

The Canberra Archaeological Society (CAS) takes seriously the aims in its Constitution to initiate archaeological research and to encourage the conservation and preservation of archaeological sites and objects. For many years the Society has felt like a lone voice crying for the preservation, investigation and promotion of historic places in the ACT – both archaeological sites and those heading for minimal physical evidence.

In order to spread the word about the values of the less well-known heritage places, the Society began organising ACT Historical Archaeology Workshops in 2009 with sponsors: the National Trust of Australia (ACT), the ACT Heritage Unit, the Donald Horne Institute for Cultural Heritage, the Institute for Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts and the Centre for Archaeological Research. The title of the second event was 'Fenced and Forgotten - History, Heritage and Hackneyed Approaches'.

The third ACT Historical Archaeological Workshop, 'The Ruins of History', followed in July 2010. These events showcased some astonishing heritage sites and issues and several matters were taken to the relevant Ministers for Heritage by the Presidents of the host organisations.

In 2011 the first ACT Heritage Symposium was held: 'Heritage and Planning: partners in development; what works well, what hasn't been a success and what has fallen through the cracks?' and included examples of good partnerships between heritage and planning, as well as current issues and discussions of better practice. The programs and summaries of these all these events are at: <http://www.cas.asn.au/about.php>.

The endorsement of Australia ICOMOS, the Federation of Australian Historical Societies and the National Trust of Australia led to the ACT and Region Annual Australian Heritage Partnership Symposium 2012: 'Valuing Heritage: Advocating for community attachment in planning'. The panel discussion continued the theme of 'Social attachment to places - community values and memories' and raised a number of issues, some of which were pursued by the organisations presenting the Symposium. The program, biographies, several summaries and most of the presentations from this memorable event are available at: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/HeritageSymposium>.

These events highlight the difficulties in persuading current planners and politicians of the benefits of commemorating and appreciating local history. We speculate about how experienced practitioners might present 'the wisdom of the ages' to the current generations of residents, voters, planners and politicians so they could see over the immediate horizon and conserve archaeological and intact reminders of the past generations to amuse, educate and inspire future residents.

Hence the panel discussion in 2013 will reflect on what we have won and lost in the last 100 years and try to crystallise the best ideas for methods to engage the wider public in appreciation of local heritage. We can still consider proposals for presentations and you can register now for: 'A Centenary of Celebrating heritage - Accessing, presenting and interpreting heritage places and their collections in Canberra and the region' on Saturday 20th July 2013: 8.30am to 5pm.