

Canberra Central Area from Walter Burley Griffin's last plan for Canberra 1918

Is Canberra 'Griffin's City'?

An article in the Canberra Times credited Walter Burley Griffin's plan for Canberra for "well-connected green spaces – key features that reflect garden city principles". The Walter Burley Griffin Society also referred to "the Griffins' design for low-density planning and green open spaces". But are the green spaces and low-density planning in Canberra really due to the Griffin plan?

As Paul Reid, Chief Architect of the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) from 1968 to 1982, wrote in *Canberra Following Griffin* (2002): "Today's Canberra citizens proudly claim Griffin as the designer of their city. They usually invoke his name to justify any particular interpretation of the plan they favour at the time. The impression given is that modern Canberra is Griffin's city, with a few changes necessitated by modern life, of which he would have approved. In fact, the vitality of Griffin's proposed urban terraces and monuments has been replaced by quiet suburbs in a serene landscape."

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Griffin's 1912 plan for Canberra was one of the last great examples of the 'City Beautiful' style, in its highly geometric layout with axial vistas and radiating avenues, harking back to Haussmann's grand boulevards of Paris and L'Enfant's layout of Washington. His avenues were straight, 200 feet wide to allow a central tramway and lined with residential and commercial terraces of four or five storeys. They were intended to be elegant, lively, European style boulevards and the density overall would have been considerably higher than the current central area of Canberra.

In the hinterland enclosed by his busy avenues Griffin proposed suburbs with densities grading down to their communal centres, free of through traffic, in what Peter Harrison, first Chief Planner of NCD and noted Griffin scholar, wrote in *Walter Burley Griffin Landscape Architect* (1995) was probably "the earliest enunciation of the neighbourhood planning theory". Griffin envisaged "the neighbourhood group, with one handy district school or more... local playground, game fields, church, club and social amenities accessible without crossing traffic tracks." Commercial activities and through traffic were confined to the edges of these neighbourhood groups.

Griffin was aware of and sympathetic to the writings of Ebenezer Howard which led to the Garden City movement. "Ebenezer Howard, like Griffin, was unimpressed by the crowded city deficient in open space. Howard proposed a series of geometrically laid out self-contained new towns, with public open spaces and private gardens, located in countryside but linked to each other and to the central, older parent city." (Harrison)

As Professor Ken Taylor puts it in *Canberra – City in the Landscape* (2007): "Griffin's plan, although predominantly City Beautiful, was suffused with the humanistic social reform stance and values of the Garden City notion and its concept of the city as an organic whole. In practice the Garden City ideal became linked to the notions of residential areas with tree lined avenues, public open space, playgrounds and gardens for each dwelling. The Garden City movement ...was enthusiastically embraced in Australia in the early years of last century leading to our remarkable cultural phenomenon of suburbia."

Paul Reid says "Australians never took Griffin's design literally as a blueprint for the capital. Instead, over the course of the twentieth century, planners applied a succession of the latest town planning ideas." Griffin's

ideas were very well informed and progressive for the time but, despite producing many plans and detailed design studies for areas of the proposed city, he was unable to achieve much development on the ground in the seven years until his position as Federal Capital Director of Design and Construction was abolished in 1920.

After Griffin's departure, the Federal Capital Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of John Sulman moved to introduce Sulman's long held ideas on "the city as a garden suburb" with buildings spaced apart in landscaped surrounds to "have the effect of one large park or garden, with fine buildings set therein". (Sulman 1910, quoted by Reid)

Sulman thought the European style boulevard "would be unappreciated" by Australians who also preferred 'cottages' to semi-detached and terraced housing. The terraced buildings shown by Griffin along the main avenues in the central area, particularly along Commonwealth Avenue south of Civic and (now) Kings Avenue south of (now) Russell, never happened. These sites were either left open or provided with individual low-rise buildings in landscaped settings such as the Archbishop's Residence, Albert Hall and the Hotel Canberra.



Hotel Canberra (Richard Johnston)

Effectively, as Reid notes, later planners "turned Griffin's plan inside out." Local shops were located away from the avenues, rather than Griffin's plan where the "intensity of activity and movement supported the geometric structure of the city". The Kingston shopping centre is an early example of this movement away from Griffin's principles. His street layout for the inner North and South areas is still discernible but not his intended land uses or intensity of development.

A contemporary influence on Griffin from the City Beautiful movement was Daniel Burnham's "1909 comprehensive city plan for Chicago with its emphasis on civic design, a system of highways and avenues, public transport and a great park system. Public open space and parkland were seen as essential requisites of any well-planned city." (Taylor) Griffin's plan had generous, formally designed public gardens, parkways and waterfront promenades but what we see today bears little resemblance to this.

Griffin's design for the lake basins, in the City Beautiful mode, featured formal circular edges with lakeside boulevards and a large park to the north of the central basin including the 'Recreation Group' - sites for major recreation and cultural buildings such as the National Stadium, National Theatre and Opera House. However, under the NCDC, when the lake was finally constructed, land shaping and planting on the northern shore was made much more informal. "Dame Silvia Crowe was engaged to design Commonwealth Park on the site of Griffin's Recreation Group. The result is some of the most beautiful man-made landscapes in Australia" (Reid) but without Griffin's formality or major buildings. An arterial road (Parkes Way) was then driven through the Recreation Group site.



Kingston Foreshore (Richard Johnston)

So, who is responsible for the design of central Canberra? It's fair to say the basic layout reflects the Griffin plan, but what we see today is the product of countless numbers of planners, designers and others applying their own ideas without reference to Griffin's design. It is more Garden City than Griffin's city.

Richard Johnston (B.Architecture; Dip. T&C Planning; Dip. Environ. Studies; Life Fellow Planning Institute of Australia)



Commonwealth Park (Richard Johnston)

The Griffin Legacy (National Capital Authority 2004) promoted a return to Griffin's plan where possible. Part of his circular lake front to East Basin has been recreated at Kingston Foreshore, and the proposed West Basin redevelopment would recreate another part of Griffin's circular foreshore with a lakeside promenade and streets with residential buildings connecting the lake shore to Civic, in an area currently dominated by a large surface car park.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REMINDER

Members are reminded that the AGM will be held at 6:00 pm on Thursday, 3 December 2020 via Zoom teleconferencing.

To join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/92177441818?pwd=Rzh6ZDIKS3NwQld1TDBZNEFHbi9mUT09>

Meeting ID: 921 7744 1818

Passcode: 074576

A formal notice of meeting was issued separately to members and contains relevant documents for the meeting. Please contact the office if you need another copy emailed to you.

ACT Trust News

President's Update

Dear Members

Soon 2020 will be history and I am sure this can't come soon enough for all of us.

We are looking forward to resuming our full suite of National Trust activities next year when the coronavirus will hopefully be no more than a rapidly receding nightmare.

We have already commenced our heritage walks, subject to COVID-19 restrictions and, as usual, they have sold out.

I participated in the Trust's Westlake and the Guru Bung Dhaura Walk on Sunday 18 October. I am ashamed to say that I have lived in Canberra for 35 years but never set foot until now in that wonderful part of inner south Canberra. Walk leaders Tony Maple (National Trust) and John Fitzgerald (Friends of Grasslands) imparted their deep knowledge of the natural, Indigenous and modern history of this important precinct.

This was the first time the Trust used its new audio tour guide system, and it worked like a charm, adding materially to the experience of those taking part in the walk. See page 8.

On 13 November I was pleased to represent the Australian Council of National Trusts at a hearing of the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Standing Affairs inquiry into nationhood, national identity and democracy. I spoke of the importance of heritage in helping to create a sense of national identity, and of the positive role of Australia's national trusts and that of the ACT in particular.

The ACT elections were held on 17 October. The Trust had sought policy commitments from political parties and candidates in key areas of concern to the Trust. We were delighted that the new parliamentary agreement, concluded following the election between the Australian Labor Party and the Greens, includes several of our priorities, including secure and stable funding for the National Trust. You will find further details elsewhere in this edition of *Heritage in Trust*.

Since my last *Heritage in Trust* report, we were delighted to learn that following much work on behalf of Trust



officers and the 3 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force Association, the nomination of Canberra's first aerodrome at Dickson has been accorded preliminary heritage status subject to further research and assessment. Most gratifyingly, preliminary archaeological work has been undertaken and work has been commissioned to examine interpretation. See page 11.

The Trust has many policy priorities for next year, including maintaining our opposition to the West Basin project, the Heritage Listing of Canberra and engaging with the environmental and heritage assessment of Light Rail Stage 2.

Another issue of serious concern to the Trust is the proposed apartment development at the foothills of Mt Ainslie. Trust officers were recently given a tour of the site by Shane Mortimer, a Nyamudy-Ngambri Elder, and this strengthened our resolve, if this was needed, to ensure that this priceless part of Canberra is not despoiled.

The Trust AGM will be held on 3 December via Zoom and hopefully you will have received your meeting papers by now. See page 3.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our Christmas Party at Kambah Woolshed on Sunday 6 December. See page 13.

Best wishes to all of you for a very merry Christmas and a much happier New Year than the last one proved to be.

Gary Kent

2020 ACT Assembly Election and Heritage

The Trust prepared a comprehensive policy platform which we presented to political parties and candidates contesting the ACT Assembly election held on 17 October 2020.

You can find a link to our 'wish list' here:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/news/media-release-the-act-national-trust-calls-for-act-election-heritage-boost/>

We were delighted that, following the election, the new ALP-Greens Parliamentary & Governing Agreement https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1654077/Parliamentary-Agreement-for-the-10th-Legislative-Assembly.pdf included a number of commitments based on the respective heritage policies the two parties took to the election.

These include:

- ongoing and secure funding for the National Trust ACT
- funding for the Heritage Council to upgrade the Heritage database and website
- investigation of options for a single 'hub' site for heritage groups, including storage space
- a planning review process that will include a 'community compact' process to find ways to encourage affordable housing while protecting our trees, green space and heritage
- work with Federal Government on co-ordinated national/ACT heritage protection of the central national area, lake and inner hills to protect Canberra's character while meeting community needs for housing and transport
- better protection of remnant grasslands, woodlands and key waterways as nature reserves or similar protective zoning
- increased funding to manage Canberra Nature Park and Namadgi National Park.

The Agreement did not include all of the Trust's priorities. We were disappointed, for example, that there was no funding commitment to clear the enormous backlog of heritage assessments, or a halt to the West Basin development.

We welcome the appointment of Greens MLA Rebecca Vassarotti as the new Minister for Environment and Heritage and look forward to developing a close relationship with her in pursuit of our common goals.

The Trust Council has already started work to ensure we are in a good position to engage with the new government in ensuring early implementation of its promised initiatives, and other Trust priorities which have not been recognised so far.

Gary Kent

Business Development Committee Report

The Business Development Committee continues to progress initiatives in support of the strategic and business plans.

One of the items on this year's business plan is to examine ways to grow the Trust's membership. Did you know that in addition to Trust membership not only giving free or discounted access to many historic places around the world, it also has other benefits such as

discounts at National Trust gift shops and access to our partnership with the Friends of the National Library of Australia? (see page 14 for list of benefits).

We would like to hear from members on any thoughts they have about their membership or how we might encourage other people to join. Are there any benefits you feel are missing that would encourage others to join? Are there partnerships you think we should have with other organisations? Do you find the membership renewal process easy or difficult? Do you feel that long term members should be recognised?

These are just a sample of questions that we would like to hear opinions on. I am sure that there are other ideas or suggestions that you might have, and now is the opportunity to provide your thoughts and comments. Please provide them to the Committee Chair, Gary Watkins, who is also the Trust's Secretary at secretary@nationaltrustact.org.au.

Gary Watkins

Chair Business Development Committee

New members

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

Mr Robin & Ms Marion Connaughton
Mr John Davenport
Mr Nicholas Standen & Ms Seraina Ella
Ms Marlene McClure
Mr C & Mrs B McCrae
Mr Matt Watts & Ms Rennie Ramanaathan
Ms Anna Kieltyka & Mr Douglas Smith
Ms Bettina Soderbaum

In Memoriam

Mr Graeme & Mrs Evelyn Evans, life members since 1987

Trust Treasures

The National Trust (ACT) has amongst its assets a collection of 10 valuable, unique sets of items and material. Books, Maps, Files, Photographs, Reports, Plans, Oral History Records, Furniture and Miscellaneous Items make up this collection - all of which is available for members to access for research or information.

Details were published in *Heritage In Trust* in July 2019 of the extent of the Trust's Library and the work being done on its Classification Files. The contents of the Trust's Library have been placed on-line on the Trust's website for members' information as has the index of *Heritage In Trust*. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/services/library-resources/>

Once the up-dating work was completed on the Files, it was our intention to similarly publish the index of Files on-line and for a while now, work has been proceeding to this end. Because of the onset of the coronavirus however, work on the Files has been suspended and the index remains in draft form. Notwithstanding this, we feel that it is important not to delay further the publication of an interim index on-line (with errors and omissions accepted) to advise members of the scope of the material held on the Trust's Files.

Thus, the draft index of files has been placed on-line on the Trust's website for would-be-readers as a guide towards Classification File material of possible interest which they may wish, by appointment, to peruse.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/services/national-trust-of-australia-act-heritage-files/>

Our wonderful volunteers who look after these resources

National Trust of Australia (ACT) Manning Clark House Conservation

The Trust has established a fund to help conserve Manning Clark House.



Manning Clark House (MCH)

Manning Clark House is a Heritage listed property, recognising its significance as a house designed by the eminent architect, Robin Boyd, and its association with one of Australia's most influential historians. Largely unaltered since construction in 1953, the house retains the distinctive characteristics of Boyd's modernist practice, adapted to the relatively modest brief of providing a home for Manning and Dymphna Clark's family and reflecting the social and cultural contexts of their lives in the formative phases of Canberra's development. Now managed as a cultural centre and hosting a diverse range of activities reflecting the creative and intellectual life of the city, it still retains the intimacy of a family home, conveying the vitality of those who lived in it.

Preserving these unique qualities, and ensuring the house retains its integrity while continuing to promote

those values and pursuits, is a challenge. Manning Clark House Inc (MCHI), an ACT incorporated association, was founded by Dymphna Clark in 1997 and now functions on a purely voluntary basis. We welcome donations that will assist us in maintaining the house, its gardens and grounds, conserving the extensive library, artworks and furnishings that evoke the Clarks, their networks, contributions and personalities, and ensuring that the property retains the capacity to educate and delight its visitors.

We invite you to assist in this work. You might choose to support a specific project (for example, the restoration of one of several artworks by major Australian figures or maintaining the kitchen garden Dymphna developed as an expression of commitment to sustainability). If you agree, we will recognise your contribution on our website and in our programs, as a vital dimension of the ways in which 'friends' of Manning Clark House engage with us and enrich our work.

Any donation of \$200 or above to any of the accounts listed on the website will be treated as a benefaction and will entitle the benefactor and family to one complimentary individual or couple membership of the association, as well as invitations as honoured guests to special events. In association with the National Trust (ACT), donations to the Heritage Fund are tax deductible.

If you wish to contact us to discuss how you might wish to help us, please send an email to the following address: manningclarkhse@gmail.com

To make donations, please go to:

<https://manningclark.org.au/donate/>. In the near future Manning Clark House will have a direct payment facility on GiveNow. Please mark any email or correspondence for the attention of The Treasurer, Manning Clark House, PO Box 3096, Manuka ACT 2603.

BEQUESTS - HELP CONSERVE OUR HERITAGE

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

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"

Heritage Happenings

Building and development work continues through the COVID 19 pandemic so the heritage issues also continue. An update of where things are at and some emerging issues are outlined below.

Canberra Brickworks

Doma is consulting regularly with the Reference Group which includes a Trust representative and are moving steadily toward an adaptive reuse of the former brickworks.

From the details to date they will be largely retained, adapted, and it looks like a successful outcome which will hopefully become an important part of Canberra for some time to come.

Kingston Powerhouse Precinct

This continues to be a concern from a heritage point of view with the proposed development around the Powerhouse and its setting not meeting the expectations of a good conservation outcome. Geocon is providing some information to the community panel but it is not progressing as would be desired.

Australian War Memorial

The Australian Heritage Council (AHC) has not supported the proposed development due to impacts on heritage value.

The Trust signed a letter to the Prime Minister expressing concerns with the proposal in light of the AHC View.

West Basin

We await the proposal on the infill of the lake and

adjacent development and potential impacts on a number of heritage issues.

Former CSIRO Site Campbell

Development of the site is being reconsidered in the light of some additional aboriginal, flora/fauna and geological issues of some heritage value.

CSIRO Yarralumla

We await the future master plan for the site and the impact on heritage buildings, trees/landscape and the social values of the site.

Reid CIT

The Trust made an initial submission expressing concern about the heritage issues around the CIT and will be consulted as the ideas are developed.

Light Rail 2

This is delayed but we await the proposal in 2021 and will check possible outcome and impacts on heritage.

Emerging Issues – Braddon Place

This is a new proposal by JW Land for the former Northbourne Flats (Braddon side) just north of Haig Park. This is going through a consultation phase before a DA is submitted. The Trust is concerned with the proximity of building to Haig Park, the direct impact of trees that share a boundary and the impact of a 3 storey basement adjacent.

Eric Martin, AM

NATIONAL TRUST PRESENTATIONS

The National Trust has prepared a presentation for community groups such as Probus and VIEW clubs. It covers the history of the National Trust internationally, nationally and locally, the aims and objectives of our organisation and the benefits of membership. If you know of a similar group who you think would like to know more about the National Trust please email us at events@nationaltrustact.org.au.

Walks, Talks and Tours

2020 has seen few of our normal tours and events due to COVID – nothing since February this year! We have been waiting with bated breath to see what we can do in 2021. The first tour(s) planned are to *King Island and the Yarra Valley* in January and February. As King Island is in Tasmania, this tour depends on border restrictions to and from Victoria being lifted by the NSW, ACT and Tasmania. At the time of writing, Tasmania was expected to lift the restriction from early December so we may be able to get away!

We are having our Christmas Party on 6 December and I urge you to come along. See page 8 for details and book soon. There are unlikely to be coach tours for a while as travelling for a couple of hours on a coach is not something we think is desirable at present but we are planning some local tours including self-drive tours out of Canberra. However, we may be able to get back to normal later in 2021 and we do have some very good news! (see next page)

The National Trust (ACT) was delighted to receive an ACT Heritage Grant for the purchase of **tour guide audio equipment** for use on guided tours and walks. We have now purchased and used the equipment on recent Heritage Walks with great success. Guides have commented that they can continue to talk as the group moves along, allowing the commentary to flow rather than having to stop and often wait for people to catch up. Walkers appreciate being able to hear guides clearly even if some way away, benefitting those who are hard of hearing or want to walk at a slower pace. Of course, in a COVID world, it assists with physical distancing! There is a choice of two types of headsets or participants may bring their own. Guidelines have been developed for the use of the equipment which include ensuring it is carefully sanitized between uses.

This project was supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program.



Heritage Walks resumed in August and, initially, were run twice to permit smaller groups of 20 or less, consistent with the ACT Government COVID guidelines. During this period, we also trialled the use of the audio equipment. These walks covered several different areas of Canberra – Woden; Westlake and Blandfordia. Thanks to the guides for each of these walks who repeated their walks each time. Two more walks are scheduled before the end of the year – Manuka and Oaks Estate – and plans are underway for lots more in 2021.

2021 Canberra and Region Heritage Festival

As you are probably aware, the 2020 Heritage Festival was cancelled but is being “Reimagined” in 2021! The Trust will run several events during the Festival including the Heritage Polaris and some walks. Let’s celebrate our local region’s unique heritage at the 38th Annual Heritage Festival from 6 - 26 April 2021. For information on the

festival see:

<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage-festival>

Mary Johnston
Chair, Tours and Events Committee

Annual Members’ Christmas Party at Kambah Woolshed

Sunday 6 December 2020 3-5pm

Perhaps you only recall Kambah as being ‘nappy valley’? Hear from special guest, Glenn Schwinghamer, about Kambah’s pastoral heyday during the Bennet era and what, if anything, remains.



Members: \$20; Non Members: \$25

Drinks and refreshments included (some chairs will be available but BYO chair if required)

Bookings are essential. Please RSVP by Wednesday 2 December

Call NT ACT Office on 026230 0533 or email: info@nationaltrustact.org.au

Kambah Woolshed is located at Corner O’Halloran Cct and Springbett St, Kambah

We look forward to seeing you there!!

COVID-19 safety for Heritage Walks

Please check the current ACT health guidelines on protecting yourself and others before booking on a walk. Please note that you must cancel if you are unwell (a refund will be provided on request); you should maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres from other people during the walk and observe good hygiene to prevent the spread of germs. If required, your contact details will be provided to health authorities. Hand sanitiser will be available before and during the walk.

National Trust of Australia (ACT) Heritage Awards 2020 Report from Judging Panel

The judging panel was pleased to see so many worthy projects nominated in the seventh year of these awards. The panel consisted of Dr Rosemary Hollow, an Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra, Faculty of Arts, who has expertise in natural and cultural heritage management; Amanda Evans, a practising landscape architect who is a member of the ACT Heritage Council as its expert in landscape architecture and Ken Charlton AM, LFRAIA, an architectural historian and member of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) Heritage Committee.

Four entries each received an Award for an Outstanding Project:

Reroofing St John's Anglican Church



Although the Anglican Church of St John the Baptist dates from 1844 and is arguably the most-loved building in Canberra, it has not had a suitable roof until now. By following the conservation plan, this project has provided the best and most permanent roof covering, slate, and ensured that the roof is adequately supported and made weatherproof.

The aesthetic appeal of the Church has been enhanced externally and insulation has been installed for people's comfort and to lower the cost of heating. Care has been taken to ensure that nothing appears to have changed inside the Church as a result of the work on the roof. Possible future contamination from asbestos in the superseded roofing is no longer a threat.

The Church community is to be commended for providing the substantial funding needed to complete this outstanding project.

Refurbishment of hydronic heating at Old Parliament House



King's Hall, the central space in Old Parliament House, now a museum of democracy, has considerable social value. The judging panel was impressed by the way the life of the original hydronic heating radiators in and around King's Hall has been extended by the use of innovative new technologies. It is a model which could be followed in similar conservation projects. The use of a display model of a cut-down refurbished heater is a commendable interpretation tool that clearly illustrates the work that has been done.

This innovative work by an interstate firm should be publicised in heritage and trade journals as an example of how original heaters can be refurbished to maintain the integrity of the building, and continue to provide warmth in cold Canberra winters.

Promised the Moon



This project was created as part of the 50th Anniversary 'Moon Week' celebrations of the Moon Landing on July 21 1969. This anniversary event provided an opportunity to reflect on the historic period of the lunar landing during NASA's Apollo 11 mission and to celebrate the ACT's unique space heritage and

important contribution to it. 'Promised the Moon's' aim was to capture the experiences and memories of those who witnessed the event through art, conversation and storytelling.

The exhibition, with a panel discussion, events and the memories of those who told their stories on the website, is worthy of recognition for adding to peoples' knowledge and understanding of that historic event and our local contribution to it.

Manuka Pool Upgrades



Manuka Pool is a popular community facility in an intact building complex of both architectural and heritage significance, which has served the Canberra community well since 1930. In 2019, in need of urgent repairs, the ACT Government invested \$2.42m in this project to bring the Manuka Pool's condition back to meet the expectations of its heritage values and the community it supports. In line with the Conservation Management Plan, the pool underwent a comprehensive, yet sympathetic upgrade, including the re-tiling of the pool floor and walls including the replacement of the gutters to match existing, the replacement and repainting of the bench seats, the repainting of all internal and external walls, change rooms, cubicles and bike racks, the restoration of existing heritage signage, and the replacement of the old sand filters with a filtration system carefully positioned to not impact on any heritage elements in the pump room.

The works undertaken were done with great care and the results will ensure that the Manuka Pool continues to be a highly valued heritage place for future generations.

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

Ginninderry Local History Study

How refreshing it is to discover a housing development company which has a cultural heritage and community engagement program, to encourage its future residents and visitors to learn of the history of the region, that was commenced early as part of the construction phase

of the housing development, and the information made easily available to incoming residents.

The story of settlement west of Belconnen, between the Murrumbidgee River and Ginninderra Creek and into NSW has been thoroughly researched and well presented in an exhibition and a variety of publications. Commendably, local school students were involved to create artworks now on display. Aboriginal cultural values, occupation and contact sites were researched in an earlier project and mentioned in this study, but the judging panel would have liked to have seen more integration of that aspect of history in the study, rather than separate from it.

The panel hopes the urban design teams can make good use of advice provided to include elements of the interpretation in the continued development of this housing estate.

Interpretation at RMC Duntroon

A project which has taken advantage of the discovery in 1991 of the remains of a large underground cistern at the site of Duntroon Estate's 1860s bachelors' quarters. The result is an appropriate structure on the exact site, with well-designed interpretation panels developed by GML Heritage in consultation with local Aboriginal representatives and RMC Duntroon.

Residents of the houses soon to be built in the precinct and members of the public will be able to visit the facility which is in the form of a curved outdoor brick bench within a planned park. By reading the succinct information on the graphic panels, they will gain an understanding of the site's long history, from Aboriginal pathways, cultural places and artefacts to the first graziers, then the Royal Military College.

One entry did not receive an award:

Interpretation at HMAS Harman

The Naval Receiving Station operated here in WW2 and continues today. The remarkable story of the women telegraphists who went on to form the WRANS is well told in the interpretive panels in a former guardhouse. However, the location deep within a defence base means the panels are not on display to the general public. They can only be seen by people within the base, approved groups, particularly members of the WRANS, or outsiders on specially organised visits.

Another interpretation project displayed outside the secure area, with a more concise version of the story, would be a more effective contribution to heritage conservation.

(photos supplied)

Canberra Aerodrome at Dickson – Heritage Nomination Update

Following the joint heritage nomination that highlighted key features of the original Canberra Aerodrome at Dickson, archaeologists were engaged by the ACT government. On Thursday 13 August, project managers for the Common Ground community housing project in Dickson contracted Extent Heritage, together with geoarchaeologist Dr Sam Player, to investigate and report on the 1924 landing ground's central marker, a 60 foot diameter whitewashed concrete ring that aerial photos show was still extant as late as 1958.



Dr Sam Player with University of Sydney's GPR equipment and Tse Siang Lim (Extent Heritage) on 13 August 2020

The ring itself occupied the southern edge of the former Space Dome and Planetarium site/Downer Club at 8 Hawdon Place, and straddled a portion of the landscaped corridor next to the stormwater channel. After the stormwater channel was completed in 1958, rows of cork trees and eucalypts were planted to form a windbreak and buffer in 1961.

Ground penetrating radar equipment from the University of Sydney was used to analyse and map any subsurface objects, and a draft report was submitted to the ACT Heritage Council identifying a 17.8 metre long semicircular section to the north of the cork trees and a shorter section in amongst the trees.

On Tuesday 6 October, four trenches were excavated to varying depths but no material was found. The first trench was aborted due to the presence of a gas line some 2 metres from where it was meant to be. The second was halted to avoid severing roots. The third

and fourth reached a depth of 1m and 1.6m, where a layer of fine gravel and charcoal occurred.



Construction crew on Common Ground site with Dr Anita Yousif (Extent Heritage) and Tse Siang Lim, 6 October 2020

On the basis of investigations to date, an unexpected finds protocol has been developed and an interpretive strategy is currently being prepared. Construction works for the Common Ground project (approved using the Planning Minister's call-in powers on 7 August) were underway as of 2 November. The final report by the archaeologists is expected to be made available soon by the Community Services Directorate on the YourSay platform <https://yoursay.act.gov.au/common-ground-dickson>.

The two lockspits that marked the eastern corners of the landing ground have unfortunately not yet been investigated, so the status of those remnants is still uncertain. The next steps in the heritage nomination will depend on the priority assigned by the Heritage Council. With the RAAF Centenary looming in 2021, the Trust is cautiously optimistic that any former aerodrome structures that existed on public lands, signalling the dawn of aviation for the national capital and recalling the Territory's first fatal air crash (which took the lives of two members of the RAAF's No. 3 Squadron) will be appropriately recognised and sensitively protected.

For more information see: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/news/heritage-nomination-canberras-first-aerodrome-remnants/>

Jane Goffman, National Trust (ACT) Councillor (text and photos)

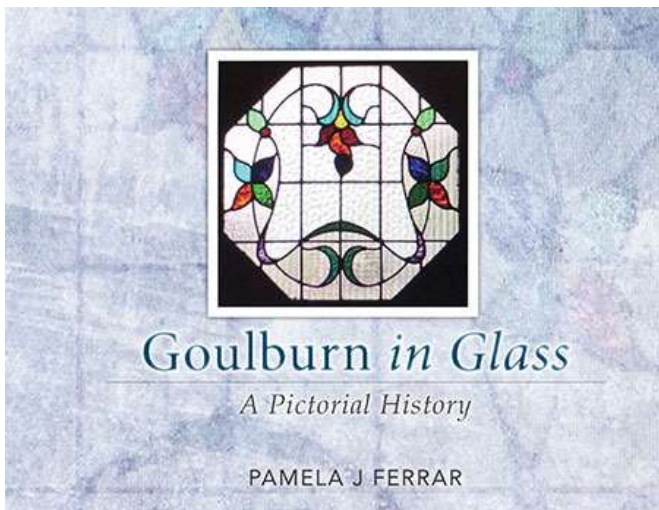
Heritage Diary November – March 2020/21

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

Date and time	Event and location	Organiser	Contact
Tuesday 29 September	Exhibition Opening: ‘Out of this World: Australia in the space age’ From mid-century fashion and flying saucer societies to early satellites and rocket playgrounds ... how did the space age capture the imagination of a nation and its people?	NAA	For more details, go to https://www.naa.gov.au/visit-us/events-and-exhibitions
7 Mar 2020 – 17 July 2021	CMAG: Seeing Canberra In this exhibition, drawn primarily from CMAG’s collection, visitors will journey through four key periods of the city’s development.	CMAG	For more details go to: http://www.cmag.com.au/exhibitions/seeing-canberra

Note: NAA is the National Archives of Australia and CMAG is Canberra Museum and Gallery. 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.

Goulburn in Glass by Pam Ferrar



Apart from the state capitals, Goulburn is one of Australia’s most historic cities. Much has been written about its history – its initial settlement, its development, its agriculture, and its industries. The city also boasts many fine buildings, some very old, and there is a great deal of information about their construction and their architecture. But, except for some of the churches, one fine aspect of these buildings has been largely ignored – their fine lead-lighted and stained-glass windows. All this craft is part of Australia’s history. The present work is an attempt to show what was created in one significant Australian city – Goulburn.

I, and my family, have had a long association with Goulburn, and continue to do so. My great grandfather on my mother’s side settled there in the late 1880s. I was born in Goulburn but left in 1964 to attend university in Canberra. Many years ago, a short course in making stained glass in Canberra sparked my interest in the field, particularly also with the knowledge of the

extent of glass represented in Goulburn in its historic houses.

This project was begun in 1987 by attempting to identify all the houses in Goulburn with stained glass windows and I wrote to each of those owners requesting permission to photograph their heritage. The collection is not comprehensive because not everyone was willing, but you will see from the extent of windows represented here, that many people were very happy to allow me access into their homes, for which I thank them.

The house windows in the book include examples from the 1860s to the 1940s. These include the grander Federation and Queen Anne styles between 1880-1910 all the way through to the simpler architecture and windows of the later period. Eight of the dwellings were listed on the Register of the National Trust (NSW) and have local heritage significance. Several houses have windows relocated from much older sources; others have modern windows.

During the course of this project, other sites were drawn to my attention, including some of the larger estate houses in the area, to which I was given access and, of course, Goulburn’s churches with their wonderful windows were also a drawcard.

This publication has two formats – a hardcover coffee table version printed by Momento Photobooks – available at:

<https://www.momentoshop.com.au/sp/id/20579/auth/5ee6c111c886d4.60689976#!prettyPhoto>

This gives a very good idea of the content, which is similar in the more affordable softcover version printed and published by Vivid Publishing, a division of the

Fontaine Publishing Group:

<http://www.vividpublishing.com.au/goulburnglass/>

The softcover version is also available by contacting the author directly (p.ferrar@bigpond.com or phone 6282 4446) for a cost of \$35 plus any local postage, if that is required.

Pam Ferrar

Support your Trust through the Canberra Southern Cross Club's Community Rewards Program

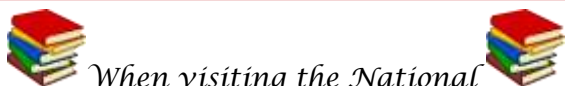
The Trust is pleased to advise members and the community at large that it has been successful in an application to join the Canberra Southern Cross Club's Community Rewards Program. Under the program, Southern Cross Club members have 7.5% of their spend on food and drink at the club donated to a community group of their choosing.

The Trust is now available as a selection for members of the club to choose. Members of the club, who need not be members of the Trust, may sign up and nominate the Trust through this link.

<https://cscmarketing.wufoo.com/forms/zgrb75p0q1g/qi/>

Additional information on the program is available at csc.com.au/rewards.

Members and the community at large are encouraged to sign up to the program and nominate the National Trust of Australia (ACT) in the knowledge that when they visit the club, they are also supporting the Trust.



When visiting the National Library don't forget to take your membership card! National Trust ACT members can access the Friends of the National Library lounge and receive a 10% discount in the NLA Bookshop!

'ODE TO THE BUSH'



The 2021 National Trust Desk Diary is a celebration of the Australian Bush - in all its meaning and diversity, its stories and contradictions, its resilience and its fragility. From transcendental beauty to rugged harshness. Here is a collection of images and stories from across the country - from the National Trust in each state, from the generous contributions of private individuals and artists comes this unique collection that is our 'Ode to the Bush'. Old images and new, from National Park to farm land, from coast to mountain, from desert to rainforest, from wild life to the wide open skies, this is a uniquely Australian collection to interest and inspire.

Purchase of the Desk Diary will help to ensure the vital ongoing work of the National Trust in each state and territory in protecting our heritage; built, natural and cultural.

Limited stock available in our office in Civic.

T: 6230 0533 or info@nationaltrustact.org.au.

Members: \$22.50; Non Members: \$25.00



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Give a National Trust Gift Membership: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/gift-membership-act/>

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Individual Concession	\$55
Household	\$105
Household Senior	\$95
Household Concession	\$85
Life Membership	
Single	\$1,662.50
Household	\$1,837.50

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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, Trevor Wilson, Jane Goffman,
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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

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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.
- + New members can attend one Heritage Walk or Trust Talk free.
- + 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.
- + Concessional 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 Mary Johnston and Liz McMillan, assisted by 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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