



Archives ACT Finding Aid

Suburbs & their names

Various explorations took place in the part of New South Wales, now known as the Australian Capital Territory in the early 19th century which included the journeys by Joseph Wild, Charles Throsby and Hamilton Hume; and Captain Mark Currie, accompanied by Brigade Major Ovens.

The ACT was established from land ceded by New South Wales in 1911 to the Commonwealth of Australia as the Seat of Government. The area was excised from the Counties of Murray and Cowley, District of Queanbeyan and the Parishes of Keewong and Cuppacumbalong and the Shire of Yarrowlumla. The area included the existing villages of Hall and Tharwa and large land holdings and homesteads such as Belconnen, Ginninderra, Gungahlin, Kambah, Lanyon, Woden, Wanniassa and Weetangera.

Town planning in the ACT was controlled by the Commonwealth until Self-Government on 11 March 1989. Various Commonwealth agencies¹ had administrative responsibility for the ACT including the National Capital Development Commission which was established in 1957 and abolished in 1989². On Self-Government responsibility for planning was split between the Commonwealth and the Territory governments. The National Capital Authority is the Commonwealth agency which manages the Australian Government's continuing interest in the planning and maintenance of Canberra as the national capital.

The Commonwealth of Australia Ordinance No. 18 of 1928 established the National Memorials Committee to deal with the character and location of national memorials and the nomenclature of divisions of and public places in the Australian Capital Territory³. The original plan of Canberra contained a number of local names and others which had been applied. The Committee adopted a unique scheme of nomenclature, the principle of which was the grouping together in separate areas of classes of names, for example, governors, statesmen, explorers, navigators, scientists and others to perpetuate the memory of names associated with Australian patriotism and

¹ The Department of Home Affairs 1901-1916; Department of Home and Territories 1916-1928; Department of Home Affairs 1928-1932; National Capital Development and Planning Committee 1938-1957; Department of the Capital Territory, Central Office (19 December 1972-11 March 1983); Department of Territories and Local Government (11 March 1983-13 December 1984) and the Department of Art, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, Central Office (24 July 1987-30 January 1989) <http://www.naa.gov.au/about-us/publications/fact-sheets/fs35.aspx%20>

² National Archives of Australia - Agency notes for agency CA 279.

³ Federal Capital Commission (1928) Fourth annual report of the Federal Capital Commission for the year ended 30th June 1928. Canberra; H.J. Green, Government Printer, 1928.

national sentiment. The scheme was defined in the *Districts Ordinance 1927* which divided Canberra into 23 divisions, which eventually became suburbs.

The names of those statesmen who were directly associated with, and who are mainly responsible for the establishment of federation of the Commonwealth are as follows:

| | | |
|---------|----------|--------|
| Barton | Fysh | Parkes |
| Braddon | Griffith | Reid |
| Deakin | Kingston | Symon |
| Dickson | Lyne | Turner |
| Forrest | O'Connor | |

A suffix has been added where the name did not sound like a place name, so there is now Lyneham, Fyshwick and Symonston.

It was decided to retain some names connected with local Aboriginal place names and Canberra's pioneers and white settlement.⁴

| | | |
|----------|---------------|-------------|
| Acton | Duntroon | Narrabundah |
| Ainslie | Jerrabomberra | Pialligo |
| Canberra | Mugga | Yarralumla |

The ACT Place Names Committee terms of reference are to:

- Establish policies and guidelines for the determination of place names for territory land in the ACT, including divisions, roads, public places and geographic features; and
- Provide recommendations to the Minister or his delegate on place names for territory land in the ACT.⁵

The ACT is divided into Districts which are subdivided into divisions (suburbs). District names are derived from properties that existed prior to acquisition by the Commonwealth and natural features. They are: Belconnen, Booth, Canberra, Corree, Cotter River, Gungahlin, Hall, Jerrabomberra, Kowen, Majura, Mount Clear, Paddys River, Rendezvous Creek, Stromlo, Tennent, Tuggeranong, Weston Creek and Woden Valley.

For information on the origin and meaning of Canberra place names see: http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/tools_resources/maps_land_survey/place_names/place_search

For maps including of Districts see: <http://apps.actpla.act.gov.au/tplan/index.htm>

⁴ Canberra National Memorials Committee. (1928) Report in regard to naming of Canberra's streets and suburbs. Canberra; by H.J. Green, Government Printer, 1928.

⁵ National Archives of Australia 59/469 Nomenclature Committee for the ACT; National Capital Development Commission 79/799 Nomenclature Committee for the ACT; National Capital Development Authority 75/412 Nomenclature liaison with Department of Territories (DOT) prior to 1979

| <i>Suburb</i> | <i>Gazettal Date</i> | <i>Street theme for suburb</i> |
|---------------|----------------------|---|
| ACTON | 20 September 1928 | Named before individual themes were adopted. |
| AINSLIE | 20 September 1928 | Pioneers, legislators |
| AMAROO | 18 October 1991 | Australian rivers and lakes |
| ARANDA | 22 June 1967 | Names of Aboriginal tribal units |
| BANKS | 12 March 1987 | Botanists, things botanical or relating to natural history. |
| BARTON | 24 May 1956 | Governors |
| BEARD | 11 May 2009 | Australian geological resources |
| BELCONNEN | 22 August 1968 | Lord Mayors and mayors |
| BONNER | 12 July 2001 | Indigenous leaders and their supporters |
| BONYTHON | 17 October 1986 | Notable South Australians, particularly journalists, and South Australian place names |
| BRADDON | 280 September 1928 | Aboriginal words; legislators and pioneers |
| BRUCE | 6 June 1968 | Australian tertiary education |
| CALWELL | 5 August 1975 | Victorian politicians |
| CAMPBELL | 14 June 1956 | Defence personnel |
| CAPITAL HILL | 20 September 1928 | Monarchs and constitutional references |
| CASEY | 18 October 1991 | Diplomats, public servants and administrators |
| CHAPMAN | 2 July 1970 | Film industry |
| CHARWOOD | 9 September 1971 | NSW pioneers |
| CHIFLEY | 12 May 1966 | Scientists and educationalists |
| CHISHOLM | 5 August 1975 | Notable women |
| CITY | 20 September 1928 | Aboriginal words; pioneers and capital cities |
| CONDER | 12 March 1987 | Members of the Heidelberg School; towns associated with the Heidelberg School; directors and trustees of state and national galleries, patrons and benefactors and other artists. |

| <i>Suburb</i> | <i>Gazettal Date</i> | <i>Street theme for suburb</i> |
|---------------|--|--|
| COOK | 6 June 1968 | Notable women |
| CRACE | 18 October 1991 | Parishes and land divisions |
| CURTIN | 20 September 1928 | State Premiers |
| DEAKIN | 20 September 1928 | Governors and Governors-General and diplomats |
| DICKSON | 20 September 1928 | No specific theme |
| DOWNER | 7 April 1960 | No specific theme |
| DUFFY | 2 July 1970 | Dams and reservoirs |
| DUNLOP | 22 September 1993 | Inventors and inventions; artists |
| DUNTROON | 20 September 1928 DEGAZETTED 14 June 1956 (in favour of Campbell) | Remains in place as a 'locality' rather than as a 'suburb or division' name. |
| EVATT | 2 November 1972 | Legal profession |
| FADDEN | 5 August 1975 | Queensland politicians |
| FARRER | 12 May 1966 | Agriculturalists |
| FISHER | 6 June 1968 | Mines and mining towns |
| FLOREY | 5 August 1975 | Scientists |
| FLYNN | 9 September 1971 | Royal Flying Doctor Service and Inland Mission |
| FORDE | 27 July 1992 | Community service |
| FORREST | 20 September 1928 | Governors and explorers |
| FRANKLIN | 18 October 1991 | Writers, particularly women |
| FRASER | 15 January 1974 | Early ACT residents |
| FYSHWICK | 20 September 1928 | Industrial towns |
| GARRAN | 12 May 1966 | Writers |
| GILMORE | 5 August 1975 | Journalists, particularly women |
| GIRALANG | 15 January 1974 | Aboriginal words for stars, astronomers and constellations seen from the southern hemisphere |
| GORDON | 12 March 1987 | Sportsmen and sportswomen |
| GOWRIE | 5 August 1975 | Armed Service personnel |
| GREENWAY | 17 October 1986 | Architects |
| GRIFFITH | 20 September 1928 | Explorers |

| <i>Suburb</i> | <i>Gazettal Date</i> | <i>Street theme for suburb</i> |
|-----------------|----------------------|--|
| GUNGAHLIN | 24 February 1992 | Industrialists, aspects of industry, and Gungahlin district pioneers, homesteads and sites |
| HACKETT | 7 April 1960 | Mainly scientists |
| HALL | 18 May 1984 | N/A |
| HARRISON | 18 October 1991 | Natural features such as waterfalls, plains, tablelands and plateaux |
| HAWKER | 15 April 1971 | NT pastoral stations |
| HIGGINS | 6 June 1968 | Judges |
| HOLDER | 2 July 1970 | Surveyors |
| HOLT | 2 July 1970 | Sportsmen and sportswomen |
| HUGHES | 20 September 1928 | World War I armed services personnel and contemporaries of William Hughes |
| HUME | 22 March 1982 | Industry and business |
| ISAACS | 12 May 1966 | Educationalists |
| ISABELLA PLAINS | 5 August 1975 | NSW parish names |
| JACKA | 25 April 2001 | Valour and community Service |
| KALEEN | 15 January 1974 | Australian rivers |
| KAMBAH | 22 March 1973 | Interstate pioneers; theme in Gleneagles estate is Australian golfers and golf courses |
| KENNY | 18 October 1991 | Proposed theme: Nurses and nursing administrators |
| KINGSTON | 20 September 1928 | Explorers |
| KINLYSIDE | 18 October 1991 | Australian country towns |
| LATHAM | 6 June 1968 | Judges |
| LAWSON | 17 October 1986 | Characters and places from the works of Henry Lawson |
| LYNEHAM | 20 September 1928 | Mainly artists and people associated with the development of early Canberra |
| LYONS | 12 May 1966 | Tasmanian towns and place names |
| MACARTHUR | 22 March 1982 | Names associated with the wool industry |
| MACGREGOR | 9 September 1971 | Medical profession |
| MACQUARIE | 22 June 1967 | Contemporaries of Governor Macquarie |

| <i>Suburb</i> | <i>Gazettal Date</i> | <i>Street theme for suburb</i> |
|---------------|----------------------|--|
| McKELLAR | 15 January 1974 | Journalists |
| MAWSON | 12 May 1966 | Antarctic exploration |
| MELBA | 9 September 1971 | Musicians |
| MITCHELL | 5 August 1975 | Industrialists |
| MONASH | 5 August 1975 | Engineers |
| MONCRIEFF | 18 October 1991 | Musicians and those associated with the field of music |
| MULANGGARI | 18 October 1991 | Notable Aboriginal women and Aboriginal words - this suburb will not be developed and will remain as grasslands. |
| NARRABUNDAH | 20 September 1928 | Indigenous names; explorers and pioneers |
| NGUNNAWAL | 18 October 1991 | Notable Aboriginal people and Aboriginal words |
| NICHOLLS | 18 October 1991 | Sportsmen and sportswomen; theme for the pond side Promenade estate is Australian fauna |
| OAKS ESTATE | 18 May 1984 | N/A |
| O'CONNOR | 20 September 1928 | Australian flora, legislators, pioneers, explorers |
| O'MALLEY | 12 May 1966 | Aboriginal tribes words |
| OXLEY | 22 May 1982 | Social reformers |
| PAGE | 6 June 1968 | Scientists |
| PALMERSTON | 20 March 1991 | Mountains of Australia |
| PARKES | 20 September 1928 | Monarchs and constitutional references |
| PEARCE | 12 May 19966 | Contemporaries of Sir George Pearce |
| PHILLIP | 12 May 1966 | Names associated with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Fleets; theme for the streets in the area of Swinger Hill is architects |
| PIALLIGO | 20 September 1928 | Aboriginal words |
| RED HILL | 20 September 1928 | Ships and explorers |
| REID | 20 September 1928 | Aboriginal words |
| RICHARDSON | 5 August 1975 | Notable women, particularly writers |
| RIVETT | 2 July 1970 | Australian flora |
| RUSSELL | 12 May 1966 | Armed services personnel |

| <i>Suburb</i> | <i>Gazettal Date</i> | <i>Street theme for suburb</i> |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| SCULLIN | 6 June 1968 | Aviators |
| SPENCE | 2 November 1972 | Trade unionists |
| STIRLING | 2 July 1970 | WA pioneers |
| Swinger Hill (Phillip) | As a 'Suburb' Swinger Hill is not gazetted but the 'hill' is, as a geographical feature. | Architects (Note that Swinger Hill is a local unofficial name for the hill on which Swinger Trig Station is located - Swinger Trig Station is named after Louis Swinger) |
| SYMONSTON | 20 September 1928 | Industry and business |
| TAYLOR | 18 October 1991 | Architects, town planners and urban designers |
| THARWA | 18 May 1984 | N/A |
| THEODORE | 5 August 1975 | Civilian war effort during WWI and WWII |
| THROSBY | 12 May 1966 | Theme: tba |
| TORRENS | 20 September 1928 | Contemporaries of Sir Robert Torrens; SA pioneers and politicians |
| TURNER | 20 September 1928 | Mainly writers, pioneers and legislators |
| WANNIASSA | 21 May 1974 | Victorian state politicians |
| WARAMANGA | 6 June 1968 | Names of Aboriginal tribal units |
| WATSON | 7 April 1960 | Judges and members of the legal profession |
| WEETANGERA | 22 August 1968 | ACT Pioneers |
| WESTON | 2 July 1970 | Artists |
| YARRALUMLA | 20 September 1928 | Governors and botanists |