



NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA

Heritage in Trust

(ACT)

July 2021

ISSN 2206-4958



Charles Throsby. He came to find a river called Murrumbidgee but saw that it flowed away from the sea. (image Wikipedia)

The first Europeans on the Limestone Plains

Part II

In the last edition of *Heritage in Trust* we saw the first Europeans enter what is now the Australian Capital Territory in 1820. They were led by Charles Throsby Smith who had been sent by his uncle, Charles Throsby, to find the Murrumbidgee River. Throsby Smith was accompanied by James Vaughan, and James Wild both experienced bushmen. Charles Throsby Snr had been told by Aborigines that there was an extensive river to the south of the Sydney settlements, and he was determined to find it. It would, he considered, provide a river route to the coast enabling access from the inland to the future sea ports on the coast. But Throsby Smith did not reach the Murrumbidgee, instead turning back after climbing Black Mountain and seeing the Brindabella Range dominating the distant landscape. His uncle was greatly disappointed. Charles Throsby was, however, determined to reach the Murrumbidgee River. In March 1821 he found his way to Weereewa (Lake George as it had recently been named) with Joseph Wild at his side and followed the shoreline south towards Bungendore through flat 'swampy grounds'. He later wrote to the Governor.

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This plain and the land about I found well watered and considerable extent of very watered and good grazing country – On passing the range about 12 miles distance from the lake I found the waters all taking a westward course. These I followed down at a very considerable distance they formed rapid streams, the country ... good grazing at about 25 miles distance from Lake George.¹

Throsby followed the Molonglo River through the gorge, into the Canberra Valley (Limestone Plains) sighting the junction with the Queanbeyan River and made his way towards the fabled river.

While on the Limestone Plains Wild would surely have pointed out to Throsby his nephew's former campsite by the Molonglo and then taken him to the mountain where his companions had climbed just a few months before and looked towards the distant mountains in the west. By now Throsby's health was failing but his vision of finding the river flowing to the coast was still as strong as ever and he would have known that he was close to reaching his destination. They pressed on following a route through the low hills and finally reached his fabled river having to cope with heavy rain.

We can never know the full extent of Throsby's disappointment at finally reaching the Murrumbidgee River and seeing it flowing strongly to the northwest away from the sea. He would have had to finally reconcile to himself that his vision of a navigable route connecting the inland to the sea had come to nothing. He later wrote of his disappointment at finding that the rivers he saw on his journey were not flowing towards the coast as he had presumed:

... nor does the chain of mountains which appear to extend from S to N for a great distance, leave a probability of an opening to the eastern coast and I should fear from the course the waters take, and from some of the fish being found in all three rivers [Molonglo, Queanbeyan and Murrumbidgee], that they terminate in the same way the Lachlan and Macquarie [Rivers] have been found to be, if they do not form branches of the former river.²

Throsby returned to his home near Moss Vale with a heavy heart. He wrote to Macquarie:

I admit the great extent of country through which these rivers appear to run, places it far beyond my power to determine their termination; yet I still hope they will be ultimately found to communicate with the sea, but most certainly not on the eastern coast. I am happy to report that the country in general is superior to that which we passed through when with His Excellency the Governor in November last. It is perfectly sound, well watered with extensive meadows of rich land on either side of the rivers; contains very fine limestone, in quantities perfectly inexhaustible, slate, sand-stone

and granite fit for building, with sufficient timber for every useful purpose; and, from the appearance of the country, an unbounded extent to the westward.³

His ill health precluded him from making another excursion. Governor Macquarie granted him 700 acres (283 ha) of land to adjoin his property or any part of the new country he desired. In 1825 Throsby was appointed to the Legislative Council of the colony, but continued ill health, financial difficulties, drought, and the falling price of wool drove him to take his own life on 2 April 1828. He was just 51 years of age.

The next expedition from Weereewa was made in February 1822. The aim of this exploration was to ascertain the distance from the Limestone Plains to the coast. William Kearns, Captain Marsh and William James Packer, all native born, set off from Weereewa. They reached the southern end of the lake and remarked on the

...most beautiful Plain'. Packer and Marsh rode northward along conceiving the land as '...the finest Plain we ever saw. It was a most beautiful Stock Run both for Winter and Summer, not a Tree on them... we rode to the Northwd. I think was about 8 Miles. Could see no end to any clear Country, which makes me think that they must be upwards of 20 Miles long and the North Part where we rode to, about 6 Miles wide... The soil on most parts of the Plain is very good and the Herbage excellent, thinking ourselves to be the first Discoverers of these Plains we took upon ourselves to call them Friday Plains...⁴

They of course were not the first Europeans to reach the 'clear Country', Throsby had done that the year before. Kearns, Marsh and Williams reached the Queanbeyan River noticing the expanse of burnt grass on their way then headed south towards the coast.⁵

The next exploratory expedition was made by Captain Mark Currie R.N. and Major John Ovens, engineer, and aide-de-camp to Governor Brisbane. They were tasked to explore the country south from Weereewa and along the Murrumbidgee further south from where Charles Throsby had travelled. In May 1823 they reached Weereewa and encamped on the banks of a creek for the night. While there they killed three emus, 'which afforded excellent coursing, equal to if not surpassing the same sport with the hare in England; and which were very acceptable, for having calculated on them and

kangaroos, as the principal part of our food and the whole of that of our greyhounds...'⁶

They found both the uplands and the meadows on the eastern side of the lake 'very rotten' [boggy] and riding bad.' One of their packhorses nearly drowned and another became bogged. They saw an 'immense quantity' of ducks and black swans on the lake. They were not impressed by the extensive plains to the south that the previous explorers had remarked nor the country between there and the Queanbeyan River (South Fish River as Wild called it) and the Limestone Plains which they reached on 31 May. They crossed the Limestone Plains and headed south towards the Murrumbidgee River where they travelled through 'a fine forest country to a beautiful small plain which they named Isabella's Plain, after Governor Brisbane's daughter. They were traversing the Tuggeranong Valley.'⁷



Captain Mark Currie. He and Major John Ovens were not impressed with the plains surrounding Weereewa (Lake George) but were encouraged by the Tuggeranong Valley region. (image Wikipedia)

They reached the Murrumbidgee and while trying to find a crossing point observed a 'fine forest country', a 'fine forest vale' and to the westward on the ranges a 'very singular and remarkable rock, of an oblong form, standing erect and alone on the summit of another range. They were most likely seeing Gibraltar Rocks. They camped on the eastern bank of the river and on the next day continued into the Monaro Plains which they described as the commencement of a very long chain of down country. By now outside the present border of the Australian Capital Territory they encountered a group of Aborigines who at first fled from the strange Europeans with their horses, greyhounds, and carts. However,

Currie and Ovens were able with the help of Wild to make contact. Currie writes in his journal,

*From these natives we learned that the clear country before us was called Monaroo, which they described as very extensive; this country we named Brisbane Downs after (and subsequently by permission of) his Excellency the Governor.'*⁸

They made their way further south then turned back taking a route via the London Bridge limestone arch on Burra Creek then on to Weereewa which they had learnt about from the Aborigines.⁹

Allan Cunningham was the next explorer into the Canberra region. Cunningham, a botanist, had been selected by Joseph Banks to be an overseas collector – King's Botanist to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He arrived in Australia in 1816 and explored and collected plant specimens throughout New South Wales, coastal Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, and Tasmania.¹⁰ On 22 March 1824, Cunningham together with three hand-picked men, three Government horses, one cart and minimal provisions (he also intended to live largely off the land) departed Liverpool for the new districts south of Weereewa towards the Murrumbidgee.¹¹ His objective was to make a detailed botanical inspection of the lands already seen by Throsby and Currie.

On 15 April 1824 he crossed into the Tuggeranong Valley where he noted the hoof marks left behind in the wet ground by Currie's party the year before. He observed the impressive site of Mount Tennant (then known as part of the Mt Currie Range) some distance away. He crossed the wide undulating plains towards what is now Tharwa noting the course of Jerrabomberra Creek. Although the country had been in drought for some time, he nevertheless perceived the plains as highly suitable for sheep with the boundary wooded hills a source of timber for the building of huts and sheep yards.¹² He then proceeded to the banks of the Murrumbidgee where they set up camp. Cunningham intended to climb Mt Tennant but a thunder storm with heavy rain blanketed the mountain. He described the area as a 'fine tract of country' and 'valuable sheep pastures' which he considered were at that time 'wasted'.¹³ He travelled further upstream before deciding to turn back because of the exhausted state of his packhorses, the uncertainty of further stormy weather and not wishing to risk the lives of his men by proceeding further.

It was here that he noted that the plains had been recently and deliberately burnt in patches.

These interesting Downs had been burnt in patches about two months since, and as the tender blade had sprung up, these portions, having assumed a most lively appearance, formed a striking contrast with the deadened appearance of the general surface, still clothed with the vegetation of the last year.

It was a common practice of the aborigines to fire the country in dry seasons where it was wooded and brushy, to oblige game of the kangaroo kind to quit their covery and subject themselves to be speared. The object these people had in view in firing the herbage of clear open tracts, was that as the young grass grew immediately after such an ignition, especially should rain succeed the conflagrations, which often times were very extensive, Kangaroos and Emues [sic] were tempted to leave the forest brushes to feed on the tender shoots, and were thus likewise exposed to their missile weapons.¹⁴

Cunningham's keen botanical eyes had seen the landscape for what it was – a vast landscape mosaic of grasslands and timbered areas created by the Aboriginal people. He saw a cultural landscape, managed, and controlled by the human hand. Concerned about the

state of the horses and the men Cunningham made his way back towards the Molonglo River and left the region.

These five initial incursions into the Australian Capital Territory by European explorers were to open the way for the establishment of rural settlements which eventually climaxed into the capital city of Australia.

Peter Dowling

References:

¹ Charles Throsby, letter to Governor Macquarie, 11 May 1821, National Library of Australia MS691.

² Ibid.

³ Charles Throsby, letter published in the *Australian Magazine*, June 1821, p.61.

⁴ William Kearns, Journal quoted in Errol Lea-Scarlett, *Queanbeyan. District and People*, (Queanbeyan: Queanbeyan Municipal Council, 1968) pp.5-6.

⁵ Ibid p. 6.

⁶ Captain Mark John Currie, R.N. 'Journal of an Excursion to the South West of Lake George' in *Geographical Memoirs on New South Wales*, edited by Barron Field, London, John Murray, 1825, pp.369-381.

⁷ Ibid pp. 373-4.

⁸ Ibid p. 375.

⁹ Ibid p. 379.

¹⁰ T.M. Perry, 'Cunningham, Allan (1791-1839)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/cunningham-allan-1941/text2323>, published first in hardcopy 1966, (accessed 25 November 2020).

¹¹ W.L. Havard, *Alan Cunningham's Journal of a Tour into Argyle, March-April, 1824*, Address to Canberra and District historical Society, 4 September 1956.

¹² Ibid p.13.1

¹³ Ibid p.13.

¹⁴ Ibid p. 15.

ACT Trust News

President's Update

Dear Members

In my last message I mentioned that in its recent budget the ACT Government Budget had allocated \$525,000 to the National Trust of Australia (ACT), for the period to 30 June 2024. Since then the Trust has signed the funding agreement with ACT Heritage and we have already received the first instalment.

This very welcome funding boost will help the Trust expand and deepen its current program of work. You will find full details of the grant and how it will help the Trust do its work on Page 6.

I hasten to add that there is a very clear agreement between the Government and the Trust that the grant is not intended to, and will not, impact on our ability to



advocate strenuously on matters we care about. We value our independence and the longstanding and very professional and respectful relationship between the Government and the Trust.

You may have seen in the media that the Trust will be working with other stakeholders in identifying and supporting the heritage listing of modernist Canberra homes. Many of these are very significant from a heritage point of view but, because relatively few are heritage listed, are vanishing at a rapid rate.

On 16 May the Trust held a tour of the Old Tuggeranong Schoolhouse, involving ACT Federal and local members of Parliament, and relevant ACT Government officials. Our objective was to stimulate interest and discussion in ways to ensure the continued operation of the Schoolhouse now that the lessee, who has operated it on a non-commercial basis so effectively for the past 10 years, has decided not to renew the lease.

As usual, the Trust continues to involve itself in a whole range of heritage issues. These include, in addition to those I mentioned in my last message, proposed amendments to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, options for a Canberra Heritage Hub and the failure of the ACT Heritage Council to advance heritage listing of the site of Canberra's original aerodrome.

The Trust's Council is extremely concerned at the apparent failure of consultation processes leading up to what may well be the demolition of ANZAC Hall and other proposed redevelopments at the Australian War Memorial. We will be discussing this with our kindred organisations.

In addition, the Trust will participate in the recently-announced review by the ACT Government of the Territory's planning system. Good planning should reflect heritage values, and we will advocate strongly to ensure that heritage is not left behind as Canberra continues to develop and change.

With the lifting of some of the pandemic restrictions earlier this year, we re-activated our wonderful program of walks and tours. I expect that the ACT Government grant will help us expand the number and range of these activities and I encourage you to book early for those in which you are interested as they usually sell out very quickly. We will of course need to monitor our ability to conduct future events now that restrictions are returning.

Best wishes to all of you in what, given the stubborn refusal of the pandemic to go away, continue to be troubling times.

Gary Kent

Corporate Affairs Committee Report

Previously known as the Business Development Committee, the Corporate Affairs Committee was agreed by Council as the new name for this committee in February, with a slightly broader remit. With the Trust being granted operational funding by the ACT Government as discussed on page 6, it was decided that the focus on revenue raising was no longer appropriate. Over recent months the committee has looked at what things the Trust does, and what the Trust could do with government funding. Many ideas have been put forward, and some of those ideas have formed the basis of negotiations with the ACT Government and been input into a preliminary budget for the 2022 financial year. This

work is ongoing and will be influenced heavily by the final funding deed agreed with the Government.

Gary Watkins

Chair, Corporate Affairs Committee

Changes to the constitution

Members may recall that in the last *Heritage in Trust* there was an article about the need to make further updates to the Constitution. Due to the significant amount of work occurring with the Deed associated with the ACT Government Grant, and the time of year with the AGM due within the next six months, it is likely that this matter will be put on hold and raised at the AGM.

As previously discussed with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission, The Trust continues to operate under the previous constitution (last amended in 2008), until it provides to them an updated constitution which has been approved by members.

Gary Watkins

Secretary

National Trust Oral History Recordings

During the 1990s, the National Trust of Australia (ACT), with the assistance of the National Estate Grants Program, the ACT Heritage Grants program, and the National Library of Australia, made a series of oral history recordings with persons who influenced the landscape and development of Canberra. The interviews included:

- Professor Lindsay Pryor
- Mr David Shoobridge
- Bulls Head and the Arboreta (interviews with Alan Brown, Murray Colless, Ken Eldridge, Jack Fielding, Jean Franklin, Charlie Hamilton, Colin and Graeme Maxwell, Ken Mitchell, Vince Oldfield, Lindsay Pryor, David Shoobridge, and John Turnbull)
- Mr Greg Murphy
- Mr Dick (Richard) Clough
- Ms Margaret Hendry

These recordings, which had been made on magnetic cassette tape, and associated transcripts had been held in the Trust's Office. Magnetic cassette tape during the 1990s was a ubiquitous and cheap technology for the time – well before having digital media or current mobile telephones where podcasts are commonplace. Also, magnetic cassette tapes are at risk of deterioration after about 30 years. Consequently, the Trust wanted to conserve these recordings which provide some insight into the personalities of those involved.

With the support of the ACT Government, the Trust was provided a Heritage Grant in 2019 to digitise these materials. Using a local Canberra supplier, these recordings were digitised and are now available in MP3 format which can be played on modern technology. To make this collection as accessible as possible, the Trust worked with the ACT Heritage Library to facilitate availability.

The recordings are accessible via a link on the ACT Heritage Library website to the “National Trust of Australia (ACT) Oral History Recordings” page at <https://librariesact.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/ARCENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=716592>. To access the interview records, ensure the Record details are shown and click on the subseries records. The individual records will then be displayed on the right. Each interview then has its own record, with the available files displayed at the bottom of the screen. This information is also available on the Trust’s website at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/services/oral-histories/>.

Please contact the Trust Office if you have issues accessing the materials.



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

The Trust continues to examine ways to make its collections more accessible to members and the public. We are currently looking at ways to digitise and make our Classification Files more accessible. Information on the collections available to members and the public is on the Trust’s services page at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/explore/?content=services&state=act>.

Gary Watkins

ACT Government Heritage Grant for the National Trust of Australia (ACT)

Last year, the Trust was very pleased that the ACT Labor and ACT Greens *Parliamentary and Governing Agreement for the 10th Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly* included the following statement “Provide ongoing and secure funding for the National Trust ACT”. This commitment was followed through with an allocation of \$525,000 over four years in this year’s ACT budget.

The Trust and the ACT Government’s Heritage Unit have now negotiated a Deed of Grant for the **ACT Heritage Special Grant – Recurrent Funding 2021-24**. The three key objectives of Grant funding are:

- Effectively promote conservation of ACT’s heritage places and objects
- Foster public knowledge about places, objects and issues
- National Trust has secure funding to attract and retain appropriate staff to continue advocacy and engagement work on heritage conservation

These objectives are consistent with our organisational purpose as set out in our Strategic Plan 2019-2024: “To promote the conservation of, and foster public knowledge about, places, objects and issues that are significant to the heritage of the Australian Capital Territory.”

The ACT Government funding will enable the Trust to deliver and enhance the National Trust Heritage Awards; increase events that foster public knowledge and engagement with ACT heritage; deliver an improved website and projects and activities that contribute quality research outcomes on heritage conservation issues of relevance to the ACT.

It commenced with an allocation of \$75,000 in the 2020-21 financial year to develop an Annual Work Program for 2021-22, attract and retain appropriate staff and enhance the Heritage Awards. Annual Work Programs will be developed for each year of the Grant to achieve the objectives set out in Deed of Grant. While working to achieve the objectives of the Grant funding, the ACT Government recognises that Trust will continue its advocacy and engagement work on behalf of the community and to engage and value our members.

The Council of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) gratefully acknowledges the support of the ACT Government which will allow it to expand on our work consistent with our vision:

To be an independent and expert community advocate for conservation of our cultural, natural and Aboriginal heritage, based on a committed and active membership and a strong financial base.

Gary Kent
President

New members

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

Mrs Janine Kilby

Miss Gemma Bach & Mr Elliott Lobb

Mr Ralph Southwell & Ms Anne Lomax

Dr Paul & Mrs Geraldine Mackey

Ms Susan McClay

Mr Graeme & Mrs Jill Mayo

Ms Lisa McGlynn

Prof Lyn Parker & Mr Rory McLeod

Mr Tony Minchin

Ms Kelly & Mr Nicholas Paxman

Ms Margaret Pender

Mrs Angela & Mr Jon Reed

Heritage Happenings

Australian War Memorial

The National Trust is disappointed that the approval to proceed with major development which included removal of a substantial number of trees, the demolition of Anzac Hall and the major works to the forecourt for a new entry is to proceed.

Kingston Power House Precinct

After months of no advice there has been indication that Geocon has been working with ACT Government and that a concept EDP (Estate Development Plan) will be released in the near future. The reference group has been substantially sidelined which is disappointing. We will review the proposal when available.

Canberra Brickworks

The proposal is being refined and the community reference group is being regularly informed. The final proposal is awaited.

Conservation Areas

The National Trust along with community associations and some individuals are concerned with the lack of conservation and sympathetic development that appears to be happening at present and is progressing with bringing these concerns to the attention of the ACT Heritage Council and members of the Assembly in an effort to improve outcomes.

Tuggeranong Schoolhouse

The National Trust is pressing for a long-term solution for the best conservation outcomes for the school house, which could be included in the ACT Historic Places Portfolio. This has been presented to key ACT Government personnel and we await a response.

Light Rail 2

LR2 is now proceeding, and we await an opportunity to comment as there are important heritage issues to consider.

CSIRO Site Campbell

The National Trust continues to monitor and support the ongoing interest in the heritage value of the site as it is refined and understood so the best heritage outcomes will ensure.

Mid Century Modernist Housing

The National Trust is supporting a detailed study of this and then a nomination of appropriate places to the ACT Heritage Register. Input from National Trust members is welcome.

Significant Trees

All National Trusts in Australia are promoting this, and the ACT National Trust supports it. Any interested member who would like to assist with ACT National Trust input is welcomed.

Eric Martin AM

ACT Region Heritage Symposium 2021

Saturday 7 August 9am-5pm Menzies Library (McDonald Room), ANU Acton Campus

Heritage at Times of Crisis: Saving, Sustaining, Sharing

In a Land of Fires, Droughts and Flooding Rains, and now Climate Change, and a health pandemic, what role at such times has a community's heritage in maintaining its sense of place, of belonging, and continuity?

In this year's Symposium, we will explore this question with a series of papers addressing examples of problems and solutions: case studies that assist us in dealing with such crises and change, including being locked down or out during a pandemic. Does our heritage assist us? We look to gain a wider understanding of how heritage can support us at such difficult times.

Information & Bookings (registration opens mid-July) : <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/act-region-heritage-symposium-2021/>



Canberra & District Historical Society



NATIONAL TRUST

Walks and Tours

From a dearth of activities last year, we have had some great events so far in 2021! Since the last issue, we enjoyed a great tour of the *Seeing Canberra* exhibition at the Canberra Museum and Gallery with Senior Curator, Virginia Rigney. It makes a big difference to understanding an exhibition when you hear from the Curator how and why, she has chosen the exhibits. We were delighted to see the CS Daley desk and chair, purchased by CMAG from the National Trust, on public display.



Photo: RLDI

Our first coach trip (and self-drive tour) for more than a year was to *Old Graham*, a property between Boorowa and Cowra, lovingly restored by National Trust members, Liz and John Baker. After departing Canberra in pouring rain, the weather improved and we travelled through beautiful green countryside to be warmly welcomed by the Bakers at *Old Graham* and fed well by the Frogmore Community Hall volunteers. There were many highlights of the day – to quote from the feedback we received ‘the house, garden and sculpture walk were fascinating, and the information provided was spot-on’. Other comments included ‘A brilliant day’; ‘wonderful’; ‘thoroughly enjoyed the tour’!



Photo: Jen Thompson

Great to have the Heritage Festival back again! I hope Trust members got to lots of events during

the Festival including some of the National Trust events listed below.



We started with the Heritage Polaris in which around 60 teams of two cyclists set out from the Telopea Park School to navigate their way to checkpoints around Canberra. They visited sites ranging from Red Hill Lookout to the Air Disaster War Memorial to Mulligans Flat. Here are some of the teams heading off for seven hours of cycling and navigating from Telopea Park School!



One of the checkpoints was at Dickson next to the unveiling of a new Canberra Tracks sign marking the site of the first Canberra aerodrome. The unveiling of the sign was complemented by a very popular exhibition about the aerodrome site organised by National Trust councillor, Jane Goffman and the Dickson Residents Group. This was followed up by the Wings of Dickson: Pioneers, Pilots and the Ploughman Heritage Walk.



Four more Heritage Walks were held during the Festival. Tony Maple and Donna Zhao took a group to explore early Chinese settlement in Queanbeyan. Anna Howe's 'Creeks, concrete and conservation Walk' explored Sullivans Creek and wetlands, Haig Park and suburban Turner and O'Connor. Her second walk was a fascinating insight into how democracy is 'reimagined' in the Parliamentary Triangle. We also walked along Old Gundaroo Road with Lynn Parry learning about Aboriginal history, early settlers and Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve. Great to have such keen people researching and leading interesting and very different Walks!

Another walk in Queanbeyan was conducted jointly with the Australian Garden History Society. Local historian, Gillian Kelly, shared lots of stories about early Queanbeyan and we finished in the Sensory Garden in Ray Morton Park with enthusiastic Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council staff who told us about the care of the garden.



We were delighted to have Jenny Horsfield talk about her new book *A Bookshop in Wartime* at the Verity Lane Markets in the building where Verity Hewitt ran her bookshop.



During May, we visited *Linton Manor* where our host shared with us the history of *Linton* and its owners and his work on restoring the property. A delicious Devonshire tea finished off a very pleasant afternoon in Yass.

Also in May, Jane Goffman kindly repeated the Wings of Dickson Walk to cater for those who missed out during the Heritage Festival. As we are regularly getting fully booked for Walks, we will try to repeat the Walks where possible.

The RAAF Fairbairn Heritage Walk took place in June, however, due to wet weather the London Bridge Arch and Homestead Walk had to be postponed to August. Eric Martin guided a very popular tour of the well-loved National Film and Sound Archive.

I would like to thank all our guides and helpers for their great contributions to our National Trust activities, particularly during the Heritage Festival. Remember if you enjoy our walks and tours and would like to get more involved, please contact me or the National Trust office. We can only offer events when we have volunteers to help!!

Mary Johnston

Tours and Events Committee

events@nationaltrustact.org.au

Photos are by Mary Johnston unless otherwise noted.

COVID-19 safety for Events

Please check the current ACT health guidelines on protecting yourself and others before booking on an event. 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 event.

Future happenings

Linda Roberts has organised a tour of the newly restored *Rusten House* in Queanbeyan on Saturday 24 July, with Eric Martin as our guide. We are planning a day trip to Goulburn in September to coincide with the 'steaming' at the Goulburn Waterworks; a drive to *Nil Desperandum* in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve in October; a tour to Ballarat and Bendigo early next year and other tours and events.

The Heritage Walk on Sunday 25 July will be an opportunity to find out about the 'Mysterious Air Crash at the Opening of Parliament in 1927.

Due to popular demand, there will be repeats of the RAAF Fairbairn and Hidden Treasures Walks in August. Following this, there will be Walks exploring two different Canberra suburbs: Kambah in September and Ainslie in October. The much-delayed King Island and Yarra Valley tours will be in late October but both are fully booked.

Put the following dates in your diaries! The AGM is scheduled for Thursday 11 November (see notice below). Our speaker will be Lenore Coltheart and we will also have the chance to hear and see the Compton Organ. The Christmas Party will be on Sunday 5 December at Tuggeranong Homestead.

For information on Heritage Walks, subscribe to our monthly newsletter by emailing heritagewalksact@gmail.com. For information on other tours and events, information is sent to members and/or posted on the website.

National Trust of Australia (ACT) Heritage Awards 2021

The Awards Presentation Night will be held later in the year.

Heritage Diary June – November 2021

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

Date and time	Event and location	Organiser	Contact
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
Thursdays 9-12 and Sundays 12-4 until 31 October 2021	An Exhibition: Fooling Around in Flannels. Cricket on the Limestone Plains. 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 sponsored by Heritage ACT	Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre, Palmer Street, Hall, just off the Barton Highway 15 km north of the Canberra CBD. Admission is free but donations are always welcome.

Note: 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.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 46th Annual General Meeting of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) will be held on Thursday 11 November 2021, 5.30pm for 6.00pm

Venue: Albert Hall, Parkes ACT

As per the Constitution, half of the Council will retire but is eligible for renomination.

Members are invited to nominate persons for election to Council. Nominations must be made and seconded in writing and signed by current members of the Trust accompanied by signed consent from the nominee. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Trust office, phone 02 6230 0533 or email info@nationaltrustact.org.au, or online and must reach the office 30 days before the AGM.

Guest speaker: Lenore Coltheart

Further information will be on our website soon: www.nationaltrust.org.au/act

Recipient of the National Trust ACT University of Canberra Prize 2020 – Cassandra Pomroy

Thank you to the National Trust (ACT) for recognising my hard work during the Bachelor of Heritage, Museums and Conservation at the University of Canberra by awarding me the National Trust (ACT) award.

In 2017 I began my degree by studying online. I was living in Wagga Wagga with my partner and our 1-year-old baby. I left school at the age of 15 in the 1990s and never considered university as an option, so studying at university for the first time in my late thirties was daunting for me. I studied part time as I had my baby at home with me most of the time. It was very exciting to be able to travel to Canberra for the Cultural Heritage Field School. We visited the Goldfields at Adelong and the wonderful Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre. The staff at Hall shared their knowledge and enthusiasm for the history of the area. The online classes gave me a strong grounding in significance assessments and the many different facets that are required to be looked at when assessing heritage objects and sites.

Living in a regional town like Wagga Wagga meant I was able to establish local networks, and in my second year of study I started volunteering at the Museum of the Riverina. During my time there I was able to develop a lot of transferable skills in the cultural heritage sector due to the size of the museum, and gained a strong appreciation for the value of regional museums to both local communities and in creating spaces for touring exhibitions.



In my third year I began travelling to Canberra once a week for Conservation laboratory classes. After 2 years of online classes, it was great to be able to be on campus learning hands on in the lab. The teachers helped me gain an all-round understanding of heritage materials and the different ways they can be treated. During that year I focused my attention on repairing a severely damaged porcelain doll's head that had been deaccessioned from the local museum. I had to piece it together like a puzzle, experimenting to find the right adhesive, fill the cracks and then match the colour. It was a joyful but sometimes gruelling task that cemented my passion for heritage conservation.



In 2020 my family and I moved permanently to Canberra and it has been a whirlwind of a year and a half of finishing my studies and working in cultural heritage institutions on conservation projects. I have been lucky to have the opportunity to continue my development in the profession. I am looking forward to getting to know more about my new home of Canberra.

Cassandra Pomroy (photos supplied)



Canberra's newest heritage and history organisation

Canberra and Region Heritage Researchers (CRHR) is an informal group providing mutual support for people interested in researching the history and heritage of Canberra and the Region. Membership is open to anyone who shares this interest, from beginners through to experienced researchers. The group has no formal officers, constitution or membership fees and relies on members contributing their expertise and skills.

CRHR is committed to fostering new research and disseminating results widely to raise public awareness and understanding of local history and heritage. We aim to encourage the production of high quality and compelling history and heritage research in a variety of formats such as videos, blogs, walks, talks and articles. Digital technologies are transforming the ways in which history and heritage research is conducted, the way archival collections are stored and accessed, and the ways in which research outcomes can be shared. Many new and exciting research discoveries are being made as a result. CRHR assists members to share their knowledge and skills in these new processes, keep up to date and develop new skills.

The group is founded on the key principle that cooperative working can bring together different skills and interests and lead to outcomes that are beyond the capacity of singular research efforts, particularly in a digital environment which offers exciting opportunities for collaboration.

It has become a core value of the group: members helping members to produce better histories.

We have been very fortunate that the founding membership has a remarkably wide range of experience, interests and expertise. Members have found that moving out of individual silos and being exposed to others' interests provides a broader context for their individual research, enriching perspectives at every level of experience.

Currently group meetings are held fortnightly on Thursday mornings, alternating between Zoom and face-to-face meetings and providing networking for researchers. These events involve presentations by members and outside experts on topics of general relevance and a forum for airing ideas and seeking support.

If you are already researching or just thinking that you might be interested in starting, do get in touch. Contact one of the current co-conveners, both National Trust (ACT) members:

Trevor Lipscombe (trevorlipscombe@gmail.com)

Tony Maple (anthony.h.maple@gmail.com)

National Trust Desk Diary 2022



Gulf Station, National Trust (Victoria). Photo: Christopher Groenhout.

The 2022 National Trust Desk Diary will feature attractive images with absorbing, nostalgic, sometimes quirky, background stories of Australia's built, decorative and natural heritage.

At this challenging time, when holiday and travel opportunities are largely restricted to our own States and Territories, the diary will illustrate the fascinating examples of the heritage to be seen and enjoyed throughout Australia.

National Trust properties, and Australia's city, regional and rural museums, monuments, nature reserves, parks and even historical street furniture, offer fascinating sights and destinations to fill any itinerary. The diary offers the opportunity for armchair travel through the year — or to plan visits to see the offbeat, the interesting, the striking and the remarkable items or places saved for the future, from the past, to be enjoyed now!

A voluntary body, the Women's Committee of the National Trust of Australia (NSW) has been producing and publishing a desk diary, sold throughout Australia, since 1965. Landscape, A5 ring-bound with a week to a page and an illustration opposite each week, it is both a fundraising project and a means to promote the heritage preservation objectives of the National Trust.

We are proud to offer the 2022 desk diary to celebrate Australia and to value what we have right here at home!

Cost: \$22.50 NT Members; \$25 retail. Limited numbers will be available at the National Trust office in Civic mid-September. Pre-order: 6230 0533 or info@nationaltrustact.org.au



Out and About in our Region



Heritage Polaris: Leaving Air Disaster Memorial. Photo Warren Nicholls



Democracy Reimagined Heritage Festival Walk. Photo Mary Johnston



Unveiling of the sign in Dickson. Photo Linda Roberts



Old Gundaroo Road Festival Walk. Photo Mary Johnston



Joint AGHS & Trust walk in Queanbeyan. Photo Mary Johnston



Hidden Treasures: The First Chinese walk in Queanbeyan. Photo Linda Roberts



Heritage Polaris: Girrawah (Ngunnawal for Goanna!). Photo Florian Benz

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"

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/zgrb75p0q1g1qi/>

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.

Membership Rates

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)

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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, Eric
Martin, Jane Goffman, Marianne Albury-Colless,
Peter Dowling, Sam Cook, Mary Johnston

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.
- + 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)

The views expressed in *Heritage in Trust* are not necessarily those of the National Trust of Australia (ACT). The articles in this e-magazine are subject to copyright. No article may be used without the consent of the ACT National Trust and the author.