



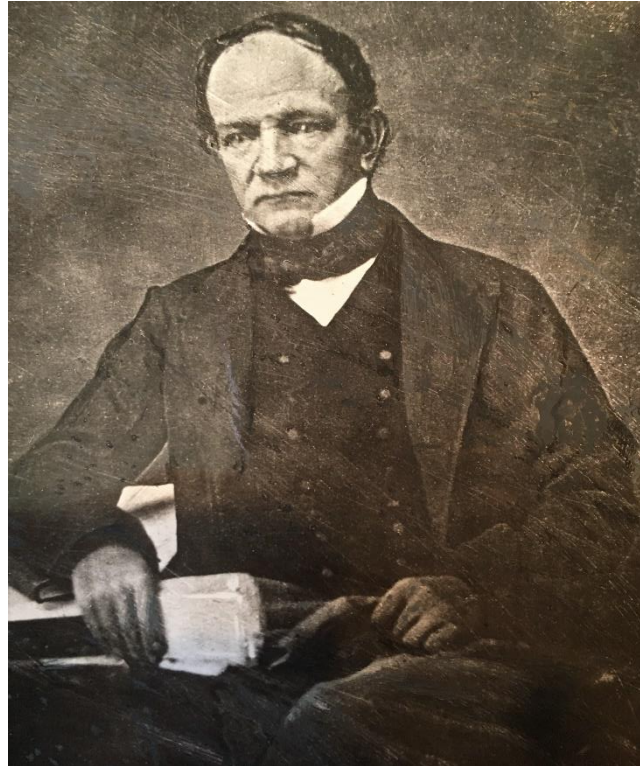
NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA

Heritage in Trust

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*Dr Charles Throsby (1777 – 1828) From his home near Moss Vale.
Throsby always sought to progress the colony's future. Photo: ACT Heritage*

The First Europeans on the Limestone Plains

On Friday 8 December 1820, a cloudy, hot summer day on the Limestone Plains (now Canberra), two Europeans climbed the slopes of Black Mountain. They reached the top and were met with a panoramic view stretching in all directions. They could see the river they had been following which had led them into the plains. They saw the low valleys of Woden and Tuggeranong extending into the distance and to the north and east the rolling hills and plains of Gungahlin. But what they also saw were the surrounding mountain ranges, dark and foreboding looming over the low landscapes - the Brindabella Ranges.

They were the first Europeans to stand on Black Mountain and share the view across the landscape; but there was a distance between the two both socially and of age. One was Charles Throsby Smith, just 22 years old. Born in Cambridgeshire, England, he had come from a middle class landed family. At the age of 16 years, he had tried his hand at sea and had visited New South Wales twice within two years. After a short visit to

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Calcutta to attend to family business affairs he had returned in order to inherit and manage the Throsby family affairs at the request of his uncle, Charles Throsby. But that was not to be. His companion standing next to him on Black Mountain was older and had come to New South Wales by a quite different route. James Vaughan (or Vaughn) was 47 years old and in 1790 at the age of 20 years had been sentenced to transportation for life in a Dublin court. He had arrived in Sydney on the Third Fleet in 1791. His behaviour as a convict must have been good as later, he was granted a pardon and like many former convicts was given the opportunity of working on the other side of the law as a constable.

The two were part of an exploration party sent to the area by Charles Throsby at the request of Governor Lachlan Macquarie to locate the Murrumbidgee River. It was the belief of Throsby and Macquarie that this river may flow in a southerly direction and provide an accessible water access linking the inland to the coast. Charles Throsby had included James Vaughan and another former convict, Joseph Wild, a recognised bushman in the exploration party to guide the young Charles Smith. They were to proceed to Weereewa (Lake George) and then south towards where they believed the Murrumbidgee flowed. It appeared to have been a suitable choice to include Vaughan and Wild as they both had been to Weereewa and were experienced in exploration, particularly in the southern highlands.

Charles Throsby's instructions to his nephew were:

I am instructed by His Excellency the Governor to desire you to proceed ... with all possible dispatch to Lake George (Wee-raa-wee) [sic] from thence you are to take your departure, and proceed to the stream of water (Boon-ga-roon) [later named Yass River] which I discovered running to the southward, the spot will be pointed out by James Vaughan, who was with me, from thence you are to trace it. If possible until you meet the tides away.

After leaving Weereewa the exploration group headed in a southerly direction.

Charles Smith wrote an account of the journey:

Thursday 7th December 1820

Time ½ past 6. Course, S.b.W. 3 miles, ½ past 7, S.W. 9 miles. 11am., S.S.E. 12 miles.

At daylight, calm and cloudy, Set out thro a fine forest country for 3 miles, ascending a Stony Range, Iron Stone and Barren Scrubby timber, Stringy Bark, Gum and Box;

from this Range we had view of some clear grassy hills bearing N by West, Distant about 8 miles.

Crossed a chain of ponds, rather indifferent country.

Ascending a Stony Range, Barren and scrubby; at 11, on top of the hill; some beautiful clear plain in sight, bearing S. by E., an extensive chain of mountains running S.S.E. and N.N.W. thick hazy wr [weather], with light showers of rain occasionally. We then descended the range into a scrubby country for about half a mile, then into a most beautiful forest country, gentle hills and valleys, well watered by streams, and a fine rich Black Soil. Came on to one of the plains we saw at 11 o'clock. At half past 1, came to a very extensive plain, fine Rich Soil and plenty of grass. Came to a Beautiful River plains that was running thro' the plains in a S.W. direction, by the side of which we slept that night.

When we made the Hut this evening, we saw several pieces of stone that had been burnt by all appearances. I then examined some of it, which proved to be limestone. We then went along the Banks of the River and found immense quantities of the same sort, some of which I have preserved as a specimen; this evening caught 3 fish of the same kind we caught before, throughout the Night, Calm and Cloudy.

On the 7 December, Smith and his companions had crossed the low ridge of hills which separates the watersheds of the Yass and Molonglo Rivers. From one of these hills, they observed the Canberra Plains. They headed towards the plains and after reaching them, camped on the Molonglo River (now Lake Burley Griffin) probably somewhere between the present Commonwealth Park and Acton. In the evening, they discovered the deposits of limestone, which then gave the district its first name, Limestone Plains.

On the following morning, 8 December 1820, we find Smith and Vaughan on Black Mountain.

He records:

Friday, 8th December, 1820.

At Daylight, cloudy wr, Wind E. Myself and Vaughan set out down the river in S.W. direction for the purpose of ascertaining which way the waters went; at 10 o'clock we ascended a very high hill from the top of which we had an extensive view all round; and, finding the waters still continue to run in a S.W. direction, we declined going down the River. We then returned to the hut, and staid for the Night; the Banks of the River on both sides, the whole of the way we went which was a distance of near

10 miles, is a most beautiful forest as far as we could see, thinly wooded by Gums and Bastard Box, the tops of the Hills stony and Stone Sand, but in the valleys a fine Rich Soil; the banks of this River is flooded about 30 feet perpendicular. At Noon, hot sultry wr., saw several natives' fires at a distance, the first I have seen since I left the New country:

Smith and Vaughan returned to their camp and in the afternoon Smith, this time with Joseph Wild,

... went about 5 miles up the East part of the plains by the side of the River, and found 2 Branches, the one coming from the N.E., and the other from the Southward. Throughout the night, fine and clear.

They returned to their camp site and the next day left and headed back to Weereewa and home.

But why did Smith decide to turn back at this point? He had been asked by his uncle who in turn had been instructed by no one less than the Governor of New South Wales to find the river known as the Murrumbidgee and ascertain the direction it flowed. He must have been aware of the importance of his mission in opening up the expansion of the colony. Standing on the top of Black Mountain and casting his eyes about he would have seen the Molonglo River flowing off into the distance across the plains. He must have realised that by following the Molonglo River across the plains towards the distant mountains he just might have reached the Murrumbidgee River, thereby fulfilling the whole purpose of his expedition. He must surely have realised that pressing on further along the river could not be much more than a journey of a day or two. But he decided to turn back. Was it the awesome sight of the Brindabella Range looming in the distance and the thought of having to cross the mountains to get to the River? And why did he just have James Vaughan with him and not Joseph Wild when he decided to climb Black Mountain? Joseph Wild was an excellent bushman who had gained much experience in the colony's landscape from previous explorations with Charles Throsby. And why, having seen smoke from an Aboriginal fire did he not investigate it and make contact? Smith says no more.

Had young Smith already decided before climbing Black Mountain that he wanted to go no further and to turn back at this point? Because of his social standing and with his family relationship with Charles Throsby, Smith had been given command of the expedition and was accountable for the decision to turn back. Even if Vaughan and Wild had advised him that the Murrumbidgee would likely be nearby and not on the

other side of the Brindabellas, Smith had the final decision. So they turned back without reaching the Murrumbidgee, the ultimate reason for their expedition.

But perhaps we can get some inkling from Charles Smith himself. He later wrote as a justification of his decision:

I was sent by my uncle by order of the Governor in charge of half a dozen men and pack horses to explore the country to the south of Lake George, and to trace down a river an imaginary one so I found and to my great vexation, being so led astray by my uncle's report, and on my return we had a serious quarrel and I left him and rented a farm at Appin.

It would appear that young Smith thought his uncle's perception of a major river in the region was but a fantasy.

It was left to Charles Throsby to carry out the request of the Governor to find the Murrumbidgee River. He did so, without his young nephew, but with Wild in March the next year.



Take away the buildings in the middle distance and this is a view of the Molonglo River winding across the plains towards the Murrumbidgee River similar to what Charles Smith and James Vaughan would have observed from Black Mountain. Why didn't they follow the course of the river in 1820? (Image by Richard Clough, National Library of Australia, PIC P2214/321).

References:

R.H. Cambage, 'Early Exploration From Sydney to Canberra', *Federal Capital Pioneer Magazine*, Saturday 20 August 1927, pp 15-17, (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article66351235.3.pdf?followup=5a6adb663ab238e4849cb8ab3c898a090>) (accessed 16 November 2020).

Year Book of Australia, 1931, Special Article, 'Canberra Past and Present' https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Previousproducts/1301_0Feature%20Article11931 (accessed 8 December, 2020)

Charles Throsby Smith, letter, 5 December 1821, National Library of Australia, MS689

Peter Dowling



On a cool December morning people representing ACT Heritage Council, National Trust, Canberra & District Historical Society, Griffith Narrabundah Community Association, Kingston Barton Residents Group, Friends of Blaxland Park and locals attended the unveiling of the latest Canberra Tracks Heritage sign. The sign can be viewed off Throsby Crescent Griffith. Photo: Linda Roberts



On 11 December ACT Heritage Minister Rebecca Vassarotti (right) with Ngunnawal elder Violet Sheridan and Victoria Dodge, a descendant of Charles Throsby unveiled a sign in Throsby Park to mark the 200th anniversary of the first Europeans to enter the territory.

Photo: Linda Roberts

STOP PRESS: The latest Canberra and District Historical Society journal contains articles related to the arrival of the first Europeans to the Limestone Plains. If you are not a CDHS member you can get a copy at the CDHS office or call 6281 2929 (leave a message) or email admin@canberrahistory.org.au

ACT Trust News

President's Update

Dear Members

In the last edition of *Heritage in Trust*, I mentioned that the post-election parliamentary agreement between the Australian Labor Party and the Greens included secure and stable funding for the National Trust.



We were delighted that the ACT Budget on 9 February followed through on this commitment. Our new Heritage Minister Rebecca Vassarotti delivered this news to us personally.

Funding for the Trust will be \$75,000 in 2020-21 and \$150,000 in each of the following years. This substantial financial boost will provide the Trust with the ability to not only maintain, but significantly enhance, our vital heritage-related activities.

Congratulations to Sam Cook on his election to Council. He is a professional archivist and, as the youngest member of Council, will help us expand our links with Canberra's youth.

I am also delighted that Mary Johnston has been re-elected to Council. She has always been, and continues to be, a tower of strength.

The Trust has a very ambitious program of work this year. Of course, continuing our popular walks, tours and talks remains a priority, and hopefully the lingering effects of the pandemic will not get in the way.

I took part in the Trust's Hughes Heritage Walk on 31 January, which was conducted by Jenny Tyrell, author of a history of Hughes, and Simon Hermes, who was one of the earliest residents of the suburb.

It was a fascinating excursion into the history of a suburb I did not know much about, and another example of the many historic parts of Canberra waiting to be discovered by a wider audience.

As usual, the Trust will be an active participant in this year's Heritage Festival (COVID-19 permitting). You will find details elsewhere in this edition of *Heritage in Trust*.

You may have seen a letter in the *Canberra Times* late last year from Professor Peter Stanley proposing a Canberra version of the commemorative 'blue plaque' scheme which has been so successful in the United Kingdom and other Australian jurisdictions.

In cooperation with our kindred organisations, the Trust is working to develop a local scheme which we hope will promote community interest in and appreciation of the heritage of our great city and the many unsung heroes who have played a role in its development.

Our volunteers are working very hard in preparing the Trust's important heritage classification files for possible digitisation so they can be made more widely available for research.

The Trust continues to engage on many local heritage issues and consultations, which keep us very busy. These include consultations into developments at Canberra Brickworks, Haig Park, Gold Creek, West Basin and the Forestry precinct in Yarralumla.

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the potentially adverse impact on heritage values of the proposed development at the Kingston Arts Precinct, and we have conveyed these concerns to the ACT Heritage Council. (See Richard Johnston's article about consultation on the Kingston Arts Precinct on page 10.)

Other matters on which we are currently working are the proposed heritage listing of Lake Burley Griffin and adjacent lands, and Stage 2B of Light Rail to Woden.

Best wishes to all of you for what I hope will be a much more satisfactory year than the one past.

Gary Kent

AGM Report

The Trust's 45th Annual General Meeting was held on 3 December 2020 via teleconference, due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

The President, Gary Kent, provided an overview of his report, which had been circulated, and highlighted some points, particularly thanking everyone for adapting to the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He also highlighted the welcome inclusion of ongoing funding for the Trust in the new Parliamentary Agreement after the ACT Election. He added that he has already established a good working relationship with the new Minister for Heritage.

The Treasurer, Scott McAlister, provided an overview of the Financial Report which had been circulated and highlighted that the Trust ended the year in a positive position due to COVID-19 assistance from the Government. If these were taken away, the Trust would have ended the year with a slight shortfall.

Members agreed to adopt a new constitution. (Please see separate article about this).

Trevor Lipscombe was announced as the Volunteer of the Year, particularly as co-convenor of the National Trust's walks program. Trevor thanked those who had supported him with the program.

Councillors Peter Dowling, Gary Kent, Linda Roberts, and Gary Watkins continue for the second year of their term. Marianne Albury-Colless, Graham Carter, Jane Goffman, Scott McAlister and Eric Martin were all re-elected. John Tucker has resigned from Council effective from the AGM, and Trevor Wilson decided not to stand again. Sam Cook was nominated to Council and declared elected.

At Council's December 2020 meeting, Gary Kent was re-elected President, Jane Goffman was elected Vice President, Scott McAlister was re-elected Treasurer, and Gary Watkins re-elected as Secretary.

Gary Watkins
Secretary

New Councillor – Sam Cook

Sam Cook is a new member of Council. Sam is a heritage, museums conservation graduate from the University of Canberra and has a strong passion for natural and built heritage, historical archives and genealogy. Sam is employed with the National Archives and enjoys working with some of the nation's most cherished historical records.

Update on the Constitution

Members present at the AGM are aware that a new constitution was accepted by members for adoption. However, in the process of lodging this constitution with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) – which is required to make the constitution become effective – a drafting error has been identified which may impact our Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status in the long term.

The ACNC has agreed that until we lodge an updated constitution, our existing constitution (last amended in 2008) remains in effect. Additionally, it has been identified that as the Trust is specifically called out in tax legislation, *our Deductible Gift Recipient status is unchanged (i.e. **maintained**) at present.*

However, Council has determined that it is in the interests of the Trust to make changes to the Proposed Constitution so that the risk of us losing our DGR status in future is minimised. The Trust will need to hold a Special General Meeting to consider this.

Council has not yet determined the exact date that this meeting will be held, but official notice will be provided in due course. This correspondence will also include further detail on how this situation has occurred and the exact nature of the amendments.

Gary Watkins
Secretary

Business Development Committee Report

As stated elsewhere, the Parliamentary Agreement between ACT Labor and the ACT Greens committed the ACT Government to provide ongoing and sustainable funding to the Trust. This welcome development has changed the focus of the Business Development Committee over recent months.

To be specific, an in depth review has been undertaken of all activities of the Trust and considerations made of which activities could be modified, expanded, or commenced with the allocated funding. This work is ongoing and will be used in ongoing discussions with the ACT Government.

As indicated in previous issues of *Heritage in Trust*, the committee continues to look at other ways to grow our revenue. One way to do this is to grow our membership. No responses have been received after the recent article on how memberships might be improved. Please provide any comments to the chair, Gary Watkins, who is also the Trust's secretary, at secretary@nationaltrustact.org.au. Thank you for considering how our membership can be improved.

Gary Watkins
Chair of the Business Development Committee

New members

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

Mrs Virginia Berger
Mr Sam Cook
Mr Brad Fraser
Dr Yolanda Lovie-Toon
Ms Marlene McClure
Ms Bernadette & Mr Ian Paterson
Ms Anna Kieltyka & Mr Douglas Smith
Ms Donna Zhao

VOLUNTEERING FOR THE TRUST

Volunteers are always welcome at the Trust. There are lots of opportunities for a variety of tasks. Our volunteers help with tours and events, especially during the Heritage Festival. You might like to research and write about current heritage issues for use by the Trust. In the Office, volunteers look after the library and other Trust records. There are committees which deal with heritage issues, organise tours and events, and support the business of the organisation.

Volunteer Editor Required

In particular, we currently need someone to edit our magazine, *Heritage in Trust*, which is produced three or four times a year. With help from members of Council and from Liz McMillan, the editor selects articles, works with the authors, chooses photographs for inclusion and edits the text, as necessary.

Whatever your talents or experience, if you think you would like to help in some way, please get in touch with a member of Council, or with Liz in the office (02 6230 0533 or info@nationaltrustact.org.au).

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"



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!



Heritage Happenings

2021 brings with it a number of heritage issues for consideration by the National Trust.

Canberra Brickworks

The masterplan is being finalised and the adaptive reuse of the original buildings and quarry is developing. There is a new Conservation Management Plan and the initial concepts are looking promising. We look forward to continuation of involvement with the reference group and the DA submission mid-year.

Kingston Arts Precinct

This project has stalled or appears to have, with little information from the developer over recent months.

The appropriate consideration of heritage issues and a design that celebrates the heritage of the precinct is yet to be seen. (See Richard Johnston's article on Page 10.)

Light Rail 2

There are still some heritage issues not totally resolved with Stage 2A and many heritage issues for 2B when it surfaces. The lack of an appropriate public enquiry into Stage 2B is a major concern. The NT has a list of heritage issues that need to be considered.

UNSW/Reid CIT

Initial ideas are surfacing which the NT will consider and provide comment as the masterplan develops over the year.

Significant Trees

Victorian NT is following up the NT Register of Significant Trees. The ACT NT contributed to the register with a number of ACT trees several years ago but nothing further has developed. We are interested in the project and will be keen to see what evolves.

Haig Park

Concern has been expressed about the impact on the trees in Haig Park that border the Braddon Development on Northbourne Avenue. The development close to the Park and the deep basements could adversely impact on the trees. We await the proposed design and DA to make further comment.

Lake Burley Griffin

The NT strongly supports the National and Commonwealth Heritage listing of Lake Burley Griffin and surrounds and will look forward to a successful nomination which is currently being considered.

Eric Martin, AM

Archaeology in the Dumps

Thank you all

Eric Martin and Peter Dowling would like to thank all members of the National Trust (ACT) and the Canberra and District Historical Society who replied to our request for information on historic waste dumps. We received over 50 replies from the Facebook sites and by emails. There were even replies from non-members who heard of the request by word of mouth and sent us their recollections.

After we had examined the replies, we were able to identify and locate 61 historic dump sites – 33 in the northern suburbs and 28 in the southern suburbs. Some of the sites were identified several times in the replies which enabled us to confirm their location, period of use and contents. Other site locations identified had been largely forgotten, covered over by more modern developments such as parks and ovals and so invisible on the present surface. One or two were submerged by Lake

Burley Griffin. Other identified locations were visible as low mounds covered in grass or as artificially raised surfaces - but you would have to have an eye to the landscape to identify them as former tip sites. With your help we were able to do that. Other locations were in former ephemeral creeks and natural drainage lines.

The information provided by all respondents has been unbelievably valuable in a historic sense and will be highly valuable in future developments.

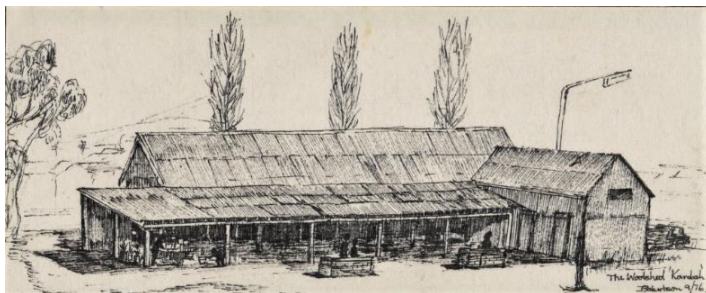
So, thank you all for your knowledge and your time in assisting us. Without your memories of these historic dump sites we would not have been able to identify so many.

Eric Martin AM, National Trust Councillor

Dr Peter Dowling, National Trust Councillor & Canberra and District Historical Society Councillor

Walks, Talks and Tours

Last year probably wasn't one of our most successful years but we all know the reason for that! We did finish 2020 with an enjoyable, if windy, Christmas Party at the Kambah Woolshed. Some 50 members attended and enjoyed a talk by Glenn Schwinghamer about the history of the Kambah area and, of course, some traditional Christmas fare such as punch and mince tarts (thanks Di Dowling)!



1976 sketch of Kambah Woolshed provided by John Bundock



Speaker: Glenn Schwinghamer. Photo: Linda Roberts

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.



Gary Kent, Trevor Lipscombe & Rebecca Vassarotti. Photo: Linda Roberts

The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Trevor Lipscombe who has been organising and leading many Heritage Walks over the last three years. Donna Zhao, a very regular Walks helper (and provider of exceptional sweet treats!) was presented with two years complimentary National Trust membership in recognition of her help and ideas for the Walks. It was Donna's suggestion that led to the purchase of the tour guide audio systems now much appreciated by walkers.



Gary Kent, Donna Zhao & Rebecca Vassarotti. Photo: Linda Roberts

We were very pleased that the Minister for Heritage, Rebecca Vassarotti, attended our Christmas Party. She said afterwards on Facebook:

Was wonderful to spend time with National Trust Australia - ACT today at their Christmas party. Its been a challenging time but they have continued to do fantastic job in educating, celebrating and protecting our precious heritage. Thanks to all the fantastic volunteers who have worked so hard through 2020.

The President took the opportunity to mention in his remarks, the commitment to funding for the Trust which was made following the election. This was acknowledged by the Minister. She will be a good supporter of the Trust and for heritage generally.

The final 2020 Heritage Walk in Oaks Estate was led by Dr Karen Williams. Situated near the junction of the Queanbeyan and Molonglo rivers, Oaks Estate was adjacent to important river crossings which shaped its street layout. Following the riverbank along the recently established Heritage Trail, walkers were able to view the spot where Charles Throsby's 1820 expedition reached the rivers almost exactly 200 years ago. Part of the Duntroon estate from 1836, it later became an important and busy goods transit area for the area from the arrival of the railway in 1887 until the road system improved. Residents continue to advocate for preservation of the heritage values of this unique ACT enclave in the face of pressures for development.

For our first Heritage Walk in 2021, Jenny Tyrell, author of *A history of Hughes*, and Simon Hermes, an early resident, introduced us to what was in 1965 Canberra's most southerly suburb. We heard stories of the early days. Walkers from more recent suburbs marvelled at the generous green spaces of an era when suburbs were designed with a neighbourhood centre and with pedestrians in mind. Schools, shops and churches were grouped together so that they were never more than a leafy 800m walk away from homes, while Canberra's first pedestrian underpasses ensured safety.

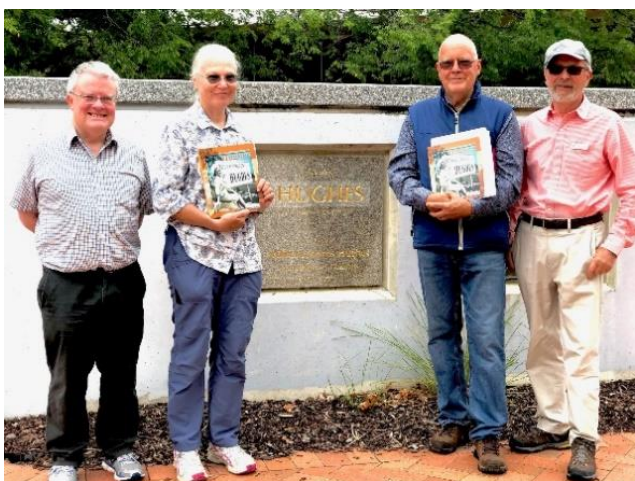


Photo: Donna Zhao



Photo: Donna Zhao

Unfortunately, the two tours to King Island and the Yarra Valley scheduled for late January and early February had to be postponed because of COVID-19 with the possibility of sudden lockdowns affecting our travel plans through Victoria. These are being rescheduled for October this year. Both were fully booked but if there are vacancies for the new dates, these will be advertised to National Trust members.

In March we have a tour with Senior Curator, Virginia Rigney, of the *Seeing Canberra* exhibition at the Canberra Museum and Gallery on 18 March – bookings at <https://www.trybooking.com/BOUXZ>. It is great to see that the desk of CS Daley, Secretary of the Federal Capital Commission, which was donated to the Trust and was in our office for many years, is featured in this exhibition.

We also have a coach/self-drive tour to Old Graham (between Boorowa and Cowra) but this is now fully booked. Planning is underway for more tours later this year.

Canberra and Region Heritage Festival 2021

We are very pleased that the Heritage Festival will be held this year after the cancellation in 2020. The theme *Reimagine* is quite appropriate for this changed world we are living in! The National Trust is organising several Heritage Walks and other events during the Festival but there are more than 100 events planned so watch out for the launch of the Festival program on March 18. There will be a printed program with the *Canberra Weekly* that week as well as a more comprehensive online program on the Heritage Festival website from 11 March <https://www.act.gov.au/heritagefestival>

Mary Johnston
Chair, Tours and Events Committee

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
26 March to 6 June 2021	Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize Art and science collide as artists investigate the natural world around them	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
Open 10-4 on 11 April and thereafter on Thursdays 9-12 and Sundays 12-4 until 31 October 2021	Cricket has been a social as well as a recreational force in the Canberra district since the 1840s. Come and see how it grew and adapted to changing circumstances as the national capital took shape. From Captain Faunce's demise while playing the game to Ginninderra's Old Invincibles, and on to Rockley and the Prime Minister's XI, they are all here.	CDHS & Hall School Museum & Heritage Centre	Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre, Palmer Street, Hall, just off the Barton Highway 15 km north of the Canberra CBD. Visitors will be asked to sign in with a Check In CBR QR scan. Admission is free but donations are always welcome.

Note: NAA is the National Archives of Australia, CMAG is Canberra Museum and Gallery & CDHS is Canberra District & Historical Society. 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.

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.

Kingston Arts Precinct

The overall site is described as Part Block 15 Section 49 Kingston, totalling 5.6 hectares of land bounded by Eastlake Parade and Wentworth Avenue, including the Kingston Power House Historic Precinct (ACT Heritage Register No.48 8/9/2000), a large surface carpark and the Telopea Park Zone Substation serving the central National Area, with major underground 132 kV lines crossing the site from Printers Way to the substation.

In May 2014, the Territory approved the Section 49 Kingston Master Plan, which had been subject to extensive analysis (including a Statement of Heritage Impact by Lovell Chen 2012 and a 'Heritage Strategy' 2013) and consultation over several years. The National Trust made a submission on the Master Plan, reinforcing the importance of the heritage elements of the area. The final Master Plan (next page left) shows the entire frontage to Wentworth Avenue as open space (retaining the existing trees and forecourt to the Power House and Old Bus Depot) and wide vistas from

the Power House and Fitters Workshop to Eastlake Parade.

In October 2015, the then Land Development Agency issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for *The Kingston Arts Precinct* (KAP). It was not until early 2019 that the new Suburban Land Agency announced Geocon/Fender Katsilidis (architects)/Oculus (landscape architects) as the successful tenderer.

On 19 August 2019, the architects gave the first public presentation of their Design Concept (next page right). It was a radical departure from the Master Plan, showing a densely developed site with the only significant open spaces being at the northern end adjacent the substation and towards the southern end behind the old Bus Depot. The Power House was surrounded on three sides by six storey buildings. In response to questions the architects said they had taken their inspiration from the alleyways and piazza of Sienna!



SECTION 49 KINGSTON MASTER PLAN 2014

The Kingston and Barton Residents Group (KBRG) sent a letter criticising this scheme to Geocon on 29 August 2019. On 22 September 2019, a joint Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC) and KBRG Public Forum on the KAP supported and reinforced KBRG's criticisms.

Geocon appointed a "stakeholder and community engagement" consultant (Elizabeth Judd of Judd Studio) who convened a KAP Community Panel. Marea Fatseas represented ISCCC, Eric Martin for the National Trust and Richard Johnston for KBRG, together with a range of other representatives of community, arts and business groups.

Over several meetings of the Community Panel to November 2020 it became clear that the architects had no intention to respond to community comment and materially change their original Design Concept. The only significant changes over the last 18 months were:

- Retention of the 1948 Switch Room (apparently as directed by the government and balanced by more development adjacent to the southwest side of the substation)
- Slightly enlarged open space to Wentworth Avenue retaining 'one' heritage listed tree in front of the Power House (but with a new building inserted on the Wentworth Avenue frontage northwest of the Old Bus Depot)
- A wider open space entrance to the precinct from Eastlake Parade on the line of the main vista from the Power House to the Lake (but this vista is then largely closed off by the end of their four storey above ground carpark structure)



2019 GEOCON KAP DESIGN CONCEPT

On 17 September 2020, a group of nine heritage experts, including four former Chairs of the ACT Heritage Council (Eric Martin being one of them), wrote to Mick Gentleman MLA, then Minister for the Environment and Heritage, saying (inter alia):

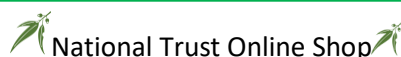
*"The development of the Kingston Arts Precinct includes the ACT-listed historic Kingston Powerhouse. While this development has undergone numerous planning studies over many years that have respected its heritage values, **the current proposed design shows a complete lack of respect for the historic buildings, particularly through over-development of the site. The proposal should be fundamentally re-thought and a fully sympathetic development implemented.**"*

We became aware subsequently that the architects had met with the ACT Heritage Council and it appeared the Council had some issues with the design. There have been various unsuccessful attempts to obtain their advice and there has been a mysterious silence about the project since November 2020.

UPDATE: I have just been advised that a revised "Tender Concept Estate Development Plan" is likely to be released for community consultation around the end of March. It will be accompanied by a statement in regard to the advice from the ACT Heritage Council on this project and a Conservation Management Plan prepared by Philip Leeson & Partners for ArtsACT.

Richard Johnston

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A Good News Story!

Last October, the Trust was contacted about the fate of a tree in Stirling Park. The tree had been planted at a National Trust event in 1997 by former Westlake residents, next to the plaques showing the location of Westlake cottages and the names of the cottage resident families, including the Cleaver family. One of the family members had visited Canberra and was excited to find the tree but concerned that it had been planted inside a white painted car tyre. The tree had now grown so much that the tyre was ringbarking the tree and needed to be removed before it killed the tree.



Horrie's Tree October 2020

The ACT Government was contacted and took appropriate action so that when the family returned at Christmas time, they were delighted to find the strangling tyre had been removed! Saving such a tree makes a tangible connection for the descendants to recall their family's history. Thanks to the Cleaver family member, the National Trust (ACT) and Urban Trees within City Services for their response.



Horrie's Tree tyre gone December 2020



Maree, Charlie & Kirby at Horrie's Tree

Mary Johnston
Photos: Maree Amos

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 for nomination by members of the club. Club members, who need not be members of the Trust, may sign up and nominate the Trust through this link. <https://cscmarketing.wufoo.com/forms/zgrb75p0q1gjqj/>

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.

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Individual Concession	\$55
Household	\$105
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Household Concession	\$85
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- + 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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