



# ACT Region Heritage Symposium 2024

# Planning for Heritage

SATURDAY 17 AUGUST 2024

9am to 5pm



Convened by Heritage Partners



**Forestry Building  
(Building 48)  
Linnaeus Way  
ANU Acton  
Campus**

Supported by



This symposium is supported with funding made available by the ACT Government

# Planning for heritage

Change in the built and natural environment is both inevitable and necessary. Factors such as land development, increased housing demand, climate change and regulation of land use, can have a significant impact on heritage values and heritage places and landscapes.

Join us for the 2024 ACT Region Heritage Symposium to explore the following questions:

- What role does planning have in managing and preserving our cultural heritage?
- In what ways can heritage facilitate positive planning outcomes?
- How can development and conservation partner to enhance our communities?
- How can we facilitate involvement of residents/local communities in planning for heritage?
- How can we ensure that First Peoples history and culture are adequately respected and protected in future planning?
- What lessons in heritage protection should we have learned from practice in the ACT, elsewhere in Australia and overseas?

## Registrations

<https://www.trybooking.com/CSOKZ>

\$50 full registration

\$15 student under 30 years

# morning PROGRAM

8.30–9.00 am *Venue Open & Registration*

9.00 am **Introductory Session**

Gary Kent, President, National Trust ACT

***Introduction***

Violet Sheridan, Ngunnawal Elder

***Welcome to Country***

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, ACT Minister for Heritage

Dr James Lesh, Founding Director of Heritage Workshop

***Keynote address:***

***Values in Cities: Urban Heritage in Twentieth-Century Australia***

10.10–10.20 am *Morning Tea*

10.20 am **Second session: ACT planning frameworks & heritage**

Duncan Marshall, Chair, ACT Heritage

***ACT Heritage Council role & priorities***

George Cilliers, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning, EPSD

***New ACT planning frameworks & associated referral processes***

Andrew Smith, Chief Planner, NCA

Ilse Wurst, Director Statutory Planning and Heritage, NCA

***The National Capital Authority role in retaining and enhancing  
Canberra's character***

Mark Huntersmith, Senior Heritage Consultant, GML Heritage

***The challenges of protecting our post-war heritage***

Richard Sharp, Senior Associate, Ecology and Heritage Partners

***What lessons in heritage protection should we have learned from  
practice elsewhere in Australia?***

***Discussion/Q&A***

12.10 pm **Third session: Modernist Housing**

Rachel Jackson & Anna Leeson, GML Heritage

***Thematic Study of Mid-Century Modernist Houses in the ACT***

12.30–1.30 pm *Lunch*

# afternoon PROGRAM

1.30 pm

## **Fourth session: Planning/heritage synergies**

Kate Clarke

*Embedding the wider social, environmental and economic benefits of heritage in land-use planning*

Nick Swain

*Heritage and the East Lake Place Plan*

Mark Butz

*Missing in Acton: Lessons from the lime kiln*

Marianne Albury-Colless

*Lessons from the Reid Housing & other heritage precincts*

Anne Forrest

*Protecting heritage values in a Heritage Precinct*

*Discussion/Q&A*

2.55 pm

## **Fifth session: Heritage trades**

Victoria Pearce, Director, Endangered Heritage Pty Ltd

*Heritage is Non-renewable but Culture is Infinitely Renewable*

3.10–3.30 pm *Afternoon tea*

3.30 pm

## **Sixth session: Local Case Studies**

Anna Howe

*Past planning – present heritage: A case study of Hackett as a mid-century modern Canberra suburb*

Chris Mobbs

*Trees to screen a cemetery in Hackett*

Jenny Horsfield

*Our Disappearing Grassy Landscapes*

Glenn Schwinghamer

*Kambah's 50th anniversary Heritage Day*

4.30 pm

## **Brainstorming/way ahead**

5.00 pm

## **Thanks and close**

# Speakers

## ■ Gary Kent

*President, National Trust ACT*

## ■ Violet Sheridan

*Ngunnawal Elder*

*Welcome to Country*

## ■ Rebecca Vassarotti MLA

*Minister for Heritage*

## ■ Dr James Lesh

*Values in Cities: Urban Heritage in Twentieth-Century Australia*

Across the twentieth century, heritage and ideas of value had increasing power to shape Australia's cities. Places found valuable by professionals and communities were conserved. Places perceived to lack value became subject to redevelopment. From the 1970s, alongside strengthened activism and legislation, with the innovative Burra Charter (1979), the values-based model emerged for managing the cultural significance of historic environments. Values transitioned from an implicit to an overt component of conservation. In this talk, James Lesh traces the Australian heritage movement and its role both in celebrating the Australian nation and in reconciling settler colonialism for the twentieth century.

James is the founding director of conservation practice Heritage Workshop, which offers boutique heritage strategy and advice. He is a prominent industry thought-leader and has published widely on the practice, theory and history of urban heritage. He holds a PhD in history and heritage from Melbourne University and has researched and lectured at Melbourne, Sydney and Deakin Universities and King's College London.

## Duncan Marshall

*Chair, ACT Heritage Council*

### *ACT Heritage Council role & priorities*

Duncan is a leading Australian and international practitioner in heritage conservation, both in terms of site-specific work as well as the development of heritage practice. Mr Marshall is an architect with 40 years' experience in heritage conservation across government and the private sector, including with the Australian Heritage Commission, as General Secretary of the Australian Council of National Trusts and as a heritage consultant since 1993. In April 2023 he was appointed Chair of the ACT Heritage Council, having also served in that role in 2012–15.

Mr Marshall has been responsible for multiple conservation planning projects of historic places and precincts in the ACT under both the Territory and Commonwealth heritage systems. CSIRO Black Mountain, and St John's Church, Reid.

## George Cilliers

### *New ACT planning frameworks & associated referral processes*

George is the Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning, in the ACT Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. In this role, he is responsible for the delivery of the development assessment and lease administration functions of the ACT.

## Andrew Smith & Ilse Wurst

### *The National Capital Authority role in retaining and enhancing Canberra's character*

The National Capital Authority role in retaining and enhancing Canberra's substance and character. To secure the Australian Government's interest in the planning and development of the National Capital, the National Capital Authority (NCA) has broad oversight over the planning in the ACT as a whole and is involved in the planning, design and development of those areas having the special characteristics of the National Capital (Designated Areas). Through the National Capital Plan, the NCA envisions a national capital which symbolises Australia's heritage, values and aspirations, is internationally recognised and worthy of pride by all Australians.

The work of the NCA endeavours to retain and enhance Canberra's substance and character as envisioned by its first architects and planners – Walter Burley and Marion Mahony Griffin and other early visionaries who integrated the ideals

of the City Beautiful and Garden City movements to form Australia's famous 'bush capital'. Importantly this early work set the human scale and size of central Canberra and its relationship to existing green spaces and new landscapes.

As more and more people are choosing to live and work in Canberra and as we move towards a more sustainable future, thoughtful and proactive responses are needed to respect, conserve and enhance the significance of our National Capital.

**Andrew Smith** is the Chief Planner and leads the Planning and Design Branch, which is responsible for keeping the National Capital Plan under constant review, preparing planning policy (which forms the basis of amendments to the Plan), Master Plans and Development Control Plans; assessing works approval applications; and monitoring the quality of buildings and other developments once completed. The Branch also manages a range of design and construction projects, the NCA's heritage work and diplomatic land in the National Capital.

**Ilse Wurst** is the Director of Statutory Planning and Heritage, and has responsibility for assessment of Works Approval applications under the National Capital Plan, including pre-application advice on complex development projects, and managing 21 heritage-listed places within Canberra's areas of national significance in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

## ■ Mark Huntersmith

### *The challenges of protecting our post-war heritage*

Mark is a Senior Heritage Consultant at GML Heritage with an extensive experience working in an architectural practice. He has completed a Master of Cultural Heritage at Deakin University focusing on heritage place management. He has a particular interest in and aptitude for facilitating good design outcomes within sensitive heritage overlays and is passionate about advocating for the protection of mid-century modern places.

At GML, Mark works on large-scale municipal heritage studies and has been extensively engaged in the provision of strategic and statutory heritage advice, including heritage asset management strategies, conservation management plans and heritage impact statements. Highly organised, Mark is skilled in problem resolution and has experience in managing large-scale projects and coordinating multidisciplinary project teams.

As Heritage Advisor to the City of Manningham and the Shire of Nillumbik (Victoria), Mark is adept in reviewing and applying design guidelines for heritage places. He has experience in dealing with the range of stakeholders involved with local government heritage issues including community members, historical societies, local council staff, and property owners and users.

## ■ Richard Sharp

### *What lessons in heritage protection should we have learned from practice elsewhere in Australia?*

Richard will examine some of the problems that come from heritage planning decisions and poses the question: can we learn from others? The presentation seeks to share some knowledge about the heritage planning challenges that some interstate infrastructure projects have faced and highlights some of the planning approval solutions that are used by other jurisdictions in Australia to ensure compliance, performance, and transparency.

Richard is a senior associate at Ecology and Heritage Partners. He has over three decades of experience in providing advice and expertise in his chosen areas of professional practice. This includes ecological and heritage risk assessment, management planning to protect the ecological and heritage values of a development site, and applying best environmental practice to all stages of a construction project by undertaking post-approval auditing and site inspections. He is a Senior Associate with Ecology & Heritage Partners, a Fellow of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) and a Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP).

## ■ Rachel Jackson & Anna Leeson

### *Thematic Study of Mid-Century Modernist Houses in the ACT*

In Canberra, the rise of modernism coincided with a rapid period of new development under the National Capital Development Commission. The NCDC was motivated by the desire to build Canberra into a city fit for the nation. With its booming population and funding for development, Canberra was a place of opportunity for modernist architects.

In the context of constant change, modernist houses in Canberra are increasingly at risk. The National Trust, through the ACT Heritage Grants Program engaged GML Heritage to prepare a thematic study on these suburban houses to assist in their identification, protection and celebration.

By identifying significant historical themes relating to Canberra's development and defining architectural styles and housing types, the thematic study promotes the recognition of modernist houses in the ACT. The study provides a framework to assist the Trust, the ACT Government and the community to appreciate Canberra's modernist houses. The study will support future heritage assessments and nominations of significant places to the ACT Heritage Register.

**Rachel** is a principal and director of GML Heritage, She specialises in heritage projects for Commonwealth agencies following the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act), Australia's central piece of environmental legislation for World, National and Commonwealth Heritage places.



The Commonwealth project work is often for large and complex sites, where Rachel has assisted in achieving heritage compliance, good management and positive operational outcomes. She provides strategic heritage and cultural landscape advice for iconic sites such as the Australian War Memorial, Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Site at Norfolk Island, the Port Arthur Historic Site, the Australian National University, the Australian Parliament House, Old Parliament House and Australian Academy of Science. Rachel is a Getty Conservation Institute Scholar. She is an ICOMOS member and involved in several ICOMOS scientific committees.

**Anna** is a Senior Heritage Consultant at GML Heritage. She is historic heritage specialist, with skills in the preparation of heritage impact assessments, heritage assessments, archival recordings and heritage management plans. She is skilled in conducting research and providing practical advice on a range of heritage issues. Anna has worked on a range of Commonwealth projects for the Museum of Australian Democracy, CSIRO and Departments of Defence, Finance, and Infrastructure. Her projects have included work in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, South Australia and External Territories where she worked closely with state and local government agencies and private sector clients.

## ■ Kate Clarke

### *So what can heritage do for us? Embedding the wider social, environmental and economic benefits of heritage in land-use planning*

The role of heritage in planning is often seen in negative terms – stopping development or (supposedly) affecting sale prices. Yet caring for cultural heritage also has the potential to deliver some of the wider social, environmental and economic objectives of land use planning system, including high quality attractive neighbourhoods, attracting creative industries or addressing climate change through the reuse of existing buildings. This paper will highlight some of the initial findings from the AICOMOS project on embedding culture heritage in wider public policies, focussing on how caring for heritage can contribute to planning objectives. It will also explore some challenges, including the limits of designation and the value of wider placed-based approaches.

Kate has qualifications in archaeology and historic buildings conservation, and 30 years' relevant experience in building conservation and heritage management in Australia and the United Kingdom, including in statutory advisory roles. She worked in heritage and culture roles for the NSW government from 2008–14 and the Welsh Government from 2014–20. She was a previous member of the Australia Heritage Council in 2013–14.

Kate has worked in roles that apply heritage conservation principles within a statutory context, including statutory advice roles with the Council for British Archaeology, and English Heritage, policy roles with the Heritage Lottery Fund, and senior heritage leadership roles with the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, NSW Heritage and Cadw, the Welsh Heritage organisation.

## ■ Nick Swain

### *Heritage and the East Lake Place Plan*

There are positive models for planning and heritage. This talk will look at the application of the Place Planning approach in the East Lake urban renewal area. This model has been used to identify cultural heritage assets valued by the community and ensure they are protected, valued, celebrated and used as an integral part of urban redevelopment.

The talk will:

- provide a quick overview of the East Lake urban redevelopment area
- briefly explain the place planning approach and where it fits in whole planning process
- discuss how the place planning process is working so far
- outline the heritage assets identified and relevant recommendations of the draft Place Planning Report
- track how those draft recommendations fared in the final report and subsequent Territory Plan Amendment.

Nick is a prominent Canberra local historian whose heritage journey began in 2007, wanting to find out more about a heritage cottage he had bought in Barton. He has held several Canberra and District Historical Society offices including Secretary and President and is also one of two ACT delegates to the Federation of Australian Historical Societies. In 2023 Nick was the recipient of the National Trust's award for outstanding Heritage advocacy.

## ■ Mark Butz

### *Missing in Acton: Lessons from the lime kiln*

The paper considers links between planning practice, heritage protection and cross-sectoral approaches, using the Acton lime kiln site as a case study. We look at the history and values of one of the (if not the) oldest industrial heritage sites in Canberra, which is now largely forgotten, poorly appreciated, and easily overlooked in impending development of West Basin.

We consider: how a heritage place that is lost to view can easily become lost to knowledge (and to caring); how a heritage place can go unremarked in numerous heritage studies; how a location that may straddle Territory and National Land can allow a place to fall through the cracks, and possibly be destroyed by default; and how thresholds for significance at Territory or National level might discard places that are of considerable local value, with no statutory safeguards available.

More hopefully, we consider the potential for community members to participate in investigations and care of the place, and the potential for presentation and

interpretation of the site and the broader place (if we care enough). Both of these would add considerable value to outcomes of place planning.

Mark is an environmental science graduate, with grounding in physical/social geography and ecology, illuminating human interaction with landscapes from deep time to the present. He works as a consultant, facilitator, researcher and writer, with a focus on improved understanding, presentation and interpretation of natural and cultural heritage places, and particularly identities and stories that have been forgotten.

Mark has worked on heritage interpretation strategies, signs and self-guiding trails in Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Mulligans Flat-Goorooyarroo and Tidbinbilla, as well a rail heritage tour around inner Canberra and a number of booklets for self-guiding tours in the city and at Hall Village. He is a regular contributor to the Canberra Historical Journal, and has authored two published books – on the Duntroon instructional trench system, and on the shifting Canberra-Queanbeyan dynamic – with more underway.

## ■ Marianne Albury-Colless

### *Lessons from the Reid Housing & other heritage precincts*

The late Professor David Yenkin AO, in his 2019 Valuing Australia's National Heritage mentions climate change and population growth as some of the 'new problems and threats to Australia's heritage'. These and what other forces are at foot to diminish Canberra's heritage? Are the planning processes for the conservation and protection of Canberra's heritage adequate in the face of these challenges. Can an understanding of Bourdieu theory of 'habitus' and cultural capital help in planning for heritage? Lessons from the history of the Reid Housing Precinct and the other 8 heritage precincts (listed on the ACT Heritage Register) are useful case studies to examine 'planning for heritage' options.

Marianne has a BA (University of New England) and Primary Education Certificate (Sydney Teachers' College). She taught in NSW, Victoria and the ACT and was appointed a Senior Education Officer, National Museum of Australia, in 1993. Marianne spent over a decade in India, Malaysia and China associated with Australian Aid programs. She joined the Commonwealth Department of Environment's Biodiversity Strategy revision team in 2008 then moved to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority Engagement Unit. Marianne has served as President of the Reid Residents' Association Inc. and as a member of the North Canberra Community Council Committee since 2017. She was a Councillor, National Trust (ACT) from 2018 to 2021 and is still actively involved with Trust's Heritage and Tours & Events Committees.

## ■ Anne Forrest

### *Protecting heritage values in a Heritage Precinct*

Anne is Deputy Chair of the Inner South Canberra Community Council, a member of the Canberra & District Historical Society, and a life member of the ACT Branch of the National Trust. She is a former Registered Nurse and Nurse Educator with a BA in Public Administration. She has been a partner in a family-owned international tourism enterprise in the Canberra-Queanbeyan region.

Anne has worked as both an elected and appointed community representative on numerous ACT government advisory groups for more than 35 years. She was Secretary, Griffith Representative and elected Chair of the previous Local Area Planning Advisory Committee. She remains committed to local planning issues and strives for genuine community consultation.

## ■ Victoria Pearce

### *Heritage is Non-renewable but Culture is Infinitely Renewable*

Our heritage professions are often confused with niche crafts, not as essential skills for our economy. Trades and their unique training mode of mentor to mentee over time furthers problem solving and the design of practical solutions and development of innovation for prototypes for industry. Blacksmiths today could make a suit of armour but don't. However, the same skills are adaptive to today's challenges in industry. This talk will bust the myths about the market size and need for these skills for all Australians.

Victoria is a director and senior conservator at Endangered Heritage, which provides collection support and conservation services to private collectors, museums, galleries, archives and libraries. She has skills in heritage and collection management, involving heritage values, conservation management and heritage interpretation. With a degree in Fine Art and Conservation, Victoria has extensive experience in modern materials and contemporary art, particularly in art investment and management of collections.

## ■ Anna Howe

### *Past planning – present heritage: A case study of Hackett as a mid-century modern Canberra suburb*

Hackett in Canberra's inner north is one of a band of suburbs planned and developed by the National Capital Development Commission from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s. Fifty years on, it is a part of Canberra's distinctive mid-century modern heritage that is notable nationally and internationally. Physical planning not only established the distinctive features of these suburbs still seen in their layout, houses and gardens, and open spaces, but social planning created

an enduring and adaptable community identity. This presentation shows how planning created this heritage and sets the case study of Hackett in the wider Canberra and Australian contexts. It raises questions about how this heritage can be preserved and enhanced as urban planning and priorities change. It builds on an exhibition and walks that contributed to the 2023 ACT and Region Heritage Festival.

Anna Howe grew up in Sydney and graduated with her BA (Hons) at Sydney University, majoring in Geography. She first came to Canberra in 1974 when as an urban geographer she joined the Commonwealth Department of Urban and Regional Development. She moved to Melbourne in 1976, where she completed her PhD at Monash University, a study of variations in ageing and aged care services in local government areas across metropolitan Melbourne. She then spent some 40 years in aged care research and policy development, in academic positions at La Trobe and Melbourne University and senior positions in the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

Anna retired in 2011, and returning to Canberra revived her interest in the unique urban character of the national capital. She had explored this interest as an active member of the ACT National Trust, the Australian Garden History Society and the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens. It was not until after she moved into her townhouse in Hackett that she learned that the Grayson Street townhouses were designed by Dirk Bolt and were the first built in Canberra, in 1969–70. The Parliamentary Triangle has been an area of particular interest as a site central to our national heritage.

## ■ Chris Mobbs

### *Trees to screen a cemetery in Hackett*

In the late 1920s, agencies responsible for developing Canberra considered the need for future cemeteries. This task fell with the Federal Capital Commission which was advised by its Development Committee (FCDC). ACT Archives and National Archives records revealed that in 1928, this committee recommended Canberra have one cemetery on the south and one on the north side. The site for a north 'cemetery reserve' was on the lower slopes of Mount Majura, 24ha in an area now covered by south-east Hackett. The FCDC also recommended the establishment of a 'plantation screen fronting the city development for a width of some chains'. A search of Trove identified maps indicating the location of this site and reference to a plantation on its western side.

The recommendations by the FCDC suggest that the plantation was established in the 1930s; and aerial photos taken in the 1950s show the trees to be well established. In April 2023, the trees were listed as a 'nominated' place to the ACT Heritage Register and will be assessed by the Heritage Council.

Chris Mobbs completed a Bachelor of Applied Science at the then Canberra College of Advanced Education in 1976. His first job (late 1976–1984) was Interpretation Ranger with the newly formed ACT Parks & Conservation Service – his role was organising nature walks in ACT reserves, and preparation of information about the reserves. In 1984 he moved to the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and worked on education material about nature conservation and then assisted managing programs dealing with native vegetation (Save the Bush and One Billion Trees) and research programs.

In 1989 Chris acted as an Extension Officer, with the Australian Heritage Commission. From 1993–96 he was the National Facilitator for the new national Waterwatch program. From 2000 he worked on programs in the Federal environment department dealing with chemical management, and then building energy efficiency, before retiring in early 2017. Chris has been Chair of the Hackett Community Association since 2017, and in 2018 compiled and edited its book, *Hackett - 50 years plus - Story of a North Canberra suburb*. It was during preparation of this book that created his interest about the origin of the trees next to the Hackett oval.

## Jenny Horsfield

### *Our Disappearing Grassy Landscapes*

Our natural heritage—the woodlands and associated grasslands of the Southern Tablelands—are disappearing, with less than five per cent remaining of what covered this landscape in 1788. They have been lost to agriculture, land-clearing, forestry, mining and urban and industrial expansion. How do we save what's lost, and why bother? Jenny will talk about Australians who are working to protect, repair and restore some of these landscapes which they see as vital for the future health and productivity of our country: farmers, scientists, landholders, park rangers and community groups, with much of their work inspired by the practices of First Nations people in caring for country.

Jenny Horsfield is a Canberra writer and historian. For the past 20 years she has been Chair of Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead (MOTH) and is committed to both its cultural heritage and to the restoration of the original creek on the property: now a key part of the Healthy Waterways program for the ACT. Jenny is also a keen bushwalker and land carer with Coolman Ridge Park care group. These experiences have shaped much of her writing, especially *Mary Cunningham. An Australian Life*; *Building a City: the story of CS Daley*; and *Voices beyond the suburbs: the soldier settlers of Tuggeranong*. Jenny is two time winner of Non Fiction Book of the Year for Canberra Writers and Publishers.

Her forthcoming book *Our grassy landscapes and the people who care for them* celebrates the connections many people have to the land and their attempts to heal the damage it has sustained and restore it to health and biodiversity.

## ■ Glenn Schwinghamer

### *Kambah's 50th anniversary heritage day*

Kambah celebrates its 50th anniversary heritage day in early September. Glenn will outline the themed events for the day, focusing on a walk around the remnant sites of Kambah Station and the Urambi homestead. This will include the site of the long-demolished Kambah Homestead, after which the suburb is named, and the Kambah Woolshed, adapted for community use over the suburb's 50 years.

Glenn is a retired public servant and librarian. He worked at the National Library of Australia from 1982-95, where during his time as a manuscripts librarian he was involved in acquiring and arranging a number of significant personal papers for the Library. Glenn subsequently worked in the Federal arts and heritage portfolios, mostly on the protection of movable cultural heritage.

In 2002 Glenn initiated the Kambah Woolshed Area Renewal Project, a community-based endeavour to rejuvenate the historic woolshed and surrounds. His interest in local history has included extensive research into the history of the 'Kambah' rural property, oral history interviews with surviving members of the Bennet family who lived there, and content for the large historical sign that is at the woolshed today. Recently he has been researching the early years of suburban Kambah, Canberra's largest suburb.

