



NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA

Heritage in Trust (ACT)

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With collie-kelpie Suzie Q at his side, John Gorton is taken back to rural Victoria where he grew up

Placing names and naming places in the Parliamentary Triangle

Three new statues to be placed in the Parliamentary Triangle will expand the number of individuals commemorated here by fully one third. As the Democracy Heritage Walks in the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival in the last few years have found, statues of people who have played significant roles in the history of our democracy are few and far between. Only six statues have been erected over the last 38 years, and few places are named after illustrious contributors to our democracy.

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The National Trust of Australia (ACT) acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of the land where we live, learn and work.

Placing names – statues

The two most recent statues are of John McEwen, unveiled in December 2020, and John Gorton, unveiled in March 2021.



McEwen is sympathetically placed at the centre of a mosaic marking 100 years of the National Party, shaded by large gums on Victoria Terrace.

The statue of McEwen aroused considerable controversy as he was only caretaker Prime Minister, for 23 days, following the disappearance of Harold Holt in 1967. But rather than representing just this brief tenure, the statue commemorates his 37 years' parliamentary service as a member of the Country Party to 1971, most of them as a minister.

Gorton sits, less uncomfortably, in the car park next to the building that bears his name (see previous page). Gorton was elected a senator for Victoria in 1949 and moved to the Melbourne seat of Higgins, formerly held by Harold Holt in 1968 when he won the party room vote to become leader and prime minister, replacing McEwen.

The informality of both these statues continues the depiction of our parliamentarians as ordinary people. The pair of Ben Chifley and John Curtin, both with hats, stroll together along King George Terrace on their way to (old) Parliament House from the Kurrajong Hotel where they stayed in Canberra.

And since 2012, Sir Robert Menzies has also strolled, hatless, along the edge of Commonwealth Place on the northern shore of Lake Burley Griffin. Perhaps paradoxically, the ACT government commissioned this statue in recognition of Menzies' strong support for the development of Canberra as the national capital.



Ben Chifley and John Curtin appeared in 2011, but their suits, ties and hats place them firmly in the 1940s.

The earliest statue, of first Prime Minister Sir Edmund Barton, was unveiled in 1983, fully eight decades after he resigned to become a judge of the High Court of Australia. Standing on the far side of Kings Avenue, in front of the building and in the suburb that bear his name, and technically just outside the Parliamentary Triangle. Any apparent hesitancy about placing statues within the Triangle seems to have been overcome with the announcement of the three new statues in August 2021 that will fill some of the gaps flagged on the Democracy Heritage Walks.

Naming places

Our first women parliamentarians have so far been remembered only in naming small places. They were both elected in 1943, Dorothy Tangney as senator for Western Australia, and Enid Lyons as the member for the seat of Darwin (in Tasmania). They could well appear as another pair, strolling the near the fountain commemorating the centenary of the Women's Franchise in the House of Representatives Rose Garden.



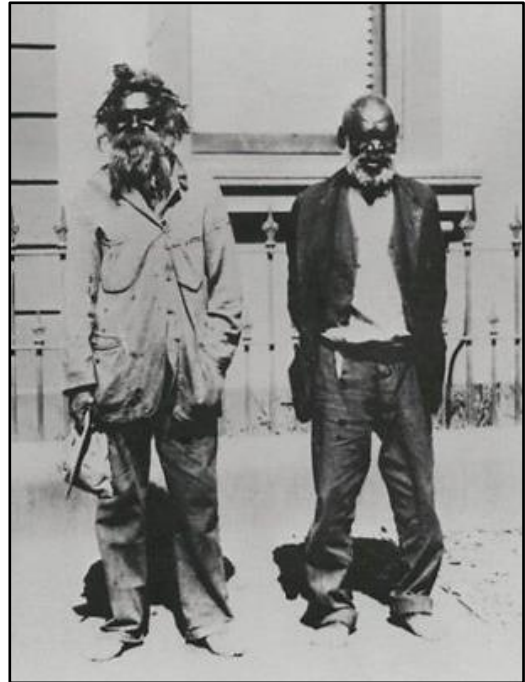
Dorothy Tangney and Enid Lyons, walking through the doors of (old) Parliament House literally entered parliament together.

The other significant absence to be made good is recognition of our first Indigenous member of parliament, Senator Neville Bonner. The announcement that the third new statue would commemorate Bonner, a Jagera man, came 50 years after his swearing into parliament. All who have joined the Democracy Heritage Walk have agreed with the suggestion that the anachronistic Mall Road West, now without its pair Mall Road East, should be renamed Neville Bonner Place and a statue erected there, facing old Parliament House where he served as a senator for Queensland from 1971 to 1983.



The statue of Neville Bonner would ideally be placed near the intersection of the renamed Neville Bonner Place and Reconciliation Place, facing old Parliament House.

A wider recognition of Indigenous Australians could be a statue of the two Wiradjuri men who walked for days to be at the opening of the provisional Parliament House on 9 May, 1927. They watched from the lawns close to where the Aboriginal Embassy has now stood for 50 years and were only invited to meet the dignitaries after the opening ceremony.



Two Wiradjuri men, Jimmy Clements and John Noble, known as King Billy and Marvellous, would make another pair of statues.

Few other places in the Parliamentary Triangle recognise those who have contributed to our democracy: Parkes Place, named after the father of federation, and adjoining Newlands Street after John Newlands, president of the Senate at the time of the opening of the provisional Parliament House in 1927. But the three main terraces named for Queen Victoria, King George V and King Edward VII reflect our early British heritage. The practice continues: part of Parkes Place along the main foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin was renamed Queen Elizabeth II Place to mark her Diamond Jubilee in 2012, and most recently, Aspen Island is to become Queen Elizabeth II Island to mark her platinum jubilee and her opening of the National Carillion located there in 1970.

More opportunities might be taken to name other places to commemorate significant Australians beyond the lakeside walk lined with pillars for each Australian of the Year since 1961. The Patrick White Lawns adjacent to the National Library set the scene: the landscaped entry to the National Gallery of Australia could become James Mollison Place after its first director, the forecourt of the National Portrait Gallery named Archibald Place to

recognise the prestigious portrait prize, and lead to Garfield Barwick Place in front of the High Court.

Naming places accords closely with the principle stated in the 2000 National Capital Authority Review that 'as a place of the people, the Parliamentary Zone must reflect the achievements of Australians in all fields of endeavour'. It is also an effective, and inexpensive, way of giving an identity to the many empty spaces at the

centre of the capital. As Shakespeare would have us do in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, we might 'apply our imagination to turn the form of things unknown to shapes, and give to airy nothing, a local habitation and a name'.

Anna Howe has led several Democracy Heritage Walks around the Parliamentary Triangle.

ACT Trust News

President's Update

Dear Members

It is with much regret that we recently farewelled Liz McMillan who has retired from her key role as our National Trust (ACT) office manager.

Liz will be well known to many of you for the very caring, efficient and professional way she has looked after our members and the general running of the Trust. Thank you Liz for your many years of dedicated service and we are thrilled that you will be continuing to support the Trust in a volunteer capacity.

Our new office manager is Jacinta De Haan, and she brings a wealth of secretariat and management experience to her role. She has already hit the ground running. With the assistance of our funding grant from the ACT Government, the duties of this position will be expanded to include extra support for our Tours and Events Committee and to support our growing program of Trust activities.

The seriousness of the Covid pandemic seems to be abating and we are again able to recommence our program of activities. Our much postponed tour of King Island and the Yarra Valley was a huge success, and our program of heritage walks is well under way, including a very well-received walk *Hidden Treasures: The First Chinese Heritage Walk in Queanbeyan* conducted in late February.

I am delighted to announce that, again with the assistance of our Government grant, the Trust has appointed a Heritage Officer, Ms Yolanne Daly. You will find further information about Yolanne and her role elsewhere in this edition of Heritage in Trust.

After two years hiatus, the Trust will again be conducting an Open Day at this year's Canberra and Region Heritage



Festival (on 9 April at Duntroon Dairy). We are also pleased to be conducting the Heritage Polaris cycling and navigation event on 23 April, for which we received an ACT Government Heritage grant.

The National Trust has been a grateful beneficiary of the ACT Heritage Grants Program over many years. The 2022 round opened on the 5 March and closes on 29 April 2022. If you are part of another organisation that would benefit from such a grant, or have a proposal for the Trust, do contact the office and check the grant guidelines on [Heritage Grants Program - Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate - Environment \(act.gov.au\)](https://www.act.gov.au/heritage-grants-program-environment-planning-and-sustainable-development-directorate-environment)

The Kingston Arts Precinct Community Panel has finally been reconvened, and the Trust is well-represented by our Council member, Eric Martin. He also represents us on the Canberra Brickworks Precinct Community Panel, as well as various other fora.

The Heritage Listing of Canberra is back on the public agenda and the Trust will be writing to the Commonwealth Heritage Minister in much more positive terms than the ACT Government about this important and long overdue initiative.

As I have written previously, we will be engaging in all heritage-related aspects of Light Rail Stage 2, and most recently wrote to the National Capital Authority raising a number of concerns about the raising of London Circuit.

Several new councillors were elected at last year's Annual General Meeting and they are already working hard, including on our reformed council committees. See page 5 for more information about two of the new members (the other two will feature in the next issue).

Best wishes for the year ahead.

Gary Kent
President

New members of the

National Trust of Australia (ACT) Council

Pam Saunders is a former Australian Public Service Senior Executive. Over her long APS career she worked in many departments and agencies and counts managing Old Parliament House, the National Australia Day Council and the National Film and Sound Archive as her career highlights.

Pam has a long-standing love of art and architecture. She is especially interested in modernist architecture and design, sparked by living in her own 1959 Narrabundah home. She posts about national and international modernism on Instagram, using the handle parrotdog123. Pam recently joined the National Trust board to help support the preservation of Canberra's fast disappearing 20th century heritage.

Rebecca Scouller is a public servant who has experience in policy making, grant applications, media, community activism and politics.

Rebecca has been an active community member since 2003, with involvement in National Science Week, Art Sound FM, swing dancing associations, the Kingston and Barton Residents Group (KBRG), Inner South Canberra Community Council and Friends of Manuka Pool (FoMP).

Rebecca was part of the KBRG since its inception in 2011 and president from 2015 until she stepped down from the committee in 2020. The KBRG is a successful resident's group that represents more than more than 6,000 people across the two suburbs.

The Friends of Manuka Pool was founded in 2016 when Rebecca called for members to create the new committee to save the pool from looming apartments that also threatened to take 1200 square metres of the lawns. Since then, the FoMP has become an established community group that has facilitated the investment of funds into the heritage listed pool, including the revision of the Conservation Management Plan.

Council Committees

For many years the National Trust has relied on its Council committees to oversee the many and diverse activities conducted by the Trust. Council recently reviewed our committee structure to make sure we are best prepared to deal effectively with the many heritage issues we are facing now and in the years ahead, and to ensure we effectively manage the significant grant funding provided to us by the ACT Government.

We will now have four committees:

- Communications Committee
- Corporate Affairs Committee
- Heritage Committee
- Tours and Events Committee

The Tours and Events and the Heritage committees will continue as before and we have created a new Communications Committee to help ensure we are effectively communicating our message to our stakeholders and the public at large. The Business Affairs Committee will continue as the Corporate Affairs Committee, with some revised responsibilities.

There is a wealth of skills and experience amongst Trust members and we would like to invite you to consider to putting yourself forward for one or more of the committees. There is so much work to be done, and so many challenges ahead, that we would really appreciate your contribution.

The roles of the various committee should be reasonably apparent from the committee titles but we will shortly circulate terms of reference for each committee which will provide you with detailed information about their roles.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on info@nationaltrustact.org.au or (02) 6230 0533 should you wish to discuss how you might be able to assist.

Gary Kent
President

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/zgrb75p0q1gjq/>

Additional information on the program is available at www.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.

LIZ has gone (sob!) and TINA has joined us!

After 11 years in the National Trust (ACT) Office in Canberra – through three different offices and several changes of CEOs, Presidents and other officers – Liz McMillan finally decided to retire to fulfil her ambition to travel more (despite COVID)!

Liz has been the mainstay of the office and has coolly and calmly worked with members, volunteers, Council and Committees (not to mention technology) to ensure the Office operates smoothly. Liz has not only contributed in her role as Office manager but she is a regular volunteer at our events and in helping with *Heritage in Trust* so I know we will see her again. One thing I know Liz will miss is her interactions with volunteers, especially Alan, Judy and Karen – known as “The Coffee Club”! Her recent farewell lunch reflected her personality and approach to life – she said it was ‘low key, informal and outside – perfect’!



Jantina (Tina) de Haan joined the office recently and benefited from a couple of weeks handover before Liz's departure. Tina is Dutch but has lived in Australia for some years. She has just returned to Canberra from Melbourne and has worked in administrative roles in a number of organisations so will bring a new perspective to the Office. She is keen to be involved in the work of the Trust beyond managing the office and she will be working closely with the Tours and Events Committee to keep our program going.

With two new faces in the office, why not drop in and meet Tina and Lanthe, the new Heritage Officer and Tina. The Office will continue to open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30 am to 3 pm.

Appointment of Heritage Officer

The Trust is delighted to announce the appointment of Ms Yolante (Lanthe) Daly as our Heritage Officer. This is a very important position for the Trust and will significantly strengthen our ability to pursue the issues that we care about.

Lanthe comes to the Trust with a wealth of relevant experience. She has worked in different aspects of heritage management, including the heritage community grants program of the then Department of Communications and the Arts, Indigenous issues officer in the National Archives, and Reference Archivist in the ACT Government, as well as in training, education and policy roles in the public sector. Her recent experience has been in the private sector, working in small effective organisations such as Rebus Theatre.

Lanthe's duties include researching and preparing Trust heritage submissions and publications, supporting our Heritage and other Council committees, responding to queries from members of the public and liaising with key Trust stakeholders.

Our ACT Government Heritage Grant has provided us with the funds to employ Lanthe, and she will make a key contribution to achieving the program of work funded by the Grant, as well as our many other Trust activities.

New members

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

Mr Alan Bainbridge & Mrs Sharon Bainbridge
Miss Michelle Baker
Mr Sandy Clugston & Ms Kerry Blackburn
Rev Sandie Kaine
Mrs Judy Rule
Ms Pam Saunders
Mr Stephen Blackburn & Ms Rebecca Scouller
Ms Ann Tündern-Smith
Mr David Voss
Ms Brigitta Wimmer
Mr Robert Wood

In Memoriam

Alan Foskett – An active supporter and member of the Trust since 2006 - Alan researched and wrote many a book on the local history of Canberra, often aided by an ACT Heritage Grant. He graciously led many a heritage tour, including Campbell and his popular Molonglo Mystery Tour for the Trust. See separate tribute by Peter Dowling on page 7.

Alan Foskett OAM



Alan leading a National Trust walk in Campbell in 2016

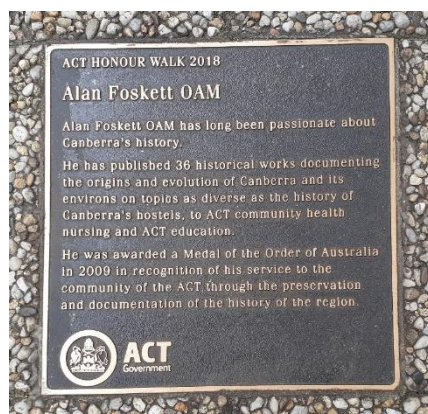
The National Trust (ACT) was saddened at the passing of Alan Foskett in January this year. Alan was well known and highly respected throughout the Trust – its Council, committees, staff, volunteers, and members. He was a long-term member and supporter of the Trust. His depth of knowledge and understanding of the social and community constructs that underlay the very history of this city, the National Capital, was unmatched by anyone of us. All of us who delve into the history and heritage of Canberra will miss him greatly. No longer can we call on Alan for information or to clarify a point or two, or to fact check our histories. But we can still reach for one of the many books (over forty) he self-published and find the information that we need. That is his legacy.

Alan came to Canberra as a young public service graduate in 1950. Canberra at that time had a population of around 15,000, many of whom were government employees translocated from Melbourne. There was no lake here when Alan arrived, the Molonglo River passed through the centre of the growing city, and the urban centres looked quite different to what they are now. Alan had studied urban geography as a student and had a keen eye and a part in the development of the city working with the then National Capital Development Commission. He first lived in Reid House, one of the numerous hostels that provided homes for those shaping the city and creating its function as the national capital.

I first met Alan in the 1990s when I began working with the National Trust as a historical/heritage consultant. Although I had lived in the ACT for a time, I really did not know a lot about its urban and social history. One of my first projects, along with another colleague, was to prepare for the Trust a nomination to ACT Heritage for listing of Gorman House. It was suggested to me quite early in the project, in fact on the first day, “Contact Alan

Foskett, he knows all about the hostels here in Canberra.” I did and Alan willingly gave his help and support for the nomination. I then followed up with similar nominations to other hostels/hotels all with the help of Alan.

I can also remember, with a bit of a quiet chuckle, working with Alan and the Heritage Unit on a historical signage project for the former Molonglo Internment Camp (Fyshwick) constructed in the 1918s during the First World War. The day came when we were to select a place in which to place the sign. Alan suggested Molonglo Mall carpark in Fyshwick as a central and convenient spot, with easy parking, and access to the sign. It was the site where the camp watchtower and administration office once stood so it had historical context. The day came for the official unveiling of the sign – the Minister for Heritage was to unveil it and photographs to be taken. But there was a predicament. Just behind the Molonglo signage and rising above in the photographic frame was a large commercial sign – ‘XXX’- denoting an ‘Adult’ centre. Although a polite and humble man, Alan had a slight smile on his face.



Alan was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2009 in recognition of his service to the ACT community through the presentation and wide documentation of the history of the region.

His contribution is marked by a plaque in the ACT Honours Walk in Ainslie Avenue, in the city.

All of us who care about the social history of Canberra will miss Alan. He was often the go-to man when we wanted to write about the city and its people. But his publications will always be on hand and Alan is still playing a part in our understanding and appreciation of Canberra.

Peter Dowling, Life Member, National Trust (ACT)

BEQUESTS - HELP CONSERVE OUR HERITAGE

Contact us, in confidence, to discuss options:

info@nationaltrustact.org.au

Telephone: 02 6230 0533

Heritage Happenings

2022 will see a number of major developments with heritage implications beginning to be realised. These include:

Yarralumla Brickworks

DOMA is moving toward an estate development plan mid-year and DA about August. The adaptive re-use of the original brickworks and quarry will be part of stage 1.

Kingston Arts Precinct

This has been taken over by the ACT Government and a reference group will be kept informed of developments. It is hoped that a final design will be realised in 2022.

Gold Creek Homestead

Lend Lease has secured the site and is working on aged care units as Stage 1. Later stages will include the adaptive reuse of the homestead and residential aged care accommodation.

Canberra Light Rail 2

The raising of London Circuit has been through planning stages and some infrastructure changes are underway. The first stage of Light Rail 2 (2A) to Commonwealth Park is expected to be released for comment.

The Ngurra Cultural Centre

A national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural precinct is proposed in the Parliamentary Triangle and currently intended for Reconciliation Place on the main axis near the lake in front of Old Parliament House. The project will go through a design competition and then will require NCA approval.

Forestry Place, Yarralumla

A final concept is being resolved with the NCA. It is expected that a design will evolve in the near future for this important Forestry site.

CIT Reid

Final designs for CIT Woden are expected to emerge and then the future of the Reid site will evolve.

Territory Planning Review

This has potential to have an impact on a number of heritage places and precincts. If we are to maintain sustainability and a garden city, retention of many of the heritage values is essential.

The NT is also working on a methodology and consultation process to consider the heritage merits of early modernist domestic architecture in Canberra. This will be a long project but will have benefits in identifying some special architectural gems.

It is noted that the Blue Plaques Scheme is evolving in NSW and there is some interest in having something similar in the ACT. It will need time to evolve and some dedication if it is to occur.

Eric Martin AM

National Trust of Australia (ACT) Heritage Awards 2021

The judging panel were very pleased with the nominations received and the diversity of the entries and how the Heritage of the ACT can be celebrated. The submissions were of a high quality which has been duly recognized by the judges. The sponsorship of the awards by Capital Holdings Group is greatly appreciated.

The final decision by the judging panel for the National Trust of Australia (ACT) Awards 2021 is:

Three plaques for outstanding projects:

Thoroughly Modern

Peter Freeman OAM author designer and researcher, Matt Ward URO Publications, Hannah Gamble book designer, Nikki Davis book indexer, Kenneth Charlton + Bernie O'Neill copy editors.

Owen Flats

Philip Leeson & JWLand.

The Senate Chamber Conservation Project

Heritage & Collections Team and Facilities, Capital Projects & Security Team.

Four certificates for significant contributions to heritage conservation:

Blundells Cottage Interpretation Strategy and Responsive Web App and Mobile Tour

National Capital Authority, GML Heritage & Lightwell Studio.

Burley and Brave

Marisa Martin & David Tynan.

Wings of Dickson 2021 – Pioneers Pilots and the Ploughman

Dickson Residents Group.

Canberra and Region Heritage Festival

ACT Heritage Unit – Linda Roberts and Jennifer O'Connell.

You can read the [Judging Panel Report](#) here. Congratulations to everyone involved.

New Heritage Signs for 'Old Ainslie'



A new Canberra Tracks sign was unveiled on 14 December 2021 at the Mercure Canberra.

If you have recently driven along Limestone Avenue you may have noticed a new Canberra Tracks sign outside the Mercure Canberra. In December 2021 Minister for Heritage, Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, unveiled the sign with the hotel's manager Lukas Wilfling.

The heritage-listed Hotel Ainslie had a number of 'lives', first as a hostel for new workers to Canberra when it opened in 1927, then a hotel from 1932, returning to a hostel for the war years and finally a licensed hotel to this day. The hotel was very up-market in the 1950s and '60s. With few clubs in the ACT the hotel was very busy running dances and weddings.

Perhaps your favourite haunt as a university student in the 1960s was its beer garden, or perhaps you attended the popular 'Politics in the Pub' in the 1980s.

Known as Olims Hotel Canberra from 1989 and the Mercure Canberra from 2011, the venue is the accommodation partner for next month's Heritage Festival. So encourage any interstate friends or relatives to stay there to receive a special festive package.

Tucked away in Allambie Street, Reid is the site of the original Canberra Post Office renamed Ainslie Post Office after one was established in Acton in 1913. The most recent heritage sign is installed here.

If you are interested in learning more about this part of Canberra, come along to May's Heritage Walk with Susan Pettersson on 'Old Ainslie'.

Linda Roberts
ACT Heritage

Walks and Tours

I am sure you will understand why I don't have a lot to report in this issue. We did manage to have a Christmas Party in early December, a final Heritage Walk for 2021 and the King Island tour (see page 13 for a full report).



We were delighted to have our Christmas Party at Tuggeranong Homestead where we heard from the President,

Gary Kent, and the ACT Minister for Heritage, Rebecca Vassarotti about the past year – a highlight for the Trust, being the receipt of the ACT Special Heritage Grant. We were also pleased to see the Federal member for Bean, David Smith – very appropriate as his electorate is named after CEW Bean, who lived and worked at

Tuggeranong Homestead while he wrote the history of the first World War. Our speaker, Jenny Horsfield, spoke about the letters written by Mary Cunningham, while she lived at the Homestead to her sister at Riversdale. Last year's Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Tony Maple representing the Heritage Walks Guides and Helpers. If you participate in any of our Heritage Walks, you will know the work that goes on to bring each Walk to you. The guides plan the walks carefully and undertake research to bring you an interesting and usually revealing new look at places in and around Canberra. On each walk there are a couple of helpers who make sure no one gets lost and most importantly that the audio equipment is working! Over the last year, there were about around 20 people who guided or helped on the Heritage Walks. Congratulations to all of them.

We also enjoyed the catering provided by the Homestead and the opportunity to look around the property.

The final Walk was conducted by Trevor Lipscombe and Linda Roberts to London Bridge and London Bridge homestead with a special guest appearance from one of the descendants of the early pioneers of the area.



Coming event

Our first local event for 2022 will be the Author Talk on Tuesday 22 March by our very own Dr Peter Dowling about his recent book *Fatal Contact*. We are pleased to be holding this talk jointly with the Friends of the National Library.

Heritage Festival events

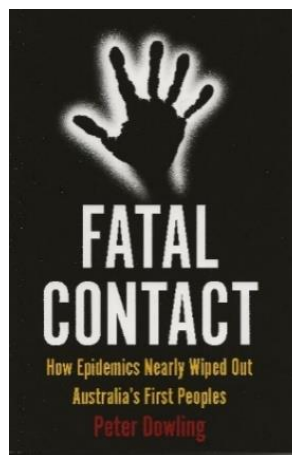
Linda Roberts has written about the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival on page 11. As usual, the National Trust will be participating with a range of events, including an Open Day at Duntroon Dairy on Saturday 9 April and the Heritage Polaris on Saturday 23 April (see page 11 For more information on the Heritage Polaris). We welcome volunteers to help at both these events. If you can assist, please call or email the National Trust (ACT) office. We are also running several Heritage Walks, a 'tea and talk' with Elizabeth Burness at the Mercure Hotel and an Easter Egg Hunt, also at the Mercure Hotel. A full list of our Heritage Festival events is on the following page.

Other future events

May is shaping up well with a few events planned - a curator's tour of the Marion Mahony Griffin exhibition at the National Archives, a bus tour to Goulburn for the steaming at the Waterworks and a coach tour to Ballarat and Bendigo in September. More information about these will be in newsletters and on the website.

Mary Johnston, Tours and Events Committee

events@nationaltrustact.org.au



TUESDAY 22 MARCH 6 PM

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA THEATRE

The National Trust (ACT) and the Friends of the National Library of Australia are pleased to host a talk by Dr Peter Dowling about his recent book *Fatal Contact: How Epidemics Nearly Wiped Out Australia's First Peoples*. See <https://publishing.monash.edu/product/fatal-contact/>

This 'study leaves us in no doubt that imported diseases afflicted large numbers of people, resulting in their deaths, debility and sterility, ultimately leading to population depletion.' (Dr Charmaine Robson, UNSW).

'a truth unremembered in a process of historical amnesia labelled the "great Australian silence" by anthropologist W.E.H. Stanner' (Dr Cassandra Pybus in *The Conversation*)

\$15 Members of National Trust (ACT), Friends of the National Library, Canberra and District Historical Society and Canberra Archaeological Society.
\$20 Non-members.

Bookings: <https://www.nla.gov.au/whats-on/events/author-talk-fatal-contact>

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.



NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE FESTIVAL EVENTS

Bookings for Heritage Festival events open on 23 March unless otherwise noted below

Open Day at Duntroon Dairy – Saturday 9 April

Enjoy a day of activities at one of Canberra's oldest European buildings and an important part of our local heritage! There will be tours and talks about Duntroon Dairy, entertainment, refreshments, classic cars, stalls and things to do for the whole family. Gold coin donation. Bookings not required.

[Please contact the National Trust office if you would like to help for a couple of hours at the Open Day.]

Mysterious Air Crash of 1927 Heritage Walk – Sunday 10 April

Postponed until later this year due to clash with other events that day in the Parliamentary Triangle.

History in the Bottom Drawer – tea and talk – Tuesday 12 April

Over time women, in their roles as wives, mothers and home makers, have used bottom drawers in various ways. For nearly twenty years, our presenter, Elizabeth Burness, has brought back memories with this presentation using items from the past. An entertaining tea and talk at the Mercure Canberra.

Bookings essential: www.trybooking.com/BXPMV

Bookings open 10 March

Braddon Heritage Festival Walk – Saturday 16 April

Join heritage architect, Eric Martin, on a tour of the architecture and history of Braddon. Departing the Mercure Hotel, we will visit Ainslie School, Ainslie Arts Centre, Gorman House and the Braddon Conservation area – the first subdivision developed in Canberra by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee.

Bookings essential:

<https://braddonheritagefestivalwalk.eventbrite.com.au>

Easter Egg Hunt – Sunday 17 April

One for the little ones! Join the hunt for Easter eggs in the lovely courtyard of the Mercure Hotel, Braddon. The Easter bunny will hide plenty of eggs for everyone to find some. Prizes for the best dressed egg hunters. Children aged 2 to 6 years.

Bookings essential: www.trybooking.com/BXPMX

Heritage Polaris – Saturday 23 April

This is a navigating and cycling event where teams of two riders visit checkpoints, many of them heritage sites, around Canberra. For more information and to register visit: <https://heritagepolaris.com.au/>

[For more information about volunteers needed for this event see page 12]

Tagging along on the Dairy Road – Wednesday 27 April

The Floodplain in the Festival. A gentle stroll along Dairy Road, connecting stories across the last 200 years...and millions of years before that. A taste of tropical lagoons, volcanoes, lost lakes, the less-known 'Duntroon', Mill Flat, Griffin plans, a lost railway, soldiers, floods, food, turf, wetlands and threatened species.

Bookings essential:

<https://dairyroadwalk.eventbrite.com.au>

Lambrigg (joint visit with Australian Garden History Society) – Saturday 30 April

A visit which combines Australian history and a beautiful and significant garden! Join two organisations that combine these interests in a visit to Lambrigg - learn about the history of the property, its important place in agriculture in Australia and how the garden has changed over time. This is a Canberra and Region Heritage Festival event.

Bookings essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/BXYP A>

Kambah Walk – Sunday 1 May

Kambah, Canberra's largest suburb, has 14,900 residents (2016 census) and is spread over 11 square kilometres – bigger than many country towns. Join Kambah historian, Glenn Schwinghamer, on a walking and tag-along driving tour to learn about the rural past and urban beginnings of this interesting foundation suburb of the Tuggeranong Valley.

Bookings essential:

<https://kambahfestivalwalk.eventbrite.com.au>

For lots more Heritage Festival events in Canberra and Region see

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

For interstate events see

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf/>

Where will your inquisitiveness lead you at this year's Heritage Festival?



Did you enjoy 'Muster Dogs' recently shown on the ABC? Then you will delight in learning about the history of sheep dog trialling – an activity designed by Australian farmers in the mid-1800s. It brought isolated people together to test their dogs against each other to select the best working dogs to breed with.

How does this connect to Canberra and April's Heritage Festival? In 1943 George Westcott founded the National Sheep Dog Championship as a fundraiser for the war effort. Held initially at Manuka Oval, Westcott documented the trials from its inception to 1975. These manuscripts are kept at the National Library, but with the support of an ACT Heritage Grant some of the many articles, programs and photos will be reproduced for display, so we can all appreciate how sheep dog trialling became such a colourful part of Australia's history and certainly part of Canberra's own story. Queen Elizabeth and the late Prince Phillip attended and presented prizes here in 1970.

Come to the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre on 23 April to see this unique display.

From sheep dogs to cycling and croquet, exhibitions, tours and open days, I encourage you to all attend a number of our eclectic 150+ events from 9 April to 1 May. Our theme is 'Curiosity', so let your curiosity lead you down a road that is less travelled.

The program will be [online](#) later this month along with the printed program. Thank you to National Trust (ACT) for organising nine very varied events.

Linda Roberts
Heritage Festival Co-ordinator

Heritage Polaris



During this year's Heritage Festival, the National Trust (ACT) is running the Heritage Polaris on Saturday 23 April. This is a navigating and cycling event where teams of two riders visit checkpoints, many of them heritage sites, around Canberra. For more information on the Heritage Polaris see www.heritagepolaris.com.au.

We need volunteers at some sites during the event. There is very little to do other than to be present and if there are any problems riders or volunteers can contact the organisers (and/or emergency services if necessary).

The sites where we definitely require volunteers are:

- Shepherd's Lookout (Ginninderry)
- Mt Stromlo
- Oaks Estate

Volunteers are required at each of the sites from 8.30/9.00 am until about 2.30 pm (depending on the site). Ideally, volunteers would attend from about 8.30/9.00 am to 11.30 am or 11.30 am to 2.30 pm. If you are interested but unable to stay for 2 ½ hours, we may still be able to work something out as there are other checkpoints where volunteers may be used.

Please let Tina in the office know if you are willing to help on Saturday 23 April, particularly at the above sites, and if you have a preference for a site and/or time. info@nationaltrustact.org.au or 6230 0533 during office hours.

We will supply more information, a high-vis vest, water, volunteer identification etc before the event. We suggest you take a chair, food and drink and something to read!

If you spend a few hours helping us, you will receive a free ticket to a future Heritage Walk!

Scott McAlister

A Tale of two destinations: King Island and the Yarra Valley

It was three times lucky for the 20 participants on the National Trust trip to King Island and the Yarra Valley which proceeded in February after two Covid induced postponements.



On King Island, Jim, the retired tour operator and now school bus driver, came out of retirement to honour our long-standing booking and drove us around the island on the school bus. We didn't mind when he had to clock off for an hour or so one afternoon to do the school bus run!



We were based in the 'capital city' of Currie, but travelled from Cape Wickham in the far north, to the far south coast and to Naracoopa and Grassy on the east coast where some of the group ventured at night to view the penguin colony.

Jim, who had ancestral connections to the *Netherby* which was shipwrecked off King Island in 1866, proved to be a knowledgeable and entertaining guide who was passionate about the community spirit of the island's 1500 residents. As we toured from rocky coastlines to sandy beaches, Jim regaled us with many stories of the

resilience of the local people, from soldier settlers to their descendents.

Of course we all knew about King Island beef and King Island cheese so, as we expected, we saw a lot of cattle on the island! Numbering some 100,000, the cattle are mainly Black Angus and Hereford.

To learn more about the King Island beef industry, we visited Fred and Shona Perry's beef farm where Fred told us the history of his family's settlement on the island, his cattle breeding operation and his regenerative farming practices. We then toured Fred and Shona's extensive orchard and vegetable gardens.

We heard the history of King Island Cheese and our host Jim arranged a cheese tasting at our lunch at *Brewer's Café*, owned by enterprising local Denise.

Another enterprising local, Heidi, who operates a distillery producing gin, vodka and limoncello was an entertaining host on our visit!

Apart from beef and cheese, other industries on the island include crayfish and abalone fishing, kelp harvesting and tourism, particularly golf tourism with world class golf links attracting many players.

A common theme of Jim's commentary was the shipwrecks which occurred around the island in the 19th century. From King Island's worst shipping disaster, the barque *Neva* wrecked off Cape Wickham in 1835, to others too numerous to list here, many ships and lives were lost.

Closely aligned were stories of the lighthouses which now guard shipping around the island, the tallest being at Cape Wickham. King Island's history was documented in the King Island Museum in Currie, where volunteers came out of 'covid retirement' to guide us. The museum, housed in the old lighthouse keeper's residence built in 1880, is an invaluable resource containing a wealth of history of the island.

We experienced wonderful sunsets and - at times the Roaring Forties - from our accommodation, *Boomerang by the Sea*, which featured excellent meals and great views. Speaking of food, most of us managed to visit the local bakery in Currie to try their delicious crayfish pies!

A farewell morning tea at the quirky *Restaurant with No Food*, a boathouse built in 1871 overlooking Currie harbour and restored by local artist Caroline, was a highlight. Our 'class photo' was taken there!



After King Island, we returned to Melbourne and visited National Trust properties Como and the 1840s Gulf Station Farm where National Trust volunteers also hosted us as their first visitors since their covid closure.

We toured the Dandenong Ranges and enjoyed a visit to the Blue Lotus Water Garden.

The tour had an excellent itinerary and a great group of fellow travelers. Thanks to our drivers Col from Potter Travel on the mainland leg and Jim our guide and driver on King Island, not to forget Liz at the National Trust office for her co-ordination.

Special thanks go to Mary Johnston, Chair of the Tours & Events Committee for the National Trust (ACT) who led our tour so well and made it such an enjoyable experience.

If your appetite has been whetted, you may be lucky enough to find a vacancy on the next tour departing in November this year!

Carolyn Ho and Irene Kaspar



Cape Wickham lighthouse



Sunset at Grassy (before the penguins appeared)



Sandy beaches



Fred and Shona Perry's cattle property and orchard

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

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Patron: The Hon. Margaret Reid AO

President: Gary Kent

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Scott McAlister

Council: Marianne Albury-Colless, Kerry Blackburn,
Brad Fraser, Mary Johnston, Eric Martin, Linda
Roberts, Pam Saunders, Rebecca Scouller

Heritage Officer: Yolenthe Daly

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Keeping up with the Trust

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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: <https://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 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

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- mid June (for July issue)
- mid October (for November issue)

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