

Small Resources BIG IMPACT – Canberra Stories Group



Canberra Stories Group is an independent community writing and publishing group. Our work involves the collection, development and publication of stories about the people, places and history of Canberra. A hallmark of our publications is that they feature the personal experiences of a wide range of local Canberra people.

The Group formed in the early 1990s when there was an increasing community interest in local Canberra history. In the same time-frame there have been a number of other initiatives concerned with local heritage, including the establishment of Canberra Museum and Gallery.

Canberra Stories Group has created and/or supported eight publications since 1992. An initial publication supported by the Arts Council of the ACT brought the group together and provided initial experience. A small grant from the ACT Government's Cultural Council provided funds for a brochure and a much larger grant (about \$7,000.00) from the ACT Heritage Council enabled further publications. Sales of each successive publication turn the original funds over.

Members are involved in every stage of the process of making a book from collecting material, to cover design, to making sandwiches for the launch, to managing distribution. This has been a big but satisfying learning process. Our work continues to take place in a collaborative atmosphere over a cup of tea.

Canberra Stories Group is a small group of volunteers but we have a wide and ever-increasing network of contributors and readers who support our work. Other important supporters are local bookshops who stock our publications, the ACT Library Service and *The Canberra Times*. Working with people and organisations of our community is a very important part of our success. ■

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