

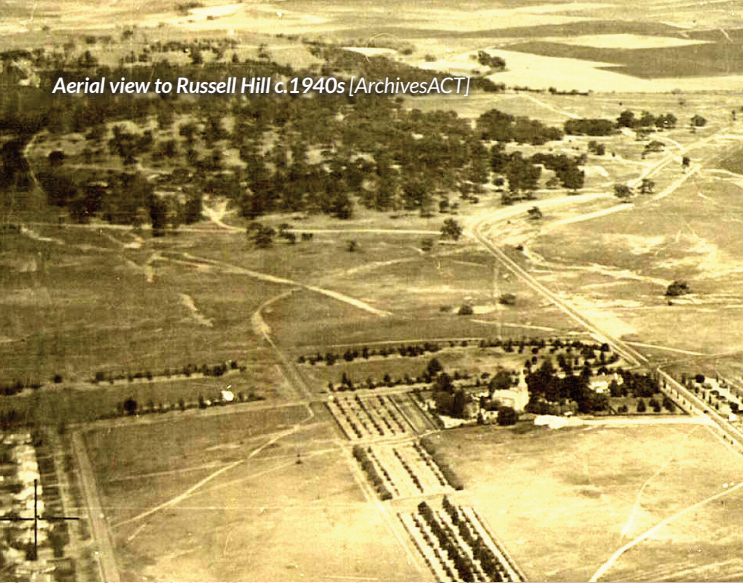
📍 Ngunnawal Country

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

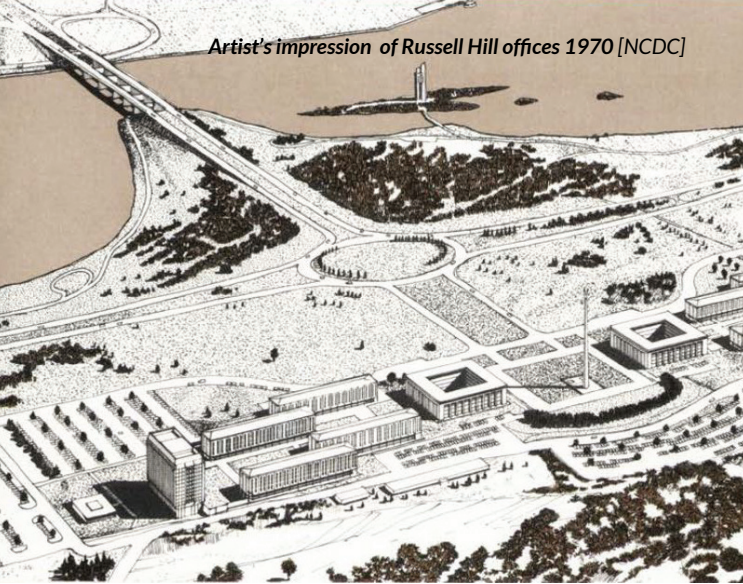
Campbell – Russell



Aerial view to Russell Hill c.1940s [ArchivesACT]



Artist's impression of Russell Hill offices 1970 [NCDC]



See map in centre spread

This tour adjoins the 'Reid' Tour and part of the 'Military Heritage' Tour.

It is designed as a walking tour up to Stop 15.

You can walk or cycle to the remaining stops, or you can drive.



Poppy icons signify military memorials.

Campbell–Russell

Today's suburbs of Campbell and Russell were formerly part of the 'Duntroon' pastoral property, held by Robert Campbell and his successors from the 1820s until the 1910s. Both were placed within the district of Duntroon from the 1920s, until this was renamed Campbell in 1956. The name Duntroon was then retained exclusively for the Royal Military College (RMC) area.

Reflecting its location between the Australian War Memorial and the RMC, the National Memorials Committee decided in June 1956 that the suburb's theme would be names and roles in military history.

Campbell was the first Canberra suburb to depart from the 1925 gazetted city plan, and was the first to be designed using the 'neighbourhood model'. This based a suburb around a population of 3,500-6,000 people, with an infants/primary school near central shops, ovals and other facilities, designed so that no child would have to walk more than 800 metres to school.

Arterial traffic was confined to the edges of the neighbourhood, and local streets curved, with cul-de-sacs and linking pedestrian pathways. This also reflected the suburb's hilly nature which was not suited to a rigid grid pattern.

In 1957 the first 91 residential blocks in Campbell were auctioned, and the suburb was connected to electricity.

Significant numbers of Defence personnel were transferred from Melbourne from 1959, occupying many of the newly built houses in Campbell, alongside Australian National University (ANU) staff.

In 1965 the area around the Defence offices at Russell Hill became the suburb of Russell.

❖ **1. Anzac Parade** is entered on the National Heritage List as Australian War Memorial and 'the Memorial Parade'. It extends from the Australian War Memorial to the Gallipoli Reach foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin.

Both sides of Anzac Parade are marked by memorials to the nation's defence services, alliances and campaigns. A self-guided walking tour of these memorials is available on the National Capital Authority website.

Anzac Parade lies on the Land Axis of the plan for Canberra designed by Walter and Marion Mahony Griffin. The axis connects Mount Ainslie summit through Capital Hill to Bimberi Peak on the ACT-NSW border.

The Griffins laid out an avenue on this northern part of the axis and named it 'Prospect Parkway'. It was to have been the site of Prospect Station on the planned City railway.

❖ **2. Hassett Park** was established in 2016 and named for General Sir Francis Hassett, the first Chief of the Defence Force Staff and a veteran of World War II, the Korean War and the Malayan Emergency.

During World War I a temporary railway line was built from today's railway station area to the early city, to carry construction materials and workers.

Creswell Street marks the point at which the temporary line changed direction, traversing the area that is now Hassett Park and continuing westward towards the city. Part of the old railway embankment remains visible in Amaroo Street, Reid (listed on the ACT Heritage Register).

❖ **3. George Cross Park** in Blamey Crescent was dedicated in 2001, with memorial plaques to Australian recipients of the George Cross, awarded for acts of the greatest heroism or the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger.

❖ **4. Victoria Cross Park** in Glossop Crescent was dedicated in 2000. At the southern end near Derrick Street is a memorial to Australian recipients of the Victoria Cross, the nation's highest award for gallantry in war.

5. Campbell shops

The shops in Blamey Crescent opened in 1962-63, forming the nucleus of the new suburb.

On the corner with Edmondson Street are apartments and attached houses completed in 1968 for the ANU. Designed by renowned architect Harry Seidler, they are valued as an important example of his post-war international style, and are listed on the ACT Heritage Register.

To the east, on a site now occupied by the primary school and oval, were old alluvial gold workings dating from the 1870s. Despite considerable effort and investment, the Duntroon area failed to yield payable gold.

At the shops a sign marks the northern end of the Russell Hill Settlement. From 1926 this camp of 120 sites housed construction workers, employed ahead of the planned transfer of public servants to the Federal Capital. Intended to last only a few years, the camp was not connected to electricity or sewerage, but it did have piped water. The dwellings were built by the people who lived in them, with materials supplied by the Federal Capital Commission.

By the late 1920s the settlement was home to about 115 families, with a school, children's playground, football field, tennis court and pavilion, but by 1929 only 39 dwellings remained. When the school closed in 1930 its building was moved to Corroboree Park in Ainslie, where it still serves as a community hall.

Although the settlement officially ceased in 1934, numerous homeless people remained there during the Great Depression and World War II, prompting the nickname 'Poverty Gully'. The name 'Hangman's Gully' was also used at times, due to reports of suicides.

Despite the demolition of Russell Hill Settlement in 1957, a squalid camp lingered nearby, mostly occupied by pensioners. Facetiously termed 'Happy Valley', by the mid-1960s the collection of tin humpies in scrub country was a stark contrast to the brand new £2 million Russell Offices, which lay just down the hill.

6. Monash Drive alignment

Campbell would have been a very different suburb if Monash Drive had been constructed. First proposed in 1959, this was to be a north-south arterial road, along the western foothills of Mount Ainslie, crossing the Molonglo River to link with major roads in the south.

The proposal met with strong community opposition, which continued after ACT self-government in 1989. It was not removed from city plans until 2009.

The road easement remains to the east of the shops and oval, between houses in Vasey Crescent and Gellibrand Street. This is now part of the suburb's highly valued urban bushland. Foot access through the bushland strip has been titled the Monash Drive Track – a reminder of what might have been.

7. Site of Andersons Cottage

In about 1920 Sam Goddard painted his well-known *View of Canberra*, looking to the spire of St John's Church and beyond, with a cottage in the foreground beside a creek. That building was 'Andersons Cottage' (at one time 'Moran's Cottage'), situated close to today's Jacka Place.

This site is a reminder of old 'Duntroon', when the Ram Paddock covered the western half of today's suburb of Campbell, and Moran's Paddock covered the eastern half.

Andersons was a stone cottage, probably built as worker accommodation by George Rottenbury for the Campbells. Only three of these worker cottages remain today – Blundells Cottage, Mugga Mugga and Majura House.

Patrick Curley, who worked as a shepherd at 'Duntroon', was probably the first tenant. He and his wife Mary (née Fahee) arrived in the colony from Ireland as bounty immigrants in 1842 and lived in this district from 1857.

Archibald (Archie) Anderson, a coachman and later studmaster at 'Duntroon', occupied the cottage from the 1880s to 1913. It still carried his name on maps for some time after that, until it was demolished, probably in the 1920s.

● **8. Legacy Park** lies on the hill between Savage Street and Garsia Street. It was dedicated in 2001 to mark the 75th anniversary of Legacy. This organisation provides support to families of Australian Defence Force personnel who have lost their lives or health in military conflicts.

There are fine views over Canberra from the memorial in the park.

In 2006 an Aleppo pine, grown from the Lone Pine of Gallipoli, was planted in the park near Savage Street.

● **9. RSL Park** was dedicated in 2002 to mark the work of the Returned & Services League.

From Jacka Crescent to Blamey Crescent, the park extends over the lower reaches of what was shown in early maps as a 'well-defined watercourse', its course shaped by a hilly outcrop of volcanic rock.

At today's Constitution Avenue was a timber bridge that carried the temporary city railway across the creek. There are stories from the 1930s of people catching yabbies in a large pond near the bridge. An alluvial flat just upstream, near modern Butler Place, was probably worked for gold.

The 'Iskia' development in Constitution Avenue occupies the site of the former RSL headquarters building, opened in 1963 by the Governor-General Viscount De L'Isle, with Prime Minister Robert Menzies also present.

In the grounds were two Aleppo pines, progeny of the Gallipoli Lone Pine, planted by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester in April 1965 to mark the 50th anniversary of the first ANZAC landing.

A new RSL headquarters within the development was opened in 2019 by the Governor-General, General David Hurley.

The forecourt of 'Iskia' includes the sculptural artwork 'Field of Light' by Matthew Curtis, 'evoking an image of the poppies in Flanders field' to reflect the RSL's long history on the site.

Campbell–Russell

Military Heritage
Tour Brochure

Reid Tour
Brochure

Commonwealth
Park—Kings Park
Tour Brochure

Military Heritage
Tour Brochure

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- 16 De Smet cottage and the Home Affairs Camp
- 17 RMC Duntroon
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If on foot, laneways link Edmondson Street and Blamey Crescent to Waller Crescent to Glossop Crescent. Care is required crossing Parkes Way/ Morshead Drive to reach Stop 14. Stops 16 to 19 are best accessed by car for all but ambitious walkers.



10. Constitution Avenue at Blamey Crescent

In the Griffins' plan, what is now Blamey Crescent was to be The Parade, curving through the gap between Mounts Pleasant and Ainslie to form a ceremonial connection between the RMC and the City.

The Municipal Axis in that plan connected the Market Centre (now Russell) and Vernon Circle (now City Hill). Here Capital Terrace (now Constitution Avenue) was to be the main business district, with high commercial and residential densities, serviced by streetcars (trams).

Between this road and the lake the Griffins planned an extensive central park around major cultural buildings.

The growth of the modern city fuelled significant redevelopment and reshaping of Constitution Avenue in 2006.

11. Constitution Avenue – Northcott Drive roundabout

In the Griffins' plan the permanent City railway, after crossing the Molonglo River, was to enter a tunnel excavated through the hard volcanic rock foothills of modern Russell Hill. An underground station here was to be the major arrival point and gateway for the city.

Above the station was to be the Market building and Station Place, at the apex of a triangle framed by The Causeway and Federal (now Kings) Avenue.

The permanent railway line would then continue in a cutting to pass underneath roads all the way to the city, with no level crossings, and then to Yass.

With the abandonment of the City railway, the station and the Market building, the main triangle of the Griffins' plan was left incomplete, missing an apex corner.

This was partly remedied when Constitution Avenue was later extended beyond Blamey Crescent (requiring much excavation), to a roundabout at the apex, opening to Northcott Drive. Sellheim Avenue now marks the uppermost part of the abandoned Causeway Axis.

12. Russell Offices

In 1958 major office development was planned for the Defence forces at Russell Hill, and a series of new buildings was rapidly completed.

In 1965 it was announced that the area around these offices would be designated as a new suburb called Russell. The name is thought to commemorate South Australian Senator William Russell who was a strong supporter of Canberra as the site for the Federal Capital.

However, some viewed the Russell name as an unfortunate reminder of the old worker settlement and 'Poverty Gully'.

Some of the landscaping around the Defence buildings (such as in Kelliher Drive) includes boulders of excavated limestone that recall the original identity of the district as the Limestone Plains.

✿ **13. Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Square** is registered on the Commonwealth Heritage List. Blamey served as a general in both World Wars I and II, and was the only Australian to attain the rank of Field Marshal.

Towering nearly 80 metres above the square, the **Australian-American Memorial** symbolises the two nations' comradeship-in-arms, and represents Australian gratitude to American forces for their contribution to the defence of Australia during World War II. Public donations funded its construction.

Designed by Richard M Ure, it was unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II in 1954. At the top is a bronze sphere and stylised American eagle, in total about 11 metres tall and weighing 3.5 tonnes, created by sculptor Paul Beadle.

The Royal Netherlands and East Indies Forces Memorial commemorates service personnel who helped the defence of Australia after having escaped Japanese attacks on the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia) during World War II.

The memorial was first dedicated in 1991 and re-dedicated in 1999. The mosaics are by artist David Humphries.

Due to heavy traffic, care is required crossing Parkes Way/ Morshead Drive.

14. Menindee Drive/Grevillea Park

Take a short walk along the lake foreshore towards the Clare Holland House hospice, to the site of the old railway bridge across the Molonglo River. This was part of the temporary railway built during World War I.

The line followed the Causeway Axis of the Griffins' plan on a low embankment across the floodplain and on a timber trestle bridge across the river. The northern end of the bridge was close to the rocky promontory next to today's hospice.

For the permanent line a much higher causeway was planned, which would also retain a massive East Lake, about 6 metres higher than the central lakes. Because this required extensive tunnelling in the rocky foothills of Mount Pleasant, the temporary line swung away on easier ground, heading north-west through modern Campbell.

After only a year or two of operation, the flood of 1922 severely damaged the trestle bridge and embankment, and an even larger flood in 1925 completed their destruction.

The railway and East Lake were deleted from the city plan in the 1950s, with the last railway bridge removed in 1959.



Building at Acton built 1923, later Russell Hill School
[National Archives of Australia A3560, 7185]



Timber trestle railway bridge looking upstream c.1920
[National Archives of Australia A3560, 230]

15. Duntroon Dairy

This site provides commanding views over the Molonglo floodplain and Jerrabomberra Wetlands.

The 'Duntroon' dairy is the oldest building still standing in Canberra. It was built in about 1832, high above the Molonglo floodplain, to house dairy produce from the Campbell estate.

Constructed in local volcanic stone, it is set into the lower, south-facing slopes to help keep it cool, aided by a natural spring that feeds a water tank beneath the building. In 1834 the visiting Polish naturalist John Lhotsky wrote that he had stayed cool during very hot weather by sheltering in the dairy building.

By the 1970s most of the more recent adjoining farm buildings were demolished. The dairy roof had fallen in and required replacement.

Archaeological excavation of the dairy site in 1977 uncovered more than 700 artefacts, now housed at the Canberra Museum and Gallery.

On-site interpretation describes the old buildings and recalls generations of families who operated the dairy across nearly a century.

They included the family of Ambrose Austen (from 1865), and his daughters Alice Warwick and Elizabeth Mayo. After 'Duntroon' was resumed in 1912, Elizabeth's daughter Jennet and son-in-law Charles Edlington continued dairying here for another 50 years.

The walking tour may conclude here. Owing to some long stretches and steep grades, the remaining stops are best visited by car, or by more ambitious cyclists or walkers.

The remaining stops are within a Defence area, and access restrictions may apply. Please obey all signs and directives.

16. De Smet cottage and the Home Affairs Camp

Today's Northcott Drive skirts the ridge between Campbell and Duntroon, near the eastern edge of the old Moran's Paddock. In late 1914 the RMC was extended to the top of this ridge, becoming part of the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) from 1968.

ADFA provides military and tertiary education for junior officers of the three armed services, in partnership with the University of NSW.

Within the grounds of ADFA is the site of the 'De Smet cottage'. This was a three-room cottage in stone, like Andersons originally a 'Duntroon' worker cottage, probably built by George Rottenbury in the 1850s-60s.

It was occupied from about 1903 to 1915 by Albert Victor De Smet, a groundsman at Duntroon. His brother Charles Emanuel De Smet also worked there for a time, along with their father Jules, who worked as a carter.

As 'De Smet's Boarding House' it formed part of the Home Affairs Camp for married workers. This was an overflow from a camp originally set up for those engaged in construction and development of the RMC.

In 1913 the Home Affairs Camp housed 12-13 married workers plus boarding house occupants. Most sites were informal and dispersed, with primitive shared facilities.

After De Smet departed, the cottage was occupied by several tenants into the 1920s. The date of its demolition is uncertain.

Remaining stops are accessed from General Bridges Drive. Through the ADFA grounds, follow Tobruk Road then Milne Bay Road and turn right into General Bridges Drive. Alternatively, follow Northcott Drive then Fairbairn Avenue, through the Gun Gates of RMC Duntroon, then Robert Campbell Drive and right into General Bridges Drive.

Additional details for the remaining stops are contained in the 'Military Heritage' tour brochure.

17. RMC Duntroon

Brigadier-General William Bridges chose 'Duntroon' as the site for the RMC, founded in 1911.

The Commonwealth Heritage List includes multiple buildings and features in the grounds, including the former 'Duntroon' homestead, dating back to colonial times.

Changi Chapel was originally built in 1944 by Australian and the Allied POWs in Changi camp, Singapore, from scavenged materials. It was reassembled here as a memorial to all prisoners of war, dedicated in 1988 and is recognised as the National Prisoner of War Memorial.

18. General Bridges Grave

On the climb towards Mount Pleasant is the grave of Major General Sir William Bridges, the first commandant of the RMC and the first commander of the Australian Imperial Force in World War I. Fatally wounded by a sniper at Gallipoli in May 1915, his remains were later returned to Australia for final burial.

The grave memorial was designed by Walter Burley Griffin in 1916, with the site selected for its view over the RMC.

Two Aleppo pines, grown from the Lone Pine of Gallipoli, were planted in 1993 on the slope below the grave to commemorate RMC cadets who served at Gallipoli.

19. Mount Pleasant Lookout

Mount Pleasant provides expansive views of the city and its setting, with several signs on a short walk providing historical interpretation.

The Royal Australian Artillery National Memorial includes two cannons that once defended Sydney Harbour, now pointing over a stone parapet recording regimental campaigns.

View of Canberra by Sam Goddard c.1920

[National Library of Australia nla.obj-134346837]

Front cover: Edmondson Street apartments, architect Harry Seidler 1968

**Visit Campbell-Russell to
discover stories of old Canberra,
the changing face of the city,
and places that commemorate
military service and sacrifice.**

**Campbell
-Russell**

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