

Canberra & District
Historical Society Inc

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



Federal City Camp, 20 March 1909. CDHS Resource ID 22760

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 2021-2022

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 (until February 2022).

Key volunteer roles

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Honorary Executive Officer</i> | Helen Digan |
| <i>Honorary Curator Canberra Historical Journal</i> | Michael Hall |
| <i>Editors Canberra History News</i> | David Wardle and Kay Walsh |
| <i>Editorial team</i> | Ann Tündern-Smith, Sylvia Marchant (until September 2021), Graham Hannaford, Frances McGee, Kay Walsh (part year) and 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

During the year the Society continued to feel the impact of Covid on its activities. Many Canberrans took the opportunity to rationalise their affiliations and subscriptions and some members did not renew. However, we were also very gratified that 10 members had been with the society for 50 or more years! A remarkable show of loyalty and commitment.

In recent months a degree of normality has been restored. Personal contact brought some members back and a modest recruitment drive yielded a few more. We emerged in better financial shape than could have been expected because of the rent relief afforded us by the ACT administration. That has now ended but our profits from second-hand book sales, driven by Vice-President Esther Davies, and a surge in donations has made our financial situation less precarious than in recent years. Treasurer Julia Ryan, who has decided that it is time to stand down, is entitled to the gratitude of all members for her prudential stewardship.

Accommodation remains a problem. Our current premises lack space for meetings, exhibitions and storage. For some years we were able to enjoy free access to external premises for our monthly meetings but we now have to pay, an impost that is only partly offset by donations from attendees. Looking to the future, we are associating ourselves with a National Trust ACT proposal for the ACT government to provide a history/heritage hub of shared facilities for societies like ours. Heritage Minister Vassarotti is supportive and preliminary discussions have identified a possible location, Cargill's Cottage in the East Lake redevelopment, Kingston. It has potential but would require additional expenditure for which there is no government commitment at present.

The Canberra Day Oration remains a signature event. This year Professor Brian Schmidt spoke of the parallel and symbiotic development of the ANU and Canberra since the Second World War. We continue to enjoy the support of the National Library in this undertaking.

We continued to support the ACT Heritage Festival with a special book sale and exhibition.

A major initiative, largely driven by Secretary Nick Swain, has been the redesign and expansion of the website, making more of our offerings accessible to members and the public without the need to attend the Curtin office. In due course the site will feature a pocket history of Canberra in nine readily digestible bites compiled by Vice-President Richard Reid. In a parallel development, but with a much longer timeframe, Council has undertaken to facilitate the writing and publication of a fourth volume of the official bicentenary History of Canberra to cover the advent and first years of self-government. Another project, commenced by Councillor Peter Dowling, has been to digitise our extensive collection of Society talks recorded on audio cassette. We were successful with a grant application to complete the transfer and the project is now two-thirds complete. We also obtained a grant to rehouse the Patience Wardle papers to conservation standards. This nationally significant collection is an invaluable resource for researchers.

The *Canberra History Journal* (edited by Kay Walsh and David Wardle) remains the most authoritative publication in its field. Our newsletter, *Canberra History News*, (edited by Ann Smith) continues to keep members well-informed and provides them with an outlet for briefer contributions on matters of interest.

Special mention should be made of the volunteers who contribute time and effort to support Society activities. Following a review of collections policy that was prompted by space constraints, Council appointed Michael Hall as Honorary Curator with a brief to rationalise holdings and administer acquisitions and disposals in accordance with new arrangements. Other volunteers regularly help staff

the Curtin premises during opening hours and assist with research and collection-access tasks. The Society would be much the poorer without their input.

Lastly, I thank the other members of Council for their enthusiasm and support which made the President's job far less onerous than he had any right to expect. As Councillors we are also collectively indebted to our Administrator, Helen Digan, whose encyclopaedic knowledge of the Society's affairs is some insurance against reinventing the wheel or again trying the one proven to have failed in the past.

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 245 individual financial members at 30 June 2022 which is five less than last year. Membership statistics can be found in Appendix 3.

We were staggered to learn that 10 members have been with CDHS for 50 years or more!

New members

We welcomed the following new members:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Caroline Lemerle | Sue Tongue |
| Ann Logan | Antony De Salis |
| Merran Martin | Trevor Lipscombe |
| Gary Humphries | Yolanthe Daly |
| Janet Wilson | Ann Pickering |
| David Tynan | Mr & Mrs William Burke |
| Wendy Limbrick | Kelly Paxman |
| Don Coutts | Maryanne and Marijan Rupcic |
| Cheryl Peters | Mr & Mrs Leigh Condon |
| Brian Mullens | Don Whitbread |
| Margaret Muntz | Janet Baumhammer |
| Annie Trevillian | |

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

Deceased Members

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Fr Brian Maher | Dorothy Hart |
| Bill Tully | Harrie Quince |
| Alan Foskett | |

Volunteers

The Society runs entirely on the work of volunteers. Covid 19 pandemic restrictions continued to affect our volunteer work during 2021-22. The CDHS office was closed during the month-long lockdown from 13 August 2021 and activities were severely curtailed throughout the year. Nevertheless, 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. She also ensured administration was in order when the office was closed.
- 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. Margaret volunteered on Saturdays in 2021 but her increasing frailty prevented her continuing in 2022. Margaret was not replaced, so opening the office on the fourth Saturday of the month became a regular gap.
- Esther Davies. Michael Hall and Julia Ryan filled in the gaps when regular office volunteers could not attend.
- Tricia Carswell checked the annual accounts in preparation for the annual audit.
- David Wardle and Kay Walsh edited the *Canberra Historical Journal* for September 2021 and March 2022.
- Ann Tundern-Smith edited the September and December 2021, March and June 2022 editions of the *Canberra History News*, with the assistance of Graham Hannaford and Frances McGee while Nick Swain organised the distribution.
- Tony Corp organised the events: general meetings, which were suspended in 2021 and resumed in 2022; the Annual Birthday dinner in December 2021.
- Esther Davies organised the recycled book sales for the Society. Esther sorted the used books, often from members' personal collections, researched prices and advertised regularly online to members. In addition, Esther organised the annual Heritage and History Book Fair, held during ACT Heritage celebrations in April 2022. 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.

Council was pleased to host a celebratory event at the Curtin Resource centre in December 2021, to thank volunteers for their contributions.

Julia Ryan

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 History 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 more widely accessible to the community include:

- The annual Canberra Day Oration.
- The CDHS website.
- The CDHS 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 (not held in 2021-22).

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.

We also advocate for the preservation of local heritage and support other groups such as the ACT Regional Studies Network. 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.

The Society's Resource Centre in Curtin is open to members and the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturday mornings and is totally staffed by volunteers. There were 699 signatures in the Visitors' Book for this year since reopening in November 2021 compared with 442 in 2020/21 when the office was closed for significant periods. By way of comparison, visitor numbers in 2018-19 were 633.

Honorary Curator's report

During the last twelve months the Society's new website went live enabling the online catalogue to be progressively updated with the large number of books donated to the CDHS by the estates of the late Syd Comfort and Alan Foskett.

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

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Jim Stokes | Annette Charge |
| Duncan Marshall | Alan Foskett |
| Cathie Humphries | Susan Webb |
| Robert Campbell | Helen Flaherty |
| Nick Swain | |

Donations of items are the main way the society's collection grows as we do not have funds to purchase material for the collection.

The backlog in adding items to the collection and cataloguing them is gradually being cleared thanks to the efforts of volunteers such as Babette Scougall, Jan Hutchison, Kay Walsh, Ann Tündern-Smith, Helen Digan and Nick Swain.

Shelf space is at a premium so books and pamphlets with little relevance to local history are being culled and offered for sale to members. A few periodicals, which have not been actively collected for some time, have also been offered to members and several items, such as annual reports and school magazines, have been donated to the ACT Heritage Library. Reciprocal arrangements (concerning publications) with several interstate historical societies and special interest research groups, such as genealogists and military historians, have ceased.

To assess future acquisitions council appointed Michael Hall as honorary curator. New protocols for acquisitions, largely developed by Nick Swain and Anne Claoué-Long and approved by Council, now guide the honorary curator in the assessment of items offered to the Society.

Michael Hall

2. Canberra Historical Journal

The two issues of the Society's *Canberra Historical Journal* published during this year (no. 87, September 2021 and no. 88, March 2022) presented scholarly and engaging articles, by Society members and others, pursuing a variety of perspectives on the history of Canberra and district. Historian and environmentalist Mark Butz has an article in each issue. One, written in collaboration with Geoff Puleston, deals with the distilling of eucalyptus oil in the district in the 1940s by Czech immigrants; the other with the heritage of limestone on the Limestone Plains. An article by the late Virginia Passmore outlines the work of geologist Edgeworth David on the Western Front during the First world War, and Michael Hall describes the involvement of district soldiers and nurses on the Kokoda Track during the Second World War. Greg Wood discusses the involvement of engineer Leslie Wade in the choice of Canberra as the site of the national capital, and Tony Maple examines a photograph of the Federal City Camp in Canberra in 1909. Historian Patricia Clarke transcribes and gives context to the account of a trip by journalist Frances Taylor to Canberra for the opening of Parliament house in 1927. The September issue published a transcript of journalist Jack Waterford's perspective on the role and development of Canberra as the national capital.

Both issues feature vibrant covers, no. 87 showing Marion Mahony Griffin's silkscreen tapestry illustrating her vision for Leeton, NSW, and no. 88 reproducing an image of a stained glass window at St John's Church, Canberra, depicting a nurse missionary of the Papuan conflict.

Until recently, the Society held substantial stocks of the Journal which took up nearly 13 metres of our tight storage space. We have carried out a significant rationalisation of stock which has included giving away to our members a significant number of journals. As a result the stock of journals for sale has been reduced from 4,619 copies in 2016 to 1,434 copies valued at \$5,331 in 2022. This has freed up shelf space to better house the nationally significant Tillyard-Wardle collection. Thank you to the members who have donated some of their old copies, especially where we have very low stock.

Volunteer Allan Coop continues the lengthy task of digitising all the articles in the old and new series journals and produce searchable .pdf files. We plan to make these available in the next year.

3. Canberra History News

The Newsletter team again produced four issues of *Canberra History News* this financial year. It underwent changes of personnel: Ann Tündern-Smith continued to edit, supported Graham

Hannaford, Frances McGee and Marilyn Truscott. Sylvia Marchant and Kay Walsh left the team; we thank them very much for their contributions. Nick Swain provided major support for each issue with proof-reading, printing and mailing the paper issues and uploading the digital version.

Most members now receive their newsletter via the internet which saves a significant amount of volunteer effort and postage. All issues have the added interest of some members' brief research articles or memoirs, and photographs. In particular, we thank Frances McGee, James McDonald and Michael Hall for their regular contributions.

4. Monthly General Meetings and talks

The Covid restrictions once again meant several had to be cancelled resulting in only three general meetings and the annual dinner being held in 2021-22. Also, we had to find another venue and are pleased to now hold our meetings at the Wesley Uniting Memorial Church in Forrest. Our apologies for any inconvenience you may have experienced. A brief summary of the talks given at these meetings is provided below. Full reports can be found in *Canberra History News*.

12 April 2022. Don Whitbread OAM was a welcome guest speaker at the April meeting at the Wesley Centre – a most fitting venue for Don, given that his father started his ministry there at the new Methodist Church in 1949. After Don's talk, the audience toured significant memorials in the church with help from CDHS Vice President, Esther Davies. In 1997, Don was named Canberra Citizen of the Year.

12 May 2022. Mark Butz gave a highly interesting lecture entitled, '*Canberra's ill-fated city railway*' and many were not aware that Canberra as a planned city, had from the outset embraced the idea of an integrated system of rail and trams for its communication system. The accepted design of Walter Burley Griffin provided a rail route connecting Canberra with Yass and Goulburn.

14 June 2022. Linda Beveridge (Convenor of the Friends of Black Mountain) gave a fascinating account of the large range of historical, cultural and natural; aspects of this important local icon. In 2020 a booklet was produced and celebrations held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Black Mountain as a conservation reserve. Linda commended the work of a range of community and scientifically minded personalities whose work has contributed so much to the knowledge and appreciation of Black Mountain.

5. Annual Dinner

The Annual Birthday function was able to go ahead on 9 December and a good crowd gathered in the Hellenic Club to hear the popular Dan Bouchier as guest speaker. Dan thanked Peter Dowling for his recently published book '*Fatal Contact: How Epidemics nearly wiped out Australia's First People,*' and which Dan had previously launched. With more than 20 years' experience in television, print, radio and online news in national indigenous affairs and other roles Dan's presentation was extremely well received. Tony Corp.

6. Book sales

CDHS sells a range of local history books, both new and used. New books are either donated or placed on consignment by authors. The more recently published books are listed on the CDHS website (See CDHS Shop). 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. We hold large stocks of some not so new books, creating a storage problem.

7. Canberra Day Oration



Professor Brian Schmidt, AC FAA FRS, Vice Chancellor of the Australian National University since 2016 and one of Australia's most eminent scientists, gave a highly acclaimed Canberra Day Oration, '*A Reflection of 75 Years of ANU History*' at the National Library of Australia.

8. Website

The new website, funded through an ACT Heritage Grant, was launched in December 2021 and 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. The number of active visits to the website from December 2021 to the end of June 2022 was 57,225. As we get used to using the website we have made some small changes and will consider some other changes during the next year. A significant issue is how to safely store and provide access to an increasing amount of digital material.

9. Facebook

The CDHS Facebook group page, Canberra & District History, was launched in April 2016. We had 3,206 followers at 30 June 2022 compared with 2,357 at 30 June 2021 – an increase of 849 or 36%.

Facebook has proven to be a useful in several 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 to answer enquiries. Overall, the Facebook page 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.

10. 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, interviews on radio and television and contributing to the lively exchange of information on our Facebook page.

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 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 details of their Outreach activities to the Society.

Presentations

Nick Swain addressed the Canberra and Region Heritage Researchers on the CDHS collection and activities. Nick also presented a talk on *Canberra's work camps* to Spiral (seniors' group) at the Curtin Uniting Church. Peter Dowling discussed his latest book, *Fatal Contact*, at the National Library. Esther Davies gave a talk on *Women of Intelligence – Jean Starling – a Canberra Life* to the Thursday Friendship Group at Wesley Uniting Church, Forrest.

Articles

Esther Davies, Nick Swain and Don Garden all published articles in FAHS Newsletters and eBulletins during the year. Richard Reid contributed an article on the Murrah Archives to *Recollections* (South Coast History Society). Nick Swain's Meyer lemon tree was the subject of a Food and Wine column in *The Canberra Times*. Frances McGee wrote about Boy Charlton in Saturday's *The Canberra Times*, and about Fitz's Hill (in Namadgi National Park) in *Canberra Cyclist*. James McDonald authored an article about Canberra and the frontier wars in the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*.

Interviews

Peter Dowling gave an interview on the Tuggeranong Schoolhouse to ABC TV.

Heritage Festival

Richard Reid delivered the inaugural Father Brian Maher lecture and spoke about the Irish settlers of Canberra and the region. Nick Swain and Michael Hall set up items for our Exhibition of Historical Curiosities and prepared a guide for the volunteers. A team of enthusiastic members assisted Esther Davies to run two book fairs.

Queen's Birthday Honours

Barbara Slotemaker de Bruine AM was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for significant service to squash as a player, administrator and coach.

11. ACT Heritage Festival

The Society made two significant contributions to the 2022 ACT Heritage Festival. For the duration of the Festival (9 April to 1 May) a small exhibition of Historical Curiosities was open for public viewing in the CDHS office during normal opening hours.

On 22 and 23 April we also held a highly successful Book Fair at CDHS rooms at Curtin.

12. Grants

Government grants have helped better manage our unique collection and make it more accessible. During 20021-22 we were awarded two grants. They are:

- *Conservation of the Patience Australie Wardle Collection*. We received a Community Heritage Grant of \$14,333 for this project. A conservation training course conducted by Kim Morris was held in May. Work is now underway to rehouse the collection so it is less cramped and stored in proper materials.
- *'Talking about Canberra's history'*. We received an ACT Heritage Grant of \$5,000 to digitise about 100 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.

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 the following.

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. During the year the prime contractor, Geocon, ceased to be associated with the project and its management was taken over by the Suburban Land Agency. There has subsequently been a much better understanding of the cultural heritage of the area thanks to the work of the ACT Heritage Council.

East Lake. Early work has started 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. The society is represented on the Community Panel by Nick Swain. We are keen to ensure the area's numerous heritage assets, such as the historic Cargill's Cottage, are not only protected but celebrated.

ACT Planning Review. The society has made a submission to government expressing concern about the apparent proposed downgrading of ACT Heritage Council advice when planning decisions are made.

Stromlo Cottage. The society wrote to the Minister for Transport and City Services, Chris Steel, seeking reassurances that the restored cottage would be re-opened for community uses. A positive reply was received.

Former Evo Energy Electricity Substation at Manuka. The society noted its concern at its May 2022 Council meeting about the proposed demolition of this building expressed by the local residents' group. The National Trust (ACT) was notified and took up the matter. It was noted that a suggestion that the building be relocated on the block was against best heritage practice.

14. ACT Regional Studies Network

CDHS continues to host the 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.

Talk topics included Mark Butz on the network of temporary railways during Canberra's main construction phase, Graeme Backen on his family history research, Rebecca Lamb about her trip to the historic Norfolk Island and Nick Swain on where the Molonglo Camp buildings ended up.

15. Federation of Australian Historical Societies

As the peak ACT historical society and founding member the CDHS continues to represent ACT historical societies and groups on the Federation of Australian Historical Societies 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 Junior Vice President). 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.

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 2021/22 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. CDHS Council member, Don Garden, resigned as President of FAHS during the year on his move to live in Tasmania. CDHS benefited from his long experience with FAHS and wishes him well in his life in the history rich island State.

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 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).

A new keypad lock has made it easier for volunteers to access the premises.

FINANCES

[Treasurer's Report for the 2021-2022 Financial Year](#)

The Society has enjoyed a successful financial year with a healthy surplus and a substantial gain in assets. This success is largely due to generous donations from members, book sales and a rent reduction.

The surplus stands at \$4,495.26, after grant moneys unspent but committed, held on 30 June 2022, are deducted. Donations almost doubled while the \$2,892.80 rent reduction by the ACT Government during the Covid lockdown was much appreciated. Book sales, managed by Esther Davies, as usual provided the most reliable fundraising.

Once unspent grants are deducted the Society's equity totalled \$76,627.47, a substantial rise from the previous year. Most assets are held in bank deposits, with only about 10% in inventory such as books and journals.

Despite these healthy statistics it should be noted that members' subscriptions do not cover the cost of running the Society and donations are required to meet the shortfall.

Once again the Society is indebted to the volunteer financial management of Helen Digan, the volunteer oversight of accounting and bookkeeping by Trish Carson of Critique, and the pro bono audit by Scott McAlister ASCPA.

I am not standing for re-election as Treasurer for this financial year.

When I agreed to act as Treasurer seven years ago the Society was experiencing regular deficits and the financial future looked grim. I am pleased to be relinquishing the treasurership after such a successful financial year.

Julia Ryan

Financial donations

The Society thanks the following members for their generous donations in 2021/22:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| J.Stokes | G. Major | S.P.K. Brown |
| D. Waterhouse | R. Curry | D. Stanton |
| C Watchman | M Aston | A & P Bradley |
| P. Forster | M O'Flynn | G.A Mawer |
| A Foskett | B. Carr | S. Whichelo |
| Eva & Dudley Yager | A Forrest | D. Richardson |
| E.J. Ryan | A Hawke | G. Kent |
| S. Ryan | M Cameron | C & A Mann |
| D McDonald | K. Walsh | Shannon Read |
| M. Rupcic | A Crombie | K. Penhallow |
| E. Keesing | J.J. & j. McDonald | G Humphries |
| I. Powell | E. Slavik | R Kennelly |
| A Jordan | P. Bradley | P. Freeman |
| M.P. Clarke | A Sergeant | J Wilson |
| A Gugler | E Burness | F McGee |
| J. Ryan | R Lehane | J. Tyrrell |
| B Dawson | A Smith | D Wardle |
| S. Whichelo | | |

APPENDICES

1. Auditor's Report

30 August 2022
Ms Julia Ryan
Canberra & District
Historical Society
PO Box 315
Curtin ACT 2605

Mr SM McAlister
3 Currong Street
Reid ACT 2612
0422413469

Dear Julia

Audit of 2021/22 Financial accounts

I refer to my meeting with you and Helen today to examine the Society's financial records for the purposes of conducting an audit. I am satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

Please telephone me with any queries.

Yours sincerely



Scott McAlister
ASCPA 2082731

2. Financial statements

On the following pages you will find the Profit and Loss statement and Balance Sheet.

Profit and Loss

Canberra & District Historical Society For the year ended 30 June 2022

2022

Trading Income

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| CDHS Pens | 5.00 |
| Journal Sales | 165.00 |
| Subscriptions - Journals | 21.00 |

Book Sales

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Book Sales - Trading | 762.70 |
| Second-hand book sales - Trading | 3,250.45 |
| Total Book Sales | 4,013.15 |

Donations

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Donations CSCC | 972.05 |
| Donations | 2,736.70 |
| Donations - Museum Fund | 8,173.89 |
| Total Donations | 11,882.64 |

Fundraising

Dinner

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Income for Dinner | 3,930.00 |
| Raffle | 290.00 |
| Total Dinner | 4,220.00 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Fundraising | 4,220.00 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|

Grant Income

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Grant HG21/10 Digitizing Cassettes | 4,000.00 |
| Grant - ACT Heritage | 2,370.00 |
| Wardle Conservation Grant Income | 14,333.00 |
| Total Grant Income | 20,703.00 |

Sundry Income

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Bank Interest | 232.49 |
| Meeting Suppers | 16.00 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 70.00 |
| Newsletter Advertising | 200.00 |
| Photographs | 180.00 |
| Photocopying | 48.00 |
| Postage | 80.45 |
| Rent Refund | 2,898.80 |
| Total Sundry Income | 3,725.74 |

Subscriptions

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Subs 2021/2022 | 11,562.50 |
| Subs 2021-2022 Refund | (225.00) |
| Total Subscriptions | 11,337.50 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Total Trading Income | 56,073.03 |
|-----------------------------|------------------|

2022

Cost of Sales

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Purchase of Books | 30.00 |
| Total Cost of Sales | 30.00 |

Gross Profit**56,043.03****Other Income**

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Symposium 2021 | 211.00 |
| Total Other Income | 211.00 |

Operating Expenses**Events Expenses**

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Annual Dinner | 3,250.00 |
| Canberra Day Oration Expense | 17.80 |
| Total Events Expenses | 3,267.80 |

Grant Expenditure

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Grant HG 21/10 digitizing Cassettes | 1,460.00 |
| Wardle Conservation Grant Expense | 1,210.35 |
| Website Grant | 5,000.00 |
| Total Grant Expenditure | 7,670.35 |

Journals

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Journal - Postage | 427.17 |
| Journal - Printing | 2,080.00 |
| Journal - Expenses | 6,857.00 |
| Total Journals | 9,364.17 |

Newsletter

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Newsletter - Postage | 244.20 |
| Newsletter - Printing | 561.85 |
| Newsletter Expenses | 40.78 |
| Total Newsletter | 846.83 |

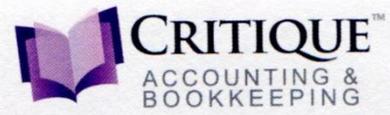
Premises Expenses

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Electricity | 1,381.90 |
| Rent | 8,696.40 |
| Water | 24.80 |
| Total Premises Expenses | 10,103.10 |

Office Expenses

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Computer Software | 849.40 |
| Insurance | 893.08 |
| Meeting Room Expenses | 592.00 |
| Office Supplies | 135.83 |
| Office Cleaning | 880.00 |
| Office Maintenance | 948.64 |
| Post Box Rental | 216.00 |
| Postage - Office | 188.50 |

Profit and Loss



| | 2022 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Telephone & Internet | 168.98 |
| Total Office Expenses | 4,872.43 |
| Sundry Expenses | |
| Artefact restoration | 712.53 |
| Bank Fees - Merchant Fees | 378.91 |
| Collections Policy Report | 750.00 |
| Fees & Subscriptions | 220.00 |
| Honorarium | 500.00 |
| Refund Photographs | 30.00 |
| Total Sundry Expenses | 2,591.44 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 38,716.12 |
| Net Profit | 17,537.91 |

Balance Sheet

Canberra & District Historical Society As at 30 June 2022

30 JUN 2022

Assets

Bank

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Bendigo - Fixed Term xx8380 | 19,748.77 |
| Bendigo - Savings xx8265 | 34,239.72 |
| Bendigo - Statement xx8141 | 34,116.68 |
| Total Bank | 88,105.17 |

Current Assets

Inventory

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Inventory - Books | 3,350.00 |
| Inventory - Journals | 5,331.00 |
| Total Inventory | 8,681.00 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Current Assets | 8,681.00 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Total Assets | 96,786.17 |
|---------------------|------------------|

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Rounding | (0.04) |
|----------|--------|

Member Subscriptions

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Member Subs in Adv - 2023-2024 | 482.50 |
| Member Subs in Adv - 2022-2023 | 6,643.59 |
| Total Member Subscriptions | 7,126.09 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Current Liabilities | 7,126.05 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Liabilities | 7,126.05 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Net Assets | 89,660.12 |
|-------------------|------------------|

Equity

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| David Myers Memorial Funds | 563.39 |
| Nan Phillips Memorial Fund | 2,134.61 |
| Pat Wardle Bequest | 3,973.28 |
| Retained Earnings | 65,450.93 |
| Current Year Earnings | 17,537.91 |
| Total Equity | 89,660.12 |

3. Membership statistics

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