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The facade of Oliphant's 1937 Art Deco retail and office building at the main intersection in Queanbeyan, with the 1926-27 Crawford Street frontage at left (NSW Heritage Inventory)

Ken Oliphant: Art Deco and Modernism on the Monaro

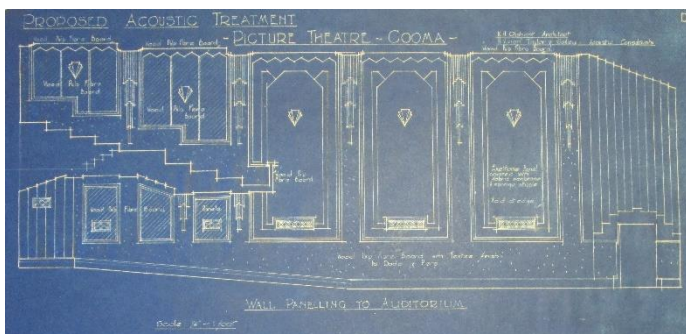
Ken Oliphant is justly celebrated for his architectural accomplishments in Canberra, notably his contribution to its elegant housing of the 1920s and 1930s. Almost unknown, however, are the numerous architectural commissions he executed in parts of New South Wales surrounding the Territory during his 40-year career in Canberra. These commissions were important for the economic well-being of his practice, perhaps vitally so during the Depression and immediate post-war years. Many of the commissions encompassed rather modest constructions such as post-war public housing projects which, while no less valuable for that, are not stylistically or aesthetically notable. However, among the structures that he designed outside the Territory are some noteworthy and indeed unique examples of his work.

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After his arrival in Canberra in 1926, the first commission that Oliphant secured outside the Federal Territory was probably in Cooma. If the identification of the commission (below) is correct, this occurred in 1931 and would have been a godsend to Oliphant. With the onset of the Depression, architectural commissions for his private practice in the ACT shrivelled to almost nothing. As Peter Freeman noted, he submitted only one building permit application in Canberra in 1931 (and just five permit applications in the following year). To compound his difficulties, his colleague Malcolm Moir established his own private practice in Canberra in that same inauspicious year, 1931.

The State Library of Victoria has a set of plans drawn by Oliphant for the Art Deco interior of a cinema theatre in Cooma, the only cinema whose design he is known to have been involved in. The acoustic consultants for the theatre were the famed Melbourne architectural partnership of H. Vivian Taylor and G.A. Soilleux who specialised in cinema design. Oliphant's plans are undated and provide no clue as to the identity of the cinema, but they are very likely for the Victor Theatre. In mid-1931, a local businessman decided to convert the 1881 School of Arts in Bombala Street into a cinema to screen 'talkies'. The theatre opened in July 1931 and ran for a few years until it was superseded by the new purpose-built Monaro Theatre designed by a Sydney architect. Although the School of Arts building still stands, Oliphant's Art Deco interior has gone and now only the plans in Melbourne remain to show what it was like. As outlined below, however, a striking Modernist or Functionalist building he later designed in Cooma still stands in the town.



Part of Oliphant's Art Deco interior design for a cinema in Cooma, c1931 (State Library of Victoria)

In 1933, Oliphant was engaged by the Queanbeyan Pastoral and Agricultural Association to design a series of structures on the town's showground. The first was for a

long-desired grandstand but, while Oliphant produced plans for the structure, the association did not proceed because they lacked the funds to build it. When a grandstand was eventually erected at the end of the decade, it was built to the design of another architect. However, the building of other structures that Oliphant designed for the showground in 1933 did go ahead. These included additions to the 1900 pavilion (destroyed by fire in 1974) and the distinctive Art Deco ticket office and main entrance, with accompanying Collett Memorial Gate, which still stand in Lowe Street.



The Art Deco ticket box and entrance to Queanbeyan showground, c1934 (Queanbeyan & District Historical Museum Society)

As was the case with many country towns, one architectural commission led on to others. A little later in the 1930s, across the road from the showground, Oliphant designed an elegant double-fronted residence with bay windows and modest Art Deco details for a local storekeeper and his wife. Another residence with similar details followed in the same street a couple of years later and, in the meantime, he designed a two-storey doctor's surgery and residence in Lowe Street. Oliphant's most prominent work in Queanbeyan, however, was at the main intersection in town. On the north-western corner of Monaro and Crawford Streets, he designed a two-storey retail and office building for the proprietors of the *Queanbeyan Age* newspaper. Explicitly Art Deco in style, the building's façade rather resembles an interwar cinema in its design. In working up his plans for the building, Oliphant had to make them blend as far as possible with the section of the same building along Crawford Street that had been erected to the very different design of another architect in 1926-27.

After the war, Oliphant resorted to more commonplace designs, though he occasionally embraced the new Functionalist style. An outstanding curvilinear example of this style exists in Vale Street in Cooma. In accordance with the wishes of the client, a local dentist, Oliphant originally drafted plans for a single-storey dental clinic with an attached shop. Construction did not proceed, however, as the client changed his specifications for the building; he wanted instead a combined clinic and residence. Oliphant thereupon altered the ground floor plan and added an upper storey, while retaining his curvilinear Functionalist design for the structure. The building was erected about 1953.



Oliphant's Functionalist building in Cooma, with its curved lines and windows and its parapet completely hiding its roof (author photo)

Interestingly, the Cooma structure was designed and built a couple of years after Oliphant designed a residence in similar curvilinear style in Dampier Crescent, Forrest, for the menswear retailer Ken Cook. The Forrest building has been altered somewhat and is now barely visible behind a towering hedge and set of gates. By contrast, the building in Cooma is highly visible and

remains virtually unchanged in its original condition. As such, it constitutes a fine example of a very rare foray by Oliphant into this particular stylistic genre.



Double-fronted residence near the Queanbeyan showground, designed by Oliphant in 1936 (author photo)

From his first commission outside the ACT in the early 1930s, Oliphant continued to design buildings in NSW up until his retirement in 1965. His works are represented in Young, Goulburn, Crookwell, Kempton, Gundaroo, Binalong, Yass, Queanbeyan, Cooma and supposedly Bungendore and Braidwood. So far, the author has identified around 80 such buildings. Owing to deficiencies in local government, newspaper and other records, it is virtually certain that not every single building he designed outside the ACT will be identified. However, further research – and a measure of luck – should result in the identification of at least more of the distinctive structures he designed in NSW. There are, for example, in Queanbeyan two or three prominent buildings that look suspiciously like his work.

Brendan O'Keefe

National Trust PRESENTATIONS

As a result of invitations from several community groups, a presentation about the National Trust has been prepared for groups such as Probus and VIEW clubs. It covers the history internationally, nationally and locally, the aims and objectives of our organisation and, of course, the benefits of membership. Three presentations were made in 2019 and two are scheduled for early in 2020. If you know of a similar group you think would like to know more about the National Trust please email us at events@nationaltrustact.org.au.

ACT Trust News

President's Update

On 10 February 2020, Amy Jarvis, the Australian National University's Heritage Adviser, spoke to a well-attended Trust talk about the findings of her recent Churchill Fellowship study on how 'to advance the celebration and conservation of the mid-century modern heritage of Canberra.'



Fighting to preserve our heritage is a never-ending struggle and organisations such as ours must continually re-evaluate our strategies to ensure we are relevant and effective.

Amy's report, titled *Celebrating the past, in the present, for the future: Heritage advocacy, engagement and tourism models for modernist places and spaces*, provides timely and common-sense advice on how heritage advocates can make a real difference.

Further information about Amy's report is on pages 8 and 9, and I commend it to you.

It was marvellous to see so many of you at our Christmas Party at the historic *Allwood* property at Walleroo on 1 December 2019. Many thanks again to its owners, Rod and Judy Roberts, for making us feel so welcome.

We all enjoyed the talk by Yass Valley Heritage Advisor, Pip Giovanelli, on his experiences in restoring historic buildings. It was a great pleasure at the Party to present Rosemary Everett with her well-deserved ACT National Trust Volunteer of the Year certificate.

The ACT National Trust is an active member of the Australian Council of National Trusts. On behalf of all of you I congratulate Graham Goerke, a Council member of the Western Australia National Trust, on his election as our national president at the Annual General Meeting on 16 January 2020. Graham's appointment follows the untimely death of our previous national president, Brian Powyer, in November last year.

The 2020 ACT election is rapidly-approaching and your Council is developing a 'wish list' we can present to the many candidates who will be competing for our support at the polls on 17 October. Please let me know if you have any heritage issues you would like us to take up.

Two of the key local developments we are following closely are the assessments of stages 2A and B of the Canberra light rail network. The ACT National Trust will be providing a submission to both assessments, given the multitude of heritage assets and values likely to be impacted by this project.

The 2019-20 bushfire season will go down as one of the worst on record. The human toll has been enormous and the environmental and heritage losses have been catastrophic. One of Council's priorities in the immediate future is playing our part in helping to identify and, where possible, ameliorate these losses.

In view of the disruption caused by the fires, the Federal Government has extended until 17 April 2020 the closing date for submissions to the review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Council is preparing a submission to the review and would welcome any ideas you might have on improvements to this very important piece of heritage legislation.

With best wishes

Gary Kent

New members

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

Mrs Lia & Mr Peter Battisson

Ms Emily Begbie

Mr Gary Yeames-Smith & Ms Nathalie Drieu Brett

Mr Russell Maxwell and Mrs Pattie Burke-Maxwell

Mr David Whittaker & Ms Leonie Finn

Mrs Marilyn Folger

Ms Tracey Gardiner

Ms Louise Gaudry

Mr Terry & Mrs Margaret Hansich

Ms Sandra Henderson

Mr Peter Roberts & Ms Barbara Henderson-Smith

Mrs Patrya & Dr Andrew Kay

Mrs Shani & Mr Mitchell Kercher

Mr Robert Judd & Ms Bricet Kloten

Miss Jacqui Lea & Mr Roshan Kulkarni

Mr Peter & Mrs Jennifer Le

Mr David Le Roy

Mr George Levantis

Dr Paul & Mrs Geraldine Mackey

Ms Pamela O'Grady

Mr Gregory & Mrs Ilona Prindable

Mrs Dorothy & Mr Kevin Rixon
Mr Graham & Mrs Helen Scully
Mr Andrew Adzic & Ms Yvonne Solly
Ms Judith Dahl Taylor & Mr Hilton Taylor
Mrs Judy Tunningley

In Memoriam

Bernard (Ben) Bairstow 25.3.1933-30.01.2020 & Dorothy Bairstow 19.4.1930-20.01.2020 – long-time members of the National Trust, joining in 1995. They were regular volunteers at Lanyon Homestead for over 24 years.

Heritage Happenings

Despite the Christmas period, heritage issues continue to present themselves with some of the activities mentioned below:

Gold Creek Homestead

The community panel met for three Saturdays and formulated a brief that will form part of the tender documents for the sale of the site. The panel strongly recommended adaptive reuse of the slab hut and old sections of homestead and immediate surrounds but permit limited unit development on the rest of the site.

Canberra Brickworks

A small community panel is meeting monthly with DOMA (the developer) who is developing the concept plan for the site which includes unit development, conservation of the quarry and adaptive reuse of the brickworks. A new updated Conservation Plan will be submitted for endorsement and then guide the development. Details of reuse of the brickworks is at the broad concept level and will evolve over the next 6 months.

Kingston Powerhouse Precinct

The initial ideas for the site development by Geocon were not supported by the community reference group so the concept is still evolving and will take some months to resolve a suitable scheme.

AWM Redevelopment

Despite strong representations against the Anzac Hall demolition and the revised front entry the project is proceeding towards a final design. It is expected that it will become a Controlled Action and referred to the Minister under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Light Rail 2A

This has become a Controlled Action under the EPBC Act and has been referred to the Department and the Minister. There are concerns that there are proposals to remove a habitat of the endangered Golden Sun Moth and the impact on all heritage issues appears not to have been fully considered before the design development, which is progressing at a rapid rate.

Red Hill Reserve

This long-standing project has been submitted with a revised proposal which appears reasonable but some heritage issues (especially flora, fauna and indigenous) appear to not have been fully resolved.

Pialligo Redwoods

This important plantation from Griffin and Weston days has suffered with the intense heat, drought and then a fire through the middle of it. A careful management plan now needs to be provided to ensure its ongoing conservation.

ACT Supreme Court

The former Supreme Court has finally been refurbished and is now operational. The scheme has some fine attributes, such as conservation of the external fabric of the original building, sympathetic conservation of the central oval atrium and interpretation. However, it is unfortunate that nothing of the original court fitout was preserved, although some of the timber has been reused as seating. The process from concept to final design did not include consultation, which was unfortunate, and a better outcome could have been achieved.

Review of the EPBC Act

This will occur this year with submissions due in the next two months. The NT will be making a submission.

Items on the Horizon

Canberra Stadium and its location with possibilities on the Civic Pool site or the Bruce Stadium site.

City to Lake proposals and impact on Lake Burley Griffin and views to/from the Lake and mountains and the heritage places between the city and the Lake.

How to ensure protection of heritages sites in the climate change scenarios including extreme heat, fires, floods, hail and winds.

Eric Martin AM

Tours and events – what's been happening



At the Christmas Party, the President, Gary Kent, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the 2019 Volunteer of the Year, Rosemary Everett (Linda Roberts)

The **2019 Christmas Party** was held at *Allwood*, near Hall, where the owners, Rod and Judy Roberts, have restored a heritage listed slab cottage originally built in the late 1800s by district pioneers David and Agnes Rule. Rod and Judy talked about the work they have done to restore the buildings (some with the help of 'grey nomads') and about the life lived by pioneers in the early days. Pip Giovanelli's talk about the role of a Heritage Advisor was very interesting and fitted in nicely with the story of the restoration work.



Guests at the Christmas Party 2019 at Allwood (Linda Roberts)

Around 70 people enjoyed the visit and we raised \$1,200 for the Trust – a wonderful result. Tony Maple won the raffle – a well-deserved reward for all his work researching and leading Heritage Walks.

Thanks to Rod and Judy for making us so welcome and to Pip for his contribution.

Tours

A report on the Braidwood and Bedervale tour is on page 8 while a report on the sold-out tour *Hidden Spaces: Inside Scrivener Dam* will be in the next issue of *Heritage in Trust*.

Heritage Walks

In November, on the All Aboard the Canberra Monaro Express walk, Linda Roberts led us up Old Tuggeranong Road to hear Garry Reynolds' fascinating account of the arrival of railways in Australia, and to Queanbeyan and further south.



Linda Roberts, guide for the Old Tuggeranong Road section of the Heritage Walk – All Aboard for the Cooma Monaro Express (Mary Johnston)



Garry Reynolds at the Tuggeranong siding – All Aboard the Canberra Monaro Express (Mary Johnston)

Tony Maple repeated Griffin's Lost Lines walk in December to end a successful year of Sunday morning walks.

Starting early in 2020, Trevor Lipscombe and Linda Roberts explored hidden areas of Pialligo including the Air Disaster Memorial, WW1 bunkers and the Pialligo Redwood plantation – unfortunately only a few days later, two of the sites were affected by the bushfire which started in the plantation. Even before the fire, the redwoods were suffering from the drought and the Trust has raised concerns about this with the Department of Defence, which is responsible for this site.



WW2 bomb dump in Pialligo – Pialligo Redwoods and Beyond (Joan Lipscombe)

The first walk in February was Molonglo Mysteries on a rare damp day in Canberra but 20 or so hardy souls explored reminders of WW1 in Fyshwick and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands. Later in February, another Heritage Walk visited the two bridges across Lake Burley Griffin.



When visiting the National Library don't forget to take your membership card! National Trust ACT members can receive:

- *Friends discounted price for Friends events*
- *10% discount in the NLA bookshop*
- *Use of the exclusive Friends Lounge*



Molonglo Internment Camp Reservoir – Molonglo Mysteries (Joan Lipscombe)

Trust Talks

Amy Jarvis, Heritage Adviser, ANU, gave us a very interesting talk on her Churchill Fellowship trip to the US last year to learn about promotion and advocacy for modern architecture. Her key findings will be valuable for Canberra Modern which she organises and for organisations such as the National Trust.



Amy Jarvis - Celebrating the past, in the present, for the future (Mary Johnston)

There was also an interesting article about Amy's trip in the *Canberra Times* on 1 February: *Canberra Modern takes capital's modernist architecture to Modernism Week in Palm Springs, California.*

Mary Johnston, Chair, Tours and Events Committee

See pages 8 and 9 for a report on the talk.

Braidwood and Bedervale Tour Report



Bedervale (Jen Thompson)

I had a most enjoyable tour to Braidwood recently. The weather held off long enough for us to be able to see and enjoy the sights in Braidwood and the lunch at Casanova's was beautiful. Casanova's must be a new establishment and one I will be happy to return to in future!



Guided tour of Bedervale (Jane Goffman)

My grateful thanks go to Linda for rising so well and capably to meet the unexpected developments of the day. Our historian was unfortunately unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances and I really enjoyed the self guided walking tour of Braidwood using the very informative maps of the town with historical information that Linda provided. So much of historical interest was there to see, beyond the few sights one sees from a car when passing through Braidwood. The drive to Majors Creek was new for me and the visit to Bedervale was fascinating. Feedback from fellow travellers around me was very positive on the day.

My thanks to all members of the Tours and Events Committee who planned and contributed to make the day a most enjoyable and informative one.

Special thanks to Linda for speedily researching a Plan B for us given the change in circumstances.

Melanie Randall

Celebrating the past, in the present, for the future Talk Report

On 10 February 2020, Amy Jarvis, the Australian National University Heritage Adviser, gave an ACT National Trust talk on Canberra Modernist Architecture, which enthralled those present. The talk was a summary of her report, prepared for her Churchill Fellowship, entitled *Celebrating the past, in the present, for the future. Heritage advocacy, engagement and tourism models for modernist places and spaces*. It delivers in spades Amy's fellowship objective to 'advance the celebration and conservation of the mid-century modern heritage of Canberra'.

From a Canberra perspective, perhaps the most interesting chapter, entitled 'The Canberra Context: from a spoiled sheep station to a modern marvel', deals with the background to and the birth of modernist architecture in Canberra. Here is a taste:

Émigré architect Enrico Taglietti described his arrival in Canberra '... as a young architect in Italy I felt the heavy burden of history ... you feel suffocated. Arriving in Canberra I said "finally a city without history ... this is a proper void".' This boom in development — the filling of this void, if you will — provided Canberra with a uniquely modernist aesthetic that differs from other Australian cities in which a stronger evolution from the colonial, Victorian, federation and other eras is more visible.

If you were in any doubt about the capital's rich modernist heritage, these are some of the well and lesser-known mid and late twentieth century examples identified by Canberra Modern, an annual festival, of which Amy was a co-founder, held to celebrate Canberra's modernist places and spaces: National Library of Australia, University House, Giralang Primary School, School of Music, St Joseph's Church in Curtin, Swinger Hill housing and the High Court.

Amy's report is particularly timely. We can all identify with her lament that 'many of the structures that make an irreplaceable contribution to Canberra have been lost and many more are at risk of being lost in the near future due to the city's rapid development and densification.'



Gary Kent thanking Amy Jarvis for her presentation, Celebrating the past, in the present, for the future (Mary Johnston)

From a National Trust perspective, one of the most interesting and rewarding aspects of Amy's paper is the section on 'Successful advocacy and engagement', surely one of the challenges currently confronting organisations such as ours in Canberra. Amy identifies and provides practical guidance in support of five principles for success in this endeavour: Advocacy, not obstructionism; Collaboration and compromise; Embracing the positive; Contributing to the greater good; and the power of information.

One of the difficulties faced by ACTNT Council in developing our current five-year plan was how we measure our success or lack thereof in our advocacy work. Here, again, Amy provides some useful advice. She suggests a number of quantitative measures, including

for example, number of 'saves' (how many buildings were saved from demolition), number of members, renewals and volunteers, number of attendees at events, media reach and number of publications/mentions. A number of qualitative measures can also be employed, such as positive heritage conservation outcomes, collaboration or implementation of advice, general community perception, visibility and acceptability, measurable impacts on neighbourhoods, and grading government policies and progress in heritage conservation on a five-yearly cycle. We are already using some of these measures; but there are a number of others which might be usefully adopted by the National Trust.

Amy illustrates her report with examples of successful preservation and promotion of modernist architecture, in the United States, which she visited for her Fellowship. Amy investigated several overseas initiatives with essentially the same objective as Canberra Modern, such as the Palm Springs Modernism Week, and the Miami Design Preservation League: Art Deco Weekend. She believes that we can draw on those experiences here.

You can download the full report here:

<https://www.churchilltrust.com.au/fellows/detail/4393/Amy+Jarvis>

I commend it to you as compulsory reading on how we can ensure that Canberra's neglected modernist heritage can be safeguarded for future generations.

Gary Kent

What's next – coming up

Old Graham Coach Tour

On Sunday March 29 we will head to *Old Graham* between Boorowa and Cowra. National Trust registered *Old Graham* was built by Irishman Edward Kerr and his wife Mary Ann in 1878. The house has been a major restoration project by John and Liz Baker over the last twenty-five years. In addition to the restoration and furnishing of the house, they have established a country garden and sculpture collection. We will have a full day to explore the house, garden and sculptures and enjoy a lovely lunch provided by the Frogmore Community Hall ladies. Book online at <https://www.trybooking.com/BIKYE>.

Braidwood Country Weekend

The NSW National Trust Women's Committee is organising a Country Weekend to Braidwood on 2 and 3

May. Garth Setchell from U3A is organising a joint U3A/National Trust coach tour from Canberra each day to join the tour of seven houses near Braidwood. This is different to the tour we organised in February, apart from visiting Bedervale. The price is \$220pp for National Trust members or \$240pp for U3A members or friends of Trust applicants, and includes the cost of your 2-day house inspection ticket (\$85pp for Trust members and \$105pp for non-members). Bookings will need to close by the end of March. All booking applications - including your Trust membership number - must be made to tours@u3acanberra.org.au. For anyone without email, ring the leader, Garth Setchell, on 6290 1100. A tour leaflet will be sent to applicants detailing tour arrangements and options for payment, etc.

Tumut

Discover charming towns, ancient stories and interesting local characters in the magnificent Snowy Mountains. This four-day tour (19-22 May) will be based at the Tumut Valley Inn and you will visit Yarrangobilly Caves, the Tumut Broom Factory, the Montreal Theatre, the Boggy Creek Show, Adelong and more. Like Braidwood, the areas around the towns have been affected by the bushfires so visiting these areas will show our support for their recovery. The tour is operated by Potter Travel. National Trust members pay \$895 or \$1,045 (single occupancy). Payment must be made by the end of March. Contact Liz McMillan on 6230 0533 for a brochure and to book your place on this tour.

Heritage Walks

Our next two walks are quite multicultural! On 22 March we will be looking at the history of Westlake, known as *Guru Bung Dhaura* by the Ngunnawal people. On 5 April the Heritage Walk will explore the Chinese experience in colonial New South Wales – specifically Queanbeyan.

Three more Heritage Walks will be held during the Heritage Festival, spanning Woden in the south, ANU and Forde in Gungahlin.

National Trust Heritage Festival events

This year, our feature event will be the Heritage Polaris. This is a navigating and cycling event where teams must find their way around control points. Each control point is given a point value that the competitors accumulate during the day. The team with the most points at the end of the seven hours is declared the winner. Successful teams will require good tactics to ensure they visit enough control points while allowing themselves time to return to base without incurring too many penalties.

Despite its competitive undertone, the event suits everybody from those teams who will endeavour to reach every point to those who see it as an opportunity to have a day out riding with friends and taking in areas of Canberra they may not otherwise visit. See

www.heritagepolaris.com.au

If you are not able to participate in this event, there will be volunteering opportunities for members!

A new event this year will be a lunch and a talk by David Headon on the first PMs at the Hotel Kurrajong and High Tea at the Mercure Canberra, with the inimitable Elizabeth Burness and her 'show and tell' on the subject, *There's History in the Bottom Drawers!*

In addition to these events and three Heritage Walks mentioned, we will have another joint event with the Australian Garden History Society, which is another history walk in Queanbeyan.

Information on our Heritage Festival events will appear on the National Trust website and our Facebook page. Many more events will be featured on the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival website and publications – see Linda Roberts' report on this year's Festival below.

For more information on National Trust tours and events, email events@nationaltrustact.org.au.

Mary Johnston

Tours and Events Committee

reIMAGINE your April with the 2020 Heritage Festival



The motto 'Hindsight is 2020 vision' was the springboard for this year's theme 'reIMAGINE'. We hope that you will be challenged to reconsider what heritage is, encouraged to revisit memories and places, and re-envision the future. 'reIMAGINE' looks backwards and forwards.

The 20 days of this, the 38th Heritage Festival, provide an extraordinary window that allows you to access the region's many locations, often not open to the public. Bricks and mortar are important, but the storylines associated with a place will truly bring heritage 'alive'.

We are so fortunate to have the tireless work of our event organisers, many as volunteers. They bring reality and meaning to our history, connect us with our traditions and our local community, giving rise to a sense of belonging. These meaningful linkages between people and places contribute to our well-being—something the ACT Government seeks to formally acknowledge with its well-being indicators.

Enjoy the plethora of activities, be it a dance at the Yarralumla Woolshed, a cycle in the Heritage Polaris, a

trip across the border to 19th century properties, or a walk or talk on our natural, built or Aboriginal heritage.

The Festival is a time to mark anniversaries and there is an abundance of these: St John's Church in Reid's 175th anniversary, the centenary of the screening of the Aussie classic *'Sentimental Bloke'*, Red Hill Primary School's 60th anniversary and the more recent 50th anniversaries of the Carillon and Australian National Botanic Gardens.

As one of our main stakeholders, we welcome the National Trust's contribution. The Trust will be offering

various events including the flagship event - the Heritage Polaris. More details can be found on page 10.

After a most challenging summer, enjoy the autumn with the many events on offer. I hope to see you at one. The Heritage Festival program will be online on 19 March, which is when bookings open. A full printed program will be available from 1 April with a 'teaser' attached to the *Canberra Weekly* on 19 March.

Linda Roberts
Festival Co-ordinator

Heritage Diary February-May 2020

A selection of heritage-related events that may be of interest to members

Details of National Trust (ACT) events are provided on pages 9-11

Date and time	Event and location	Organiser	Contact
Sunday 22 Mar 9:30-11:30am	Heritage Walk 37 Westlake and the <i>Guru Bung Dhaura</i>	National Trust	For more details, go to https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/heritage-walk-37-westlake/
Sunday 5 Apr 9:30-11:30am	Heritage Walk 38 Hidden Treasures: The First Chinese	National Trust	For more details, go to https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/heritage-walk-38-chinese-heritage-2/
Sunday 9 Apr 10am-12pm	CAS OLD LANDS END HOMESTEAD, Weetangera, ACT Archaeology and History tour part of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival 2020.	CAS	Bookings at https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/history-and-archaeology-walking-tour-old-lands-end-homestead-act-tickets-61138294284
14 Apr to 3 May 2020	Canberra and Region Heritage Festival		For more details, go to https://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-festival

Note: AGHS is the Australian Garden History Society. CAS is the Canberra Archaeological Society. CDHS is the Canberra and District Historical Society. NAA is the National Archives 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.

Changing times – commemorating the 250th anniversary of Lt James Cook's charting of the east coast of Australia

Back in April 1970, Canberra and Australia celebrated the Cook Bicentenary of the discovery of Australia. Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the Royal Family (as well as the Pope) came to Australia especially for the event. The Queen spent five days in Canberra, inaugurated the Captain Cook Memorial Fountain and Globe, and unveiled a model of *Endeavour*, a gift of the government and people of the United Kingdom. Australians nearly everywhere celebrated this event with other memorials, new roads, parks, souvenirs and special events. It was a celebration not only of Cook, but of what Australia had achieved in the intervening 200 years. Even small rural towns like Gunning had a

Bicentenary Celebrations Committee. Canberra events included a regatta on the Lake with 300 yachts, a veteran car rally with more than 500 cars, and a fair in Commonwealth Park.

There was little acknowledgement anywhere of the immediate and downstream impacts of Cook's visit on Australia's First Peoples. In Melbourne the Aborigines Advancement League hosted an address 'Bicentenary of an invasion – what will aborigines (sic) celebrate?' Canberra Theatre Trust hosted 'The Ballet of the Pacific' featuring Cook Islands dancers and The Aboriginal Dancers of Australia.

ANU student magazine *Woroni* (22 April 1970) was a rare critic and it is only now, 50 years later, that their plea is belatedly reflected in preparations for the 250th anniversary:

(The Royal Family) are here to join in celebrating 200 years of Advance, of progress, and of affluence. But for so many Aborigines, these 200 years have brought degradation, discrimination and poverty. Look at Dareton, Palm Island, Yirrkala, Wave Hill, Cape Barren Island, Yarrabah. How can we celebrate with this situation still here today? And what have the 200 years actually done to the Aborigines?

2020 will reflect a more sensitive, muted, and inclusive bi-cultural approach: no royals, few events. Australians will 'commemorate' rather than 'celebrate', and 'discovery' has been corrected to 'charting'. There is greater interest in understanding Cook's arrival from Aboriginal perspectives. National institutions have led the way in tune with a changing public mood, and their approach will do much to further advance understanding. The National Library of Australia's 2019 exhibition 'Cook and the Pacific' was developed in consultation with indigenous communities on Australia's east coast and First Nations Peoples in the Pacific. A similar focus is evident in 2020 exhibitions at the National Museum of Australia and at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

Away from the coast that Cook sailed, few communities are commemorating, and those that are will do so in a spirit of reconciliation. Cook spent only two extended periods ashore, at Botany Bay and at Cooktown. Both places have commemorated the anniversaries of Cook's arrival annually in an inclusive fashion for some years now, drawing their local communities together and deepening understanding of the continuing impacts of colonisation. Both places, and particularly Cooktown, have events planned in 2020, and are beacons and exemplars for other places with Cook connections, as at 1770-St Agnes (Cook's Bustard Bay). The Federal Government's funding of a circumnavigation of Australia by the *Endeavour* replica will bring people to ports around the coast in their thousands, and is designed to provide an opportunity for a national conversation and to advance reconciliation. A different Australia is at last rewriting its history.

Trevor Lipscombe

Changes to the NT(ACT) Constitution

Part of the Trust's 2019/2020 Business Plan is an item to prepare an updated Constitution for consideration by members. Our current Constitution [is located on our website](#), and has not been updated in some years. The following issues have been identified for consideration:

- Our objects and powers could be simplified
- The pronouns used in the document are not gender neutral in a number of places
- A desire by Council to use clearer wording to separate the roles of the Patron and those who are a Patron through their donations (i.e. Donor Patrons)
- A desire for clearer language in the document which is more in line with current law.

It is recognised that members may have other areas in which they would like Council to consider possible amendments. If so, they are encouraged to provide those comments to the Office, which will pass them on to Council for consideration.

At this time, it is probable that proposed amendments to the Constitution will be considered at our Annual General Meeting later this year. Should this proceed, official notice will be provided in due course. However, to meet the timelines required, members are asked to provide any feedback to the office by 15 April 2020.

For more information, please contact the office:
info@nationaltrustact.org.au or phone (02) 6230 0533

Thanks, Gary Watkins, Secretary

BEQUESTS

HELP CONSERVE OUR HERITAGE

A bequest to National Trust of Australia (ACT) will help to safeguard and preserve our heritage for future generations.

A greater appreciation of the importance of bequests can be gained by considering what the Trust achieves. Sound reasons to support the National Trust of Australia (ACT) are:

- ❖ The National Trust of Australia (ACT) began in 1976 and works to protect and conserve the natural and cultural heritage of our Territory.
- ❖ The National Trust of Australia (ACT) is a not-for-profit, community based voluntary organisation funded from membership subscriptions, donations and operational activities.
- ❖ Unlike other community sector organisations – Nature Conservation, Arts, Sport or Recreation, National Trust of Australia (ACT) does not receive any operational funding from either the ACT or Commonwealth Governments.
- ❖ Bequests allow the Trust to act quickly when unplanned needs or opportunities occur or during urgent situations.

We sincerely hope that you consider making a bequest to the NT(ACT).

Contact

Email: info@nationaltrustact.org.au

Telephone: 6230 0533

Your support for the Trust is deeply appreciated.

All information will be treated as "Private and Personal In Confidence"

Membership Rates as at 1 January 2019

Joining fee	\$35
Annual Membership	
Individual	\$75
Individual Senior	\$70
Individual Concession	\$55
Household	\$105
Household Senior	\$95
Household Concession	\$85
Life Membership	
Single	\$1,662.50
Household	\$1,837.50

National Trust of Australia (ACT)

ABN 50 797 949 955

Postal Address: PO Box 1144 Civic Square ACT 2608

Telephone: 02 6230 0533

Email info@nationaltrustact.org.au

Net www.nationaltrust.org.au

Office Location: Unit 2.03, Level 2, Griffin Centre,
20 Genge St, Canberra ACT 2601

Normal Opening Times:

9.30am to 3.00pm Tuesday to Thursday

Patron: The Hon. Margaret Reid AO

President: Gary Kent

Secretary: Gary Watkins

Treasurer: Scott McAlister

Council: Linda Roberts, Graham Carter, John
Tucker, Eric Martin, Ian Oliver, Trevor Wilson, Jane
Goffman, Marianne Albury-Colless, Peter Dowling

Office Manager: Liz McMillan

Keeping up with the Trust

E- news

To join our E-news list, email info@nationaltrustact.org.au with the subject heading of: Subscribe to E News

Social Media

Follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook and join the conversation!

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.

Benefits for National Trust Members:

- + Reciprocal visiting arrangements within Australia, plus 19 NT organisations worldwide, including the UK and Scottish National Trusts.
- See www.nationaltrust.org.au/international-places/
- + Member rates on shop items which are for sale online or through the ACT Office.
- + ACT Members Reward Card. Attend 3 events, get 4th free (conditions apply)
- + Access to the *Friends of the NLA* lounge and discounts at the NLA bookshop.
- + Regular ACT E-magazines, invitations to participate in outings and tours.
- + Access to archival 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.

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 specifically for ACT members. This edition was produced and edited by Garry Richards and Liz McMillan, assisted by Mary Johnston, Linda Roberts and Karen Moore.

The editor invites 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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