



- Ginninderra Blacksmith's Workshop
- Federation Square
- Gungahlin Grasslands

LISTED PLACES IN
GUNGAHLIN [1]

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This tour has been developed by the
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The publishers wish to acknowledge:
Dr Peter Dowling (research) • **Studio Brainstorm** (design)

A heritage tour of
GUNGAHLIN

SOUTHERN GUNGAHLIN

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR



NATIONAL TRUST

CONSERVING AUSTRALIA'S HERITAGE

Although Gungahlin is one of Canberra's most recent urban development areas it has had a long European history dating well before the establishment of Canberra and a much longer Aboriginal history.

1. CRACE HILL

Best viewed from Randwick Road north of the racecourse and from the Barton Highway.

Crace Hill rises 622 metres and is part of the Canberra Nature Park. The hill has a distinct geological form known as a *cuesta*, a ridge with a steep cliff face on one side and a gentle slope on the other. The formation occurs by erosion on gently sloping sedimentary beds that have been uplifted. The steep face can be viewed from Randwick Road and the gentle slope from Barton Highway. The top is formed of a resistant layer and the cliff face is eroded back as the underlying beds are eaten away beneath it. Exposed on the crest of the hill are areas of lava rock caused by volcanic activity.

2. GUNGAHLIN GRASSLANDS

Access off Gungahlin Drive.

The extensive grassland area is part of the Canberra Nature Park. Kangaroo grass is the major grass species in this area, and while there are other exotic grass species growing, they are relatively uncommon. As such the grasslands are of important scientific significance.

The topography is gentle and there are trails to follow. Aboriginal groups used this area before European settlement and left evidence in their use of surface stone outcrops to manufacture stone artefacts. The grasslands are also important habitat areas for birds and the endangered legless lizard.

3. 'THE VALLEY' RUINS

Located off Gungahlin Drive, 600m east of Gundaroo Road junction. A short walk across grass lands leads to a protective fence around the perimeter of the ruins.

'The Valley' site comprises the ruined walls of a five-roomed stone house, a rammed earth (*pisé*) room and the archaeological evidence of a slab dwelling. There is also archaeological evidence of two sheds and a pit toilet. A few remaining fence posts and exotic trees remain in the former home paddock. It was originally the home of Thomas Gribble who emigrated from England in 1857 and became a successful small landowner in the Canberra district, often known for his adoption of new farming technologies. The slab dwelling was built in the 1860s followed by the rammed earth room between 1874–8 and the stone house in 1887. The stone house was occupied until 1964.

4. GIRRAWAH PARK ABORIGINAL SITE

Access is off Gamburra Street. Look for the large goanna.

At first this place looks like any other urban recreational and playground space apart from the large goanna that stands quietly nearby. But Girrawah is more than that. It is an archaeological site that has been preserved and set aside from residential development and turned into a suburban park and playground. Before the arrival of Europeans to Australia, Aboriginal groups who lived in this area located an outcrop of rock under the eucalypt trees. The outcrop was suitable to use for the manufacture of stone tools. They chipped of large pieces of the rock, manufactured fine stone implements from the pieces. Archaeologists found this place while surveying the area prior to the development of the Gungahlin suburbs. The place was preserved and later named Girrawah (goanna) by the local Ngunnawal people.

5. GUNGAHLIN HILL

Access is from the Barton Highway south of the Gundaroo Road junction. Look for the 'Gungahlin Hill' sign on north side of road.

Gungahlin Hill is 652 metres above sea level and overlooks the Gungahlin region. An easy thirty minute walk, following bush paths around the hill can be extended if you want to wander through the timbered areas. The main tree species are the red gum and yellow box on the lower slopes and scribbly gum and brittle gum on the southern flanks. The timbered areas are ideal for observing

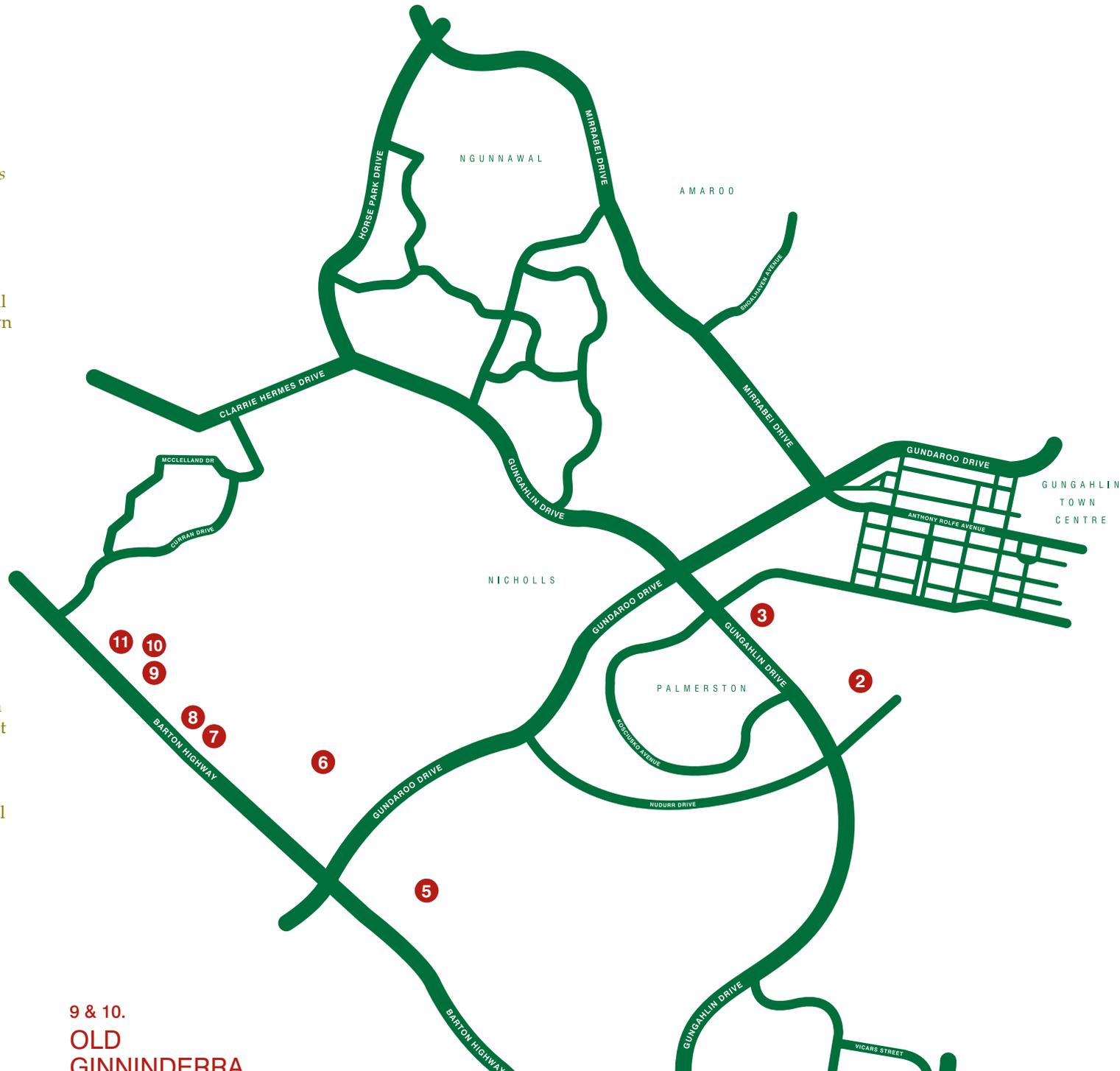
7. GINNINDERRA BLACKSMITH'S WORKSHOP

Located on the east side of the Barton Highway. Turn off highway 300 metres south of the Gold Creek Road junction at Deasland entrance then turn right.

The site is fenced but easily observed. The small building is the only known village blacksmith's workshop remaining in the Australian Capital Territory. The workshop was opened in 1859 and a succession of smithies served the rural Ginninderra community until 1949. The workshop was an important part of village life in the early agricultural phase of Canberra's history. As well as a working area the workshop was also a common gathering place for the village people, especially in winter when the forge was the warmest place in the district. Aboriginal people would also congregate at the workshop. Archaeological evidence has revealed that they would make traditional tools from broken glass at the workshop.

8. DEASLAND

9 & 10. OLD GINNINDERRA



birds such as crimson and eastern rosellas, kookaburras, tree martins and the smaller striated pardalotes and thornbills.

6. PERCIVAL HILL

Access off Gundaroo Road.

Percival Hill rises to 662 metres above sea level and if you are keen to climb, it will give you a view of the Gungahlin area. Archaeological evidence in the form of grinding grooves in the surface rock have revealed that Percival Hill was used by Aboriginal groups to manufacture and maintain sharp edges to their stone axes. Axe grinding requires water as a lubricant and grinding grooves are usually found near a readily accessible water source. But in this case, the nearest source at Ginninderra Creek at the base of the hill is a ten minute walk. The tool-makers were apparently more concerned with the quality of the grinding medium on the hill and opted to carry water from the creek to the grinding surface.

HOMESTEAD

Off Barton Highway. Best viewed from Ginninderra Blacksmith's Workshop.

Deasland is private property so access is restricted. The homestead is set amongst the conifers and its grounds are now part of a golf course. The homestead was built in 1890 by George Harcourt who was a prominent figure in the early history of Ginninderra and was storekeeper and postmaster in the late nineteenth century (1862-82). The hill behind the homestead bears his name today. Deasland represents a second phase of rural life in the area, when landowners had become prosperous and began to construct more comfortable permanent residences. It was close to the hub of Ginninderra Village, and together with the Blacksmith's workshop marks the south-eastern end of the Village.

GINNINDERRA VILLAGE

(GOLD CREEK VILLAGE / FEDERATION SQUARE)

Entry from corner of Barton Highway and Gold Creek Road.

Old Ginninderra Village

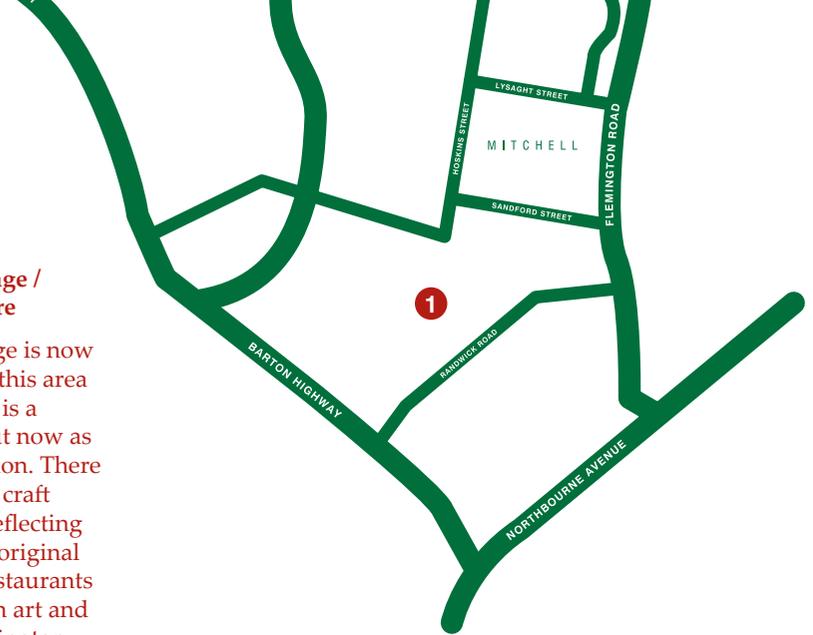
Gold Creek Village and Federation Square are located on the site of old Ginninderra Village. The village was established in 1826 as a private village and by 1850 it had developed into a thriving, prosperous centre. It included homesteads, police station, post office and a school, and was the hub for much of the district's social and sporting activity.

The village declined when the New South Wales Government selected the site of Hall three kilometres away for a formally designed village. Little has survived of the original village centre and its surrounds, apart from the schoolhouse (1883) which is by the main entrance and now houses arts and craft shops, and the small Roman Catholic Church (1872) which now functions as an Aboriginal craft shop. Other parts of the original village are the Deasland homestead and Dairy (1890), the police station and residence (1905) west of Gold Creek road, and the remains of the Ginninderra blacksmith's workshop.

Gold Creek Village / Federation Square

Gold Creek Village is now the new name of this area and once again it is a thriving place, but now as a tourist destination. There are many art and craft specialty shops reflecting the period of the original village, hotels, restaurants and more modern art and craft shops. Cockington Green (a model English village), Dinosaur Museum, and a Tudor style English pub make the village an attraction for tourists.

Federation Square on the other side of O'Hanlon Place, is a more recent area of the complex. It has many shops that cater for the tourists, a hotel, a large walk-in bird aviary with over 100 species of parrots and finches, and outdoor and indoor eating areas that are popular with families.



11. HALL VILLAGE

Access from the Barton Highway.

The village of Hall was established in 1882 and the first sale of allotments occurred in 1886. The village was established to provide a residential and commercial centre for the surrounding district to replace the older settlement of Ginninderra. The rural landscape of the village provides a sharp contrast to the more modern suburbs of Gungahlin.