



# CANBERRA 100

*Celebration of a Century*

Canberra 100 News

December 2008

## Letter from our Patron

This year we celebrate the Centenary of the selection of the Yass-Canberra area as the site of Australia's future capital city. That selection was the culmination of a long period of debate and controversy, stretching back well into the years before Federation, as towns and regions across Australia had vied for the honour.

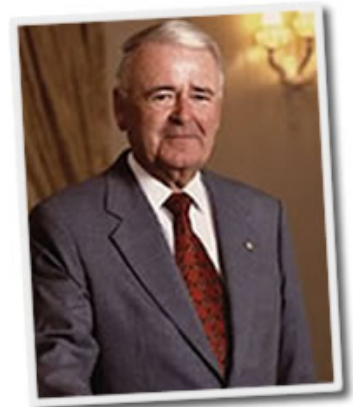
The "Royal Assent" to the Act of the relatively new Commonwealth Parliament giving legislative effect to the selection of our region (the *Seat of Government Act*) was given by the then Governor-General of the Commonwealth (Lord Dudley) on 14 December 1908. That is to say, a hundred years ago this month. That legislative enactment was the first essential step in the process which resulted in the Foundation of Canberra which we will celebrate in 2013.

The Foundation of a National Capital, following the establishment of our National Legislature, Executive and Judiciary, represented in a very real sense, the culmination of the establishment of our Nation. For that reason, the Centenary of that Foundation is of immense importance to the nation as a whole. It is also of particular significance to the some 344,000 of us who live here and for whom this city is not only our National Capital but also our home.

As you read through this newsletter, you will learn about a number of projects which have been planned to mark the significance of the "Royal Assent" given to the *Seat of Government Act* a hundred years ago. I hope you enjoy reading about them and the other updates from the Centenary of Canberra team. I also hope that you will support the members of the team in their planning for the Celebration of the Centenary of our National Capital in 2013.

I wish you a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Sir William Deane  
Centenary of Canberra Patron



Centenary of Canberra Patron, Sir  
William Deane AC KBE



## Commonwealth and ACT Governments commit to Centenary of Canberra

On Friday 12 December 2008 the Minister for Home Affairs Bob Debus and ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope signed an intergovernmental agreement confirming the Commonwealth and ACT Government's commitment to work in a genuine partnership to plan the 2013 Centenary of Canberra celebrations.



Minister Debus and the  
ACT Chief Minister sign  
Centenary of Canberra  
Intergovernmental  
Agreement

The date for the signing was deliberately selected to occur as closely as possible with the 100th anniversary of the Royal Assent (Sunday 14 December) which approved Yass-Canberra as the site for the new Federal Capital of Australia.

Speaking at the signing, Minister Debus said "This agreement enables both Governments to work collaboratively to develop a program of celebration that encourages all Australians to participate

## Centenary Reaches into Schools

In November teachers from the ACT Department of Education and Training and the Centenary of Canberra's advisor worked together to create a number of curriculum units to be taught in Canberra schools in 2009.

Developed for primary and secondary schools, the curriculum units aim to provide students with a better understanding of how, when and why Canberra came to be the National Capital of Australia as well as the significance, the challenges, and the visions of being a planned city.

By the end of the unit it is hoped that students will be able to identify significant events and people in the pre-Capital era (1901-1908), distinguish federal and self-government roles, and compare the original intentions for the creation of Canberra to today's plan for the future.

The units will be trialled locally in 2009 and are anticipated for national release in the years to come.

and engage in their capital's 100th birthday."

Mr Stanhope replied saying "Today's signing is a fitting tribute to the 100th anniversary of the Royal Assent and paves the way for the ACT and Commonwealth Governments to work in partnership to plan a national year of celebration and commemoration in 2013. I am delighted the Centenary of Canberra celebrations will have genuine scope to engage with all Australians."

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## Centenary Wine Bottling

The Centenary of Canberra Riesling was bottled at Brindabella Hills Winery in mid November and marked an exciting stage in the wine making process. Now bottled, this special edition Riesling can be formally entered into national and international wine challenges!



Left to right: Brian Sinclair Assistant Wine Maker; Roger Harris Owner Brindabella Hills Winery, Kylie Prescott Centenary of Canberra

The special edition wine, which is a collaborative project between wineries across the region, and has already won a bronze medal as an experimental wine at this year's Canberra International Riesling Challenge – surely a sign of a hallmark wine in the making.

Plans are also under way for a Centenary of Canberra Shiraz, another speciality of Canberra's cool climate region, to be blended in 2009.

Both blends will be labelled with a watermarked image from 12 March 1913 of Lady Denman proudly naming the National Capital and an image of Marion Mahony Griffins' competition winning *City and Environs* renderings.

The wines will be held for release until Canberra's Centenary year in 2013, when limited amounts will be available for public sale.

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## Congratulations Lesley

The Centenary of Canberra team would like to congratulate Ms Leslie Francis, Business Development Manager at the Canberra Convention Bureau (CCB) who recently won a scholarship from the Association of Australian Convention Bureaux Inc (AACB).



Left to right: Anthea Somerville of Qantas, Scholarship Winner Leslie Francis of Canberra's Convention Bureau, and Sandra Chipchase, AACB's President

The scholarship will provide Lesley with the opportunity to travel overseas to identify strategies used to attract business events to cities, through effectively leveraging off significant milestone events.

The Centenary of Canberra team wishes Lesley all the best for her time overseas and looks forward to working with the CCB team to attract complementary business events to the Canberra region and adding to the significance of our centenary celebrations in 2013.

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## The Bush Capital

This week the second edition of Roger Pegrum's popular Canberra history *The Bush Capital* was launched by ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope. The book launch closely coincides with the 100th anniversary of Yass-Canberra's selection as the site for the national capital by members of the 1908 Australian Parliament.



Author Roger Pegrum and his 95 year old mother Eileen Pegrum at the launch of the second edition of *The Bush Capital*

*The Bush Capital* is a well respected, accessible and popular history of Canberra and this re-publication in the lead up to the centenary is a fitting and timely legacy project.

The 2008 re-publication will include an updated epilogue and front cover, and a broad range of historical and modern photographs to bring the story of the national capital to a contemporary audience.

Copies of the book will be given to all ACT secondary schools, colleges and public libraries. The new edition will also be available in local bookstores in time for Christmas.

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## Dates for the diary

- Inaugural Marion Mahony Griffin Lecture by Associate Professor Anna Rubbo 6pm, 12 February 2009, National Library of Australia, Theatre
- Canberra Festival, 7 - 15 March 2009
- Heritage Festival, 4-19 April 2009