



LISTED PLACES IN  
**YARRALUMLA [1]**

1. Hyatt Hotel Canberra
2. Canberra Croquet Club
3. Albert Hall
4. Lennox Gardens
5. Canberra-Nara Park
6. Along the shores of the Lake
7. Yarralumla Bay
8. Former Water Police Cottage
9. Weston Park
10. Yarralumla Nursery
11. Casey House
12. The Diplomatic Community

*A heritage tour of*  
**YARRALUMLA**

**TOUR 1 of 2**  
A SELF-GUIDED TOUR



This tour has been developed by the  
National Trust of Australia (ACT)  
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- **Albert Hall (with Statue Bellona)** Courtesy of the ACT Heritage Library.

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.  
**HYATT HOTEL  
CANBERRA**  
(c.1920)

*Commonwealth Avenue between Kaye Street and Coronation Drive. The north carpark is a good place to park for the hotel, Albert Hall, Croquet Club, Lennox gardens and Nara Canberra Park.*

The Hotel was constructed in the early 1920's and was originally intended to be used as a hostel for members of parliament and government officials.

This is one of many buildings in the city that was designed by John Murdoch. Murdoch also designed Old Parliament House and the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings across Northbourne Avenue in the city. The Hotel formed part of the early visual and social fabric of Canberra.

The building was refurbished in the 1980s and is now a prestigious hotel.

2.  
**CANBERRA  
CROQUET**  
(1928)

*Corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Coronation Drive. Best access is to park in the Hyatt carpark walk past the front of the Hyatt Hotel.*

The Canberra Croquet Club was established in 1928. The Club's original purpose was to provide recreation for the wives of visiting parliamentarians. The present club house was built in 1933.

The Club operated as a "women's only" club until 1975. Other sports have been represented on the grounds. Exhibition tennis matches were held on the lawns in the early 1930s and the club house was used as a venue for meetings of the Acton Golf Club (now the Royal Canberra Golf Club). Now no longer the preserve of parliamentary wives, the club is now open to men.

3.  
**ALBERT  
HALL**  
(1927)

*Corner Commonwealth Avenue and Kaye Street. Best access is to park in the Hyatt carpark and walk across Kaye Street.*

Constructed in 1927, Albert Hall was a focal point for entertainment during the early period of Canberra's development, serving as a theatre, exhibition hall, ball room and concert hall.

It is heritage listed for its historical and social value and is an important example of the 'Federal Capital' period of architecture associated with Canberra. The two Atlantic cedars adjacent to the Hall were part of the original plantings along Commonwealth Avenue.



**4. LENNOX GARDENS (1964)**

*Off Flynn Drive. Best access is to park in the Hyatt carpark and walk across Flynn Drive behind the hotel on the corner.*

**6. ALONG THE SHORES OF THE LAKE**

**8. FORMER WATER POLICE COTTAGE (c.1920s)**

*Weston Park Road*

This house has an obscure history, and its fabric remains the only real evidence to assist in understanding the chronology of the building.

**9. WESTON PARK (c.1964)**

*Weston Park Road*

Thomas Weston was a pioneer of arboriculture in Canberra. He was Canberra's first Superintendent of Parks and Gardens and was instrumental in creating the urban landscape for the city as well as establishing a forestry industry. The park which bears his name was established in 1963.

There is plenty of room for picnicking and the park is well supplied with tables and electric barbecues.

For the kids there is a mini railway in which to enjoy a safe ride in train with open carriages.

**11. CASEY HOUSE (1939)**

*Rhodes Place off State Circle*

Casey House is tucked quietly away at the end of Rhodes Place next to the South African High Commission.

It was built in 1939 amid much controversy. At that time no Government ministers lived in Canberra. Its original purpose was to house the Treasurer of the time, Richard Gardiner Casey, so that at least one member of cabinet resided in Canberra. Casey only resided in the residence for a few months, as a change of Prime Minister saw Casey appointment to be Australia's first diplomatic representative in Washington.

The building was then occupied by the Canadian High Commission until 1973. Since then the building has had a number of occupants including the Australian Heritage Commission and is now privately owned.

the hotel or the carpark off Flynn Drive.

The Gardens are named after the designer of the original low level crossing at Molonglo River which was flooded when Lake Burley Griffin was formed in 1964.

David Lennox (1788–1873) was a noted bridge builder. The present gardens once formed part of then Acton Golf Club which was established in the 1920s and was largely inundated with the forming of the lake in 1964.

The layout and plantings of the gardens were designed to create an exotic character reminiscent of the 1920s formal gardens of nearby Albert Hall and Hotel Canberra.

5.

## CANBERRA–NARA PARK (1999)

*Within Lennox Gardens*

Canberra and Nara (Japan) are sister cities and this park, situated in Lennox Gardens, commemorates the friendship between the two cities. Nara was the ancient capital of Japan. The park is designed to create the feel of a traditional Japanese garden within the surrounds of a Canberra public park.

A large 'Kasuga' lantern weighing 5 tonnes, a large 'Yukimi' lantern weighing 3 tonnes and a polished granite memorial stone are gifts from the citizens of Nara.

*Alexandrina Drive and Weston Park Road*

Both roads follow the southern foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin for about 4 kilometers from Flynn Drive to Kurrajong Point. The route winds between the lake shore and slopes of Stirling Park ridge then the landscape opens out into Weston Park. It is a pleasant drive with views across the lake to the northern shore. But a better experience is to stroll or ride a bike along the path bordering the lake to Yarralumla Bay, a distance of about 1.5 kilometers

7.

## YARRALUMLA BAY

*Alexandrina Drive*

Yarralumla Bay is a well-defined inlet of Lake Burley Griffin. Before the Lake was filled in 1964 the area was named Yarralumla Bay. The park has numerous picnic tables and facilities and a sandy beach and enclosures for swimming and paddling.

chronology of the building. It was not part of the urban planning and the growth of Canberra, and is remnant of the agricultural phase of the Canberra area.

It was originally a three bedroom house. The windows are timber with a style typical of the 1930s to early 1950s. The external materials are typically 1950s as are much of the interior although the interior doors, which have large central plywood panels finished in a dark varnish, suggest the fashions of the 1920s to 1930s.

Although it is a bit of a mystery this small house has a significant historical value being a private dwelling built in an agricultural setting which was rapidly coming to an end as the capital city was being built around it.

A tree lined bike path winds through to Government House and provides an excellent ride or walk in Summer.

10.

## YARRALUMLA NURSERY (1913)

*Off Weston Park Road*

Surrounded on all sides by Weston Park, the Yarralumla Nursery occupies an area of 10 hectares. Today the nursery operates as a commercial business but it has its roots set firmly in the early development of Canberra.

Charles Weston selected the area in 1913 to act as a general nursery growing seeds and plants which were to be used to establish green areas and parklands for the developing capital city. New residents were entitled to receive plants free on request from the nursery.

This practice was to continue into the 1980s and many back and front gardens in Canberra's suburbs have trees and shrubs which originated from the nursery. The nursery was instrumental in creating Canberra as a garden city.

12.

## THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY OF AUSTRALIA

*Between Empire Circuit, Coronation Drive, State Circle and Adelaide Avenue. Access is off any of these roads.*

East Yarralumla is an area set aside for the diplomatic community in Australia. It is worth spending some time in this area, driving, cycling or walking. The diplomatic missions are set in architectural styles that reflect the cultures of the countries represented.