

# ArchivesACT Research Guide

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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

CANBERRA NATIONAL MEMORIALS  
COMMITTEE.

## REPORT

IN REGARD TO

THE

## NAMING OF CANBERRA'S STREETS AND SUBURBS.

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# ArchivesACT Research Guide

## CANBERRA NATIONAL MEMORIALS.

### THE NAMING OF CANBERRA'S STREETS AND SUBURBS.

The Canberra National Memorials Committee has considered the nomenclature of the divisional areas, parks, avenues and streets of Canberra, submitted by the Federal Capital Commission.

The Committee consisted of the Prime Minister as Chairman, the Minister for Home and Territories (Major Marr), the Chief Commissioner of the Federal Capital Commission (Sir John Butters), Mr. G. V. F. Mann, Vice-President of the Australian Pioneers' Club and Member of the Historical Society of New South Wales, and Professor Ernest Scott, Professor of History of the University of Melbourne.

A review of the existing nomenclature was made by the Committee and certain principles were laid down as a basis to go upon for additions and amendments.

As a result of the deliberations, a unique scheme was adopted, and Canberra's public places and thoroughfares have been given distinctive names by means of which postal and other delivery to residents of Canberra will be facilitated. But that is not all, for the scheme of naming the streets and suburbs of Canberra more than answers the public demand for such a utility. Every name that has been used commemorates a name famous in the annals of Australian exploration, navigation, pioneering, colonization, administration, politics, science and letters. Every name on the plan approved by the Committee is believed to be thoroughly characteristic of Australia and the Australians. All have been considered from a national viewpoint rather than a parochial one. Every State has been taken into account in the selection of names, and Australian national sentiments have been carefully studied.

The Committee considers that all the names of Australia's historic personages which could be included at this stage, have been given their rightful place on the approved plan, which shows the names of divisional areas and streets of the Capital.

By virtue of the *Districts Ordinance* 1927 the Commission divided the Canberra City District into 23 divisions. It devolved upon the National Memorials Committee to find names for these divisions, which will eventually become the suburbs of the Capital. It was felt by the Committee that patriotic and national sentiment would be met best if the names of those men who have contributed most to Australia's existence as a unified nation, be used in the most important places, that is, for the names of divisions or suburbs of Canberra.

The patriotism of a nation is often expressed by memorials to its benefactors, so it is deserving and right that the names of those great statesmen who laboured in the cause of federation of the Commonwealth should be perpetuated as place names to be used in the mother-tongue by all Australians for all time.

The names of those statesmen who were directly associated with, and who are mainly responsible for the establishment of the 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, similar to some of the Anglo-Saxon names of towns in Great Britain, where the name is thought not to be very euphonious.

In connexion with the naming of the divisions of Canberra, it was decided also to retain as official, those names connected with Canberra's early days, and which have become associated with the place since the days of the pioneers. These names are :—

Acton,	Duntroon,	Narrabundah,
Ainslie,	Mugga,	Yarralumla.

The second task which was set down for the Committee to deal with, was a nomenclature of the public places and thoroughfares of the City.

Residents of Canberra are well aware of the fact that up to the present only the main avenues and roads had names, and that some of these were obviously unsuitable for Australia's Capital, where national sentiment must necessarily prevail in the case of every name to be chosen.



# ArchivesACT Research Guide

In the centre of the City is an eminence dominating the surrounding landscape which is known as "Capitol Hill". This is the site which has been reserved for the erection, some day, of a monumental building, probably for housing national archives or perhaps as a temple of honour to great Australians or to commemorate Australian achievements, and it may mean to the Australian nation what the Pantheon in Paris is to the French nation.

Radiating from Capitol Hill are eight main avenues. Six of these avenues have been named after the Capital Cities of Australia, and the other two, forming two sides of the triangle of the governmental area—at the apex of which Parliament House stands—have been named "King's" and "Commonwealth". "Constitution" Avenue forms the base of the triangle, on the north side of the river. It will be seen that this idea is embodied in the Commission's motto "*Pro rege lege et grege.*"

At the terminus of each avenue named after a Capital City, there will be a park called by the name of the first Governor of that State, and the street surrounding the park will be named after the corresponding State. This nomenclature is as follows :—

Brisbane Avenue—Terminating at Bowen Place and Queensland Square.  
Sydney Avenue—Terminating at Phillip Park and New South Wales Crescent.  
Canberra Avenue—Leading as a main road out of the City.  
Hobart Avenue—Terminating at Collins Park and Tasmania Circus.  
Melbourne Avenue—Terminating at Latrobe Park and Victoria Crescent.  
Adelaide Avenue—Terminating at Hindmarsh Park and South Australia Circus.  
Perth Avenue—Terminating at Stirling Park and Westralia Crescent.

In the governmental area eleven of the names of the most prominent statesmen connected with the establishment of Federation have been used for the streets in the vicinity of Parliament House. The central place in front of Parliament House has been given to the father of Federation—Sir Henry Parkes. The only other name used in the governmental area is "Parliament Square", which is a link associating our Parliament House with the Houses of Parliament, Westminster, which also face a Parliament Square.

The Committee has adopted the idea of grouping together various classes of names in separate areas. Sections of the City plan have therefore been set apart for Governors, Explorers, Navigators, Scientists and others, Foresters and others, Pioneers and others, Founders of the Constitution, and euphonious Aboriginal words.

The Aboriginal words have been selected from the dialects of Australian aboriginal tribes.

The area partly surrounding Capitol Hill and to the south of it has been set apart for the names of Governors of the various Australian States. All the Governors who were in office prior to the 1st January, 1870, have been included and as far as possible the Governors of the various States have been arranged in separate groups. This nomenclature is as follows :—

Blackall,	Franklin,	Robe,
Bowen,	Sorell,	Hutt,
Brisbane,	Ducane,	Clarke,
Ralph Darling,	Gore-Browne,	Kennedy,
Richard Bourke,	Collins,	Hindmarsh,
Governor King,	Arthur,	Stirling,
Bligh,	Wilmot,	Grey,
Macquarie,	Darling,	Fitzgerald,
Lisgar,	Davey,	Irwin,
Gipps,	Barkly,	Weld,
Belmore,	Latrobe,	MacDonnell,
Phillip,	Young,	Hampton,
Fitzroy,	Hotham,	Fergusson,
Hunter,	Daly,	Gawler.
Denison,	Canterbury,	

All past Governors-General have been mentioned in the area to the south-west of Capitol Hill. The ex-Governors-General mentioned are as follows :—

Hopetoun,	Dudley,	Novar,
Tennyson,	Denman,	Forster.
Northcote,		



# ArchivesACT Research Guide

Within the area set apart for the names of Governors, the main circular roads extending outwards from Capitol Place have been named as follows :—

State Circle,  
National Circuit,

Dominion Circuit ; and  
Empire Circuit.

In this area also, immediately south of Parliament House, a park—"York Park"—has been so named to commemorate the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of York. The street on the eastern boundary of the park has been named "Windsor Walk."

The street extending in a north-easterly direction from the northern end of Windsor Walk has been named Broughton, after the first Bishop of Australia, as this street faces the site set apart for the Anglican Cathedral.

The name—at present in use—of the sports ground, "Manuka Park", has been adopted, as the name is euphonious and has been associated with the place for several years.

The great park extending from Manuka Circle to Bowen Place has been named "Telopea," the plant genus of which Waratah is the native name.

The area to the south of Manuka Park and Collins Park has been set apart for the names of famous Navigators of Australian waters. The Navigators commemorated in this section are as follows :—

Captain Cook,  
Flinders,  
Furneaux,  
Quiros,  
Murray,  
Bougainville,  
Grant,

Stokes,  
Durville,  
Bass,  
Hayes,  
King,  
Vancouver,  
Wickham,

Torres,  
Moresby,  
Rous,  
Dampier,  
Baudin,  
Nares,  
La Perouse.

The road on the western boundary of this section has been named "Mugga Way."

The avenue which joins Canberra Avenue with the north-eastern extremity of King's Avenue has been named "The Causeway." This name has become associated with this avenue and has been adopted as it will eventually be one of the main roads joining the northern and southern portions of the City across the river.

The area between The Causeway, Telopea Park and Captain Cook Crescent, has been set apart for the commemoration of famous explorers of the Australian Continent. The explorers included are as follows :—

Angus McMillan,  
Burke,  
Cunningham,  
Dawes,  
Eyre,  
Forrest,  
Giles,  
Gosse,  
Howitt,  
Jardine,  
Edmund Kennedy,  
Leichhardt,  
Lawson,

Ovens,  
Oxley,  
Gregory,  
Hume,  
Lefroy,  
Mitchell,  
Hann,  
Stuart,  
Roe,  
Hovell,  
Warburton,  
Wells,  
Light,

Wills,  
Sturt,  
Evans,  
Blaxland,  
Barrallier,  
Lockyer,  
Strzelecki,  
McIntyre,  
McKinlay,  
Goyder,  
Wentworth,  
Throsby.

In the Yarralumla division, east of the Forestry School site, are the names of foresters and botanists who have contributed very largely to the existing scientific knowledge of Australian flora. These botanists and foresters are—

Joseph Banks,  
Hutchins,  
Mueller,

Maiden,  
Brown,  
Bailey,

Schlich,  
Hooker,  
Bentham.

To complete the necessary nomenclature of the streets on the southern side of the City, one road has been named "Narrabundah", which is an aboriginal name associated with the pioneering days of Canberra. It is located approximately in its original position, on the old Narrabundah Road.

The main avenue leading from Captain Cook Crescent to the Jerrabomberra Valley Road and Tharwa has been named "Jerrabomberra Avenue."



# ArchivesACT Research Guide

On the northern side of the City, "Commonwealth Avenue" terminates at "City Square" and "London Circuit" is the name which has been applied to the hexagonal-shaped roadway which surrounds "City Hill."

Eventually there will be blocks of buildings surrounding London Circuit and the Northern blocks will be named after the capital cities of Australia and the southern blocks after the capital cities of the Dominions. The names approved for the two existing shopping blocks are "Sydney Buildings" and "Melbourne Buildings."

To the east of London Circuit is the University area. When the University site is laid out, the streets are to be named after the greatest Australian authors, poets, scientists, doctors, engineers and educationalists. The streets in the vicinity of the area to be set apart for the National Art Gallery are to be named after artists.

The main avenues leading to this area from London Circuit are "University Avenue" which runs north-west, and "Museum Avenue" which runs south-west to the site of the National of Australian Zoology.

The streets in the University area already upon the plan, have been named after the best-known Australian poets, scientists and educationalists, who have left their own mark upon Australian history. These are—

Lawson,	Farrell,	Nicholson,
Kendall,	Kingsley,	Ellery,
Gordon,	Boldrewood,	Liversidge,
Marcus Clarke,	Childers,	McCoy.
Essex Evans,		

An area has also been set apart to commemorate the most famous Australian pioneers, colonists and politicians. The Committee has made a careful selection of all the names which have been submitted and those chosen are deemed to be representative of the whole of Australia and no particular State has been given preference. The nomenclature of pioneers, colonists and politicians is as follows :—

Batman,	Angas,	Piper,
Chapman,	Bonney,	Hassall,
Donaldson,	Cowper,	Officer,
Elder,	Dibbs,	Oakes,
Farrer,	Duffy,	Scrivener,
Grimes,	Campbell,	Macarthur,
Henty,	Foveaux,	John Bowen,
McMillan,	Ebden,	Oliver,
Fawkner,	Sherbrooke,	McCaughy,
Torrens,	Stephen,	Tyson,
Alt,	Marsden,	Suttor,
Hargreaves,	Dumaresq,	Cox,
Toms,	Archer,	O'Connell,
Lister,	Currie,	Wakefield.
Paterson,	Wilshire,	

The existing name "Northbourne" of the main avenue leading north from London Circuit has been adopted.

The avenue which was formerly the old Yass Road, has been named "Pialligo Avenue" and the avenue running north-east from the northern extremity of Pialligo Avenue is "Majura Avenue."

"Ainslie Avenue" runs from London Circuit in a north-easterly direction, at right angles to Pialligo Avenue.

The roads and streets in the vicinity of the War Memorial Site commemorate Australia's part in the great war of 1914-1918. The Committee considers that these names are representative of the three arms of the service and of the part which the Australians played in the overthrow of the enemies of the Empire during the Great War. To perpetuate the memory of battles in which Australians participated, the following names have been used for streets in this area :—

Beersheba,	Romani,	Amiens,
Megiddo,	Rabaul,	Pozieres,
Peronne,	Lone Pine,	Sydney-Emden,
Gallipoli,	Ypres,	Anzac.
Flanders,		



# ArchivesACT Research Guide

7

To commemorate the great men of the Army and Air Force, who laid down their lives either during the great War or after, the undermentioned names have been applied to streets in this area :—

Bridges, Holmes, Ross-Smith.

The circular avenue to the north of Duntroon has been named "Sandhurst Parade"—associating the Military College with the British Institution. Sandhurst Parade merges into "Monaro Avenue," leading in the direction of Queanbeyan.

In the extreme north-west area on the city plan, places have been provided for the streets to be named after Australian wild flowers. The names of the following plants and shrubs are mentioned on the plan :—

Boronia, Clianthus, Pepper-Vine,  
Banksia, Tea-Tree, Waratah,  
Bottle-brush, Flax-Lily, Wattle.

The use of aboriginal names has not been overlooked. Although the original aboriginal place names of Canberra are few in number and obscure in meaning, all the names associated with the early history of Canberra, as far as can be ascertained, are mentioned on the plan. These include :—

Jerrabomberra, Yarralumla, Pialligo,  
Narrabundah, Mugga, Canberra,

all well-known aboriginal names, but of doubtful meaning.

There is a tradition attached to that clump of Red Gum Trees in the Ainslie division to the north-east of Pialligo Avenue. It is to the effect that the aboriginal inhabitants of Canberra used it as a corroboree ground. To commemorate this tradition, the arc road to the south-west of the gum trees has been named "Corroboree Crescent."

Other aboriginal words have been used for streets which intersect Northbourne and Ainslie avenues. Names representative of all the principal Australian dialects have been chosen and they were also selected in alphabetical order, radiating outwards from London Circuit. The names and meanings are given hereunder :—

Alinga	..	..	..	..	..	Sun
Bunda	..	..	..	..	..	Kangaroo
Dooring	..	..	..	..	..	Bark of a tree
Elouera	..	..	..	..	..	Pleasant Place
Girrahween	..	..	..	..	..	Place of flowers
Helemon	..	..	..	..	..	A shield
Ijong	..	..	..	..	..	Water
Karuah	..	..	..	..	..	Native plum tree
Lowanna	..	..	..	..	..	Beauty
Allara	..	..	..	..	..	Day
Ballumbir	..	..	..	..	..	Butterfly
Currong	..	..	..	..	..	Silver wattle
Doonkuna	..	..	..	..	..	Rising ground
Elimatta	..	..	..	..	..	My home
Gooreen	..	..	..	..	..	Wind
Allambee	..	..	..	..	..	Recline
Boolee	..	..	..	..	..	Star
Coranderrk	..	..	..	..	..	Christmas bush
Dirrawan	..	..	..	..	..	Emu
Euree	..	..	..	..	..	Sleep
Akuna	..	..	..	..	..	Flowing water
Booroondara	..	..	..	..	..	Shady place
Cooyong	..	..	..	..	..	Bandicoot

D. S. BURGESS,

Secretary, Canberra National Memorials Committee.

Canberra, 8th December, 1927.