

📍 Ngunnawal Country

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

# Yarralumla





**City map 1916–1924** [<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-230044617>]

**i See map in centre spread**

The tour extends from Commonwealth Avenue to Scrivener Dam and is best undertaken by a combination of walking and driving/cycling.

The stops are numbered from east to west but may be undertaken in any order and in parts.

Stops 1–7 are a walking loop, approximately 4 kms and 1.5–2 hours depending on the optional loop being included.

Stop 8 is the diplomatic precinct, easily seen using the National Capital Authority's self-guided driving tour. See Stop 8 for details.

Stops 11–12 are a walking loop, approximately 2 kms.

Stops 9–10 and 13–19 are best seen by driving/cycling.

Public toilets are available at Lennox Gardens, Lotus Bay, Yarralumla Bay, Weston Park and the Yarralumla shops. There are cafes at Weston Park and Yarralumla shops and seats and picnic facilities along the lake.



**Denotes Canberra Tracks sign at sites for more information**



**Site listed on the ACT Heritage Register or on the Commonwealth or National Heritage Lists**

# Yarralumla

The Canberra suburb of Yarralumla, gazetted in 1928, is situated on the traditional lands of the Ngunnawal people.

The name first appeared on surveyor Robert Dixon's map of 1829 and the area was officially named Yarralumla in 1834. Sydney merchant Henry Donnison had been granted a lease on the western side of West Ridge and named his property 'Yarralumla'.

The name was extended to the Parish of Yarrolumla and the Shire of Yarrowlumla.

The suburb's streets are named for governors-general, colonial governors, foresters and botanists.

Some aspects of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin's design for the new Federal capital can be seen: a continental arboretum around West Lake and three of the eight avenues radiating from Capitol Place (now Capital Hill) named for Australian and New Zealand capital cities. These avenues terminated originally at places named for an appropriate floral emblem: Adelaide Avenue at Clianthus Circle (no longer existing); Perth Avenue at Boronia Circuit/Hill (now Stirling Park); and Darwin Avenue (a remnant remaining) at Lotus Bay.

In 1917, the Griffins emphasised the suburb's location at the south-western corner of the planned city by labelling the area known as Westbourne as Westridge, fronting West Lake. Some locals called the area Westridge into the 1960s.

## 1 Albert Hall Heritage Precinct



***Albert Hall was designed in the Inter-War Georgian Revival style***

*[<http://nla.gov.au.obj-141455344>]*

Albert Hall was opened in 1928, designed by Federal Capital Commission architect David Limburg, under its chief architect Henry Rolland. Initially called the Assembly Hall, it was named for Prince Albert, the Duke of York (later King George VI), who opened the provisional Parliament House in 1927. The name also pays tribute to the Royal Albert Hall, London. At the opening, Prime Minister Stanley Melbourne Bruce declared the new Albert Hall the 'centre from which will radiate all those aspirations that are truly national'.

This was not Canberra's first public hall but it was the grandest, a place for cultural and civic activities and Canberra's only performing arts venue for its first 40 years. It hosted Australia's first citizenship ceremony in 1949 and was used as the National Tally Room for federal elections in the 1960s.

The Albert Hall Heritage Precinct includes the earliest landscaping by horticulturalist T C G (Charles) Weston.

Albert Hall was built on land by the Molonglo River before Lake Burley Griffin was constructed. The alluvial flats were used to grow crops and vegetables and supported some of Canberra's earliest dairy farms.

Close to the Albert Hall site was the stone farmhouse of German-born William Klensendorlffe, built in 1839 on a block fronting the river and extending southwards, more than 1000 hectares. He brought out assisted immigrants who became tenant farmers but left the district after becoming bankrupt in the 1840s economic depression.

For a time the farm was leased as part of 'Yarralumla'. It was purchased in 1860 by the Campbells of 'Duntroon'. The eastern section called 'Springbank' by John McPherson in about 1830 was the first grazing property in the (now) ACT. It was occupied from 1844 by Joseph Kaye's family. After their harrowing experience of being marooned by the great flood of 1852 they moved in 1855 to a house near the (now) Hyatt Hotel.

Kaye descendants returned to 'Springbank' in 1924 but left in 1964 when the land was acquired for Lake Burley Griffin. The high point now forms Springbank Island in West Basin. Their former cottage served as the initial clubhouse for the Canberra Golf Club.

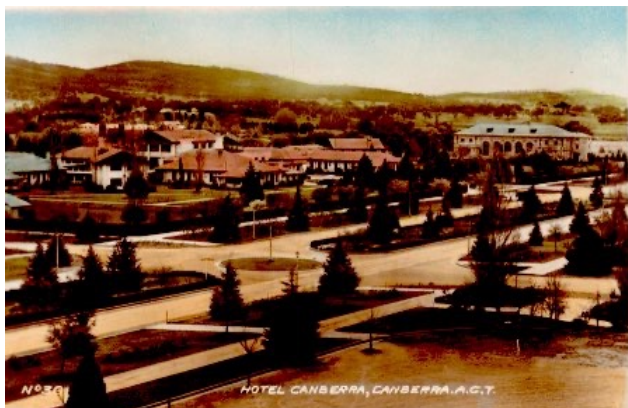


***Klensendorlffe's stone farmhouse was demolished in 1923, and Kaye's cottage destroyed by fire in 1965.***[CDHS ID 16679

*Photo 2976]*

*Cross Kaye Street and walk towards the Hyatt Hotel and Canberra Croquet Club.*

## 2 Hyatt Hotel Canberra



**Hotel Canberra and Albert Hall 1930s** [Wikimedia Commons]

The building is an example of the Garden Pavilion style of government architect John Smith Murdoch who also designed the provisional Parliament House, Hotel Kurrajong and other notable Canberra buildings.

It was constructed in brick, delivered to the site by rail. A temporary spur line had been constructed from the Government brickworks at Westridge and Power House at Eastlake (Kingston). The line also served construction of Parliament House.

Hostel No. 1 opened in 1924, the first government-owned hostel in Canberra. It was labelled a hostel, not hotel, because of a ban on the sale of alcohol. The hostel housed politicians, officials and important visitors.

The name was changed to Hotel Canberra in 1927 after the alcohol ban was rescinded. It became a focal point for Canberra society and for many a political intrigue.

The hotel closed in 1974 and the building used from 1976 to 1984 as overflow office space for Parliament House staff. After sympathetic renovations, it opened as the Hyatt Hotel Canberra in 1988, Canberra's first international five-star hotel. Six suites are named after prime ministers.

### 3 Canberra Croquet Club

On the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Coronation Drive, a croquet lawn and bowling green were created for the use of guests. The Canberra Croquet Club was founded in 1928 for women only, mostly wives of politicians.

A dedicated clubhouse was opened in 1933, echoing the character of the hotel. The golf club formed in the 1920s (later, the Royal Canberra Golf Club) also used the building for a clubhouse until their move to the present site at Westbourne Woods in 1962, before the lake filled.

Men were admitted to membership of the croquet club in 1976.

*Turn right at Kaye Place towards the lake and follow it past the Hyatt Hotel Clubhouse. Turn left and cross Flynn Drive to Lennox Gardens.*

### 4 Lennox Gardens

The lakeside park on Flynn Drive was named in 1963 for Lennox Crossing which connected the Albert Hall area to Acton Peninsula across the Molonglo River. The crossing was named for David Lennox, master bridge designer and builder, who was active in New South Wales and Victoria in the mid-nineteenth century. The low-level crossing was submerged in the filling of Lake Burley Griffin in 1964.

Most of the gardens' area was within the links of the golf club.

Part of Lennox Gardens is planted as a traditional English garden to reflect the Hotel Canberra landscaping.

Two gardens within the park celebrate Canberra's sister city relationship with Beijing, China, and Nara, Japan.

The relationship with Beijing was formalised in 2000 and the **Canberra Beijing Garden** opened in 2014, a centennial gift from the Beijing Municipal Government.

Its design reflects the imperial Chinese garden style of the Qing Dynasty (1644–1912) with a traditional gateway, sculptures and pavilion.

The relationship with Nara, the 8th-century capital of Japan, began in 1993. The gardens were gifted by the people of Nara and contain traditional plantings, two giant stone lanterns, a wooden gate and pavilions.

The park was renamed **Canberra Nara Peace Park** in 2010 and marked by an 8-metre-tall sculpture of a pagoda by Shinki Kato.

Close to the lake on the point ahead is the **Canberra Rotary Peace Bell**, unveiled in 2018. It is a replica of the first World Peace Bell, unveiled in the forecourt of the United Nations, New York, in 1954. All World Peace Bells, including those at Cowra, Hiroshima, London and Washington, are rung on the annual UN International Day of Peace, 21 September.

*Continue on the path back towards Flynn Drive, passing two more memorials.*

The **Israel Garden Memorial**, a gift from the Jewish National Fund to mark the centenaries of Federation and the Fund, was dedicated in 2001.

The **Spanish Civil War Memorial**, unveiled in 1993, is dedicated to Australians who volunteered with the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939).

*Continue on the path alongside the lake, turn right at the roundabout onto Alexandrina Drive. Opposite a small car park and interpretive sign describing the area, turn left at the track marked by a Conservation Area sign. Take the track 300 metres to Forster Crescent. The Embassies of Finland and Estonia can be seen on the corner. Further east on Forster Crescent is the Commonwealth Club and Casey House.*



## 5 Stirling Park/Gurubang Dhaura/Bullan Mura

The natural bush area Stirling Park is known as Gurubang Dhaura ('stony ground') to the local Ngunnawal people.

Linking a former crossing point over the Molonglo River, this is part of a traditional Aboriginal pathway between Black Mountain and the Capital Hill area which was a place for meeting and ceremony. The area contains scarred trees, stone artefacts and stone arrangements. Other pathways led to the hill from Tuggeranong, Pialligo and Gungahlin.

Closest to Alexandrina Drive is Bullan Mura ('women's pathway'), a place for women's cultural business. The remainder is Gurubung Dhaura, a place for men's cultural business. The area is important for teaching about the spiritual connection between Aboriginal peoples and Country.

In Stirling Park and the Attunga Point area are some of the largest remaining populations of the endangered Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosia leptorhynchoidea*) and critically endangered grassland and woodland communities. Their survival is due to the area's relatively rough and stony nature, less suitable for pastoral use and not worth developing. Stirling Park is listed under both Commonwealth and ACT heritage legislation.

Despite its value for nature conservation and Aboriginal cultural heritage, the Stirling Park–Attunga Point area has been seen as the preferred site for a new prime ministerial residence ('The Lodge on the lake').

In the Griffins' plan for the city the ridgeline here was named Boronia Hill, renamed Stirling Ridge/Park after Western Australia's first colonial governor.

*Turn right at Forster Crescent to Empire Circuit, take the track to the right and follow it back to Alexandrina Drive (about 300 metres).*

## 6 Westlake camps

Within Stirling Park is the area known as **Westlake camps**. Inside the gate are an interpretive sign and plaques relating to workers' camps that were established here from 1922.

The site was chosen for its proximity to major construction sites and that it concealed the temporary settlement from general view.

The major settlement of 62 cottages began as the '**The Gap Cottages**' but were later referred to as Westlake. This was the first of Canberra's worker settlements. By 1925 it housed 700 people, around one-fifth of the Territory population at that time.



*Westlake worker cottages, 1924 [CDHS ID 14452]*

The cottages, hall and tennis court extended northwards from close to the (now) United States Embassy across the gap in the ridge and halfway down the slope to the lake. After World War II displaced immigrants from Europe were housed there. The last of the cottages was removed in 1965.

Nearby to the east were cottages from the 1920s and 1930s: Howie's Cottages and Hostel and a group comprising the Old Tradesmen's Camp, No. 1 Labourers' Camp ('Daniel's Mess') and No. 3 Sewer Camp.

Some traces of the early settlement can be seen from the track.

The 'lost suburb' of Westlake reminds us of the workers who built early Canberra, and of their families.

*Return along the Alexandrina Drive walking/cycle path towards Lennox Gardens. At the sign 'You are here' shortly before Flynn Drive, you can take an optional walk (less than 2 kms, about 20 minutes return) to Surveyors Park and Hut by following the track opposite the sign and crossing Forster Crescent and under State Circle. Alternatively, continue to Flynn Drive, turn right and turn left at State Circle.*

## 7 Surveyors Park and Hut

A small area between State and Capital Circles, opposite the end of Flynn Drive is **Surveyors Park**, the site of the Federal survey camp established in 1909. It housed in tents Charles Scrivener and his surveyors who mapped the proposed Federal Capital sites for the international design competition and led to the name Camp Hill. A marker allows visitors to calibrate hand-held GPS units.



*The Surveyors hut on State Circle—originally Federal Capital Survey Camp established in 1909. It is one of the oldest Commonwealth buildings in the ACT. Surveyor Charles Scrivener used this hut for secure storage of survey documents. [NAA: A3560, 3112253]*

Two wooden buildings were constructed to enable drafting work, and these were among the earliest buildings erected for Federal Capital purposes. The small hut at the base of Capital Hill, Surveyors Hut or Scriveners Hut, was built with 250mm-thick concrete walls, a concrete and corrugated iron roof and steel door to protect survey drawings and be fire resistant. It remains one of the earliest Commonwealth built structures in Canberra.

The park also has a small population of Button Wrinklewort.

*Return to Flynn Drive and follow the path back to Kaye Street and Albert Hall.*



- 1 Albert Hall Heritage Precinct
- 2 Hyatt Hotel Canberra
- 3 Canberra Croquet Club
- 4 Lennox Gardens
- 5 Stirling Park/Gurubang  
Dhaura/Bullan Mura
- 6 Westlake camps
- 7 Surveyors Park/Hut
- 8 Diplomatic precinct
- 9 'Briar Farm' site/Attunga Point



- 10** Corkhill Dairy/ 'Riverview' site
- 11** Forestry precinct
- 12** Federal housing
- 13** Yarralumla Brickworks
- 14** Westbourne Woods/Royal Canberra Golf Course
- 15** Yarralumla Nursery
- 16** Weston Park
- 17** Yarralumla Woolshed
- 18** Government House Lookout
- 19** Scrivener Dam

## 8 Diplomatic precinct

See [www.nca.gov.au/attractions/take-tour/diplomatic-missions-self-guided-driving-tour](http://www.nca.gov.au/attractions/take-tour/diplomatic-missions-self-guided-driving-tour)

The national capital hosts diplomatic missions. More than 110 countries are represented in Canberra, 36 located in Yarralumla, others in O'Malley, Deakin and neighbouring suburbs. Some architectural styles reflect their countries of origin.

The Royal Swedish Embassy, United States Embassy and the Embassy of Ireland Chancery are listed on the Australian Institute of Architects Register.

*Walk, drive or cycle west along Alexandrina Drive from Attunga Point for remaining stops.*

## 9 'Briar Farm' site/Attunga Point/Blue Gum Point

Along the (now) lake shore from Commonwealth Avenue Bridge to Attunga Point and Blue Gum Point was part of Klensendorff's property. As '**Briar Farm**' it was leased from the Campbells of 'Duntroon' in 1865 by Queanbeyan builders Thomas Bryant and James Cook, and later by the Thomas Kinleyside family. In 1913 Charles Kaye leased a reduced holding. The house was demolished in about 1950.

Near the barbeque area on Alexandrina Drive is the sculpture **DNA** by Jonathan Leahey (2009). Its rusted finish echoes the ironstone which caps this low rise.

There are traces of a quarry. Stone from here was used for clay bricks for early buildings, said to include Klensendorff's farmhouse. The metamorphic rocks are some of the oldest rocks exposed in the Territory.

Blue Gum Point was originally a long spur that forced a tight turn in the Molonglo River around what is now Black Mountain Peninsula. In shaping Lake Burley Griffin the end of the spur was excavated to form Spinnaker Island. This enabled a larger triangular sailing course.

At Blue Gum Point is Yarralumla Beach and a statue of Indian spiritual leader and global peace advocate Sri Chinmoy unveiled in 2014.

## 10 Corkhill Dairy/'Riverview' site

Yarralumla Bay is the site of sailing and rowing facilities.

Between Yarralumla Bay and Black Mountain Peninsula, and now inundated by the lake, is the site of the distinctive house attached to the dairy for 'Yarralumla'.



*The Corkhill's farm with Robert and Kitty Corkhill and family.*

[CDHS ID 14758 Photo 1055]

The two-storey building was constructed by Frederick Young for Frederick Campbell in 1890. The dairy was operated by the McPherson family. Their daughter Isabella and her husband William Avery lived there until 'Yarralumla' was resumed by the Commonwealth in 1913.

Robert and Catherine **Corkhill** leased the dairy from 1913, renaming it '**Riverview**'.

The Federal Dairy lease was resumed in 1963 and the house demolished to make way for the lake.

Where we now have Yarralumla Bay and Orana Bay, the Griffins' plan for the city envisaged a very different interface between land and lake. Instead of the informal lake shore of today, a straight-line frontage was to be constructed. Westlake Esplanade fronted the lake, with Westlake Place at the northern terminus of Mountain Way (now Novar Street), named for its direct alignment with Black Mountain.

*Alexandrina Drive continues into Brown Street until Banks Street. Turn left to Stop 11 and 12, turn right to Stops 13 and 14.*

## 11 Forestry precinct



The precinct, the Commonwealth's centre for forestry and timber research, is accessed from Wilf Crane Crescent off Banks Street.

The **Australian Forestry School** was established on Banks Street at the end of Schlich Street in 1927. The location benefitted from its proximity to the major arboretum, Westbourne Woods, established by Charles Weston. The main building, in Stripped Classical style, was designed by J H Kirkpatrick assisted by H M Rolland. While the interior of the building cannot be accessed, go close to the glass entry to see the beautiful octagonal domed hall that features timbers from four states.

To the left is the **Museum Building**, completed in 1938, its style complementary to the school building. It later served as the base for the Forestry and Timber Bureau, which became part of the CSIRO in 1975.

Forestry students were initially housed in transportable timber cubicles in nearby Solander Place with three vacant cottages used for amenities. **Forestry House** was a great improvement, completed in 1952 in rendered brick. Overflow student accommodation was in a barracks-style building nicknamed 'The Waldorf'. This was demolished after the school moved to the ANU campus in 1968.

To the right of the School building is **Westridge House**, built in 1927 as the residence for Charles Lane Poole, the school's founding principal and Commonwealth inspector-general of Forests from 1927 to 1944. Designed by Melbourne architect Harold Desbrowe Annear, and a blend of Tudor Revival style and radical functionalism, it makes extensive use of Australian timbers and design innovations. Sketches for the garden were by notable designer Edna Walling.

The large building at the southern end of the precinct was headquarters for the Forest Research Institute and later CSIRO Division of Forest Research from 1967 until 2009.





**Australian Forestry School** [ACT Heritage Library 000368]

Next to this building, in the 1920s a camp for married workers and their families stood on the western side of Banks Street between Hooker and Bentham Streets.

In modern Schomburgk Street off the northern end of Banks Street, next to the Yarralumla (Old Canberra) Brickworks site, was **Westridge Hall**, a venue for dances, social events and church services.

## 12 1920s Federal housing

Close by the Forestry precinct, in the block bounded by Banks, Bentham, Hutchins and Hooker Streets, 14 government houses for Yarralumla Brickworks staff were built between 1921 and 1927, the second group of permanent cottages built by the government in Canberra (the first was in Braddon, then known as Neighbourhood 1 or Civic Centre). Two more were built c. 1950. Their design, inspired by Littleton dwellings in Lithgow, NSW, were a mix of weatherboard and brick. Most have been replaced or modified but interesting design traits remain visible from the street on some.

Planning for the area included open spaces and triangular corner areas.

Original pillar street signs have been restored at the corners of Banks Street with Bentham and Hooker Streets, by the Yarralumla Residents' Association.

## 13 Yarralumla Brickworks



From the western end of Bentham Street are views from the north into the quarry and buildings of the old brickworks. The Westridge site was chosen for its deposits of clay and shale and proximity to the city.

The Commonwealth Brickworks was the first industrial manufacturing facility in Canberra. It opened in 1913 and operated almost continuously until 1976.

In the 1920s as building demand grew, it supplied major projects including Parliament House and commercial buildings as well as cottages building. At first bricks were moved by steam traction engines with heavy iron-wheeled trailers. To speed up transport, a narrow-gauge railway was built in 1923 to connect the Brickworks and Power House, with spur lines to some construction sites. The railway was removed before Parliament opened in 1927. Some cuttings remain, with parts of an embankment visible near the roundabout in Dudley Street and another off the southern side of Denman Street near its junction with Maxwell Street.

At the time the brickworks closed (and brickmaking moved to Mitchell) it was producing 6 million bricks a year. The bricks produced are known as 'Canberra Reds' and often stamped 'Canberra' or 'Canberra C'wealth'.

Between 1976 and 1996 when the site closed due to safety concerns, the site was used for tourists, as an antiques market and for craft workshops. The brickworks and quarry site were recently approved for a new urban development.

An informal walking track skirts around the brickworks site, running between Lane Poole Place and the main entrance gate at Denman Street. This street, and its corner with Wills Street, affords views over the complex from the south, next to the site of a former workers' village near Denman Street.

## 14 Westbourne Woods/ Royal Canberra Golf Club



**Westbourne Woods** was established in 1913 by Charles Weston as part of Yarralumla Nursery. More than 200 different species of trees were planted. The arboretum extends to the Cotter Road and Lady Denman Drive, and covers about 120 hectares. It remains a valuable botanical collection and source of propagating material.

After starting near the Hotel Canberra in 1926, the **Canberra Golf Club** gained its 'Royal' status in 1933. Early members of the club were mostly politicians, senior public servants, and business and professional men.

The golf course was on both banks of the willow-lined Molonglo River, linked by a pedestrian suspension bridge to the north of today's Attunga Point.

In 1962 the club needed to move to make way for the development of Lake Burley Griffin, and the site chosen was Westbourne Woods.

The course was constructed to harmonise with the arboretum, which can be appreciated from a walking track around its perimeter fence, taking in Dunrossil Drive near the Governor-General's residence.

Near the 10th tee of the course is a brick and concrete incinerator built in 1938 for city garbage disposal. It was designed by the architectural firm of Walter Burley Griffin and Eric Milton Nicholls which had designed 12 incinerator buildings in four States between 1930 and 1937. After Griffin died in India in 1937 this facility was left to Nicholls to design. Access to the building requires permission from the Golf Club by enquiry to the Club House.

*From Banks Street north, turn left into Robert Boden Grove and right into Elm Avenue*

## 15 Yarralumla Nursery



Within Weston Park is **Yarralumla Nursery**, established by Charles Weston. A small government nursery operated at Acton from 1911 before moving to Yarralumla in 1914. It occupied 28 hectares with another 130 hectares for permanent plantings. In 1929, two-thirds of the nursery was transferred to Weston Park.

Weston obtained seeds and cuttings from pastoral properties, the tablelands, coast and botanical gardens around Australia, and from overseas through international seed and plant exchange networks. He aimed to identify and trial plants that would suit the area and its climate. The nursery was instrumental in Canberra becoming a 'garden city'.

Today, the nursery produces 400,000 plants each year and propagates some 1,100 species. Customers include new residents of the ACT who are entitled to a free issue of trees and shrubs, a practice continued since 1930. The site can be viewed from the entry gates.

The plant accession records of the nursery have been meticulously kept since 1913.

Close by are the Heritage Nursery retail garden centre and The Oaks Brasserie. The oldest buildings on the site are three adjacent workshops dating from 1915, and Hobday's Cottage built in 1923 for John Hobday who succeeded Weston as manager of the nursery. The cottage is now a café and gallery. The café is within the English Garden. A guide for a short circular walk through the woodland garden setting is available on the Australian Garden History Society's website.

It is also visible from the Government House Lookout stop.



*Part of the large crowd who attended Yarralumla Nursery to collect their free issue of trees and shrubs, 1975. [ACT Heritage Library 009049]*

## 16 Weston Park



Weston Park Road leads into the 40-hectare **Weston Park** that shapes the far western end of the lake, pointing to the base of Black Mountain and flanked by Tarcoola Reach and Yarramundi Reach. The site of Charles Weston's planting trials, the park was established in 1963, shortly before the lake filled. It is a great area to explore.

In the Griffins' plan, the Weston Park area was a key component of a continental arboretum around their western lake. This part was zoned for trees from Australia and New Zealand; from South Sea Islands on the lake shore westwards from Lotus Bay; Africa along what is now Yarramundi Reach; Europe and Asia to the north of that; and North and South America on what is now Black Mountain Peninsula.

The city plan in 1916–1918 showed a road along the midline of the park, at one stage labelled Garden Gate Drive, with a bridge across the lake to the foot of Black Mountain. Later versions had a bridge crossing to what is now Black Mountain Peninsula.

By at least 1935 the park area was being considered as the site for zoological gardens. Today the park features picnic and play areas and walking/cycle paths and the sculpture, Play Sculpture (1967) by David Tolley, in precast concrete with a painted fibreglass finish.



**A close-up of the SIEV X Memorial** [L Roberts]

In the north-eastern end of the park near the shore, the SIEV X Memorial commemorates those who lost their lives in the capsizing of their refugee boat in 2001. SIEV stands for Suspected Illegal Entry Vessel, while the X indicates that a tracking number had not been assigned to the vessel. The memorial stretches 400m along the lake shore and incorporates the boat's shape, based on the design by a fourteen-year-old Brisbane school student.

Hundreds of schools, churches and community groups from around Australia donated and decorated 353 wooden poles, one for each life lost: 207 tall poles for adults and 146 short poles for children. Signs on the site expand on the story. A temporary memorial was created in 2006, when thousands of volunteers held the poles in place despite opposition from the then Commonwealth government, with permanent installation the following year.

## 17 Yarralumla Woolshed



A signposted unsealed road leads from Cotter Road to the Yarralumla Woolshed. Shut the gate and watch for horses in the adjacent equestrian park.

The shed was designed by Frederick Campbell and built by Frederick Young in 1904 when 'Yarralumla' was still a functioning pastoral property. Long after resumption of the property, the 20-stand shed operated under shearing contractors until the late 1960s.

The shed now serves as a venue for functions and events.

## 18 Government House Lookout



Government House is the official residence of the Governor-General. The grounds span more than 52 hectares.

The lookout car park is accessed from Lady Denman Drive and provides a view over the lawns to Government House.

The property was first owned in 1833 by Francis Mowatt, followed by (Sir) Terence Aubrey Murray and Thomas Walker, and then the Gibbes family. Frederick Campbell purchased the property from the Gibbes family in 1881 and developed it into one of the finest stations in the district.

The house grew in stages from a humble farmhouse in the 1830s to a substantial three-storey building in the 1890s.

Campbell was a strong advocate for establishing the Federal Capital in this district, and his homestead was chosen to become the vice-regal residence. The government had acquired the property in 1913.

Governor-General Lord Stonehaven and Lady Stonehaven took up residence in 1927, and hosted the Duke and Duchess of York for the opening of Parliament House.

The residence and grounds are open two days a year and for booked school visits.

## 19 Scrivener Dam



The dam wall and sluice gates can be viewed from a car park off Lady Denman Drive. Construction was completed in 1963 and Lake Burley Griffin filled in 1964.

The dam was named for surveyor Charles Scrivener who led the selection and survey of the Federal Capital site and the Federal Territory. The site he chose for the dam was in almost the same place as that identified in the Griffins' plan. The lake and dam are recognised by Engineers Australia as a National Engineering Landmark.

*Playing golf at the Royal Canberra Golf Course in 1928 before the course was moved due to the filling of Lake Burley Griffin. Albert Hall is in the background. [National Library of Australia]*

*Front cover: Yarralumla Brickworks chimney 2021 [Doma Group 2021]*

**Visit Yarralumla to discover rich layers of history, from ancient rocks to First Nations culture, pastoral use, the birthplace of workers' settlements, sporting clubs, the bush capital landscape and 'Canberra Red' bricks, and global connections in embassies, sister cities, and places dedicated to peace.**

Yarralumla

2025



Published by the National Trust of Australia (ACT)

(02) 6230 0533 | [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au)

[www.nationaltrustact.org.au](http://www.nationaltrustact.org.au)

The National Trust acknowledges the Yarralumla Residents Association for the development of this brochure, with assistance from Mark Butz and Dr Susan Withycombe.

Design by Studio Outside and Rosanna Horn Design

Supported by



*The National Trust produced this brochure with support and funding from the ACT Government.*