

## **CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AT LANYON**



**A REPORT FOR THE CULTURAL FACILITIES CORPORATION, ACT**

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## INTRODUCTION

On 21 February 2012 the ACT Minister for the Arts, Joy Burch MLA, announced that 'Ideas are being sought for new community activities to be held at the Lanyon Heritage Precinct'. She continued

'Lanyon is popular place to visit for locals and visitors to Canberra who are looking to experience our region's heritage. The Lanyon Christmas Carols, Australia Day Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt are annual events. The grounds and gardens are also well used for family and social events such as picnics and celebrations including marriages, birthday and anniversary gatherings. Following the ACT Heritage Council's endorsement of a Conservation Management Plan for the site in 2011 I am keen to move ahead to see what options exist for the Government to support more community use of this precious heritage precinct and the wonders it has on offer.' (For more on Lanyon see Attachment 1)

## THE LANYON CONSULTATION AND FEASIBILITY PROJECT

The project associated with the Minister's announcement is being managed by the Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC). It comprises two parts:

1. Stakeholder consultation to gather ideas and views about community activities at Lanyon
2. A feasibility study of ideas raised by the community with recommendations to government.

Duncan Marshall, a heritage architect and consultant, was engaged as project manager with responsibility for the feasibility study and Lyn Stephens of 3L Consulting, who wrote this report, was engaged to undertake the community consultation.

## THE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

The stakeholder consultation aimed simply to gather views and ideas from stakeholders about activities and events that would maintain and strengthen community connections to Lanyon. It was conducted over February to early April 2012 and comprised:

- an information paper published on the Lanyon website
- an information session at the Tuggeranong Community Council on 6 March attended by approximately 50 people
- interviews with 16 stakeholders
- an opportunity for all members of the public to comment or make submissions
  - two formal submissions were received and the artist in residence report was included as a reference
- a public workshop on 10 March 2012 attended by 11 people
- contact with the four Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAO) inviting their comment at any stage
- preparation of a report on the matters raised in the consultation.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

This paper describes the stakeholder consultation phase of the project only and is based on the opinions of those who participated. Occasionally, additional information has been added subsequently in consultation with CFC, and this is noted as such.

Where individual quotations are used in the report they are unattributed to protect privacy. Where an individual has spoken with reference to an organisation, that organisation is named. Some of the ideas documented in this report will be considered in more detail in the next phase – the feasibility study. That study will take account of a range of factors including:

- The principles and policies of the Lanyon Conservation Management Plan
- The anticipated level of community demand
- The level of support already provided for similar activity elsewhere in the ACT
- The requirement for additional resources.

The feasibility study is planned to be released in July 2012.

Conversations about ideas for community activities at Lanyon inevitably led to consideration of matters related to policy, planning and management of Lanyon. As they are very much linked to the topic of the consultation, these comments have also been documented and could be considered further by CFC management and staff.

## OVERVIEW

The consultation generally attracted people who had an existing interest in Lanyon and they provided many constructive ideas for particular activities which would conserve and strengthen the heritage value of the precinct. The tone of the consultation was generally positive, supportive and enthusiastic, but there is a perception that community interest in Lanyon has declined since the peak period when Lanyon was one of a smaller number of attractions in Canberra and represented a “day out in the country” for visitors. At this time the Nolan paintings were located there and the arts precinct of Tharwa was also thriving, including at Cuppacumbalong.<sup>1</sup>

At the same time the contribution of current staff and volunteers and the high quality of the events and programs run at Lanyon now were acknowledged and many people indicated they would simply like to see more of this at Lanyon. The clearest messages were about conserving the heritage value of Lanyon and ensuring that activities at Lanyon were coherent with those values; deepening and strengthening the connection between Lanyon and the arts; connecting Lanyon more closely to other attractions in the South of the ACT; and embedding Lanyon into the cultural life of the Canberra region. People were also fully aware that ideas suggested require resources of both time and money and that doing everything is not possible.

In this context, they talked about strategic directions and principles to guide the future of Lanyon and these conversations may prove as valuable as the ideas about activities or events. Consequently, some of the suggestions do not focus so much on particular activities, they are more about policy and planning and about building relationships and connections. While such suggestions do not necessarily involve huge financial resources they do involve staff time and energy. They are a long term investment and the nature of the yield is not always clear in the short term. If the relationships and connections are nurtured to become strong and generative, other products, services and programs may emerge from them over time. The consultation revealed that there appear to be some local organisations which are ready to explore working in partnership with Lanyon right now.

Indigenous heritage at Lanyon was mentioned in the consultations but not extensively explored. The RAOs were made aware of the project and will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the proposed activities that have been suggested through the consultation.

Finally, there was interest in the future of the former Nolan Gallery building, and recognition that deciding the best and most practicable use of this building is important to determining the future direction of Lanyon. This task will involve both specialist advice and a careful cost benefit analysis of the appropriate level of financial investment.

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<sup>1</sup> It is not clear if a decline in visitation numbers is backed by data, but it is a strongly held perception among those consulted.

Ideas suggested during the consultation have been loosely categorised into seven areas, noting that there is some overlap between them:

1. Preserving and strengthening heritage value
2. Strengthening community connections with Lanyon
3. Developing a southern focus
4. Increasing the prominence of Lanyon in Canberra's cultural life
5. Exploring potential partnerships
6. Making the best use of the former Nolan Gallery building
7. Promoting Lanyon.

At the end of the report some interim conclusions are drawn, there are some suggestions for the focus of the feasibility study and some possible next steps for CFC. Suggestions for the feasibility study and possible next steps for CFC are summarised here with more detail provided in Section 9.

#### FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Investigate the feasibility and options for:

1. conducting an Artist in Residence program at Lanyon
2. the future use of the former Nolan Gallery building
3. use of the shearing shed precinct for young people's activities, such as camping
4. suitable potential sites for a community garden at Lanyon
5. managing heritage related risks associated with large scale events at Lanyon
6. improving physical access, including access via the gravel paths.

Investigate also, as appropriate, other matters identified in the consultation and process of conducting the feasibility study, including any suggestions made by the RAOs.

A number of suggestions related to policy, promotion and management were drawn from the consultation. Although strictly speaking these are not ideas for activities and events, they are integral to the community's response to the consultation brief. It is very difficult to consider activities and events intelligently without taking into account the broader picture. These suggestions were provided here not as a critique but as a sign of the community's interest in Lanyon and its desire to be supportive and helpful. They are summarised here and more detail is provided in Section 9.

As they are beyond the main scope of this project it is not intended that these suggestions be pursued further in the second stage of this project, but they are recorded here as they may be useful for the CFC to consider in future.

#### FOR THE CFC

1. Develop ways of encouraging ongoing community involvement in Lanyon so that people can continue to contribute ideas to its development.
2. Investigate the feasibility of establishing a heritage community development/liason position.
3. Consider developing a specific business plan for Lanyon, separate to its existing incorporation in broader CFC planning documents. Review revenue options for Lanyon to explore opportunities to increase income and supplement existing sources of funding, including reviewing the fees policy.
4. Re-look at the promotional strategy to increase the prominence of Lanyon in Canberra's cultural life including a focus on the heritage features of the Tuggeranong Valley, with Lanyon at the centre of a revitalised Tourist Drive 5.

# 1. PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING HERITAGE VALUE

This section covers

1. Preserving the 'living heritage' at Lanyon
2. Balancing protection of the heritage and natural environment with community activity
3. Strengthening the link between Lanyon and the arts
4. Linking heritage with contemporary trends and interests.

## 1.1 PRESERVING THE LIVING HERITAGE AT LANYON

In the eyes of those consulted the heritage of Lanyon is more than its physical attributes, precious as there are. There is also a living heritage associated with the place. Living heritage can comprise a collection of practices, traditions, expressions, skills and knowledge that are passed from generation to generation. It is a way of informing a community about who they are and how their past has formed them. It is the link between this non-physical heritage and the physical heritage that gives Lanyon its unique value.

People who contributed to this consultation may not all have used the term 'living heritage' but to a person they expressed an understanding of its importance. They appreciated the programmed activities with a heritage flavor that have taken place there, such as the Australia Day Picnic, the Christmas Carols and the Easter Egg Hunt. Music under the Elms was also mentioned fondly.

Participants generally supported the idea that any activities that were undertaken at Lanyon should strengthen or at least be compatible with its living heritage, noting that the heritage span of white settlement associated with the homestead is more than a hundred years and the Indigenous heritage spans thousands of years. This gives considerable scope to the activities which could be considered 'heritage'. In this vein several people suggested that vintage and classic car events were highly appropriate for Lanyon. Another suggested that outdoor films 'Flicks on the Farm' – perhaps in the area known as the 'Picking Garden' which slopes down to the river (See map page 7)) could be popular if well promoted and would be unique to Lanyon. Several suggested heritage cooking classes and elegant afternoon teas.

There was also some interest in reviving evening activities at Lanyon such as Lanyon by Starlight and Lanyon by Candlelight, as had occurred in the past. Another evening activity suggested was a lantern festival in the grounds of Lanyon. However, it was recognised that contemporary insurance costs may affect the current viability of such activities.

### RURAL HERITAGE

As the culture of Australia becomes more urbanised the rural history of places like Lanyon is seen by some people to become rare and even more precious.

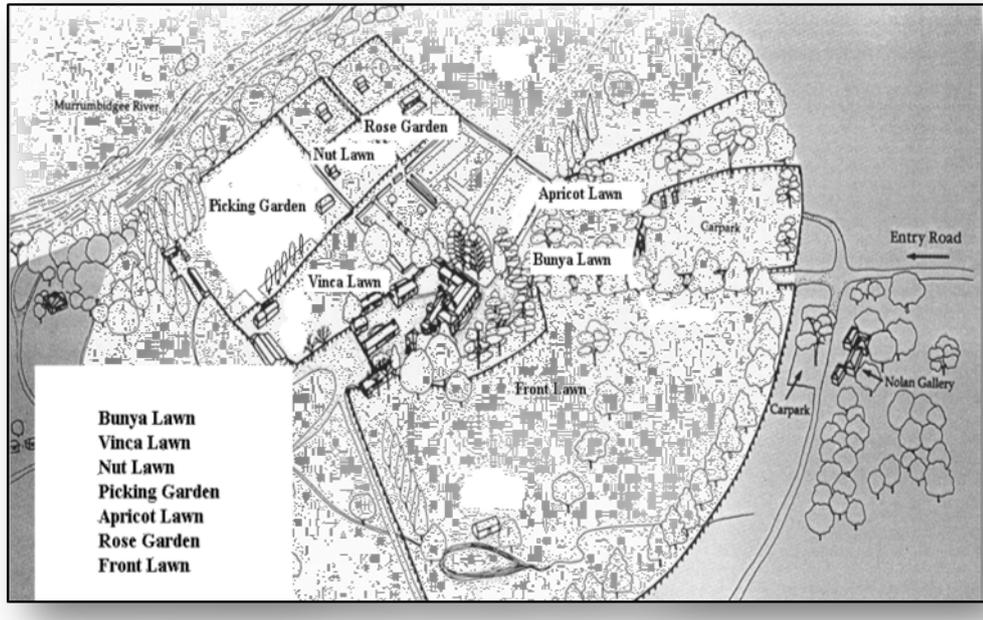
'Historic Rural Homesteads and their associated outbuildings need to be maintained in context as possible. The surrounding paddocks and bush lands are essential for this... We can't all live in such beautiful settings as the Lanyon Basin so let's preserve it and keep it as rural as possible so that everyone has the opportunity to experience some of what the Bush Capital was like - now and in 150 years' time... It would be great to see the blacksmith's shop running and have horses back in the stables and cows being milked in the dairy.'<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Quote from a submission received during the consultation.

## INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

In a further comment on living heritage some people consulted noted that the Indigenous heritage of the Lanyon area was acknowledged but not strongly featured at present.



Map of Lanyon, showing the Picking Garden which has been suggested as a potential site for outdoor films and possibly for a community garden at some stage in the future (See 1.4)

## 1.2 BALANCING PROTECTION OF THE HERITAGE AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WITH COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

In their submission the National Trust recommended a framework for community activities at Lanyon saying such activities should

- ‘Reinforce the significance of Lanyon to the community
- Promote and expose our heritage to as wide an audience as possible
- Make the place more viable by increased patronage provided heritage values are not compromised.
  - This includes charging a fee to access the grounds...
- Making it available for public functions as part of its viability.
  - The range could be extensive and it should be on a fee basis and permitted if significance is not compromised.
- Holding public events such as Lanyon fair that the National Trust has strongly supported.’

The content that emerged from the consultations broadly supported this approach. However, the issue of fees to access the grounds was not raised by anyone else. This would be a policy consideration for government.

## THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Consistent with the social value study conducted as part of the Conservation Management Plan published in 2009, there was consistent recognition in the consultation on the special quality of peace and tranquility which flows from the natural environment of Lanyon.<sup>3</sup>

Those who feel connected to Lanyon have a strong sense of stewardship. There is a perception that while the emphasis on protecting the human contribution to Lanyon heritage is appropriate, more could be done to protect and enhance the natural environment. There appear to be groups with a potential interest in working with Lanyon management on conservation of the natural environment, and this is discussed in more detail in Section 5. Volunteers already work on the cultivated gardens.

## THE QUALITY OF THE EXPERIENCE

People consulted valued Lanyon as providing 'space to think' as 'a place of tranquility away from the city' and '... a place of great beauty ...[which] somehow seems a refuge to its many visitors.' Thinking about community activities 'is not just about a way to use the space, but how can we use this space to promote the heritage and natural essence of Lanyon?' They want the management of community activity at Lanyon to strike a balance between attracting people and preserving the fragile heritage. Some people said that the purpose of community activity at Lanyon was not necessarily to increase visitation rates, but rather to bring life and depth to the place, - 'It's not about the numbers per se but about providing a rich and unique experience which people want to enjoy' – but others saw increased visitation as an indicator of the quality of the experience and as a potential source of increased funding.

## PRESERVING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Many people consulted talked about preserving the natural and built environment of Lanyon for future generations. They said whatever is done at Lanyon now needs to be considered for longer term impact. Some people talked about decisions taken in the past which may not have demonstrated this so clearly. For some, this included the comparatively contemporary former Nolan Gallery building, while others saw that building as an integral part of Lanyon's more recent heritage. Other additions such as the location of security lighting and the setting up of a permanent marquee were also mentioned. This was not necessarily arguing against these initiatives where practicality may have outweighed heritage consistency. The issue is that people want this balance to be a consideration in whatever happens next at Lanyon.

While management strategy and policy were not the subject of the consultation, several people said it was difficult to contribute ideas for community activities without knowing what the vision for Lanyon was. Others talked about the need for a 'guiding framework' or a 'business plan'. The CFC has advised that its long-term Strategic Plan and annual Corporate Plans include visions and strategies for Lanyon as part of ACT Museums and Galleries, although there is not a separate business plan for Lanyon and this could be considered in future.

## SECURITY

While there has been significant investment in security measures in recent years, a number of people consulted expressed sadness and disappointment that there had been security issues at all at a place like Lanyon and the fervent hope that these issues were now in the past. It appeared that vandalism not only damaged heritage features at Lanyon but also affected the morale of people who love the place. At the other end of the spectrum the community spirit evident at events such as the recent Open Gardens

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<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that the natural environment at Lanyon has in fact been highly modified. Strictly speaking all reference to the natural environment should refer to the 'remnant' natural environment, but that does not reflect the spirit of what people said where the term 'natural environment' was used colloquially and included the cultivated gardens.

Australia weekend is a positive demonstration that Lanyon can be enjoyed and treasured by many people who do understand and appreciate its exceptional qualities.

### 1.3 STRENGTHENING THE LINK BETWEEN LANYON AND THE ARTS

The spiritual impact of Lanyon combines a gently beautiful (if modified) natural environment with the poignant elegance of human constructions. Combined with a palpable sense of history - of the Indigenous people who lived there for millennia and of more recent settlers - it is fertile ground for artistic creativity.

Sir Sidney Nolan felt it and made the link tangible by gifting a collection of his paintings to the nation with this location in mind. Now that those artistic creations can no longer be held at Lanyon, continuing to support artistic creativity there is seen by some as a way of acknowledging and honouring Nolan's intention and recognising a unique quality that makes Lanyon special.

The Nolan gift has become part of the Lanyon story<sup>4</sup>, but quite apart from this it was clear in these consultations that many people feel that Lanyon is a place for artists of all kinds.

#### THE ARTIST IN RESIDENCE TRIAL

During the period of this consultation a trial was undertaken of an artist in residence project at Lanyon. An artist was given studio space in the former Nolan Gallery building at Lanyon over two months. The artist in residence concept was seen to be an idea worth developing further by those who participated in the consultation.

A brief dip into the artist's draft report<sup>5</sup> on the trial illustrates the wide ranging potential of the relationship between Lanyon and the arts. She starts by saying she believes she was chosen to undertake the trial because her work, which 'incorporates botanical and horticultural themes with distinct visual references to the geometry of mazes and labyrinths' was seen as having 'a close correspondence with the clipped geometry of Lanyon Homestead's Victorian-era gardens'. Articulating the link in this way in itself opens a pathway to intriguing connections and demonstrates the potential of artists to enrich the cultural experience of Lanyon.

She says the residency at Lanyon 'propelled me into an exhilarating mental and physical space in which I was open to possibilities.' It was an

'opportunity to experiment with material in which I may not have considered in my studio practice to date... The artist in residence project has enabled me to develop my artistic and conceptual thinking and imbue a body of work with meaning in the context of Lanyon and its significant cultural heritage.'

In her report the artist also commented on the potential of the former Nolan Gallery building as studio space and this is discussed in Section 6. In conversation she also spoke about the need to develop policy around the artist in residence project if it is to continue, for example in relation to selection criteria and process, expected outcomes and duration.

During the consultation, the Bundanon Artist in Residence Program which began in 1997, was mentioned as a potential model for Lanyon. The Bundanon program is residential and the artists pay a small fee to contribute to their accommodation costs. It has been suggested that this could occur at Lanyon at some

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<sup>4</sup> For more on this see Section 6

<sup>5</sup> The artist has kindly allowed extensive quotation from her draft report at the completion of the residency.

time in the future if ever any of the cottages became vacant.<sup>6</sup> More information on the Bundanon program is provided at Attachment 2.

In the consultation it was noted that an artist in residence program may not necessarily bring people to the precinct – unless it is to see the outcomes of the residency, which may or may not be shown at Lanyon itself. While this may be so, it was also suggested that a wide range of art and craft endeavours – some of which would lend themselves to public demonstration - could find a home at Lanyon, ranging from musical composition and literature to quilting, traditional furniture making and stonework.

'I would like to see the development of a strong visiting arts/craftsperson in residence program in place where part of their contractual agreement is to hold an exhibition of their art or demonstrations of their craft for the public during or at the end of an allotted time. I think about three months at a time would work to keep cycling different people through and making spaces available for a wider variety.

Careful consideration of candidates and a broad scope would be needed to ensure that suitable types of Arts/craftspeople from around Australia and the world were able to draw from and submerge themselves in the rural history of Lanyon.

In return for this opportunity craftspeople in particular would be encouraged to assist with maintaining Lanyon's buildings and infrastructure while demonstrating their skills to the public.<sup>7</sup>

Other ideas suggested played to the heritage and practical history of Lanyon and would bring people through the gates, such as bringing in a master stone mason to work on restoring the burnt out barn and incorporating this work with volunteer support to rebuild it,<sup>8</sup> or bringing in a working blacksmith to shoe horses at Lanyon as a means of restoring interest in this fast dying art, or teaching preserving and bottling as heritage cooking skills.

There are many practicalities to consider around the artist in residence program - and these will be the subject of the feasibility component of this project and further policy development. However, the concept of linking Lanyon and a full range of artistic endeavours, however defined, was strongly supported as a way of enlivening the Lanyon experience.

#### 1.4 LINKING HERITAGE WITH CONTEMPORARY TRENDS AND INTERESTS

During the consultation the notion was raised that heritage programs are not static. Programs do change and should change. Some events have an energy cycle and may ebb and flow over a few years. Sometimes this energy is dependent on the interests of particular staff at the time, and sometimes it relates to trends in community interest. For example, the comment was made that the zenith for heritage properties was around the time of the Bicentennial because people became more interested in history then. Now there is great interest in food and gardening and markets so perhaps heritage events could respond to this by focusing in these areas.

Such an approach does not necessarily require new expenditure it may merely require a change of emphasis. For example the restaurant might make more of a feature of 'traditional' Australian country food - or introduce themed food events around different eras of white settlement, or around Indigenous food with support of local Indigenous groups. This would mean that attending the restaurant would

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<sup>6</sup> During the consultation it was mentioned that there are cottages located close to each other on the property which could provide living space for an artist with exhibition space nearby.

<sup>7</sup> Quote from a submission received during the consultation.

<sup>8</sup> This idea could be seen as suggestion in principle given that CFC has advised that the stonework is actually intact and that replacement of the roof is about to commence.

become a destination event in itself rather than merely an optional extra to a visit to Lanyon.<sup>9</sup> Similarly any music festivities planned could have a link to at least one of the Lanyon eras, and a heritage component could be built in to many garden activities.

#### OPEN GARDENS AUSTRALIA PLANT FAIR

The Open Gardens Australia Plant Fair held in March 2012 was a highly successful example of an event combining gardening, food and markets, and the general opinion was that the event was enhanced considerably by setting it at Lanyon. The plant fair was also apparently an excellent example of balancing the need to ensure that the fragile heritage of the site is protected while using it for the full enjoyment of the community. Some comments from one of the organisers from Open Gardens Australia illustrate Lanyon's suitability for community events of this type both because of the facilities available, the quality of the current staff at Lanyon and the addition of that special 'Lanyon' atmosphere that many people emphasised in this consultation:

- The peaked roofs of the plant fair stalls set up in the garden around the circular drive created a fete-like atmosphere that was aesthetically pleasing and compatible with the appearance of the homestead.
- The space worked well and the gardens are large enough to accommodate the 4,145 people plus 100 volunteers who attended over both days.
- The current staff worked with the organisers in a highly professional way to make sure the event went well and that the Lanyon heritage environment was protected.
- The food was beautiful and the chef was able to respond to the requirements of the organisers for delicious food that could be served quickly.
- The tranquil atmosphere of Lanyon, which others have commented on, generated a gentle and peaceful feel to the event which enhanced everyone's enjoyment.

Such success does not just happen, considerable effort is required to stage an event of this quality both from staff and from volunteers. Open Gardens Australia made special mention of the contribution and support of Lanyon staff. They particularly appreciated the professional way in which staff communicated clear expectations about the obligations of event organisers in a heritage environment. At the same time staff were seen as friendly, approachable and responsive to the requirements of the organisers. Open Gardens Australia said that Lanyon has many features that make it an attractive location for one of their events. The good working relationship developed with current staff is one of them.<sup>10</sup>

At the time of the consultation a full debrief of the occasion with both parties had not occurred. In any debrief it would be important to ensure that any heritage risks associated with events of this scale are identified and strategies developed to manage them. Based on the good experience in 2012, Open Gardens Australia have indicated that they would like to hold their 2013 Plant Fair at Lanyon.

Open Gardens Australia shared the perception that Lanyon could achieve more prominence as a heritage attraction through wider promotion, which is discussed more in Section 7.

#### A COMMUNITY GARDEN AT LANYON

The consultation suggested that a community garden with a heritage focus could be established at Lanyon – possibly in the Picking Garden area. This would be a way of building on the garden heritage of Lanyon and involving the community in working on a Lanyon project.

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<sup>9</sup> These ideas were mentioned by a number of stakeholders including the current restaurant lessee.

<sup>10</sup> While it is outside the scope of this brief, Open Gardens Australia also commented that the educational program provided for children at the plant fair was 'brilliant'.

The local organisation with expertise in this area is Canberra Organic Gardens (COGS). According to its website COGS supports 12 community gardens in the ACT region, at Charnwood, Cook, Cotter, Dickson, Erindale, Holder, Kaleen, Kambah, Mitchell, Oaks Estate, O'Connor, and Queanbeyan. Each garden has its own character and all use organic methods. In particular, no manufactured fertilisers, pesticides or herbicides are used.

Informal contact with COGS indicated that setting up a community garden is a major undertaking that requires an established group with the energy, resources and leadership capacity to initiate and manage the project. The suggestion for establishing a community garden at Lanyon came as a general suggestion rather than from an established group. However, while the time may not be right now, if such a group were to emerge with the commitment and resources to develop a community garden at Lanyon, the sentiment expressed during the consultation would support such an initiative.

#### A CITY FARM AT LANYON

There is a movement, supported by a number of environmental activist groups in the ACT, to establish a City Farm in Canberra. Ideally such a venture would include a community hub and sustainable farm based on best practice eco-design. It could include community gardens, an organic cafe, chickens and ducks, an education centre, nursery and renewable energy display. It would aim to be a vibrant centre of learning and community participation for children and adults.

It was suggested by several people that Lanyon would be a great place for a City Farm. Informal contact with the local group looking at this issue indicated that they are developing criteria for an ideal site and accessibility is likely to be one of the key criteria. This would mean that Lanyon would not necessarily be seen as a preferred site in the first instance. However, if such a farm became well established in a central location, at some time in the future a network of smaller farming activity projects might be set up and locations like Lanyon would then be more likely to be considered.

It would be useful for Lanyon to stay in touch with development in both of these community movements and to remain open to possibilities in the future.

## 2. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS WITH LANYON

People who participated in this consultation believe that there are things that could be done to strengthen links between Lanyon and the local district and its people, and that this would contribute to increased visitation. It would also keep open the communication links with the community which may generate new possibilities for involvement and program development. This section covers

1. Building a local audience of all ages
2. Improving access
3. Taking a role in the local community
4. Hosting a 'Friends of Lanyon' group.

### 2.1 BUILDING AN AUDIENCE OF ALL AGES

The view of those who contributed to this report is that the natural target audience for the Lanyon Heritage Precinct is local residents and their interstate guests who stay in the Canberra region for more than two days.<sup>11</sup> Given the competition with other national attractions in close proximity to the city it was felt that Lanyon is unlikely to be a first port of call for tourists on a one or two day trip to the capital.

While local residents will bring visitors to Lanyon, they themselves will only make return visits for events and activities. Some quotes from the consultation reflect this -

'The homestead is lovely but it is static, it is the events that add the dynamic. That is what will bring people back to Lanyon for repeat visits'.

'We should look to use the existing programs like the open gardens scheme and live music in the gardens to build on and develop a truly vibrant and culturally interesting year round program for the area. This program could be boosted by the inclusion of special events... like the recent lunch held on the Tharwa bridge to celebrate 150 years of Tharwa, vintage car shows, market days or short film and music festivals like Flix in the Sticks. This event has seen two successful years on the eucalypt lawn at the National Botanic gardens and the grassed area sloping down towards the river at the back of Lanyon Homestead would be the perfect setting for such an event.'<sup>12</sup> (See Map of Lanyon page 7, the Picking Garden.)

#### YOUNG PEOPLE

In the today's fast paced world there can seem to be a disconnect between heritage values and the modern interests of young people, but this is not necessarily so. It may merely mean that the means of connection need to be different. For example, while it appears that school children participate actively in and enjoy the programs designed for them at Lanyon, it was suggested that high school and older young people could be encouraged to interact more with Lanyon through new media approaches or even a photography or film competition centered on Lanyon.

'The way for many of these ideas to work properly is ... with the use of today's multi-media technology and having good websites for people to find information easily.'<sup>13</sup>

The ideas for working with the Scouts group and/or with Lanyon High School (Section 5) would also contribute to expanding youth activities at Lanyon.

#### PEOPLE IN THE SURROUNDING AREAS

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<sup>11</sup> If a promotional strategy is developed as suggested later in the report, this assumption would need to be tested

<sup>12</sup> Quote from a submission received during the consultation.

<sup>13</sup> Quote from a submission provided to the consultation.

A recent survey of the surrounding suburbs<sup>14</sup> provided to the consultation indicated that people living in this area see themselves as lacking community meeting places for families with young children. The café lessee independently suggested that his marquee and the outdoor areas could be used for play group type activities. While this may or may not eventuate, this type of activity raises the same policy issues for Lanyon that the Men's Shed group does. (Section 6) It can be argued that a play group meeting in the grounds of Lanyon builds a connection with a group which may never come otherwise. However it also raises the question of whether Lanyon should aim to be a general community meeting place or a location which specialises in hosting activities that celebrate the heritage or natural environment. If it is to be both, then there is a need to determine the balance between the two. As previously noted, the National Trust saw making Lanyon available for public functions and events as a contribution to its viability, provided that heritage significance was not compromised and particularly if fees were charged.

## PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

I AM STILL HERE is a multidisciplinary program initiated Marily Cintra of the Health and Arts Research Centre (HARC) and Dr John Seisel of the Hearthstone Foundation and Artists for Alzheimer's™, to support the participation of people with dementia in cultural life. The program has two main components: Artists for Alzheimer's, a volunteer program linking artists (musicians, visual artists, writers, poets, etc) to people with dementia; and Museum and Gallery Tours, a program of guided tours to public museums and galleries in Australia.<sup>15</sup> It was suggested during the consultation that Lanyon would be a suitable site for a program of guided tours, provided the necessary funding for the training and support of specialist guides could be found.

## 2.2 IMPROVING PHYSICAL ACCESS

There is a perception that older people form a large part of the people who currently visit Lanyon – or would if they could.

### THE GRAVEL PATHS

The issue of access via the gravel paths, which do not allow for easy movement of wheelchairs or walkers was raised. The consultation was told that there are 26 Probus clubs in the Canberra district. Membership of these clubs is drawn from retired and semi-retired people. They have monthly meetings with interesting speakers and aim to provide opportunities for friendship and activities such as various types of outings including lunches and bus trips. Apparently these groups are always looking for interesting outings and Lanyon would make an excellent destination for them except that some older members with limited mobility would find access difficult because of the gravel paths and the distance from the car park to the entrance.<sup>16</sup>

Once this matter was raised, other people commented that the gravel paths are not only an issue for older people but for all people in wheelchairs and for some young families whose children are in strollers or prams.

This issue was brought forward with strong awareness of the heritage significance of the gravel paths, and it is interesting to note in passing that the raked patterns of the gravel paths were the specific inspiration for some of the work created by the artist in residence. It was *not* suggested that the gravel paths should

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<sup>14</sup> Bateman, H and Knight N, December 2010, *The Lanyon Community Information Project* for Communities@Work

<sup>15</sup> From <http://www.placemaking.com.au/placemaking/page7/page12/stillhere.html> accessed 1/3/12.

<sup>16</sup> CFC advised that a number of Probus groups already visit Lanyon on a regular basis. However it may be that more of these groups would come if access were better.

be swept away and replaced with something else – rather, that this issue should be investigated and that a solution which is sympathetic to the heritage features of Lanyon should be developed if possible.

#### TRANSPORT

It was also mentioned that Lanyon is difficult to get to without a car, but others felt its remoteness was an essential part of its charm.

### 2.3 TAKING A ROLE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The affection with which Lanyon is held was strikingly evident during the consultation, and it may well be that this affection could be strengthened by linking Lanyon more closely with some significant local organisations.

#### TUGGERANONG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

It appears that it would be to Lanyon's advantage to have some representation at Tuggeranong Community Council meetings. This would be a way of keeping the local community informed about what is happening at Lanyon and of ensuring that Lanyon is aware of what else is going on in Tuggeranong so that mutually beneficial opportunities can be identified and explored.

#### COMMUNITIES@WORK

While Lanyon does already have a link with Communities@Work, another of the major organisations in Tuggeranong, through the Men's Shed group, it may well be that there are other opportunities which could emerge from closer liaison at a planning level with the community development arm of that organisation.

#### TUGGERANONG ARTS CENTRE

Outreach to the Tuggeranong Arts Centre may also represent an opportunity for Lanyon, although this was not raised during the consultation.

#### HIGH SCHOOLS

As the education program was not part of the brief, there was no direct contact with schools during the consultation. However, it was mentioned that Lanyon High School is undertaking a major environment program for which Lanyon could be a suitable site. This is one example, but it illustrates the broader potential for developing relationships with local high schools to create links with young people who may not come through the doors otherwise.

### 2.4 HOSTING A 'FRIENDS OF LANYON' GROUP

It was suggested that Lanyon might benefit from having some 'friends' like the Minders of the Tuggeranong Homestead (MOTH) which is a voluntary group founded almost 20 years ago to preserve, protect and enhance the natural and built environment of historic Tuggeranong Homestead. According to its website, MOTH holds fundraising events and runs public tours and stages events for the public at Tuggeranong.<sup>17</sup> Lanyon already has volunteers who work with staff at Lanyon on some of these matters, so it may be that following the MOTH model exactly for Lanyon is not appropriate. However there was much good will expressed towards Lanyon during this consultation and it may be worth considering what role a 'friends' group could play, and whether it would be desirable to promote the establishment of such a group at Lanyon.

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<sup>17</sup> See <http://communitiesonline.org.au/group.php?id=3039> accessed 22/3/12

### 3. DEVELOPING A SOUTHERN FOCUS

#### 3.1 NAMING AND PROMOTING A TUGGERANONG HERITAGE PRECINCT

There was recurrent comment from some people on the passing of the 'glory days' of Lanyon when it was one of a smaller number of attractions in Canberra and represented a "day out in the country" for visitors. At this time the Nolan paintings were located there and the arts precinct of Tharwa was also thriving, including at Cuppacumbalong.

While clearly the issues associated with the Tharwa Bridge and the closing of Cuppacumbalong have had an impact, it was also pointed out that there is now considerably more competition in the Canberra region for tourist interest – both in the centre of Canberra and in the northern wine districts.

Despite this, people clearly felt that more could be done to promote Lanyon. They also felt that the story of Lanyon fitted better with other sites in the south of the ACT such as Tuggeranong Homestead, Tuggeranong Schoolhouse and Tharwa than with Mugga-Mugga and Calthorpes' House, which are also managed by the CFC and currently promoted with Lanyon. It was suggested that Namadgi could also be publicised alongside Tuggeranong's heritage attractions.

This led to comments about reviving promotion of Tourist Drive 5, the connecting link between the sites in the south. Members of the artists' community of Tharwa are particularly keen to see a renewal of tourist interest in this area because they believe a decline in visitation numbers has affected the size of the audience for their work. At present Lanyon is the biggest draw card in the area and they felt that if Lanyon were promoted as the centre of a range of southern attractions, increased visitation to Lanyon would result and this would have spin off benefits for them. People from Tuggeranong who participated in the consultation were generally very supportive of a coordinated approach to promoting the heritage and other attractions of Tuggeranong.

### 4. INCREASING THE PROMINENCE OF LANYON IN CANBERRA'S CULTURAL LIFE

It was felt that Lanyon's contribution to the early life of the Canberra district was not sufficiently noted and celebrated in the life of the region and a number of suggestions were made about strengthening the relationship between Lanyon and events such as:

- The Centenary of Canberra
- Canberra Day
- Anzac Day
- The Canberra Arboretum and Floriade

#### 4.1 BECOMING PART OF CANBERRA REGION CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

Those consulted felt that all forms of community celebration represented an opportunity for Lanyon to be included, and that Lanyon should proactively plan for this type of involvement when big one-off or annual events were in the offing. The Christmas and Easter events at Lanyon are annual examples of this and some other suggestions are briefly outlined here.

## CANBERRA CENTENARY

The Centenary of Canberra is a time when people will be looking forward and looking back. It is a unique event that could provide an opportunity to include Lanyon in events already planned or to focus some events specifically on Lanyon.

One person saw including Lanyon in the Centennial walking trail as a possibility. Another felt the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary car rally should include Lanyon. Someone else suggested that the first of the social dances planned to represent each decade since the founding – the ‘World War I’ dance - could be held at Lanyon, because of the connection between the Lanyon owners at that time and Australia’s World War I effort.

It was recognised that it may be too late to follow up these suggestions for the Centenary, or they may not be practicable. However, even if this is so, these ideas illustrate the principle of including consideration of the role Lanyon could play when any major community event is planned. As well, these ideas may stimulate others about Lanyon’s inclusion in the Centenary of Canberra celebrations or in other major festivals or events that occur in Canberra from time to time.

The CFC has advised that planning is underway to hold a number of enhanced programs at Lanyon to celebrate the Centenary including: a special oral history education program; programs that explore Lanyon’s connection to Federation; a major plant fair celebrating Lanyon’s historic gardens; and the popular Lanyon Christmas Carols and picnic event.

## CANBERRA DAY

It was also suggested that Lanyon could consider an annual heritage event associated with Canberra Day. In keeping with Lanyon’s rural history it was recommended that this could be a Bush or Country Festival.

## ANZAC DAY

While Anzac Day is not a celebration it is a major event in the Australian calendar. It was suggested that a Dawn Service could be held at Lanyon because of the link to the Great War effort. If the service were held, it could follow on from a ‘World War I’ dance, as suggested above, which could be held in the week prior to April 25<sup>th</sup> without taking away from the solemnity of that occasion. Similarly an Edwardian family picnic could be held around that time so that a program of activities supported a heritage focus on Anzac Day at Lanyon.

## THE ARBORETUM AND FLORIADE

Another person talked about the tourism benefits the Arboretum will bring to the ACT and went on to say that, as the Arboretum will include heritage trees, Lanyon should seek to be associated with the opening of the Arboretum and its ongoing publicity. It was also suggested that if gardens were to become a strong theme at Lanyon then there could be a Lanyon promotion associated with Floriade.

Finally, it was felt that there needed to be some tactical thinking about the opportunities arising for Lanyon from other events and attractions in the ACT region.

## 5. EXPLORING AND DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS

It appears to be a pleasant experience to work with the people at Lanyon -

‘Our Open Gardens Australia volunteers and myself, have thoroughly enjoyed working with the staff at Lanyon and CFC... ’

‘One of the things I enjoyed immensely about the artist in residence experience was becoming part of the Lanyon community. They are great people and made me feel very welcome.’

Key players, such as the National Trust, already have a close working relationship with Lanyon. In the consultation some other established groups expressed interest in developing closer working relationships with Lanyon. Some are outlined here.<sup>18</sup> It should also be noted that, while some organisations are named here, developing a partnership is a matter of negotiating mutual interests. It will be up to the parties involved whether they want to take next steps, and that other opportunities for partnerships beyond those suggested through this consultation may arise in the future.

Also, while this is an opportunity that appears to be resource free, liaising with and nurturing these relationships in a professional way takes time and resources. It was suggested during the consultation that there may be a need for a community development/liaison type position which could work across all of the Cultural Facilities Corporation’s heritage properties to develop relationships with community groups interested in using the facilities.

### THE SCOUTS

Members of the Scouting movement in Tuggeranong are keen to explore the potential of a relationship with Lanyon. They have a particular interest in using the shearing shed location for camping activities<sup>19</sup> and would be interested in out of work hours access to Lanyon on weekends and/or evenings for other scouting activities. They also felt that under supervision their members may be able to assist with maintenance or restoration projects at Lanyon.

### OPEN GARDENS AUSTRALIA

The Open Gardens Australia event successfully held in March and described in 1.4 is seen as an appropriate use of the beautiful garden setting of Lanyon. Open Gardens Australia and Lanyon worked well together for this event and over time this could develop into a productive partnership.

### SOUTHERN ACT CATCHMENT GROUP

A representative of this group indicated that a Friends of Lanyon group could become part of the catchment group and participate in environmental protection activities focused on Lanyon.

### THE ARTISTS’ COMMUNITY OF THARWA

While this is not a formal group, two artists from Tharwa participated actively in the consultation and expressed considerable interest in working more closely with Lanyon for mutual benefit.

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<sup>18</sup> Youth Haven and Outward Bound were also mentioned as potential candidates but not extensively discussed.

<sup>19</sup> It was also suggested that this area could become an accommodation facility for school children, similar to Birrigai.

## 6. MAKING BEST USE OF THE FORMER NOLAN GALLERY BUILDING

It was seen as very important that a suitable use should be found for the former Nolan Gallery. Those in contact with the gallery thought that significant expenditure would be needed on repairs and maintenance and possibly renovation – and that ideal choices may have to be weighed up on a cost benefit basis.

### 6.1 BACKGROUND

The former Nolan Gallery building is an asset of the ACT Government. It was designed and built as a small art museum to house a collection of 24 works (the Foundation Collection) that were donated by Sir Sidney Nolan to the people of Australia in 1975. The Gallery was opened in 1980 and closed in 2007. Some people consulted saw proper care and use of the building as a way of acknowledging the Nolan link to Lanyon, even though the paintings could no longer be held there.<sup>20</sup> Others saw the building as a community asset which was not being fully utilised and appeared to need significant maintenance and renovation. The need for significant expenditure on the building appears to be confirmed by a previous report.

‘Following the problems experienced in December 2006/January 2007, the [Cultural Facilities] Corporation commissioned two studies to try to enable it to plan properly for the future of the Nolan Gallery and the Collection. One of these studies focused on environmental conditions within the building, the other on the built fabric of the Gallery. These reports indicated that a substantial upgrade or total replacement of the Gallery’s climate control system was needed, together with a range of other significant works. Costings for this were assessed, at the time, as approximately \$580,000.’<sup>21</sup>

The former gallery is designed with two wings, one of which was used to accommodate the trial artist in residence program recently and the other is used once a week by the Men’s Shed group, supported by Communities@Work, which stores benches, tools and workshop materials there.

### 6.2 OPTIONS

Options suggested by the community for the former Nolan Gallery building include:

- Artist in residence studio and short term exhibition space
- A permanent Indigenous artists’ studio and gallery
- A visitor orientation centre and interpretation centre for the Lanyon Heritage Precinct
- A small café or restaurant
- A small conference centre
- Meeting space for community groups.

It was also suggested that these options were not mutually exclusive. For instance a restaurant and exhibition space might be combined. A café could possibly work with a small conference centre.

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<sup>20</sup> While several people consulted regretted the removal of the Nolan paintings only the National Trust believes there is ‘scope to return some Nolan paintings’.

<sup>21</sup> This is taken from briefing material provided to the consultant by the Cultural Facilities Corporation. It is not clear in the material provided what function was envisaged for the building, and exactly what the half million dollars would provide eg whether this amount would be required to bring the building up to standard for *any* use or whether it was to bring it up to contemporary gallery standards. .

#### ARTIST IN RESIDENCE SPACE

As indicated earlier the artist in residence has highly valued the Lanyon experience. In commenting on the space itself she said that 'The wing of the building that the studio space occupied is adequate for making work that does not require excellent lighting or water... The facility is well-insulated and maintained a comfortably cool temperature during summer months. It could easily accommodate more than one artist.'

However the trial has revealed significant issues which would need to be addressed. These points are drawn from the artist's report and are included here to give also an indication of some of the issues involved in converting the former gallery to any other use. She indicated that:

- The parquet floor is unsuitable for messy paint or clay work
- There are no windows or natural lighting apart from two doors, resulting in a feeling of confinement... The entire space is quite dark. The installation of bright ceiling lights would be highly beneficial. The construction of windows along the wall facing the internal courtyard would be excellent
- The internal toilet is inoperable. (However there are toilets located conveniently close to the building).<sup>22</sup>
- There is no access to potable water. General water is available from the garden tap and toilet block outside and the kitchen sink. These taps do not have sump collectors for paints or chemicals
- The studio door doesn't have a lock and security [within the building – there are locks on external doors] remains an issue for the artist in residence for materials or works of art left in the studio
- There is currently no telephone connection or internet (as these have been disconnected). Communication with the homestead is via hand held radio.

These issues would apply also to the use of the space for a permanent artist's studio and for short term exhibitions.

#### A PERMANENT INDIGENOUS ARTISTS' STUDIO AND GALLERY

This idea did not come from an Indigenous group and the level of priority that local Indigenous groups could give to it would need to be tested with the RAOs.

#### A VISITOR ORIENTATION AND INTERPRETATION CENTRE

The Lanyon Conservation Management Plan states that 'The Corporation should establish a visitor orientation centre at Lanyon (p224) and notes that the former Nolan Gallery building is a possibility for this centre (p223).'

Quite apart from considerations of budget, there was a mixed response to this idea. Some people felt it was an appropriate use of the space. Others felt that it was too distant from the heritage precinct and that the special atmosphere created at Lanyon would be lost if the interpretation was physically separate from the homestead and so different in style.

#### A SMALL CAFÉ OR RESTAURANT AND/OR A SMALL CONFERENCE CENTRE

These ideas seemed to be stimulated by looking at the bones of the building and its most attractive courtyard spaces. All of the issues already raised would need to be addressed and a full feasibility would need to be undertaken including estimates of demand. The current café lessee indicated that a mobile kitchen could be set up to support small functions at a conference centre but that he felt that dust from the gravel road would affect outdoor eating, except in the front protected courtyard area. The noise of a café also may not sit well with a meeting centre.

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<sup>22</sup> The artist also said it would be good to have access to a shower, which could possibly be installed in the storage shed near the toilet block.

#### MEETING SPACE FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

One of the former gallery areas is currently used as a workshop for a Men's Shed group conducted by Communities@Work which meets once a week there. This group has met for 30 years at Lanyon, although not always at the former Nolan Gallery building. The current space is reported to be highly valued by this group because of its peace, tranquility and seclusion, its easy access to outdoor courtyard space and because tools and materials can be left out from week to week. This accommodation suffers from the same drawbacks pointed out by the artist in residence, and the link between a Men's Shed group and a coherent heritage direction could be seen as tenuous, despite the 30 year association.

It has also been suggested that heritage craft groups could be interested in using the space. This would be consistent with building heritage coherence in community activities at Lanyon, but again many of the issues raised by the artist in residence would need to be addressed.

## 7. PROMOTING LANYON

As indicated through several of the previous sections many people commented that broader promotion would increase visitation numbers. In suggesting this need for better promotion there were some assumptions about increased revenue from more visitation flowing directly to Lanyon. For example the National Trust observed

‘The real challenge is to make it a more viable and more visited place to provide funds necessary for ongoing conservation and maintenance.’

This was supported by an individual’s submission

‘Much more needs to be spent promoting the wonderful assets and tourist attractions that Canberra’s regional areas have to offer along with developing a good strategic business plan to pull everything together and make places like Lanyon more financially viable and to help with their upkeep.’

In this regard, the CFC has advised that Lanyon has been the major beneficiary of a \$3.7 million capital works program at the ACT Historic Places, funded by the ACT Government over a four-year period, which will conclude in 2012-13. This program is funding an extensive range of conservation works at Lanyon and will bring the site up to a sound condition and protect its structural integrity and heritage values into the future.

In terms of income sources, some people suggested that private and/or business sponsorship could be an option. Other relationships also could be developed more strongly to support Lanyon. For example

‘The National Trust is interested in discussing how we may be able to assist the Government in managing the property. We would consider a wide range of possibilities that could be of benefit to both and with tax deduction status of donations this could be of some financial benefit.’

It may be useful to review the revenue sources available to Lanyon, taking account of some of the ideas above and the factors described below.

The question of the quality and reach of promotion also raises the whole issue of what ‘success’ at Lanyon means. In some minds increased visitation equated to success but several times during the consultation the comment was made that ‘we don’t want Lanyon to become a theme park’. Others were concerned that although increased visitation was a sign of ‘success’ in some ways, it brought with it increased risk to the precinct and increased costs in staffing and infrastructure maintenance. For example, the highly successful Open Gardens Australia event in March, delivered high fee paying visitation numbers. However, despite being seen as a great success and generating many desirable outcomes for Lanyon, it did not result in a monetary profit for Lanyon because of the associated increased operating costs.<sup>23</sup>

Against this background, developing an appropriate and effective promotional strategy for Lanyon is not a straightforward matter, the purpose and quality of the promotion needs to be carefully designed to fit with what is possible with the resources Lanyon has at its disposal now and in the foreseeable future and the importance of maintaining the quality of the Lanyon experience. This suggests that it is not so much the amount of promotion but defining the intent of the promotion and the careful targeting of it which is the challenge. There may in fact be many opportunities for better promotion that do not require huge resources but do require creative thinking and a more proactive taking up of opportunities that arise.

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<sup>23</sup> This information was provided by CFC.

However the perception raised so frequently in the consultation was that Lanyon's profile should not be lost and its visibility should be increased. In this context it is interesting to note that in the insert promoting the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival in the Canberra Times of 11 April 2012 there is no feature on Lanyon. When this was raised with CFC they advised that, while this was disappointing, Lanyon featured strongly in the 2011 Heritage Festival, and there was significant publicity associated with the March 2012 Open Gardens Australia event around the same time. The Heritage Festival promotes events and Lanyon did not have the capacity to stage two major events in such a short timeframe. This is an example of the delicate balance between increasing Lanyon's 'business' and maintaining the quality of the product with the resources available.

Nevertheless, the issue of promotion came up strongly in the consultation and it could be useful for the CFC to relook at its promotional strategy in the light of the issues raised here.

## 8. INTERIM CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions that can be drawn from this consultation fall into three general areas

- Directions, promotion and resources
- New opportunities
- Use of facilities at Lanyon

### 8.1 DIRECTIONS, PROMOTION AND RESOURCES

- There is a strong understanding of the importance of the living heritage at Lanyon and, while some new ideas were presented, there is general satisfaction with the style and quality of current programs of community activities and events that are held at Lanyon. However people would like to see more programs developed, including those specifically related to rural heritage, as resources allow.
- Contributions to the consultation showed genuine commitment and interest in the future of Lanyon. One of the ideas suggested earlier is that there should be a Friends of Lanyon group established. Whether this idea is followed through or not, it would be good to keep the communication channels open beyond this project. In the ideal, community input to Lanyon's programs and activities would be an ongoing part of the way Lanyon's community outreach is managed.
- There is a general belief that if visitation numbers could be improved, more funds would be generated for Lanyon, and that promotion targeted at increasing Lanyon's prominence in the ACT calendar of events and showcasing it as the centre of a southern heritage region could contribute to this.
- People recognise that staff and financial resources are limited. While developing further community activities at Lanyon can be enhanced by creativity, collaborative effort and community involvement, it is acknowledged that further development will be dependent to some extent on staffing and financial resources. Consideration could be given to setting up a community development/liaison position which could work across all heritage properties.
- There is a perception that it would be useful for Lanyon to have a clearly articulated direction and priorities for community activities.

### 8.2 NEW OPPORTUNITIES

- There is an opportunity for Lanyon to become the centre of heritage-based attractions in the Tuggeranong area and as part of a revitalised Tourist Drive 5.
- There is support for strengthening the links between Lanyon and the arts in the broadest sense, including restoration arts and crafts, particularly via an artist in residence program and through closer links with the artist's community in Tharwa.
- There is scope to develop some ongoing partnership arrangements between Lanyon and relevant community groups who would like to use Lanyon on a regular or annual basis.
- A number of smaller ideas for activities suggested through the consultation should be considered by staff as they undertake future program development.

### 8.3 USE OF FACILITIES AT LANYON

- Establishing an appropriate use for the former Nolan Gallery building is seen as a priority by those consulted.
- There is potential to make use of the shearing shed area eg for young people's camping activities

- The gardens and natural environment are seen as a major asset of Lanyon which have the potential to be developed further via community activities, provided there are community groups able and willing to take on such activities.
- There is a need to look at improving physical access via the gravel paths.

## 9. POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS

Possible next steps fall into two broad areas:

- Those that require a more in depth feasibility study before a recommendation can be made
- Those which require more consideration by the management and staff of CFC before a short and longer term plan of action can be developed.

### 9.1 SUGGESTED FOCUS FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

The following issues arising from the consultation could be included for more in depth investigation via the second stage of this project:

1. The feasibility of conducting an Artist in Residence program in Lanyon, which could cover restoration arts and crafts, and including
  - identifying other accommodation options should the former Nolan Gallery building prove unsuitable or better used for some other activity
2. The best and most cost effective use of the former Nolan Gallery building taking account of the six suggestions that came from this consultation, as well as other options that may be identified by CFC management:
  - Artist in residence studio and short term exhibition space
  - A permanent Indigenous artists' studio and gallery
  - A visitor orientation centre and interpretation centre for the Lanyon Heritage Precinct
  - A small café or restaurant
  - A small conference centre
  - Meeting space for community groups.
3. The possible use of the shearing shed precinct for an activity such as young people's camping by groups such as the Scouts
4. Identification of potentially suitable sites should the opportunity for a community garden at Lanyon arise
5. Investigation of options for improving physical access via the gravel paths
6. As part of considering the feasibility of large scale events at Lanyon, identification of heritage related risks and management strategies to handle such risks.

Investigate also, as appropriate, other matters identified in the process of conducting the feasibility study including any suggestions made by the RAOs.

### 9.2 SUGGESTED AREAS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION BY CFC

The following ideas relating to policy, promotion and management arose from the consultation. As they are beyond the main scope of this project it is not intended that they be pursued further in the second stage of this project, but they are recorded here as they may be useful for the CFC to consider in future.

1. Develop ways of encouraging ongoing community involvement in Lanyon so that people can continue to contribute ideas to its development.
2. Investigate the feasibility of establishing a heritage community development/liaison position.

3. Consider developing a specific business plan for Lanyon, separate to its existing incorporation in broader CFC planning documents. Review revenue options for Lanyon to explore opportunities to increase income and supplement existing sources of funding, including reviewing the fees policy.<sup>24</sup>
4. Re-look at the promotional strategy to increase the prominence of Lanyon in Canberra's cultural life including a focus on the heritage features of the Tuggeranong Valley, with Lanyon at the centre of a revitalised Tourist Drive 5.

In addition, CFC will ensure that the RAOs have an opportunity to comment on the consultation report and to add to it if they wish.

### 9.3 FINAL MESSAGE FROM THE CONSULTATION

The message from the stakeholder consultation is that the content and style of the current program of community activities at Lanyon is highly valued. Suggestions were made to enhance and strengthen it and Lanyon's place in the world, but there is support for the fundamental direction of the current activities. It was also clear that Lanyon itself is important to many people.

'Lanyon is precious, we want to enjoy it now and we need to preserve it for future generations. Everything that is done there and every event needs to be guided by those principles.'

The positive energy expressed in almost all of the stakeholder consultation about Lanyon is a resource that should be nurtured. Many people feel a sense of ownership and connection to Lanyon. It is to be hoped that this consultation is only the beginning and that those who care about Lanyon will be encouraged to continue to contribute their ideas and enthusiasm to its conservation and its future development.

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<sup>24</sup> The charging of fees for grounds access was suggested only by the National Trust but should be included in any review of income generation strategies.

## ATTACHMENT 1 - ABOUT LANYON

Lanyon Heritage Precinct is a popular and much-visited part of the ACT's living heritage. It contains a significant record of our region's Indigenous and European heritage including : scarred trees and object scatters; heritage landscapes including rural grazing land and about 1 kilometre frontage to the Murrumbidgee River; the Lanyon Homestead, a range of outbuildings dating back to the mid-1800s including a stone barn, stables, convict and labourer cottages; the Lanyon Cafe including a large modern marquee; five tenanted residential cottages; the former Nolan Gallery building; well-cared for grounds, vegetable and ornamental gardens; the Lanyon Cemetery; and a shearing precinct. The precinct is surrounded by a working rural property and approached by an unsealed road, giving visitors a clear sense of entering a pastoral property. Lanyon's setting and its collection of rural buildings, including a shearing shed and shearers' quarters, allow visitors to gain an understanding of the importance of the pastoral industry in the history of Australia.

Lanyon was acquired by the Commonwealth Government in 1971. From 1975 to 1979 Lanyon homestead was used as a gallery for Sir Sidney Nolan's gift of paintings. These were relocated to the Nolan Gallery in 1980 and then to the Nolan Collection Gallery @ CMAG in 2009, in accordance with a decision by the Commonwealth Government, which owns the Collection. Lanyon homestead was opened as an historic house museum in 1980 and continues to operate as the major historic place museum in the ACT devoted to the story of Australian pastoral enterprise. Lanyon is now owned by the ACT Government and managed by the Cultural Facilities Corporation.

Lanyon is on the ACT Heritage Register and is of potential national significance because its intact pastoral setting, and suite of buildings illustrating the development of the Australian pastoral industry over 150 years. A conservation management plan to guide the conservation of the precinct was endorsed by the ACT Heritage Council in 2011. While the plan states that the primary use for Lanyon will be for conservation and interpretation, it adds that 'activities and events that help to maintain and strengthen community connections to Lanyon will be fostered.' (CMP Vol. 1, p. 220)<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> This material is taken from the information paper produced as background for the stakeholder consultation.

## ATTACHMENT 2 - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: THE BUNDANON MODEL

The Bundanon Trust Artist in Residence program is open to professional artists and groups, from all disciplines. The program supports artists' new work, research and collaborations. Australian and international artists are hosted in purpose-built studios located at the Bundanon properties on the Shoalhaven River in NSW. As a gift to the Australian people, Arthur Boyd's vision for Bundanon was to provide an inspirational haven for artists to pursue their practice.

Bundanon offers accommodation and studio space for up to five weeks. The Artist in Residence program benefits from the financial support of public funding and individual donors, however artists are required to make a financial contribution towards the cost of their stay (subsidy may be available for some applicants). There is no stipend offered for travel or catering. Please refer to the [Application Guidelines](#) for a schedule of costs. Assistance from nearest transport hub to the Bundanon property can be arranged.

The Artists in Residence program at the Bundanon site was initiated in 1997 and has grown to include group residencies at the Riversdale, Boyd Education Centre, opened in 1999 and is overseen by the Artist in Residence Committee. Residents enter the program through two gateways, by application and invitation. Up to ninety artists a year are in residence at the Bundanon complex, in individual studios and cottages and a similar number of artists have access to the Riversdale complex through the year for group residencies.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> This material is drawn from <http://www.bundanon.com.au/content/about-the-program> accessed 24/3/2012