

annual report 1953-54



CANBERRA AND THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

OF

CANBERRA

AND THE

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1954.

January, 1955

Department of the Interior,
Canberra. A.C.T.

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ROYAL VISIT

The visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, was the highlight of the year 1953-54 in Canberra.

At 3 p.m. on Saturday, 13th February, 1954, a Royal Australian Air Force plane touched down at Fairbairn airfield. From it there stepped a few seconds later the Queen and her Royal Consort. This marked the beginning of an historic event in the life of Canberra - the first occasion on which the Sovereign in person had come to the nation's capital.

The Governor-General and Lady Slim greeted the Queen and the Duke, who then received members of the Federal Cabinet, the Leaders of the Opposition in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, and their wives.

From here, the Queen and the Duke drove to Civic Centre where an address of welcome from the citizens was read by the Chairman of the A.C.T. Advisory Council, Mr. W.A. McLaren. In her reply, the Queen said:

"Canberra, built on a plan and set among beautiful scenery, will no doubt inspire imitators in many quarters, and it is certain that it will take an increasingly important place among the capitals of the world.

My fervent wish is that your city may progress steadily towards its destiny in a world at peace and aided by the prosperity of the Australian people".

The Royal party then drove to Government House, Yarralumla.

On Sunday morning the Queen and the Duke attended Divine Service at St. John's Church. In the afternoon the Duke drove the Queen to "Cuppacumbalong", a station property 13 miles south of Canberra on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. They ended a quiet day by dining privately with the Prime Minister and Dame Pattie Menzies at The Lodge.

Monday began with an investiture at Government House. This was followed by an inspection of native and European troops drawn up on the lawns and the presentation to the Queen of an address of loyalty by the Administrator of the Northern Territory.

In the afternoon came the most significant event of all - perhaps the most important, symbolically, of the whole Royal Tour - when the Queen, resplendent in her Coronation gown, opened the third session of the twentieth Commonwealth Parliament and spoke to members "not as a Queen from far away, but as your Queen and a part of your Parliament".

After this ceremony in the Senate Chamber, the Queen received Members of Parliament and their wives, and officials of the Parliament. Then Her Majesty, escorted by the Duke, descended the steps in front of Parliament House to a canopied saluting base where she reviewed some 4,000 men and women from Australia's fighting services.

On the morning of Tuesday, 16th February, the Queen presided at a meeting of the Executive Council at Government House. Her Majesty next presented a Royal Charter to Professor Marcus Oliphant establishing the Australian Academy of Science.

The Queen then drove to the Australian National Memorial to America where, before a distinguished gathering, she pulled a gold cord to unveil the following inscription at the base of the Memorial:

In grateful remembrance of the
vital help given by the United
States of America during the war
in the Pacific, 1941-1945.

After this ceremony, the Queen and the Duke visited the Australian War Memorial.

In the afternoon, the Queen and the Duke attended a rally of 16,000 school children at Manuka Oval. Later, the Duke opened University House at the Australian National University.

In the evening, the Queen and the Duke attended a State Banquet at Parliament House, during the course of which the Prime Minister presented Her Majesty with a gift from the nation - a diamond brooch featuring tea-tree and wattle in the design.

On the morning of 17th February, the Queen held a Privy Council at Government House. Then, after attending an ex-servicemen's rally on the lawns in front of Parliament House, the Queen and the Duke drove to the Royal Military College, Duntroon, where the Queen presented new colours to the Corps of Staff Cadets.

In the afternoon the Queen and the Duke attended a garden party at Government House given by the Governor-General and Lady Slim. They strolled freely about on the lawns, chatting with many of the 3,000 guests.

At night, the Queen and the Duke drove to Parliament House for the last and most glittering spectacle of their stay in Canberra - the State Ball.

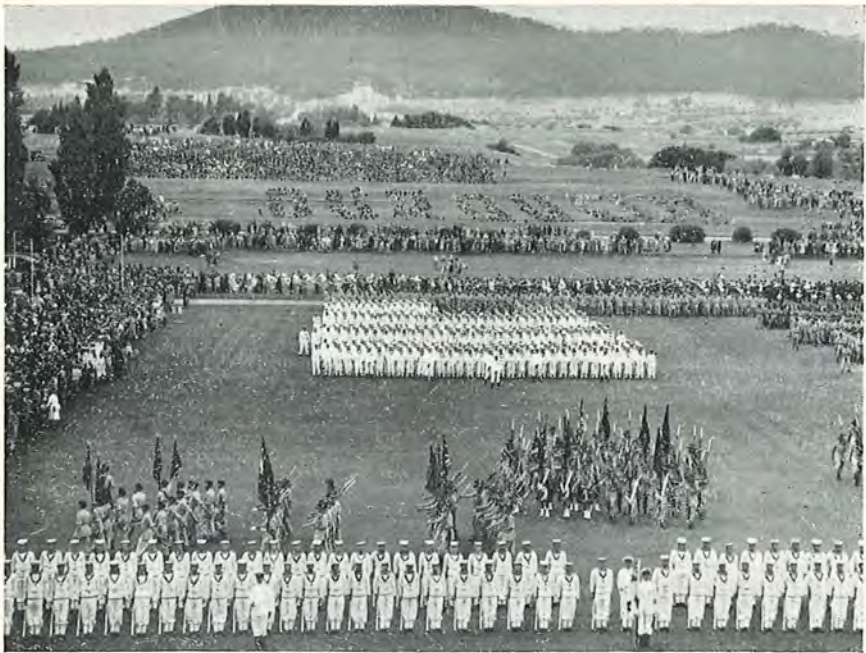
Next morning, to the cheers of Canberra citizens, the Royal couple drove in an open car to the airport where they were farewelled by the Governor-General and Lady Slim, the Prime Minister and Dame Pattie Menzies, Cabinet Ministers and their wives, members of the Diplomatic Corps and other distinguished persons.



The Queen in the Senate Chamber.



March Past, Parliament House.



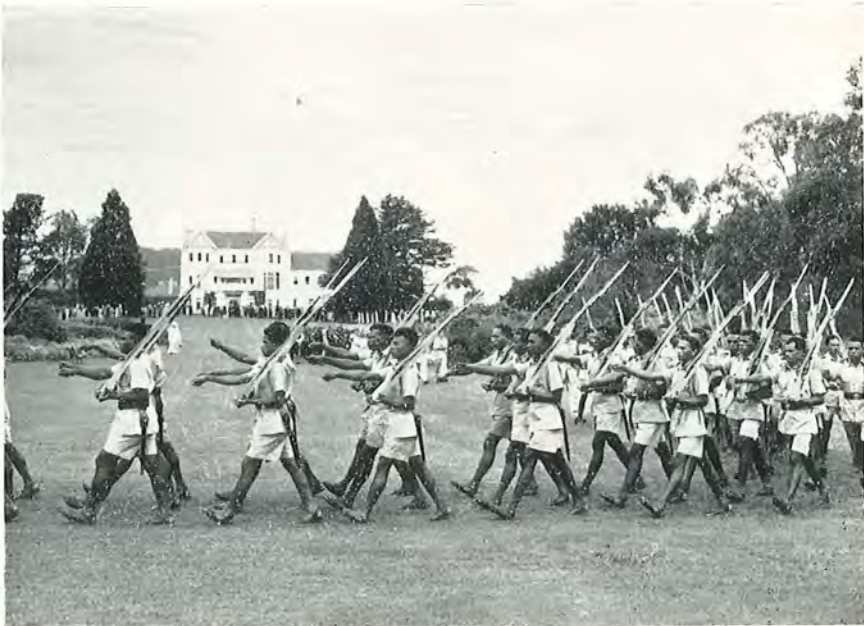
Ceremonial—Opening of Parliament.



March Past—Royal Military College, Duntroon.



Schoolchildren's Display.



Native Troops at Government House.



Leaving Morning Service at St. John's Church.



Conversation with the Prime Minister.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

As in earlier years, the most important task confronting the administering authority in Canberra during 1953/1954 was construction.

The total expenditure during 1953/1954 by the Department of Works - the constructing authority - on new works, maintenance and repairs, was:

1. Architectural Works

Housing	£1,242,079	
Other	<u>1,373,852</u>	2,614,931

2. Engineering Works

1,311,428

3. Repairs and maintenance

Architectural	310,190	
Engineering	<u>390,436</u>	<u>700,626</u>

TOTAL £4,626,985

Housing.

The Department of Works erected 489 housing units, a decrease of 69 compared with the previous year. They were of the following types:-

	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Day Labour</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Brick	61	32	93
Brick Veneer	42		42
Timber	21	33	54
Monocretes	75		75
Econo Steel	16		16
Riley Newsum Prefab.			
CA.4	<u>209</u>	—	<u>209</u>
	<u>424</u>	65	<u>489</u>

They comprised the following dwellings for various authorities:-

DWELLINGS BUILT FOR VARIOUS AUTHORITIES

Suburb	Type	Dept. of Interior	War Service Homes	Aust. Nat. Uni.	Dept. of Army	Total
Ainslie	Brick	-	1	-	-	1
	Riley Newsum	85		-	-	85
Deakin	Brick	-	1	-	-	1
	Brick Veneer	31	-	-	-	31
	Riley Newsum	17	-	-	-	17
	Monocrete	13	-	-	-	13
Duntroon	Riley Newsum	-	-	-	4	4
Griffith	Brick	-	3	-	-	3
	Timber	6	-	-	-	6
	Monocrete	14	1	-	-	15
Narrabundah	Brick	10	-	-	-	10
	Econo Steel	16	-	-	-	16
	Riley Newsum	60	-	-	-	60
	Monocrete	15	-	-	-	15
O'Connor	Brick	7	-	-	-	7
	Timber	28	-	-	-	28
	Monocrete	10	-	-	-	10
	Riley Newsum	24	-	16	-	40
Reid	Brick	22	-	-	-	22
Turner	Brick	3	-	-	-	3
Yarralumla	Brick	44	2	-	-	46
	Brick Veneer	11	-	-	-	11
	Timber	19	1	-	-	20
	Monocrete	22	-	-	-	22
Mt. Stromlo	Riley Newsum	3	-	-	-	3
Total		460	9	16	4	489

At 30th June, 1954, the erection of 358 houses had been authorised, of which 313 were under construction. Of the total, 330 were to be constructed by contract and 28 by day labour. The majority are in O'Connor, (159), Narrabundah (29), Reid (15), Ainslie (17), and Deakin (113). The types are:-

Brick	75
Brick Veneer	94
Brick Flats	16
Timber	62
Monocrete	96
Riley	
Newsom CA4.	<u>15</u>
	358

Building by Private Enterprise.

During 1953-54, private builders completed 70 houses for holders of residential leases. Private owners also completed four business premises, 1 block of flats and 8 other structures.

Offices

At 30th June, 1954, the new Administrative Building was nearly half finished.

The number of workmen employed on the project decreased and as a result the target date for the completion of "A" Block has been extended from December, 1954 to 30th June, 1955.

Other Building Construction

The main buildings completed during the year were University House and a studies and laboratories block, Australian National University, Acton; four plant laboratories for C.S.I.R.O. at Black Mountain; a 50 bed ward at the Canberra Community Hospital; the infants' school at Turner; laboratories for the Bureau of Mineral Resources at Acton; alterations to officers' and sergeants' messes and extensions to kitchen, dining and recreation rooms, Royal Military College, Duntroon; extensions to Receiving Station at H.M.A.S. Harman and the erection of Romney huts for use as an annexe to the National Library.

The main projects under construction at the end of the year were new cadets barracks and engineering laboratory at the Royal Military College, Duntroon; infants' school at Griffith; a 20 chamber Hoffman brick kiln at the brickworks, Yarralumla; Olympic swimming pool at Parkes; lay staff quarters and additional nurses' quarters at the Canberra Community Hospital; an administrative block at C.S.I.R.O., Black Mountain; telephone exchanges at Barton and Braddon; alterations and additions to the Canberra Post Office; a new plant and repair shop for the Works Department at Molonglo and the workshop for the John Curtin School of Medical Research.

Architectural Maintenance

This work necessarily increases in volume with the construction of new houses and public buildings. During 1953/54 urgent and minor requests averaged about 370 items per week.

In addition to internal painting of some public buildings, 144 houses were painted inside. External painting of 348 houses was carried out; public buildings renovated in this way included Ainslie and Fyshwick Schools, Hotel Canberra, cadet barracks and married quarters at the Royal Military College, certain R.A.A.F. buildings and the Causeway Hall.

Flyscreens were fitted to 366 houses and stainless steel sinks to 118 houses. A considerable amount of general maintenance of Government houses and public buildings was also carried out.

Roads and bridges

Both main and minor roads were improved during the year. About a mile and a half of the Cotter Road was strengthened and widened, and the bitumen surface restored. Improvements were made to the Cooma, Tharwa, Yass and Brindabella Roads and the steep section of Fitz's Hill was realigned.

Other construction included an access road from H.M.A.S. Harman to the new transmitting station at "Bonshaw", sub-divisional roads in Ainslie, Narrabundah and O'Connor and local roads in the C.S.I.R.O. and National University areas. Minor works included the construction of a road to Mugga Quarry and special parking areas for the Royal Visit.

Contracts were let for the deviation of Canberra Avenue and the construction of sub-divisional roads in Deakin and O'Connor.

About $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles of road in the city were sealed, and about 5 miles of city roads and 3 miles of country roads were resealed. At the Airport, 2 miles of sealing and 2 miles of resealing were carried out.

At 30th June, 1954, there were 208 miles of road in the city area (107 miles concrete and bitumen) and 340 miles in the country areas ($56\frac{1}{2}$ miles bitumen).

The main works in progress at 30th June, 1954 were the deviation of Canberra Avenue and the construction of sub-divisional roads in Deakin.

During the year, the trusses of the Commonwealth Bridge were strengthened and the bridge on the Cotter Road at the Murrumbidgee River was redecked.

Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage

A new two million water storage tank at Red Hill was completed and good progress was made with the construction of 24" Cotter suction main and the 24" main from lower Red Hill to London Circuit. The total length of new mains placed in service was 44,454 feet.

Consumption of water for the year was 1,807,284,000 gallons (168 gallons per head per day). At 30th June, 1954 there were 6,538 houses connected to the water-supply system.

The sewerage system was extended to serve new residential areas and construction of the Ainslie-Lyneham branch sewer was undertaken. The length of new mains laid was 35,129 feet. Buildings connected to the system at 30th June, 1954 numbered 6,256 serving an estimated population of 28,277.

The construction of stormwater drains kept pace with housing development. The canalisation of Sullivan's Creek between Boldrewood Street and David Street was completed.

Electricity Services.

Low tension reticulation was extended to supply houses under construction in Yarralumla, O'Connor, Narrabundah, Griffith, Deakin, Ainslie and Reid (total length of new mains was 9 route miles).

The high tension system was extended to supply new building development in O'Connor, Narrabundah, Griffith and Deakin.

The rural supply system to Royalla and Williamsdale was completed and a link through the Kambah area was put into operation. These extensions required the erection of 28 miles of high tension line.

The city street lighting supply was extended by 8 miles. One hundred and thirty-four street lights were installed and connected, four hundred and sixty new poles were erected and forty-four new sub-stations were placed in commission.

Industrial Undertakings.

The Canberra Brickworks, operated by the Department of the Interior, produced 8,228,450 saleable bricks.

Industrial undertakings, operated by the Department of Works, were the cement products factory and the sawmills and quarries. The main products were:-

Concrete posts	9,850		
Concrete pipes	2,081		
Footpath slabs	3,193		
Channels	1,380		
Crushed aggregate	39,359	cubic yards	
Sand	24,799	"	"
Gravel	53,694	"	"
Sawn hardwood	854,200	super feet	
Sawn softwood	1,056,808	"	"

Works Planned.

Main works in the design stage at 30th June, 1954, were:-

A. Architectural.

Section of permanent studio and offices, Australian Broadcasting Commission.
 Primary schools at Griffith and Turner.
 Alterations and additions to Hotel Canberra.
 Grandstand for Manuka Oval.
 Lubritorium at the Transport Depot.
 Electrical workshop and linesman's depot, Kingston.
 Administrative building for Postmaster-General's Department; Manuka Telephone Exchange.
 National Library building.
 Stores buildings for the Department of Works.

B. Engineering.

Roads and bridges: deviation of Cotter Road; reconstruction of Cooma Road; roads, footpaths, kerbs and gutters for new sub-divisions; bridges over Sullivan's Creek at David Street and Macarthur Avenue; bituminous surfacing.

Water Supply: Investigation of water supply headworks; services to new sub-divisions.

Sewerage: Western Creek sewerage treatment plant; relief outfall sewer, Turner - O'Connor; services to new sub-divisions.

Stormwater drainage: Main drainage, Braddon commercial area; services to new sub-divisions.

Employment:

Labour required to carry out the works programme was:-

Construction

Day labour employees:

Housing	54
General Architectural	38
Engineering	193

Contractors' employees:

Housing	446
General Architectural	468
Engineering	89
	<hr/>
	1,288

Maintenance (day labour)

Architectural	142
Engineering	122
	<hr/>
	264

Industrial Undertakings
(day labour)

461

Professional and Administrative

374

Total

2,387

The total at 30th June, 1953 was 3,166. The decrease was almost entirely in the non-professional field.

Industrial conditions

No serious industrial dispute occurred during the year, as may be seen from the following statistics:

Number of disputes	4
Workmen involved	190
Working days lost	461
Estimated loss in wages	£1,444

Wages were stable, although adjustments were made in some supervisory classifications in the metal trades to gain uniformity with other industries. The Commonwealth basic wage for the A.C.T. was increased by 3/- to £11.18. 0. per week in August, 1953, since when quarterly adjustments have been suspended.

PLANNING AND GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

Locations were decided upon for a number of private schools, a north-side golf course and several major intersections in the city road system. Further attention was given to proposals for the ultimate development of the Governmental administrative centre, Parkes.

Layout and sub-divisions were completed for residential areas in Ainslie, Braddon, Duntroon, Turner, O'Connor, Yarralumla, Red Hill, Forrest, Griffith, Kingston and Narra-bundah.

Two variations of the city plan were effected. On 27th August, 1953 the reduction of West Lake to a ribbon of water following the course of the Molonglo was gazetted and on 17th December, 1953 variations of the layout in a number of residential areas were notified.

Sites were provided for open-air recreation purposes and buildings were made available for use as community halls.

A site was allocated for use as a stock saleyard, near the Canberra Abattoirs.

Leases

At two auction sales of building blocks, 231 residential and 20 business were offered. In addition, 27 sites were offered for tender; these comprised business, professional, industrial and residential blocks.

Leases taken up for private enterprise building totalled 371, as follows:

Residential	332
Shops	23
Industrial	9
Legations	6
Church	1

(The legation sites were leased to the governments of the following countries: Italy, India, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Netherlands and the Union of South Africa).

At 30th June, 1954 there were in Canberra 1,921 Crown Leases for residential purposes and 246 for business purposes.

Surveys

The survey and marking of 687 building blocks in Canberra were completed. In rural areas, 71 surveys were completed.

The following construction surveys were carried out: roads 35 miles (city and rural); stormwater 13 miles; sewerage 11 miles; kerbing and guttering 12 miles; water supply 5 miles. Precise levelling of 24 miles and the contouring of 1,320 acres to one-foot intervals were also carried out.

Ten miles of radial investigation and remarking, and detail surveys of 24 city sections were also completed.

Many other miscellaneous surveys were carried out for other Commonwealth Departments.

LEGISLATION AND LAW ADMINISTRATION

The more important amendments and additions to Territory law during 1953/54 included:

Making of the Associations Incorporation Ordinance 1953. This permits non-trading and non-profit making associations to become incorporated, thereby acquiring a corporate identity separate from their members (without having to form a company registered under the Companies Ordinance). This method of gaining some of the important benefits of incorporation relatively easily and cheaply should prove of great benefit to many societies in the Territory.

Making of the Aborigines Welfare Ordinance 1954. This follows generally the lines of the Aborigines Protection Act of New South Wales. Full powers under the Ordinance have been delegated to the N.S.W. Aborigines Welfare Board which administers the reserve for aborigines at Wreck Bay on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Making of the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (Trap Shooting) Ordinance. This prevents trap-shooting of live pigeons.

Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, to bring the benefits payable to injured workmen into line with those made payable to employees of the Commonwealth under an amendment of the Commonwealth Employees Compensation Act passed earlier in the year.

Amendment of the Canberra Building Regulations to delete the provision requiring that plans submitted to the Proper Authority must be signed by a registered architect.

Other legislation introduced during the year included:

Police Offences Ordinance 1953, Court of Petty Sessions Ordinance 1953, Marriage Ordinance 1953, Administration and Probate Ordinance (No. 2) 1953, Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance 1954, amendments of the Court of Petty Sessions Rules and the Associations Incorporation Regulations.

During this period, Mr. K.C. Waugh, who has been engaged for some time on a general review of Territory laws, made recommendations on the following matters: trading hours, sale of goods, conveyancing, frustrated contracts, marriage, appeals to the Supreme Court, lotteries and art unions, obscene and indecent publications, compensation (fatal injuries), factors and mercantile agents. His recommendations on the sale of goods were given effect to in the Sale of Goods Ordinance 1954.

Courts and Titles

The volume of business transacted by the Courts and Titles Office is shown in Appendix A.

Coroner

Enquiries conducted by the Coroner were:

Enquiries into deaths	17
Enquiries into Fires	<u>47</u>
	64
	—

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Hospital, with a capacity of 250 beds, provided its usual services in the general, obstetric, children's and isolation wards, the tuberculosis chalet and the X-ray and physiotherapy departments. Weekly visits continued to be made by a radiologist.

Health Laboratory

Canberra is one of the 15 centres where a Commonwealth health laboratory has been established to supply a general pathological service, not otherwise available to the local community. During 1953/54, 48,000 tests and examinations were carried out by the Canberra laboratory.

Tuberculosis control

Tuberculin skin tests and B.C.G. vaccination of all children of school leaving age was carried out in Canberra and Queanbeyan.

A chest radiography unit was installed at the Hospital for use in X-raying in-patients and out-patients. It will also be used for checking applicants for employment in the Commonwealth Public Service.

District Nursing Service

Established in May 1950 to provide a home nursing service for the sick and aged, the District Nursing Service is available from the Department of Health on request by a registered medical practitioner. A nominal charge of 2/- per visit is made, except to indigent patients. The service is valuable in relieving the strain on hospital accommodation.

The following table shows the increasing use made of the service:

	1951/52	1952/53	1953/54
Patients	1,186	1,732	2,464
Visits	5,001	8,139	9,342
Mileage	16,501	33,638	38,164

Health inspection

A staff of four inspectors, under the Medical Officer of Health, closely watched matters affecting the health of local residents. Sixty-eight chemical and 108 bacteriological tests of the water supply were made, and 270 samples of milk for chemical and 170 samples for bacteriological examination were taken.

The following infectious diseases were notified:

Rubella 9, dysentery 1, poliomyelitis 26, puerperal fever 1, tuberculosis 6, infective hepatitis 2, scarlet fever 8, diphtheria 14, meningococcal infection 2, typhoid fever 5, paratyphoid fever 1. (The source of the out-

break of typhoid fever was quickly traced to desiccated coconut).

The following establishments were regularly inspected:

Boarding houses	30
Prepared meat-goods shops	65
Ice cream vendors	4
Hairdressers	16
Milk vendors	19
Eating houses	17
Meat vendors	19

Veterinary services

The Department of Health provided veterinary advice to stockowners. The object of the service is to limit loss by livestock deaths caused by disease or faulty husbandry. Advice was given about diseases such as enterotoxaemia, black leg, tuberculosis and infectious laryngotracheitis. Field demonstrations were given in the Mules operation to lessen fly strike in sheep and the operation for balanitis in wethers.

Movements of stock into and out of the Territory were permitted only after the animals had been inspected.

Dairy and piggery control

Veterinary officers examined local dairies and piggeries to ensure high standards of cleanliness and hygiene. Two piggeries which did not comply with the Public Health (Piggeries) Regulations were closed and one dairyman had to renovate his premises before his 1954 registration was granted. Milk samples collected at the dairies and from vendors' cans were examined bacteriologically.

Canberra Abattoirs

The Canberra Abattoirs, which were originally designed to fulfil the needs of the Territory, also supplied meat during 1953/54 to nearby area of New South Wales. Slaughtering were:

Sheep and lambs	64,292
Oxen	6,265
Cows	737
Calves	1,174
Pigs	3,209

All animals were slaughtered under inspection and in accordance with standards identical with those prescribed for meat for export. The occurrence of liver fluke and hydatid cysts caused the condemning of a large number of livers.

By-products included Osatein stock meal, blood and bone fertiliser and sausage runners.

EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE

Child Services and infant welfare

The usual assistance was given to expectant mothers and mothers of new-born babies by nurses of the Canberra Mothercraft Society. During 1953/54, 180 expectant mothers attended Child Welfare Centres for advice and 2,225 visits were made to mothers of new-born babies.

Seven main child welfare centres operated during the year; each was open at least two days per week, with a mothercraft nurse in attendance. Seven sub-centres were also open one day per week or per fortnight, depending on local requirements. Visits were made once a month to new-born babies in homes in outlying districts. The medical officer attached to the centres examined some infants on request by the sisters. (The Canberra Mothercraft Society administers its own affairs but receives a yearly grant from the Department of Health).

Medical care of school and pre-school children

Children were medically examined before enrolment at play centres; those who had attended for more than twelve months were re-examined. About 750 examinations of this kind were made.

Children of school leaving age were examined in accordance with a plan begun in 1952 to examine all children entering and leaving school (both primary and secondary schools). Of 1,314 children examined, 198 were found to be suffering abnormalities; the parents of these children were informed of their disabilities.

School and pre-school dental service

The dental examination and treatment of some 3,600 children were carried out (this included children living at Jervis Bay and Wreck Bay). Staff dental officers increased from four to five during the year.

Free Milk

At 30th June, 1954 more than 4,000 children attending eleven schools in Canberra and Jervis Bay were receiving one-third of a pint of milk each school day under the scheme initiated by the States Grants (Milk for School Children) Act.

Education

The rapid expansion in school enrolments during recent years continued during 1953-54, with the most marked increase in the five-seven years age group. School accommodation continued to be an acute problem, in spite of the occupation of the Turner Infants' School in November, 1953. (Plans for meeting this situation include the early completion of an infants' school at Griffith and the construction of (1) primary schools at Turner and Griffith, (2) an infants' school at Yarralumla (3) additions to the Canberra High School).

Maintained or Public Schools

The following Territory schools were maintained by the Department of the Interior, and staffed by the Department of Education, New South Wales:

School	<u>Enrolment</u>		S.	Total	<u>Staff</u>
	I.	P.			
Ainslie	384	650	-	1034	31
Canberra High			506	506	32
Duntroon	47	48	-	95	3
Hall	10	16	-	26	1
Jervis Bay	30	24	-	54	2
Narrabundah	269	-	-	269	6
Telopea Park	406	623	458	1487	57
Tharwa	16	13	-	29	1
Turner	339	-	-	339	8
Uriarra	5	7	-	12	1
Wreck Bay (Aboriginal)	26	32	-	58	2
TOTAL	1532	1413	964	3909	144

Certified or Private Schools

The Education Ordinance provides that any school, other than those maintained by the Department of the Interior, shall be registered. Certificates of registration are issued biennially on the report of the District Inspector of Schools. The registered schools in 1954, including St. Edmund's Christian Brothers College which opened during the year were:

School	<u>Enrolment</u>			Total	<u>Staff</u>
	I.	P.	S.		
Canberra Grammar (Boys)	41	73	138	252	19
Church of England Girls Grammar	21	114	95	230	16
St. Christopher's School	317	223	125	665	16
St. Edmund's College		182	187	369	8
St. Patrick's School	278	153	-	431	6
TOTAL	657	745	545	1947	65

The following table compares enrolments of schools in the A.C.T. as at May, 1954, with the two preceding years:

Type of School	Enrolment		S.	Total
	I.	P.		
<u>Public Schools</u>				
1952	1002	1188	785	2975
1953	1239	1301	899	3439
1954	1532	1413	964	3909
Increase 1953/54	293	112	65	470
% Increase 1953/54	23.6%	8.6%	7.2%	13.7%
<u>Private Schools</u>				
1952	454	594	375	1423
1953	528	700	369	1597
1954	657	745	545	1947
Increase 1953/54	129	45	176	350
% Increase 1953/54	24.4%	6.4%	47%	21.9%
<u>All Schools</u>				
1952	1456	1782	1160	4398
1953	1767	2001	1268	5036
1954	2189	2158	1509	5856
Increase	422	157	241	820
% Increase	23.9%	7.8%	19%	16.3%
X St. Edmund's Christian Brothers College opened.				

Secondary Schools

A five-year secondary course is provided at Canberra High School, St. Christopher's Convent School, St. Edmund's Christian Brothers College, Canberra Grammar School and Canberra Church of England Girls' Grammar School. Telopea Park Central School offered a three year non-language course, including commercial, technical and home science subjects. (Proposals for the future include the establishment of a five year non-language course at the Telopea Park School).

Evening Classes

Enrolments in courses in evening classes at the Canberra High School totalled about 200. The courses covered the Intermediate and Leaving Certificate examinations,

Public Service Clerical Examinations, and hobby and cultural activities.

Bursaries

The A.C.T. Education Regulations provide for the annual award of bursaries, as determined by the Minister, on the results of a special examination conducted by the Bursary Examination Board of the New South Wales Department of Education and on the results of the Intermediate Certificate Examination. In 1953, four bursaries were awarded on the special examination and three on the Intermediate Examination.

Public Examinations

At the 1953 Intermediate Certificate Examination 118 candidates from public schools and 77 from private schools were successful; 48 students from the Canberra High School and 15 students from private schools were successful at the Leaving Certificate Examination.

Pre-School Centres

During 1953/54, 11 pre-school play centres, and the Occasional Care Centre at Civic Centre were in operation. In addition the mobile unit attended certain suburbs that are without permanent play centres and also visited the outlying areas of Tharwa, Oaks Estate, Uriarra, Mt. Stromlo and H.M.A.S. Harman. Enrolment at the Centres totalled 803, as compared with 780 for the previous year; the Mobile Unit catered for 109 children.

Many teachers employed at the pre-school centres were trained at an approved kindergarten training college on scholarships awarded by the Minister for the Interior or the Canberra Nursery Kindergarten Society.

In 1953 three scholarship holders completed their training and commenced as pre-school teachers in Canberra whilst two new scholarships were awarded to Canberra girls, who commenced training early in 1954. The value of each scholarship was increased from £250 to £280 during the year.

Technical College

During 1953/54 the Canberra Technical College provided:

Trades courses for apprentices;

Post-trade courses: builders foremen,
clerks of works;

Certificate courses: office management, laboratory
assistants, supervision, surveying, matriculation;

Commercial: accountancy, secretarial,
shorthand and typing.

Trade Testing of New Australians

Hobby courses, including dressmaking, woodwork,
art, motor maintenance and pottery.

Courses for Commonwealth authorities, including shorthand and typing for the Public Service Board, workshop

practice for Royal Military College cadets, and motor maintenance for Australian Forestry School cadets.

Enrolments at the College in May, 1954, were:

Class	Total
<u>Building trades</u>	
Bricklaying	8
Carpentry and Joinery	70
Painting and Decorating	23
Plumbing	15
Plumbers' License	14
Plumbing - drainage	1
Signwriting	16
<u>Engineering trades</u>	
Automotive Mechanics	34
Fitting and Machining	21
Welding Oxy-Acetylene	24
Welding Electric	8
<u>Electrical trades</u>	
Fitters and Mechanics	37
Electrician's License	4
<u>Printing trades</u>	
Composing	12
Bookbinding	5
<u>Certificate courses</u>	
Clerk of Works	5
Matriculation	10
Office Management	17
Laboratory Assistants	10
Sheep and Wool	47
Showcard and Ticketwriting	11
Supervision	14
Surveying	13
<u>Commercial</u>	
Accountancy Certificate and Diploma	57
Secretarial	49
Shorthand	37
Typing	24
<u>Women's Handicrafts</u>	
Dressmaking Certificate	50
Dressmaking Home	88
Flowermaking	17
Invalid Cookery	10
Millinery	24
Tailoring (Ladies)	8
<u>Hobby courses</u>	
Art (Adults)	29
Art (Children)	66
Motor Maintenance	79

Class	Total
<u>Hobby courses, continued:</u>	
Pottery	146
Woodwork	44
	1,147

Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship is regulated by the A.C.T. Apprenticeship Board. (See Appendix "B").

Canberra University College

The operations of the Canberra University College during the twelve months ended December 31st 1953, are described in the report of the College for that year. (See Appendix "B").

GENERAL SERVICES

Housing Services

Sales in Canberra of Government-owned houses to tenants numbered 84 for a total of £187,675 (since the resumption of the sale of Government houses during 1950/51 there have been 441 houses sold for £1,106,150).

At 1st July, 1954 there were 227 houses subject to loans from the Commissioner for Housing. This was the same as at 30th June, 1953, as discharges and new loans during the year were equal in number.

A system of rental rebates similar to that operating under the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement applies in Canberra to houses built after 3rd December, 1943 which conform to standards laid down in that agreement. Tenants are eligible for rebates based on the difference between the economic rent of the dwelling and the family income. Rebates granted during 1953/54 numbered 176, ranging from 10d. to £3. 6.10. per week.

At 30th June, 1954 Government-owned housing units totalled 4,665 of which 216 were flats. Government employees occupied 3,359 and other persons 1,306. There were 2,611 applicants waiting for Government houses at 30th June, 1954 compared with 2,476 twelve months earlier.

Guest houses and hostels

Guest houses controlled by the Department of the Interior at 30th June, 1954, were:

	Capacity
Hotel Kurrajong	196
Hotel Acton	190
Lawley House	168
Gorman House	130
Mulwala House	221
Narellan House	50
Reid House	288
Acton Guest House	140

Havelock House	172
	<u>1,555</u>

The Department of Works operated two hostels for construction workers during the year. Total capacity was 1,307 with staff numbering 47.

Transport and Communications

The City Omnibus Service carried about 3,800,000 passengers during 1953/54 and its 65 vehicles travelled 866,000 miles. Panel vans used to transport school children from country areas travelled 105,000 miles. Omnibus routes were extended into newly developed areas of Ainslie and O'Connor.

Vehicles used to transport goods within the Territory and from certain points interstate travelled 1,100,000. The total mileage covered by all vehicles of the Transport Section (buses, cars, goods vehicles and special duty vehicles) was 5,046,000.

New motor vehicles (cars, lorries, cycles, trailers, tractors and buses) registered for 1953/54 totalled 962 (679 for the year 1952/53); registration of all vehicles totalled 8,505 (of which 5,800 were renewals). Licences in force at 30th June, 1954 were: drivers 10,262; cycle riders 847; conductors 174. There were 26 public hire cars licensed (13 additional temporary licences were granted for the period of the Royal Visit).

Vehicles presented for registration were tested for roadworthiness, with the following results:

Faulty brakes	319
Faulty steering	23
Other faults	687
	<u>1,029</u>

The headlights of 7,370 vehicles were tested; 1,161 failed and had to be adjusted before registration was effected.

Commercial aircraft movements at Canberra Airport totalled 10,149 (a "movement" is either the arrival or the departure of an aircraft). Passenger traffic figures were: arrivals 48,902; departures 52,321.

The Postmaster-General's Department gave special attention during the year to the extension of the telephone cable network in new residential areas. A 600 line portable automatic exchange was installed at Yarralumla and a similar 400 line exchange was added to the existing 500 line exchange at Braddon; work was also pushed ahead on a new trunk line exchange at the Canberra Post Office. The total number of telephone points in force at 30th June, 1954 was 8,076, including 98 duplex services and 64 public telephones; subscribers totalled 4,211.

Letter receivers were installed in MacGregor Street, Deakin; Cobb Crescent, Ainslie; Captain Cook Crescent, Griffith; Scrivener Street and at the corner of Miller Street and Boronia Drive, O'Connor.

Remodelling of the Canberra City Post Office was completed and extensive modernisation of the Canberra Post Office begun.

Social Welfare

The Social Worker, Department of the Interior, dealt with more than 200 cases during 1953/54. Slightly more than half of them were long-term cases involving lengthy contact with and a full social investigation of the family concerned. About half the long-term cases and nearly all short-term cases were finalised.

New and re-opened cases, totalling 186, originated as follows:-

Emergency Housekeeper Service	50
Self referral	38
Schools	29
Information and Welfare	
Bureau	22
Other Officers, Department	
of Interior	10
Doctors	9
Hospital	7
Neighbours	5
Clergy	3
Police	2
Miscellaneous	11
	<u>186.</u>

Regular visits were paid to Ainslie School; other schools were visited as required. Most school cases were attributable to chronic non-attendance.

The Social Worker kept in touch with many voluntary organisations in Canberra. She attended all meetings of the Emergency Housekeeper Service Committee of Management and many committee meetings of the National Council of Women, the Spastic Centre Committee and the Corroboree Park Youth Centre Management Committee.

The Public Information and Welfare Bureau operated in close collaboration with the Social Worker. It handled 2,610 enquiries during the year, about half of them being welfare enquiries.

The Emergency Housekeeper Service Management Committee, which is a standing committee of the National Council of Women supplied housekeepers to 120 families. Full fees were charged in 42 cases and reduced fees in 77 cases; fees were remitted in one case. The Service found considerable difficulty in maintaining an adequate and efficient staff. There were 87 applicants who could not be supplied with a housekeeper.

Protection of life and property

The Canberra Fire Brigade attended 326 calls, of which 50 were to fires in buildings and 154 to bush, grass or rubbish fires. Forty-eight calls were false alarms, of which 14 were considered to be malicious. Members of the Brigade are also qualified ambulance officers. They received 2,347 calls during the year, of which 355 were to accidents; total mileage travelled was 28,733.

The Canberra Life-Saving Patrol carried out 60 patrols at the Cotter Pool and at Kambah during the 1953/54 swimming season. Forty rescues were made, the majority of them being children at the Cotter Pool; there were no drowning

fatalities. Some 60 persons were given attention for minor injuries, the more serious cases being attended to by members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

The Canberra Police Force, with an effective strength of 58 members, dealt with the following crimes and offences during 1953/54:

	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Convictions</u>
Offences against the person	73	37
Offences against property		
with violence	19	13
Offences against property		
without violence	104	76
Offences against good order	371	364
Miscellaneous breaches of law	775	590

Police attended 666 road accidents in the Territory. They arrested 56 persons for driving under the influence of liquor, all of whom were convicted. One person was convicted and fined for conducting an illicit still.

Licensed premises were conducted satisfactorily; no complaints were received about the failure of hotels to provide meals and proper accommodation. Court orders for renovations and additions, to ensure a higher standard of service to the public, were issued for nine licensed premises.

Tests for driver's licences were given to 1,437 persons, of whom 399 failed.

Juvenile crime increased during the year, as follows:

	<u>1952/53</u>	<u>1953/54</u>
Offenders	24	46
Offences	75	86

The most common offence was stealing.

Price Control

The commodities and services remaining under price control in 1953/54 were similar to those controlled in the States. The Prices Branch continued its close liaison with the State authorities to ensure that price adjustments of important commodities in the States were matched in the Territory. Regular checks of prices and of exhibited price lists showed that most traders were complying with the Prices Regulation Ordinance. Four convictions for prices offences were recorded, whilst other offences were dealt with by warnings.

Miscellaneous licensing

The following licences were in force during the year 1953/54:

Hawkers	95
Dogs	1,735
Auctioneers	14
Guns	1,797
Anglers	2,074
Tobacco	<u>91</u>
	5,806

Amenities

The Canberra City Band gave 41 public performances during the year. These included performances at three official functions during the Royal Visit, eight public concerts in Canberra and two public concerts at Jervis Bay. The Band also provided music for a number of voluntary organisations in Canberra and on two occasions for the Indian High Commissioner at his residence. The Band's membership at 30th June, 1954 was 38.

The National Library continued its local lending services to the people of the Territory to whom some 50,000 books, including fiction, were available on open access. There were about 7,500 regular borrowers and about 91,000 books were lent. This service was supplemented by a bulk-lending service to the three local Defence establishments and to the residents of Jervis Bay where a small branch library was maintained.

The small pilot children's library, established late in 1952 at the Canberra Technical College, proved to be successful and will be expanded in new premises at Riverside Centre. In December, 1953, a general children's library was established at the Corroboree Park Youth Centre. The total number of borrowers at the two centres was about 800.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Cultural Development (A.C.T.), grants were made as follows during 1953/54 for the purpose of assisting the organisations named to develop their cultural activities: Canberra Repertory Society £1,090, Canberra Film Centre £200, Canberra Artists' Society £100, Canberra Art Club £75, Canberra Recorded Music Society £25, Canberra Orchestral Society £30, Canberra Philharmonic Society £150, Canberra Eisteddfod Society £300, Canberra Choral Group £30.

The general development of Canberra required a large planting effort by the Parks and Gardens Section. Nearly 100,000 plants were issued from the Yarralumla Nursery, of which about 70,000 were planted in the city area; a considerable number of native species were used in addition to exotic deciduous and coniferous trees. Trials were made of a number of species with the object of introducing them to Canberra; some deciduous trees from the Middle East gave good promise. Maintenance work was reduced during the year by the decision to discontinue the free cutting of front hedges of houses.

The Manuka Swimming Pool was open from 31st October, 1953 to 11th April, 1954, when 15,834 adults and 39,837 children were admitted. The "Learn to Swim" Campaign was continued by the Canberra Amateur Swimming Club, by members of the Police Force and by instructors from the N.S.W. Education Department. A demonstration of rescue, release and water safety methods was given during the season by four members of the Australian Life Saving Society.

The National Fitness Advisory Committee allocated £1,077 to sporting and other bodies in the Territory, in addition to grants of £375 each to the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A.

Some 70,000 trout ova were purchased for the 1953/54 season; about 48,000 fry were released during October and November 1953. The fry were liberated at various entry points on the following streams:

Brown trout	Molonglo River	5,000
	Murrumbidgee River	10,000
	Paddy's River	5,000
	Cotter River	4,600
Rainbow trout	Cotter River	10,000
	Uriarra Creek	3,000
	Tidbinbilla River	2,000
	Gibraltar Creek	1,000
	Paddy's River	5,000
	Gudgenby River	2,000

(The total liberation of trout from 1922 to 1953 is 945,323).

The Canberra Tourist Bureau dealt with an increased amount of business during the year (the largest increase being with private motorists). Local residents made more use of the Bureau, especially for arranging extended tours in the States. The Bureau handled £42,216 and earned income of £3,500. Railway bookings totalled 5,355 plus 7,692 reserved seats; bookings for sightseeing tours and road services numbered 10,700, and accommodation bookings totalled 21,318 bed-nights.

Nearly 11,000 cars used the Black Mountain Tourist Camp during the year.

PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES

At the suggestion of the Department of the Interior, the editor of "Walkabout" published a feature article, "Canberra's Changing Scene", in the July 1953 issue of that magazine. The Department obtained 1,000 special reprints and issued them gratis to persons asking for information on Canberra.

In the January, 1954 issue of "The Geographical Review" there appeared an article by Mr. H.W. King of the Australian National University entitled "The Canberra-Queanbeyan Symbiosis"; the Department obtained 200 reprints and sent a copy to each High School in New South Wales. During the same month the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science held its 1954 congress in Canberra; for distribution to delegates attending the congress, the Association produced a high-grade handbook "Canberra, A Nation's Capital". Assistance with the preparation of this book was given in a number of ways by various officers of the Department of the Interior.

In December, 1953 the Department published a booklet which reproduced and described the Canberra coat of arms and in January, 1954 it published a new city map in colour.

The N.S.W. Railways Department continued running its one-day tours to Canberra. During the year there were 15 tours which brought some 4,000 visitors to Canberra. The Department of the Interior supplied the tourists with publicity material and assisted in making local arrangements for the Railways Department.

PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Most Crown land outside the city area not required for Commonwealth purposes is leased for primary production for terms not exceeding 25 years. Most rural leases were granted for grazing or agricultural purposes, the remainder being for dairying, orcharding, vegetable growing etc. At 30th June, 1954 there were 509 rural leases, of which 272

were for one year or more (total area 205,801 acres) and 237 were for less than a year (total area 96,974 acres). The total area of freehold land, including the villages of Tharwa, Hall and Oaks Estate was 107,081 acres.

Seasonal conditions

The total rainfall in Canberra for the year was 18.14 inches, or 5.52 inches below average. The rainfall pattern is shown in the following table:

1953

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Total	0.66	1.04	2.23	1.42	1.90	1.31
Average	1.82	1.76	1.87	2.40	2.00	2.17
Deviation	-1.16	-0.72	+0.36	-0.98	-0.10	-0.86

1954

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
Total	3.12	2.77	0.01	1.49	0.31	1.88
Average	2.06	1.94	2.17	2.28	1.68	1.51
Deviation	+1.06	+0.83	-2.16	-0.79	-1.37	+0.37

Wool and meat production

The 1953/54 season's wool clip for the Territory was 2,254,413 lbs. from 270,190 sheep.

Meat production was: beef 1,615 tons; veal 41 tons; mutton 720 tons; lamb 366 tons; pigmeat 146 tons.

Pasture improvement

The area under improved grasses and clovers at 30th June, 1954 was 40,751 acres (an increase of nearly 5,000 acres over the previous year's figure). The area of improved native pastures was 8,649 acres.

Department of Interior Pasture Shield

The pasture-improvement competition conducted annually by the A.C.T. Pastoral and Agricultural Association for the shield donated by the Department of the Interior was won by Mr. D.G. Hyles of Uriarra. Messrs. J.C. Moore & Sons were second and Mr. R.G.L. Grace was third.

Crops

The area under crop in 1953/54 was 6,186 acres. Of this 1,566 acres were devoted to wheat growing for grain and 245 acres to oats for grain. Wheat produced totalled 28,998 bushels, giving an average yield of 18.5 bushels per acre. Oats yielded 4,731 bushels, averaging 19.3 per acre. Lucern hay production from 1,184 acres was 2,373 tons, mostly on the Molonglo River flats. Total hay production was 4,305 tons from 2,740 acres.

Vegetables

The area under vegetables was 182 acres. The main commercial crop was 514 tons of potatoes from 112 acres.

Orcharding

Orchards in the Territory were estimated to contain 56,650 fruit trees at 30th June, 1954, of which 43,450 were classified as backyard trees in the city area. The total was an increase of 5,800 trees in the twelve months.

The main commercial crop was 11,098 bushels of apples, only small quantities of other fruits being produced. The season was exceptionally dry, which caused fruit to be smaller in size than usual.

Dairying

Thirteen dairy farms ran a total of 1,902 dairy cattle, of which 1,574 were cows in milk. The production of whole milk during the year was 658,587 gallons. Consumption was 871,113 gallons. The shortage of 212,531 gallons was imported from outside the Territory.

Potato Variety trials

Potato variety trials were continued, in conjunction with the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture. The heaviest yields were obtained from Courtland (718 lbs.), Sebago (637 lbs.) and 2,674 Walanga (632 lbs.).

Field Days

Field days were organised to advise farmers on pasture improvement, soil conservation and orcharding, and to demonstrate the use of hormone preparations for controlling noxious weeds. Demonstrations in pruning, budding and grafting were also conducted for commercial and domestic orchardists.

Publications

Booklets and pamphlets prepared by the Agriculture and Stock Section dealing with soil erosion, pasture improvement, control of noxious weeds and insect pests and the diseases of fruit trees, were widely distributed.

Soil Conservation

The responsibility for soil conservation in the Territory is vested in the A.C.T. Soil Conservation Council. The Council's Seventh Annual Report gives details of its work for the year.

Forestry

Forest plantations established during the year were:

	<u>Acres</u>
Stromlo	814
Uriarra	473
Kowen	<u>69</u>
	1,356
	<hr/>

The area established at Stromlo consisted almost

wholly of natural regeneration of pines following the fire in that area in 1952.

Softwood cut totalled 9,982,000 super feet log measure. Hardwood cut during the year totalled 2,241,000 super feet log measure (including 49,000 super feet cut from Commonwealth lands at Jervis Bay).

The total quantity of timber cut from Territory forests up to 30th June, 1954 was 91,000,000 super feet of softwood and 29,500,000 super feet of hardwood.

List of Events

- July 28th Plans for construction of 458 flats in three units in Braddon and Turner approved.
(This month was the driest July since 1941).
- Aug. 11th Royal Swedish Legation building awarded 1953 Sulman Prize.
- Sept. 5th Mr. C.F. Aderman M.P., laid foundation stone of the new Church of Christ Hall, Limestone Avenue, Ainslie.
- 11th Memorial to former students of Telopea Park School who served in the 1939-1945 War unveiled by the President of the R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. (A.C.T. Branch).
- 19th Advisory Council Elections held. (Australian Labour Party won 2 seats, Liberal Party 1 and Independents 2).
- Oct. 6th New offices for the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom opened in Commonwealth Avenue.
- 14th The Film Division of the Commonwealth National Library received from Mr. John C. Taussig of Bathurst a collection of motion picture stills illustrating the history of film production from 1895 to 1939.
- 14th The Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Republics, Mr. N.I. Generalov, presented his letters of Credence to the Governor-General.
- 19th The Vice-President of the United States of America, Mr. Richard Nixon, visited Canberra.
- 30th The work of Dr. L.W. Nott, former Medical Superintendent of the Canberra Community Hospital, commemorated in a Memorial Library presented to the Hospital Board by the Women's Auxiliary.
- Nov. 1st Mr. L.G. Melville took up duty as second Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University
- 17th The Artists' Society of Canberra opened new studio at Riverside.
- 17th Dr. Julian Huxley, Dyason Lecturer for 1953, delivered a public address in the Albert Hall.
- 22nd The Governor-General set a stone marking the start of construction of the final portion of St. Paul's Church, Griffith.
- Dec. 10th Canberra and District Historical Society formed.
- 29th Most Reverend Dr. Eris O'Brien installed as Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn by the Apostolic Delegate, Rt. Rev. Romolo Carboni, at the Pro-Cathedral of St. Christopher.

Jan. 1954

- 1st Seven Canberra residents received awards in the New Year's Honour List.
- 12th A.N.Z.A.A.S. Conference opens with more than 2,000 international, interstate and local delegates, forming the biggest congress of any kind yet held in Canberra.
- 20th New automatic telephone exchange equipped for 600 lines established at Yarralumla.
- 26th Fifth Citizenship Convention at the Albert Hall opened by the Governor-General.

Feb.

- 13th Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness, Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, welcomed on arrival in Canberra by 40,000 people who lined the route of the Royal Progress.
- 14th The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attended Morning Service at the Church of St. John the Baptist. The Duke read the Lesson.
- 15th The Queen opened the 3rd Session of the 20th Commonwealth Parliament. This was the first time a Royal Sovereign had opened the Commonwealth Parliament.

- 16th The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attended a State Banquet given by Parliament at King's Hall, Parliament House. Her Majesty was presented with a £25,000 diamond brooch, a gift from the people of Australia to whom she broadcast from the Banquet.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh unveiled the Australian - American Memorial. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness laid a wreath at the Australian War Memorial and inspected the Shrine.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh welcomed by 16,000 children at Manuka Oval.

The Duke of Edinburgh opened University House.

- 17th The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh inspected a mass gathering of ex-servicemen and women on the lawns in front of Parliament House.

3,000 guests present at a Royal Garden Party at Government House attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

At a special parade, the Queen presented new colours to the Corps of Staff Cadets at Royal Military College, Duntroon.

The Prime Minister was host at a State Ball held in the King's Hall, Parliament House, for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

- 18th The Queen planted a snow gum at Government House.

- Feb. 18th The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh departed from Canberra by special 'plane from R.A.A.F. Station, Fairbairn, for Sydney.
- First conferring of ordinary degrees, Australian National University.
- 20th Silver Jubilee Show opened by the Governor-General.
- Mar. 13th The Governor-General laid the foundation stone of the War Memorial Church Hall in the grounds of the Church of St. Andrew, Forrest.
- 14th His Eminence Cardinal Gilroy officially opened the new Christian Brothers Memorial College of St. Edmund at Griffith, in the presence of 3,000 persons, including the Prime Minister.
- 15th Professor C.P. Fitzgerald took up duty as first Professor of Far Eastern History.
- 20th Rev. David Lewis officially opened the Methodist Church Hall at O'Connor.
- 26th The Robert Garran Chair of Law, to be established at the Canberra University College, named in honour of Sir Robert Garran's work on behalf of the University College.
- 29th A course in Australian Literature instituted at Canberra University College.
- (This month was the driest March since 1940).
- April 7th The Minister for the Interior officially opened the Turner Infants School.
- The 74" telescope installed at Mt. Stromlo.
- 13th Fifteen persons received certificates of naturalisation at the first civic naturalisation ceremony held in Canberra. The oath of allegiance was given by the Deputy Chairman of the A.C.T. Advisory Council, Mr. R.G. Bailey.
- 20th Manuscript of John Antill's ballet "Corroboree" presented by the composer to the Commonwealth Library.
- 23rd Electoral Roll for the Territory showed 14,880 electors enrolled.
- 27th The Minister for the Interior announced that over 2,000 Commonwealth employees and their families would move to Canberra within the next three years.
- 29th Soviet Ambassador and staff left Canberra.
- Foundation tablet for new Baptist Church in Turner was unveiled by Rev. C.G. Sweetnam, President-General of the Baptist Union of Australia.

- May
- 1st The Governor-General opened extensions to Canberra Club, Civic Centre.
- 4th U.S. Admiral William Halsey, Australia's Coral Sea Celebrations guest, inspected the Australian National Memorial to America.
- 17th Royal Commission on Espionage opened its proceedings at Albert Hall.
- 27th Sir Russell Grimwade presented £15,000 to be held in perpetuity as an accretion to forestry fund of the Commonwealth Forestry and Timber Bureau, Canberra.
- (This month was the driest May since 1935).
- June
- 1st Professor A.D. Trendall took up duty as first Master of University House.
- 5th 150 residential leases in 10 suburbs of Canberra realised £45,000 at an auction at the Albert Hall.
- 7th Work began on permanent buildings for John Curtin School of Medical Research.
- Vienna Boys' Choir gave recital at the Albert Hall.
- 10th Nine Canberra residents received awards in the Sovereign's Birthday Honours List.
- 16th New Commonwealth Bank building opened at Kingston.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENTCOURTS AND TITLES OFFICE, CANBERRASUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FOR PERIOD 1 JULY 1953 TO 30 JUNE, 1954SUPREME COURT:

- (a) Criminal Jurisdiction: proceedings in connection with criminal matters, either by way of committal for sentence or committal for trial, totalled 30.
- (b) Civil Jurisdiction: 115 civil proceedings were instituted.
- (c) Matrimonial Causes Jurisdiction: matrimonial cases heard and determined totalled 60.
- (d) Probate Jurisdiction: 35 applications for probate or letters of administration were lodged.

COMMONWEALTH COURT OF CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION:

Forty-eight applications for variation of existing determinations were settled or heard.

COURT OF PETTY SESSIONS:

The number of charge cases and summonses during the year 1953/54 totalled 2,236. The total of fines and fees imposed and collected amounted to £3,134 and £1,242 respectively. Eighty-four matters were dealt with by the Court sitting at Jervis Bay.

TITLES REGISTRY:

A total of 933 dealings were lodged for registration, including 337 original grants of Crown Leases and 112 transfers. The value of property transferred was approximately £377,800.

COMPANIES REGISTRY:

One hundred and three local companies with total nominal capital of £10,300,025 and 43 foreign companies with a total nominal capital of £11,809,500 were registered.

LIQUOR REGISTRY:

One thousand four hundred and forty-two special permits and 20 booth licences were granted. Licence fees in respect of 7 hotels, 8 clubs, 2 restaurants and 21 grocers' amounted to £22,757. 3.11.

FIRMS REGISTRY:

Ninety-two new firms were registered.

INSTRUMENTS REGISTRY:

Forty-eight bills of sale, 6 stock mortgages and 8 wool liens were registered.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES REGISTRY:

No new registrations were effected.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRY:

Eight hundred and forty births, 150 deaths and 223 marriages were registered. Twenty-nine of the marriages were performed by the District Registrar in the Registry Office.

ASSOCIATIONS REGISTRY:

One association was registered under the new Associations Ordinance which came into effect on 26th November, 1953.

REVENUE:

Total revenue collected for the year ended 30th June, 1954, amounted to £34,781.

APPENDIX "B"

There are a number of public bodies in the Australian Capital Territory set up to administer (or to advise on the administration of) matters coming within a specified field of activity. A full list of such bodies operating during the year ended 30th June, 1954 is set out below.

Part 1 -- Annual reports furnished (copies lodged with National Library, Canberra):

A.C.T. Advisory Council.
 Apprenticeship Board.
 Bush Fire Council.
 Canberra Public Cemetery Trust.
 Canberra Mothercraft Society.
 Canberra Emergency Housekeeper Service.
 Canberra Relief Society.
 Canberra Community Hospital Board.
 A.C.T. Soil Conservation Council.
 Canberra University College Council.
 Canberra Tourist Bureau Advisory Board.

Part II -- Annual reports not furnished:

Committee on Cultural Development (A.C.T.).
 Corroboree Park Youth Centre Council.
 Dental Board.
 Insurance (Third Party) Claims Committee.
 Premiums Advisory Committee (Motor Vehicle
 Third Party Insurance).
 National Capital Planning and Development
 Committee.
 Road Safety Council of the A.C.T.
 Canberra National Fitness Advisory Committee.
 Nurses Registration Board.
 Pharmacy Board.
 Canberra Pre-School Advisory Committee.
 Medical Board.

