

100 Views of Canberra

100 Views of Canberra

Published by PhotoAccess, Canberra 2013
Manuka Arts Centre
Manuka Circle Griffith ACT 2603
www.photoaccess.org.au
ABN 94 996 241 172

Edited by David Chalker and Barbie Robinson
Layout and design Barbie Robinson

Printed by Paragon Printers
13-15 Wiluna Street, Fyshwick ACT 2609

This publication is copyright. Except in the context of research, study, criticism or review or as otherwise permitted by the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. Enquiries should be addressed to the publishers. Image copyright remains with the photographers.

© PhotoAccess
ISBN 978-0-646-90572-3

100 Views of Canberra

100 Views of Canberra is proudly supported by the ACT Government Community Centenary Initiatives Fund
PhotoAccess is supported by the ACT and Commonwealth Governments



ACT Chief Minister
Katy Gallagher MLA

I'd like to congratulate the many talented local photographers who contributed to *100 Views of Canberra*. Their work has truly captured the essence of what it's like living in our capital today.

The evocative images contained in this wonderful publication tell a compelling story of our city, and of the people who call Canberra home. Just as Mildenhall's Canberra reflected the Canberra of the 1920s and 30s, *100 Views of Canberra* provides a unique record of the nation's capital as it is now.

I'd like to thank PhotoAccess for their role in bringing the local photographic community together in our Centenary year to produce what will be a lasting legacy for Canberra's next hundred years.

100 Views of Canberra is another community-driven project supported by the Community Centenary Initiatives Fund. I commend this publication to not only the people of the ACT, but also to all Australians.



Centenary
of Canberra
Creative Director
Robyn Archer AO

The Centenary of Canberra is being celebrated in many different ways throughout 2013. We set out to bust a few myths about the national capital—to get more Australians to understand that, while Canberra remains a proud host to Federal Government, and to the great national collecting institutions, it is a city in its own right, with all the facets and multiple dimensions that any city has. The book *The Invisible Thread: one hundred years of words* has done that through literature, and now with *100 Views of Canberra* we have its photographic equivalent. This publication now produces evidence of the variety and splendour of Canberra's natural and built environment and, most importantly, some of the people who live here. I thank PhotoAccess for its great initiative in bringing together so many photographers for this project, and for producing such a beautiful portrait of the capital. The Centenary of Canberra is very proud to have supported *100 Views of Canberra*.



Image of Robyn Archer by Heide Smith

Foreword

Dr Denise Ferris
Chair, PhotoAccess



100 Views of Canberra is a PhotoAccess Centenary of Canberra project—contemporary images by local photographers representing the diversity of a mature national capital, a place more than 350,000 people call home.

Not surprisingly—considering the number of photographers who have contributed to the project (inclusive as ever, 110 for anyone counting)—widely divergent places, moods, people and times of day are represented in the collection. The *100 Views of Canberra* book and the exhibition in the HUW DAVIES GALLERY are both valuable social documents, surveying the Canberra only locals know. We hope the project will give people outside Canberra a greater, more realistic understanding of their national capital.

PhotoAccess has contributed to the arts and community life for almost 30 years. In that time countless numbers of people have learned, talked about and shown photography in our two locations: first at our now demolished Kingsley Street, Canberra City premises and then, from 2002, in the Manuka Arts Centre. One aspect of our programs of which we are particularly proud is our community partnerships work, allowing people who would otherwise have difficulty accessing the arts for reasons of disability, income, age or other factors to engage with the arts through photography and allied media. Artists, including emerging and Indigenous artists, find a supportive creative environment at PhotoAccess.

100 Views of Canberra was intended to encourage community engagement with the Centenary of Canberra, underlining the importance of celebrating our city's great achievements in the past 100 years, giving people a way to become involved in the Centenary celebrations and promoting a fresh image of the national capital and its people. I believe this has been achieved, and magnificently.

We had a tremendous response to our invitation to participate in the project and I congratulate all of the photographers for their contributions.

We thank distinguished writer and passionate Canberran, Marion Halligan, for her thoughtful and evocative Introduction. We are grateful for the support of the Centenary of Canberra through its Community Centenary Initiatives Fund for a grant that enabled us to print the book, and to its Director, Robyn Archer, for her generous message.

We thank the ACT Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher MLA, for her equally generous message and very importantly acknowledge the ongoing support of the ACT Government through Arts Minister Joy Burch MLA, the ACT Arts Fund and artsACT. Without that strong support PhotoAccess could not continue to provide its important programs to the ACT community.

Barbie Robinson initiated and coordinated the project and designed the book. David Chalker and Barbie Robinson were its joint editors and joint curators of the HUW DAVIES GALLERY *100 Views of Canberra* exhibition. All of the staff of PhotoAccess and many of our volunteers contributed as well, and I thank them. Stephen Best of Macquarie Editions and Paragon Printers ensured the prints in the exhibition and the book, respectively, were of outstanding quality and worthy tributes to the Centenary of Canberra. We trust our community will speak through these photographs to yours.

Image of Denise Ferris by Jason O'Brien

Introduction

Marion Halligan AM

What any work of art is about is getting you to see what the artist sees. The painter uses oils, or watercolours, the sculptor stone or metal, the writer words, but whatever the medium the passionate desire is to show you what has been seen, what matters to the seer.

And so with these photographs. They show us Canberra. There are all sorts of cameras involved, but they are less important than the eye that gazes through them. Often it is familiar things that are looked at, Old Parliament House for instance, but in this book it is a wobbly image through a bus window that belongs particularly to the person who thus travels past it, but once shared with us won't be forgotten. The reflecting pool at the War Memorial shows a trembling pattern of arches, sprinkled with the sharp clear discs of wishing money glittering through the water.

Other images are of hidden spaces, back alleys, odd corners, faintly derelict often, shabby, neglected, but with their own beauty. Presented by a loving eye, which cared to pay attention to them, they show us the exotic in the mundane, and that it is all around us. They could help us train our eyes to see, too. They find mysterious angles and viewpoints. They invite us in through the back door. Some are highly arty, playing games with light and reflections, all have some quality of artfulness, even if only in conception. Some are lyrical. Others are abstract. All have a certain formal beauty, even when the subject is apparently ugly. And they have the quality of the caught moment.

Some are a record of disaster, like the aftermath of the fires at Mt Stromlo. Some portray family affection. A bunch of swimmers in bright green hats stands on the edge of the lake. A man paddles a brilliant red kayak under a bridge. The roller coaster of the Museum captures the moon. There is mist, and coloured autumn leaves, and street art. Footballers, and boys on mountain bikes. The 'wide brown land' sculpture at the Arboretum harbours an almost invisible bride and groom. Suburban roofs seen from the air make a bizarre pattern of triangles. A Hills Hoist is hung with fresh washing. There are graffiti mimicked in acrobatics and urban life and pastoral scenes and burlesque. The painted colours of the merry-go-round horses are brightly sinister. The myriad life of the city is on display.

The pictures are accompanied by statements from the artists. I liked the idea that the city has an 'atmosphere that allows the mind to wander and wonder', which is a fine description of the delights of this book. One of the effects, as it was certainly one of the intentions, of this centenary year is to show how far our actual Canberra is from the many stereotypes that patronise and dismiss it.

This book is a wonderful correction of such a view, showing that unconsidered banalities have no role here. It is a collection of marvellous potential conversations.

The 100 Views of Canberra Photographers

Tom Adams	Jane Duong	Lamis Kazak	Barbie Robinson
Robert Agostino	Mel Edwards	Jenni Kemarre Martiniello	Brian Rope
Tim Anger	Suzie Edwards	Dean Klemick	Jocelyn Rosen
Claire Antrobus	Yi Evans	Carolyn Larcombe	Anne Rosenzweig
Mark Arundel	Denise Ferris	Andrée Lawrey	Christine Rufflet
Natalie Azzopardi	David Flanagan	Paul Livingston	Richard Scherer
Felix Barbalet	Gillian Freeman	Kate Luke	Payal Sehgal
Luca Barton	Miguel Gallagher	Marlene Lux	Lorna Sim
Kerry Baylor	Julie Garran	John Boyd Macdonald	Barb Smith
Sarah Beltrame	Regina Gerber	Tabitha Mann	Stephen Smith
Stephen Best	Jane Greagg	Ian Marshall	Ginette Snow
Edwin Bien	Katherine Griffiths	Cecilia Martin	Alison Spence
Julia Boyd	Simon Grose	Alexander Bell Moffat	Sylvie Stern
Tim Brook	Rebecca Hanrahan	Mark Mohell	Tony Stewart
Ulli Brunnschweiler	Debbie Hartley	Belinda Morgan Pratten	Lisa Styles
Peter Bryan	Susan Henderson	Chris Morrison	Amita Tandukar
George Brzostowski	Stephanie Henry	Bhavanna Moylan	Virginia Thomas
Bob Burne	Gilbert Herrada	Helen Murphy	Samuel Townsend
Monique Butselaar	Lauren Hewitt	Scott Newman	Kate Travis
Phil Carter	Chris Holly	Martin Ollman	Margaret Verrick
David Chalker	Jack Hugonnet	Elena Papanikolakis	Ed Whalan
Alan Charlton	Erica Hurrell	Judy Parker	Chris Whitelaw
Ian Copland	Ian Ingram	Lenuta Quraishi	Jennie Widdowson
Stephen Corey	Brian Jones	Shane Rattenbury	David Wong
Eleanor Cotterell	Paul Jurak	Tenisha Reed	Carolyn Young
Karen Dace	Margaret Kalms	Kerry Reed-Gilbert	Barak Zelig
Emily Davidson	Jo Kamira	Ann Robb	
Sean Davey	Laila Kazak	Zoe Roberts	