What Canberra is That? Speakers

Annie Bolitho has a longstanding interest in creating new knowledge, through facilitating and representing connections between people, places and issues of concern. She has experience in diverse sectors, including consultancy, academia, public policy and community arts. Annie has a Doctorate of Creative Arts in writing and is a passionate maker of artists’ books.

Tim Brook has worked on multimedia projects for more than 30 years, both as a solo artist and in collaborations. The resulting works have been performed in Australia and internationally. He describes himself as a ‘lapsed mathematician’. Currently, he is Visiting Fellow at the ANU School of Art, Adjunct Lecturer in the ANU School of Engineering and Computer Science and artist-in-residence at the Canberra Fire Museum.

Susan Conroy is the only cultural planning practitioner in the ACT and has specialised in working with urban designers and planners in public place, place-making and master planning projects since the early 1990s. As part of planning and design teams Susan uses processes that enable memories, histories and collections to be revealed in the public realm.

Jennifer Gall is the Manager of Research Programs at the National Film and Sound Archive, Visiting Fellow at the School of Music and Music Critic for the Canberra Times. Her research examines the place of music in the formation of Australian cultural identity with a special focus on regional communities.

Penny Grist BA/LLB (Hons) has worked in curatorial and exhibitions at the National Library and National Museum of Australia and is currently working at the National Portrait Gallery of Australia. She also serves on the Board of Megalo Print Studio and Gallery and the ACT Committee of Museums Australia. Penny has been volunteering with the Canberra Fire Brigade Historical Society since 2010.

Rosemary Hollow is a heritage researcher who has worked with the Tasmanian and Australian governments in natural and cultural heritage management for almost 20 years. Her research has focused on the memorialisation of contemporary atrocity sites in Australia, in Bali and the USA. She is particularly interested in how community engagement with memorials affects the history and memory of events being commemorated. She is also involved in establishing networks between artists and the local business community.

Over the last twenty years Fiona Hooton has worked in a number of state and national cultural institutions. Earlier works included several large-scale ephemeral and permanent public art commissions. These works have each reflected unique, site-specific aspects of Canberra’s rural and urban environment. More recently her practice has encompassed the digital domain, producing photomontages, 3D prints and digital stories.

Since 1990 Brett McNamara has worked in a number of roles with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. As Manager of Regional Operations he now has responsibility for the planning and delivery of the Service’s sustainable land management programs. Through his work as a natural and cultural resource manager and his intimate knowledge of the environment, Brett has facilitated several Craft ACT residences in Namadgi National Park including Talking Water: Artists in Residence project in 2013.
Since 1997 Dan ‘byrd’ Maginnity has produced a range of cross-disciplinary works - from small hand-stitched sock-dolls of native road-kill to life-size cardboard facsimiles of regional architecture. He finds his subject matter in the local and the everyday; his materiality attends to its discards by recycling and reclaiming. He has work in the collections of the Australian National Gallery, Canberra Museum and Gallery and the Molonglo Group.

Sharon Peoples is Convenor of the Museum and Collections Program, at the Research School of Humanities and the Arts, ANU. She also lectures at the School of Art, and guest lectures for the Art History Department, ANU, where she completed her PhD. She continues to practice as an artist. Her work is held in local and national institutions, and she is currently chair of Craft ACT: Canberra Craft and Design Centre.

Linda Roberts works in the Heritage Unit within ACT Government. Experience is small business, teaching and tourism has enabled Linda to develop the Canberra Tracks network of heritage interpretation and to diversify the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. Her aim is to engage with the community and get them excited about local heritage. Linda has been chair of the Tours Committee with the local National Trust since 2008.

Zsuzsi Soboslay [www.bodyecology.com.au] is a performer, writer and artist who has been engaged in creative collaborations across the arts for over 20 years. She teaches and researches in the tertiary, pre-school and community [including mixed ability] arts sectors, and writes and creates performances on the themes of environment, ecology, and the experience of refugees. Recent public performances include at the National Gallery of Australia, CSIRO DANscienCE Week and at Floating Land in the Noosa Biosphere.

Annie Trevillian works across a range of mediums including textiles and digital technologies. Her recent projects involved artworks based on interpretations of heritage sites such as the Rocks for Sydney Harbour YHA and The Valley Ruin, ACT for What Still Remains. Annie designed the Canberra Centenary Community Tapestry.

In 2009, Judy West was appointed Executive Director of the Australian National Botanic Gardens and head of Parks and Biodiversity Science within the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. In 1989, she was appointed Director, Australian National Herbarium. She still holds this position today. Among many other activities she has facilitated the development of several collaborative initiatives involving research and interactions with government at various levels.