

## Appendix E—Consultation

For the development of this HMP consultation was undertaken with key stakeholders as identified in discussion with the NCA. Stakeholders were contacted by telephone (where possible) and follow up was undertaken via email. Two group meetings were held at NCA premises. Consultation informed relevant stakeholders about the development of the HMP and new interpretative work at the cottage to comply with legislative requirements under the EPBC Act, seek views and information from stakeholders about their understanding of the heritage values of the site, obtain information about heritage management issues, expectations and ways of addressing these issues in the HMP. The key stakeholders included NCA managers and staff (including heritage, interpretation guides, works and asset managers involved with the cottage), CDHS representatives (including past CDHS managers and guides of the cottage), the ACT National Trust President, ACT Heritage representative, and teachers and education specialists. Aboriginal representatives from identified local groups were consulted separately.

### E.1 Management Stakeholder Consultation

**Table E.1** Stakeholders consulted in November 2012 about Blundells Interpretation and Displays.

<b>Attendees at Targeted Heritage Stakeholder Meeting</b>	
Pamela Owen, NCA Exhibition & Facilities Manager, NCA	Eric Martin, ACT National Trust President and author of 1983 CMP
Roslyn Hull, Education & Outreach Officer, NCA	Peter Dowling, Australian Council of National Trusts
Anna Wong, Cultural Heritage Manager, NCA	John Armes, Senior Manager of the ACT Historic Places (Lanyon, Calthorpes and Mugga Mugga House Museums) and volunteer guide at Cooma Cottage
Carolyn Skorupa, visitor services assistant and Blundells guide	Kate Gardiner Education and Community Program Officer ACT Historic Places
Antoinette Buchanan, ACT Heritage Library Librarian	Jan Blank, ACT Heritage Library volunteer/NCA volunteer
Pam Younge, past CDHS member/cottage volunteer	Can Ercan, Heritage Officer, ACT Heritage
Barry Price, past CDHS member/president	Kathleen Berg, Blundells Cottage volunteer guide
	Pip Giovanelli, Heritage Architect, part of GML team and worked on Blundells conservation in the past
<b>Stakeholders consulted in person at their homes or by phone</b>	
Mervyn and Beth Knowles, past CDHS members who helped set up cottage displays and researched the book 'The Cottage in the Parliamentary Triangle'	Linda Young, Course Director, Cultural Heritage & Museum Studies, Deakin University (catalogued cottage collections)
Tony Blundell, family member	Helen Digan, CDHS Secretary

Stakeholder consultation highlighted a variety of issues in relation to maintenance and conservation and interpretation and visitor experience. These are outlined below and, where it was appropriate, informed development of policy in Section 6.0. It should be noted that not all stakeholder concerns were within the remit of this HMP but were operational management issues. Issues are summarised in Section 1.0

**Table E.2** Stakeholder comments and views on particular interpretation issues canvassed at the consultation.

<b>What do you think are the key stories that Blundells Cottage can convey?</b>				
<b>Personal Life Stories</b>	<b>Early Settlement</b>	<b>The Building Fabric</b>	<b>Village Community</b>	<b>Landscape through History</b>
The history and lifestyles of the three families who lived there. The cottage is a tangible link to their stories.	Indigenous history pre and post European settlement.	The building of the cottage.	The early village of Canberra and subsequent growth of Canberra into a city.	Comparisons between the cottage and modern Canberra, especially the buildings across the lake.
Flora Blundell's life (midwife and mother of 8 children).	Early European settlement in an isolated location.	Other early vernacular buildings in the ACT.	Adjacent blacksmiths, post office, bakery.	Why the building is where it is.
A typical family week.	Early pastoral life on the Duntroon Estate.			The landscape setting and how it has altered.
The lodgers who lived in the cottage with the Oldfield family.	A focal point for the layers of history from prehistory onwards.	Other Duntroon Estate buildings (Mugga Mugga, Majura House).	It shows what was here before the capital.	It's the only domestic dwelling remaining in the Parliamentary Triangle.

<b>What do visitors respond to most when visiting the cottage?</b>				
<b>Touch</b>	<b>Stories</b>	<b>'Boys Toys'</b>	<b>Changing Landscape</b>	<b>Various</b>
Visitors love being able to touch the objects.	Older people especially love sharing stories sparked off by collection items.	Men especially like the shed out the back.	The landscape as shown in the early photographs of Canberra is of particular interest.	Visitors enjoy that the same object can give rise to different stories and reactions within a group.
Touch and handle activities resonate with both children and adults.	Children love learning how life has changed, especially the technology.	The bellows are 'big and blokey'		Visitors need to be surveyed to get the answer to this.

<b>Favourite objects at the cottage</b>				
The Mrs Potts Irons	The mincer	Whaling pot	Memorial card	Bellows
Coolgardie safe	Kitchen stove	Kitsch vase by Kaye children	Stereoscope	Photo of Flora Blundell
The rustic desk	All of it!			

### Changing lives illustrated by the cottage

The human side of the stories is what makes the cottage important.	How people's lives differed—in different eras, and whether they were men, women or children.	Local stories which are relevant to the area are important.	The change in community understanding to appreciate old buildings and heritage.	How lives in the last 150 years have changed and how they have remained the same—some familiar objects, some alien objects.
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### Landscape and garden issues at the cottage

The views and vistas are important.	Parkes Way needs to be screened for a more historically compatible setting.	A better linkage between the house and grounds is needed.	The story of the working farmhouse is missing from the setting.	The surrounding landscape has changed dramatically.
Getting rid of the 'cute' things, perfect fences and flowers, would be good to set the cottage in its context.	Visitors do not spend much time in the garden, apart from in the shed. The bread oven and poison cart are easily overlooked.	The current landscape is almost completely irrelevant to the history of the cottage and misleading.	Restore the farmhouse feel and reduce the look of a suburban cottage.	Old fashioned plants are of interest in the garden. The orchard should be restored or discarded.
Chickens in the garden would bring it alive.	Is the garden significant?	It is rather sanitised and isolated behind its picket fence.	More of a house in a suburban setting now.	The garden has associations with the CDHS.

### Blundells Cottage as a landmark and part of local community identity

Community and Identity	Social Value Attachment	Community and Social Value	History showing the Passing of Time	Landmark Value
Continuity of human occupation from ancient pre-contact times through colonial period to setting up of the Capital. Canberra has HISTORY!	There used to be more community attachment but unless the stories keep being told and people can visit the cottage, it will just be seen as quaint but irrelevant.	Associations between community and Blundells are strong because the cottage and its collections provoke stories which are shared at the cottage.	The cottage is not just a colonial building and more modern stories bear witness to the development of the city.	The cottage has high landmark value and contrasts markedly with twentieth century Canberra, especially with the monumental structures in the Parliamentary Triangle.
It is an important way present and future generations can link to the past.	Long-term residents have a closer association with the cottage from repeat visits and longer association.	Many old pastoral families are still in Canberra. The cottage shows that the story before the capital has value.	It expresses the rural pioneering traditions laid beneath the modern landscape.	It's a steadfast Canberra landmark. Refreshing in its human scale. It is not a landmark.
Canberra is about community as well as Capital.	Old places help people 'ground' themselves in the new city.		The story of Canberra before and after the area's choice as capital.	It is historical and original. In surviving and showing how well built it is, Blundells is an important landmark.

Tricky issues, conundrums and opportunities				
The collection has not changed in 40 years.	There are very few items with direct association with the cottage.	The displays are not painting a true picture.	There is so much in there you cannot see what is in there. Less can be more.	Need to rediscover and reinvent the real Blundells' Cottage.
Don't clutter the cottage interior with signs and screens. Minimal panels.	Modern technology for interpretation would not necessarily work. No big TVs.	A smart phone app would be better. Audio tours. QR codes. Web site.	Apps and audio tours can extend visitor experience into the landscape.	Imagining each stage of change at the cottage is important.
Some visitors want guided tours, some don't and just want to wander through, and not everyone wants a brochure to do a self-guided tour either.	Visitors enjoy the experience of the cottage, not so much the information they gain from the visit.	Guided tours are best. Tour guides can react directly to different audience needs and interests.	Changing exhibitions of collection items. Not just the historic period but the modern period too.	Is the building itself an artefact?
		Timed tour times may not work		How do people find the cottage? Needs a clear path/identification.
The shed would make a good education classroom.	Children need somewhere to sit out of the sun, wind, rain.			Disability access is a very difficult issue to be faced.

## E.2 Targeted Education/Interpretation Stakeholder Consultation

A stakeholder meeting with select education group representatives and teachers was conducted in December 2012.

**Table E.3** Stakeholders consulted in November 2012 about Blundells Interpretation and Displays.

### Attendees at Targeted Education/Interpretation Stakeholder Consultation

Roslyn Hull, NCA Education and Outreach Officer	Robyn Williams, NCA Cottage Officer
Kerry Malone, former Blundells Officer	Karin Huckstepp, former Blundells Manager
Vivien Palmer, retired school principal	Julie Jobson, teacher (email input)

Subjects discussed included:

- the cottage aspects and elements most important for interpretation in school education programs;
- possible improvements for the interior and exterior displays; and
- the main strengths of the cottage for school interpretation and education program purposes.

Blundells Cottage attracted 2859 visitors during 2012-2011 and of these one quarter (511) were school students.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> NCA Annual Report 2010–2012.

**Table E.4** Stakeholder comments and views on particular interpretation/education issues.

<b>Cottage aspects and elements most important for interpretation in school education programs</b>	
The cottage is a study of the past, especially of family life—invaluable for comparing the past with the present.	The cottage is of its time and of the capital. However the past lifestyles are more important than the story of the development of the capital for education programs linked with the national curriculum.
It is a stone box full of stories.	Nostalgia value. Lots of charm.
<b>Possible improvements for the interior and exterior displays</b>	
The displays at Blundells are too static in relation to competing ever-changing exhibitions at other heritage places and museums	The education programs at Blundells Cottage need to be better linked to the national curriculum and advertised as such on the Internet.
Crazy paving paths and rear steps are unsafe and hinder disabled access.	More seating would be a benefit.
QR codes with links to additional information and animated video representation—vegetable garden, washing, chickens.	A vegetable garden would add considerably to the interpretative potential. As would a washing line with washing flapping in the breeze.
<b>The main strengths of the cottage for school interpretation and education program purposes</b>	
Primary Education in the National Curriculum—cottage displays and interpretation links best to lower primary education—foundation band and Years 3 and 4.	Secondary Education in the National Curriculum—there are also some cross curriculum perspectives which would fit with sustainability themes and curriculum on democracy and citizenship for Year 9.
<b>Additional points</b>	
Currently when the cottage is booked up with school groups on Thursdays and cannot accommodate public visitors there is no means of warning the public.	There is a need to keep statistics for school visitation—it is approximately 2000 students a year in groups as large as 45 students which then need splitting up into 2 or 3 sub-groups.
Wedding parties often use the cottage as a backdrop for its nostalgia value,	Activities such as dressing up, making a toy or old fashioned games were well received and engaged students more than passive learning experiences.
Guides dressed up in costume and acting out historic roles were well received.	Links with the St John's Schoolhouse museum should be encouraged as the educational programs there complemented that at Blundells.