



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



*Vale Julia Ryan. Former President,  
Vice-President, Treasurer and Councillor*

Our aims are to:

- Encourage the study of the history of Canberra and district, and of Australia in relation to it;
- Promote the compilation of authentic historical records;
- Promote the preservation of historical material and places of historic and aesthetic interest; and to
- Foster the interchange of information through talks, discussions, excursions and exhibitions.

**Postal address:**

PO Box 315, Curtin, ACT, 2605

**Telephone:**

(02) 6281 2929

**Email:** [admin@canberrahistory.org.au](mailto:admin@canberrahistory.org.au)

**Web:** [www.canberrahistory.org.au](http://www.canberrahistory.org.au)

**Facebook:**

Canberra & District History

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/829568883839247/>

**ABN:** 27 465 970 277

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## OFFICE BEARERS AND OTHER KEY ROLES 2022-2023

### **Office Bearers**

<i>President</i>	Allen Mawer
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	Esther Davies and Richard Reid
<i>Immediate Past President</i>	Nick Swain
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	Frances McGee from September 2022. Previously Julia Ryan acting.
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	Nick Swain
<i>Public Officer</i>	Tony Corp

### **Other Council members**

Patricia Clarke, Peter Dowling, Marilyn Truscott, Ann Tündern-Smith (until March 2023), Kay Walsh, Frances McGee

### **Key volunteer roles**

<i>Honorary Executive Officer</i>	Helen Digan
<i>Honorary Curator</i>	Michael Hall
<i>Canberra Historical Journal</i>	
<i>Editors</i>	David Wardle and Kay Walsh
<i>Canberra History News</i>	1. Until September 2022: Ann Tündern-Smith, Sylvia Marchant (until September 2021), Graham Hannaford, Frances McGee, Kay Walsh (part year) and Marilyn Truscott.
<i>Editorial team</i>	2. From March 2023: Marilyn Truscott.
<i>ITC support</i>	John Davies
<i>Events Manager</i>	Tony Corp
<i>Federation of Australian Historical Societies Delegates</i>	Esther Davies and Nick Swain

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With the plague years substantially behind us, the Society has resumed normal operations and Resource Centre visitation has rebounded. Our new website has improved external access and our catalogue is now accessible through the National Library's Trove service. Substantial progress has been made in rationalising our collections and improving members' access to them, principally through digitisation. The photographic collection has received a great deal of attention, including the identification of previously unlabelled images.

Membership continues to be of concern. Our membership continues to age, which is clearly unsustainable. Council in particular is reliant on the same veterans raising their hands year after year: if you are under 60, Council needs you. Also, it cannot be emphasised too strongly that subscriptions are the bedrock of our finances, amounting to nearly half of our trading income. We do very well from grants but they are project funding and rarely include an administrative allowance. Grant application and acquittals are onerous and must be resourced from general funds. Book sales (thank you, Esther) and donations (thank you, donors) are useful supplements but unpredictable for budgeting purposes.

If we net out the grants, what appears to be a substantial loss for the year becomes an underlying net profit of \$2,876.48. It nonetheless seemed prudent to Council to review expenditure looking for economies. It decided to reconfigure the Newsletter. By reducing its four yearly issues to 4 x A4 pages each we saved \$800. It should be noted that most members now receive it electronically. If we no longer had to produce a paper version and pay postage there need be no limitation on the number of pages.

The rent relief we received during Covid is now a distant memory. Although our rent is still heavily subsidised the item has reclaimed its place as our largest item of expenditure. The premises are totally inadequate for exhibitions or members' meetings and storage is at a premium. In association with the National Trust the Society has been exploring the possibility of a history and heritage hub, sharing facilities in the East Lake Redevelopment Area. At a meeting with Minister Vassarotti we were pleased to hear that she was enthusiastic about the concept, which incorporates Cargill's Cottage. She cautioned however that it would be some years before the hub could eventuate.

The Society made a submission to the ACT Legislative Assembly committee enquiring into the ACT's heritage protection arrangements. In written and oral evidence the Society identified a number of areas of deficiency. The National Trust also gave evidence and paid the Society \$2,800 to provide case studies highlighting problems. From its depth of historical knowledge the Society was able to provide detailed instances that also illustrated its own concerns. There may be other opportunities for fruitful collaboration along these lines.

In the same space Dr Ken Heffernan, retiring chair of the ACT Heritage Council, was the Canberra Day Orator for 2023. With thirty years' engagement with ACT heritage issues he reflected on the current fitness for purpose of heritage protections designed for a much smaller and less diverse city.

In recent months the National Capital Authority has begun canvassing the idea of a heritage walking trail around Lake Burley Griffin. The Society, through its former association with Acton Walkways, and the Canberra and Region Heritage Researchers have both conducted heritage walks on the Acton peninsula and, through the good offices of the National Trust, met with the NCA. The Authority said that it intends to commence planning shortly and will start with the peninsula. It was also keen to involve the Trust, CDHS and CRHR.

Allen Mawer

## OUR MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Our members and everyone who selflessly volunteered their time and skills are the backbone of our Society.

### Membership

We had 243 individual financial members at 30 June 2023 which is just two fewer than last year. Membership statistics can be found in Appendix 3.

In last year's annual report we said we were staggered to learn that 10 members have been with CDHS for 50 years or more! They are: Dr M.P. Clarke, Mr and Mrs Cochran, Mrs Anna Vincent, Dr Geoffrey Burkhardt, Mr and Mrs C.G. Major, Mrs Pam Ray, Mr Stephen Brown, and Mrs Margaret Aston. They have all been awarded certificates of appreciation. Five members were able to receive their certificates in person at the September 2022 AGM.

### New members

We welcomed the following new members:

Margaret Mutz, Janet Baumhammer, Annia Trevillian, Paul Batista, Margaret Pender, Anne Faris, Jill Waterhouse, Jenny Carlin, Peter Browning, Susie Crick, Anna Guy, Hannah Paddon, Sarah Stewart, Marina Balshaw, Roger Tomlins, Claudia Bottrill.

### Deceased members

We mourn the passing of the following members and give thanks for their contributions to the society:

Margaret Ryan  
Brian Barlin  
Allan Hawke  
E. Julia Ryan.

### Volunteers

The Society runs entirely on the work of volunteers. During the year the Society kept running smoothly thanks to the efforts of our committed volunteers.

- Helen Digan, Honorary Administrator, managed the office, the accounts, the membership and general enquiries. She kept the office open on Tuesdays and formed part of the team organising the Annual Dinner.
- The office was also staffed by volunteers on Wednesdays and Saturdays. They were: Peter Dowling, Kay Walsh, John Davies, Nick Swain, Jean Stewart, Jan Hutchison, Jenny Moore, Julia Ryan and Margaret Ryan.
- Michael Hall and Julia Ryan filled in the gaps when regular office volunteers could not attend.
- David Wardle and Kay Walsh edited the *Canberra Historical Journal* for September 2022 and March 2023.
- Ann Tündern-Smith edited the *Canberra History News* until the September edition with the assistance of Graham Hannaford and Frances McGee while Nick Swain organised the distribution. Marilyn Truscott edited the newsletter from the March 2023 edition onwards.
- Tony Corp organised the events: general meetings, the Annual Birthday dinner in December 2022.
- Esther Davies organised the second hand book sales for the Society. Esther sorted the books, often donated from members' personal collections, researched prices and advertised regularly online to members. Esther also organised the annual Heritage and History Book Fair, held during ACT

Heritage Festival celebrations in April 2023. Book sales provide the largest single fundraising income for the Society.

- John Davies maintained the Society's computers and provided his usual valuable technological advice.
- Michael Hall, honorary Curator of the Society's resource collection, continued his valuable accession and curation throughout the year. Among his many tasks, he drew up lists of surplus materials recommended for disposal by the Society to make room for properly conserved collections and acquisitions.

In December 2022 Council was pleased to host a celebratory event to thank volunteers for their contributions at the Curtin Resource centre.

We are grateful for the pro-bono services provided by Tricia Carson and Scott McAlister. Tricia checked the accounts prior to review and Scott McAlister undertook the review.

## WHAT WE DID

The Society aims to encourage the collecting, researching, preservation and publishing of the history of Canberra and the district that relates to it. While the primary focus of our services is for our financial supporters, a significant level of activity is directed to the wider community.

Services and activities primarily, but not exclusively, for our financial members included:

- Free access to our comprehensive Resource Centre.
- Publication of the *Canberra Historical Journal* and *Canberra History News*.
- Monthly talks and member meetings.
- The annual birthday dinner.
- Sales of new and second-hand history books.

Services and activities for a wider audience include:

- The annual Canberra Day Oration.
- The CDHS website.
- The Canberra & District History Facebook page.
- Outreach activities including talks to other groups and articles published in the media.
- ACT Heritage Festival events.
- The annual ACT Region Heritage Symposium.

Our work is also supported by occasional grants from the ACT and Federal governments. These include ACT Heritage Grants and Commonwealth government Community Heritage Grants. Generally, we apply for these grants to help manage our Resource Centre collections, for example, digitising photographs and conserving significant items. These grants do not provide for our operating costs.

We also advocate for the preservation of local heritage and support other groups such as the ACT Regional Studies Network and the Canberra and Region Heritage Researchers. At a national level CDHS provides the ACT delegates to the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.

### 1. Resource Centre

Our Resource Centre is the major service the Society offers its members. It contains a unique and comprehensive collection of books, pamphlets, photographs, maps, sound recordings and ephemera about the history of Canberra and the district that relates to it. We deal with all enquiries as promptly as possible. If we do not have the information required researchers are referred to our extensive network of contacts including our members and our Facebook page.

The Society's Resource Centre in Curtin is open to members and the public on Tuesdays, most Wednesdays and most Saturday mornings and is totally staffed by volunteers. There were 693 visits to the Resource Centre this year. The last full year the office was open was 2018-19 when we had 633 visits.

#### *Honorary Curator's report (Michael Hall)*

The following people generously added to the Society's collection in the last year by donating books, photographs, newspaper articles and other items: Leigh Condon, Janet Wilson, Jan Hyde, Graham O'Loghlin, Douglas Brockfield, Eleanor Robin, Jill Waterhouse, the estate of Harry Quince, J. McKeon, Robyn and Richard Willimott, Jenny and Peter Ipkendanz, Alison Hutchison, George Tomlins, Ann Claoue Long, David Wardle and Cameron Archer.

The Society has a number of 'collections' donated to us over the years, mostly stored in the Ingram Room compactus. Helen Digan has been summarising their contents so that they can be added to the catalogue. These include the Corsini wood carting ledgers and collections of material from Bill Barry, Eleanor Atwell (nee Blundell), Frederick W. Robinson, D.H. Gault, A.E. Wright and the Forrest Tennis Club minute books.

In the last year Cathy Parsons donated letters of her mother Nancy Metcalfe from the 1940's and 1950's as well as copies of her memories of Gorman House and the Prime Minister's Department. Jim Stokes donated an album of about 260 photos of Canberra and Monaro railways and Dawn Roberts has given us material from her father Fred Chambers, a rigger on the building of new Parliament House (in particular the flagpole), including an album of about 150 unique colour photos of construction work.

Jan Hutchison and Jenny Moore are shelf-reading the books in our library (i.e. cross-checking the catalogue with the shelved books). Kay Walsh has added articles from the *Canberra Historical Journal* to the online catalogue and Michael Hall is gradually adding editions of *Canberra History News*.

Michael Hall

## 2. Canberra Historical Journal

Two issues of the *Canberra Historical Journal*, no. 89, September 2022, and no. 90, March 2023, edited by Kay Walsh and David Wardle, were published by the Society in this reporting year.

Authoritative and original articles contributed by Society members and others ranged over many aspects of the history of Canberra and district, encompassing Aboriginal occupation, early European settlement and nineteenth century farming, the establishment of the Federal Capital Territory and progress in the development of the city and surrounding areas.

The September 2022 issue published a transcript of the 2022 Canberra Day Oration by ANU Vice-Chancellor Brian Schmidt, who gave a 75th anniversary history of the Australian National University.

The Journal is comprehensively indexed in the online catalogue available on the Society's website. Physical copies of most past issues are available for sale at the Society's Curtin office. Volunteer Allan Coop completed the lengthy task of digitising all the articles in the old and new series journals and produce searchable .pdf files. Digital copies are available on request from the society's office for a fee.

Full text of issues from 1975 may be downloaded from RMIT's Informit database, on payment of a fee.

Kay Walsh and David Wardle

### 3. Canberra History News

In recent decades the production of *Canberra History News* has involved a considerable amount of effort. So much so that it was not sustainable in its current form. We thank editor Ann Tündern-Smith and her team for persevering until her final issue in November 2022.

Recruiting a replacement volunteer editor involved redesigning the newsletter so it was much easier to produce. To that end its size was reduced to four A4 pages with contributions requiring minimal editing. Costs were reduced because the smaller newsletter could be copied in-house for members who needed to have their copies mailed. Thankfully Marilyn Truscott agreed to edit the simplified newsletter which will still be available four times a year.

Volunteer Alan Coop completed the digitisation of a large number of newsletters and these are available on request. Michael Hall is gradually adding references to newsletter articles to the CDHS catalogue.

### 4. Monthly General Meetings and talks

#### *July 2022*

Judy and Rob Roberts gave an interesting talk on the restoration of the heritage listed slab built cottage on their property 'Allwood', Wallaroo Road Hall. Built in the late 1800's by district pioneers David and Agnes Rule who have carried out painstaking restoration work and visitors can view examples of research and photographs hung on the walls to explain different aspects of the building and its history.

#### *August 2022*

Tony Maple gave a great account on 'Sojourners and Assimilators: the First Chinese in the Queanbeyan-Canberra District.' Tony described the various experiences of the early Chinese who came into the Queanbeyan-Canberra district and considered the factors determining whether they would find prosperity and good fortune. Many clans in China sent men (sojourners) into the wide world to restore their wealth. At the same time, the abolition of slavery by Britain and the decision to end convict transportation to New South Wales created a need for new sources of cheap labour. Early schemes to bring Chinese labourers to Australia saw squatters in the Queanbeyan-Canberra area such as G.T. Palmer, Thomas McQuoid and Charles Campbell, sign up to a plan to import indentured Chinese labourers.

#### *September 2022. The AGM*

President, Allen Mawer welcomed 25 members to the AGM held at the Wesley Uniting Church, Forrest. He mentioned the impressive Annual Report generated by Nick Swain and the impressive amount of donations received from members and others. Certificates of Appreciation were then awarded to several members with 50 years or more of membership to the Society. The business of the meeting then continued with the new positions on Council being elected. Following the AGM, the new President opened a Special General Meeting to consider changes to the CDHS Constitution and these changes were agreed. The changes were to bring the constitution into line with ACT legislation about audit requirements for small non-profit organisations.

Following the Special General Meeting, the President gave a fascinating account entitled: 'East by West – The New Navigation by Ferdinand Magellan.'

#### *October 2022*

What a privilege it was to have Dawn Waterhouse OAM as the guest speaker at the October meeting with 55 people in attendance and with her topic the somewhat quirky: 'Canberra and Blowflies.' But who better than Dawn, not least because her late husband, Doug Waterhouse invented the fly repellent that became an Australian icon, Aerogard. Dawn told her audience that she was born in 1923 in Queanbeyan and her father, Harry Calthorpe loved the area but her mother Dell, a Sydney girl was not enamoured by country life.

Despite this, Calthorpe House on Mugga Way was completed in 1927 and her mother loved it until shortly before her death in 1979.

### *November 2022*

The November meeting each year is a chance for members to speak about their items of special interest or current research and this meeting was a good example. Barbara Slotemaker de Bruine AM spoke of her days on the squash court where she donned the green and gold on three occasions and was part of the first ever team to beat England. Barbara was National Coaching Director from 1988 to 1992, became Australian Coach of the Year in 1993 and was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from Squash Australia in 2010 for her services to squash over 50 years.

### *February 2023*

This meeting began with the presentation of the coveted award from the National Trust by President Gary Kent for the new CDHS website. The presentation was followed by a talk about the *'Strange and Curious Items in the Tillyard-Wardle collection.'* This talk, by Nick Swain, Sue Tonge and Margaret Pender proved entertaining and was well received.

### *April 2023*

'Images and Voices – Highlights from two ACT Heritage Grants.' Peter Dowling spoke about the ACT Heritage Grant that enabled the digitisation of 81 cassette tapes of significant talks given to the Society. Nick Swain then talked about the grant that is allowing us to digitise about 2,000 more photographs that are listed in the catalogue but have no image attached. About 500 of these photographs have already been uploaded to the CDHS catalogue.

### *May 2023*

Peter and Matthew Ipkendanz of the former Soldier Settler Farm talked about *'Callum Brae: The Past and the Future'*. Dating from the establishment of Campbell's Duntroon estate and part of the Mugga Mugga outstation, Callum Brae on Mugga Lane became Commonwealth land when Duntroon was resumed as part of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in 1913. The current history of the property really started when land within the FCT was made available for Soldier Settlement. In 1920, returned soldier, Hector Gordon McIntosh received a 25 year lease over part of the current Callum Brae precinct and was able to add additional land to make the property more viable. A walk through the neighbouring Nature Reserve is recommended, with the chance to read the interpretive signs and gaze over the original homestead and outbuildings such as the 'Red Shed' made from flattened 44-gallon bitumen drums.

### *June 2023*

Gillian Kelly's talk was titled: *'Well Suited to the Colony: Queanbeyan's Early Days from about 1835 onwards.'* She delighted her audience with an impressive account of the early history of Queanbeyan. Early settlers began pushing through the lands of the 19 counties by way of Bungonia and the Molonglo Plains (Bungendore) towards County Murray. James Larmer requested the Governor to move Police to the district due to the amount of drinking and people harbouring rustlers etc. In 1837 Captain Faunce was appointed as Magistrate at Queanbeyan with three constables to assist. In 1839 land sales of blocks of land began and Captain Faunce built Dodsworth House (known as Irishtown) with a Police Station and Court House.

Tony Corp

## 5. Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner was held in the Orion Room at the Southern Cross Club on 6 December. Our guest speaker was Allan McGrath, Mayor of Yass Valley. Born in Braidwood, after leaving school Allan worked as a telegram messenger for the PMG, then in Snowy Mountains townships as a postal clerk and postmaster. In

1968 he joined the Southern Tablelands County Council, based in Queanbeyan before retiring in 1997. Active in community affairs, he joined Apex and served on the Queanbeyan City Council with stints as Deputy Mayor. In 1999 he moved to Yass establishing a toy and book store with his wife Victoria, serving on the Yass Valley Council 2004-12 and volunteering as a guide at Hamilton Hume's Cooma Cottage. He was the driving force behind the Yass Men's Shed in 2008. He discovered a gift for rhyming poetry and in 2021 was elected Mayor of Yass Valley Council.

Following Allan's address, the ever popular raffle with some amusing goods on offer, resulted in some happy and sometimes bemused prize winners.

## 6. Book sales

During 2022/23 we sold \$400 worth of new books and \$2,084 of second-hand books.

We sell a range of local history books, both new and second hand. New books are either donated or placed on consignment by authors. The more recently published books are listed on the CDHS website (See [www.canberrahistory.org.au/books-for-sale.html](http://www.canberrahistory.org.au/books-for-sale.html) ). We hold large stocks of some not so new books, creating a storage problem.

Many second hand books have been generously donated to the society. Esther Davies continues her valuable work providing our members with eagerly awaited regular lists of books for sale which provide an important source of revenue.

## 7. Canberra Day Oration

The Canberra Day Oration was held in the Theatre of the National Library of Australia and featured Dr Ken Heffernan who chose as his subject: *'Canberra's Heritage in Transition: A Place for Engagement and Thought.'* Dr Heffernan was born, raised and schooled in Canberra and graduated in Arts and Law at the ANU. After working for the NSW Parks Aboriginal Heritage Division he joined the Australian Heritage Commission in 1998. A proud Canberran, Ken served on the inaugural ACT Heritage Council as a member and Deputy Chair. Thirty years on he was again appointed to the Council as a member, Deputy Chair and then Chair until his resignation in 2022.

## 8. The CDHS Website

The website, funded through an ACT Heritage Grant, has been operating for 18 months at the end of June 2023 and is meeting its aims to:

- Make our significant collection of Canberra history very much more accessible and engaging.
- Provide an easy-to-use platform for making as much of the collection as possible, especially photographs, accessible in digital form to the community.
- More actively engage a wider audience.
- Take advantage of very significant technological advances that allow websites to be much more accessible, relevant, flexible and easier to manage.

As a result, the CDHS catalogue is now accessible through the National Library of Australia's Trove service and web searches are showing CDHS catalogue entries. The number of active visits to the website during 2022/23 was 222,290. This is about double the monthly average of the previous year. The most searched item by far was the Time Line in the Canberra History section.

During the year another 500 photographs were uploaded to the catalogue thanks to ACT Heritage Grant. A further 1,500 are planned to be uploaded in 2023/24.

## 9. Canberra & District History Facebook page

The CDHS Facebook group page, Canberra & District History, was launched in April 2016. We had 3,462 followers at 30 June 2023 compared with 3,206 followers at 30 June 2022 - an increase of about 8%.

Facebook has proven to be a useful in several ways. The main aim of the Facebook page is to increase the Society's exposure by reaching out to a wider audience. Other benefits have included helping to identify photographs which have little or no information provided. It has also been a useful way to seek information to answer enquiries. We can also see what other people are interested in and, hopefully, some will become active financial members of CDHS.

## 10. Outreach

Many CDHS members contribute to the Society's aims through their Outreach, a broad term which includes publications, presentations and interviews. These activities increase broader community awareness of local history and of the Society itself. The Society wishes to acknowledge the Outreach activities of members and encourages all members to participate in Outreach opportunities.

Members who write an article, or give a presentation or interview, during the coming year and who wish to be acknowledged in next year's Annual Report are encouraged to provide details of their Outreach activities to the Society.

### Publications

The National Library was the venue for the launch of books by two members, **Patricia Clarke** and **Allen Mawer**. **Ann Tundern-Smith** and **Frances McGee** contributed articles in Saturday's Panorama supplement to *The Canberra Times*. **Richard Reid** wrote two articles in *Recollections* (South Coast History Society). **Nick Swain's** article about Manuka appeared in *Riotact*, while **Nick's** paper on local government and history societies was published on the FAHS website. **Esther Davies** also contributed to the FAHS *eBulletin*.

### Presentations

**Tony Maple** and **Nick Swain** provided a map and a CDHS photo of the old Red Hill Road bridge to the Red Hill Regeneration Group. **Richard Reid** presented a talk, 'Irish Echoes', at the National Library. **Frances McGee** delivered presentations on Andrew 'Boy' Charlton to a U3A group and to Spiral (seniors' group). **Esther Davies** conducted a guided tour and gave a talk on Telopea Park School at the Australian National Museum of Education.

### Interviews

On ABC radio, **Frances McGee** was interviewed about the history of the Woden Valley. **Nick Swain** talked about spies and the Kingston Hotel.

**Nick Swain** appeared on behalf of CDHS as a witness at a Committee hearing for the ACT Legislative Assembly Inquiry into ACT Heritage Arrangements. **Nick** also represented FAHS at a GLAM (Galleries, Libraries and Museums) Peak meeting.

### Events

**Marilyn Truscott** co-ordinated the ACT Region Heritage Symposium. **Richard Reid** organised the very last Return to Tipperary weekend at Galong and was a speaker at the South Coast History Day in Batemans Bay. Heritage Festival events in April 2023 are covered in the following section.

## 11. ACT Heritage Festival

The Society contributed to the 2023 ACT Heritage Festival in several ways. **Esther Davies** organised a highly successful Book Fair at the CDHS rooms at Curtin on 22 and 23 April. **Nick Swain** and **Peter Dowling** gave talks titled *Images and Voices* about digitised photographs and cassettes funded by ACT Heritage Grants.

The society also had an information table at the National Trust's Heritage Festival opening event at the Duntroon Dairy on 15 April 2023. **Marilyn Truscott** and **Ann Tundern-Smith** assisted at the Duntroon Dairy Open Day. Peter Dowling was on duty at the Dairy wearing his 'National Trust Hat.'

## 12. Grants

Government grants have been essential to help better manage our unique collection and make it more accessible.

*Conservation of the Patience Australie Wardle Collection.* We received a Community Heritage Grant of \$14,333 for this project and have now acquitted it. A second conservation training course conducted by Kim Morris was held in May 2023. About 1,300 of the collection's photographs have been digitised. Work to rehouse the collection is almost complete.

*Talking about Canberra's history.* We received an ACT Heritage Grant of \$5,000 to digitise talks recorded on cassette tape between 1976 and 2008. These talks are by distinguished persons, eminent historians and others who have influenced the cultural landscape and social development of the ACT. This grant has been acquitted and 81 digitised talks are now available from the CDHS office.

*Preserving more CDHS photos.* We received an ACT Heritage Grant of \$5,645 to digitise about 2,000 photographs that are listed in the CDHS catalogue but have no images attached to their catalogue entry. This is a labour intensive project and so far 500 photographs have been digitised and uploaded to the website. During 2023/24 we plan to upload another 1,500 photographs.

## 13. Heritage Advocacy

As the urban expansion and redevelopment of Canberra continues, actual and potential threats to heritage places occur from time to time. The society has advocated in relation to several matters by submissions, representation on community panels and appearances before inquiries.

The ACT Heritage Council was disbanded earlier this year and replaced with an interim Council. As a result the ACT Legislative Assembly conducted an *inquiry into ACT Heritage Arrangements*. The society made a substantial submission to the inquiry and also appeared at the subsequent hearings as a witness. We await the findings of the inquiry. The Minister for Heritage is conducting a separate ACT Heritage Jurisdictional Review.

*Kingston Arts Precinct.* This area includes the highly significant heritage buildings of the Kingston Power House precinct and the Former Transport Depot. CDHS is represented on the Community Panel by Nick Swain. There is now good understanding of the cultural heritage of the area thanks to the work of the previous ACT Heritage Council. A Place Plan Brief has been produced and the architects have developed three precinct concept design studies. These have been workshopped, including with the community panel on which CDHS is represented, and we await a formal design proposal.

*East Lake Urban Redevelopment.* Work is well advanced on the development of a Place Plan Brief for this area which roughly includes the Causeway, west Fyshwick and the railway yards. It is situated between the Kingston Foreshore and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands. One of the nine design principles is to celebrate the area's heritage assets and its significant historical importance. The society is represented on the Community Panel.

#### 14. ACT Regional Studies Network

The society continues to host the shrinking ACT Regional Studies Network. The Network is an informal group of people interested in local studies, including history. Many are also CDHS members. A significant objective is to provide advice and support to members who are conducting research.

#### 15. Federation of Australian Historical Societies

As the peak ACT historical society and a founding member of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, the CDHS continues to represent ACT historical societies and groups on the Federation's committee.

The FAHS is the peak body representing approximately 1,000 historical and heritage societies in Australia. Under its constitution, the Federation has eight members, each of which is the major historical society or organisation in an Australian state or territory, and most of which in turn have affiliated historical societies within their state. These members are Canberra and District Historical Society (CDHS), Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS), History Trust of South Australia (HTSA), Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV), Royal Historical Society of Queensland (RHSQ), Royal Western Australian Historical Society (RWAHS) and the Historical Society of the Northern Territory (HSNT).

The ACT is currently represented by delegates Esther Davies and Nick Swain (as Public Officer). Both are CDHS Council members. Delegates normally meet four times a year. Covid has had a significant impact on how these meetings are held with the AGM unable to be held in a member State in person.

FAHS continues to face significant financial challenges due to the cessation of Federal government funding. In spite of continuing financial constraints, the Federation continues to produce a regular E-Bulletin and twice yearly newsletter. FAHS also continues its program of advocacy with a focus on national issues.

During 2022/23 your delegates have contributed to FAHS through its quarterly meetings and drafting a paper on how Local Government and historical societies can work together for mutual benefit.

### PREMISES

Our cosy office at Curtin is serving us well but there are challenges. Space continues to be at a premium so we have to be very selective about the material we keep in our collection and arrange it efficiently. We lack space to mount all but the smallest exhibitions to showcase the many significant items in our collection or to celebrate important events. This means our collection is not as available to the community as it should to be. The cramped conditions are challenging for people with restricted mobility.

As indicated in the Treasurer's report below the cost of our premises is high and not fully covered by membership subscriptions. Attempts to have the ACT Government provide permanent rent-free accommodation have been fruitless.

The ACT Heritage Minister, Rebecca Vassarotti, is investigating the creation of a History and Heritage Hub in conjunction with the National Trust (ACT). We are hoping that this will be located in the East Lake urban redevelopment area.

## FINANCES

### Treasurer's Report

The Profit and Loss statement for the 2022-23 financial year shows a net loss of \$14,659.24, largely due to a timing mismatch between grant income and grant expenses: income from the grants was received in the previous year, while most of the grant expenses were incurred in this financial year. After the grant income and expenditure have been removed, the underlying net profit is a much healthier \$2,876.48.

Subscriptions form the largest source of income. Generous donations from members and from the Southern Cross Club's Community Rewards scheme (organised by Tony Corp) come next. I would urge all CDHS members who are also members of the Southern Cross Club to nominate the CDHS as their preferred charity and to present their membership card when purchasing meals or drinks at the club's venues. The club donates 7.5 % of purchases to the member's nominated charity.

Book sales, organised by the indefatigable Esther Davies, continue to be the Society's major fundraising activity. Consulting fees from the National Trust of Australia (ACT) provided an additional source of income.

Subscriptions alone do not cover the Society's running costs. The shortfall is covered by donations and book sales, but in the long term this is unsustainable. Rent continues to be the Society's biggest expense.

The shorter version of the *Canberra History News* is expected to reduce the cost of printing and postage. The post office box is now shared with the FAHS, halving the cost for both organisations.

The Balance Sheet for the 2022-23 financial year shows the Society's total equity decreased by \$14,660.12, after spending the retained grant income from the previous year. Bank deposits decreased correspondingly. Pre-paid membership subscriptions account for almost all liabilities. Once the grant income is deducted, the underlying net equity decreased slightly by \$1,627.47.

Overall, it has been a reasonable year for the Society's finances. However, the Society does need to increase and diversify its sources of income, and/or reduce its expenses.

The auditor provided an unqualified opinion and is satisfied the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

The auditor suggested some adjustments to the financial statements to provide a more realistic view of the Society's financial situation. These are to record unexpended grant income in the liabilities section of the balance sheet, and to account for all membership subscriptions in the year of receipt, regardless of the membership period.

The Society is indebted to the volunteer work of Helen Digan, bookkeeping and accounting software advice from Trish Carson, and the pro bono oversight by the auditor, Scott McAlister.

On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge the former Treasurer, the late Julia Ryan. Her advice on the Treasurer's role and responsibilities was much appreciated. Julia has left very big shoes to fill.

Frances McGee

## Financial donations

The Society thanks the following members for their generous donations in 2022/23:

Joan Merrell  
Narelle Blackaby  
Stephen Brown  
Ross Power  
Penny Richardson  
Margaret Ryan  
Adrienne & Paul Bradley  
Elaine Slavik  
Diana Body  
Alastair Crombie  
Barbara Dawson  
Ann Tundern-Smith  
Jenny Tyrrell  
Anne Forrest

Ken Charlton  
David Header  
Jim Stokes  
Esther Meszaros  
Simone & Scott Rowell  
Margaret Pender  
Dawn Richardson  
P. Bradley  
Tony Maple  
Nick Swain  
Frances McGee  
Ella Kessing  
Vanessa Margules

Peter Forster  
Dawn Waterhouse  
Babette Scougall  
Eva & Dudley Yager  
Margaret Aston  
Gary Kent  
Kay Walsh  
Carol Watchman  
Robert Kennelly  
Robert Lehane  
Janet Wilson  
Rosemary Curry  
David Wardle

## APPENDICES

### 1. Auditor's Report

Mr S M McAlister  
3 Currong Street  
Reid ACT 2612  
0422413469

30 August 2023

Ms Frances McGee  
Canberra & District Historical Society  
PO Box 315  
Curtin ACT 2605

Dear Frances

#### **Audit Opinion for 2022/23 Financial Accounts**

I refer to my meeting with you and Helen yesterday to examine the Society's financial records for the purposes of conducting an audit opinion. I am satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

Separately to the above, we discussed several adjustments you might consider making in future to assist in giving a more realistic view of operations from year to year for your members, viz:

- In years where there is unexpended grant income, treat this amount as 'grant income in advance' in the liabilities section of the balance sheet (as against treating it as full revenue in the year of receipt)
- Show all membership income in the year of receipt irrespective of whether the underlying membership is 1, 2 or 3 years duration

Please telephone me with any queries.

Yours sincerely



Scott McAlister  
ASCPA 2082731

## 2. Financial statements

### Profit and Loss

#### Canberra & District Historical Society For the year ended 30 June 2023

2023

#### Trading Income

41509 - CDHS Pens	5.00
41511 - Journal Sales	342.00

#### Book Sales

41510 - Book Sales - Trading	400.00
4.5112 - Second-hand book sales - Trading	2,083.60
<b>Total Book Sales</b>	<b>2,483.60</b>

#### Donations

48006 - Donations CSCC	1,214.93
48005 - Donations	5,967.28
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>7,182.21</b>

#### Fundraising

##### Dinner

42511 - Income for Dinner	2,500.00
42512 - Raffle	310.00
<b>Total Dinner</b>	<b>2,810.00</b>

##### Open Day

42556 - Plants Stall	15.00
<b>Total Open Day</b>	<b>15.00</b>

<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<b>2,825.00</b>
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#### Grant Income

42602 - HG22/27 Digitizing Photos Income	5,496.00
<b>Total Grant Income</b>	<b>5,496.00</b>

#### Sundry Income

42001 - Bank Interest	438.39
42007 - Meeting Suppers	8.00
42003 - Miscellaneous Income	5.00
42011 - Newsletter Advertising	200.00
42008 - Photographs	370.00
42005 - Photocopying	40.60
42015 - Postage	8.10
42006 - Research	40.00
<b>Total Sundry Income</b>	<b>1,110.09</b>

#### Subscriptions

41014 - Subscriptions 2022/2023	11,468.59
<b>Total Subscriptions</b>	<b>11,468.59</b>

<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>30,912.49</b>
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#### Cost of Sales

2023

51010 - Purchase of Books	1,389.09
53000 - Trading	255.00
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>1,644.09</b>

**Gross Profit** 29,268.40

#### Other Income

42508 - Symposium Income	402.03
4.8015 - P.O. Box Income FAHS	114.50
42603 - Digitized Tapes	20.00
48017 - Case Studies for NTA(ACT)	2,800.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>3,336.53</b>

#### Operating Expenses

##### Events Expenses

60490 - AGM	91.50
63605 - Annual Dinner	2,442.00
63601 - Canberra Day Oration Expense	87.55
63602 - Events Expenses	83.95
62501 - Symposium Expenses	64.80
<b>Total Events Expenses</b>	<b>2,769.80</b>

##### Grant Expenditure

6.1220 - Grant HG 21/10 digitizing Cassettes	4,000.00
61222 - HG22/27 Digitizing Photos Expense	5,645.00
61223 - Wardle Conservation Grant Expense	13,386.72
<b>Total Grant Expenditure</b>	<b>23,031.72</b>

##### Journals

63511 - Journal - Postage	373.54
63510 - Journal - Printing	2,058.00
63505 - Journal - Expenses	1,841.00
<b>Total Journals</b>	<b>4,272.54</b>

##### Newsletter

63011 - Newsletter - Postage	190.35
63010 - Newsletter - Printing	235.50
<b>Total Newsletter</b>	<b>425.85</b>

##### Premises Expenses

62620 - Electricity	1,792.31
62605 - Rent	8,956.92
62630 - Water	111.16
<b>Total Premises Expenses</b>	<b>10,860.39</b>

##### Office Expenses

64015 - Computer Software	136.20
62625 - Insurance	953.76
62085 - Office Supplies	56.45

2023

62083 - Office Cleaning	1,210.00
62002 - Office Maintenance	518.00
62105 - Post Box Rental	229.00
62100 - Postage - Office	70.75
64011 - Security Alarm	758.84
62400 - Telephone & Internet	357.73
62635 - Website Expense	250.00
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	<b>4,540.73</b>
<b>Sundry Expenses</b>	
64005 - Bank Fees	73.35
64010 - Bank Fees - Merchant Fees	289.79
64207 - Honorarium	1,000.00
<b>Total Sundry Expenses</b>	<b>1,363.14</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>47,264.17</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(14,659.24)</b>

# Balance Sheet

## Canberra & District Historical Society As at 30 June 2023

30 JUN 2023

### Assets

#### Bank

Bendigo - Fixed Term xx8380	20,070.12
Bendigo - Savings xx8265	40,189.04
Bendigo - Statement xx8141	15,054.37
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>75,313.53</b>

#### Current Assets

Inventory - Books	2,326.91
Inventory - Journals	5,400.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>7,726.91</b>

**Total Assets** **83,040.44**

### Liabilities

#### Current Liabilities

Journal Subscriptions	57.00
Member Subs in Adv - 2023-2024	6,505.00
Member Subs in Adv - 2024-2025	1,477.50
Rounding	0.06
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>8,039.56</b>

**Total Liabilities** **8,039.56**

**Net Assets** **75,000.88**

### Equity

Current Year Earnings	(14,659.24)
David Myers Memorial Funds	563.39
Nan Phillips Memorial Fund	2,134.61
Pat Wardle Bequest	3,973.28
Retained Earnings	82,988.84
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>75,000.88</b>

### 3. Membership statistics

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	MEMBERS				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Single ordinary	80	76	78	70	74
Single Senior	65	55	67	73	76
Single Pensioner	25	28	27	19	19
Joint ordinary	32	32	32	34	26
Joint Senior	2	2	12	18	20
Corporate	5	6	7	6	5
Education	3	2	2	2	2
Hon Life Members	5	5	4	4	4
Journal Subscribers	5	5	5	2	2
Reciprocal/Free	15	15	15	15	15
Student	1	2	1	0	0
Facebook special offer	na	na	na	2	na
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>243</b>