

**NATIONAL ENGINEERING LANDMARK CEREMONY
FOR THE LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN SCHEME
CANBERRA A.C.T.**

9 OCTOBER 2001

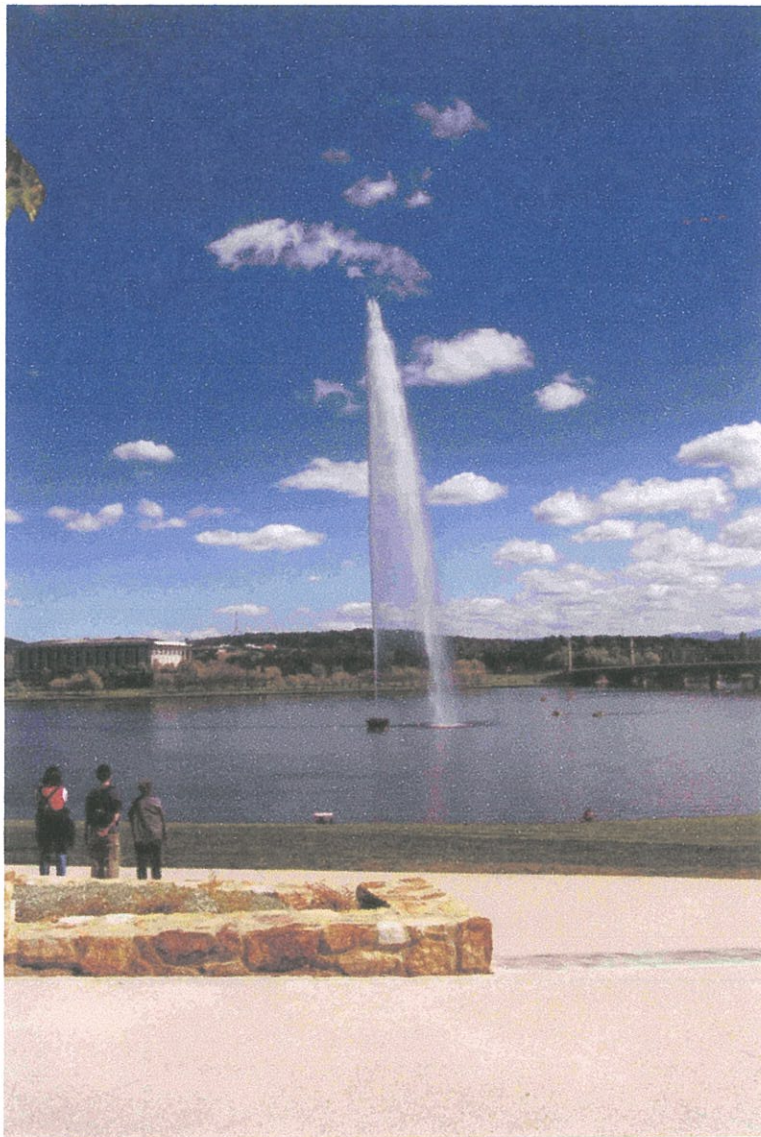


Photo: Lake Burley Griffin from Plaque Site

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN SCHEME

REPORT ON CEREMONY OF UNVEILING PLAQUES AS A NATIONAL ENGINEERING LANDMARK

The Commemorative Plaque Sub-Committee of the Institution's National Committee on Engineering Heritage approved Lake Burley Griffin and associated Commonwealth and Kings Avenue bridges as a National Engineering Landmark. A plaque unveiling ceremony took place on 9 October 2001. The ceremony was included as a program item of the Institution's Eleventh National Conference on Engineering Heritage. The Conference, including the NEL plaque ceremony was part of the celebration of Australia's Centenary of Federation – an officially endorsed event of the National Centenary Program.

The National Capital Authority owns and administers Lake Burley Griffin and bridge structures on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, and operations are managed by the Australian Capital Territory Government. Representatives of these bodies joined the National President of the Institution (Dr Martin Cole) in the ceremony.

CONSULTATION WITH NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY (NCA)

Consultations over several months preceding the event were mainly oral with essential aspects confirmed by email.

Main issues were:

- Site of plaques – several options were considered in light of NCA guidelines
- Design of mounting – a stand-alone steel structure was adopted after agreement with NCA on a site adjacent to NCA Business Centre pavilion overlooking the centre basin of the Lake
- Plaque mounting details corresponded with existing large plaque erected nearby to commemorate inauguration of the Lake by then Prime Minister, R.G. Menzies.

The NCA officer in these consultations was Mr Andrew Baird, who was responsible for NCA involvement and arrangements at the ceremony.

PLAQUE MOUNTING

To be consistent with the existing inauguration plaque at the nearby NCA exhibition, an unusual mounting with 15° sloped surface was needed. Attachments "A" and "B" show details – plaques are raised slightly above the mount surface (creating a shadow effect) and secured by anti-theft screen and bolting arrangement inside a backing plate.

A steel frame supporting the plaque mounting is attached to a low masonry parapet wall, with the plaque wording easily read by pedestrians.

Manufacture and installation of the mounting, and plaque assembly, were undertaken by Canberra firm Canweld Pty Ltd.

INVITATIONS TO CEREMONY

Seventy five formal invitations (attachment C) were forwarded to official representatives, persons associated with the project, Chief Minister and all members of ACT Legislative Assembly and senior officers in ACT Heritage and Environment.

As the ceremony was part of the National Conference on Engineering Heritage, a general invitation was extended to Conference attendees. Those at the Conference lunch were taken by ferry to the lake jetty adjacent to the unveiling area.

Excellent weather conditions – a warm and sunny day – encouraged many at the Conference to attend.

All preparation of invitations, information brochures, and processing of acceptances were undertaken by IEAust, Canberra Division Director (Mrs Vesna Strika) and Assistant Director (Mrs Barbara Lowe).

PLAQUE CEREMONY

An information brochure (Attachment D) was prepared for officials and guests attending the ceremony.

Prior to the unveiling ceremony, guests were welcomed and addressed in the Canberra Business Promotion Centre at Regatta Point, and viewed an NCA film recording the Lake history and construction including the original inauguration ceremony by Prime Minister Menzies. This was a most effective introduction to the ceremony.

After the indoor function with speakers as set out in the Order of Ceremony brochure, the plaques were unveiled in the area adjacent, overlooking the Lake, by Dr Martin Cole, IEAust National President, Mr Gary Humphries, ACT Government Chief Minister and Mr Wayne Stokes, Member NCA.

Light refreshments were provided at the conclusion of the function after Canberra Division Heritage Chair (Mr Keith Baker) closed the proceedings.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Articles in the Engineering Heritage journal and reference in The Canberra Times.

Radio interview on ABC 2CC on the following day by Canberra Heritage Panel Chair (Mr Keith Baker)

TV Channel 9 filmed the ceremony.

PHOTOS

See attached.

CONCLUSION

The ceremony was very successful with high level official and public involvement, and was a significant part of the Institution's recognition of the Centenary of Federation of Australia.



B.W. Kenny
Plaque Ceremony Sub-Committee



Engineering Heritage Conference members arrive by ferry



Guests in Canberra Business Promotion Centre listen to Michael Clarke



**Official Party after unveiling of plaques.
L to R Mr G Humphries MLA, Mr W Stokes (Member NCA)
Mr K Baker (Chair Canberra Heritage Panel)
Dr M Cole, National President (IEAust)**

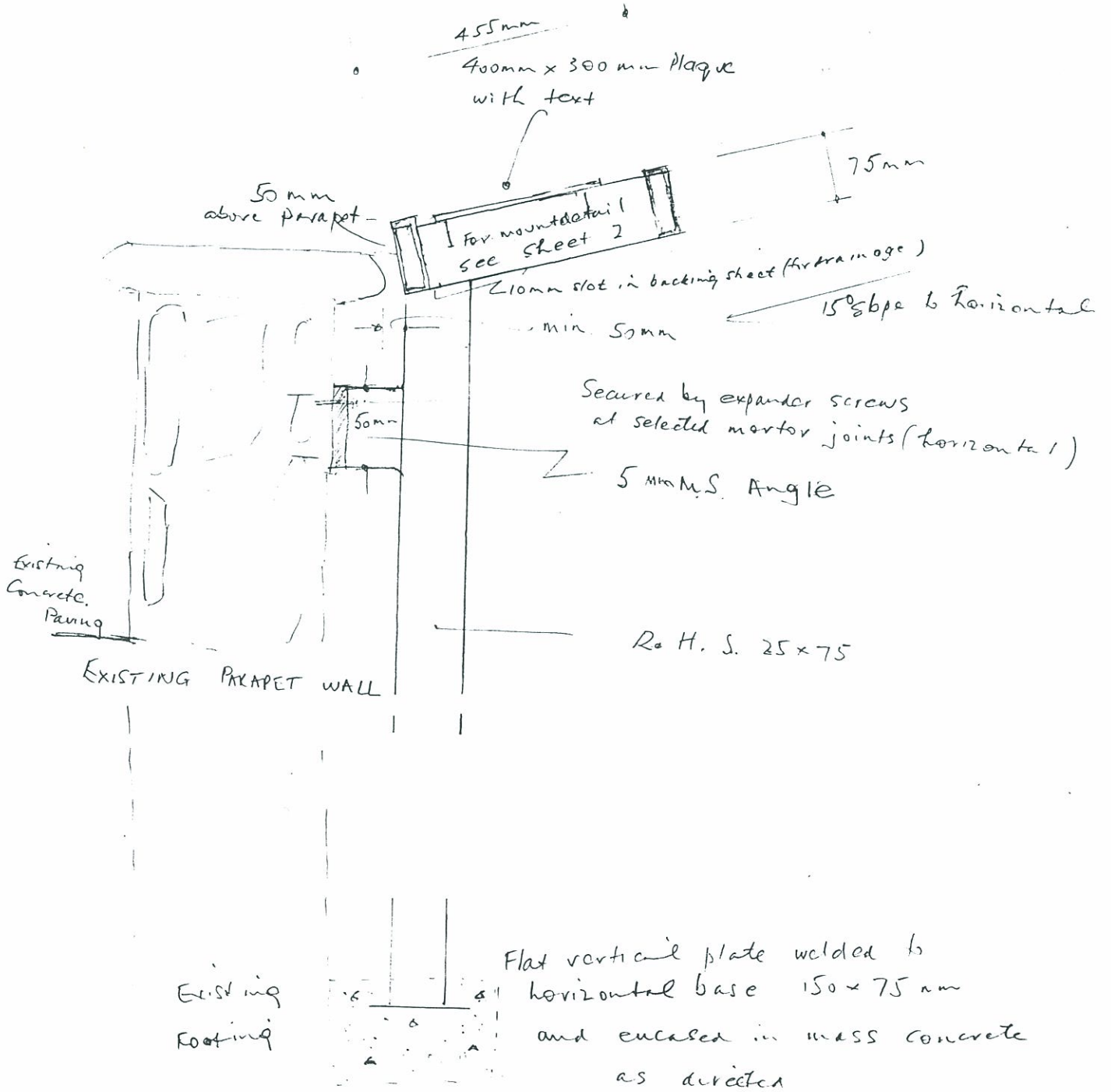


**NEL Plaques with Dr Martin Cole (National President IEAust) and
Mr Gary Humphries (Chief Minister ACT)**

LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN NATIONAL ENGINEERING PLAQUE

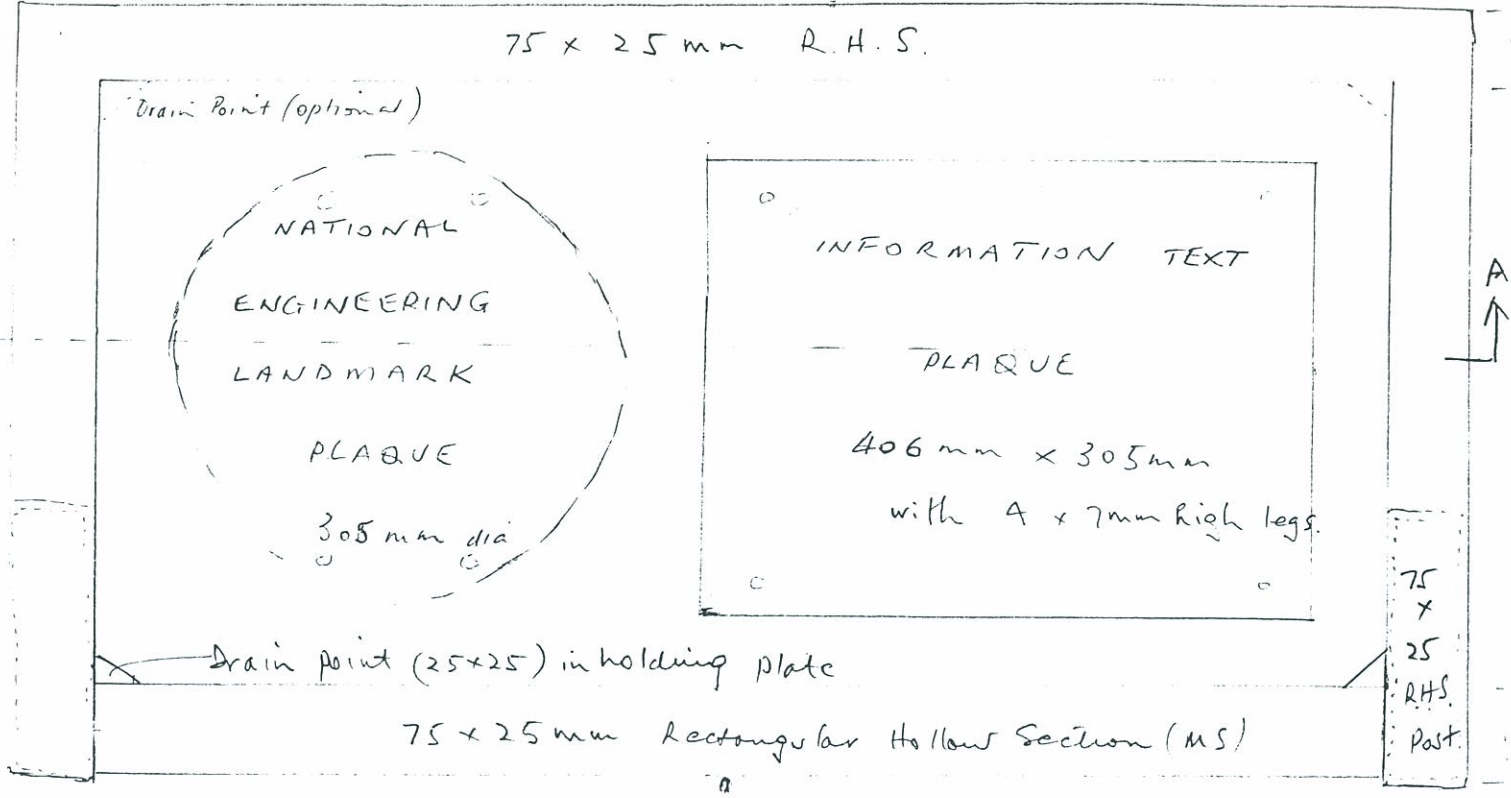
SUPPORT FRAME : SIDE VIEW

SHEET 1.



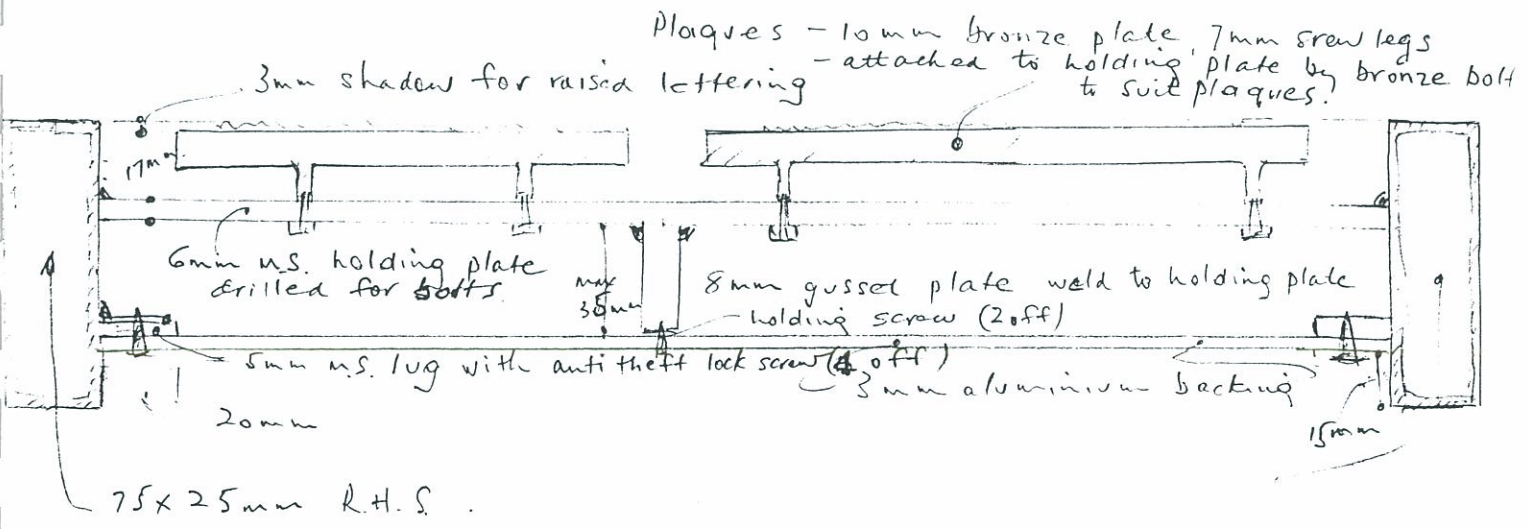
All metal to be painted and finishes in accord with treatment of "Menzies Plaque" on N.C.A Exhibition Terrace

BN
25
17 901



PLAN

50mm off Parapet Wall Ledge



SECTION A-A

All M.S. plates welded (min. 5mm) to R.H.S.



The
Institution of Engineers,
Australia

Canberra Division

The Lake Burley Griffin Scheme has been designated as a National Engineering Landmark under the Institution's Historic Engineering Plaquing Program.

In conjunction with the National Capital Authority, a Commemorative Plaque will be unveiled at Regatta Point, overlooking the Lake, as part of the Institution's celebration of the Centenary of Federation.

*The Institution of Engineers, Australia
Canberra Division*

invites

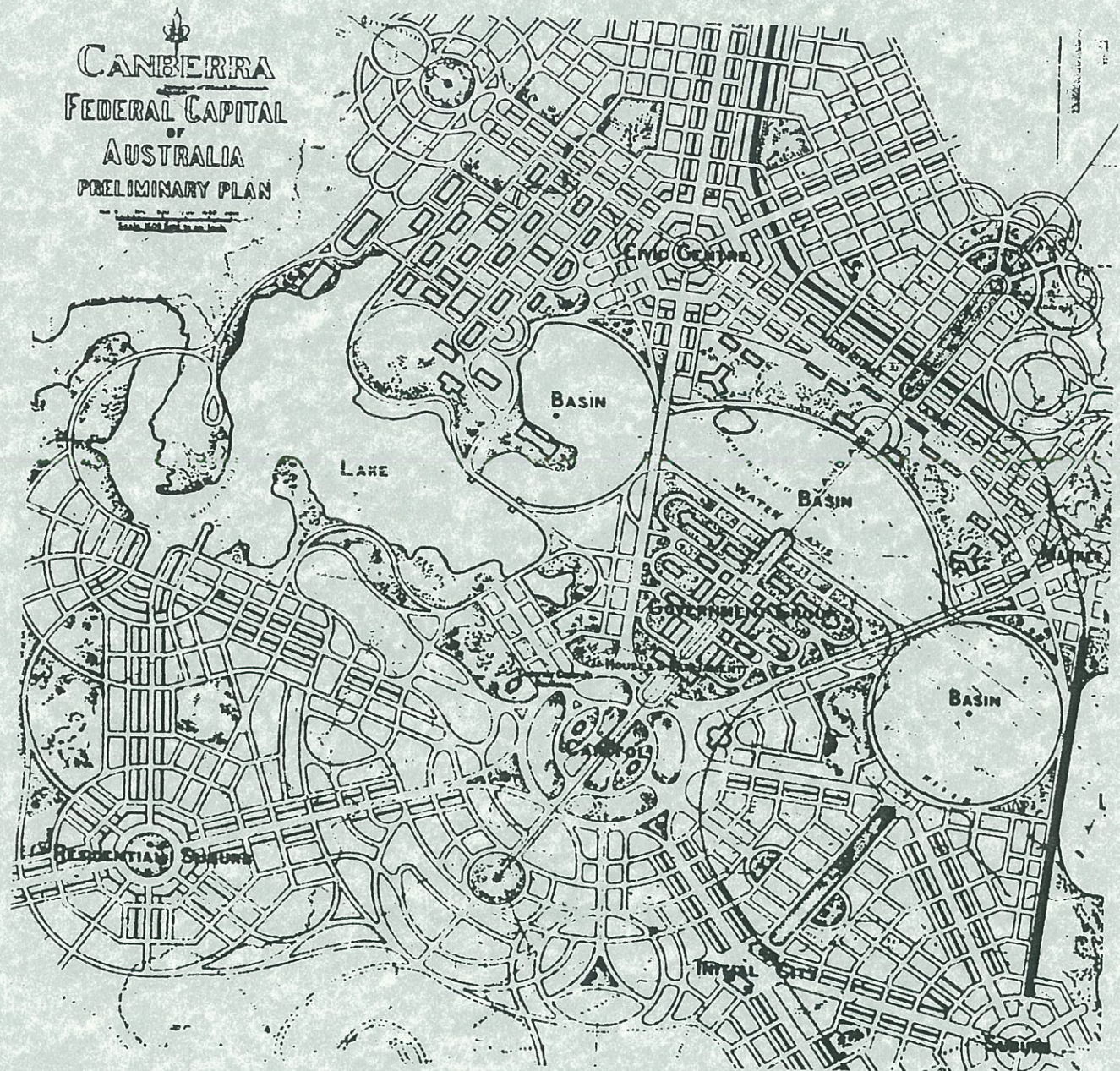
Mr Bill Crews

to attend the ceremony at the

*Canberra Business Promotion Centre
Regatta Point*

Tuesday, 9 October 2001 2:00 pm

Light refreshments will be served afterwards
RSVP only if you wish to attend by 4 October 2001
Phone: 6273 1314 or E-mail: blowe@ieaust.org.au



Walter Burley Griffin's preliminary plan for Canberra showing the three formal Basins of his 'water axis' and the irregular Lake.

The Lake Burley Griffin Scheme

"... it was our view that without it Canberra would have been a failure... The shape of Griffin's vision of the garden city could not be realised until this central part of the city was finished."

*Canberra Yesterday Today & Tomorrow. A Personal Memoir
Sir John Overall 1995*

The Nation's Ornamental Water

In his 1909 survey report on the site for the future National Capital, Charles Scrivener noted the opportunity "to store water for ornamental purposes" in the Molonglo River flood plain. "Ornamental water" was mentioned in the international competition for design of the city and Walter Burley Griffin's prize winning response included "three water bodies located between the direct lines of communication."

In the early stages of Canberra's development, alternatives were contemplated to Griffin's concept of a central water feature, however, the National Capital Development Commission, established in 1957, confirmed the feasibility of Griffin's scheme by hydrological analyses, model studies and environmental and economic investigations. The major works – dam and bridges – were completed and the lake filled in 1964.

Griffin's original plan was somewhat modified, his "three water bodies" became a single large lake controlled by a dam at the level and site suggested by Scrivener. The lake is divided into three water basins by the two bridges on Griffin's "direct lines of communication", uniting the city.

The bridges are each twin structures – Commonwealth Avenue is 310 metres long, of fully continuous prestressed concrete and Kings Avenue 270 metres long, of longitudinal precast prestressed concrete.

The lake is a symbolic origin point for the nation. Its gracious bridges unite the city and it provides a uniquely beautiful setting for national institutions.

Scrivener Dam is a concrete gravity dam, 235 metres long with flow controlled by hydraulically operated "fish belly" flap gates – a type rare in Australia. The dam is an important flood control structure in the upper catchment of the Murrumbidgee River, and the scheme has created valuable wetland habitats upstream of the lake.

The total scheme is administered by the National Capital Authority, with day-to-day management by government agencies of the Australian Capital Territory. Upstream catchment protection is managed by N.S.W. authorities.

ORDER OF CEREMONY

Introduction and Welcome

Mr Keith Baker

Chair, Canberra Division Engineering Heritage Panel

The Historic Engineering Plaquing Programme

Mr Michael Clarke

Chair, Engineering Heritage Australia

The Lake Scheme

Mr Hugh Crawley

President, Canberra Division

The Institution of Engineers, Australia

Dedication and Unveiling of National Engineering Landmark Plaques

- Dr Martin Cole
National President
The Institution of Engineers, Australia
- Mr Gary Humphries
Chief Minister, Australian Capital Territory
- Mr Wayne Stokes
Member, National Capital Authority

Concluding Remarks

Mr Keith Baker



LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN SCHEME

First suggested by surveyor Charles Scrivener in 1909 and included in Walter Burley Griffin's 1912 design for Canberra, the concept of "ornamental water" for Australia's federal capital was realised in 1964. Elegant bridges at Commonwealth and Kings Avenues focus on Parliament House and unite the city around the 634 hectare lake which provides an outstanding setting for national institutions and public use. Scrivener Dam maintains a constant lake level whilst allowing floods to pass safely. Principal consulting engineers to the National Capital Development Commission were the Commonwealth Department of Works for the dam and Maunsell and Partners for the bridges.

Dedicated by
The Institution of Engineers, Australia and
the National Capital Authority
2001—The Centenary of Federation

Designation as a National Engineering Landmark is an award made under the Australian Historic Engineering Plaquing Programme of The Institution of Engineers, Australia.

The programme was established to bring public attention to significant historic engineering works and the engineers who created them.



The
Institution of Engineers,
Australia

Unveiling of Plaques
designating

The Lake Burley Griffin Scheme

as a

National Engineering Landmark

Tuesday 9 October 2001 at 2:00 pm

Regatta Point, Canberra A.C.T.

In honouring this work
The Institution proudly joins the nation in
commemorating the Centenary of Federation.