



*Jefferis (right) and Whelen (left) setting off from the Hotel Canberra on their 300-mile journey. Frontpiece, Vol 3*

### ***Around Australia's Capital: The Jefferis and Whelen Journal***

You might be surprised to learn that two Hotel Canberra porters spent their spare time between 1926 and 1932 exploring around the Federal Capital Territory, covering some 2,000 kilometres. They produced a detailed and well-illustrated manuscript of their travels which they called *Around Australia's Capital* and dedicated it to "The Pioneers of the Federal Capital Territory and their descendants". Many lived in remote parts and offered generous hospitality to Jefferis and Whelen.

This unofficial record is free of bureaucratic constraints and compiled in the British amateur tradition. Despite its Australian origins the journal came to the Canberra and District Historical Society from England. How this happened remains a mystery. The significance of the

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journal has been recognised by its inclusion in the ACT Heritage Register.

## Who were Jefferis and Whelen?

*George Graham Jefferis* was born in Canterbury, England, in 1895. He attended a charitable school for the poor and in 1925 migrated to Australia. In 1926 he was employed at the Hotel Canberra as a porter and waiter. He was a member of the Canberra Artists' Society and the journal includes his drawings and paintings of scenes, flora and fauna. In 1934 he became the first man in the Federal Capital Territory to be granted a divorce. He died in Sydney in 1971 aged 75 years.

*John Arnold Whelen* was born in Cardiff, Wales, on 26 February 1914. He and his mother arrived in Canberra in 1929 where he first worked as a waiter at the Officers' Mess at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and then as a waiter and porter at the Hotel Canberra from 1929 to 1941. He served in World War II (New Guinea and Borneo). After the war he joined the then Department of External Affairs where he worked until his retirement in 1976. In 1953 he was a foundation member of the Canberra and District Historical Society (CDHS) and served as Secretary, President and editor of the Society's *Newsletter*. In 1972 he was made a life member. He died in 1996 aged 82 years.



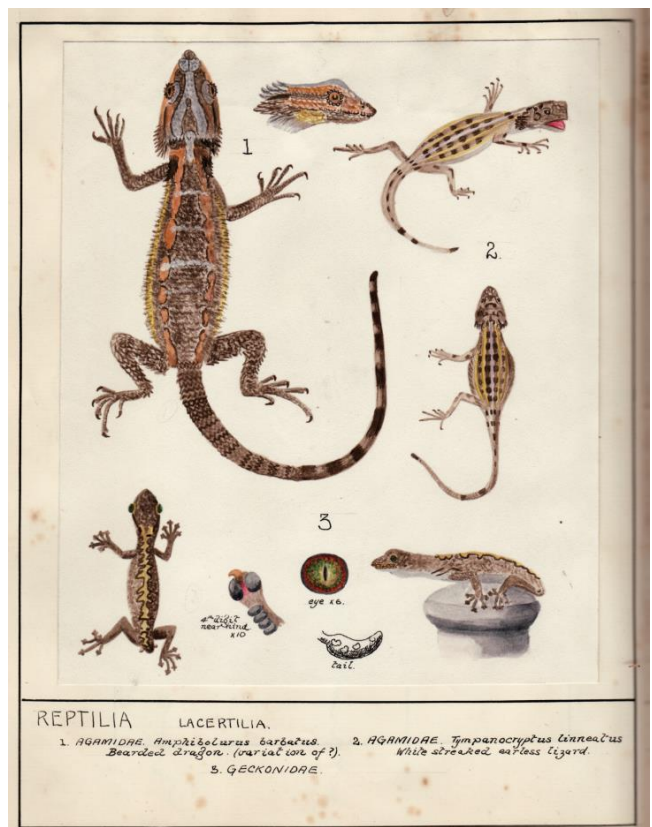
*Menura Superba (Lyrebird)*. Vol 3, p. 60

## Format and content

The journal comprises three unmatched volumes largely prepared by George Jefferis with some chapters by John

Whelen. They are mostly in manuscript form although some parts are more like a scrap book. It consists of typed text, photographs, original watercolour paintings, detailed drawings, maps and ephemera such as clippings from brochures, event programs and newspapers and even race meeting tickets. The journal shows people, houses, scenery, fauna, geological features and more.

The journal contains some interesting marginal comments. For example, describing events leading up to the opening of the Provisional Parliament house, one comment reads 'Melba swore at the band at the rehearsal and asked if she was supposed to sing to that b..... row. Refused to let her singing be broadcast so they hid the microphone in one of the tassels of the decorations.'<sup>1</sup>



*Reptilia*. Vol 1, p. 48

Volume 1, *The Opening Chapters*, consists of 11 chapters and an appendix of photographs. The chapters cover the geology of the district, Aboriginal history, place names and their meanings, maps of routes taken, lists of insects and reptiles, mammals, birds and fish collected and sent to the CS&IR and the Institute of Anatomy. There are also short items on Canberra aviation including Bert Hinkler's visit, the opening of Parliament House, the Foundation Stone, outdoor sports, hotels and tourism, the Australian War Memorial and a visit by Japanese naval cadets.

In Volume 2, *The First Thousand Miles*, the chapters are: The Cotter Dam and its surroundings; an account of the ascent of Mt. Coree; the Murrumbidgee River; Lake George; miscellaneous information; and zoological records.

The text includes progress maps, black and white photos, coloured paintings, drawings of many insects etc plus detailed listings of their October 1926 to December 1931 journeys.

Volume 3, *Three Hundred Miles with Note-book and Camera*, is about 90 pages long and in three parts. It includes watercolour paintings, black and white photographs, hand-coloured photographs, and illustrations of insect specimens collected drawn on graph paper, some of which are still held at CSIRO.

- Part 1, *Roads and Tracks*, describes in detail a four-week trip on horseback from Canberra to Williamsdale, Orroral Valley, Cotter House in Cotter Gap, Rock Valley, Cotter Dam and back, including what they saw, who they met and being caught in a snowstorm.
- Part 2, *Personalities and Places*, comprises three chapters titled "In New South Wales", "In the Federal Capital Territory" and "Well, I'll get on the track".
- Part 3, *Notes and Records*, has three chapters: "Derivation of place names"; "Animals and birds"; "Bush pictures".



*Kaye's Hut, Rock Valley. Vol 3, p. 33*

### Conservation of the journal

The three volumes were in poor condition. The bindings had deteriorated, some of the photographs had decayed due to the glue showing through or causing fading and others were turning black. The text is typed and in reasonable condition.

Our first action was to digitise each volume at high resolution to preserve the information before the physical volumes inevitably deteriorate further, especially the photographs.

An ACT Heritage Grant was received in 2015 enabling extensive conservation work to be carried out. The bindings have been strengthened, each volume is now stored in a custom-made acid-free archival box and acid-free tissue has been inserted to protect illustrations.

Another grant was received in 2016 to make the journal more accessible and better-known to the Canberra community. This allowed us to make 25 high resolution copies to be used for research and at workshops.

This journal is a highly significant resource as an unofficial record of the Federal Capital Territory in the late 1920s. All the people recorded and many of their dwellings are gone as has their lifestyle.

### Nick Swain

Nick Swain is currently President of the Canberra and District Historical Society

### Reference

1. Volume 1, page 19.

**Editor's note:** *Since Nick wrote this article, CDHS has been awarded a certificate for a Significant Contribution to Heritage Conservation for its work on these journals. See page 13.*

## National Trust Desk Diary 2019

This year's theme: **'Made in Australia'**

\$22.50 NT members; \$25 non-members, available to buy from the office or at the Xmas Party on 2 Dec.

If you would like one or more posted please buy through the web: <https://shop.nationaltrust.org.au/>

\*As a National Trust member you are eligible for the discount so remember to enter **MEMBER10** into the discount field at Check Out (we get a percentage of the sale through the online shop).

## ACT Trust News

### AGM and New Council

The President, Chris Wain, tabled his report and commented on the restructure of the National Trusts of Australia which is aimed to be more member-oriented. Volunteers were thanked and especially acknowledged for assisting in the move of offices from level 3 to a smaller one on level 2 in the Griffin Centre. The ability to retain our reference material was most beneficial.

Chris thanked the Board, Tours and Events Committee and the Heritage and Grants Committee, singling out the positive response to Gold Creek Homestead and the importance of the Heritage Awards. Office administrator Liz McMillan was also thanked.

The Treasurer's report was not presented as the auditor requested additional information which delayed the finalization of the report and balance sheet. *A special meeting will be held at the Christmas gathering on Sunday 2 December at Cliftonwood, Yass to have these reports accepted and to appoint the auditor.*

Mary Johnston, Eric Martin and Ian Oliver continue their term on Council. Retiring Councillors Linda Roberts, Scott McAlister, John Tucker and Graham Carter were declared re-elected. Nominations were received from Marianne Albury-Colless, Jane Goffman, Gary Kent, Gary Watkins and Trevor Wilson. These were accepted. The position of President is expected to be filled at the Council meeting on Thursday 8 November.

### Linda Roberts

### Business Development Committee

A new committee has been formed which aims to:

- increase the Trust's profile;
- increase membership; and
- increase income.

The members of the Committee are Andrew Freeman, Ian Oliver, John Tucker, Gary Watkins, Gary Reynolds, Marianne Albury-Colless, Cedric Bryant, Margot Firth and Graham Carter. Their first tasks are to review the Patrons Program and arrange a program of regular meetings. Other members are invited to join the Committee to help with these ideas and other activities.

### Intern Program

The Trust has been developing an Intern Program with the University of Canberra over the last 18 months to provide high-calibre university students with practical

on-the-job training opportunities. The program allows Undergraduate and PhD students to complete work-based projects applying the knowledge and skills developed through their studies in a professional capacity. Projects appeal to students who are studying Business, Heritage, Museums and Conservation, Architecture or Tourism.

Alison Wain, Lecturer-Heritage Conservation, recommended Will Irving to undertake a project to review, refresh or create the Trust's hard copy electronic documents and associated electronic tools and systems. He is studying Graphic Design and web design and is being mentored by Bronnagh Norris, who is a member of the Trust's Heritage Committee.

### The Trust Needs Your Support

Making a donation or a bequest are ways in which people can support the National Trust (ACT)'s vital work in the conservation of historical and natural places of significance, education programs and advocacy for heritage protection in the ACT. A bequest is a gift of money, assets, shares or personal property. Members or other supporters who wish to provide support should contact Scott McAlister by sending an email to [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au)

### Graham Carter

#### New members

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

Ms Frances Aarnio  
Mr Peter Andersson  
Mr Andrew & Mrs Wendy Beggs  
Mrs Jane Cottee  
Ms Elizabeth Cowan  
Mrs Helen Crombie  
Mr Gary & Mrs Francine Davis  
Mr David Evans & Dr Rosemary Landy  
Mr Peter & Mrs Fiona Hanks  
Mr Chris & Ms Oksana Heaney  
Ms Sonya Heaney  
Mr Rod & Ms Louisa Holesgrove  
Ms Judy Hutchinson & Mr Gerard Newman  
Mr Brian & Mrs Nancy Johnson  
Miss Kaleela Lauder  
Mr Thomas Lawrence  
Mr Kenneth & Ms Margaret Matthews  
Mrs Julie May  
Ms Jenifer Murdock  
Ms Ann Palmer

Miss Madeleine Parkes & Mr Matthew Brinkworth  
Ms Sarah Proust  
Dr Michelle & Mr Robert Quee  
Ms Cara Sergeant & Mr Timothy Bethune  
Mr Geoff & Mrs Nola Shoring  
Mrs Jacqueline Smith  
Ms Monique van Nieuwland & Mr Harry Samios  
Ms Gabrielle Weidner & Mr Christopher Karas  
Mr David & Mrs Nanette Windeyer

### National Trust (ACT) Members Reward Card

If you attend 3 member activities then the 4<sup>th</sup> activity is free for you, or you can bring a friend (non-member or member) free of charge.

Your card can be stamped at fee-paying events which cost \$20 or more, including bus trips and the Christmas party but can only be redeemed at events to the value of \$25. New and renewing members will receive new Reward Cards but existing cards can also be used.

It's up to members to mention when booking for an event that you are due for a free event. In order to redeem your free activity, you must produce your card (with 3 stamps) and have the 4<sup>th</sup> ticked off on arrival at the event.

**Mary Johnston**, Chair, Tours Committee



### National Trust Online Shop

Find that special gift for Christmas at the National Trust Shop: <https://shop.nationaltrust.org.au/>

## What's next – coming up

### 13<sup>th</sup> Reid Open Houses and Gardens Sunday 18 November 1.15 – 4.30pm



Once again, the National Trust (ACT) in collaboration with the Reid Residents' Association (RRA) and the property owners will open three privately-owned houses and gardens from the 1920s & 1930s in Reid's Heritage precinct. The houses and their gardens, which have not been previously opened, will be available for inspection. Meet the owners and view inside the houses and also their gardens. The properties comprise two late 1920s Federal Capital Commission (FCC) houses (both FCC Type 9, substantially extended) and a 1934 Department of Interior Type "L" (amended) house.

The ticket price includes:

- a guided tour of the three houses and gardens,
- a copy of *The Heritage of Reid* by Shibu Dutta,
- an introductory talk on the Reid heritage-listed Housing Precinct by a heritage architect,
- a printed hand-out on each house & garden, and
- a delicious afternoon tea at the Reid Pre-school, which first opened in 1944.

Walking between the three properties is involved, on both paved and unpaved surfaces, so appropriate footwear is recommended. Regrettably, the event is not suitable for children (adults only please). Numbers are limited, so please book early.

**Bookings are essential** through the National Trust (ACT) office, open Tues to Thurs from 9.30am to 3pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street, Civic, by telephone on 6230 0533 during office hours, or via email to Liz McMillan on [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au)

**Cost:** \$25 (Trust, U3A & RRA members) & \$35 (non-members). Most credit cards are accepted.

## Heritage Walk 17: Bendora Arboretum Sunday 25 November



Part of Bendora Arboretum (Photo by Wendy Whitham)

This month we're heading for the hills on an all-day trip! Bendora Arboretum is close to the Mount Franklin Road, 5km beyond Bulls Head Picnic Area. It was initially established in 1940 at the direction of Charles Lane-Poole, Inspector-General of the then Forestry and Timber Bureau, to help determine which species of coniferous trees should be grown commercially in upland areas in the ACT and south eastern Australia. Following the 2003 fires, it is the only surviving arboretum of several established in this area. The walk will be guided by Dr John Turnbull, former CSIRO forestry research scientist. At 1400m the 4km walk, through tall sub-alpine native forest with some short hills, should provide a feast of wildflowers and cool conditions. You should expect to be back home in Canberra between 3 and 4 pm. For more information, go to [www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/heritage-walk-17-bendora-arboretum/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/heritage-walk-17-bendora-arboretum/).



### Christmas Party at Cliftonwood Sunday 2 December 3.00-5.00pm



This Christmas take the road to Yass to celebrate Christmas with the National Trust. Tony Ward, owner of Cliftonwood, which overlooks the Yass River has kindly agreed to host our Christmas Party this year. Cliftonwood is one of the oldest properties in Yass, built by the Watson family in 1841 on land owned by Hamilton Hume, and lived in by his wife, Elizabeth, after Hamilton's death in 1873.

Inspect the house and outbuildings and learn about the history of the house and area. There will be some historic farm machinery and, of course, some historic cars too we hope!

**Cost:** Members \$20; Non-members \$25. Drinks and refreshments included. Some chairs will be available but BYO chair if required.

**Bookings are essential.** Please RSVP by Wednesday 28 November to National Trust ACT Office on 02 6230 0533 or email: [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au)

*NOTE: If you need or can provide a lift to Cliftonwood for the Christmas party, please let us know when booking and we will try to organise this but cannot guarantee it.*



## Looking to 2019

### Heritage Walks

Plans are underway for lots more walks next year – some to explore our suburbs such as Campbell and Ainslie and others visiting natural environments such as the Aranda Grasslands and the northern ACT border. Watch out for announcements about these in newsletters, on the website and the Heritage Walks ACT Facebook page.

Remember, all Heritage Walks are booked on-line through Eventbrite. If you've got ideas for walks, or would like to lead a walk yourself, we would love to hear from you at [heritagewalksact@gmail.com](mailto:heritagewalksact@gmail.com).

### Other activities

Early next year there will be another joint U3A/National Trust bus tour to Millthorpe and Carcoar – more details below. We are also planning some one-day bus trips, as well as longer tours next year. Details of these should be available before the end of the year.

In April 2019, we will again be part of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival from 13 April to 5 May. The theme is Space - in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moon walk - but this can also be very broadly interpreted. We are very excited because we have agreement to hold our Open Day again at Gungahlin Homestead on Saturday 13 April. This venue was **extremely** popular in 2017 so we look forward to a great event next year. The National Trust also participates in the national Australian Heritage Festival which will run from 18 April to 19 May 2019. The theme is Connecting People, Places and the Past.

The Tours and Events Committee would welcome new people with ideas and energy to help us organise tours and events, so please let us know of your interest, on [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au) or 6230 0533.

**Mary Johnston**  
**Chair, Tours and Events Committee**

## **Joint U3A/National Trust (ACT) Tour – Millthorpe and Carcoar**

**Friday 29 to Sunday 31 March 2019**

Whilst a number of details have yet to be finalised, advance notice is given, and expressions of interest are being taken, for this 3-day coach tour to a weekend of private house inspections, arranged by the Central West Regional Women's Committee of the National Trust NSW, in the Millthorpe/Carcoar area, near Orange. Part of the understanding with the National Trust is that places will be offered to approximately equal numbers of National Trust and U3A members. Because of the likely popularity of this tour, it may not be possible to offer places to non-members of either organisation.

The current plan is to visit the Japanese Gardens and have lunch in Cowra on Friday, followed by an afternoon visit to the Age of Fishes Museum at Canowindra and to the summit of Mt Canobolas. Two nights B&B accommodation have been booked at the Caleula Central Motor Inn, Orange, including Friday night dinner.

The Saturday program will commence with a visit to Ophir, where gold was first discovered in Australia, and then inspections of four private homes in the Millthorpe area, where a boxed lunch is also included. Investigations are incomplete for the Saturday night dinner. Some individuals may prefer to make their own

arrangements. For others, a group dinner is contemplated at a local restaurant.

The Sunday program will commence with a visit to a private home in Carcoar, plus a tour of the third oldest inland town in Australia. This will be followed by visits to two rural properties a little to the west of Carcoar. Lunch arrangements have yet to be finalised, but the plan is to return to Canberra via Abercrombie Caves (quick look at the stunning Grand Arch - the largest in Australia), Crookwell and Gunning.

An all-inclusive cost (excl Sat night dinner) in the vicinity of \$600pp dbl/tw or \$725pp sgl is indicated for U3A members, with a \$20pp reduction for current National Trust members. A possible cost for the optional Saturday night 2-course dinner with drinks is an extra \$65pp. Subject to you having first confirmed availability through Garth Setchell, places will be reserved on payment of a \$150pp deposit.

**To check on availability or to book**, please contact the U3A ACT Tours Officer, Garth Setchell, as soon as possible on [tours@u3acanberra.org.au](mailto:tours@u3acanberra.org.au) (ph 6290 1100 if necessary). Comprehensive leaflets, covering all relevant activity details, are mailed or emailed to those who have booked.

### **DISCLAIMER**

*Most activities involve some element of risk. Bushwalking, in particular, is an inherently dangerous activity and requires an appropriate level of fitness. Whilst both U3A ACT Inc and the National Trust (ACT) maintain public liability insurance and will endeavour to protect your safety, they cannot remove all the dangers. Both organisations must also assume that participants, by booking, consider themselves to have appropriate levels of fitness and mobility. Those undertaking activities should therefore be aware that they participate at their own risk.*

## **Wanted: A member to join the team that produces *Heritage in Trust***

After nearly six years as one of the editors of *Heritage in Trust*, Wendy Whitham has decided to call it a day.

We already have Liz setting up the newsletter on Word and Karen Moore has agreed to edit articles and check the text of the magazine. What we need in addition is an organiser: someone who will plan each edition, seek input, and prepare the Heritage Diary.

The work would be done in consultation/collaboration with Mary Johnston and Linda Roberts who already provide advice and input to *Heritage in Trust*. Wendy is also happy to provide training. She will be working on the newsletter up to the March 2019 edition.

**Please contact Liz in the office (contact details on the back page), Mary Johnston (0427 381 380 or [maryjohnston@bigpond.com](mailto:maryjohnston@bigpond.com)) or contact Wendy to discuss (6254 6388 or [wendysw@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wendysw@optusnet.com.au).)**

## Heritage Diary November 2018- June 2019

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

Details of National Trust (ACT) events are provided on pages 5-7

Date and time	Event and location	Organiser	Contact
From now until 10 February 2019	<b>National Library of Australia.</b> Exhibition: Cook and the Pacific.	NLA	<a href="https://www.nla.gov.au/exhibitions/cook-and-the-pacific">https://www.nla.gov.au/exhibitions/cook-and-the-pacific</a>
Tuesday 13 November 5pm for 5.30pm	<b>CDHS Members Night</b> ALIA Conference Room, 9-11 Napier Close, Deakin.	CDHS	Phone (02) 6281 2929 or email <a href="mailto:admin@canberrahistory.org.au">admin@canberrahistory.org.au</a>
Sunday 18 November  1.15pm to 4.30pm	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Reid Open Houses and Gardens</b>	National Trust	Bookings are essential. Phone National Trust (ACT) office on 6230 0533 or email <a href="mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au">info@nationaltrustact.org.au</a> Tickets \$25 (Trust, U3A & RRA members) and \$35 (non-members).
Wednesday 21 November 6.00pm	<b>CAS Seminar and AGM.</b> Dougal O'Reilly, <i>New Research on the "Plain of Jars", Laos: Unravelling the mystery of the megaliths.</i>  National Museum of Australia	CAS	<a href="https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au">CAS members and Friends of the Museum free. Non-members \$5. Bookings essential: https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Sunday 25 November 9.15am-3.30pm	<b>Heritage Walk 17 – Bendora Arboretum</b>	National Trust	BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL Book: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-walk-17-bendora-arboretum-tickets-51095403728">https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/heritage-walk-17-bendora-arboretum-tickets-51095403728</a>
Sunday 2 December 3-5.00pm	<b>National Trust ACT Christmas Party</b> Cliftonwood, 41 Irvine Drive, Yass	National Trust	BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. Cost: Members \$20, non-members \$25. Book through the National Trust office on 6230 0533 or email <a href="mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au">info@nationaltrustact.org.au</a>
Tuesday 11 December 7.00 for a 7.30pm start.	<b>CDHS Annual Dinner: Guest speaker, Victor Isaacs on Canberra—What If? The Deck at Regatta Point, Barrine Drive, Parkes.</b>	CDHS	Phone (02) 6281 2929 or email <a href="mailto:admin@canberrahistory.org.au">admin@canberrahistory.org.au</a>
Sunday 27 January 9.30-11.30am	<b>Heritage Walk</b>	National Trust	For more details when available, go to <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/</a>
Tuesday 12 February 5pm for 5.30pm	<b>CDHS Monthly Meeting</b> ALIA Conference Room, 9-11 Napier Close, Deakin.	CDHS	Phone (02) 6281 2929 or email <a href="mailto:admin@canberrahistory.org.au">admin@canberrahistory.org.au</a>
Wednesday 20 February From 6pm	<b>CAS Seminar</b> National Museum of Australia	CAS	\$5 entry fee; CAS & Friends Full Members free. Bookings essential: <a href="https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au">https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Sunday 24 February 9.30-11.30am	<b>Heritage Walk</b>	National Trust	For more details when available, go to <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/</a>



Date and time	Event and location	Organiser	Contact
Tuesday 12 March 5pm for 5.30pm	<b>CDHS Monthly Meeting</b> ALIA Conference Room, 9-11 Napier Close, Deakin.	CDHS	Phone (02) 6281 2929 or email <a href="mailto:admin@canberrahistory.org.au">admin@canberrahistory.org.au</a>
Wednesday 20 March From 6pm	<b>CAS Seminar</b> National Museum of Australia	CAS	\$5 entry fee; CAS & Friends Full Members free. Bookings essential: <a href="https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au">https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Sunday 24 March 9.30-11.30am	<b>Heritage Walk</b>	National Trust	For more details when available, go to <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/</a>
Friday 29 to Sunday 31 March	<b>Joint U3A ACT and National Trust ACT Tour to Millthorpe and Carcoar</b>	Garth Setchell, U3A Tours Officer	For queries or to book, email Garth at <a href="mailto:tours@u3acanberra.org.au">tours@u3acanberra.org.au</a>
Tuesday 9 April 5pm for 5.30pm	<b>CDHS Monthly Meeting</b> ALIA Conference Room, 9-11 Napier Close, Deakin.	CDHS	Phone (02) 6281 2929 or email <a href="mailto:admin@canberrahistory.org.au">admin@canberrahistory.org.au</a>
Wednesday 17 April From 6pm	<b>CAS Seminar</b> National Museum of Australia	CAS	\$5 entry fee; CAS & Friends Full Members free. Bookings essential: <a href="https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au">https://friendscaslectures.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Sunday 28 April 9.30-11.30am	<b>Heritage Walk</b>	National Trust	For more details when available, go to <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/</a>
Tuesday 14 May 5pm for 5.30pm	<b>CDHS Monthly Meeting</b> ALIA Conference Room, 9-11 Napier Close, Deakin.	CDHS	Phone (02) 6281 2929 or email <a href="mailto:admin@canberrahistory.org.au">admin@canberrahistory.org.au</a>
Sunday 26 May 9.30-11.30am	<b>Heritage Walk</b>	National Trust	For more details when available, go to <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/</a>
Tuesday 11 June 5pm for 5.30pm	<b>CDHS Monthly Meeting</b> ALIA Conference Room, 9-11 Napier Close, Deakin.	CDHS	Phone (02) 6281 2929 or email <a href="mailto:admin@canberrahistory.org.au">admin@canberrahistory.org.au</a>
Sunday 23 June 9.30-11.30am	<b>Heritage Walk</b>	National Trust	For more details when available, go to <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/">https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/heritagewalks-act/</a>

Note: CAS is the Canberra Archaeological Society. CDHS is the Canberra and District Historical Society. NLA is the National Library of Australia. 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.

## Tours and events – what’s been happening

### Heritage Walks

Since the last issue, we have had a number of walks including two in June (Acton with Trevor Lipscombe and ANU Aboriginal Heritage with Wally Bell and Amy Jarvis). In July, Linda Roberts took a group from Palmerville to the Ginninderra Blacksmith’s Cottage where Peter Dowling talked about the conservation of this historic building.



*The historic Blacksmith's Cottage in Ginninderra (Photo by Linda Roberts)*

Trevor Lipscombe was joined by the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians and the Friends of Grasslands for a West Basin/Acton Peninsula walk in August.

Also in August, we had the the Women in Power Walk, led by Michaela Hatch, who was dressed appropriately to commemorate the election of the first women in the Australian Parliament. In September, Neville Bleakley led a tour through the suburb of Chifley and in October Jane Goffman led a walk in Downer and Dickson.



*Michaela Hatch, leader of the Women in Power walk*

Heritage Walks have been a great way to introduce new people to the heritage of Canberra, as well as our own members who may discover some different places through these guided walks.

### Other Tours and Events

Other tours and events have been Indonesia in July led by Mike Hodgkin (see separate report below); a talk by Linda Roberts about the Tatura Internment Camp; and a joint tour with U3A for the Newcastle weekend organised by the NSW National Trust Women's

Committee. There will be a report on this trip in the next issue of *Heritage in Trust*.

**Mary Johnston**  
Chair, Tours and Events Committee

### A Taste of Java



This National Trust ACT tour, from 21 to 29 July 2018, took ten Canberrans to glimpse the culture, history, heritage, architecture and food of Java, the fourth largest island in Indonesia. Our group was diverse: some of us had spent a lot of time in Indonesia in the past; some were seasoned travellers to Asia; and some were absolute novices.

The tour leaders Michael Hodgkin (Canberra) and Bakti Widiarti (Yabbiékayu, Tembi, Jogjakarta) superbly created an itinerary which appealed to us all and they skillfully adjusted this itinerary along the way.

Our Java experience commenced at the Eco Homestay, Yabbiékayu. Here most of the group stayed over three nights in the wooden bungalows set in gardens and beside rice fields. We would eat breakfast together on an airy, open verandah before setting out for the day in our mini-bus, expertly driven by our dedicated driver. What a gentle and sensuous introduction to Java—its sights, smells, sounds, feel!



We visited monumental places such as the Jogjakarta Sultan's Palace; the Water Palace and underground mosque and visited the 9<sup>th</sup> century Hindu Prambanan Temple. At Jakarta's Istiqlal Mosque, the largest mosque in southeast Asia, we were made very welcome and given a most informative, leisurely tour.



We enjoyed watching traditional dancing and music at the Palace of the Sultan; a traditional Ramayana ballet performed on the open stage of Prambanan Temple; a concert and art exhibition at Lawang Wangi Creative Art Space in the hills out of Bandung; and a traditional puppet show in a Puppet Workshop in Jakarta.



We met senior members of the Bandung Heritage Society who generously spent time with us socially and organised a walking tour of Bandung, the capital of West Java province.

Our guided walk around Bandung and visits to historic sites, including seeing a replica of the jail cell where Sukarno was detained when he was the leader of Indonesia's struggle for independence from the Netherlands, made many historical, cultural, political and architectural threads come together for us.

There were museums and buildings and, yes, shopping. We visited the Ullen Sentalu Museum, where some were moved to tears, the Grand Preanger Museum, the Gedung Sate building. There were volcanoes (in the distance), rice fields, motor scooters loaded with people and goods, exotic cooking aromas, the sight of an elderly street vendor stopping traffic to cross a busy street with a parcel of food for a security guard on the other side, the distinctive wooden boats with their crew in Sunda Kelapa Harbour in Jakarta, the wondrous sounds of the pre-dawn call to prayer, the smiles and friendliness of the Javanese. A particular highlight for us was walking to the Batik studio of the famous Batik artist Tatang Elmy Wibowo in the village of Tembe. He generously showed us some of his techniques and processes.



We've left till last to mention the fabulous taste of Javanese food. Some of our group were transported back to happy times by familiar tastes, others were enthralled by new flavours. We were taken to many first-class restaurants but, for the two of us, the most memorable food experiences we had were at Yabbiékayu, with our hosts.

"A Taste of Java" has just whetted our appetites.

**Joanne English and John Hill**

*Photos: Neville Ford and Michael Hodgkin*

### **Provenance is not a place in France National Trust ACT AGM, 18 October 2018**

It may be a little confronting to be questioned upfront by our AGM guest speaker: "Hands up if you have a will?" But this set the tone for an instructive talk by Dr Sherene Suchy aimed at avoiding such horror stories as a \$150,000 stamp collection thrown out by a relative after a family member's death or a valuable painting ending up in a garage sale.

We learnt that provenance is not a place in France. This, if nothing else, was drummed into us: document the

biography of each heirloom, just an A4 page, but do it! Besides a will, a *Letter of Direction* for a collection was vital. This can list friends/family prepared to be caretakers for collections and heirlooms with heritage value.

In this day of digital photos (by the ton) and stored on Facebook or the cloud, the National Archives encourages us to have photos professionally printed on archive quality paper. And in a soft pencil, record on the back: who, what, when and where.

We enjoyed personal stories and questions from the floor. A number attending had collected local items when posted overseas. Some of these items may need to be repatriated to their country of origin where their value and worth are better appreciated. Lynn Parry said to me afterwards, "Get rid of the junk. It's a wonderful relief to let go!"

**Linda Roberts**

## National Trust of Australia (ACT) Heritage Awards 2018 Report from the Judging Panel



*Winners of the Heritage Awards with Minister Mick Gentleman and Chris Wain (Photo by Paul Martin)*

For this, the fifth year of these awards, the judging panel consisted of Dr Alison Wain, Course Convener for the Bachelor of Heritage, Museums and Conservation at the University of Canberra; Professor Nicholas Brown of the ANU School of History, representing the ACT Heritage Council; and Ken Charlton AM LFRAIA, an architectural historian and member of the National Trust of Australia (ACT) Heritage Committee.

All nine projects nominated have much to commend them, but four of them were deemed not quite up to the high standard reached by projects recognised in previous years.

Two entries each received an *Award for an Outstanding Project*:

### **Canberra Modern**

This festival, which celebrated the mid-century modernist heart of Canberra, was made up of nine fun events, including exhibitions, walks, talks, markets, a martini masterclass and a themed dinner.

The first year of what is intended to be an annual event was hosted by University House and was part of DESIGN Canberra. It had significant media coverage and was attended by over 1000 people, while others followed it on social media. Canberra Modern, with the involvement of several high-profile personalities, appears to have succeeded in its aim of raising awareness of mid-century modern elements of Canberra's cultural landscape and their heritage value. Amy Jarvis, Edwina Jans and Rachel Jackson are to be congratulated on the innovative concept and success of this worthwhile project.

### **Old Parliament House Lower Senate Wing**

Refurbishment Offices and committee rooms in this wing of the heritage-listed Museum of Australian Democracy have been re-activated for modern-day use in an exemplary manner, in accordance with the Heritage Management Plan for the building. The way this has been done, with the careful retention of evidence of superseded (and normally unappreciated) services and building fabric, cannot be faulted. The judging panel was impressed by the attention to detail evident throughout the project and the enthusiasm of the staff members as they explained what has been carried out. The project's outstanding contribution to heritage conservation became even more apparent in the plant room, where old and new technologies were seen side by side.

Three entries were each awarded a certificate for a *Significant Contribution to Heritage Conservation*:

### **Violets Park Commemorative Installation**

A revered Elder of the Ngannawal people, Violet Bulger, was first honoured in 1993, the year of her death, when this neighbourhood park, in the suburb of Ngannawal, received its name. The Tuggeranong Arts Centre's initiative in arranging for a sign to explain her life story, accompanied by a sculpture 'Meeting Place' to encourage contemplation, is to be applauded. The project was supported by an ACT Heritage Grant, ACT

Government funding through artsACT and Australian Government Regional Arts funding. Many Indigenous people of the ACT region, including members of Violet's numerous extended family, gathered in the park to celebrate the launch of the installation. They now have an appropriate meeting place for future gatherings. The project has made a significant contribution to people's appreciation of the rich history of Ngunnawal country.

### Jefferis/Whelen Journals Conservation

These three remarkable 1926-31 journals in the collection of the Canberra and District Historical Society provide a wide-ranging overview of life during the early years of Canberra. A small band of CDHS members has undertaken the conservation project with remarkable dedication. They succeeded in having the fragile journals heritage-listed, then arranged for grant-assisted professional conservation and repair work. As the journals cannot be published until problems of copyright are solved, they have been digitised and 25 copies were printed under another grant. Access to these copies for educational purposes has been achieved, either for individual study or at workshops offered to community groups, which have proved very popular and more should follow. This project has conserved these important documents and provided people with a new insight into aspects of local heritage.

### Barton and Kingston Pillar Signposts Conservation

The Kingston and Barton Residents' Group has followed up their report into Barton's streetscape which received

a National Trust Heritage Award in 2016, by completing this project. The previously neglected signposts have been restored by a dedicated team of ten volunteers. The project benefitted from a professional conservator, who made critical repairs and trained the volunteers, with the aid of a heritage grant. There are now nine beautifully conserved signposts which make a significant contribution to the character of the heritage-listed suburb of Barton and part of neighbouring Kingston. Another outcome of this project is that advice is available to anyone wanting to conserve similar signposts elsewhere in Canberra.

### National Archives of Australia

Due to remedial works being undertaken on the East Block building, the National Archives has moved just around the corner to Old Parliament House.

You can visit our reading room and view facsimiles of the Constitution and other founding documents at our new location in Old Parliament House.

We will be back in East Block in late 2018 with an exciting new program. Visit our website for more details: [naa.gov.au](http://naa.gov.au)

## A special tribute to Dianne and Peter Dowling

### Travelling with the Redoubtable Dowlings My Personal Experience



*Di and Peter at Barmera 2018*

Some people just like to travel. Some people just like to travel with friends. Other people like to travel, with friends and with a purpose. I fall into the third group. I like my travel to be focussed on things I am interested in. Travelling with the Dowlings catered to my needs perfectly.

What a pair they made, leading, teaching and nurturing their little lambs around the most fabulous sites in Europe. Peter the teacher, well-prepared and generous in providing us with the background needed to extract the maximum benefit from our visits, while Dianne, the nurturer, ensured we were as comfortable as we could possibly be. On site, one would lead and the other would be behind the group rounding up the stragglers. Tireless, they moved their little herd from place to place. I just loved all the trips we took with them and have mentally and pictorially secured unforgettable places and moments to enrich my memories as I move from ewe to crone in my life's journey.



*Following the Pharaohs 2009*

We, my husband Eric and I, made four fabulous trips to Europe with the Dowlings. We followed the Pharaohs in Egypt. We voyaged with the Vikings from Scandinavia, to St Petersburg and on to York. We marched with the Roman Legions in Italy and Sicily. And we unearthed Neanderthal Man in Germany. Sadly, we missed the Greece and Turkey tours and I was greatly disappointed when the planned visit to the Great Capitals of Eastern Europe was cancelled.

These boutique National Trust tours were planned down to the last detail with Gaye Boersma, travel agent extraordinaire, and combined the best of local knowledge and Peter's special expertise to provide a well-rounded and quite unique experience. Local guides provided the experience usually associated with a visit by tourists less fortunate than we were. In addition, as an archaeologist and historian, Peter injected his own scholarly understanding and knowledge into a subject and often his lectures took place on the bus on the way to and/or from a visit arranged exclusively for our group. This made our tours so very special.



*Peter (right) and Di (at the table), De Salis cemetery walk*

Both Peter and Dianne had had previous careers in the military and it showed in the precision of their planning and implementation of their tours. The Egypt tour included a side trip to Alexandria and a visit to the Australian war graves, one in particular where Peter read one soldier's citation for a military medal. This was a very moving experience. The Viking tour took us to burial sites and relics of the Viking age not usually shown to the public. In Germany we stopped at sites relevant to discoveries of Neanderthal Man and learned that modern men and women (aside from sub-Saharan Africans) have 2 to 5% Neanderthal DNA in our genetic make-up. In Italy we crossed the place it is thought the Rubicon ran and where Julius Caesar initiated his campaign on Rome, and in Sicily we visited fabulous Greek ruins to rival those in Greece itself. I found our visit to Sicily fascinating as I could envisage places that Homer refers to in his Odyssey.

Peter and Dianne have my eternal gratitude for making these trips truly unforgettable and I wish them many years of contented retirement.

I am writing this little article on the eve of the AFL Grand Final, so just for Pete, "Go the Mighty Pies!"

**Geraldine Martin**

### **The Dowlings at home**

After reading Geraldine Martin's delightful account of travelling overseas with the 'redoubtable Dowlings', I wish I had had the opportunity to join them on these trips which sound wonderful!



*Di hosting the NT 2016 Christmas Party*

But leading overseas tours was by no means the only contribution the Dowlings have made, and continue to make, to the National Trust in the ACT. As many of you will know, Peter has worked for the National Trust,

both locally and nationally, for many years and some of our publications are the result of his research and writing. I don't know how many years but Peter was telling me just recently, as Peter and Di helped move the office in the Griffin Centre, that the new location was the sixth in Canberra and he had been involved in five of them! Meanwhile, Di was busy running the shop at Old Parliament House until it closed, working as the Executive Officer of the National Trust (ACT) for some time, and also being a valuable member of the National Trust (ACT) Council.

Peter has been a stalwart of the Tours and Events run by the Trust for years. With Peter's help, members have learnt about West Block and its coding ladies;

Ginninderra Blacksmith's shop; De Salis Cemetery; Lake Mungo; the ACT border; Australia's involvement at

Gallipoli; the Hotel Kurrajong; and many other topics. Peter and Di's most recent tour was to the area where Peter grew up, the South Australian Riverland, and you may have read about this wonderful trip in the last Heritage in Trust. Peter and Di are also regular volunteers as events such as Open Days (usually behind the barbeque) and the AGM.

While they have indicated they are hanging up their hats for major activities such as leading overseas tours, we know they will still contribute significantly to the Trust and we look forward to seeing them often!

**Mary Johnston**

## Heritage Happenings

### Major Public Forum - The Impact of Planning Decisions on Canberra's Heritage Values and Urban Form

There is growing concern throughout the community about planning across Canberra and the damage that is being done to the city's unique heritage and signature as an iconic Garden City. This is demonstrated by a major forum in the Albert Hall, convened by the Lake Burley Griffin Guardians and the Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis, on Monday 10 September. It was the largest public planning meeting with more than 450 people attending, including National Trust Councillors and representatives from various Community Councils and Residents Associations. Collectively, they represented many thousands of residents from across Canberra.

Speakers included former Chief Minister Jon Stanhope, journalist Jack Waterford, Luisa Capezio (Campbell Community Association), Fiona Carrick (Woden Valley Community Council) and Marea Fatseas (Inner South Canberra Community Council). The common view is that, currently, planning is poorly done and developers are running the show. In the Trust's view the principles and values of the Garden City movement most closely identified with Canberra are being corroded and the city is "*rapidly becoming a town like anywhere*".

For its part, the Trust appreciates that development of Canberra will always be influenced to some extent by the planning imperatives of the day. Unfortunately, many current and planned developments mean Canberra's unique heritage as the bush capital and Canberra's Garden City roots are now very much at risk. For example, where does the notion of 25-storey apartment buildings in town centres come from?

A number of motions were passed and it is clear the level of community concern about Canberra's heritage values is growing. If you have any comments, you should send them to [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au)

**Graham Carter**

### Meeting with Shadow Heritage Minister

Last month the Shadow Minister for Heritage and Member for Brindabella, Ms Nicole Lawder MLA, met with Trust representatives to discuss topical heritage and planning issues. The discussion was positive and the topics included:

- Public Forum - The Impact of Planning Decisions on Canberra's Heritage Values and Urban Form;
- Funding for heritage organisations;
- Technology and Innovation Museum; and
- Haig Park process.

A further meeting will be held later this year.

**Graham Carter**

### Heritage Issues

Heritage issues of interest to the National Trust continue to arise and it is critical that all members are alert to issues and enable the Heritage Committee to express a view when proposals affect our heritage. We welcome members bringing concerns or issues to the Committee's attention, to ensure that we are aware of all heritage-related items that may affect us. Some of the items that the Committee has commented on since the last edition are outlined below.

#### **Mint Administration Building**

The Commonwealth Government is considering selling the building as it is excess to current purposes and the

National Capital Authority has rezoned this land. There is a Heritage Management Plan in place and this will protect the heritage values. Adaptive reuse for the current tenant, Questacon, or another user is a suitable adaptive reuse as it is important to effectively use our heritage places.

shelter(s) to nominate. Alternatively, if a shelter was nominated as an object, the location is not relevant but the collection is. The issue with such a nomination is will the retention of one be sufficient? Thoughts welcome.

### **Forrest, 43 Melbourne Ave**

A notice of a DA posted on this site raised concerns for many people. It is the former residence of Moir and Sutherland Architects and a very significant building.

The DA Notice mentioned demolition. On closer examination the proposal included minor demolition of outbuildings and pool so subdivision could occur. However, this is not consistent with the guidelines of the area and is likely to have an adverse impact.

### **ACT Supreme Court**

Recent information has indicated the possibility of gutting Courtroom One and removing all the original details, cedar and other materials donated by the NSW Government when the building was designed and built. This is of great concern and, despite seeking details of why this is intended and what is proposed, no information has been forthcoming. It is unfortunate that proposed work on heritage sites can be left with an impression of conservation, only to find some details are modified later without consultation.

### **Canberra Brickworks**

This is back in the news as the proposed access road has been submitted. While natural values are detailed and discussed, and offsets proposed, the impact on the cultural landscape and heritage-listed former railway embankments and alignment are not mentioned, and the proposal will remove evidence of a section of it.

### **CSIRO Campbell**

This has been approved for demolition despite having heritage significance as assessed by the developer's own heritage consultant. No information on the detailed comments from the Department of Environment and Energy or ACT Heritage has been forthcoming.

### **Haig Park**

The Master Plan with the concept of "rooms" has been released for public comment before the CMP is endorsed, which means the agreed heritage values

### **Bus Shelters**

The iconic precast concrete bus shelters have been brought to our attention as potential heritage items. Are they part of our heritage now? To list/nominate a bus shelter as a place, a specific location needs to be defined. Then we would need to decide which bus

which should have informed the concept were not available. The future pressure on Haig Park may well see a major and adverse impact on this important heritage site.

### **Eric Martin, AM**

### **Reid 90th Anniversary Celebration**

The residents of Reid recently celebrated the 90th anniversary of the suburb's gazettal in September 1928. Reid was named after Australia's fourth prime minister, Sir George Reid. It was originally considered to be part of Ainslie.

Reid, together with the other heritage precincts of Alt Crescent, Barton, Blandfordia 5, Braddon, Corroboree Park, Forrest, Kingston/Griffith and Wakefield Gardens, collectively and individually demonstrate the best examples in Australia of the early principles of Garden City planning. All of these precincts are listed on the ACT Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 2004*. The philosophy behind Garden City planning was to create healthy working and living environments for urban residents, and Garden City planning principles were used to underpin the initial planning of Canberra.

The President of the Reid Residents' Association, Marianne Albury-Colless, said *"the owners of these houses are the current custodians of these classic 20s & 30s dwellings that are such an important part of Canberra's suburban history. They must be conserved for future generations and it's because of their significance and their setting within the streetscape that they are included on the ACT Heritage Register."*

*Heritage listing is supposed to provide legal protection under the Heritage Act. Unfortunately in our experience the ACT Government doesn't apply the necessary planning rigour or follow through with their own mandatory compliance regulations. They also appear to have no regard to the aggregating impacts of surrounding developments on the heritage significance of the precincts.*

*We regularly make representations to our politicians but in our experience they have no genuine interest in Canberra's historical assets or our city's heritage or continuing Canberra's Garden City concept."*

### **Graham Carter**



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9.30am to 3.00pm Tuesday to Thursday

Patron: The Hon. Margaret Reid AO

President: To be advised

Office Manager: Liz McMillan

Council: Mary Johnston, Linda Roberts, Scott McAlister, Graham Carter, John Tucker, Eric Martin, Ian Oliver, Trevor Wilson, Gary Kent, Gary Watkins, Jane Goffman, Marilyn Albury-Colless

## Keeping up with the Trust

### E- news

To join our E-news list, email [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au) with the subject heading of: Subscribe to E News

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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](https://twitter.com/NatTrust_ACT) and click the follow button.

## National Trust (ACT) Membership Rates

Joining fee \$35

### Annual Membership

Individual \$65

Individual Senior \$60

Individual Concession \$45

Household \$95

Household Senior \$85

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### Life Membership

Single \$1,137.50

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## 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/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/international-places/)
- + Member rates on shop items which are for sale online or through the ACT Office.
- + ACT Members Reward Card.
- + Access to the *Friends of the NLA* lounge and discounts at the NLA bookshop.
- + Regular national and ACT 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.
- + Concession entry to ACT Historic Places and 10% discount at Lanyon Homestead shop

## About Heritage in Trust

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The editors invite 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](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au).

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mid October (for November issue)

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