

SATURDAY 2 AUGUST 2025
9am to 3pm

A *future for* the *past*

ACT Region Heritage Symposium

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

Supported by



This symposium is
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Front cover image: Manning Clark House (L Roberts)

A future for the past

In last year's Symposium we learnt how change in the cultural and natural environment is both inevitable and necessary. This year we will consider how we plan ahead for change to reduce or avoid adverse impacts through heritage practice and community participation. The Symposium will explore:

- How we plan to ensure the celebration of our special places and objects, including educating and developing the next generation of people who will care for the past
- How we identify culturally important places, objects etc., we wish to protect
- Are the current ways of doing this sufficient – are we missing certain types of heritage in this process, such as modern or local heritage and connections (stories / memories) to places and objects, and are the protection mechanisms effective?
- Are there better or complementary ways of protecting what we want to keep for future generations other than heritage listing, such as through adaptive reuse and heritage promotion?, and
- What lessons can we learn from the rest of Australia and the World?



Image: View west from Ginninderry interpreted by Aboriginal Ranger Tyson on a National Trust walk. (L. Roberts)

Morning sessions

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

Chris Steel MLA, ACT Minister for Heritage

Official Opening

Dr Amy Mosig Way, Research Archaeologist, Australian Museum

A Future for the Past: Archaeology and the enhancement of Significance

Q&A

Max Bourke AM, Former CEO Australian Commission

The future of heritage through rose-coloured glasses

10.30—10.50 am Morning Tea

10.50 am **Second session: Multi-layered heritage**

Nick Swain, Canberra and District Historical Society

Discovering Heritage down Mugga Lane

Dr Nadia Iacono, Principal/Archaeologist, GML Heritage

Surviving the Sydney Opera House

Mark Butz, Principal, Futures by Design

Healing the natural-cultural divide: a more holistic future for presenting the past

Q&A

Afternoon sessions

12.00 pm **Third session: People-centred heritage**

Dr Michele Rainger, President Family History ACT

Giving Voice to the Past: Preserving People, Not Just Places

Karen Sorensen, PhD Candidate, University of Canberra

How can working creatively with objects of the deceased reconfigure personal memory and connections to the past?

Maia Vincent, Culture and Heritage student, University of Canberra

Naomi Casimir, Post graduate student, Heritage Material Conservation, University of Canberra

Preserving SRA Australian Stories from the 1970s–80s

Q&A

12.50–1.35 pm *Lunch*

1.35 pm Victoria Pearce, Director, Endangered Heritage

Innovations in treatment of mould

Eleanor Smith, Heritage Student, University of Canberra

Beyond My Classes: What a telescope taught me about adaptive reuse and interdisciplinary work

2.00 pm **Fourth session: Mid-Century Modern**

Dr Anna Wong, Director ACT Galleries Museums & Heritage

Capturing Mid-Century Canberra: Documenting Modernist Domestic Heritage

Virginia Rigney, Senior Curator Visual Arts CMAG

Canberra's Mid-Century Challenge and Opportunity

Q&A

2.50 pm Gary Kent, President, National Trust ACT

Wrap-up and close

3.00 pm **Close**

Speakers

Gary Kent

President, National Trust ACT

Violet Sheridan

Ngunnawal Elder

Welcome to Country

Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Heritage

Dr Amy Mosig Way

A Future for the Past: Archaeology and the enhancement of Significance

Amy is a research archaeologist in a jointly held position between the Australian Museum and the University of Sydney. She works closely with First Nations communities to create culturally meaningful archaeological projects. She specialises in the archaeology of social change, with particular expertise in stone artefact analysis and technological adaptation to socio-cultural and environmental shifts. At the University of Sydney Amy chairs the Tom Austen Brown Indigenous Archaeology committee. At the Australian Museum, she leads the archaeological research program with key responsibility for implementing long-term community-centred archaeological projects in NSW.

Max Bourke

The future of heritage through rose-coloured glasses

Max Bourke AM was founding Director of the Australian Heritage Commission and assisted in establishing ICOMOS in Australia. He later served as Deputy Chair of ICOMOS and was Australia's representative to various meetings of the World Heritage Committee. In retirement he has maintained a strong involvement in environmental conservation and historic garden management.

Nick Swain

Discovering Heritage down Mugga Lane

Nick Swain's local history journey began in 2007, wanting to find out more about the heritage cottages in the Barton Housing Precinct. Since then his interests have broadened to cover the development of the national capital to the present day. That interest includes people, places and planning. Nick has a special interest in the CDHS photographic collection. He has held several CDHS 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 the inaugural National Trust award for outstanding Heritage advocacy. He is currently working on a book about the Mugga Lane area thanks to the support of an ACT Heritage grant..

Dr Nadia Iacono

Surviving the Sydney Opera House

Nadia is an archaeologist with 30+ years' experience in cultural heritage practice. She holds a PhD in Archaeology from La Trobe University, Victoria (2005) and is a Principal at GML Heritage. Having worked in both the public and private heritage sectors Nadia has detailed understanding of planning legislation, statutory compliance and best practice guidelines and their relevant applications. Her key areas of expertise include broad scale to site-specific archaeological and heritage assessment, management and strategic advice.

Nadia meets the Heritage Council of NSW Excavation Director criteria for state and locally significant sites with extensive practice on a broad range of state, national and world heritage listed places. She has worked on Australian industrial, domestic and urban sites and overseas archaeological projects in Italy, the United Arab Emirates and Turkey. Her projects include significant listed sites such as the Sydney Opera House, Hyde Park Barracks, Parramatta Square, 'The Big Dig' in the Rocks, and several burial places including the Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum Cemetery.

Mark Butz

Healing the natural-cultural divide: a more holistic future for presenting the past

Mark Butz 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 booklets for National Trust self-guiding heritage tours in the city, Oaks Estate and Hall Village. He is a regular contributor to the Canberra Historical Journal, and has authored two published books – *'The best system of trenches in Australia'* on the Duntroon instructional trench system, and *'Tales from Two Cities'* on the shifting Canberra-Queanbeyan dynamic

Dr Michele Rainger

Giving Voice to the Past: Preserving People, Not Just Places

After a long career in education and management across the public sector and community not-for-profit groups, Michele is now retired from full-time employment. This allows her time to pursue her passion for history, and especially family history. She has been commissioned to undertake family history research on behalf of others and has traced her own family in Australia back to 1790 and the Second Fleet. Michele is currently President of Family History ACT; a member of the Management Committee for the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies; and Vice President of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations.

Karen Sorensen

How can working creatively with objects of the deceased reconfigure personal memory and connections to the past?

Karen Sorensen has 36 years of experience as a Registered Nurse. She provided care to people diagnosed with a life-threatening illness and provided support to their families. She has developed bereavement care services in the ACT and Southern NSW. She has also developed Volunteer Programs and Community Art Projects. She has completed BA Visual Arts, Dip Botanical Art and Grad Cert in Heritage Materials Conservation.

Karen is completing a Creative PhD entitled, *Transforming Objects: The Practice of Expressive Conservation in the Process of Bereavement*. This PhD is researching an innovative and creative method to explore and process grief through objects of the deceased. This research will also help facilitate connections between research in conservation, bereavement care and artistic practice. Her artistic practice includes sculpture, painting, botanical art and ceramics.

Maia Vincent

Preserving SRA Australian Stories from the 1970s-80s

Maia Vincent is an emerging heritage professional currently completing both an undergraduate degree and a postgraduate certificate at the University of Canberra, specialising in object conservation. With a lifelong interest in heritage and preservation, Maia has focused her recent work on paper conservation and its cultural significance.

Over the past six months, Maia has explored the vital role of conservation within the broader cultural landscape, both in the classroom and through her internship at the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature.

Her work reflects a deepening awareness of how even the simplest objects, like a single page can hold generational meaning and shape collective memory. As a young voice in the heritage field, Maia is passionate about preserving the stories embedded in physical artefacts and ensuring they continue to inspire and inform future generations.

Naomi Casimir

Preserving SRA Australian Stories from the 1970s-80s

Naomi Casimir is an emerging history and cultural heritage professional. Having already completed a Bachelor of Arts in History from the Australian National University, Naomi is currently completing a post graduate certificate at the University of Canberra in Heritage Material Conservation with her focus thus far on paper conservation. With her lifelong interest in museums, history and objects, Naomi is exploring the role of conservation in heritage and museum practice.

Through her work in the classroom and volunteering at the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature she is engaging in a discipline that is dynamic and changing. The work undertaken at the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature has deepened her understanding of how even the simplest part of an object – a covered up stain or an accidental finger-print – can hold momentous meaning and offer rich information and meaning. As a young voice in the heritage field, Naomi is passionate about preserving the stories embedded history and in physical artefacts, ensuring they continue to inspire and inform future generations.

Eleanor Smith

Preserving SRA Australian Stories from the 1970s-80s

Eleanor is currently studying for a degree in heritage at the University of Canberra, while also employed as a research assistant on UpCyc, a collaborative project focused on reactivating a historic radio telescope. Along with her undergraduate classes, she has the privilege of studying postgraduate lab classes, where she learns practical skills in material analysis and conservation methods. Her work with UpCyc while studying has put her in a unique position of working with a major heritage project while still studying and has given Eleanor many opportunities to apply her learning and understanding from the classroom into real-world applications.

Victoria Pearce

Innovations in treatment of mould

Victoria Pearce is the Director of Endangered Heritage. She works in textiles painting and built heritage. She runs a membership program Conservator on Retainer making science based conservation available for collectors allied businesses and regional museums galleries and libraries. Victoria has been actively researching mould remediation for heritage for over 25 years and is a subject matter expert on mould and disaster planing and remediation. Victoria is a AICOMOS committee member and a Fellow of the Australian Risk Policy Institute and a professional member of the AICCM.

Dr Anna Wong

Capturing Mid-Century Canberra: Documenting Modernist Domestic Heritage

Anna Wong is Director of ACT Galleries, Museums and Heritage (Cultural Facilities Corporation), responsible for key heritage sites including the Canberra Museum and Gallery, Lanyon Homestead, Mugga Mugga Cottage, and Calthorpes House. With a background in archaeology, history, curation and heritage management, she is committed to interpreting history through people, objects, and place.

Virginia Rigney

Canberra's Mid-Century Challenge and Opportunity

Virginia Rigney is a Curator, Writer and Creative Producer who has worked to develop exhibitions, publications, digital platforms, installations, short films and public programs within museums. She is also a commissioned writer for industry, peer reviewed and popular journals and a producer of short films and public art projects.

Virginia commenced with Canberra Museum and Gallery in the role of Senior Curator – Visual Arts in 2018. Born in Canberra, she completed tertiary studies at the ANU then at Sydney University and began her professional career in curatorial practice at the Powerhouse Museum (Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences) in 1985. She went on to work on large temporary exhibition projects at the Art Gallery of NSW, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, Scottish National Museums, Edinburgh and then joined Glasgow Museums as a Curator. Virginia was Senior Curator at Gold Coast City Gallery 2003–2017. A major element of her curatorial practice has been to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.



Image: Griffith (D Bensley)

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