



## ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



*A team and entourage from the Canberra Co-operative Store heading to Gidleigh Station, 1923.  
An image from the joint CDHS and Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre exhibition  
'Fooling Around in Flannels: Cricket on the Limestone Plains.'*

### 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.

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## OFFICE BEARERS AND OTHER KEY ROLES 2020-2021

### **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>	Julia Ryan
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	Nick Swain
<i>Public Officer</i>	Tony Corp

### **Other Council members**

Patricia Clarke, Peter Dowling, Marilyn Truscott, Ann Tündern-Smith, Kay Walsh, Frances McGee, Don Garden.

### **Key volunteer roles**

<i>Honorary Executive Officer</i>	Helen Digan
<i>Canberra Historical Journal</i>	
<i>Editors</i>	David Wardle and Kay Walsh
<i>Canberra History News</i>	
<i>Editorial team</i>	Ann Tündern-Smith, Sylvia Marchant, Graham Hannaford, Frances McGee and Kay Walsh
<i>Webmaster/ITC advisor</i>	John Davies
<i>Resource Centre Curator</i>	Michael Hall
<i>Events Manager</i>	Tony Corp
<i>Federation of Australian Historical Societies Delegates</i>	Esther Davies and Nick Swain

## HIGHLIGHTS

In this, the Second Year of the Plague, we have learned to adjust to the contagion. For a while in 2020-21 the office was open and, with some hiccoughs, meetings resumed. However, we were back in lockdown from 12 August 2021 and once again everything is on hold.

A year late, our exhibition *Fooling Around in Flannels*, jointly curated with the Hall School Museum, was opened by the Minister for Heritage, who commended the collaboration as the sort of initiative that Heritage Grants should support. We need to follow up on this.

The 2021 Canberra Day Oration was delivered by Jack Waterford and attracted considerable public attention, not least because Jack turned it into his weekly column in the Canberra Times. There is a lesson here.

Our financial situation is sound courtesy of the rent holiday allowed by the ACT government but the holiday is now over for institutions with healthy balances, like us. We have initiated negotiations about renewal of our lease at Curtin by pointing out that having to spend a third of our budget on rent is unsustainable and detrimental to our primary function, connecting Canberrans with their history. The Minister for Heritage has indicated that she will be pursuing the Greens agenda of a Heritage and History Hub, with the National Trust as lead tenant, to provide common facilities. We have expressed interest.

Membership is stable but at an uncomfortably low level. We have an ageing membership urgently in need of a youth transfusion. Recruitment should be the business of all members and in this past year your Councillors have shown the way. Recruitment kits (application forms, Journal and Newsletter samples) are available from the office.

Council has formally resolved to support the commissioning of a fourth volume of the bicentennial history of Canberra, covering the granting of self-government. Research is under way at ANU and ANU Press has already scanned and made available on the internet the first three volumes.

The Society is only able to function because of the time and effort devoted to it by our unsung volunteers. Council thanks them very much for their work, which is the bedrock of the Society's activities. Also, for the first time in many years we had every executive office filled and a full slate of Councillors. I thank them all for their collaboration and support.

Allen Mawer  
President

## OUR MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

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

### Membership

We had 250 financial members at 30 June 2021 which is 22 more than last year. Membership statistics can be found in Appendix 3.

## New members

We welcomed the following new members:

Leisha Sutton  
Raymond Manley  
CMAG  
Eva Warren  
Paulette Montaigne  
Susan Wiscombe  
David Turton  
David McDonald  
Dianna Marx  
Kate Lyall  
Chris Wallace

Doug Johnson  
Greg Blood  
History Guild of Kensington, Vic.  
Caroline Lemerle  
Sue Tongue  
Ann Logan  
Bill Blick  
Mr R Johnston  
Sue O'Leary  
Antony de Salis

The increase in new members is welcome. Possible contributors could be the Covid-19 pandemic and associated concerns about movement outside the home and/or our steadily increasing number of Facebook followers.

## Deceased Members

We remember Beth and Mervyn Knowles who died in July 2020. The September 2020 edition of *Canberra History News* carried their obituaries as well as obituaries for Darryl McIntyre and Philip Selth who had died earlier in 2020. Mervyn, Darryl and Philip were all former Presidents of the society.

## Resignations

Tony Curtis and Barbara Reeves.

## Awards

Congratulations to two CDHS members who received Queen's Birthday honours. Dr Sarah Ryan AM, Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the environment, education and the community, and Dawn Waterhouse OAM, Medal of the Order of Australia for service to community history.

## Volunteers

We rely 100% on volunteers for all aspects of our Society's work. Many important roles were filled during the 2020-21 year by our volunteers, including:

- office administration, including Xero bookkeeping (Helen Digan)
- editing the *Canberra Historical Journal* (David Wardle and Kay Walsh)
- editing *Canberra History News* (Ann Tündern-Smith, Graham Hannaford, Sylvia Marchant, Frances McGee and Kay Walsh)
- keeping our technology running and updated (John Davies)
- book sales (Esther Davies)
- monthly general meetings, events and Public Officer (Tony Corp)
- Resource centre organisation (Michael Hall).

It is especially important we have back up volunteers for these vital roles especially those requiring more specialist knowledge. As volunteers, we also apply for grants, advocate for the preservation of

heritage places, partner with like-minded organisations and deliver talks requested by other organisations.

Helen Digan has staffed the office on Tuesdays, including while the office was closed to the public due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Society agreed to pay Helen an honorarium as a token of its appreciation for her dedication.

From July 2020 when the office reopened subject to Covid restrictions to June 2021 the following members assisted in opening the office on Wednesdays and Saturdays so the Resource Centre was available to members and non-members: Esther Davies, John Davies, Peter Dowling, Michael Hall, Jenny Moore, Julia Ryan, Jean Stewart, Nick Swain, Kay Walsh.

## ACTIVITIES

As everyone will be aware the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions on gathering has meant that many events the Society has normally held or been involved in were cancelled or postponed indefinitely. These included:

- ACT and Region Heritage Symposium 2020
- ACT Heritage Festival 2021 – Although the opening event of the Festival was cancelled we were able to hold a successful history book sale.

### Monthly General Meetings and Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner and birthday celebration was the first meeting for 2020/21. Covid-19 restrictions meant we did not resume monthly general meetings until March 2021 as the pandemic eased. A brief summary of the talks given at these meetings is provided below. Full reports can be found in *Canberra History News*. The Society is very appreciative of the generosity of the Australian Library & Information Association (ALIA) in providing the use of their premises for these meetings.

#### **ANNUAL DINNER, Tuesday 9 December 2020**

The Christmas Dinner was a festive occasion with President Allen Mawer welcoming guests before handing over to CDHS Councillor, Don Garden, former FAHS President who announced the winners of Merit Awards to Allen Mawer and Julia Ryan in recognition of a '*meritorious contribution to the community history and heritage movement nationally*.'

Guest speaker for the evening was Elizabeth Burness who gave a fascinating address provocatively entitled, *I now know where the bodies are buried*.' Following Elizabeth's great address, the President then conducted the highly anticipated drawing of the raffle and due to the large number of prizes on offer, almost everyone was a winner.

#### **Monday 12 March 2021**

In his thought provoking and informative Canberra Day Oration at the National Library, Jack Waterford reminded the large audience that Canberra is a treasure for all Australians and that the task of stewardship of the national capital seems to have proven too hard, too boring and perhaps a far too important matter for our politicians.

#### **Tuesday 13 April 2021**

Karen Smith fascinated the audience at ALIA with her 'Great Battle in a Snowstorm: Boorowa and District's Spanish Flu Victims.' After combing the Boorowa News Karen found that 21 individuals had lost their lives to the virus in 1919 and delving into Ancestry.com and other resources she was able to flesh out more details of their lives. After her talk, Karen kindly donated a copy of her recently published book on the same subject to the Society.

## **Tuesday 11 May 2021**

Julia Ryan and Jean Stewart gave their vivid recollections of the 'Events on Parramatta Road in April 1955 outside Sydney University'.

## **Tuesday 8 June 2021**

Dr Graham Hannaford gave an interesting talk in examining seven letters which appeared in the Inverness Courier between 1820 and 1850 and sent from people in the NSW colony just prior to the discovery of gold. This was also a period of major social disruption in Scotland, including efforts to clear small landholders leading to an increased interest in emigration. These first hand reports from those who had journeyed south may therefore have been of potential influence on those in Scotland as to whether to emigrate or not.

Tony Corp

## **Grants**

We were successful in being awarded two grants. They are:

- *Preservation Needs Assessment of our Patience Australie Wardle Collection.* We received a Community Heritage Grant for this project. The report of the grant has been received from Kim Morris of Art and Archival and this provided the basis for applying for a further grant to undertake identified high priority preservation work.
- *New web site.* We have received an ACT Heritage Grant to develop a new web site. The current CDHS web site was designed in 2003, has some significant maintenance issues and web technology has advanced considerably. See the Web Site and ICT section for more information.

## **Book sales**

Thanks to our generous donors CDHS is able to offer its members the opportunity to buy second hand history books at discount prices.

Also some authors have provided stocks of new books to sell on consignment or as donations. As you can see from the accounts book sales provide an important source of revenue. We hold large stocks of some new books which are not so new now and are not selling, creating a storage problem.

## **Outreach**

Many CDHS members contribute to the Society's aims through their Outreach, a broad term which includes presentations to organisations and community groups, published articles and interviews on radio and television. 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 take part in Outreach opportunities.

An excellent example of an Outreach opportunity is the regular series of history articles in the Panorama section of the Saturday *Canberra Times*. The newspaper welcomes articles from CDHS members.

The CDHS Facebook page provides a valuable form of outreach. Many CDHS members contribute to the lively exchange of information on our Facebook page.

Below is a sample of Outreach activities carried out during the past year. The list is incomplete, as the Society may not have been aware of all members' efforts.

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

Date	Person	Topic	Activity	Where
11 Jul 2020	Nick Swain	Raise a glass to the Big Gun Dairy (Cargill's Dairy)	article	<i>Canberra Times</i>
28 Dec	Kay Walsh	Government Printing's Old Home	article	<i>Canberra Times</i>
23 Jan 2021	Frances McGee	The awful day the children died (Woden Valley flood)	article	<i>Canberra Times</i>
25 Jan	Frances McGee	Impact of the Woden Valley flood on Canberra	interview	ABC radio
16 Feb	Esther Davies	Telopea Park School	talk	St Andrew's Church Heritage Group
18 Mar	Frances McGee	Manuka Pool; History of the Honour Roll Board	talk	Friends of Manuka Pool. Manuka Pool's 90 <sup>th</sup> birthday
18 Mar	Nick Swain	Introduction to CDHS	talk	Ginninderra Probus Club
24 Mar	Alan Foskett	Tales of local history	talk	Gungahlin Day View Club
18 Mar	Nick Swain	Introduction to CDHS	talk	Ginninderra Probus Club
11 Apr	Patricia Clarke	Colonial Women of the Region	talk	Marulan (Heritage Festival)
15 Apr	Helen Digan	Heritage, HAGSOC & CDHS	article	The Harbinger (HAGSOC newsletter)
20 Apr	Jennifer Horsfield	Rania MacPhillamy, VAD nurse in WWI	talk	Tuggeranong Day View Club
22 Apr	Allen Mawer	Canberra Tracks heritage sign, TPS war memorial	unveiling & speech	Telopea Park School (Heritage Festival)
23 May	Nick Swain	Kingston Hotel	interview	ABC radio
6 June	Tony Corp	CDHS activities	talk	Canberra Consultative Forum
9 June	Esther Davies	Does your school have a war memorial?	article	FAHS eBulletin 198
9 June	Nick Swain	CDHS roundup of events	article	FAHS eBulletin 198
19 June	Richard Reid	Dr Kiernan in Australia	talk	Irish Embassy

### Heritage Advocacy

During the year the society made representations and submissions on a number of heritage matters including:

- the planned destruction of the award winning Anzac Hall at the Australian War Memorial;



- the need to protect the Grenfell Rudduck memorial at West Basin while works were in progress;
- concerns about the protection of Cargill's Cottage (Big Gun Dairy);
- the redevelopment of the Forestry House precinct in Yarralumla;
- plans for the Kingston Arts Precinct and Power House Historic Precinct; and
- supporting the National Trust (ACT) nomination of the Dickson Aerodrome for inclusion on the ACT Heritage Register.

The Council also set up a sub-committee to develop a policy on how to respond to threats by urban expansion and redevelopment to places of historic and heritage significance.

### Federation of Australian Historical Societies

The Federation of Australian Historical Societies 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).

CDHS is currently represented by delegates Esther Davies and Nick Swain (as Junior Vice President). Council member Don Garden is FAHS President and CDHS member and webmaster John Davies is Executive Officer of the Federation. 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.

FAHS is facing significant financial challenges due to the cessation of Federal government funding. There have also been challenges in meeting the requirements of a Be Connected grant. 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 such national issues as proposed developments at the Australian War Memorial and the proposed changes to tertiary fees which disadvantage students of Arts and Humanities courses.

### 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.

In March 2021 we met for the first time since March 2020. Topics for talks during the 2021 when meetings resumed included:

- Anne Forrest: Tralee history
- Geoff Pulleston: Tidbinbilla's European history
- Graham Gittins: The Canberra Pie Cart
- Mark Butz: Mr Griffin's railway, Cut short at both ends.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Canberra Historical Journal

During this year the Society continued to publish original and authoritative articles on the history of Canberra and district in the *Canberra Historical Journal*, issued in September 2020 (no. 85) and in March 2021 (no. 86).

In no. 85, David Rowe discussed the contribution of architect John Smith Murdoch to the design and building of the early capital, Anne Claoue-Long explored the concept of Canberra as a capital city 'in the landscape', and Mark Butz described the largely forgotten Mill Flat soldier settlement scheme of the 1920s. This issue also reproduced the text of Rosemary Follett's Canberra Day oration, giving her perspective on Canberra during her time as the first ACT Chief Minister (and the first female).

No. 86 was a themed issue acknowledging the two hundredth anniversary of the arrival of Europeans on the Limestone Plains, publishing articles dealing with European expeditions to the district, including the role played by Aboriginal people, and some experiences of early European settlers. It included an article by James McDonald dealing with the participation of Indigenous people in early expeditions, and another on the reaction of the explorers to the landscape by Peter Dowling. Patricia Clarke wrote about the experiences of Stewart Mowle, an early settler, and Graham Hannaford provided perceptions of the colony as published in the Scottish Inverness Courier.

The Journal continues to support, encourage and nurture researchers who are working to enlighten the community about the interesting and compelling history of our region. The Journal attracts subscribers locally, interstate and even internationally. It consistently delivers on a broad range of subjects through its articles and reviews.

The Society holds substantial stocks of the Journal and they take up nearly 13 metres of our tight storage space. The stock of journals for sale has been reduced from 4,619 copies in 2016 to 3,423 copies valued at \$9,615 in 2021. There are quite a few journals with large numbers in stock and little prospect of them being sold. Conversely, about 20 editions have stock of 10 or less and are classified as rare. In lieu of monthly general meetings during 2020 the Society gave away some editions of the Journal to members via Esther Davies' book sale lists.

Thank you to the members who have donated some of their old copies, especially where we have very low stock.

Volunteer Allan Coop has been digitising all the articles in the old and new series journals. From 1975 to date the journal is indexed and reproduced online in full text as part of the Humanities and Social Sciences collection of the Informit database compiled by RMIT. It is available in full text to Informit subscribers, including libraries, and in abstract to users of the National Library's eResources. Articles may be downloaded on the payment of a fee.

### [Canberra History News](#)

The Newsletter team of Ann Tündern-Smith, Graham Hannaford, Sylvia Marchant, Frances McGee and Kay Walsh produced four issues of *Canberra History News* this financial year. We are grateful for Graham Hannaford stepping in to help out. All issues have the added interest of some member's brief research articles, or memoirs, and photographs. Production is time-consuming and we would be happy to have at least one more volunteer to help. Most members now receive their newsletter via the internet which saves a significant amount of volunteer effort and postage.

### [Facebook](#)

The CDHS Facebook group page, Canberra & District History, was launched in April 2016. We had 2,357 followers at 30 June – once again doubling since the previous year. There was a spike in new followers during the Covid-19 lock down, indicating a growth in interest in local history.

Facebook has proven to be a useful in a number of ways. One has been to help identify photographs which have little or no information provided. It has also been a useful way to seek information. Overall it has increased the Society's exposure by reaching out to a wider audience. We can also see what other people are interested in and, hopefully, some will become active financial members of CDHS.

## OUR PHYSICAL ASSETS

### Resource Centre

The Society's Office in Curtin continues to be open to members and the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturday mornings and is totally staffed by volunteers. Signatures in the Visitors' Book for this year totalled 442 which was 63% fewer than last year. All enquiries received are dealt with as promptly as possible. If we do not have the information required researchers are referred to our extensive network of contacts.

The following is a report by our Honorary Resource Centre Manager:

'The Society has a large number of books, photographs, maps, realia (framed pictures) and a variety of objects the scope of which is under review. We face several challenges, primarily a shortage of space to adequately store and maintain the collection. There is also a need to catalogue all the items, to identify their provenance and, particularly in regards to realia and objects, ascertain their relevance to the history of the Canberra district. Unfortunately our acquisition records are incomplete but it appears that many of the objects were received as display items for Blundell's Cottage, which the Society ran as a museum for about 35 years.

Although books donated to the collection are being added to the shelves for a variety of reasons the online catalogue has not been updated for over a year. There are hundreds of photographs which still need to be identified including several albums whose images are not catalogued. Volunteer Babette Scougall has done sterling work in preparing them for cataloguing.

Michael Hall, Hon Resource Centre Curator.'

The following people generously added to the Society's collection by donating books, photographs newspaper articles and other items:

Gail Tregear  
Alan Jordan  
David Hogg

Anne Tyson  
Harrie Quince  
Gary Kent

Gifts such as these are the main way the Society's collection grows.

Thanks to Michael Hall we are gradually rationalising the collection so it is more focused on 'Canberra & District,' creating space for acquisitions and better organising some items so they are easier to locate. Space continues to be a major constraint.

### Website and other ICT

The current CDHS website was designed in 2003 and is now showing its age. There are some insurmountable maintenance issues. Deficiencies in our ageing web site mean we have lost volunteers keen to update the collection catalogue and digitise photographs. We have applied successfully for an ACT Heritage Grant to build a contemporary website which will provide a vital platform to help our Society better achieve its objectives.

The new website aims to:

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

A small sub-committee was formed to progress this project and it has worked hard to refine the specifications. The web designer has produced a number of draft layouts and the sub-committee has provided extensive feedback.

### Premises

Our cosy office at Curtin is serving us well but there are challenges. Space is 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 be. The cramped conditions are challenging for people with mobility challenges.

As indicated in the Treasurer's report below the cost of our premises is high and not 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).

## FINANCES

### Treasurer's Report

The CDHS Profit and Loss for 2020-21 shows a healthy net profit of \$15,400.11. This surplus can be attributed in part to the ACT government rent moratorium during Covid 19, which ran for the whole financial year. Rent for the Curtin Resource Centre is usually the largest item in the Society's expenditure, in the region of \$7,500. In addition, the Society's bank account is holding moneys from two grants, only partially expended by 30 June 2021 and amounting to over \$5,000. Grants provide the wherewithal to carry out special projects: they do not boost the Society's income. These issues and items should be taken into account when budgeting for 2021-2.

As in previous years Subscriptions form the largest item in the Society's income. Donations, including the Southern Cross Club scheme organised by Tony Corp, where CDHS members can nominate the Society as their charity, come next in volume. Book sales, organised by Esther Davies, continued online during Covid restrictions, and provided a good source of income.

Insurance costs were reduced by over \$1000 when in October 2020, on the advice of Don Garden, the Society joined the joint insurance scheme managed by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. These costs should reduce further in 2021-22.

The Xero accounting system, introduced for the 2020-21 financial year proved simpler, and more suitable for the Society's accounts. Helen Digan managed the system, providing clear monthly reports to Council.

Overall the Society's total equity rose by \$15,360.11 in 2021-22. Bank deposits account for over 90% of the Society's assets, and rose by near \$15,000 during the 2020-21 financial year. Most of these increases can be accounted to the rent moratorium and the unspent grant holdings.

In his report the auditor has raised several concerns which the incoming Council should address. They are:

- i) Book Sales. Sales of new books held by the Society and used books managed by Esther Davies should be separated out in the Xero accounts
- ii) Prior year adjustment of \$204 should be reversed out to retained earnings in 2021/22
- iii) A value should be put on all the Society's collection, for insurance purposes.

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

Julia Ryan  
Hon Treasure

### Financial donations

The Society thanks the following members for their generous donations in 2020/21:

M Aston	K Humphries	EJ Ryan
G Backen	V Kalokerinos	B Scougall
A Bell	E Keesing	A Sergeant
D Body	R Kennelly	N Sheather
A & P Bradley	R Lamb	G Smith
B de Bruine	R Lehané	G N Smith
G Burkhardt	C Mann	N Swain
P Clarke	D McDonald	J Tyrrell
J & J Cochran	J McDonald	K Walsh
A Crombie	F McGee	D Wardle
B Dawson	J O'Loughlin	P J Welch
A Gugler	K Penhallow	L Wensing
G Hannaford	I Powell	E & D Yager
M Hill	K Powell	
SJ Holt	D Richardson	

## APPENDICES

### 1. Auditor's Report

Mr S M McAlister  
3 Currong Street  
Reid ACT 2612  
0422413469

10 September 2021

Ms Julia Ryan  
Canberra & District Historical Society  
PO Box 315  
Curtin ACT 2605

Dear Julia

#### **Audit of 2020/21 Financial accounts**

I refer to our recent telephone conversations and emails regarding the Society's financial records for the purposes of conducting an audit. As you would appreciate the current stay at home orders as a result of the COVID-19 crisis has prevented me from physically inspecting the records and other information at the society's office in Curtin as I have done in past years. After our discussions I am satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

Notwithstanding the above there are a number of issues your Board should consider in relation to some aspects of the accounts:

- **Book Sales – Trading**  
You have advised that this income is from the sale of donated books. I think it would be prudent for this to be appropriately named in the profit and loss so that there is no confusion between these sales and sales of books from your inventory which, according to movements in the balance sheet from last financial year would be nil.
- **Prior year adjustment - \$204**  
This figure has appeared for a number of years now so let's make sure it is reversed out to retained earnings for 21/22
- **The Society's collection**  
The objective of the balance sheet is to enable readers/members to ascertain what the value of the Society's assets are as at a particular date. For this year and previous years this has been inventory and bank balances which is fine however I am concerned that there is no comment on what the Society's collection is comprised of or its value. I understand your comments that the majority of items are irreplaceable, but they would still have a market value and in this regard I notice a recent auction on Allbids.com of Canberra maps and other memorabilia attracting significant interest and bids. This would be particularly relevant in the case of a significant event that resulted in the loss of the Society's collection and any subsequent insurance claim. So, if not already available, it would be prudent to put together a schedule of items (including office equipment etc.) and approximate values for future reference.

Please call 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 2021

Account	2021
<b>Trading Income</b>	
CDHS Keyrings Income	5.00
Journal Sales	368.00
Subscriptions - Journals	78.00
<b>Book Sales</b>	
Book Sales - Trading	3,716.70
Book Mart	186.50
<b>Total Book Sales</b>	<b>3,903.20</b>
<b>Donations</b>	
Donations CSCC	643.63
Donations	4,963.95
Donations - Museum Fund	315.00
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>5,922.58</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	
<b>Dinner</b>	
Canberra Day Oration	202.00
Income for Dinner	2,680.00
Raffle	247.00
<b>Total Dinner</b>	<b>3,129.00</b>
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<b>3,129.00</b>
<b>Grant Income</b>	
NLA Grant -Wardle PNA	4,950.00
Grant - Website	7,000.00
<b>Total Grant Income</b>	<b>11,950.00</b>
<b>Sundry Income</b>	
Bank Interest	176.70
Meeting Suppers	21.60
Miscellaneous Income	10.00
Newsletter Advertising	295.00
Photographs	90.00
Photocopying	20.10
Postage	135.00
Rent Refund	1,449.40
Research	87.00
<b>Total Sundry Income</b>	<b>2,284.80</b>
<b>Subscriptions</b>	
Subs 2019/2020	62.50
Subs 2020/2021	10,860.00
Refund 2020-2021 Subs	(170.50)
<b>Total Subscriptions</b>	<b>10,752.00</b>
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>38,392.58</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>	
Purchase of Books	50.35
Trading	78.00
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>128.35</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>38,264.23</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
<b>Events Expenses</b>	
AGM	91.86
Annual Dinner	2,850.00
Canberra Day Oration Expense	337.00
<b>Total Events Expenses</b>	<b>3,278.86</b>
<b>Grant Expenditure</b>	
ACT Grants	555.60
ACT Heritage Expense	1,001.10

NLA Grant	4,950.00
<b>Total Grant Expenditure</b>	<b>6,506.70</b>
<b>Journals</b>	
Journal - Postage	469.86
Journal - Printing	1,865.00
Journal - Expenses	2,014.66
<b>Total Journals</b>	<b>4,349.52</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	
Newsletter - Postage	301.40
Newsletter - Printing	463.50
<b>Total Newsletter</b>	<b>764.90</b>
<b>Premises Expenses</b>	
Electricity	1,098.83
Rent	1,449.40
Water	9.84
<b>Total Premises Expenses</b>	<b>2,558.07</b>
<b>Office Expenses</b>	
Computer Software	667.54
Insurance	1,528.87
Office Supplies	864.08
Office Cleaning	310.00
Post Box Rental	205.00
Postage - Office	259.80
Telephone & Internet	589.70
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	<b>4,424.99</b>
<b>Sundry Expenses</b>	
Bank Fees - Merchant Fees	326.08
Fees & Subscriptions	155.00
Honorarium	500.00
<b>Total Sundry Expenses</b>	<b>981.08</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>22,864.12</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>15,400.11</b>



**Balance Sheet**  
**Canberra & District Historical Society**  
**As at 30 June 2021**

**30 Jun 2021      30 Jun 2020**

**Assets**

**Bank**

Bendigo - Fixed Term xx8380	\$19,528.85	\$19,354.26
Bendigo - Savings xx8265	\$26,078.26	\$21,028.12
Bendigo - Statement xx8141	\$19,681.40	\$10,121.02
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>\$65,288.51</b>	<b>\$50,503.40</b>

**Current Assets**

**Inventory**

Inventory - Books	\$1,037.30	\$1,037.30
Inventory - Journals	\$10,268.00	\$10,268.00
Inventory - Mugs	\$16.00	\$16.00
<b>Total Inventory</b>	<b>\$11,321.30</b>	<b>\$11,321.30</b>

<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$11,321.30</b>	<b>\$11,321.30</b>
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<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$76,609.81</b>	<b>\$61,824.70</b>
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**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

Member Subs in Adv - 2021-202	\$3,912.50	\$477.50
Member Subs in Adv - 2022-202	\$575.09	\$0.00
Rounding	\$0.01	\$0.10

**Member Subscriptions**

Member Subs in Adv - 2020-2	\$0.00	\$4,585.00
<b>Total Member Subscriptions</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,585.00</b>

<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$4,487.60</b>	<b>\$5,062.60</b>
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<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$4,487.60</b>	<b>\$5,062.60</b>
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<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$72,122.21</b>	<b>\$56,762.10</b>
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**Equity**

Current Year Earnings	\$15,360.11	\$7,655.24
David Myers Memorial Funds	\$563.39	\$563.39
Nan Phillips Memorial Fund	\$2,134.61	\$2,134.61
Pat Wardle Bequest	\$3,973.28	\$3,973.28
Prior period adjustment	-\$204.00	-\$204.00
Retained Earnings	\$50,294.82	\$42,639.58
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$72,122.21</b>	<b>\$56,762.10</b>

### 3. Membership statistics

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	MEMBERS		
	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>
Single ordinary	<b>80</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>78</b>
Single Senior	<b>65</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>67</b>
Single Pensioner	<b>25</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>
Joint ordinary	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>
Corporate	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Education	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Hon Life Members	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
Journal Subscribers	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
Reciprocal/Free	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
Student	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Joint Senior	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>250</b>