



- Sacred Heart Church
- Point Hut Crossing
- Rose Cottage

LISTED PLACES IN  
**TUGGERANONG [2]**

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*A heritage tour of*  
**TUGGERANONG**

**THROUGH THE VALLEY**

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR



**NATIONAL TRUST**

CONSERVING AUSTRALIA'S HERITAGE

Tuggeranong is the southernmost valley of Canberra. It has an Aboriginal history dating back at least twenty thousand years. European connections to the area go back nearly 200 years with the first pastoral settlements in the early 1800s.

#### MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER CORRIDOR

*There are several ways to get to the Murrumbidgee River. You can start your explorations at Tharwa, Point Hut Crossing from Tharwa Drive, Pine Island behind the Tuggeranong Town Centre, or at Kambah Pool from Namatjira Drive. There are excellent walking brochures produced by the ACT Government available at tourist outlets.*

The Murrumbidgee River has its head waters in Kosciuszko National Park and flows 1,600 km to its junction with the Murray River near Balranald in New South Wales. The river corridor in the Tuggeranong Valley offers a wide and varied experience to everyone. You can visit it in the hot summers to dip your toes into the cool waters, take a picnic lunch and lie in the shade of a gum tree. In all seasons you can walk along its banks following the walking trails and observe its natural beauty and wildlife.

### 1. POINT HUT TO PINE ISLAND

*Access is from Tharwa Drive to Woolcock Drive then Point Hut Road. Start your walk at the Point Hut picnic area. It is a short, easy and pleasant walk through grasslands along the east bank of the river for approximately 3km to Pine Island Reserve.*

This area was settled by Europeans in the early 1830s and much of the vegetation was cleared away to make open grazing lands. Before European settlement the river corridor was an important focal point for Aboriginal people and many of their former campsites have been located by archaeologists on the higher land overlooking the river. In 1986, a program of intensive revegetation saw 50,000 trees planted in the area.

### 2. PINE ISLAND TO KAMBAH POOL

*Access to Pine Island is from Athllon Drive then to Pine Island Road behind the Tuggeranong Town Centre. Access to Kambah Pool is from Namatjira Drive then to Kambah Pool Road.*

Pine Island and Kambah Pool are approximately 8 km apart, following the trail by the river. The walking is easy to moderate. Halfway between the two is the Red Rocks Gorge area. Many walkers reach this point between Pine Island and Kambah Pool then return to their starting point. The gorge is marked by brown, grey, and red sediment layers caused by the oxidation (rusting) of the iron rich rocks.

### 3. SACRED HEART CHURCH (1902)

*Casey Crescent, Calwell.*

This small church is a reminder of the early Irish Catholic communities in the Tuggeranong Valley. It was built in 1902 by voluntary labour and financed by the local Catholics on land leased at a nominal rent of a shilling per year. It is a Federation Carpenter Gothic style church with weather board walls and corrugated iron roof. The church became the heart of social and religious life for the Catholic community of the area who would meet there weekly for Sunday mass, sometimes coming great distances by horseback to share worship. It is the oldest Catholic church still functioning in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Due to a road realignment in 1985 when the southern suburbs of Tuggeranong were expanding, the church was moved 100 metres to the north and is now the centre piece of the St Francis of Assisi Parish Centre and School.

### 4. TUGGERANONG SCHOOL HOUSE (1880)

*Enid Lorimer Circuit, Chisholm. Privately occupied but available for viewing by appointment. Call 6207 5489.*

Today, the Tuggeranong Schoolhouse is enclosed within the suburb of Chisholm, but when it was built in 1880 it was surrounded by the open grazing lands in the Tuggeranong Valley. It was the third school in the area, the first two built in 1870 and 1878. This existing school building was constructed of bricks and originally had a shingle roof. The children of the Tuggeranong valley farming community were taught the "three Rs" in this building until 1940 when falling enrolments forced its closure. One of its most successful students was Professor James McGee, son of the school teacher, who became a prominent nuclear physicist and a pioneer in the development of television in Australia.

### 5. ABORIGINAL AXE GRINDING GROOVES

*(THEODORE, TUGGERANONG HILL) Access is off Christmas Street, Theodore. Look for the Tuggeranong Hill Nature Park sign and walk towards the two eucalypt trees that can be seen further up the slope.*

The grinding grooves are located on an area of exposed flat rock, up-slope from the two eucalypt trees. Aboriginal people used this area extensively for grinding stones into sharp edges for use as axes. There are some 50 shallow grooves worn into the surface of the exposed sandstone rock extending over several metres. Axe grinding requires water as a lubricant and grinding grooves are usually found near a readily accessible water source. In this case it was the Tuggeranong Creek which flows below the site on the other side of the Monaro Highway. The stones used to make the axes were also selected from the creek bed and brought up to the site for sharpening.

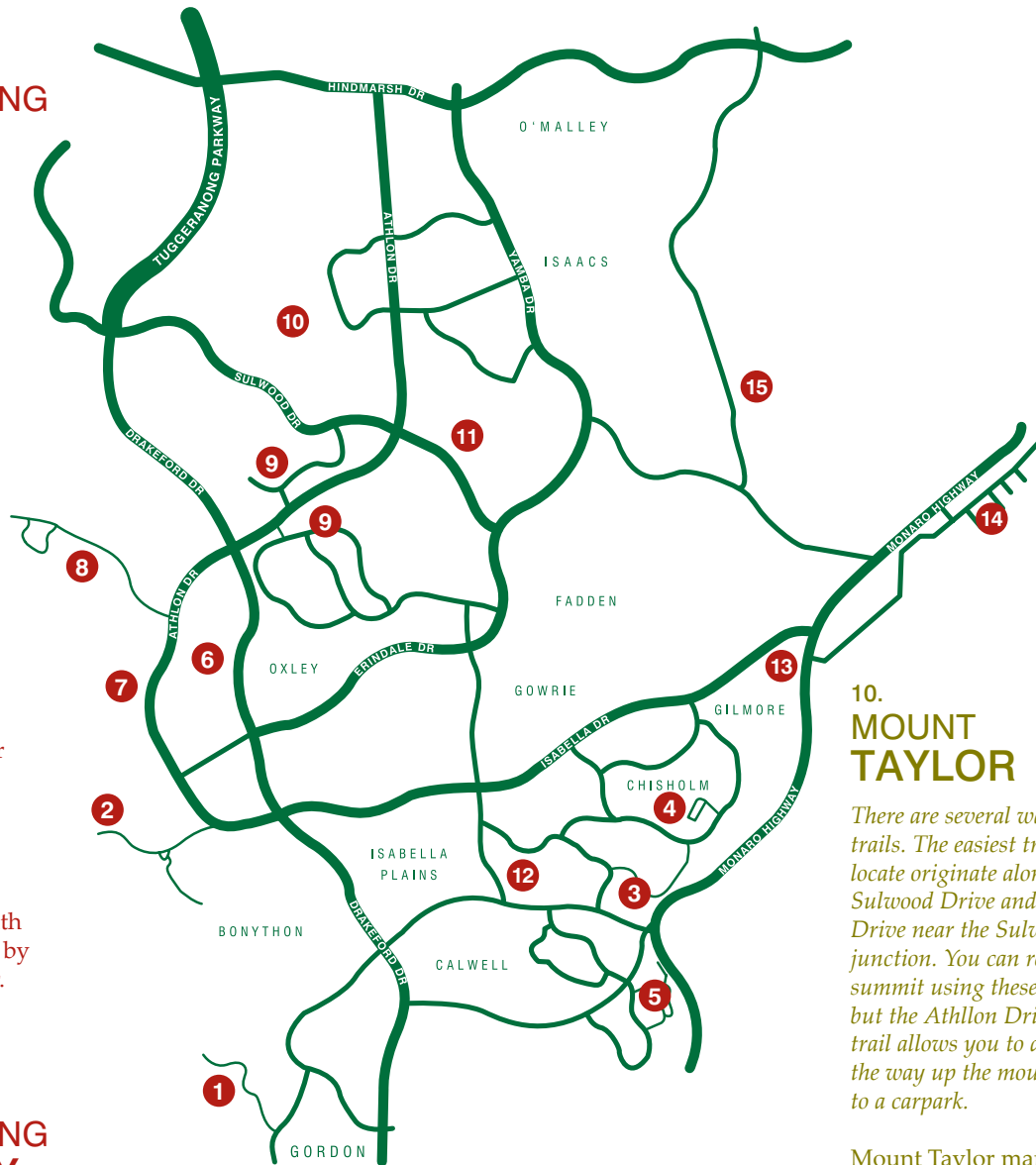
## 6. LAKE TUGGERANONG

*Access from Athllon Drive and Drakeford Drive.*

Lake Tuggeranong was formed in the 1980s by damming the Tuggeranong Creek at Athllon Drive. The creek originally flowed across the marshy area of Isabella Plain and into the Murrumbidgee River. It is now a feature of the Tuggeranong Town Centre. Sealed cycle-ways enable you to walk or cycle around the perimeter of the lake. On the western side of the lake is Tuggeranong Town Park which offers a picturesque, grassy picnic spot with playground facilities by the edge of the water.

## 7. TUGGERANONG BOUNDARY WALL

*Best seen from Athllon Drive opposite Anketell Street Junction. Access can be granted from this point, or from the Murrumbidgee River walking trail between Pine Island Reserve and Red Rocks Gorge.*



## 9. ABORIGINAL SCARRED TREES

**Athllon Drive and St Anthony's school ground.**

*Access is from Athllon Drive near the junction of Vosper Street.*

## 10. MOUNT TAYLOR

*There are several walking trails. The easiest trails to locate originate along Sulwood Drive and Athllon Drive near the Sulwood Drive junction. You can reach the summit using these trails but the Athllon Drive access trail allows you to drive part the way up the mountain to a carpark.*

Mount Taylor marks the northern edge of the Tuggeranong Valley. It is a demanding climb to the summit, but when it is reached there is an extensive view of the Tuggeranong Valley and to the north a vista that takes in the Woden Valley through to the city and beyond. The mountain is the home of the diverse

## 12. TUGGERANONG HOMESTEAD (c.1837)

*Corner of Ashley Drive and Johnson Drive, Richardson. Access is restricted but the property is open to the public on special occasions.*

Tuggeranong Homestead is a group of buildings that date from 1837. The buildings include the main homestead, shearing shed and yards, machinery shed, barn, stables, a number of other buildings and remnant structures associated with the running of a large sheep and cattle property. The Tuggeranong Valley was settled by Europeans in 1825 and Tuggeranong Station became one of the largest properties. It went through several development phases and a number of owners until it was resumed by the Commonwealth in 1916 and divided up under soldier settlement schemes in the 1920s. One prominent resident of the homestead was Dr C Bean (1916–26). Dr Bean and his staff occupied the homestead while writing the official history of the First World War. Dr Bean also played a leading role in the establishment of the Australian War Memorial.

## 14. HILL STATION

*Located in Sheppard Street in the Hume Industrial Estate. Look for the signs along the Monaro Highway.*

As you drive in through the front entrance you will see a large homestead and a small hut to the side. The single-room hut was erected around 1862 and later additions have included a second room, window frames and a floor of bricks made at the Yarralumla Brickworks.

The main homestead was built in 1910. Hill Station was part of the larger Woden Station holdings. Three members of parliament have been associated with Hill Station. The first was Dr James Fitzgerald Murray who was appointed to the NSW Legislative Council in 1856, the second was Sir Henry Gullett and the third was Sir David Fairbairn. Both the latter were cabinet ministers during the Second World War. In its heyday the main homestead entertained many diplomats and foreign

The boundary marker is a little known piece of Tuggeranong's history. It once marked the boundary between the rural properties of Lanyon and Yarralumla. Built between 1867 and 1875, the existing portion is a surviving remnant of a more extensive boundary marker complex. It was built using a variety of techniques, including dry stone wall (stones piled up without mortar), mortared stones, and a ditch and bank system. Wire fencing was also used alongside the stone structure as a form of rabbit-proofing. This type of mixed construction is thought to have been very rare in Australia. The wall extended 1,800 metres from the eastern bank of the Murrumbidgee to what is now Drakeford Drive. The wall was most likely built by convict labour, although there are other theories which include Chinese labour. Much of the wall was lost during the urban development of Tuggeranong and the construction of Lake Tuggeranong but in 1989 parts of it were reconstructed. A portion of the original boundary wall is visible on the river side of Athllon Drive opposite the Anketell Street junction. The rebuilt section is on the opposite side of Athllon Drive.

## 8. URAMBI HILLS

*Access is from several points along Learmonth Drive, Kambah.*

The walking trail through this area ranges from a relatively flat terrain to a steeper climb up to the dual peaks of Urambi. The trail takes a four kilometre route around the base to the peaks, but you can please yourself how far you wish to walk. The open spaces and wooded areas provide a variety of habitats for a wide range of plants and animals. Kangaroos are common and if you are lucky, you might see an echidna. Magpies, Australian ravens and eastern rosellas are permanent. Urambi Hills has been subjected to clearing and grazing for over 100 years but many of the native plant species are making a comeback.

There are two Aboriginal scarred trees in this area. One is located on the north side of Athllon Drive (Kambah) on the edge of the footpath. The other is on the south side of Athllon Drive (Wanniassa) bordering the playing fields of St Anthony's School. Most likely prior to European settlement, the Aboriginal people who lived in the area carefully removed a large slab of bark from each of these trees. The size of the bark removed, in both cases, suggests it was used for making a canoe or used as a form of shelter. There are several other trees in Tuggeranong Valley showing signs of bark removal. Can you find them? Look for large Eucalypt trees (usually Blakely's Red Gums) in park lands, school grounds or near the bicycle paths. These trees are very significant because they are a visible link to the Aboriginal heritage of the area.

the home of the diverse wildlife communities including the eastern grey kangaroo, brush-tail and ring-tail possums, echidnas, many reptiles and over 50 species of birds. The mountain was once covered by a woodland of eucalypts-oaks but much of the surface has been cleared by grazing. Stone artefact scatters on the slopes and scarred trees around the base are the remaining evidence that the mountain was used by the Ngunnawal and Ngarigo people before European arrival.

## 11. FARRER RIDGE

*Access is gained from Sulwood Drive between the Athllon Drive and Erindale Drive intersections.*

Farrer Ridge offers you a gentle walk along the southern slope of the ridge or a more strenuous walk up to the crest. If you walk quietly you will be rewarded with views of much of the bird life that lives in the open forest areas and the large mob of kangaroos that often grazes in the open forest areas or rests under the trees. The kangaroos are eastern greys and they are the most common species in the Canberra region. From the top of the ridge there is an extensive view of the Tuggeranong Valley looking towards the Brindabella Range in the background.

## 13. ROSE COTTAGE (1855-78)

*Located on Isabella Drive near the junction of the Monaro Highway, Gilmore.*

A complex of buildings including two nineteenth century rammed earth buildings, together with a modern structure. The site was once part of the Tuggeranong Station before being sold in 1855. There is some uncertainty as to when the two rammed earth buildings were constructed but it was somewhere between 1855 and 1878. The original buildings were lived in until 1945 and later they were used for the accommodation of shearers. The original buildings have been conserved and repairs were made to their floors, windows, and roofs.

diplomats and foreign dignitaries. Hill Station is run as a restaurant and convention centre today.

## 15. STONE RUIN, MUGGA LANE (PRIOR TO 1878)

*Mugga Lane. Located approximately 4km from the Hindmarsh Drive junction and 1.5km from Long Gully Road junction.*

Although not exactly in the Tuggeranong Valley this ruin is worth seeing as you are driving to or from the Valley. It is located on a privately leased farm so access is restricted but it can be easily viewed from the road. The original two-room cottage was built from stone obtained from nearby Mt Mugga Mugga, sometime prior to 1878. An additional two rooms were added later. The cottage was built as an out-station, or overseer's house for employees of the Duntroon station. Although now in ruins, the design of the cottage bears a striking similarity to the restored Blundell's Cottage on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin.