was unceremoniously demolished in the 1940s. Later, Acton was the birthplace of the federal capital, its administrative, residential and social centre from 1911 until the 1940s. A litany of Canberra's shapers lived and worked here, and many buildings of that era survive in the Acton Conservation Area. Why not escape from the festivities for a couple of hours and join Trevor Lipscombe to learn more about this very special part of Canberra's past on 31 December?

There's another treat in store on our January Heritage Walk with more early federal capital history and heritage at the Mount Stromlo Observatory, Canberra's oldest scientific institution. Led by Amy Jarvis, ANU Heritage Officer, this promises to be an exciting journey along the Mount Stromlo Heritage Trail learning about the history and scientific aspects of this place and its recovery from the 2003 bushfires. Book now for Sunday 21 January 2018.

On Sunday 25 February 2018 dip in to Canberra's pastoral history and heritage at Callum Brae with Linda Roberts. The homestead is a relic of the Commonwealth Soldier Settler Scheme after World War 1. As a bonus, there's a lot of natural heritage to experience in this increasingly rare grassy woodland habitat, a spot well frequented by Canberra birdwatchers.

Why not book now for these walks before you forget? Go to <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/>, click through to each walk for more information, and book online through the Eventbrite link at the end of each walk description. Please encourage your family, friends and neighbours to join our walks too.

What of the future? We have many exciting walks lined up, and ideas for bringing Canberra's past into the present, deepening understandings, and arousing further curiosity. We are already working with other local heritage and community groups to bring together expertise and knowledge about ACT heritage, and to present a richer heritage experience to Heritage Walkers.

The aim is for the Trust, as Canberra's heritage organisation with the largest membership, to provide an umbrella under which smaller heritage and community groups such as residents' associations, can provide input into Trust-initiated walks, or indeed offer their own walks. The Trust umbrella comprises our well-known and respected National Trust brand, public liability insurance cover, and a publicity program which will roll out over the coming months. Already, we have a Heritage Walks section on the Trust website at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/>, a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HeritageWalksACT, and a dedicated email address at heritagewalksact@gmail.com.

There are all manner of exciting possibilities for Heritage Walks in the ACT. We need your ideas and inputs about ACT heritage places you would like to know more about. Why not research your suburb's history and heritage and present your own walk? Canberra's relatively recent history means that there are many unmined sources available in the National Archives of Australia, the ACT Heritage Library, and the Canberra and District Historical Society Archive. We want to become an exchange for ideas and information, and to encourage as many people as possible to start exploring and gaining a better understanding of Canberra's rich heritage. Do get in touch with us with your ideas, suggestions and questions at heritagewalksact@gmail.com. Join us for a walk (and encourage others) into our heritage – YOUR heritage!

And do have a look at our website <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/> and Facebook page www.facebook.com/HeritageWalksACT!

Mary Johnston and Trevor Lipscombe
Walks Organisers, National Trust (ACT) Monthly Heritage Walks

Photos by Joan Lipscombe

Trust Tour and Event Reports

Speakers Night

Wednesday 2 August

On Wednesday 2 August, in a talk entitled ***When Palestine was Home***, Linda Roberts spoke to us on her family's association with Palestine. Many members will know Linda as a National Trust (ACT) Councillor, tours organiser and manager of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival for more years than I think she cares to remember! But this talk was quite different. A couple of years ago, Linda spent 2 ½ weeks touring Israel with a German tour group. She wanted to understand more about her heritage. With a mother, grandparents and great-grandparents born in Palestine, she wanted to learn more about the German settlements they established there from the 1860s. Linda's talk was accompanied by family photos and photos from her visit to Palestine as she talked about the reasons German settlers had moved to Palestine and their fate there through two world wars. I'm sure many members of the audience were amazed to learn about this relatively unknown story of today's Israel and its heritage. Linda ended by suggesting she would come back again to tell the story of her family's arrival in Australia, and I know people will come back to hear more tales from Linda.

Manning Clark House

Wednesday 9 August

Visiting **Manning Clark House** is a popular tour for National Trust (ACT) members and friends, not least because we have Manning and Dymphna Clark's son, Sebastian, to guide us. So once again a small group heard about the family and explored their house designed in 1952 by Robin Boyd, complete with rooftop study, library, piano and Arthur Boyd's famous 1972 portrait of the historian. Sebastian told us many tales of cricket balls, floor boards and famous visitors to the house. You may even have read Tim the Yowie Man's article about this visit in the Canberra Times!



This window in Manning Clark House once had a cricket ball through it!! (Photo by Mary Johnston)

Arboretum walk

Monday 18 September

Tours and Events Committee member and National Arboretum volunteer, Mike Hodgkin, organised a walk in the Arboretum, **Trees of Heritage Significance**, with an Arboretum guide, Heather. This was attended by 18 members and friends who were impressed by the guide's knowledge and enthusiasm. We hope to do this walk again in the future.

Heritage Walks

Sunday 24 September and Sunday 22 October

Later in September we commenced our new program of Sunday morning Heritage Walks with a repeat of one of Trevor Lipscombe's Heritage Festival Lake Burley Griffin walks to **Yarramundi Foreshore**. This was followed in October with a walk entitled **Blandfordia** with Brendan Preiss exploring parts of the suburb of Griffith. More information on these Heritage Walks is in a separate article, beginning on page 10.

AGM

Thursday 19 October

This year's AGM moved to a new venue in the Craft ACT exhibition space, as the National Archives has temporarily moved out of their building. Prior to the AGM, our guest speaker was **Penny Spoelder** who is the Director of Historic Places in the ACT. Penny spoke of her own work in heritage conservation in both the public and private sectors, and about the challenges

and rewards of managing the ACT's three historic places – Lanyon, Calthorpe's House and Mugga-Mugga. We look forward to developing a good relationship between the Trust and Historic Places.



Penny Spoelder, Director of Historic Places in the ACT, speaking at the Trust's AGM (Photo by Linda Roberts)

Private Gardens of the Monaro

Tuesday 24 October

Private Gardens of the Monaro was a self-drive tour to three different gardens in the Monaro region, obviously a popular choice as the event was over-subscribed.

We were greeted by Libby Litchfield at *Hazeldean*, home to six generations of the Litchfield family. Libby outlined the history of the property and explained how the garden has changed over the years before leading people around. Morning tea was served on the terrace next to the house in the shade of some of the beautiful trees in the garden.



Libby Litchfield (with her back to the camera) talking to participants at morning tea (photo by Linda Roberts)



Looking to the house at *Hazeldean*, with new terracing in the foreground (photo by Wendy Whitham)

We then drove to *Shirley*, about 45 minutes away. This is another historic Monaro property, where we were met by John and Sally-Ann Cottle and enjoyed a lovely lunch in a beautiful courtyard before exploring the garden much of which was redesigned by landscape designer, Paul Bangay, in 2006. It seems John has inherited his family's passion for gardening!



Sally-Ann Cottle (on the right) speaking about *Shirley* on the new terrace (photo by Linda Roberts)



The parterre at *Shirley*, part of Paul Bangay's redesign (photo by Wendy Whitham)

The final visit was to *Curry Flat* near Nimmitabel. Again, we could see the love for the garden by the current owners, Jim and Sue Jardine, and the trials of gardening in a cold climate with severe winds, heavy snowfalls and late frosts!



Hearing about the garden at *Curry Flat* (photo by Mary Johnston)



The garden in front of the homestead at *Curry Flat* (photo by Wendy Whitham)

Many thanks to the owners of these three gardens for sharing them with us.

Mary Johnston



NATIONAL TRUST DIARY FOR 2018

COAST AND WATERWAYS OF AUSTRALIA

Australia, the largest island, has an immense coastline stretching from the tropical north to the southern tip of Tasmania, with all the variations of climate in between. Inland Australia has waterways varying from the tropical Kakadu, to inland lakes coming to life in wet years, to river systems crisscrossing the continent, spilling into the sea. This diary aims to show something of the infinite variety of our coast and waterways

A5 ring-bound, a week to a page, with a full-page picture for every week.

\$22.50 NT members; \$25 non-members.

Available at the NT office in Civic during office hours (Tues-Thurs 9.30am - 3.00pm).

Heritage Happenings

The potential impact on heritage places continues to exist on many fronts but over the past few months it has been largely a case of waiting to find out what is to happen or is being proposed for significant sites. There has been no release of proposals for:

- The Canberra Brickworks.
- The Haig Park Conservation Plan and Master Plan.
- The Kingston Foreshores Powerhouse Precinct.
- The full development of the Dickson on Northbourne and Lyneham on Northbourne proposals around the heritage buildings.
- The proposal by NCA for planning controls of the Forrest/Deakin area so that the garden city ideals are not destroyed by oversized multi-unit development which is continuing to be proposed.
- The Federal Golf Club possible development.

There remain, however, some significant concerns.

Lake Burley Griffin and in particular West Basin

This has been listed on UNESCO's places of endangered heritage as the potential development could have a major adverse impact on the heritage values of the lake as a whole and West Basin in particular. The concern is that there is no resolved and agreed plan for the lake surrounds which defines and celebrates the lake heritage and then sets down a future that respects the heritage values. Any such proposals need to involve the community. The Lake Burley Griffin Guardians are to be congratulated and supported for their ongoing vigilance in trying to protect the heritage values of the lake.

Campbell former CSIRO Headquarters

This consists of a building and site that have heritage value from both the building itself and the flora and fauna of the site, as defined by independent heritage reports. There is, however, a works approval proposal with NCA for the demolition of the building with the intention of redeveloping the site. However, no decision has yet been made after several months and in the meantime the site is being vandalised, and the building damaged and stripped of anything of resale value, which is adversely affecting its heritage value.

The building is poorly secured which does not assist protection. This highlights some real issues with process that the National Trust pointed out at the time the site was first being considered for sale and rezoning. It is critical to clearly establish the heritage values of a site before decisions are made, so the opportunities and constraints can be fully defined and understood before sale and development considerations are made.

Oaks Estate

It is extremely unfortunate that the nomination of this place was not supported by the ACT Heritage Council as it has significance as identified in previous independent heritage reports. The next step will be to examine the decision and undertake further research to prepare a new nomination with new evidence, to try and support a new nomination. This will take time but the Trust is keen to do this before any unsympathetic development of the area occurs.

West Block and East Block

The sale of these by the Government is unfortunate as they have been office buildings used by the Government for their entire life. While the ongoing use of East Block will be by Archives, West Block will be adapted for a new use. While Conservation and Management Plans exist and will guide the future, the total change of use will have some impact on heritage. The best way to conserve buildings is to use them, and it is unfortunate that the Government seems not to be able to achieve this but leaves it to private companies to do so.

Eric Martin AM



West Basin and Acton Park, 1964

Image by R. Clough

National Trust of Australia (ACT) Heritage Awards 2017

Announced on 28 September 2017

Report from the Judging Panel

The judging panel for this, the fourth year of these awards, consisted of Dr Alison Wain, Course Convener for the Bachelor of Heritage, Museums and Conservation at the University of Canberra; David Flannery FRAIA MPIA, an architect with heritage expertise, who is Chair of the ACT Heritage Council; and Ken Charlton AM LFRAIA, an architectural historian and member of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) Heritage Committee.

The high standard of entries in these awards in previous years has again been maintained. All nine projects nominated have much to commend them. It was heartening to learn that ACT Heritage grants supported five of the projects, another was commissioned by the ACT Education Directorate, one was by the Museum of Australian Democracy, one was funded by a housing developer and the last was a purely ANU project.



Minister Mick Gentleman with all the award winners
(photo by Eric Martin)

Three entries each received an Award for an Outstanding Project:

Playing the Long Game – Old Parliament House Chambers Conservation

A project which is achieving its aim to conserve and minimise damage to the interiors of the two chambers in Old Parliament House, one of Australia's national icons.

Documentation and evaluation of the condition of the heritage furniture each ten years to monitor any deterioration really is best practice for preventive conservation and contributes to our understanding of the long term effects of active use of heritage furniture and fittings. Careful management of the considerable numbers of school groups and other visitors is evident. The provision of gloves to each child is a clever way of protecting sensitive furnishings in the chambers, and instilling respect for authentic heritage artefacts in the next generation.

Ginninderry Development Project Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment

A highly professional and scholarly report, covering the long history of Aboriginal occupation of the land, and contacts with Europeans from early settlement times. The report is unusual for including the identification of intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage and how to manage it. The public will profit from having access to this redacted version of the report, which does not disclose the confidential information in the full report. Heritage authorities will have the full report to aid in protecting all the sites of great significance. At present much of the area studied is outside the ACT, but a change to the relevant border to expand the ACT is under consideration and likely to eventuate, owing to pressure for urban development.

ANU Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Trail

A heritage trail about an important subject, with a well written and attractively designed booklet. The broad consultation and cooperation with four key indigenous groups for the area is best practice. The three signs explain their stories well. The other twelve stops along the trail, having no signs, rely on the booklet or the smart phone app for stories. Directions being available on a smart phone app is an advantage, with many downloads being reported. Without such directions the start of the trail is difficult to find, as the first "welcome" sign faces people crossing a footbridge from Fellows Oval over Sullivan's Creek but the bridge is not shown on the booklet's map of the trail.



Minister Mick Gentleman with Dr Ken Heffernan. Aboriginal Artefacts, Hall School Museum project (Photo by Linda Roberts)

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

Giralang Primary School Conservation Management Plan

A thoroughly researched and well written conservation management plan setting out the history, design and assessment of the heritage values of a building of architectural significance. Advantage has been taken of the architect's being able and willing to explain details of his design intent, which is included in the CMP as a Statement of Principles, and his vision for the school's future. There is a detailed conservation policy and a strategy and schedule of conservation works of a standard consistent with the considerable significance of the place. It will be good to see the implementation of the plan unfold in the coming years.

Woolshed Creek Fossil Site Restoration

A project which began in 2009 to protect a significant geological site, discovered in 1844, from the threat of work on a massive road construction. Thanks to members of the Geological Society, damage from the construction, vandals and fossil-seekers has been minimised. Society members have restored the site and provided safe public access to it, with excellent interpretive signs, although the National Capital Authority did not allow signs on the Duntroon land. Interested people can find their way to the site by being guided to it, looking it up on line, or by following the map prepared by the Geological Society. People who visit Duntroon cricket ground can discover that there is fossil site only if they venture onto ACT land through the open gateway in the fence and read the nearby sign announcing the site's existence. A more visible sign would be desirable.

The in situ fossil-bearing rock outcrop is weathered and in danger of further damage, and few fossils are actually visible on the surface, so fossil-rich boulders recently unearthed during road construction have been placed near to the approach path. However a sign is needed to alert visitors to their presence and explain why they have so many more fossils than the outcrops at the actual site. There are also iron spikes, which are relics of an early bridge which once crossed the creek, prominent in the outcrop. That bridge could well have led to Rev. Clarke's discovery of the fossil site. A sign about this aspect of the history of the site would add to its appreciation by visitors.

Ainslie Arts Centre Conservation

This arts centre consists of the former Ainslie School of 1927 and its 1948 additions. The project included the restoration, though not in depth, of seven 1927 classrooms and the 1927 assembly hall, by removing unsympathetic intrusions and poor alterations. The former classrooms and other spaces have been adapted for new uses, including music tuition pods in a former cloakroom space and a performance space cleverly created in the lunch room added in 1948, linked to a new function room converted from the former kindergarten. The result is a series of attractive interiors, mostly with references to their original use, but with new colour schemes. All this should ensure the building will continue to be well used as a centre for music education, performances and administration. An interpretation of the building's rich history as part of Canberra's arts, science and educational history would have been a desirable addition to the project.

Stones That Speak – Aboriginal Artefacts at Hall School Museum

A most commendable exhibition of a careful selection from numerous local Aboriginal artefacts collected over many years by Lyall Gillespie, a noted local historian, who assiduously recorded his finds. The artefacts, which his son has donated to the museum, have been expertly assessed, identified, interpreted and presented. The location in the museum in the grounds of the primary school where Gillespie was educated is appropriate and suitable for visits by school and university groups. Further work is underway, which promises to add to the value of the exhibition.

The Politics of Heritage: the Art of the Possible. Canberra and Region Heritage Symposium 2017

The 2017 Heritage Symposium, held on 19 August, and hosted in the ANU Forestry Building, looked at politics in relation to heritage. As in previous years, the Heritage Symposium was a joint venture with the Canberra and District Historical Society (CDHS), Australia ICOMOS, the Canberra Archaeological Society (CAS) and the National Trust (ACT). The Heritage Symposium is unique to Australia, and this year especially showed the effectiveness in bringing interested people together to discuss relevant heritage issues.

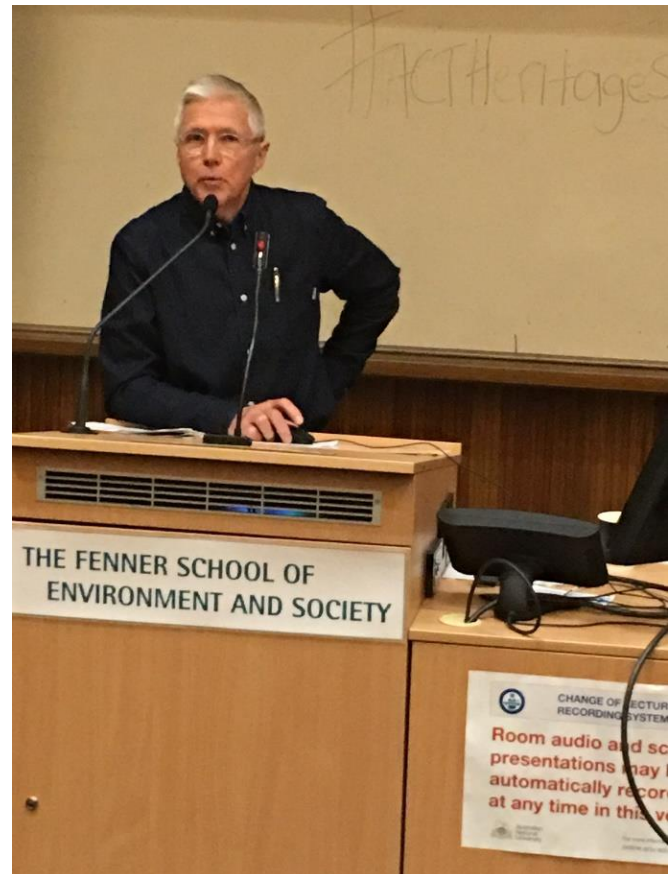
The day opened with an introduction from Edwina Jans, giving a brief history of the building in which the symposium was being hosted. This introduction was followed by welcome to country and a talk by Wally Bell on Aboriginal history in the ACT, from a personal, heritage and political perspective.

After introductions were made, the keynote address was given by Tim Winter from Deakin University. This talk looked at Heritage and Diplomacy. Notable points include the millennial response to heritage, with contemporary examples such as the response to confederate statues in the US in recent months, as well as how heritage has been done in the past, and how it should be conducted in the future.

From here, Libby Stewart and Dr Blake Singe talked about the referendum exhibition at Old Parliament House. Patricia Clarke talked about Joe Alexander, a key political figure in the press gallery in the 1950s and 1960s, who travelled widely through the USSR and oversaw the construction of an Orthodox Church.

The second session, themed 'Connecting the Dots in Heritage: Gaps Across Statutory Systems', opened with a talk by Donald Ellsmore titled 'Is there an elephant in the heritage sector?' The audience response was clear, and the points raised were understood and relatable for most people in the room. It discussed the disparity between government legislation and heritage practice, and brought up the important point that people involved in the heritage sector on the sidelines, like

tradespeople, are not necessarily trained in best heritage practice or conservation techniques.



Donald Ellsmore speaking at the symposium

Don's talk was followed by a presentation by Penny Spoelder on connecting heritage to place, people and the natural environment. The final talk of the second session was given by Meetu Sharma Saxena on Canberra's current urban densification and the impact this had on the historic landscape. As was an overarching theme of the morning, the disparity between government action and community consultation/concerns was discussed in detail in the Canberra context. Minister Gentleman was in attendance of this session, too, so hopefully these complaints were heard.

After the second session, Amy Jarvis hosted a campus walk, showing politically relevant buildings and sites around the ANU, followed by lunch.



Participants enjoying the tour of the ANU – the China Australia Building

The third session, featuring the most speakers, had the theme 'Negotiating the Outcomes for Heritage'. The first talk, given by Saiful Bakhri, was refreshing in the sense that we were finally hearing a positive story of community consultation and the Indonesian Government's response to concerns.

The following talks, too, were more uplifting, and personally, provided a lot of information and stories I just did not know, especially Linda Roberts' talk about German immigrants in Israel. They were interesting and diverse, talking about the international and the local, with talks about Manuka Oval (something that is still currently quite controversial) and the Australian War Memorial.

The fourth and final session, titled 'Crossing Borders or Border Crossings: Sharing Heritage Object and Idea(l)s' was possibly the most varied in terms of content. The session opened with a discussion on the Embassy of Sweden, provided by Will Gardner, and featured talks by Daisy Chaston on Canberra's space heritage, and Aylwen Gardiner-Garden on her research into historic textiles and garments in England, Scotland and Denmark. The final talk, which echoed many of the concerns raised in Wally Bell's opening remarks, was delivered by Robyne Bancroft, and provided a passionate discussion on her involvement in moving forwards the repatriation of Aboriginal human remains from overseas collections, something that is very politically relevant.

The symposium would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Sarah, Amy, Marilyn, Hannah, Eric, Edwina, Bethany, Lucy, Liz and Bronwynne. And a special thanks to this year's sponsors: GML Heritage, The Australian National University, and Eric Martin and Associates Architects.

Bronnagh Norris

Photos by Linda Roberts

Need for guides at Cooma Cottage

Cooma Cottage, Yass, has an important history. Hamilton Hume, who lived here for nearly 40 years, was one of the first white Australian-born explorers. The inland route he established to Melbourne is now the Hume Highway.

This fine colonial property needs volunteer guides to help explain Hume's history and show visitors something of early settler life. The gardens contain the very rare *Picconia excelsa*, an olive tree of similar age, old fruit trees, roses and herbs.



If you are interested in Hume's history, the conservation of an historic property, the care of a heritage garden, and enjoy meeting people, guiding here is for you.

Contact Julie Campbell on ccbooks@bigpond.com

Picconia excelsa photo: Cedric Bryant

Seasonal Change at Cooma Cottage



Cooma Cottage: Winter view

Following a frosty winter, spring brings change to all aspects of this historic property: lambs in the paddocks, bulbs and blossom in the garden, and repairs to the Cottage. Patching of plasterwork and lime wash for the walls require specialist techniques and materials. Once completed, along with new paint on the doors, windows and shutters, the Cottage will be well and truly ready for the season.

In the garden, the early jonquils and daffodils have given way to bluebells, including the grand *Scilla peruviana*, which would look even better if many of the leaves hadn't been nibbled by kangaroos. October is marked by the pinks and purples of Judas trees, lilacs, lavenders and irises, with roses to come. However, this remains a simple country garden, established at a time when 'survival gardens' were more important than elaborate, decorative plantings.¹



Spring in the garden

In September, visiting schoolchildren reported that they had seen Hamilton Hume's herb garden. Unfortunately, Mr Hume left very little documentation about what he, or one of his gardeners, planted in the garden.

Archaeological evidence has been found² of many small paths by the kitchen door, suggesting a kitchen garden. A recent publication, *Gardens of History and Imagination*³, contains useful information about what early settlers were able to plant. A list of plants and seeds drawn up by Joseph Banks for the First Fleet to carry included:

“Peas, carrots, spinach, beans, asparagus, red and white beet, cauliflower, celery, prickly cucumber, lettuce, parsley, broccoli, kale, nasturtiums, mustard and cress, basil, thyme and other herbs, radishes, leeks and turnips”.

It also included medicinal plants, like “sage, chamomile, hyssop, fennel, garlic, thyme and borage”.

In 2010, the Yass Garden Club donated funds to establish a herb garden which would reflect this aspect of early gardening. Today, the herb garden contains more than twenty different (frost-hardy) varieties of culinary and medicinal herbs. Many of these perennials flower in spring with blue, mauve and purple flowers, very attractive to bees.

Last year, our “significant” tree, *Picconia excelsa*, was covered in small cream flowers. Flowering is later this year after the dry, cold winter, but the plentiful buds promise a good show and the tree is doing well for its age, estimated at 150 years.



Picconia excelsa in flower 2016

The cottage is closed to visitors over winter, but since re-opening on 9 September, volunteers have been very busy. As well as organised events, such as school groups and bus tour groups, there have been visits by tourists and local people interested in both the historical importance of the property, and the life and times of

Hamilton Hume. A 2016 biography of Hume⁴ is available at the newly re-furbished and re-stocked shop.



The Shop, Cooma Cottage

The display room provides gallery space and, over the holiday period, housed an impressive collection of small sculptures made by children from local schools. This was part of the annual exhibition *Sculptures in the Paddock*, a great drawcard with its dramatic display of works on the hillside.

As the weather gets warmer, we expect more visitors, both casual and as part of organised tours. They enjoy discovering more about the history of the property, wandering in the garden, or sitting with tea and scones to admire the view. The setting of this property, still with its original 100 acres, epitomises what Capability Brown called “a sense of place”⁵.

Historic properties these days seem to have difficulty in attracting volunteers and we are no exception. Cooma Cottage is managed by a volunteer committee whose members bring a range of talents and expertise, knowledge of the collections, the history of settlement in the district, farm management, garden history, skills in sharing information with others, organising events, looking after the shop, and managing money. There are many varied and interesting ways to contribute to caring for this historic property.

Julie Campbell (text and photos)

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'Garden Working Bee' at Tuggeranong Schoolhouse Museum

Saturday 14 October

Twelve and a half energetic people arrived at Tuggeranong Schoolhouse Museum on Saturday, and, secateurs in their gloved hands, slashed into the unsuspecting vinca/periwinkle plants, which had been quietly taking over the garden beds for years. The 'half' was young Jordan, who, with his parents had visited the Museum, liked what he saw, and was keen to emulate the young and old decimating the periwinkle. He and his Mum, Rebecca, a horticulturist, took on the 'secret garden', quite a challenge, as it will take some time to subdue the persistent periwinkle. Local couples, Kevin and Sue and Pat and Ralph, picked different parts of the garden, and both couples have beautiful gardens of their own, so were able to offer constructive advice as well as their time and great energy. Pat and Ralph head up a 'landcare' group looking after the adjacent Simpson's Hill, a nature reserve and worth a visit in its own right.

Young Real Estate 'dynamo', Rhys from Peter Blackshaw's Tuggeranong, had thrown himself into this project, not only generously donating over thirty lavender plants but a whole range of refreshments and equipment, as well as a team of equally energetic and skilled young men. Keen on promoting the preservation of heritage in the region, Rhys is organising other restorative projects in the local area.

Steve, an enterprising young man who runs his own landscaping business, hacked into the periwinkle and uncovered a rockery that no one knew was there, and generously donated a 'mountain' of good quality mulch as well as his skills and time.

The National Trust was well represented by Judy, Linda and Anne. Anne will be giving a talk on the garden in conjunction with the Australian Garden History Society as part of next year's Heritage Festival, and has been very proactive in donating plants and advice. Had the periwinkle persisted, it would have been a fairly limited talk, so where possible, Anne has been researching the correct plants to put in a true cottage garden but she is including the 'rider' of no funds, and what sort of garden do you inherit after seventy years of tenants, the last of whom had goats!

Neighbour Jean, one of several neighbouring families who watch over the site, baked a magnificent German cake for the workers, just one of the great community 'touches' this hidden treasure of Canberra elicits from those who value it.

The Tuggeranong Schoolhouse Museum is, once again, the venue for the National Trust Christmas Party on Sunday 3 December. Members will be able to enjoy the fruits of our labour - there will still be some periwinkle, but there will be lots of other attractive plants as well, thanks to the time and energy spent by the wonderful volunteers at the Garden Working Bee.

Elizabeth Burness (Report and photos)

Curator/Custodian

Tuggeranong Schoolhouse Museum

34 Enid Lorimer Circuit

Chisholm



Anne, Linda and Judy tackling the periwinkle

Keeping up with the Trust

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 info@nationaltrustact.org.au 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!

Like us on  follow us on 

To sign up and follow us on Facebook, simply go to <http://www.facebook.com> 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 <http://www.twitter.com> and enter your name and email, and choose a password to sign up and then navigate to https://twitter.com/NatTrust_ACT 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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National Trust (ACT) Membership Rates

Joining fee \$35

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Individual Concession \$45

Household \$95

Household Senior \$85

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About Heritage in Trust

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

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 info@nationaltrustact.org.au.

Deadlines for copy

mid February (for March issue)

mid June (for July issue)

mid October (for November issue)

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