

Reid Heritage Festival-Reid Uniting Church

Canberra's first urban church, the Reid Uniting Church, opened 91 years ago as the South Ainslie Methodist Church. It is now the home of the Korean Uniting Church congregation in Canberra.

Current restoration works at the church supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program have been moving forward at a steady pace.

The Reid Church has also recently taken part in the Australian Heritage Festival which is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Trusts Partnership Program on the 15th of April. Rain clouds held off just long enough to enable our activities to be enjoyed by all those who attended.

The day opened at the Reid Hall where visitors, congregation members and guests were treated to a montage of historic photographs of the Reid Uniting Church along with a warm welcome from the Korean Pastor Jangwon Seo and his congregation.

Mr David Hobbes, Heritage Architect, Philip Leeson & Associates also spoke on the Heritage significance of the Church and the Reid Heritage precinct generally. David led the inspection tour of the interior of the Church to point out very interesting and little known facts about buildings of this period and that the church had only taken 7 months from planning to completion. What an amazing accomplishment, how did it go through council that quick?

Mr Mike Evans OAM, Chair of the Canberra Uniting Church Presbytery Works Committee, spoke on the conservation work at the Church and its adjacent buildings and grounds. Mike also shared a video of the Church slate roof inspection recorded by means of a drone. This process was undertaken to ascertain the amount of works required on the roof and was a treat to see such a magnificent building at this angle, no ladders or harnesses needed here folks

It was a proud moment for the Korean Congregation to showcase their place of worship and Social gatherings with a special effort by the congregation to provide a delicious morning tea. Further I would like to extend many thanks to John and Esther Tucker for their tireless work for Heritage week and the organisational contribution of Canberra Region Presbytery, Reid Conservation Committee which enables future generations of the Uniting Church to enjoy this unique treasure.

Well done everyone.

Janise Wood
Operations Manager