



LISTED PLACES IN
YARRALUMLA [2]

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A heritage tour of
YARRALUMLA

TOUR 2 of 2
A SELF-GUIDED TOUR



This tour has been developed by the
National Trust of Australia (ACT)
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• **Government House** Courtesy of the ACT Heritage Library, ACT Administration Collection.
• **Yarralumla Woolshed** Courtesy of the ACT Heritage Library, *Canberra Times* Collection.
• **Scrivener Dam** Courtesy of the ACT Heritage Library, Department of the Capital Territory Collection.

Established in 1928 Yarralumla is one Canberra's oldest suburbs. The name comes from the Ngunnawal word for the area. Many of its streets are named after botanists and colonial governors. Yarralumla is home to some of Canberra's early buildings and the diplomatic community.

1. WESTBORNE WOODS

(ROYAL CANBERRA GOLF COURSE)
Bentham Street extension, Royal Canberra Golf Course. (Call into the club house for directions)

Westbourne Woods is named after Charles Weston, Canberra's first Superintendent of Parks and Gardens and a pioneer of Australian Capital Territory (ACT) arboriculture.

The Woods is the largest arboretum in the ACT and was used as a testing ground for exotic and native tree species. Westbourne Woods is closely related to Canberra's history and landscape development and it has considerable scientific importance as a botanical collection including many exotic species rare to Australia. It is a valuable resource of seed for use in propagating seedlings for replacing old trees planted elsewhere in the city.

2. CANBERRA INCINERATOR (1939)

Within the Royal Canberra Golf Course, adjacent to the 10th Fairway. (Call into the Club house for directions)

Located within the golf course and a short walk from the club house, this three-level brick and concrete incinerator was built in 1939 to dispose of Canberra's garbage. It was designed by architects Walter Burley Griffin and Eric Milton Nicholls.

As the city grew the incinerator's capacity became inadequate and other means of disposal were used. Its use was then limited to destroying government classified waste until burning operations ceased in 1959. The Royal Canberra Golf Course was laid out around it in 1960. The great irony of the building is that it is the only building associated with Walter Burley Griffin in Canberra - even though he is largely attributed for the design of the capital city.

3. YARRALUMLA BRICKWORKS

Bentham Street & Lane Poole Place. The Brickworks are closed to the public. Park at the end of Lane Poole Place and follow the dirt track on foot along the perimeter of the fence of the Brickworks and you will see some of the original corrugated iron buildings, brick kilns and the chimney.

The Yarralumla Brickworks is closely associated with the construction of Canberra. Many of the early buildings in the city were constructed with bricks made at the brickworks. Shale deposits and proximity to the city made the Yarralumla area an ideal place for brickworks. The brickworks opened in 1913. During the First World War building activities in the city slumped and production ceased.

The brickworks reopened and expanded in 1921 when large scale construction recommenced in Canberra. It again closed during the Depression years of the early 1930s. The brickworks reopened again in 1944 and continued making bricks for Canberra until it closed in 1976. A railway line ran from the brickworks to transport the bricks to the buildings sites of the city. A remnant bank from this line can be seen near Denham Street.



4. CSIRO FORESTRY PRECINCT

Banks Street

5. YARRALUMLA HOUSING

Area bounded by Hooker, Hutchins, Bentham and Banks Streets

The subdivision consists of sixteen blocks with houses built between 1921 and 1927 as government housing. When the seat of government was moved from Melbourne to Canberra there was a strong demand on housing for government officials. In 1925 there was not one vacant house in the city and many families were on waiting lists for rental accommodation. These houses are all now privately owned. Some have been demolished and others substantially altered while others are largely intact apart from additional verandahs and open and

7. STIRLING PARK

*(WESTLAKE)
Bounded by Alexandrina Drive, Empire Circuit, Fitzgerald Street & Hopetoun Circuit. Best access off Alexandrina Drive.*

Stirling Park, or Westlake as it was once known, is the high ridgeline overlooking the lake in north Yarralumla. Westlake was once a large settlement of workers and their families who were involved in the construction of Canberra. The place was chosen because of its close proximity to the major construction sites of Hotel Canberra and Old Parliament House. In the 1920s the 'suburb' consisted of a number of camps and temporary houses on the slopes. In 1925 the population of Westlake was 700, one fifth of the Territory population of the time. The area is also important for its vegetation and has links to the Aboriginals from this area. The National Trust has produced a concise

9. GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Dunrossil Drive. Entry is restricted. Best viewed from lookout on Lady Denham Drive. Park in the lay by and a short walk along a sealed path will bring you to the lookout.

Government House is the home of Australia's Governor-General. The first building on the site was a small hunting lodge built in 1833. The present building dates back to 1891 when Frederick Campbell, who owned the Yarralumla grazing property, began building a three-storey homestead. Since then there have been many additions to the structure and other buildings in the grounds have been erected. When the grazing land was acquired by the new Federal Government the house was chosen to be the temporary residence for the Governor-General. Previously the Governors-General had lived in Melbourne or Sydney. Walter Burley Griffin had made provisions in his Canberra plan for a new Government House in a precinct at a focal point in the city with a vista to the lake. However, no plans were made for this in the building development of the city and as a consequence, the temporary building became the permanent residence it is today. Lord Stonehaven was the first Governor-General to live

The Forestry Precinct is a complex of buildings, arboretum, nursery and recreation grounds forming an important national scientific institution. It was established in 1927 as a response to Federation to provide a national forestry school and national forest research centre.

Two buildings are significant. Westridge House (Tudor House) was built in the Tudor style in 1927-8 as the residence for the Principal of the Australian Forestry School. The first Principal to occupy Westridge House was Charles Lane Poole, who was instrumental in the establishment of the school. A nearby street bears his name. Forestry House is a two-storey rendered brick building reflecting the Post-War American Colonial style. It was completed at the end of 1951. The school operated between 1926 and 1965 when the campus was transferred to the Australian National University. Today the Forestry Precinct is owned and managed as a research institution by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

enclosed porches. It is worth stopping in one of these streets and walking around the block observing the houses and noting the changes and alterations. The first post office in South Canberra was located at 41 Hutchins Street.

6. YARRALUMLA STREETS

Take a drive around the residential streets of Yarralumla. Many streets are named after prominent botanists. Here are just a few:

- Banks St** – Sir Joseph Banks (1743–1820) – accompanied Captain James Cook in the *Endeavour*.
- Hooker St** – Sir William Hooker (1785–1865) and Sir Joseph Hooker (1817–1911) – William and his son, Joseph, were directors of Kew Botanical Gardens (London) and wrote on extensively on Australian flora.
- Hunter St** – Captain John Hunter RN (1737–1821) – came to Australia on HMS Sirius in 1788 and made valuable botanical surveys of Botany Bay and Broken Bay. He became the second Governor of NSW.
- Solander Place** – Daniel Solander (1736–82) – botanist associated with Joseph Banks and Captain James Cook.
- Bentham St** – George Bentham (1800–84) – was a botanist who collaborated with Sir William Hooker publishing *Flora Australiensis*.
- Hutchins St** – Sir David Hutchins – Botanist and Writer on Australian forestry.
- Weston St** – Thomas Charles Weston (1866–1935) – was the pioneer of arboriculture in Canberra. He was instrumental in creating Canberra’s urban landscape and established a local forestry industry.

has produced a concise walking guide for this area and it is worth using this guide to find the remnants of these settlements and learn more about this lost suburb of Canberra.

8. YARRALUMLA WOOLSHED

Off Cotter Road

The Woolshed was built in 1904 by Frederick Campbell, a wealthy pastoralist, when Yarralumla was a large grazing property. It was built as a 20 stand shearing shed and was operational until the late 1960s. The woolshed is one of the most outstanding vernacular buildings in Canberra and is closely associated with the rural phase of Canberra’s history. It is built on the traditional T-plan with sawn timber framework, sheeted with galvanised iron and supported on 2.4m log posts. The shearers’ quarters are located nearby. By the late 1960s the present suburb of Yarralumla had developed over the grounds of the former station. Today the shed has had all its equipment removed and is now used as a hired venue for social gatherings and functions with bush and folk dances being popular.

there for the period of his office.

10. SCRIVENER DAM

Follow Lady Denman Drive past the Government House lookout. Stop at the carpark on the eastern side. A viewing platform overlooks the spillway and the Molonglo River.

Scrivener Dam holds back the water of the Molonglo River to form Lake Burley Griffin. The dam was completed in 1963 and on September of that year the valves were closed and Lake Burley Griffin began to fill. The dam is named after the surveyor, Robert Charles Scrivener (1855–1923), who recommended the site for the National Capital in 1909. Scrivener’s survey of the site was used by entrants in the world wide design competition for Canberra, which was won by Walter Burley Griffin. Griffin had planned for three separate but connected lakes, but as Director of Commonwealth Lands and Surveys, Scrivener argued for a single lake impounded by the dam. September 1963 was a year of drought and for nearly seven months after the dam was built there was just a trickle of water and mosquito attracting pools where the lake was to be. Then the drought broke and the lake quickly filled to the level it is now.