EDITORIAL

The ICOMOS seminar on Cultural Landscapes was held in the grounds of the Lanyon Homestead, A.C.T. It was an appropriate site for a conference on the themes of heritage interpretation and policy. The landscape of the region has witnessed an estimated 15,000 years of human activity. European occupation was well under way by the mid 1830s, by which time the Aboriginal population had already been reduced by contact with European disease. Many sites of Aboriginal occupation have been identified and research in the Thawa, Lanyon and Lambrigg area. Successive phases of clearing, cropping, fencing and pastoral activity by European settlers have shaped much of Lanyon's environment.

The first two sessions of the seminar exposed a number of presuppositions concerning the definition of 'cultural landscapes', and, by implication criteria for assigning significance. Although this proved disconcerting for those of us wedded to simple classifications, it did open up the question to a variety of perspectives. Case studies followed in the afternoon with the management and heritage interpretation of Lanyon Homestead and the Murrumbidgee Corridor plan outlined. On the next day the first session was devoted to the exploration of a variety of landscapes and structures, comprising the rural, mining, and aspects of the pastoral (dry stone walls). There followed discussions of methodology and in the afternoon participants and attenders were invited to sum up the central themes. All papers supplied by participants to Meredith Walker, the seminar organiser, have been printed in this issue of Historic Environment.

Cover Illustration: View of the present rural landscape at Lanyon-Lambrigg, showing the homestead in the middle distance.