



CANBERRA 100

Celebration of a Century



Canberra 100 News

March 2009

The Centenary of Scrivener's Canberra Maps

This year we celebrate Canberra's 96th Birthday and four years to go until the Centenary of Canberra. In 2009 we also commemorate 100 years since Charles Scrivener first produced his famous maps of the newly selected site for the Australian capital.

New South Wales-based surveyor, Charles Scrivener, had built an enviable reputation for professional work following his undertakings for the Commonwealth in 1904. In 1909 he was asked to get involved in establishing the national capital and to identify an appropriate territorial water catchment. The Monaro was known to be a relatively dry area, so this was no easy task.

Scrivener's hard-working team needed to produce the best location for the city, and there was pressure involved here, too, because the 'Consideration' included in his 'Instructions' by Home Affairs Minister Hugh Mahon was to find the precise spot for a beautiful and picturesque city, and a design 'worthy of the object not only for the present but for all time'.

Scrivener's *Second Report*, provided to the Commonwealth in late May 1909, contained his renowned Contour Map, destined to be a key element of the 1911-12 international competition brief.

Scrivener maintained a formidable presence in the surveys of the Federal Capital Territory in the years leading up to 1914, when Walter Burley Griffin took up his position as the Federal Capital Director of Design and Construction. Professional disagreements with Griffin led to Scrivener's premature retirement from public life.

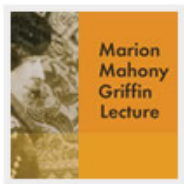


Caption: Charles Scrivener (far right) with visitors at the federal capital site survey camp, 1910.



Mad about Marion

The inaugural Marion Mahony Griffin Lecture attracted an impressive audience, with 250 people packing the National Library Theatre on 12 February to listen to Associate Professor Anna Rubbo deliver a fascinating analysis of Marion's life, post 1938 and Walter Burley Griffin's death.



Professor Rubbo has pioneered research into the latter part of Marion's life and she was able to show that Marion indeed had many productive years following her return to America.

Professor Rubbo also gave a case study of the Global Studio project which uses design professionals to improve life for people living in slums around the world. Marion Mahony Griffin was passionate about using design to create a sense of community and therefore improve living standards. The Walter Burley Griffin Society was thrilled with the success of the lecture and is looking forward to next year. The annual series of lectures will build towards the centenary in 2013.

C100 meets Q150

During January 2009 the Centenary of Canberra dropped in on the organisers of Queensland's 150th (Q150) which this year celebrates 150 years of Queensland's independence as a colony from New South Wales. This provided a wonderful opportunity to share information on the best practices and challenges involved in planning a large scale community celebration.



Q150's flagship projects include 'The Shed' and the 'The Q150 Steam Train' which are both travelling the state. Brisbane is also celebrating its 150th this year. Check the Q150 website for details www.q150.qld.gov.au

Sights and Sounds of the Centenary

Brightly coloured street banners and two new commercials, promoting the Centenary of Canberra are adding to the atmosphere of this year's Canberra Festival, as we celebrate our city's 96th birthday and build up to the Centenary.

The new commercials were produced by two students, Mr Adam Tener and Ms Ebran Edwards from the Canberra Institute of Technology, who worked tirelessly throughout the end of 2008 to complete this collaborative project with brilliant results. The commercials provide a fascinating glimpse into two of the historic stories at the heart of our upcoming celebrations and raise awareness of when and how Canberra came to be the nation's capital. So, keep an eye out for the commercials on all three local networks and Channel Vision.

The street banners create a colourful link between Canberra's birthday and the Canberra Festival and the colours were selected to match the Territory's colours - blue and yellow.

Dates for the diary

Celebrate in the Park

From 2pm, Monday 9 March 2009, Commonwealth Park - Celebrate in the Park is the flagship event within the Canberra Festival, and this year we celebrate Canberra's 96th Birthday and four years to go until the Centenary! A terrific line up of free entertainment is set to rock Stage 88 from 2pm with the Hoodoo Guru's, Kate Miller-Heidke and Jessica Mauboy all performing.



For the kids, Dora the Explorer will be entertaining children in the little big top! Visit www.events.act.gov.au for more information.

Free entry.

Centenary Trivia – Who Am I?

1. In 1909 (100 years ago this year), I was employed as a surveyor was to create maps of Canberra that could be used by designers such as Walter Burley Griffin. What is my name? (hint: there is a nearby dam named after me).
2. Walter Burley Griffin won the 1911-1912 international design competition for Australia's new capital. As his wife I played a significant role in the creation of the winning nomination. What is my name?
3. In 1913, I was the Minister for Home Affairs and one of three people who ceremoniously laid Canberra's Foundation Stones. What was my name? (Hint: a suburb and a popular Canberra pub is named after me).

Canberra Day Oration

5.30pm Thursday 12 March 2009, National Library Theatre - the annual Canberra Day Oration organised by the Canberra and District Historical Society and delivered by Clerk of the Senate Mr Harry Evans. For more information please visit www.canberarahistory.com.au.

Free entry.

An Act of Surrender

27 February – 14 June 2009, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Gallery 5 - 2009 is the centenary of the Federal Capital Territory survey. This year also marks twenty years of self-government in the Territory. The exhibition examines milestones in governance from the last one hundred years. For more information please visit www.museumsandgalleries.act.gov.au.

Free entry.

Trivia Answers

1. *Charles Scrivener*
2. *Marion Mahony Griffin*
3. *King O'Malley*