

Explore



Your free guide to Canberra's urban parks,
nature reserves, national parks and recreational areas.



Welcome to Ngunnawal Country

"As I walk this beautiful Country of mine I stop, look and listen and remember the spirits from my ancestors surrounding me. That makes me stand tall and proud of who I am – a Ngunnawal warrior of today."

Carl Brown, Ngunnawal Elder, Wollabalooa Murringe

About this guide

The ACT is fortunate to have a huge variety of parks and recreational areas right on its doorstep, ranging from district parks with barbecues and playgrounds within urban areas through to the rugged and majestic landscape of Namadji National Park. The natural areas protect our precious native plants, animals and their habitats and also keep our water supply pure. The parks and open spaces are also places where residents and visitors can enjoy a range of recreational activities in natural, healthy outdoor environments. This guide lists all the parks within easy reach of your back door and over 30 wonderful destinations beyond the urban fringe. Please enjoy these special places but remember to stay safe and follow the Minimal Impact Code of Conduct (refer to page 6 for further information).



Above: "Can you see it?" – Bird spotting at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. AT Refer to page 50 for further information.

Left: Spectacular granite formations atop Gibraltar Peak – a sacred place for Ngunnawal People.

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English as a second language

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Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this guide is accurate at the time of printing. The ACT Government accepts no responsibility for inaccuracies resulting from subsequent changes to the Territory's parks and open spaces or any inconvenience or loss resulting from the use of this guide.

Note: Reserve sizes are indicative only and are based on the *Territory Plan*.

Facilities and activities guide

-  Accommodation
-  BBQ electric/gas
-  BBQ wood (BYO wood)
-  Boating/sailing
-  Boat ramp and/or jetty
-  Campervan (fees apply)
-  Camping (fees apply)
-  Canoeing
-  Cycle paths
-  Dogs off leash
-  Dogs on leash
-  Dog park (fenced)
-  Drinking water
-  Fishing
-  Historic/heritage site
-  Horse riding
-  Lighting
-  Lookout
-  Map/brochure
-  Mountain bike riding
-  Picnic shelter
-  Picnic tables
-  Playground
-  Showers
-  Skate park
-  Swimming
-  Toilets
-  Walking tracks
-  Windsurfing
-  Wheelchair facilities
-  No pets allowed

See page 67 for image captions and credits.



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Top: "Look, just there!" – catching and releasing tadpoles at The Avenue, Cotter River Precinct. MK Refer to page 56 for further information.

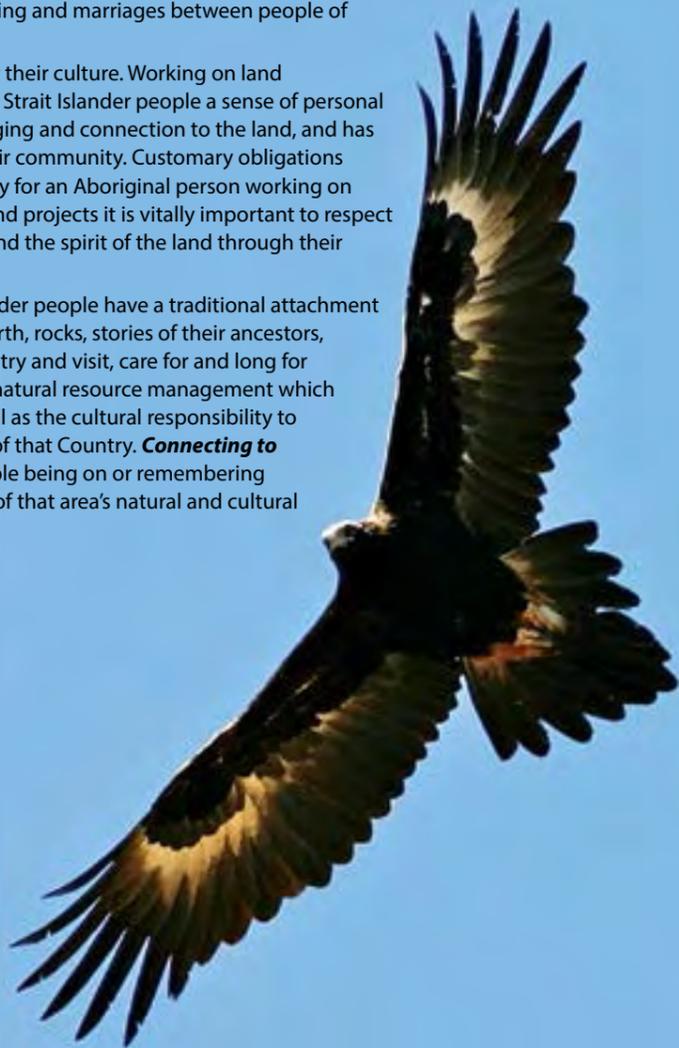
Traditional custodians—a time to reflect

Please take a moment to reflect as you explore the parks and reserves of the ACT. You are walking in the footsteps of the ancestors of the traditional custodians, the **Ngunnawal people**. They have managed this landscape for tens of thousands of years and their relationship to the area is still held strong today.

The region was also a significant meeting place for neighbouring nations, including the Ngarigo, Wolgalu, Gundungurra, Yuin and Wiradjuri people. Ceremonies, trading and marriages between people of different clans took place during such gatherings.

When Aboriginal people care for the land they also care for their culture. Working on land management projects not only gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a sense of personal pride, it also affirms their identity through a cultural belonging and connection to the land, and has direct benefits on the health and financial wellbeing of their community. Customary obligations and the cultural management of the land often take priority for an Aboriginal person working on Country and, when developing community partnerships and projects it is vitally important to respect this interconnected relationship between nature, people and the spirit of the land through their ancestors.

Country is an area to which Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people have a traditional attachment or relationship. It includes the plants, animals, water, air, earth, rocks, stories of their ancestors, and the persona of that landscape – people speak on Country and visit, care for and long for Country. **Caring for Country** is the Indigenous concept of natural resource management which includes the nurturing and management of the land as well as the cultural responsibility to protect the sites, values, stories, and ancestral obligations of that Country. **Connecting to Country** refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being on or remembering Country, acknowledging the specific localised knowledge of that area's natural and cultural landscape and ancestral stories.



See page 67 for image captions and credits.



ACT land management—caring and sharing

The ACT Government manages the entire spectrum of open space in the ACT except for the Parliamentary Zone and Lake Burley Griffin which is managed by the National Capital Authority (NCA).

The management of town and district parks, lakes and urban waterways includes providing recreational opportunities for visitors and safe play spaces for children, protection and enhancement of urban catchments, controlling environmental pest plants and protecting biodiversity and heritage sites.

The management of the ACT's national park, nature reserves and forests includes protecting heritage sites, controlling pests plants and animals, managing significant ecological communities and species, maintaining forestry plantations and managing captive wildlife populations. The ACT Government is also responsible for reducing the risk of wildfires through fuel reduction burning, slashing and grazing – refer to page 35 for further information.



Ranger inspects the Cotter River source at Mount Scabby. LH



Ranger with 'fans' at Cotter Bush Picnic. MK



Ranger at Jerrabomberra Grasslands. CH

Volunteers—from the heart

Each year, hundreds of volunteers work collaboratively with the ACT Government in parks and reserves, urban open spaces and rural landscapes. The aim is to help conserve, rehabilitate and protect our natural environment through weed control, monitoring feral animals, seed collection, plant propagation, plantings, trail maintenance, public education and much more. Volunteers are provided with protective clothing, equipment and training.

If you enjoy nature, hands-on activities and the company of other like-minded people, then get involved and join one of our groups. Many volunteering activities are also child-friendly, so the whole family can join in. Volunteer programs include:

ParkCare and Landcare

Urban Landcare

Conservation Volunteers Australia Interpreter Program—a popular volunteer interpreter program at Tidbinbilla that enhances visitors' experiences. Full training is provided.

"For me, being involved with ParkCare means being in the bush with others who share my interests in looking after the plants, animals and landscapes there. We plant, weed and control soil erosion and, in doing so, contribute to maintaining and improving the local environment and Canberra's beautiful surroundings."

Sarah Hnatiuk, volunteer, coordinator of the Mount Painter ParkCare group and winner of the Individual Landcare Award, 2011.



Friends of the Pinnacle ParkCare Group. LP



Coleman Ridge ParkCare Group. LP



Friends of Glenburn install a new sign at Glenburn. ML

For further information:
TEL 02 6207 2145
WEB www.tams.act.gov.au

Protecting our precious natural environment

Our parks and open spaces protect common and endangered ecological communities, provide habitat for native wildlife and act as movement corridors. They are vital for providing 'ecosystem services' upon which people and wildlife depend. These services include climate regulation, insect pest control, provision of shade and shelter, maintaining healthy soil and filtering water. Parks and open spaces also fulfil people's cultural and spiritual needs, providing beautiful places to connect with nature and enjoy the outdoors. Ever increasing pressure on nature means it is even more important to protect what remains. Please look after your parks and open spaces, their inhabitants and special heritage so that you and future generations can enjoy them.



North Belconnen Landcare Group.



Rangers release an albino echidna. LH



Ranger spraying Serrated Tussock.

Minimal impact code of conduct

All native animals, plants and their habitats are protected by law.

Leave your pets at home. Dogs are not permitted in Namadgi National Park, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Googong Foreshores and Murrumbidgee River Corridor (except Point Hut Crossing and Uriarra recreation areas). Dogs are also not allowed in the following Canberra Nature Park reserves – Black Mountain, Mulligans Flat, Goorooyaroo, Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Callum Brae, Gungahlin Hill, Rob Roy and Dunlop, Gungahlin, Mullangari, Jerrabomberra and Crace Grasslands. Check the symbols for each park to see where dogs are allowed.

Only light fires in designated fireplaces. On days of total fire ban, all fires are prohibited including fuel stoves and gas barbeques. Some reserves are closed on days of total fire ban.

Keep to the designated roads and tracks. Using a four wheel drive, trail bike or mountain bike on unauthorised tracks is illegal, environmentally damaging and dangerous.

Please do not feed the animals. Ducks, kangaroos and other wildlife will become sick if they have an unnatural diet (which includes bread).

Respect all heritage sites.

There are no bins provided at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Murrumbidgee River Corridor, Namadgi National Park, Googong Foreshores and Canberra Nature Park. Wherever you are, take your rubbish home and recycle.



Pelicans at Tidbinbilla. BA



Cycling on formed tracks. LP



Gentle as we go - admiring the water bugs at Tidbinbilla. AT

Park categories

The ACT Government manages most of the parks and reserves in the ACT including town and district parks. The National Capital Authority manages the Central National Area around Lake Burley Griffin and the Parliamentary Zone. There are a range of parks and open spaces in the ACT:

National park – Namadgi National Park and the mountain tops of Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve are part of the National Reserve System, a network of Australia's protected areas, conserving examples of our natural landscapes and native plants and animals for future generations.



Nature reserves – Woven through our suburbs is a group of over 33 separate nature reserves collectively known as Canberra Nature Park. They provide a scenic backdrop and natural setting for Canberra's urban areas. Prominent reserves include Black Mountain, Mount Taylor, Mount Ainslie, Mount Majura and Mulligans Flat. Nature reserves adjacent to the Murrumbidgee are part of the Murrumbidgee River Corridor. The Tidbinbilla Valley is also designated as nature reserve.



Forest reserves and recreation areas – These include commercial and non commercial plantations of mainly Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*). Areas include Kowen Forest, Majura Pines, Fairbairn Pines, Tuggeranong Pines and Uriarra and Pierces Creek.



Town and district parks – These parks are designed for more intense use with recreational facilities including playgrounds, toilets, fitness trails, picnicking facilities as well as sculptures and water features. There are in excess of 25 parks, several with water-based activities. Town parks are irrigated with paved areas. District parks are extensive informal parks which are mown grasslands and range in size from four to ten hectares.



Neighbourhood and local parks – Neighbourhood parks are small, usually have playground facilities and are located within 400 metres of residential areas. They may be linked to laneways and cycle paths.



National Capital Authority parks – These parks are managed by the National Capital Authority and include the Parliamentary Zone, Lake Burley Griffin and parts of the foreshore, Anzac Parade and Diplomatic Estates in Yarralumla, Deakin and O'Malley. These areas have been declared for the special purpose of Canberra as the National Capital.



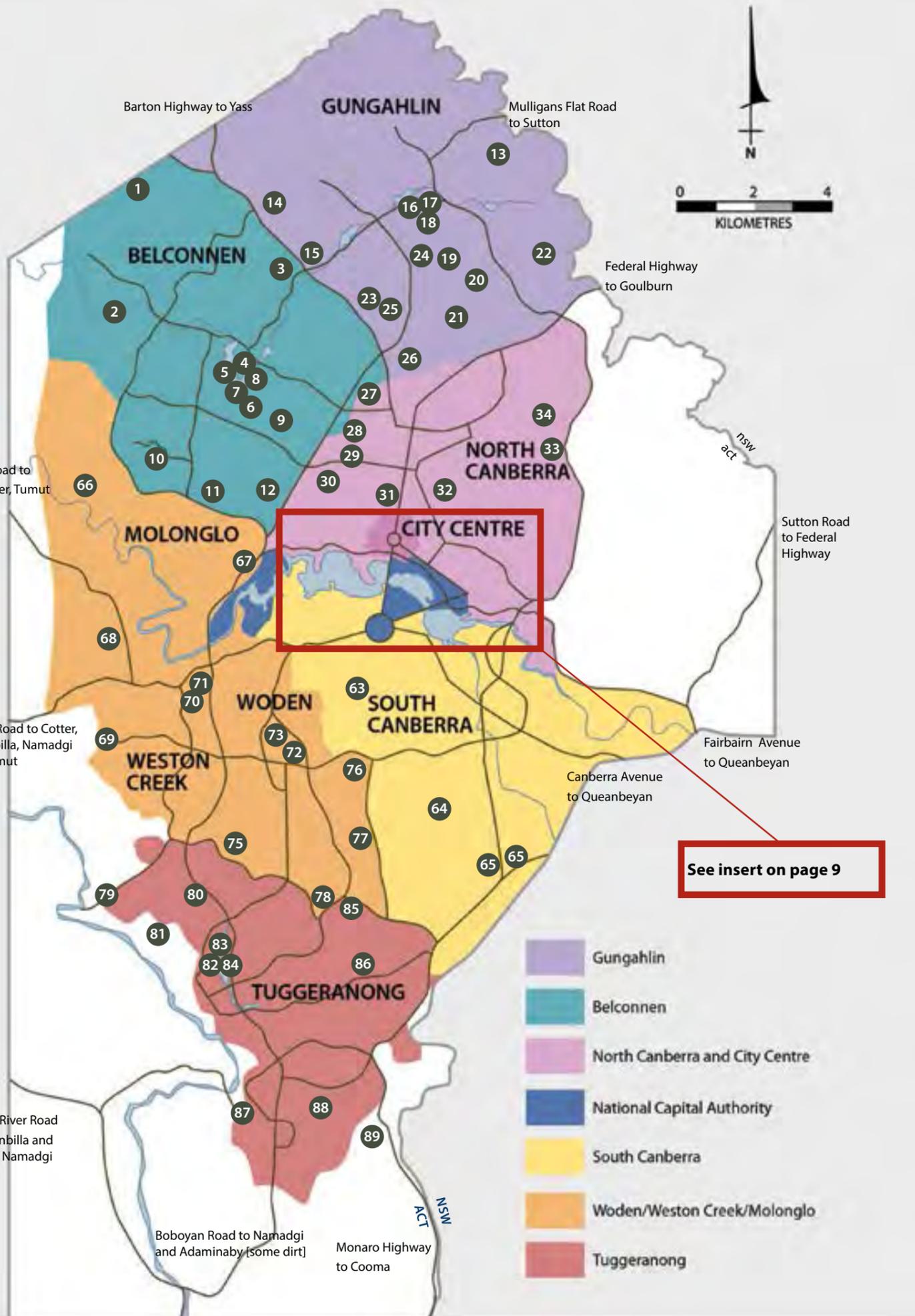
Want to know more?

For a chat about our parks, reserves and open spaces visit the Canberra and Region Visitor Centre on Northbourne Avenue or call in to the visitor centres at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve (pictured) or Namadgi National Park.

TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81

WEB www.tams.act.gov.au



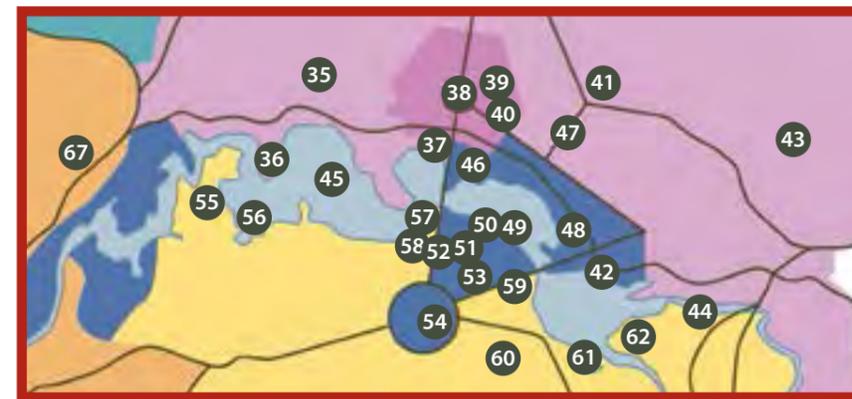


MAP 1 – Your guide to the Territory's urban areas

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>BELCONNEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Dunlop Grassland Nature Reserve 2 Umbagog District Park 3 Palmerville Heritage Park 4 Lake Ginninderra Peninsula 5 Lake Ginninderra Western Foreshores 6 Margaret Timpson Park 7 Belconnen Skate Park 8 John Knight Memorial Park 9 Gossan Hill Nature Reserve 10 The Pinnacle Nature Reserve 11 Mount Painter Nature Reserve 12 Aranda Bushland Nature Reserve <p>GUNGAHLIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve 14 Harcourt Hill Nature Reserve 15 Percival Hill Nature Reserve 16 Yerrabi Pond 17 Yerrabi Skate Park 18 Gungahlin Town Park 19 Old Wells Station Track 20 Gubur Dhaura 21 Mullion Park 22 Gorooyaroo Nature Reserve 23 Gungahlin Hill Nature Reserve 24 Mulanggari Grassland Nature Reserve 25 Gungaherra Grassland Nature Reserve 26 Crace Grassland Nature Reserve | <p>NORTH CANBERRA ABD CITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 Lyneham Ridge Eucalypt Plantation 28 O'Connor Ridge Nature Reserve 29 Bruce Ridge Nature Reserve 30 Black Mountain Nature Reserve 31 Haig Park 32 Corroborree Park 33 Mount Ainslie Nature Reserve 34 Mount Majura Nature Reserve 35 Australian National Botanic Gardens 36 Black Mountain Peninsula 37 Acton Park 38 City Hill 39 City Skate Park 40 Glebe Park 41 Remembrance Park 42 Grevillea Park 43 Mount Pleasant Nature Reserve 44 Molonglo Reach <p>NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 Springbank Island 46 Commonwealth Park 47 Anzac Parade 48 Kings Park 49 Commonwealth Place 50 Reconciliation Place 51 Old Parliament House Gardens 52 Magna Carta Place 53 National Rose Gardens and Parkes Place 54 Parliament House Gardens | <p>SOUTH CANBERRA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 55 Weston Park 56 Yarralumla Bay 57 Lennox Gardens 58 Canberra-Nara Peace Park 59 Bowen Park 60 Telopea Park 61 Kingston Foreshores 62 Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve 63 Red Hill Nature Reserve 64 Callum Brae Nature Reserve 65 Jerrabomberra Grasslands Nature Reserve <p>WODEN/WESTON CREEK/MOLONGLO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 66 Kama Nature Reserve 67 National Arboretum Canberra and Glenloch Cork Plantation 68 Stromlo Forest Park 69 Narrabundah Hill 70 Weston Creek Skate Park 71 Oakey Hill Nature Reserve 72 Eddison Park and Youth Plaza 73 Woden Town Park 74 Coleman Ridge Nature Reserve 75 Mount Taylor Nature Reserve 76 Mount Mugga Mugga Nature Reserve 77 Isaacs Ridge Nature Reserve 78 Farrer Ridge Nature Reserve <p>TUGGERANONG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 79 McQuoids Hill Nature Reserve 80 Kambah District Park and Kambah Woolshed 81 Urambi Hills Nature Reserve 82 Tuggeranong Town Park 83 Tuggeranong Skate Park 84 Lake Tuggeranong District Park 85 Wanniasa Hills Nature Reserve 86 Fadden Pines District Park |
|--|--|---|

Refer to page 38 and 39 for Map 2 – Your Guide to the Territory's non-urban areas

City Centre See page 8





Eastern Grey Kangaroo at Dunlop Grasslands. MW



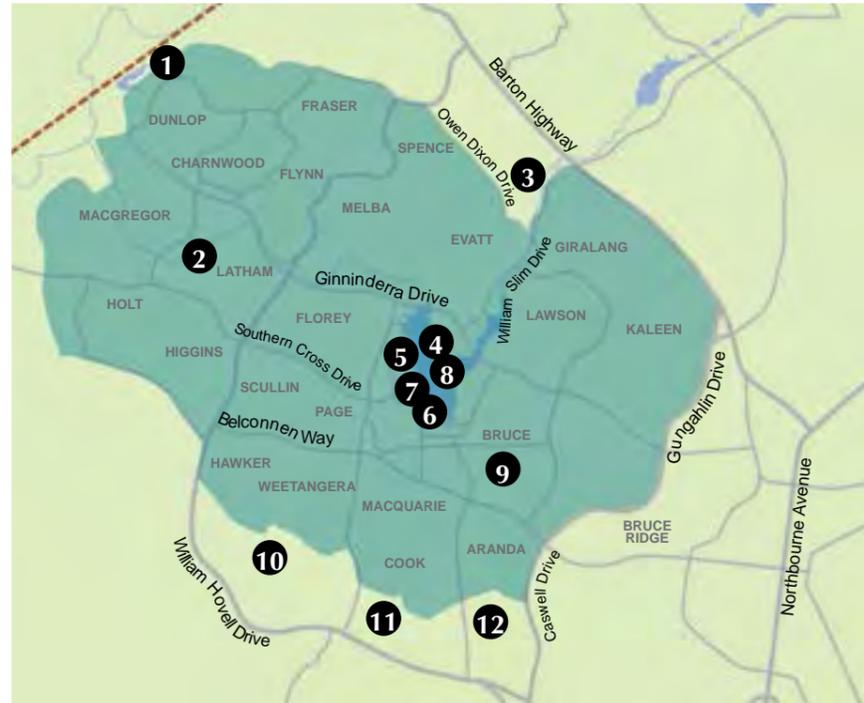
Cascading creek waters at Lake Ginninderra. LP



Umbagog District Park. LP



Mount Painter Nature Reserve. EB



1 Dunlop Grassland Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK
Access from many places in Dunlop and Fraser.

Admire beautiful spring and summer flowers in native grasslands. The Bicentennial National Trail passes through the reserve. Size: 105.5 ha



2 Umbagog District Park

DISTRICT PARK
On both sides of Ginninderra Creek in the suburb of Latham. Access off Florey Drive and Neville Place.

A cycle path runs the full length of the park along the creek and there are two playgrounds on the north side of the park. The park is a significant native grassland area. Size: 64.5 ha



3 Palmerville Heritage Park

Access from Owen Dixon Drive, bounded by William Slim Drive in Giralang and the CSIRO Experiment Station on the Barton Highway.

The park was named after Lieutenant George Thomas Palmer, the first pioneer owner of the area of 'Ginningningderra', as it was originally known. The area was later known as Palmerville. A general store, post office, dwellings and woolshed once existed at the heritage park. Size: 33 ha



4 Lake Ginninderra Peninsula (Diddams Close Park)

DISTRICT PARK
On the northern peninsula of Lake Ginninderra. Access via Diddams Close off Ginninderra Drive.

Discover the attractive semi-natural peninsula on one of the walking trails. Linked by a cycle path along the shoreline. Catch a fish from the two fishing jetties, go for a swim at Dulwa beach swimming area or take the dog off leash in the fenced dog park (must be on leash in all other parts of the park). Size: 5.5 ha



5 Lake Ginninderra Western Foreshores

DISTRICT PARK
Adjacent to Lake Ginninderra, MacDermott Place, Belconnen. Access off Joynton Smith Drive.

Western Foreshores is an ideal place for a family picnic amongst the planted native and exotic trees while observing the many species of water birds. Size: 18 ha



6 Margaret Timpson Park

TOWN PARK
Opposite Westfield Belconnen on Benjamin Way. Access off Belconnen Way and Chandler Street.

Named after an influential identity in the women's movement, the park is an ideal retreat in the middle of the Belconnen business district. Its formal design includes Canary Island date palms and the 'Tumbling Cubes' sculpture by Bert Flugelman. Size: 1 ha



7 Belconnen Skate Park

Access off Emu Bank.
One of several skate parks in Canberra with its iconic Belconnen bowl. It is located close to the shops and is easily accessible to the other recreational areas along Lake Ginninderra via the paths around the lake. Recently rated as a world class facility. Size: 0.22 ha



8 John Knight Memorial Park

DISTRICT PARK
On the eastern shore of Lake Ginninderra, close to the Belconnen Town Centre and the University of Canberra. Access off Aikman Drive.

The park is suitable for large groups and has recreational opportunities for all ages. Expansive views, green grass, picnic facilities and water rapids. Recreation facilities include the Woodlands Fitness Trail. The playground includes a tree house, flying fox and the play sculpture. There is also a model boat jetty and a jetty for canoes and sail boats. The park is linked to the lakeshore promenade and walking/cycle trail. Size: 12 ha



9 Gossan Hill Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK
Access off College Street on the north side and from numerous points in Bruce. Located between Radford College and south Bruce.

Ideal for family walks with beautiful views of Lake Ginninderra and northern ACT. Reddish outcrops leached from the surface have left a concentration of iron. It has a beautiful display of wildflowers in spring. Size: 47.5 ha



10 Pinnacle Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK
Access from numerous points in the suburbs of Weetangera and Hawker.

From the Pinnacle Summit Walk there are great views across the Molonglo River Valley to the Brindabella and Tidbinbilla ranges. Significant features include a stand of Red Stringybarks on the western slope and scattered limestone outcrops. The Bicentennial National Trail follows the northern boundary. Size: 125 ha



11 Mount Painter Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK
Access off Coulter Drive on the west side and from numerous points in Cook.

From the summit there are unhindered views of the surrounding reserves and suburbs of Canberra as well as the Brindabellas. The reserve was once cleared for grazing but is being revegetated in some areas. The Bicentennial National Trail follows the northern boundary. Size: 73 ha



12 Aranda Bushland Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK
Access off Caswell Drive on the east side, Bindubi Street on the west side and from the suburb of Aranda at various points.

This amazingly diverse reserve protects Canberra's best remaining example of lowland Snow Gum Woodland. The Frost Hollow to Forest Walk, starting from the southern end of Caswell Drive, is a marked trail with interpretive signs about the vegetation types found here. The Bicentennial National Trail follows the western park boundary. Mountain bikes are only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Size: 106 ha



Pinnacle Nature Reserve. OA



Fishing at John Knight Memorial Park. MK



Margaret Timpson Park. MK



Aranda Snowgums Parkcare busy at work.



Wildflowers, Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve.



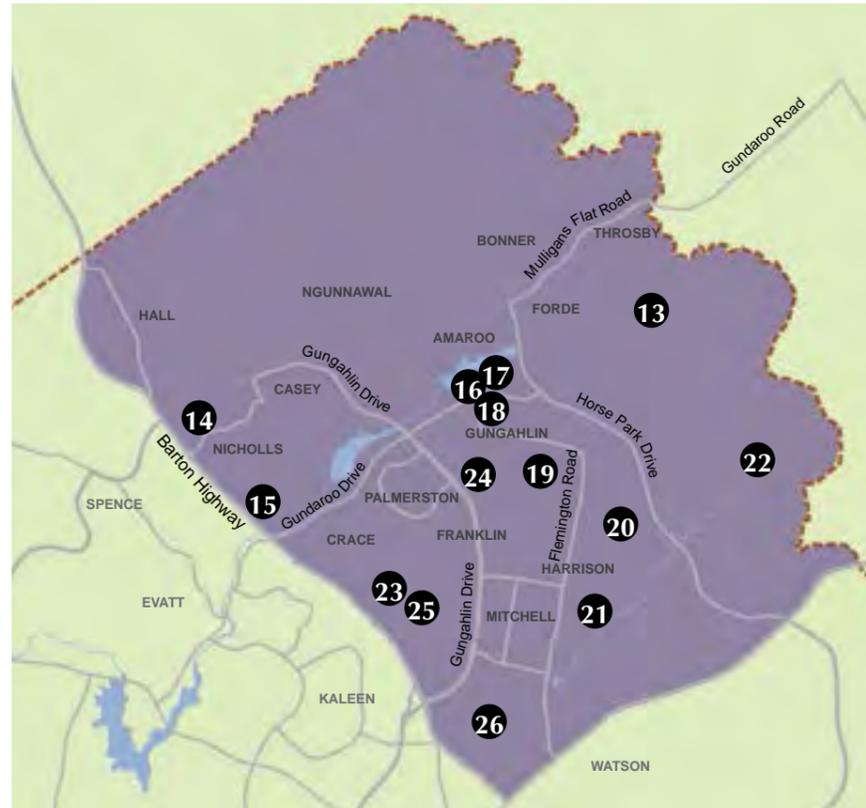
Yerrabi Pond Skate Park. CK



Family of Black Swans. MK



Gungahlin Town Park. OA



13 Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK
Access off Francis Forde Boulevard (Eric Wright Street), Amy Ackman Street in Forde and from Gorooyarroo Nature Reserve.

A rich variety of habitat types including Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum woodland and forests of Red Stringybark with magnificent wildflower displays in spring. The area has a long history of Aboriginal and European use. Many different walks are available including the Grassy Woodlands Trail and the Mulligans Bird Walk which have self-guide brochures available on-site or from www.tams.act.gov.au. The Mulligans Flat Woolshed located on the main management trail in the reserve has displays and information about the reserve and the sanctuary. Cycling is only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Size: 780 ha



14 Harcourt Hill Nature Reserve

A RECREATION AREA
Access from various points in Nicholls.

A grassy reserve with stands of Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum. Good views over Gold Creek and Belconnen. Size: 68 ha



15 Percival Hill Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK
Access from various points in Nicholls.

Remnant Scribbly Gum and Red Stringybark forest on the north-west slope. Ideal for bird watching and wildflower walks during spring. There are panoramas of north Canberra and Gungahlin from the top. Size: 63 ha



16 Yerrabi Pond

DISTRICT PARK
Access from various streets in Amaroo.

A pleasant park surrounding and including Yerrabi Pond and adjacent to Gungahlin Town Park.



17 Yerrabi Pond Skate Park

PART OF THE DISTRICT PARK
Access from various streets in Amaroo.

One of the best skate parks in Canberra with separate senior and junior skating terrains. Features include a crater, square bowl, quarter pipe, fun box, slide rail and spine. The separate junior area teaches beginners about transitions through a small snake run and two small bowls. There's also a dirt-bike jump track. No alcohol permitted. Size: 0.2 ha



18 Gungahlin Town Park

Access off Gundaroo Drive.

A major recreational facility for the residents of Gungahlin. A big attraction is an adventure playground which includes a giant double flying fox, Burmese bridge and children's play equipment. There is a swing for children in wheelchairs, a key is required. Phone Canberra Connect: 13 22 81. Size: 11 ha



19 Old Wells Station Track

Access from Harrison, Forde and Franklin.

This heritage track links Wells Station Heritage precinct, the Red Hill ochre quarry and pipe clay pit (used by Indigenous peoples and early settlers), a walking and cycling trail and residential estates supported by parkland, picnic and play areas.



20 Gubur Dhaura New

Access off Dianne Barwick Street, Franklin.

This heritage registered area encompasses both early European settlement and a significant Aboriginal cultural site. In Ngunnawal language, 'Gubur Dhaura' means 'red ochre ground'. Enjoy an excellent panorama of the ACT. Size: 6 ha



21 Mullion Park

Access from Tanami Street in the suburb of Harrison.

The park is located in an area which incorporates what was once Campbell's property at Wells Station. David Watt Ian Campbell (1915-1979) was an Australian poet who wrote over 15 volumes of prose and poetry. The original paddock boundary is marked by a line of remnant eucalypts and the original fence by ceramic tiles inlaid with barbed wire. The name of the park comes from the book of poems, *The Miracle of Mullion Hill*, which Campbell wrote when he lived at Wells Station with his family. It was published in 1956. Size: 3 ha

Did you know?

Aboriginal grinding grooves

Aboriginal grinding grooves were discovered in the bed of Ginninderra Creek in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The Ngunnawal people made these grooves by sharpening their stone axes, hence the name of the park Umbagong – an Aboriginal word for 'stone axe'.

Visit Gubur Dhaura to best gain an understanding of Aboriginal heritage in Canberra's north. Gubur Dhaura is a complex site containing remnants of the Old Wells Station track. Most significantly it is an area of importance to Aboriginal people due to the plentiful supply of red, yellow and white ochre. The ochre was procured and used for decoration and in ceremony – in fact, Gubur Dhaura means 'red ochre ground'.

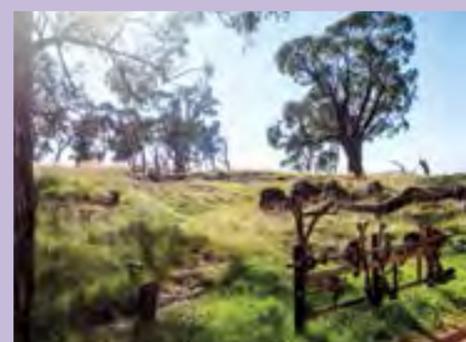
For further information refer to pages 4, 49 and 54 of this guide or to secure your place on an Aboriginal Ranger guided tour to significant sites in and around Canberra, visit www.tams.gov.au or phone 13 22 81.



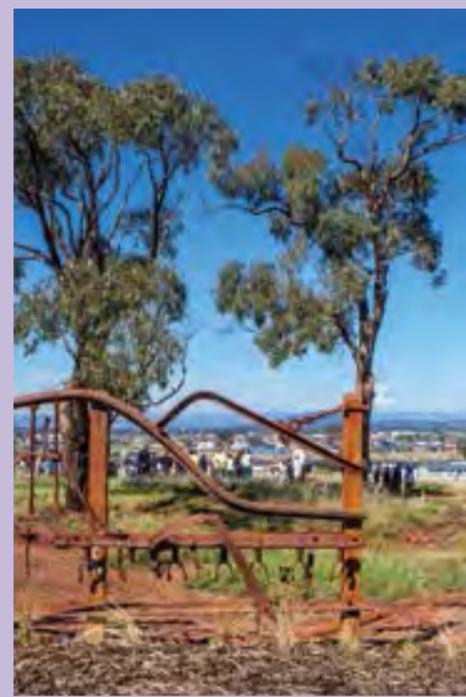
Theodore Grinding Grooves.



Ranger guided activity at Mulligans Flat. LP



Early morning at Gubur Dhaura. LDA



Rusted relics within the Franklin Heritage Precinct, Gubur Dhaura. LDA



Milkmaids. MM



Grassy Woodland at Gorooyarroo Nature Reserve.



Sunset over Gungaderra Nature Reserve. LDA



Striped Legless Lizard. MJ



Afternoon serenity at Crace Grassland Nature Reserve. LDA



22 Gorooyarroo Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access off Horse Park Drive and from Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve to the north.

Yellow Box–Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland with many dams and wildflowers in spring. The walk to the top of Burnt Stump Hill has spectacular views. A good way to explore this reserve is to cycle the main vehicle trail and walk the tracks leading off the vehicle trail. Size: 701 ha



23 Gunghalin Hill Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

No access from Barton Highway. Access through Crace only. Step overs provided. Adjacent to Gungaderra Grasslands Nature Reserve.

A small but diverse patch of Brittle Gum and Scribbly Gum open forest with many wildflowers in spring. Size: 28 ha



24 Mulangari Grassland Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access off Gungahlin Drive and various points in Franklin.

Open Natural Temperate Grassland with colourful spring wildflower displays and habitat for threatened grassland species including the Striped Legless Lizard. Size: 117 ha



25 Gungaderra Grassland Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access is provided along the Crace boundary via step overs: off Bollard Street (Palmerston) on the north side, Gungahlin Drive on the east side.

An ideal place to observe some of the more common native plants and animals in Canberra, it also protects some endangered species. There are a number of old gnarled Scribbly Gums and Brittle Gums scattered throughout the grasslands. There are no designated walking tracks, only management trails. Size: 270 ha



26 Crace Grassland Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access off Bellenden Street (Mitchell), Barton Highway and Randwick Road.

Open native grasslands supporting a colourful spring wildflower display and habitat for threatened and endangered species including the Striped Legless Lizard, the Golden Sun Moth and the Perunga Grasshopper. Size: 121 ha

Did you know?



The story behind the Gang-gang

The Gang-gang Cockatoo is the faunal emblem of the ACT and is worn with pride on the badge of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. Gang-gangs can be seen in the gardens of Canberra’s inner suburbs, particularly those near the bushland reserves of Black Mountain, Aranda and Mount Ainslie.

Canberra Nature Park’s reserves in these areas are a great place to not only see the Gang-gang but many bird species. They frequent the mountains of Namadgi National Park during the warmer months then locate to lower lying areas, including the suburbs, during winter.

Over 200 bird species can be observed in and around Canberra as well as outlying areas such Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and Googong Foreshores – refer to pages 50 and 64 for further information.

The Jerrabomberra Wetlands are a birdwatching paradise – refer to page 23 for further information.

Female Gang-gang Cockatoo. HF

Native grasslands—for all seasons

Native Temperate Grassland is a critically endangered native ecological community that is dominated by native species of perennial tussock grasses. The community is naturally treeless or has less than 10% protective foliage cover of trees or shrubs in its tallest stratum. In addition to a wide variety of grasses, native grasslands in their natural state contain a high diversity of forbs including sedges, rushes, orchids, lilies and broad leaved herbs such as daisies.

Grasslands are interesting places and change markedly with the seasons. A wide variety of wildflowers can be seen during spring and in summer the spikey Blue Devil comes into flower. During winter, Kangaroo Grass turns a deep russet colour. Birds of prey are often seen hovering above grasslands.

An integral part of the grassland community is the fauna, ranging from large herbivores such as kangaroos to a multitude of invertebrates. The rapid transformation of grasslands from pastoral activity since the early 1800s resulted in the decline or extinction of many species.

Recognised as the most endangered ecological community in Australia, Natural Temperate Grasslands are now protected within several nature reserves in the ACT including Crace, Gungaderra, Dunlop, Mulangari and Jerrabomberra Grasslands. These reserves also protect rare and threatened grassland fauna including the Grassland Earless Dragon, the Golden Sun Moth, the Striped Legless Lizard and the Perunga Grasshopper.



Jerrabomberra Grassland Nature Reserve. CH



Spikey Blue Devil at Jerrabomberra Grassland Nature Reserve. LP



Grassland Earless Dragon. MJ

Grassy woodland—critically endangered

Wandering through a critically endangered patch of eucalypt woodland is an amazing insight into what a vast proportion of south-eastern Australia (five million hectares) would have looked like before Europeans set foot on the continent. Since the early 1800s, woodland areas were the main ecological resource upon which the wheat and sheep industry flourished. Today only about 5% of this woodland remains and it is fragmented and severely depleted in species diversity. Some species such as the Eastern Bettong have even become locally extinct.

In the ACT, woodlands are protected in many reserves including Mulligans Flat and Gorooyarroo nature reserves (totalling about 1500 hectares). Together these two reserves make up the largest and most intact contiguous area of Yellow Box–Blakely’s Red Gum Grassland, a critically endangered ecological community.



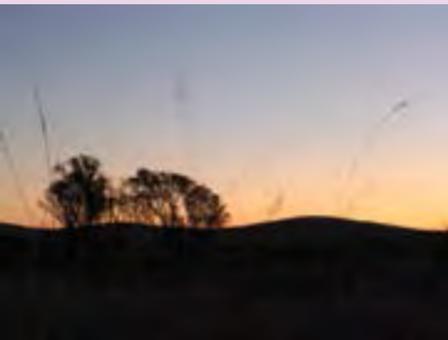
Red Wattle Bird. EB



Scaly Buttons.



Examples of Yellow Box—Blakely’s Red Gum at Callum Brae Nature Reserve. LP



Bruce Ridge sunset. MK



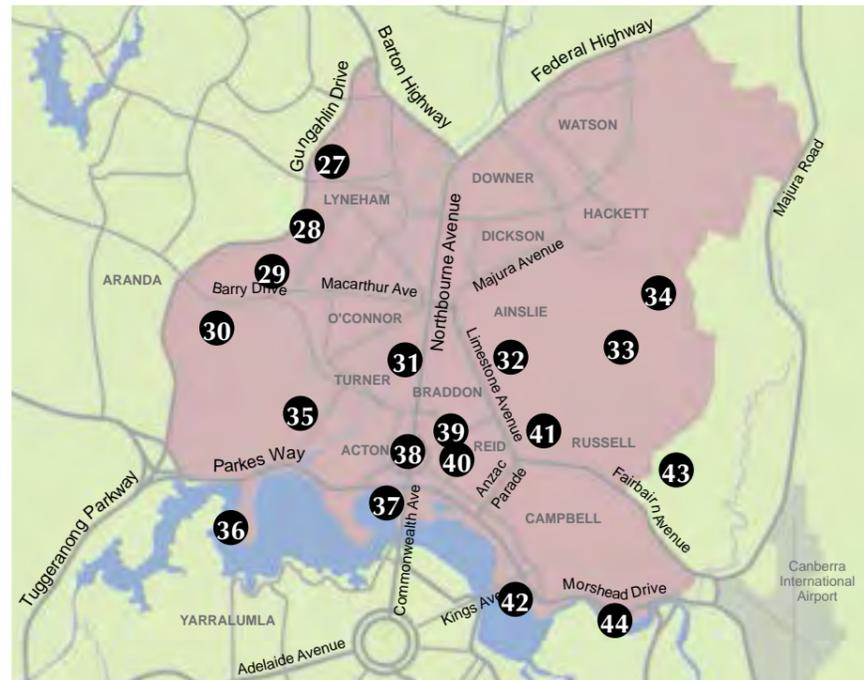
View to Black Mountain and Telstra Tower. ACT



Hakea sp. O'Connor Ridge. LP



Eastern Yellow Robin. MK



27 Lyneham Ridge Eucalypt Plantation

RECREATION AREA

Access from Ellenborough Street or Duterraa Crescent in Lyneham.

The eucalypts were established as a trial plantation to grow firewood for the local Canberra market. The plantation never became commercial and remains a popular spot for walking, jogging and walking the dog.



28 O'Connor Ridge Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access off the Gungahlin Drive Extension on the west side and Dryandra Street on the east side.

An important part of a wildlife corridor which includes nearby Aranda Bushland, Black Mountain and Bruce Ridge. The forest vegetation provides habitat for birds such as Superb Blue Wrens, Grey Currawongs and Kookaburras. There are beautiful walks and bicycles may only be ridden along formed vehicle trails.

Size: 55 ha



29 Bruce Ridge Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access off Belconnen Way on the south and Dryandra Street on the east and from underpasses off Purdie Street to the north-west.

Enjoy the beauty of the eucalypt bushland with glimpsed views of north Canberra. Lower slopes contain Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland, an endangered ecological community. Mountain bike trails have been formally approved and sustainably developed. Please watch for other park users on the shared trails. Size: 109 ha



30 Black Mountain Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access off Belconnen Way on the north side, Caswell Drive on the west side, Aranda Bushland via a pedestrian underpass and from the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

A network of walking tracks passes through an interesting array of mainly forest ecosystems that are influenced by aspect, slope and fire history. On the higher tracks you can glimpse views over Canberra, the City Centre and surrounds. There are beautiful wildflower displays in spring and early summer, including a variety of orchids. Mountain bike riding is only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Size: 430 ha



31 Haig Park

DISTRICT PARK

Located just north of the City Centre in Braddon and Turner.

Haig Park was developed in the 1920s as an east-west shelter break to protect the suburbs in the vicinity of the City Centre from wind and dust. The park consists of planted rows of over 7,000 exotic trees that form a significant landscape element. Popular for walks and picnics. There are tennis courts and a bowling club. Size: 19 ha



32 Corroboree Park

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

Located between Paterson Street and Corroboree Park in Ainslie.

This popular park is used mainly for family recreation at weekends. The park's name reflects the belief that it may have been used as a corroboree ground. In 1920, the park became the focal point for the small garden city subdivision designed by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee. The trees in the park are now predominantly native species. Some of the eucalypts have become very large, making this a unique park worth visiting. Size: 2.6 ha



33 Mount Ainslie Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access from numerous points from Hackett, Ainslie and Campbell or drive to the lookout on the summit.

Mount Ainslie Lookout is ideal for taking visiting family and friends as it showcases the planned nature of the city. *Canberra Tracks*, three self drive heritage tracks start at the summit. The reserve also has great walking trails including the popular walk connecting Remembrance Park (behind the Australian War Memorial) to the summit. Mountain bike riding is only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Size: 608 ha



34 Mount Majura Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access from various points in the suburbs of Watson and Hackett.

At 890 metres, volcanic Mount Majura is the second highest peak in Canberra Nature Park. It is a popular area for bushwalking. Mountain bike riding is only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Walking tracks lead through Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Woodland (an endangered ecological community) on the lower slopes. Stands of Drooping She-oak attract Glossy Black Cockatoos. Size: 495 ha



35 Australian National Botanic Gardens

Located at the base of Black Mountain. Access from Clunies Ross Street, Acton.

Escape from the everyday through the exploration of the national collection of Australian native plants. Encounter amazing birdlife and resident water dragons. Reconnect with nature, family and friends. Indulge at the Botanical Bookshop, a hidden treasure of beautiful books and great gifts then relax in the café. From the gardens there is a walking track that leads to the summit of Black Mountain. Open: 8.30 am – 5 pm (extended hours in January). Size: 85 ha

TEL (02) 6250 9540 WEB www.anbg.gov.au



36 Black Mountain Peninsula

DISTRICT PARK

Access off Lady Denman Drive.

With magnificent views across Lake Burley Griffin, lots of bird life and a safe place to swim, this park is a popular place for young people and families. There is access to the lake for canoeing, rowing and sailing. There are also picnic facilities and a range of toddler and young children's play equipment including a swing designed for children in wheelchairs. Call Canberra Connect: 13 22 81 for the key. Size: 22 ha



Dusk over the capital from the Mount Ainslie lookout. ACT



Hoary Sunrays at Mt Majura Nature Park.



Rainforest Gully, Australian National Botanic Gardens. LP



Australian National Botanic Gardens. ACT



Mothers Day at Glebe Park.



Enjoying the playground at Black Mountain Peninsula. LH



Flowers on Northbourne Avenue, City Hill.



Duntroon Dairy at the base of Mount Pleasant.



37 Acton Park

DISTRICT PARK

Access off Commonwealth Avenue and Lawson Crescent. Located on the walking/cycle path encircling Lake Burley Griffin and linked to the urban cycle path network.

A peaceful beautiful lakeside park with a historic grove of She-oaks that were planted in 1927. You can take a ferry ride on the lake, hire a small boat/paddle boat or bicycle. Family four-wheel cycles are available. Go fishing or visit the café. Size: 10 ha



38 City Hill

TOWN PARK

Access off Vernon Circle.

City Hill is central to the original design of Canberra by Walter Burley Griffin (1912) and features formal tree plantings by Thomas Charles Weston from the 1920s. Six major avenues radiate from City Hill giving rise to the symbolic notion of it being the heart of the Capital. Size: 5 ha



39 City Skate Park

Corner of Petrie Street and Ballumbir Street in the City.

Designed by skaters for skaters, this centrally located skate park has it all — quarter pipe, slide side rails and much more. Alcohol is not permitted.



40 Glebe Park

TOWN PARK

Access off Coranderk, Ballumbir, Akuna and Bunda Streets and conveniently located near City undercover parking.

Escape to the tranquility and culturally interesting green space in the City. Glebe Park reflects the character of a traditional English park with mostly English Elms and English Oaks. It is ideal for people with limited mobility and prams. The park is bounded by a stone fence with steel railings and formal gateways. There is also a stage and a 19th century style rotunda. Ideal for events. For a permit contact Canberra Connect: 13 22 81 or visit the TAMS website: www.tams.act.gov.au Size: 4 ha



41 Remembrance Park

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

Located behind the Australian War Memorial on Treloar Crescent.

This park commemorates the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918 and the Aboriginal people who served in the armed forces. Walk through the park from the Australian War Memorial and join up with the Mount Ainslie Summit Trail/Kokoda Track. There are a series of interpretive signs along the way. Size: 3 ha



42 Grevillea Park

DISTRICT PARK

Access off Morshead Drive, Russell.

Located on the foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin's East Basin, there are views over the lake of Jerrabomberra Wetlands. Have a picnic or use the boat ramp or sandy beach for recreational boating. Size: 13.5 ha



43 Mount Pleasant Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access off Northcott Drive and from numerous points in the suburbs of Campbell and Russell.

A prominent hill between Duntroon and Russell with eight different eucalypt species. From the summit lookout, there are stunning views of Lake Burley Griffin, the Duntroon Royal Military College and Jerrabomberra Wetlands. The Duntroon Dairy (c.1832), regarded as the oldest example of Canberra's rural past, is located at the base of Mount Pleasant. Size: 50 ha



44 Molonglo Reach

DISTRICT PARK

Located between the Molonglo River and the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Access off Morshead Drive.

Great for a picnic, fishing and canoeing. The non-native deciduous species in this park make attractive displays in autumn. The cycle path along Molonglo Reach connects with the walking/cycle path encircling Lake Burley Griffin. The Water Ski Club and ski ramp are located on the eastern side of the park.

Go to www.bookings.act.gov.au for waterskiing permits. Size: 8 ha

Canberra Nature Park—enjoy the Bush Capital

Canberra is a planned city. It is organised into a hierarchy of districts, town centres, local suburbs as well as other industrial areas and villages. There are eight districts, most of which have a town centre that is the focus of commercial and social activities. Each district has town, district and neighbourhood parks linked by laneways and road verges. Within the urban area is Canberra Nature Park.

Canberra Nature Park comprises over 33 reserves scattered amongst the suburbs, providing Canberra with its unique and much loved 'Bush Capital' identity. Not only does it provide habitat for a range of common and threatened native plants and animals, Canberra Nature Park also gives residents and visitors a wonderful opportunity for nature appreciation and recreation without leaving the urban area.

Canberra Nature Park consists of hills and ridges covered in forests and woodlands. There are also reserves on the valley floors that protect grassy woodlands and grassland habitats. Why not discover your local nature reserve?



Canberra Nature Park at Aranda with view to Black Mountain. JB



Distinct signage identifies Canberra Nature Park's reserves, as seen here at Black Mountain. LP



Red-browed Finch on phalaris. GD

For further information
TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81
WEB www.tams.act.gov.au

Lake circuits—walk, run or ride

The national capital is home to a range of Australia's important national institutions. Many of these premier national attractions are conveniently located within walking distance of each other.

To best way to explore the national capital is to simply jump on a bike, pull on your running shoes or enjoy a leisurely walk around lakes Burley Griffin, Tuggeranong, Ginninderra and Yerrabi Pond. Directional and interpretive signs, seating and drinking fountains are available. Signage includes directions, distances and times to walk and cycle to attractions on and near each lake. The signage at Yerrabi Pond has also been extended into the adjacent suburb of Forde to encourage people to visit Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary (refer to page 23 for further information).

A popular beginners lake circuit is the Burley Griffin Walk. It takes you through Commonwealth Park and along the Lake Burley Griffin foreshore to Blundells Cottage, then back to the National Capital Exhibition. For those with energy to spare, continue to the National Carillon on Aspen Island. Start your visit at the National Capital Exhibition, where you can explore the intriguing story of the National Capital through audio-visual displays, a laser map, photographs and artefacts.



Canberra has great walking paths—why not make the most of them? LH



Swan spotting at Lake Tuggeranong.



Clear, directional signage guides both pedestrians and cyclists around the lake circuits. GF



Canberra Balloon Festival, Commonwealth Place.



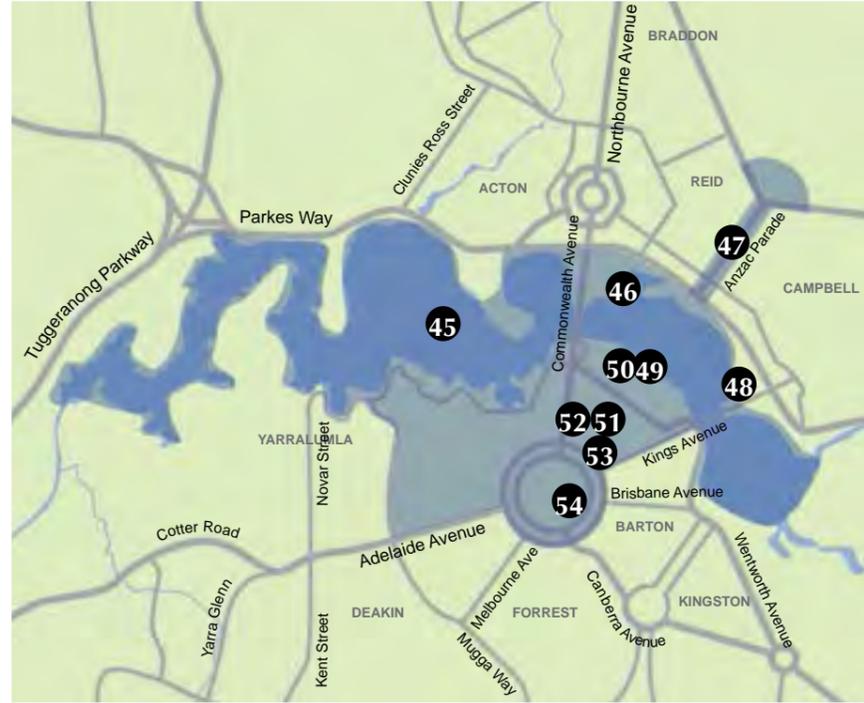
National Carillon on Aspen Island within Kings Park. NCA



Nerang Pool, Commonwealth Park. TH



Anzac Parade from Mount Ainslie.



45 Springbank Island

A small island in the West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin, between Acton Peninsula and Black Mountain Peninsula.

Visitors can access the island by boat using the jetty and platform facility. The island has picnic seating, toilet and barbeque facilities. Size: 3.5 ha



46 Commonwealth Park

Located on the northern shores of Lake Burley Griffin, it is accessible from many points by car and boat and has pedestrian footbridge access to the City Centre.

Commonwealth Park offers several excellent areas for gatherings. A large picnic shelter, playground facilities, public toilets, cycling and walking facilities within the beautiful landscape setting of this nationally significant park. Nerang Pool, the Marsh Gardens, Stage 88, the National Capital Exhibition and Canberra Business and Promotions Centre all add to the recreational and educational experience. Commonwealth Park is the site for Floriade, Canberra's annual spring flower festival. Size: 29 ha



47 Anzac Parade

Located between the Australian War Memorial and Parkes Way.

Anzac Parade is set along the magnificent land axis of the Walter Burley Griffin plan for Canberra. It is the ceremonial approach to the Australian War Memorial. A series of sculptures and memorials along Anzac Parade commemorate the military conflicts in which Australia has played a part and affirms the long and close bond between New Zealand and Australia. Size: 12 ha



48 Kings Park (including Aspen Island and National Carillon)

Adjoins Commonwealth Park on the northern side of Lake Burley Griffin.

A natural undulating landscape incorporating historic Blundells Cottage, a number of commemorative works and is the access point to Aspen Island and the National Carillon. The National Carillon was a gift from the British Government to the people of Australia to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the national capital. The National Carillon has 53 bronze bells that are used for recital performances throughout the year by local and visiting carillonists. Recitals occur on Wednesdays and Sundays from 12.30 pm to 1.20 pm.

For more information visit: www.nationalcapital.gov.au



49 Commonwealth Place

Located on the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin.

Commonwealth Place features a large grass amphitheatre, a paved area for entertainment and ceremonies and grass terraces. There are views of the lake, Commonwealth and Kings Parks and Anzac Parade. Take the time to look at the 96 flags that are dedicated to those nations that maintain a diplomatic presence in the national capital. Size: 2 ha



50 Reconciliation Place

Adjacent to Commonwealth Place.

Reconciliation Place features a grassed, circular mound with a podium for performances. A paved pedestrian promenade linking the National Library of Australia to the National Gallery of Australia features public artworks covering themes and events significant to reconciliation. Size: 0.78 ha



51 Old Parliament House Gardens

Located on the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin.

The gardens feature seating pavilions, pergolas, rose arbors, pathways, gateways, tennis courts and a bowling green. All in all, a wonderful cultural experience. Size: 4.5 ha



52 Magna Carta Place

Located west of Old Parliament House Gardens.

Magna Carta Place commemorates the history of the Magna Carta and its relevance to the freedom and laws of Australia. The Magna Carta Monument was the gift of the Australia-Britain Society and the British Government for our Centenary of Federation. Size: 1 ha



53 National Rose Gardens and Parkes Place

Located north of Old Parliament House.

Magnificent formal rose gardens dating back to the 1930s incorporating a number of commemorative roses. Nearby Parkes Place is dominated by the Federation Centenary Fountains and Reflection Pond. Size: 0.5 ha



54 Parliament House Gardens

Stroll around in a landscape that is designed to blend in with the architecture of Parliament House. Native trees and shrubs line the perimeter. The gardens on the eastern perimeter are formal hedges with pergolas and a variety of annuals and perennials. These gardens are a combination of English and French design reflecting the British and European influence on Australia. Size: 23 ha.



Old Parliament House from Anzac Parade. ACT



Reconciliation Place. LP



Parliament House from Commonwealth Park. ACT



Senate Rose Gardens, Old Parliament House. MK

Did you know?

Captain Cook Memorial Jet. NCA

Central National Area

The National Capital Authority (NCA) is the Commonwealth agency responsible for ensuring that the ACT is planned and developed in accordance with its national significance.

The NCA is responsible for the parks and open spaces in the Central National Area. The Authority performs a custodial role ensuring the unique heritage and culture of Canberra is maintained through its planning and land management as well as through its construction and restoration programs.

For more information on the Central National Area visit www.nationalcapital.gov.au or phone 6272 2900 or visit the National Capital Exhibition at Regatta Point adjacent to Commonwealth Park.

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 9 am – 5 pm
Saturday and Sunday 10 am – 4 pm

Floriade – Canberra's celebration of spring

Floriade features more than a million plants that explode into colourful bloom, portraying a different theme each year. Set in the centre of Canberra at Commonwealth Park, it attracts more than 400,000 local, interstate and international visitors each year. Plants include tulips, irises, daffodils, hyacinths, violas, chrysanthemums, ranunculus and English daisies. As well as the flowers there is also an impressive program of demonstrations and talks, roving entertainers, food and drink stalls, exhibitions and much more. Floriade runs for a month, from the middle of September to the middle of October. Entry is free during the day.

When the sun goes down consider visiting NightFest. Held over five spectacular nights, you'll experience the gardens in 'a whole new light' as they are lit by dazzling light shows complemented by beautiful music. Entry fees apply.

For more information:

TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81

WEB www.floriadeaustralia.com



See page 67 for image captions and credits.



Managing our fragile environment—a new model

The ACT Government has chosen two of Canberra's parks as having the potential to become outstanding urban nature reserves — Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary in Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve in the area adjoining Dairy Flat off the Monaro Highway.

A new model is being used to unlock this potential. The ACT Government has established a separate board of management for each of these reserves, comprising community members with relevant expertise, serving in an honorary capacity.

The boards of management guide ACT Government staff in their day-to-day management of the reserves. The ACT Government funds these management operations, but has also recently created the Capital Woodland and Wetlands Conservation Trust to generate broader community financial support to develop these reserves. Individuals and organisations are encouraged to directly support conservation programs in these reserves.

Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary

Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary's ambitious and exciting vision is to re-establish Canberra's woodlands as they were before European settlement. The first step was to build a secure fence to exclude feral animals such as rabbits, foxes and cats. Foxes and cats have now been eradicated within the enclosure and rabbits and hares are strictly controlled.

Species not seen in Canberra for over a century are being reintroduced into this secure environment. A critical reintroduction is the Eastern Bettong, which plays an essential role in churning the woodland soils. The Brown Treecreeper has already been reintroduced and the New Holland Mouse and the Bush Stone-curlew, are being considered.

In addition to its traditional role in nature conservation, Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary is also becoming known as a natural laboratory for studying woodland ecology. The ACT Government and Australian National University have established a partnership to undertake research into innovative approaches to managing recovery of woodland ecosystems.

The Capital Woodlands and Wetlands Board invites you to visit Mulligans Flat to experience this rich woodland environment and to see first hand the cutting-edge research and restoration work being undertaken there. The Board hopes you will be inspired by the visit to this recovering woodland right in the heart of Canberra. A visitor information display captures some of the history of the area and provides information on the research undertaken in the Sanctuary. The display can be found in the Sanctuary Centre which is located in an old woolshed.

Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve



Jerrabomberra Wetlands were originally part of the Molonglo River floodplain, a rich and fertile landscape that provided bountiful resources for the local Ngunnawal people. More recently, the filling of Lake Burley Griffin helped create a waterbird haven only kilometres from the centre of Canberra. Jerrabomberra Wetlands is now a network of waterways, including flooded ancient watercourses (or 'palaeochannels'), billabongs, swamps and shallow scrapes. The wetlands provide diverse habitats for a range of waterbirds and are very popular with Canberra's bird-watching community.

There are 170 species that have been recorded at Jerrabomberra Wetlands, including 77 waterbirds. Among these are migratory species such as Latham's Snipe, which undertake lengthy migrations from Japan, China and South Korea.

Whether you are a keen birdwatcher or just want to enjoy its expansive, quiet open spaces, Jerrabomberra Wetlands has much for you to explore. Bird hides allow you to sit and quietly watch at close quarters while waterbirds feed, roost and go through mating rituals. You can also follow an interpretive trail around the wetlands. If you are lucky, you might see a Little Eagle searching for prey.



Birdwatching at Jerrabomberra Wetlands.



Swamphen. GD



Dam at Mulligans Flat. LP



Eastern Bettong, Mulligans Flat. DW



Jerrabomberra Wetlands with bird hides in distance. LP



National Arboretum Canberra—every tree has a story

In the National Arboretum Canberra, over 90 forests sweep across 250 hectares (618 acres) of rolling hills. More than 35,000 rare, endangered and symbolic trees from Australia and around the world are growing across the site. Three of the oldest forests – the Himalayan Cedars, Monterey Pines and Cork Oaks are over 80 years old.

At the heart of the Arboretum is the Village Centre, a light-filled space with panoramic views over Canberra, Lake Burley Griffin and beyond. Inside the Village Centre, Sprout Café, the Conservatory Restaurant and the Arboretum gift shop invite visitors to relax, browse and refresh.

There are walking, cycling and horse-riding trails, free guided walks, self-guided walks and a loop road for scenic drives. The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection, The Canberra Discovery Garden, a unique playground, outdoor sculptures, picnic decks, lookouts, Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park Demonstration Garden, the Central Valley, Amphitheatre and Dairy Farmers Hill all offer wonderful locations to explore and enjoy.

The Centenary Trail and Bicentennial National Trail pass through the Arboretum and horses and bicycles are welcome on designated trails and tracks. Dogs on leash are welcome at the Arboretum.

The Friends of the Arboretum is a vibrant and growing group of volunteers who support the ongoing development of the Arboretum. They provide guided walks and tours for visitors, fundraising events, working bees, research and more. Everyone is welcome to join.

Contact us

TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81

WEB www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au

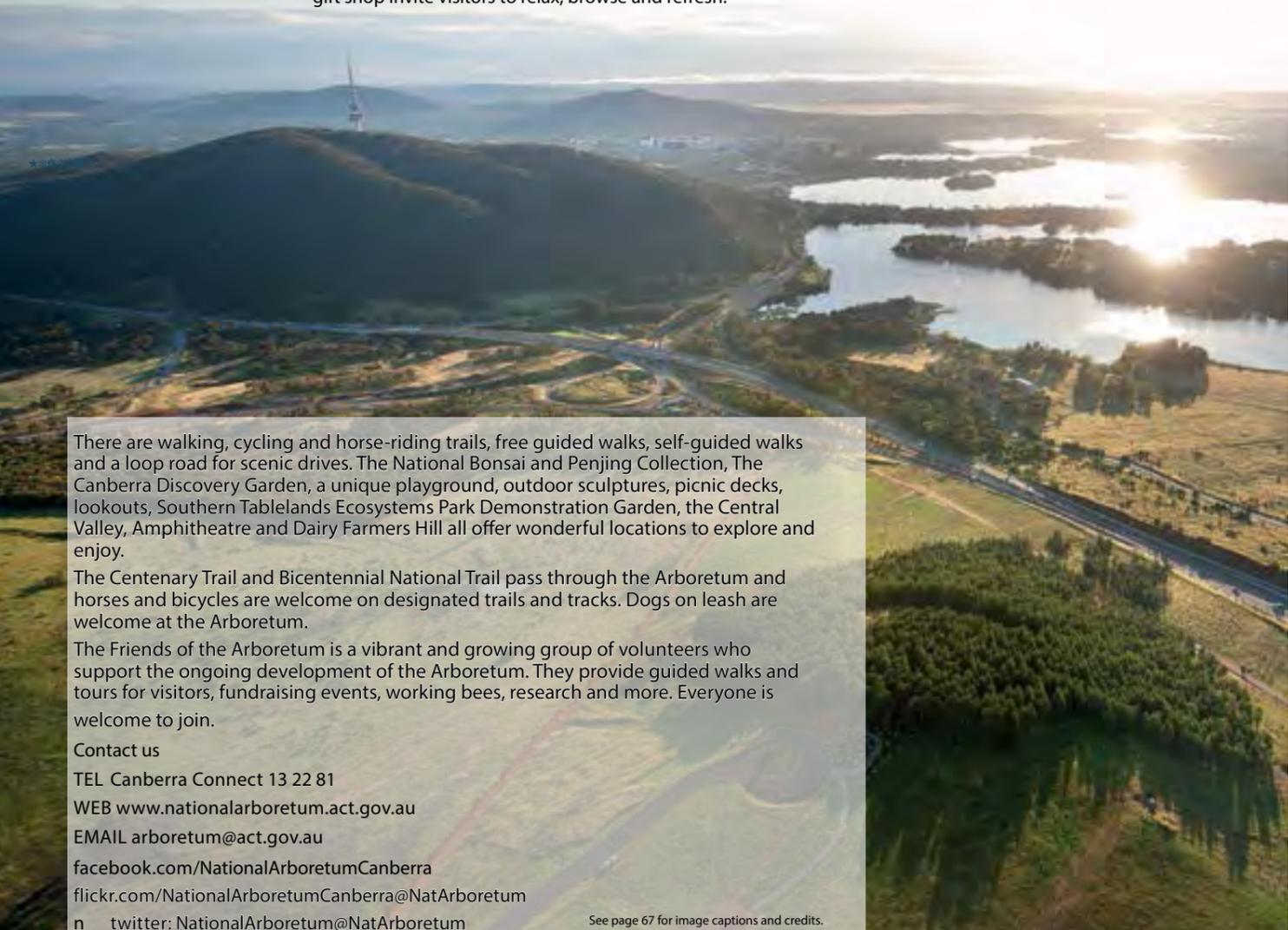
EMAIL arboretum@act.gov.au

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n [twitter: NationalArboretum@NatArboretum](https://twitter.com/NationalArboretum@NatArboretum)

See page 67 for image captions and credits.



Centenary Trail—celebrating Canberra's 100

Canberra's Centenary Trail is designed to showcase the true 'Bush Capital'. It allows visitors and locals alike to explore the national capital's natural areas and iconic landmarks. The 150 kilometre self-guided trail takes walkers and cyclists on a journey through urban and nearby rural environments. It passes by well known locations and hidden treasures and through the urban grandeur of the Parliamentary Zone as well as the quiet beauty of Canberra's nature reserves.

The symbolic start and stop point of the trail is within the Parliamentary Zone. It loops around the ACT through locations including Anzac Parade and the Australian War Memorial, Lake Burley Griffin, the National Arboretum, Stromlo Forest Park and Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary. The well planned landscape of Canberra's city is on show from Black Mountain, Mount Majura and Dairy Farmers Hill lookouts as well as from other high points along the trail.

You can join or leave the trail at many locations and complete as little or as much of the trail as you like. The trail is divided into daily legs, spaced to allow walkers and cyclists a full day of sightseeing. Completing the full trail loop around the ACT will take an average of seven days for walkers and three days for cyclists. Bike racks are provided for cyclists so they are able to access summits on foot.



Enjoy the Centenary Trail on foot or by bike. MK



The trail traverses both urban and non-urban areas within the ACT.



It's only 150 kilometres - get going! MK

For further information:
TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81
WEB www.tams.act.gov.au

Stromlo Forest Park—ride, run or gallop



In January 2003, a devastating fire swept across Canberra and completely destroyed the Stromlo Forest. After the fires, the ACT Government Bushfire Recovery Taskforce was established to advise the ACT Government, provide leadership for the recovery and act as a bridge between Government agencies and the community.

One of the recommendations from the Taskforce was to establish a world-class, multi-use recreational sporting facility available to both recreational and professional users. Stromlo Forest Park now boasts a one-of-a-kind community facility with exceptional infrastructure for a variety of users.

Walk, run, ride or just enjoy the scenic view. Stromlo Forest Park boasts a purpose-built event pavilion, criterium cycling circuit, grass cross country running track and mountain bike tracks to suit any level of rider. Stromlo Forest Park has various trails suitable for equestrian riders, runners and walkers keen on exploring the Canberra countryside.



Criterium cycle circuit. SFP

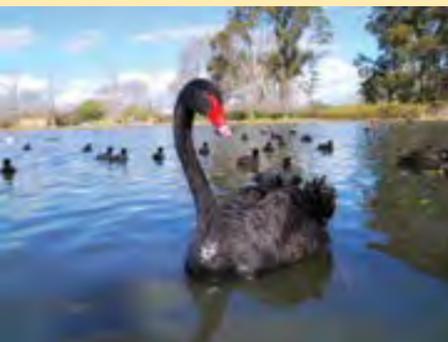


Rider makes use of the equestrian trail. SFP



Stromlo is 'heaven' for mountain bikers. RB

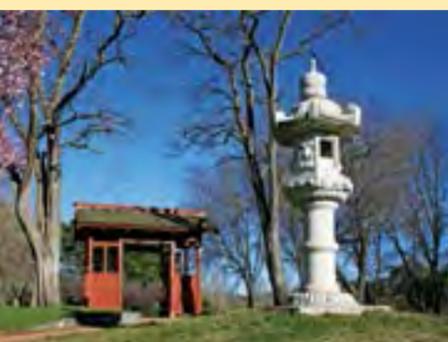
For further information:
TEL 02 6256 6700
WEB www.stromloforestpark.com.au



Birdlife at Yarralumla Bay.



Eastern Grey Kangaroos relaxing at Weston Park. MK



Canberra-Nara Peace Park. LP



Canberra-Nara Peace Park. LP



55 Weston Park

DISTRICT PARK

Weston Park Road, Yarralumla.

The park's name recognises the pioneering contribution that Thomas Charles Weston made to the city's unique landscape and parks system. The park's large playground includes climbing net and swings. It also has a wading pool (operating in summer only) and miniature train. A beach and swimming area is located on the eastern shore while ample provision has been made for picnicking and parking. Excellent for large groups. Size: 40 ha



56 Yarralumla Bay

DISTRICT PARK

On the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin between Orana Bay and Blue Gum Point with access off Alexandrina Drive.

Primarily designed for water-based recreation with a boat-launching area and sections set aside for swimming. The western part of the area has sailing and rowing clubhouses, launching ramps, piers and a wharf. Pleasant shaded picnic areas are connected to a popular commuter and recreational cycleway/walkway with information and directional signage around the lake. Size: 9.5 ha



57 Lennox Gardens

DISTRICT PARK

Access off Flynn Drive, Yarralumla. On the foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin.

Formal design, influenced by the gardens at the adjacent Albert Hall and Hyatt Hotel. Originally part of the Royal Canberra Golf Course. Visit the commemorative formal Lady White Garden, the Spanish Civil War Memorial, and the Jerusalem Stone commemorating the Federation of Australia and 100 years of the Jewish National Fund. There is also a fitness track within the park. Size: 6 ha

58 Canberra-Nara Peace Park

PART OF LENNOX GARDENS

Developed to symbolise the friendship between Canberra and Nara, its sister city in Japan. It is the setting for the gift of two large stone lanterns, as well as a polished granite memorial stone from the citizens of Nara, Japan's ancient capital. Site of the annual Canberra-Nara Candle festival. Size: 0.8 ha



59 Bowen Park

DISTRICT PARK

Access off Bowen Drive, Barton.

Close to the Kingston Powerhouse, Foreshores cultural precinct and the Kingston cafés and shopping area. Linked by the urban cycle path network. A lakeside park on the East Basin of Lake Burley Griffin with a spectacular show of blossoms in spring. Lots of friendly waterbirds. Size: 6 ha



60 Telopea Park

DISTRICT PARK

Divides the suburbs of Kingston and Barton.

Planted in the 1920s around the pre-existing stream in the middle of the park, Telopea Park is a popular venue for family picnics. The design of the park is largely based on an informal mix of mature exotic and native trees. The playground with 'soft fall' provides a challenge for children while the skate ramp is perfect for beginners. Size: 8 ha



61 Kingston Foreshores New

Access off Wentworth Avenue, Kingston.

The Kingston Foreshore Harbour precinct will be a lively new public space and a major attraction for all Canberrans and visitors to enjoy. Norgrove Park, Eco-pond and the Common, located at the eastern end of Kingston Foreshore, has all the characteristics of a lively town park. Recreational amenities include open grassed areas for energetic activities and large communal gatherings, quiet corners, a central gathering space with a pergola and seating that overlooks the wetlands, plus mature trees and attractive garden beds. Size: 8 ha



62 Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access off The Causeway and Newcastle Street on the west side and Dairy Road on the east side in Fyshwick.

There are strategically located paths, bird hides and signage to help visitors with their bird watching. Over 77 species of water birds have been seen here. Bring along your binoculars! The East Basin walking/cycle path, with its new signage, bubblers and seats, passes through the wetlands. Size: 208 ha



63 Red Hill Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Walking access from numerous points in the suburbs of Red Hill, Garran, Hughes and Deakin. Drive to the lookout from Mugga Way, Gowrie Drive then Red Hill Drive.

Bird watching is popular especially in early spring and late autumn. From the top of Red Hill you can see national monuments including Parliament House. The new Red Track, 3.2 km (1 hour) has signage that interprets the natural and historical values of this unique reserve. Mountain bike riding is only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Size: 286 ha



64 Callum Brae Nature Reserve New

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Best accessed from Narrabundah Lane but also accessible from Mugga Lane.

This is an important link in the chain of woodland reserves extending from Red Hill to Wanniasa Hills. It is an excellent bird habitat and refuge for some of our threatened and declining woodland bird species including the White-winged Triller, Varied Sittella and Dusky Woodswallow. Old munitions stores are on the boundary nearest to Mugga Lane. Marked walking tracks with signage inform walkers about the unique values of the park. Size: 145 ha



65 Jerrabomberra Grasslands Nature Reserve New

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access to Jerrabomberra Grasslands west is via Callum Brae Nature Reserve to the west. Access to Jerrabomberra east is via Woods Lane, off Lanyon Drive at the railway line on the ACT/NSW border.

The reserve is in two parts (east and west) either side of the Monaro Highway. Jerrabomberra Grasslands protect some of the largest areas of Natural Temperate Grasslands (an endangered ecological community) in the ACT. There are walking tracks and interpretive signage. Size: 400 ha



Telopea Park. MW



Jerrabomberra Grasslands. LP



Birdwatcher in hide at Jerrabomberra Wetlands.



Callum Brae Nature Reserve. LP



Bushwalkers at Kama Nature Reserve. LP



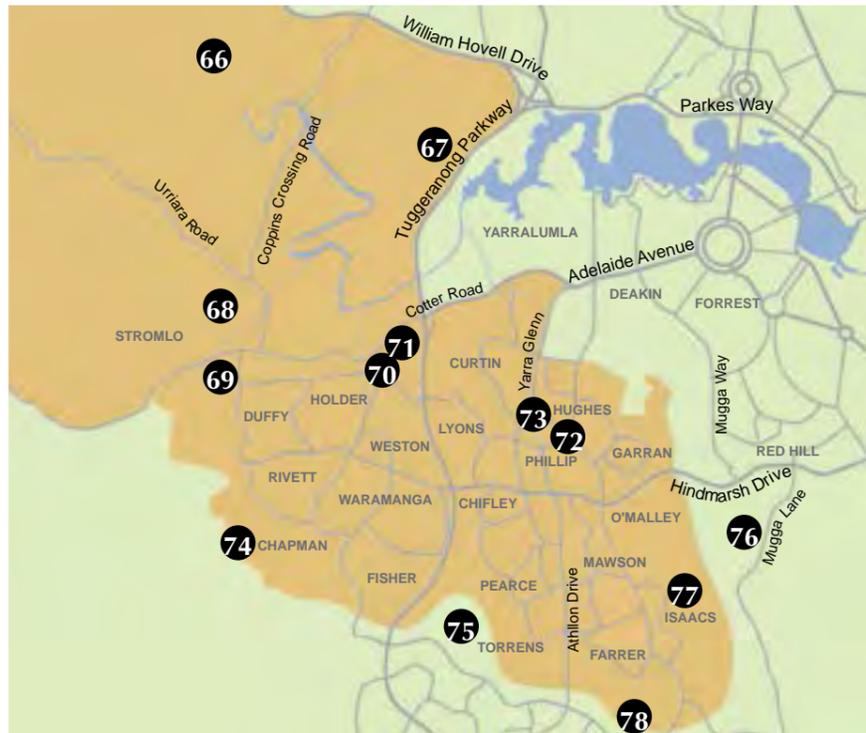
Gorge on the Lower Molonglo River. LP



Stony Creek Nature Reserve. LP



National Arboretum Canberra.



66 Kama Nature Reserve New

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK
Access off William Hovell Drive.

A beautiful Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodland with a rich understorey of native grasses and an abundance of wildflowers in spring. Over 90 species of birds have been recorded here by the Canberra Ornithologist Group. There are two marked walking tracks, one of which leads down to the Molonglo River. Size: 155 ha



67 National Arboretum Canberra New

Access from the Tuggeranong Parkway exit connecting to Lady Denman Drive and from the Glenloch Cork Plantation.

A new arboretum of trees and gardens from around the world is evolving to replace the pine forest burnt out in the bushfires of 2003. The Arboretum stretches from the cork plantation at the Glenloch interchange in the north to the Molonglo River in the south. The arboretum is intended as a place not only of scientific study, research and education, but also recreation, entertainment and enjoyment. At the heart of the Arboretum is the Village Centre, a light-filled space with panoramic views over Canberra, Lake Burley Griffin and beyond. Inside the Village Centre, Sprout Café, the Conservatory Restaurant and the Arboretum gift shop invite visitors to relax, browse and refresh. Size: 250 ha

Glenloch Cork Plantation

PART OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM
CANBERRA

Access from William Hovell Drive (east) via an underpass or the northern end of the National Arboretum Canberra. This 90 year old plantation shows evidence of past cork harvesting and management. A signposted walk takes around 30 minutes to complete.



68 Stromlo Forest Park

Access from Uriarra Road from either Coppins Crossing and Belconnen or Cotter Road and Weston Creek.

Stromlo Forest Park is a world-class, multi-use recreational sporting facility available to both recreational and professional users. It boasts a purpose built event pavilion, criterium cycling circuit, grass cross-country running track and mountain bike tracks to suit any level of rider. The park also has various trails suitable for equestrian riders, runners and walkers. Showers are available. Stromlo Forest Park is available to the public at most times. Bookings may be necessary. Size: 1,200 ha
www.stromloforestpark.com.au



69 Narrabundah Hill

RECREATION AREA

Access off Eucumbene Drive, Duffy.

Formally part of the Stromlo pine plantation that burnt during the 2003 bushfires. Ideal for walking, jogging and horse riding. Dogs are allowed off leash except when cattle are present.



70 Weston Creek Skate Park

Access off Dillon Close, Weston.

This five star rated skate park provides plenty of opportunities for children and teenagers to hone their skills. A 'combi' pool made up of a square and round bowl, and a unique funbox with slant and curved banks add to the performance rating of the park. An 'escalator' adds to the variety of opportunities for less experienced skaters and board riders.



71 Oakey Hill Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access via an underpass under the Tuggeranong Parkway on the west side, Heysen Street on the north side and from numerous points in Lyons on the eastern side.

A steep walk to the summit for great views of Canberra. Horse riding is allowed on the management trail on the eastern boundary only. Mountain bikes are only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Size: 67 ha



72 Eddison Park and Youth Plaza New

DISTRICT PARK AND PART OF EDDISON PARK

Access off Launceston Street, Phillip, opposite Canberra College. Youth Plaza located in Eddison Park, corner of Yamba Drive and Launceston Street. Enter from Launceston Street opposite the Canberra College.

Unique radial design and central ornamental pond creates individual spaces. Two memorials recall the loss of the three Eddison sons in the Second World War. The Eddisons owned the property of 'Yamba', pre-dating the development of Woden. There are also a number of large Candlebark trees that are remnants of woodland that pre-date European settlement in the area. The new multi-use recreational facility includes a skate plaza, play equipment and a performance area. Size: 14 ha



73 Woden Town Park

TOWN PARK

Access off Callam Street, Phillip. On the eastern edge of the Woden Town Centre.

A pleasant retreat for workers and shoppers, the park has a formal design and extensive paved areas. Size: 0.3 ha



74 Cooleman Ridge Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access is from various points in Chapman.

Follow the circuit trail around the lower slopes of Mount Arawang or enjoy the delightful changing views as you walk the length of the ridge from Mount Arawang to Kathner Street. A self-guide brochure, signage and walks explore the north-western end of the park. Horse riding only allowed on the Bicentennial National Trail that follows the south-western boundary. Mountain bikes are only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Size: 188 ha



Stromlo Forest Park.



Weston Creek Skate Park



Eddison Park. LP



School visit to Cooleman Ridge.



Fungi. MK



Early morning view from Mount Taylor.



Beetle on Australian Blackthorn flowers. MM



Isaacs Ridge. LP



75 Mount Taylor Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access off Sulwood Drive on the south-west side and from numerous points in the suburbs of Chifley, Pearce, Torrens and Kambah.

Management trails around the edges of the reserve are great for walking, jogging and mountain biking. Horseriding is allowed on the management trail on the north-eastern boundary. The challenging walk to the summit has spectacular views of the Bullen, Tidbinbilla and Brindabella Ranges. There are information signs on some tracks. Mountain bikes are only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Size: 293 ha



76 Mount Mugga Mugga Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access off Mugga Lane, Wallangara Street, Keyar Street, Akame Circuit and Callemonda Rise.

Views of the grassy plains of Symonston and Jerrabomberra to the east and the Woden Valley to the west can be enjoyed from the summit. Ideal for bushwalking, bird watching and photography. The reserve has Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland on the lower slopes. Size: 151 ha



77 Isaacs Ridge Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access from numerous points in Isaacs.

Steep hills and great views of urban Canberra from the ridge. Pleasant walking tracks in the cool shady forest, a mix of eucalypt and pine plantation. Mountain bikes are only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Size: 415 ha (includes adjacent pine forest which is not nature reserve).



78 Farrer Ridge Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access off Sulwood Drive and Erindale Drive on the south side, and from numerous points in Farrer.

Farrer Ridge Nature Reserve forms part of the green belt separating the Woden and Tuggeranong Valleys. The vegetation comprises Dry Shrubby Box Woodland with Mealy Bundy, Red Box, Scribbly Gum and Broad-leaved Peppermint. Enjoy a marked trail with information signs on Farrer Hill. Horse riders are allowed on the management trail along the northern edge of the park. Mountain bikes are only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Size: 178 ha

Did you know?

Restoring the balance

Many of our parks and open spaces provide places for introduced weeds and pest animals to thrive (such as the **Firethorn** - pictured). If left unchecked they would out-compete our native plants and animals and biodiversity would suffer. There are programs in place to manage these weeds and pests. If you want to help, join your local ParkCare Group. For further information visit www.tams.gov.au or phone 13 22 81.

To help restore the balance, the ACT Government undertakes research on local flora and fauna. Some exciting projects include breeding and releasing the endangered Northern Corroboree Frogs into the sphagnum bogs of Namadgi National Park where their parents were collected as eggs; the reintroduction of the locally extinct Eastern Bettong into Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary; and kangaroo fertility control, home range and movement studies on the common Eastern Grey Kangaroo.



Above: Firethorn and below: Northern Corroboree Frog.

Urban wildlife—living in balance

Native wildlife is plentiful in our parks and open spaces and even in our own back yards. It is one of Canberra's natural assets. Living with local wildlife is something that Canberra's residents are used to doing. Not all wildlife-people encounters are positive, but understanding our wildlife helps to minimise negative experiences. The **Living with Wildlife** brochures available on the TAMS website provide information on kangaroos, possums, snakes and magpies.

To report sick or injured native wildlife or for information on becoming an RSPCA wildlife carer:

TEL 6287 8100 during business hours or 0413 495 031 after hours.

WEB www.rspca-act.org.au

For more information:

TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81

WEB www.tams.act.gov.au



See page 67 for image captions and credits.





Kambah Pool Reserve. MW



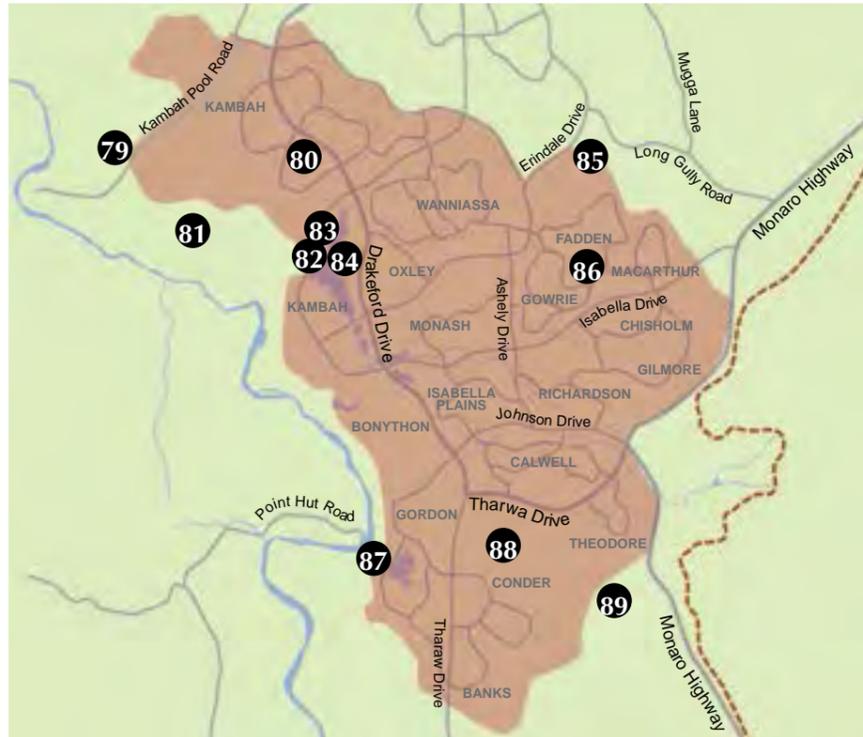
Kambah Woolshed. MK



Eastern Water Dragon. EB



Urambi Hills Nature Reserve. LP



79 McQuoids Hill Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK
Access off Kambah Pool Road.

Very challenging walks along steep tracks. Overlooking the Murrumbidgee River. Rewarding scenic views. Size: 60 ha



80 Kambah District Park and Kambah Woolshed

DISTRICT PARK
Access off Springbett Street, Kambah.

Developed over 30 years ago around the historic homestead, this unique park offers a wide range of activities for all age groups. Many of the old homestead elements remain including a woolshed, Nissen hut, meat safe and tennis court and cottage (now the YMCA playschool). The adventure playground is a challenge to children of all ages and has been designed to meet the needs of toddlers to teenagers. A swing for kids in wheelchairs is also available in this park. A key is required. Phone Canberra Connect: 13 22 81 for more information. Size: 22 ha. Kambah woolshed offers one of the few covered public picnic/barbeque areas in the ACT. The old woolshed is great for large group functions (booking required). Phone 13 22 81 or visit www.tams.act.gov.au and complete and application to use a public place.



81 Urambi Hills Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK
Access from numerous points in Kambah.

A mixture of open spaces and more heavily wooded areas provides many habitats for animals including echidnas. Walk the Urambi Hills Nature Trail. Horseriding only allowed on the Bicentennial National Trail. Mountain bikes are only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Size: 243 ha



82 Tuggeranong Town Park

TOWN PARK
Access off Athllon Drive and Anketell Street.

A great place for all ages. A new performance stage makes this park a popular choice for community events. A playground for all ages, swimming beach, barbeques and picnic facilities, interesting art work and relics of pastoral use all combine to make this a special place next to the retail, commercial and residential hub of Lake Tuggeranong. Size: 10 ha



83 Tuggeranong Skate Park

PART OF TUGGERANONG TOWN PARK
Access off Bartlet Place. Close to the Tuggeranong Hyperdome Shopping complex, Bus Interchange, Tuggeranong Town Park and District Park.

Gaining a five star rating from www.skateboard.com.au Tuggeranong Skate Park is one of the best skate park facilities in Canberra. The park provides a range of opportunities for BMX riders, skateboarders and inline skaters. The park has sections for both beginners and experienced skaters with a small snake run, mini ramp, vertical ramp, funbox and a series of flat banks, transitions and hips. Alcohol is not permitted at the skate park. Size: 0.3 ha



84 Lake Tuggeranong District Park

DISTRICT PARK
Access off Florence Taylor Street (off Athllon Drive) on the western side and Mortimer Lewis Drive and De Little Street (off Drakeford Drive) on the eastern side and Anketell Street in the town centre.

Located on the beautiful lake foreshores with many things to do — picnicking, cycling, swimming and boating. Added to this mix is the enclosed dog exercise area which is great for the dogs and an opportunity to socialise with other dog owners. Size: 31 ha



85 Wanniasa Hills Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK
Access off Erindale Drive on the west side and from numerous points in the suburbs of Fadden and Macarthur.

A favourite spot for early morning bird watchers. The dams attract different birds. Great views of southern Canberra from the summit and very diverse vegetation with wildflower displays in spring. Mountain bikes are only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Size: 226 ha



86 Fadden Pines District Park

DISTRICT PARK
Access off Bugden Avenue.

Fadden Pines was established in the early stages of Canberra's rural soil conservation work in the 1950s. In the 1970s and 1980s, the forest became an urban demonstration forest and facilities for public recreational use were installed. Size: 41 ha

Did you know?




The birth of Canberra and the PCS

The supply of water provided by the Cotter River is one of the main reasons as to why our forefathers selected this region as the nation's capital.

In 1914 a significant piece of legislation was passed – The Cotter River Ordinance. This was the first ever piece of conservation legislation passed for the fledgling Territory; designed to protect and enhance the Cotter Catchment. Under the legislation a Ranger was required to enforce the provision of the ordinance and to protect the catchment.

In 1913 Oldfields Hut was acquired by the Commonwealth for the Cotter Catchment Ranger with Jack Maxwell the first to take this position. Unbeknownst to Jack, the aforementioned legislation and his role as the first Ranger were the genesis of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. 100 years later, Rangers not only protect and manage the Cotter Catchment but 72% of the ACT.

Above: Oldfields-Cotter Hut 1893 NAA
Below: Cotter Source Bog, Namadji National Park – the source of the Cotter River. LH



Tuggeranong Town Park.



Ducks at Lake Tuggeranong. LP



Fadden Pines.



Fadden Pines District Park. LP



Point Hut Pond District Park. LP



Rob Roy Nature Reserve.



Tuggeranong Hill. LP



View north from the walk to Rob Roy. LP



87 Point Hut Pond District Park

DISTRICT PARK

Access off Woodcock Drive and Knoke Street.

The park protects the quality of water entering the Murrumbidgee River and has a series of attractive ponds. There is a challenging adventure playground with two flying foxes and a basketball court. Size: 4 ha



88 Tuggeranong Hill Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Access from numerous points in the suburbs of Theodore and Conder.

Tuggeranong Hill Nature Reserve has two distinct peaks. It is ideal for bushwalking and is challengingly steep for mountain-bike riders. The steep summit track has scenic views of Tuggeranong Valley and the Bullen Range. Mountain bikes are only permitted on formed vehicle trails. Size: 316 ha



89 Rob Roy Nature Reserve

PART OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK

Accessible from Conder, the reserve is surrounded by rural leases.

The most southerly Canberra Nature Park, it protects the peaks of the Rob Roy Range which tower above the suburbs of Conder and Banks. There are picturesque views of the Lanyon Valley and the Murrumbidgee River. Walking tracks in the reserve are very steep but the effort is rewarded by some of the best views in the area. Size: 1,977 ha

Did you know?

Fighting fire above and beyond

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service provide members for the ACT Remote Area Fire Teams (RAFT). RAFT are trained to attack unreachable fires in places only accessible by helicopter. Crews are lowered out of a hovering helicopter into the forest, from up to 70 meters above the ground.

With little water around, the crews use 'dry firefighting' techniques. They cut the bush back to bare earth in strips around the fire, undertake controlled back burns and extinguish burning stumps.

Negotiating the challenging bush while carrying heavy packs and tools requires excellent physical fitness. To ensure they are equal to the task, RAFT crews have to pass an arduous pack test, walking nearly five kilometres with 20 kilograms of gear in under 45 minutes.

Next time you hear of a fire in the distant mountains, you can be rest assured a RAFT team is there.

Bushfire safety and management—ever vigilant

Bushfires occur mainly in the summer months and can be ignited by lightning strikes, careless use of fire, machinery and arson. Fire management and wildfire suppression is a core function of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service with around 150 staff involved in suppression of wildfires as well as hazard reduction and research burns throughout the ACT. Parks crews are on standby and available for response throughout the bushfire season, with the daily bushfire danger rating determining the number of staff and resources available for response on any given day. If you see a wildfire, smoke or suspicious behaviour, please call 000.

Parks staff are involved in hazard reduction burns through the year but mainly in autumn and spring. Residents are advised via the TAMS website and through media outlets. For more information on how to prepare for the fire season, total fire bans and what to do in the event of a wildfire go to the ACT Emergency Services website.

For more information:

TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81

WEB www.esa.act.gov.au



See page 67 for image captions and credits.

Bookings for events and places

Bookings are essential for events such as festivals, large private functions, public meetings or organised sporting events in our parks and open spaces.

Applications to use a public place can be found on the website www.tams.act.gov.au or phone Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 for further information.



Get together at Blue Range, Uriarra. MM

Scenic drives, four-wheel driving and lookouts

Driving is one way to explore the outdoors. Wonderful views of Canberra and beyond can be seen from Mount Ainslie, Red Hill and Black Mountain. For 4WD enthusiasts, there are unsealed public roads in parts of Uriarra, Pierces Creek forest and Namadgi National Park. Phone coverage may be limited beyond the urban areas. Please stay on formed roads, do not drive beyond locked gates and obey all road closed signs.

Canberra Tracks are four self-drive tours with a heritage focus. Tracks 1-3 start and finish at Mount Ainslie. For further information on Canberra Tracks: www.environment.act.gov.au



Which way? Whatever direction, there's lots to see and do. MW

Camping and group accommodation

There are three campgrounds in Namadgi National Park as well as four nearby at the Cotter, Blue Range, Woods Reserve and Kowen Forest. Campgrounds range from well-serviced with barbeques and hot showers to the more remote Mount Clear campground with minimal facilities. Some are suitable for campervans and larger groups. All campgrounds (except for Mount Clear) have gas barbeques as well as wood barbeques (bring your own wood). Individual bookings can be made online at www.bookings.act.gov.au

Gudgenby Ready-Cut Cottage in Namadgi National Park and Nil Desperandum in Tidbinbilla are also available for overnight stays. Larger groups can book Birrigai which has dormitory-style accommodation and catering.

For further information
TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81
WEB www.tams.act.gov.au



Time for a brew - Orroral Valley Campground. EB



Red-necked Wallaby, Bulls Head. MW

Mountain biking and cycling

Canberra has an excellent network of shared paths and on-road cycling facilities which offer many opportunities for cycling and walking as a means of transport or for leisure. The ACT Government is committed to encouraging healthier and more sustainable transport choices. To help you find your way, The Canberra and Queanbeyan Cycling and Walking Map is available online at www.transport.act.gov.au

A series of directional and interpretive signs as well as drinking fountains and seats have been installed around Canberra's lakes, further adding to the enjoyment of cycling, walking or jogging by the water. Pedal Power, a not-for-profit association for cyclists, conducts and promotes many rides throughout our parks and open spaces.

Mountain bikers can experience a variety of venues in the region including Tidbinbilla, Stromlo Forest Park, Majura Pines, Kowen Forest and Sparrow Hill. There are challenging sections on the management trails in southern and northern Namadgi, Brindabella National Park and Bimberi Nature Reserve. Googong Foreshores allows cycling on formed vehicle trails.

Stromlo Forest Park is a world-class multi-use, recreational sporting facility located just 10 minutes from Canberra. Facilities include a purpose built event pavillion, criterium cycling circuit, grass cross-country running track, equestrian tracks and mountain bike tracks. See page 25 and 61 for further information.



Cross country criterium racing, Majura Pine Forest. RB

For further information:
TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81
WEB www.tams.act.gov.au



Let's go! Get the kids sorted and hit the bike paths. ACT

Native wildlife

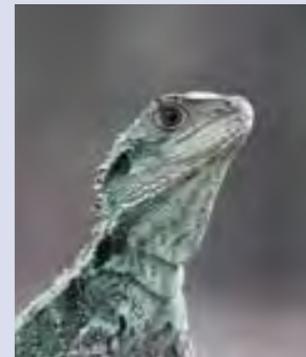
If you visit any of the reserves that make up Canberra Nature Park in the early morning or towards dusk, kangaroos and birds are usually active and visible. The larger parks further afield, including Namadgi National Park and Tidbinbilla are refuges for native wildlife.

The Explore program of Ranger-guided activities offers opportunities to encounter wildlife with parks staff.

Look for the program on the website: www.tams.act.gov.au

Please respect wildlife and observe speed limits in and near reserves and parks. Native animals sometimes cross roads especially at dawn and dusk so watch out for them. Please refrain from feeding animals as it can make them sick.

For further information
TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81
WEB www.tams.act.gov.au



Eastern Water Dragon. MA



Lunch with an Emu, Tidbinbilla. mk



Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Googong. MW



Swan with cygnets, Lake Ginninderra. MK

Swimming and paddling

For places to cool off in a natural setting, the Murrumbidgee River Corridor, Lower Cotter River Catchment, Lake Burley Griffin, Lake Tuggeranong, Lake Ginninderra and Googong Dam below the dam wall are ideal. Check the swimming conditions signs located at each recreation area, as waterways may be closed due to bacteria, algae or other hazards. Do not enter the water if signs advise that conditions are unsafe.

In the river, watch the flow of water as it is usually stronger than it looks. Always supervise children near water. Never dive into rivers or lakes as there may be submerged obstacles. For further information on the water quality in Lake Burley Griffin: www.nationalcapital.gov.au/enjoythelake

For further information:
TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81
WEB www.tams.act.gov.au



Relaxing in the Murrumbidgee River at Angle Crossing. MW



Paddling destinations in Canberra are many and varied. LP

Walking and trekking

The ACT has a multitude of local natural areas and urban parks that are ideal for short walks or jogging. Some walks in Canberra Nature Park have interpretive signs and self-guide brochures. Further afield, there are marked walking tracks in Namadgi National Park, the Murrumbidgee River Corridor, Tidbinbilla and Googong Foreshores. Self-guide walks brochures and track notes are available on the TAMS website or from the Tidbinbilla and Namadgi Visitor Centres.

For further information
TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81
WEB www.tams.act.gov.au



Bushwalkers set off at Kama Nature Reserve. LP

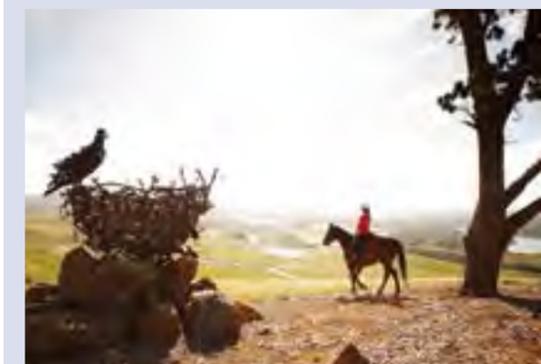
Horse riding

The Bicentennial National Trail is a heritage trail that runs from Cooktown in north Queensland to Healesville in Victoria. It also passes through the ACT, skirting some nature reserves and passing through Namadgi National Park. Please follow the signs and ride only on approved trails.

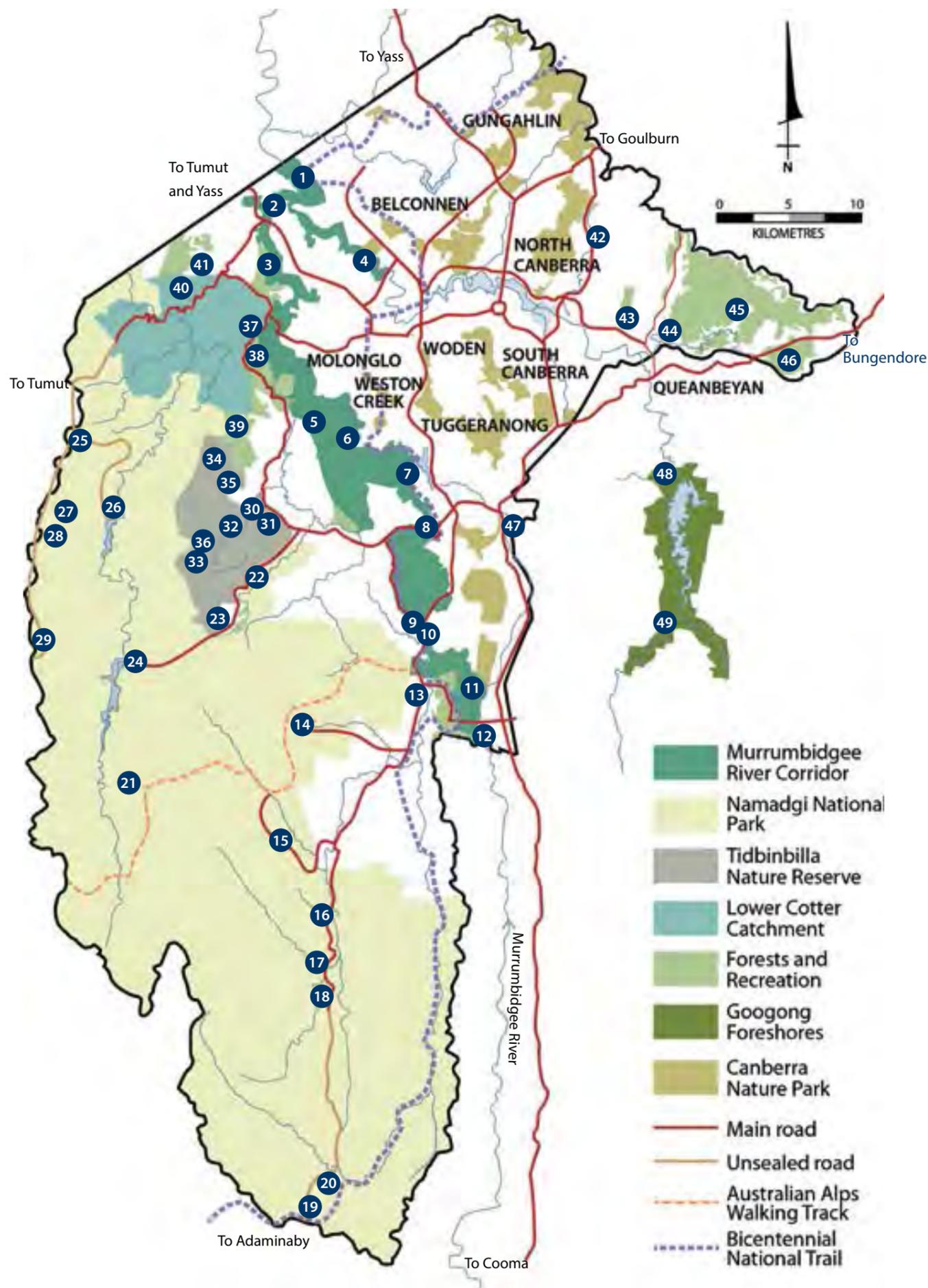
For gate access to rides in Namadgi National Park, contact the Namadgi Visitor Centre on 6207 2900.



For further information:
TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81
WEB www.tams.act.gov.au



National Arboretum Canberra



MAP 2 – Your guide to the Territory's non-urban areas

- MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER CORRIDOR**
 - 1 Woodstock Nature Reserve
 - 2 Uriarra Crossing
 - 3 Stony Creek Nature Reserve
 - 4 Lower Molonglo River Corridor Nature Reserve
 - 5 Bullen Range Nature Reserve
 - 6 Kambah Pool
 - 7 Pine Island
 - 8 Point Hut Crossing
 - 9 Tharwa Bridge Recreation Area
 - 10 Tharwa Sandwash
 - 11 Gigerline Nature Reserve
 - 12 Angle Crossing
- NAMADGI NATIONAL PARK**
 - 13 Namadgi National Park Visitor Centre
 - 14 Honeysuckle
 - 15 Orroral Valley
 - 16 Glendale Picnic Area
 - 17 Rendezvous Creek
 - 18 Gudgenby Valley
 - 19 Settlers Track
- NAMADGI NATIONAL PARK cont.**
 - 20 Mount Clear campground
 - 21 Bimberi Wilderness Area
 - 22 Woods Reserve Campground
 - 23 Square Rock Walking Track
 - 24 Corin Dam
 - 25 Bulls Head Picnic Area
 - 26 Bendora Dam
 - 27 Bendora Arboretum
 - 28 Mount Franklin Visitor Shelter
 - 29 Mount Ginini
- TIDBINBILLA NATURE RESERVE**
 - 30 Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre Birrigai
 - 32 Nature Discovery Playground
 - 33 The Sanctuary
 - 34 Jedbinbilla
 - 35 Nil Desperandum
 - 36 Rock Valley Homestead
- COTTER CATCHMENT**
 - 37 Cotter Precinct
 - 38 Murrays Corner
- FORESTS AND RECREATION**
 - 39 Pierces Creek Forest
 - 40 Uriarra Forest
 - 41 Blue Range Recreation Area
 - 42 Majura Pines
 - 43 Fairbairn Pines
 - 44 Molonglo Gorge
 - 45 Kowen Forest
 - 46 Sparrow Hill
 - 47 Tuggeranong Pines
- GOOGONG FORESHORES**
 - 48 North Googong Foreshores
 - 49 South Googong Foreshores

Refer to page 8 and 9 for MAP 1 – Your guide to the Territory's urban areas

Stay safe—when getting out and about, please consider the following:

Weather can change suddenly and dramatically. Be prepared for cold, wet and windy conditions in winter and hot, dry conditions in summer.

Tell someone where you are going and when you are expected back. Enter your details in the walking track register where present.

Many walking tracks go to remote areas. Take the relevant topographic map with you and only detour from the track if you are an experienced bushwalker.

Consider carrying a Personal Location Beacon (PLB) as mobile phones may not work in remote locations (available for hire from the Namadgi Visitor Centre).

Be sure to carry water, extra food, cold and wet weather clothing and a first aid kit. Use a fuel stove rather than a camp fire.

Track conditions are affected by weather and they may become slippery, boggy or icy. Visibility may be poor in winter fogs.

Tracks in the park vary in length and steepness so please ensure you are fit enough to undertake your chosen walk.

Swimming in creeks and rivers can be dangerous if there are rising waters from a storm upstream and underwater snags and rocks that are difficult to see.

Before entering the water, check any on-site regulatory signs for hazard alerts. Phone Canberra Connect: 13 22 81
Web www.environment.act.gov.au



Red Rock Gorge, Murrumbidgee River Corridor. PM

Murrumbidgee River Corridor—one river, many stories

The Murrumbidgee River flows for 1,600 km from its headwaters in Kosciuszko National Park to its junction with the Murray River near Balranald in NSW. Around 66 km of the river's journey is through the ACT, from Angle Crossing in the south to Woodstock Nature Reserve in the north.

The Murrumbidgee River and its catchment are a significant part of the Murray-Darling Basin, supplying water for people, agriculture and wildlife along its length.

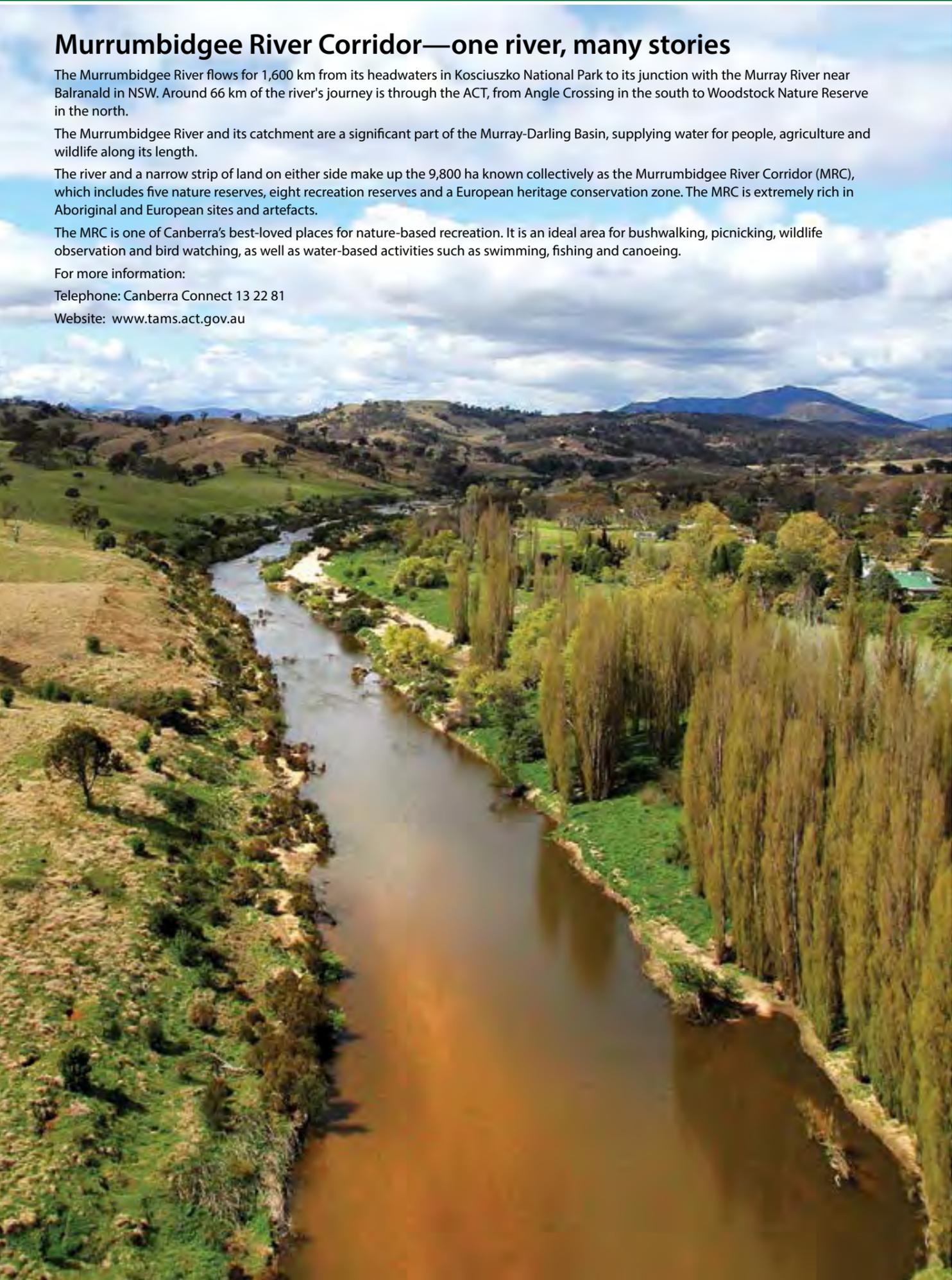
The river and a narrow strip of land on either side make up the 9,800 ha known collectively as the Murrumbidgee River Corridor (MRC), which includes five nature reserves, eight recreation reserves and a European heritage conservation zone. The MRC is extremely rich in Aboriginal and European sites and artefacts.

The MRC is one of Canberra's best-loved places for nature-based recreation. It is an ideal area for bushwalking, picnicking, wildlife observation and bird watching, as well as water-based activities such as swimming, fishing and canoeing.

For more information:

Telephone: Canberra Connect 13 22 81

Website: www.tams.act.gov.au



1 Woodstock Nature Reserve

Access from Fairlight Road (north of Uriarra Crossing) and Shepherds Lookout, off Stockdill Drive.

Stretches either side of the Murrumbidgee River from Uriarra Crossing to the NSW border. There is a delightful walk along the northern shore of the Murrumbidgee River to Giorgios Sandwash. You can also visit the spectacular Shepherds Lookout and then continue walking towards Uriarra Crossing. No dogs allowed in the reserve, but dogs are allowed off leash on the Shepherds Lookout walk. Size: 356 ha



2 Uriarra Crossing

Uriarra East and Uriarra West are accessed from Uriarra Road.

Drive past the cyclist haven of Stromlo Forest Park via scenic grazing country to Uriarra Crossing and its shady riverside picnicking areas. Have a swim and walk down to the junction of the Molonglo River on the Uriarra Loop Walking Track. There are two sections of the park either side of the river. Size: 36 ha



3 Stony Creek Nature Reserve

Access off Uriarra Road in front of Uriarra Village.

Stretches 13 km between Casuarina Sands and Uriarra Crossing. Enjoy walks along the river, but please no horses or campfires. Size: 825 ha



4 Lower Molonglo River Corridor Nature Reserve

Access from Coppins Crossing, Stockdill Drive and also via Kama Nature Reserve.

No dogs are allowed in the reserve except in Bluetts adjacent to Coppins Crossing. The reserve is a long narrow strip of land either side of and including the Molonglo River. The steep gorge creates conditions that are different from the surrounding tablelands, allowing an unusually high diversity of plants. Water levels may rise at any time without warning due to water being released from Scrivener Dam.

Opposite: The Murrumbidgee River at Tharwa. LH



5 Bullen Range Nature Reserve

Access from the south via a travelling stock reserve on the Tidbinbilla Road and also from the north via a walking track at Cotter Bend.

A management trail stretches along the spine of the Bullen Range with magnificent views in all directions. Fabulous spring wildflower displays especially acacias and heaths. Size: 3,570 ha



6 Kambah Pool

Access off Kambah Pool Road.

You can walk to spectacular Red Rocks Gorge or have a swim in the mighty Murrumbidgee River. Part of the area is set aside for nude bathing. No camping or fires permitted. Size: 21 ha



7 Pine Island

Pine Island Road, Greenway.

Popular barbeque and picnic area alongside the beautiful Murrumbidgee River and very close to the suburbs. Size: 32 ha



8 Point Hut Crossing Reserve

Via Drakeford Drive, Woodcock Drive, and Jim Pike Avenue in Gordon.

A shady picnic area and great swimming. There is a pleasant easy walk to Pine Island. Dogs are allowed on leash. Size: 42 ha



Birds-eye view of the Murrumbidgee River. LH



Early morning mist on the Murrumbidgee. MM



Summertime splash in the Murrumbidgee.



Afternoon play at Stony Creek. MW



Restored De Salis Cemetery, Tharwa. LH



View to Tharwa Bridge from Gigerline Nature Reserve. MW



The Murrumbidgee River at Tharwa. MW



Angle Crossing from the air. LH



9 Tharwa Bridge Recreation Area

Access via Tharwa Drive, Tharwa.

Paddle and picnic near the historic Tharwa Bridge in the township of Tharwa. Opened in 1895, Tharwa Bridge is the oldest surviving bridge in the ACT. Disabled access to barbeques and toilet facilities is available. Drive to nearby Namadgi Visitor Centre and Lanyon Homestead. Size: 22 ha



10 Tharwa Sandwash

Access off Smiths Road, via Naas Road near Tharwa.

From the car park, there is a walk upstream along the river. There are close to 130 species of birds known from this area. Camping and fires are not permitted at any time.



11 Gigerline Nature Reserve

Access from Angle Crossing Road via the Monaro Highway near Williamsdale or from the Naas Road near Tharwa. Tharwa Sandwash and Angle Crossing are part of Gigerline Nature Reserve.

The Gigerline Nature Reserve extends from Angle Crossing in the south to the northern boundary of Outward Bound in Tharwa. The rugged gorge and surrounding land has some valuable remnant native vegetation including stands of Manna Gums. From the car park at Tharwa Sandwash, there is a walk upstream along the river. At the southern end at Angle Crossing, the shallow broad clear waters are great for swimming and paddling while the sandy beach is great for a picnic. Camping and fires are not permitted at any time. No pets allowed. Size: 1,500 ha



12 Angle Crossing

Angle Crossing Road via the Monaro Highway near Williamsdale or from Naas Road near Tharwa.

Shallow broad clear waters. Swimming, paddling, floating, picnicking and a lovely sandy beach. Camping and fires are not permitted at any time.

Pine Island and Kambah Pool—a stone's throw from suburbia

Pine Island (located off Athllon Drive in Tuggeranong) and Kambah Pool (follow the Kambah Pool Road from Sulwood Drive in Kambah) are popular recreational spots with many Canberrans. These locations on the Murrumbidgee River make it possible to explore the river's diverse habitats with magnificent river views from a variety of vantage points.

The 27 kilometre Discovery Track makes it possible to walk the length of the river between Point Hut Crossing in the south, right through to Casuarina Sands in the Cotter Precinct to the north. Whether you explore just a small amount of the track or walk its entire length, you'll discover many animals plus large areas of natural riverine and gorge vegetation, including several rare plant species. Magnificent rock formations, gorges and cascading waters welcome casual swimmers or hard-core trekkers.

You can access the river for a swim in many places. The sandy beaches and swimming holes are perfect for a refreshing summer dip – but remember river swimming can be dangerous so don't swim alone and watch the kids at all times!



Hiker at Red Rocks Gorge, Murrumbidgee River Corridor. PM



Boys will be boys... Kambah Pool. MW



Cascading waters at Pine Island. MM

Tharwa—gateway to the mountains

Tharwa is the oldest official settlement in (what is now) the ACT and dates back to 1862. Tharwa was named after the Aboriginal word for Mount Tennent, a nearby mountain peak which is part of Namadgi National Park. Mount Tennent was named after John Tennant, a bushranger active in the region who lived in a hideout on the mountain behind Tharwa from where he raided local homesteads in the early nineteenth century.

Tharwa Bridge, crossing the Murrumbidgee River, was opened in 1895. Early pastoralists living in the high country greatly valued the addition of the Allan truss design – life was tough enough without the added burden of isolation and delays caused by flood.

Tharwa provides a gateway to many attractions and activities in and around the Murrumbidgee River and beyond to the mountains in Namadgi National Park. Tharwa Bridge Recreation Area, on the banks of the river, is well equipped with barbeques, open areas for picnics and park cricket as well as toilet facilities. The Gigerline Nature Reserve is great for bushwalking and the cemetery, where many of the region's early settlers are laid to rest, has been recently renovated.

For a serious river experience, visit Angle Crossing where you can swim, kayak or just float on an inflatable at your leisure down the Murrumbidgee River.



Aerial view of Tharwa Village. lh



Cooling off under the bridge at Tharwa. MW



Tharwa Bridge over the Murrumbidgee River with Mount Tennent in the distance. mw

Did you know?

You can join a Ranger guided tour

If you want to get that something extra out of your visit to a park or reserve, why not book one of the Ranger guided activities offered as part of the Explore program? Aboriginal Officers, Rangers, Wildlife staff, ParkCarers and volunteers are just some of the knowledgeable hosts available to take you out and about. Unique experiences and perspectives are guaranteed for the whole family. There are activities on offer every weekend and the school holiday programs are always popular.

Many tours are conducted at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve but other parks and reserves also offer an 'up close and personal' experience. Most of the activities are free but some may incur a small fee. Check out the TAMS website every month for the latest program.

For further information visit www.tams.act.gov.au or phone Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.



Ranger-guided activity, Namadgi National Park.

Namadgi National Park—mountains for life

We are fortunate to have nearly half of the ACT as a national park. With remote wilderness experiences, a wide range of natural environments, an abundance of native wildlife, and Aboriginal and European cultural sites, there are many reasons to visit Namadgi National Park. Namadgi was declared a national park in 1984 and covers 106,095 hectares, with 160 kilometres of marked walking tracks ... all within a short drive from Canberra.

The natural beauty can be enjoyed by scenic drives through mountains and open grassy plains. However, much of its beauty lies beyond the main roads. Go for a bush walk on one of the many marked trails. Those more experienced can go overnight off-track walking in the remote areas. Mountain-biking, camping (there are three campgrounds) and horse riding in some sections of the park can also be enjoyed.

Namadgi has a rich Aboriginal and European history. For detailed information, purchase a **Namadgi Map and Guide** from the Namadgi Visitor Centre. Yankee Hat rock art site, Hospital Hill lookout, Franklin Shelter, Booroomba Rocks, the Settler Track and Square Rock walking track are just a few highlights. The Visitor Centre staff will help you make the most out of your visit, providing information on walks, track and road conditions and issuing camping permits.

For more information:

TEL Namadgi Visitor Centre 6207 2900

WEB www.tams.act.gov.au



13 Namadgi Visitor Centre

Located 3.5 km south of Tharwa.

At the Namadgi Visitor Centre there are interactive displays, educational information and sale items. You can find information about the fascinating natural and cultural heritage of Namadgi as well as details of walks, campgrounds and road closures. From the Visitor Centre you can have a picnic and stroll along the Woodland Walk (1 km return) or continue along the Mount Tennent Walk to Cypress Pine Lookout (4.5 km return). This track is also part of the Australian Alps Walking track, a 650 km track that spans the Alps, from the ACT through NSW to Wallhalla in Victoria. Refer to page 48 for further information. Namadgi National Park forms part of the Australian Alps national parks, a series of parks and reserves that span Australia's high country. Size: 106,095 ha



14 Honeysuckle

Located 17 km south of Tharwa, via the Honeysuckle (Apollo) Road.

Honeysuckle incorporates a number of attractions within the Namadgi National Park including a campground, access to Booroomba Rocks and the former space tracking station site. The Australian Alps Walking Track crosses through the area and is a great opportunity to explore north to Mount Tennent or south to the Orroral Valley via the Honeysuckle to Orroral Link.

Honeysuckle Campground

Honeysuckle Campground is situated near the former space tracking station site and is suited to larger groups and families. Bookings are essential (fees apply). Phone Namadgi Visitor Centre: 6207 2900 or book online at www.bookings.act.gov.au

Honeysuckle Tracking Station site.

In 1969, 600 million people watched Neil Armstrong walk on the moon and say the famous words "That's one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind". The pictures and audio were transmitted from Honeysuckle (not Parkes as is the popular myth). A huge dish-shaped tracking antenna once towered over the site, but those days are long since gone. Remnants of the station still exist and educational signage tells the story of the glory days of the Apollo missions.

Opposite: The granite tors of Gibraltar Peak, Namadgi National Park. LH



15 Orroral Valley

Accessed via the Orroral Road.

Orroral Campground

Orroral Campground offers traditional tent camping sites and provides a great vantage point to explore the Orroral Valley. The campground has flush toilets, fireplaces, picnic tables and wood barbecues (bring your own firewood). Bookings are essential. Please contact Namadgi Visitor Centre on 6207 2900 for further information.

Orroral Homestead

The Orroral Homestead was built in the 1860s for Archibald and Mary McKeahnie. The stockyard and woolshed located nearby were built by a later owner, Andy Cunningham, in the 1930s. The homestead is located in the Orroral Valley and is accessible from the Orroral Heritage Walking Track or 300 metres off the Orroral Road.

Orroral Tracking Station

The Orroral Valley Tracking Station was one of three tracking stations in the ACT supporting NASA – the others being Honeysuckle and Tidbinbilla (still operational today). The remnants of the station are still evident at the end of Orroral Road with signage telling the story of its role and history.

Nursery Swamp

Nursery Swamp is one of the outstanding fens (a type of wetland) of its type on the Australian mainland. Aboriginal people used this valley for thousands of years as a base for hunting and gathering. The name 'Nursery Swamp' refers to the early European settlers' selection of the valley as a calving and lambing area. Enjoy the wilderness, wildflowers and wildlife via the Nursery Swamp Walk which starts from Orroral Road.



16 Glendale Picnic Area

Located on the Old Boboyan Road.

Have a picnic or visit Brandy Flat Hut. Admire delicate wild flowers, birds and Red-necked Wallabies.



17 Rendezvous Creek New

Located on the Old Boboyan Road.

From the picnic area beside the road, take a delightful sign-posted walk through Black Saltees following Rendezvous Creek to a magnificent vista up the valley.



Namadgi Visitor Centre.



Orroral Homestead.



Aerial view of Orroral Valley with homestead. mw



Morning 'cuppa' at Honeysuckle Campground. EB



Gudgenby River in the Gudgenby Valley. MW



18 Gudgenby Valley

Located 34 km from Tharwa on the Old Boboyan Road.

The Gudgenby Valley is recognised for its Aboriginal heritage. Use the self-guide brochure to explore historic and precious Yankee Hat rock art site (6 km return). Walk the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Circuit (5 km return) where a revegetation project has replaced a former pine plantation.



19 Settlers Track

Access off the Boboyan Road.

The Settlers Track gives bushwalkers an insight into early pastoral history in the high country. It combines an outstanding heritage homestead experience with a meander through a beautiful bush setting. Brayshaws Homestead is the first stop on the moderate nine kilometre walk (three and a half hour return walk) along a marked trail. The next stop is Waterhole Hut, one of eight stockman's huts found in Namadgi. Although simple, with originally only one room and a dirt floor, it met the accommodation and shelter needs of the stock workers who stayed there. Settlers Track also takes in Westernmans Homestead, a five room wooden cottage.



20 Mount Clear Campground

Located 47 km from Tharwa on Boboyan Road.

From the Mount Clear Campground, walk to Horse Gully Hut using a self-guide brochure that explains the natural, geological and pastoral history. Bookings for Mount Clear Campground are essential. Phone the Namadgi Visitor Centre: 6207 2900 or book online at www.bookings.act.gov.au. Bring your own drinking water and firewood.



21 Bimberli Wilderness Area

Accessible from Mount Franklin Road and Orroral Road.

Visible from Hospital Hill Lookout on the Boboyan Road 35 km from Tharwa. Rugged and beautiful subalpine scenery in a remote natural landscape. Bushwalking only, no mountain bikes allowed. Camping by permit. Contact the Namadgi Visitor Centre on 6207 2900.



22 Woods Reserve Campground

Access off Corin Road via Paddy's River Road.

Permanent stream amid native forest adjacent to the campground. Great day use area and very popular camping spot for families and larger groups (up to 50) with an area set aside for campervans. Camping fees apply. Book online at www.bookings.act.gov.au. Bring your own drinking water and fire wood. There is a disabled toilet and hot shower. Located upstream from Woods Reserve, a few minutes drive south along Corin Road is the Gibraltar Falls car park with picnic shelters, gas BBQ and amenities block. From the barbeque area, take a short walk to the magnificent Gibraltar Falls. Please stay behind the barriers. Size: 495 ha



23 Square Rock Walking Track

Access via Corin Road.

The Square Rock Walking Track rewards the visitor with the best of what Namadgi has to offer — forests of Snow Gum and Alpine Ash, magnificent granite boulders and spectacular wilderness views. The walk starts at the car park on Corin Road near the Smokers Gap. The track climbs steadily uphill before rounding a knoll and emerging at Square Rock, a prominent outcrop of large granite boulders. There are some stone and steel steps along the way as well as steep cliffs. About 750 m before Square Rock, a track leads to Orroral Valley Lookout. The Square Rock walk can be extended by returning via Smokers Trail, then back up the road to the car park.



24 Corin Dam

Access via Corin Road.

Road may be closed due to total fire ban, snow or other road hazards.

Corin Dam is the first of three dams on the Cotter River and is one of the main reasons why Canberra was selected as the site for the Federal Capital Territory in 1913. The dam can be accessed by vehicle and you can drive along the wall to the opposite side. Outstanding views of the dam and spectacular views of Mount Ginini and Mount Gingera are the reward from the lookout near the carpark on the eastern side. On the western side of the dam there is a picnic area with barbeque and toilet facilities.

Stockyard Spur Walking Track New

From the picnic area at Corin Dam, you can walk up the steep Stockyard Spur Walking Track. The track offers bushwalkers two walks. The first section is on a formalised trail that traverses highland forests which presents several natural viewing platforms overlooking the Corin reservoir. The second section, designed for experienced walkers, travels another 4.5 km into Namadgi's remote wilderness area. Visitors are reminded that weather conditions in the mountains can change rapidly and that all walkers are urged to consider suitable safety equipment (such as a Personal Locator Beacon which is available for hire from the Namadgi Visitor Centre) clothing, food and water in the case of an emergency.



25 Bulls Head Picnic Area

Access via Brindabella Road, turn left at Piccadilly Circus onto Mount Franklin Road.

Nestled within picturesque eucalypt forest at the start of the subalpine vegetation community, Bulls Head Picnic Area is an ideal location for a picnic all year-round. Wildlife abounds and a better than good chance of substantial snow in winter attracts many Canberra locals. Bulls Head has wood barbeques (bring your own wood), toilet facilities and a large, stone 'survival' shelter. It's a great base to use as a staging area to explore other attractions such as Bendora Dam, Bendora Arboretum, Mount Franklin, Mount Ginini and Mount Gingera.



26 Bendora Dam

At the end of Bendora Road (unsealed) which is off Mount Franklin Road.

Enjoy a picnic near the remote Bendora Dam amongst majestic eucalypts. Wheel chair accessible toilets. Bendora Dam was built in 1967.



27 Bendora Arboretum

Nine km south of the junction of Mount Franklin Road and Brindabella Road (Piccadilly Circus), then a 2.4 km walk from the locked gate.

Established in 1940, it is the only remaining example of a series of 21 arboreta in the Brindabella Ranges. Valued for its near-mature examples of famous tree species from other parts of the world. Visit Bendora Hut and enjoy the short walk through the arboretum. The hut was built in 1942 for workers establishing the arboreta. Today it is used by walkers, skiers and researchers.



28 Mount Franklin Visitor Shelter

Access via Brindabella Road, Piccadilly Circus to Mount Ginini. Possible road closures in winter due to snow.

The Mount Franklin Chalet was a major part of the cultural history of the ACT and Australia. It was the oldest ski club on the Australian mainland. Sadly, it was destroyed in the 2003 fires but its existence is celebrated in a high quality interpretive shelter near the chalet site. The walk to Mount Franklin has great views and wildflowers in spring and summer.



29 Mount Ginini

Access via Brindabella Road, Piccadilly Circus and Mount Franklin Road to locked gate at Mount Ginini. Possible closure of road in winter due to snow.

Cool mountain air, beautiful late spring and summer wildflowers, winter snow and magnificent views make the trip to the Bimberli Wilderness very rewarding. When the road is open, visitors can proceed along Mount Franklin Road to the carpark at Mount Ginini. Once on foot you can climb to the top of Mount Ginini and/or proceed along the fire trail to Pryors Hut or go for broke and climb to the summit of Mount Gingera.

Pryors Hut

Pryors Hut was built in 1952 and is named after Professor Lyndsay Pryor, the then Superintendent of Parks and Gardens and a significant figure in Canberra's landscape history. The hut was built as a shelter for workers at the Alpine Botanical Gardens. The area around the hut originally comprised 10 acres – the hut remains and some evidence of the arboretum with Scott's Pine the main example. Pryors Hut is an ideal staging point for those hardy souls intending on scaling Mount Gingera.

Mount Gingera

At 1855 m, Mount Gingera is the second highest mountain in the ACT. The mountain is the most prominent snow covered peak to be seen from Canberra in winter. The peak can be reached on foot by following the fire trail from the Mount Ginini car park and head south past Pryors Hut. The sub-alpine sphagnum bogs on the flanks of Mount Gingera are known habitats of the endangered Northern Corroboree Frog. Visitors to the area are encouraged to remember the walk is within the Cotter Catchment and to 'take only photos leave only footprints'. A camping permit is required for camping in the catchment and is available from the Namadgi Visitor Centre.



Mount Franklin shelter in winter. mm



Bendora Arboretum in autumn. LP



Bendora Reservoir. LH



Pryors Hut. GP



The source of the Cotter River in the Bimberli Wilderness. LH



Horse Gully Hut on Mount Clear.



Corin Reservoir. LH

Namadgi Visitor Centre—your link to heritage and wilderness

The Namadgi Visitor Information Centre, located just minutes from the village of Tharwa, provides a great introduction to Namadgi National Park. There are several displays to explore, a theatre and a shop where visitors can obtain maps, brochures and books about the park.

Venture into Namadgi to discover its Aboriginal heritage. Experience wonderful birdlife, picnic and fishing spots and fantastic bushwalks with scenic views. Enjoy ranger guided walks or escape into the rugged Bimberi Wilderness. Horseriding and mountain biking is permitted in some areas and campgrounds are located in pleasant bushland settings.

A short walk beyond the Visitor Centre is the Woodland Discovery Trail where visitors can experience untouched, natural woodlands. On the trail beyond the wetland you'll find the interpretive shelter – *Gudgenby in a box*. Consisting of the original slab hut façade built at Gudgenby Station in 1845, *Gudgenby in a box* is a tribute to early European pastoral heritage in the Namadgi high country. Whether you're a history buff or simply looking to explore something beyond Canberra's museums and galleries, *Gudgenby in a box* is an amazing, immersive experience that will take you back in time.



Entry to Namadgi Visitor Centre with Mount Tennent in the distance. MW



Internal façade of 'Gudgenby in a box'. MW



'Gudgenby in a box'. MW

For further information
TEL 6207 2900
WEB www.tams.act.gov.au

Majestic Namadgi—walking and camping in the mountains

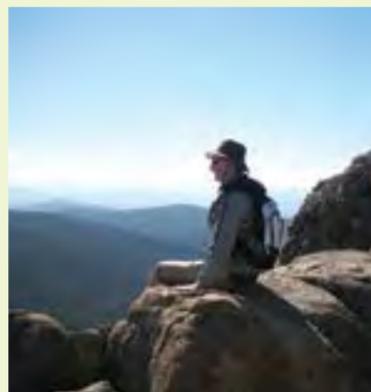
Much of Namadgi's beauty lies beyond its main roads and picnic areas. With many amazing walks and well maintained camp sites, getting off the beaten track has never been so rewarding. The park's rugged mountain terrain will challenge your navigation if you decide to go off track. Part of the iconic 650 km long Australian Alps Walking Track passes through some of the most impressive areas of the park. One of the most popular walks is Settlers Track. Starting at Brayshaws car park on the Boboyan Road in southern Namadgi, it passes huts and homesteads, yards and ring-barked trees associated with yesteryears pastoral industry. Wherever you decide to go, always be prepared with navigational gear, food, water and wet weather gear and always fill in the bushwalking registers at trailheads.

There are three car-based campsites in the park. Honeysuckle Campground is suitable for small to larger groups and even features spaces for campervans and trailers. Orroral Campground is suitable for smaller groups. Mount Clear is the most remote campsite with very basic facilities. It is accessed via the unsealed Boboyan Road.

Book online at www.bookings.act.gov.au, phone the Namadgi Visitor Centre on 6207 2900 or Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.



Morning brew at Mount Clear.



Enjoying the view from Booroomba Rocks. LP



Westermans Hut on the Settlers Track. LP

Namadgi rock art—whispers of the past

Aboriginal rock art sites in the ACT occur in Namadgi National Park and the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. The Yankee Hat rock art is located in Gudgenby Valley in Namadgi National Park, which is approximately 30 km southwest of Tharwa and 90 minutes from Canberra. The rock art is located in boulders situated at the foot of the north-eastern slopes of Yankee Hat Mountain at an elevation of 1,065 metres.

Rock art sites are of heritage and cultural significance to Aboriginal people as they provide evidence of the importance of the site to their ancestors. The rock art sites are representative of a unique type within the ACT and Southern tablelands region, and are therefore invaluable at both a popular and academic level in understanding Aboriginal history and culture in the region. The best way to experience the rock art is by joining a Ranger guided tour as part of the *Explore* program.

Visit the TAMS website for further information.

The Namadgi Rock Art Working Group is a collaborative partnership between Namadgi National Park and the local Aboriginal community. The group advises management on the implementation and development of the Conservation Management Plan and assists with the annual monitoring and maintenance work at the sites.

"These rock art sites are part of an ancient pathway through a landscape my ancestors managed for thousands of years. I'm proud to be protecting their stories of Aboriginal people coming together for ceremony, marriage, trade and lore for our future generations. The working group reflects our traditional ways of meeting and exchanging knowledge, and maintaining the spiritual, social and environmental connectivity between Traditional Caretakers."

Adrian Brown, (Ngunnawal descendant) Ngunnawal Country Ranger, ACT Parks and Conservation Service



Yankee Hat in the Gudgenby Valley, Namadgi National Park. LP



A small portion of the Yankee Hat rock art.



Adrian Brown, Ngunnawal Country Ranger explains the site.

For further information
TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81
WEB www.tams.act.gov.au

Gibraltar Falls and Woods Reserve—feel the serenity

Gibraltar Falls and Woods Reserve are located on the picturesque Gibraltar Creek just 30 km south-west of Canberra.

From the well-signposted car park, a short downhill walk takes you alongside the upper tiers of the falls to a viewing platform. From here, you get a direct view of the main upper parts of the falls as well as a nice panoramic downstream look towards the rest of the foothills and valleys.

Woods Reserve is a spacious and user-friendly camping area with hot showers and picnic facilities. A short drive south on Corin Road brings you to Gibraltar Falls, Corin Forest Park and Corin Dam. If planning a stay, bookings are essential.



Visit Corin Dam, a short drive away. MW



Woods Reserve is perfect for campers. MW



Gibraltar Falls runs most of the year but is at its best in spring. MM

Wildlife at Tidbinbilla—take a walk on the wild side

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve is home to a wide range of Australian animals living in diverse sub-alpine habitats including wetlands, grasslands, wet and dry forests and woodlands. These habitats support a wide range of wildlife including kangaroos, koalas, platypus, potoroos, wallaroos, possums, wombats, echidnas, emus, lyrebirds, Eastern Bettongs as well as many other animals.

Tidbinbilla plays a vital role in wildlife management and protection, in particular the breeding programs for the endangered Northern Corroboree Frog and the Southern Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby.

The Sanctuary at Tidbinbilla offers fabulous nature based experiences and a great way to discover our natural world. A large wetlands ecosystem surrounded by bushland and protected by a predator-proof fence provides sanctuary for a range of native animals in a natural setting. Enjoy the tranquility of the Wet Forest enclosure and look for platypus at Black Flats Dam.



Did you know Koalas have fingerprints? There's much to learn on the 45-minute Koala walk at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. MA



Getting up close and personal. AT



Southern Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby in its favourite habitat - amongst the rocks.

Recreation at Tidbinbilla—walk, ride or play

Enjoy a scenic drive through the reserve and stop at one of the idyllic picnic spots or use one of the many electric or wood fired barbeques. Remember to only light fires in authorised fireplaces.

Kids will have a fun time at the Nature Discovery Playground that takes inspiration from the natural beauty, form and diversity of the Tidbinbilla Valley.

Bring your bike and ride along the sealed road or fire trails - cycling is allowed on formed roads and designated bike trails only.

Walking trails offer an active means to explore the natural world at Tidbinbilla. With 22 marked trails, ranging from an easy 15 minute stroll to an all day bushwalk there is something to suit everyone.

Tidbinbilla offers restricted mobility access to many popular locations including The Sanctuary, the Koala enclosure and Sheedys picnic area.

Please respect the wildlife and other visitors. Tidbinbilla is free of bins, so please take your rubbish home. Leave your dogs, cats and other pets at home when you visit Tidbinbilla as they are not permitted in the reserve. Drive carefully and observe the 35 km speed limit in the reserve for your safety and the safety of our wildlife.



Walking the Hanging Rock Trail. AT



Cycling the roads within Tidbinbilla. AT



The ever-popular Nature Discovery Playground at Tidbinbilla.

Tour Tidbinbilla—brief, in depth or overnight

Join a tour of Tidbinbilla with a Ranger, Wildlife Officer or Volunteer Interpreter to find out more about this beautiful place and the things that live in it. You will be entertained by interesting stories and fun activities through our Explore program run on weekends as well as public and school holidays.

If you want to share an outstanding opportunity to get behind the scenes, why not join one of our limited overnight tours. You will personally experience the important conservation work that goes on behind the management gates, get up close to an endangered Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby whilst helping our Wildlife Officers conduct important wildlife research.

Tidbinbilla has entered into a formal partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia to manage and deliver the Volunteer Interpreter Program. This partnership between a not-for-profit organisation and government conservation agency is a first for Australia. Volunteers receive formal environmental and communication training, mentoring and ongoing professional development. Volunteers engage with visitors in an informal manner throughout the Sanctuary offering information, advice and interesting insights.



Rangers and volunteers are a wealth of knowledge. AT



A tour of Tidbinbilla offers many varied experiences. AT



Self-guided walks are just one option to best experience Tidbinbilla with Rangers or volunteers never too far away. AT

Café Tidbinbilla—satisfy your appetite

Located in the Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre, Café Tidbinbilla features quality café-style food, locally produced espresso coffee made by trained baristas and indoor and outdoor seating offering picturesque views to the valley's diverse flora and fauna.

Well known local chef Taro Rose is Café Tidbinbilla's Executive Chef. Taro has previously held head chef roles with the Lobby and Hermitage Restaurants and most recently was employed as the head chef at Lark Hill Winery.

Taro has a background in horticulture and organic propagation offering a strong commitment to sourcing and promoting local produce, with a particular focus on building connections with the region's best food suppliers.

Healthy children's menu and cook-your-own BBQ packs are available.

When planning a visit to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, treat your palette by making time for a quick snack or sit and enjoy something heartier from the varied menu.

Café Tidbinbilla is open 9 am to 4 pm Wednesday to Sunday.



Chef Taro Rose prepares a mouth watering dish at Café Tidbinbilla.



A perfect 'snack' for the famished visitor.



Café Tidbinbilla is located in the Visitor Centre at the entry to the Nature Reserve.

Birrigai at Tidbinbilla—education and adventure

Established in 1980, Birrigai is a residential outdoor and environmental education centre. Birrigai aims to educate for a sustainable future. Birrigai supports ACT and interstate schools in delivering high quality educational programs and experiences to students. It also opens its doors to community and corporate groups for specialist team-building and leadership programs, and for the accommodation and catering of workshops, seminars and special events.

At Birrigai, we provide and model challenging, insightful and personally meaningful experiences in an environment that allows reflection on our own wellbeing and that of our planet.

Preschool to Year 12 students are engaged in outdoor and environmental education programs that aim to expand their knowledge and understanding of the Australian environment.

Following an experience at Birrigai, students and teachers will have greater knowledge of the natural environment, value it as a fundamental aspect of their environment, and be aware of how human action is important to conserving and enhancing it.



Birrigai is nestled in a beautiful bush location at Tidbinbilla. BG



Fun and adventure is pivotal to the Birrigai educational experience. BG



"Doing is learning!" BG

Culture and Heritage—20,000 years and counting

The name Tidbinbilla is derived from the Ngunnawal word 'Jedbinbilla' - a place where boys were made men. Birrigai takes its name from the Ngunnawal word for 'laughter/to laugh'.

There is evidence that Aboriginal people have lived in the Canberra region for at least 21,000 years. Their descendants still live in the region today but not in the same way as their ancestors did. You can find out more about Aboriginal culture at Tidbinbilla on an Aboriginal Ranger guided activity, or walk the Birrigai Time Trail to the Birrigai Rock Shelter considered one of the oldest rock shelters in the region, or take a short walk along Hanging Rock Trail to Hanging Rock.

The Tidbinbilla Valley also reflects the European history of the area. Century old, rammed earth cottages and evidence of farming and eucalyptus oil distillation provide reminders of the pioneers who tried to make a life here from the mid 1800s.

Learn about early European settlement in the Tidbinbilla Valley through visiting the partially restored ruins of historic Rock Valley Homestead built by George Green and George Hatcliff in 1895. Nil Desperandum homestead can be accessed via walking tracks through Jedbinbilla.



Walk the trail to Hanging Rock.



Interpreting Aboriginal cultural heritage at Hanging Rock.



Rock Valley Homestead was fully restored after the 2003 bushfires.

Staying at Tidbinbilla—the true experience

Birrigai at Tidbinbilla can host up to 196 overnight visitors in a combination of dormitory-style and cabin accommodation.

Accommodation facilities include separate teacher/group leader rooms, common rooms in each of the larger dormitories, a visitors lounge for quiet retreat and even a unit for bus drivers. All rooms on site are well heated and air-conditioned.

Many of the Birrigai buildings have been designed on environmentally friendly principles. The site recycles grey water and makes use of orientation and building materials to reduce energy consumption.

For individuals, couples and small family groups consider Nil Desperandum. Nestled in tranquil, natural bush settings beneath the mountains of Tidbinbilla, Nil Desperandum provides a perfect base from which to engage in bushwalking, bird watching, star gazing, reading or just relaxation.

For information on booking accommodation at either Birrigai or Nil Desperandum:

TEL Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre 6205 1233

WEB www.tidbinbilla.com.au



The tranquil surrounds of Birrigai.



Birrigai sits in the shadow of Gibraltar Peak.



Nil Desperandum, fully restored after the 2003 bushfires and ready for your accommodation booking. LH

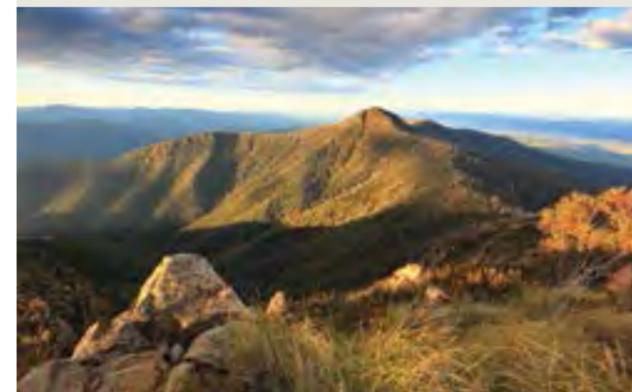
Australian Alps national parks—a broader perspective



Nationally heritage listed, the spectacular Australian Alps national parks are landscapes of dramatic contrasts - ancient mountain ranges, glacial lakes, clear springs and waterfalls, a world of winter snow and summer wildflowers. Alpine and subalpine environments of mainland Australia stretch from the Brindabella Range in the ACT, through the Snowy Mountains of NSW and along the Great Dividing Range in Victoria.

The Australian Alps contain mainland Australia's highest peaks, unique alpine and subalpine environments and wildlife, a diverse cultural heritage belonging to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and are the source of major river systems.

The alpine and sub-alpine terrains of the Australian Alps are highly valued for their environmental, cultural, historic and recreational significance. Namadgi National Park and Tidbinbilla are part of the Australian Alps and feature subalpine communities of fens, Snow Gum Woodlands and bogs on the higher elevations. The middle elevations contain magnificent montane forests of Mountain Gum, Ribbon Gum, Alpine Ash, Brown Barrel and Broad-leaved Peppermint while in the valleys, Tussock Grasslands occur. Care for the Alps now - so they'll be just as wonderful in the future.



Tidbinbilla Range - part of the Australian Alps National Park. BA



Mount Franklin dusted with winter snow. MM



Alpine ecology workshop.

For further information
TEL 02 6207 2900
WEB www.environment.gov.au

The Cotter – nature's gift to Canberra

The Cotter River has its genesis in the sphagnum bogs atop the Bimberri Nature Reserve. It flows north to join the Murrumbidgee River in the Cotter precinct at Casuarina Sands. Water supply from the Cotter River was the catalyst for Canberra being identified as the nation's capital and water from the dams allowed Canberra's urban development to start in the 1920s. The Cotter River catchment incorporates three dams: Corin, Bendora and of course, the Cotter.

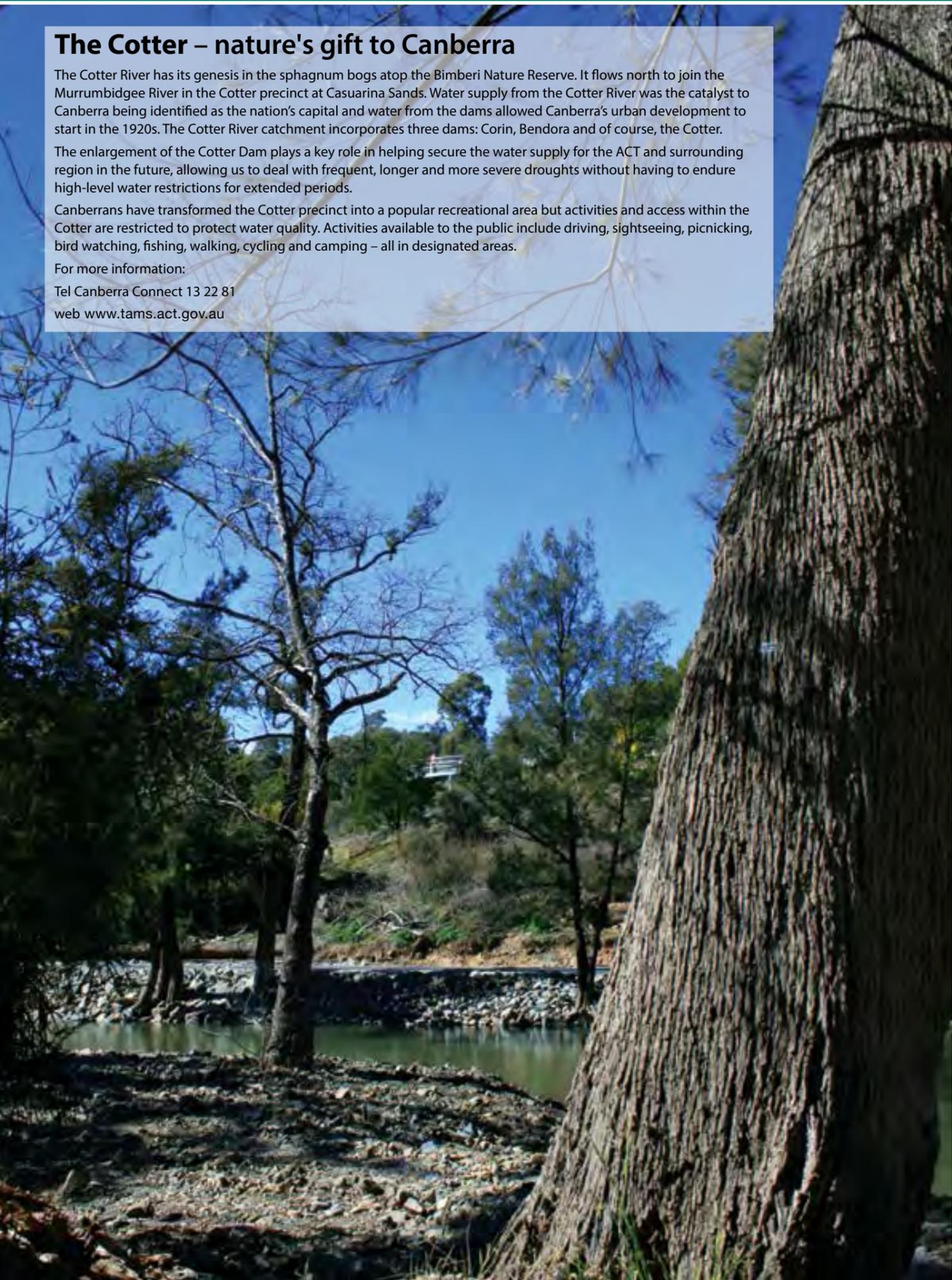
The enlargement of the Cotter Dam plays a key role in helping secure the water supply for the ACT and surrounding region in the future, allowing us to deal with frequent, longer and more severe droughts without having to endure high-level water restrictions for extended periods.

Canberrans have transformed the Cotter precinct into a popular recreational area but activities and access within the Cotter are restricted to protect water quality. Activities available to the public include driving, sightseeing, picnicking, bird watching, fishing, walking, cycling and camping – all in designated areas.

For more information:

Tel Canberra Connect 13 22 81

web www.tams.act.gov.au



37 Cotter Precinct

Access via Cotter Road.

Just 15 minutes drive from Weston Creek, the Cotter has been a favourite place for Canberrans to have picnics and enjoy the outdoors. The Cotter River, a tributary of the Murrumbidgee River, was an important reason for the ACT being selected as the site for the national capital. There are three dams on the Cotter River – Corin, Bendora and the Enlarged Cotter Dam. The Cotter Dam was built in 1912, before work started on Canberra. The wall height was raised in 1951 and again in 2012. As you drive to the Cotter you can see the pipe that takes the water to the top of Mount Stromlo from where it is gravity fed to other reservoirs. Water activities are not allowed in the dam or above dam in the Cotter River. Below the Enlarged Cotter Dam wall there are many popular picnic areas alongside the river. Size: 70 ha

Cotter Campground

Adjacent to the river, this is the best serviced campground in the ACT. A cool retreat in summer with colourful deciduous trees in autumn. It is a great place to stay if participating in an event such as mountain biking at nearby Stromlo Forest Park. Fires are only permitted in designated fireplaces. Wheelchair facilities include toilets, showers and access to barbeques. No bookings required. Fees apply – pay the Ranger or place money in the on-site honesty box. No firewood is provided. Please bring your own.

Casuarina Sands

A very popular picnic, barbecue and swimming spot, with shady riverside beaches. Walk alongside the river towards the historic 1912 Cotter Pumping Station. The Murrumbidgee Discovery Track (27 kilometres) starts here and follows the river through Kambah Pool and Pine Island and past spectacular Red Rocks Gorge to Point Hut. No camping or fires permitted. (Also see Tuggeranong area). Size: 14 ha

The Avenue

The Avenue is a perennial favourite with families keen to sizzle a sausage and is ideal for kids with its well serviced grounds and modern adventure playground – all on the banks of the Cotter below the wall of the Cotter Dam. Visitors can set out after lunch to enjoy a number of walks; most convenient is the Cotter Dam Discovery Trail which takes in views of the Enlarged Cotter Dam.

Cotter Dam Discovery Trail

Enjoy the Cotter Dam Discovery Trail - the attraction includes a 1.4 km loop walk which leads you along the Cotter River and through the surrounding natural environment. The trail is lined with stories of Canberra's water history and features a 16-metre wide, amphitheatre-style viewing platform which provides direct views of the Cotter Dam.

Cotter Bend

The Cotter Bend, where the Paddys River meets the Cotter is a favourite with many for a swim, splash and for fishing. A wide pool and sandy beach marks the meeting of the two rivers. Paddys River has its genesis at Mount Tennent beyond Tharwa in Namadgi National Park and its fresh, clean waters complement the Cotter as they come together at the 'Bend'.



38 Murrays Corner

Access via Paddy's River / Tidbinbilla Road.

A pleasant picnic area beside the road. A ford across the river leads to other picnic areas. Dogs are allowed on leash.



Cotter Dam Discovery Trail. MW



The Avenue, Cotter River Precinct. MW



The Cotter River meets the Murrumbidgee. MW



Paddys River.

The Cotter River—giving life to Canberra

From the rocky heights of Mount Scabby in the Bimberi Wilderness, the Cotter River begins its journey through Namadgi National Park. This natural resource is an important part of the traditional life of Aboriginal people from the region. Many heritage sites still exist with evidence of Indigenous occupation dating back 21,000 years.

The Cotter River is named after Garrett Cotter, a former convict and early resident of the area. Garrett Cotter was born in County Cork, Ireland in 1802 and transported to Australia in 1822 for taking part in an insurrection against British troops. Garrett settled in the Cotter River area around 1835 after being banished from Lake George following a disagreement with his employer. He worked and travelled throughout the area and befriended a local Aboriginal man named Honyong learning traditional ways.

The pristine nature and reliable flow of the Cotter River was a major factor in locating the nation's capital to Canberra. Thanks in part to little known Irish engineer, Ernest de Burgh, the Cotter was successfully lobbied as the best option in providing a future capital with its water needs. In a 1907 report to the early planners de Burgh wrote "It is impossible to imagine a catchment from which a purer supply of water could be obtained. The water is soft, clear and of good colour... there are few cities in the world where such a magnificent supply of pure water is available." Canberra became the nation's capital and construction of the Cotter Dam completed in 1916. In conjunction with the Corin and Bendora Dams, the Cotter River catchment has supplied Canberra with its water needs for a century surviving flood, drought and fire.



A dip in the Cotter River before the dam existed. NLA



Early map with catchment indicated. NLA



Cotter Dam construction. NLA

For further information
TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81
WEB www.tams.act.gov.au

Discover the Cotter—the dam and beyond

The original Cotter Dam was designed by Henry Connell and construction began in 1912. The dam was completed in 1916 to a height of 18.3 metres. It was decided to raise the dam and work commenced in 1949. The dam wall was raised to 26.8 metres with work completed by 1951. In 2009, after years of drought, construction commenced on the Enlarged Cotter Dam. The new dam features an 80 metre high dam wall approximately 100 metres downstream from the original Cotter Dam.

Originally, water from the Cotter reservoir needed to be pumped to Mount Stromlo. Work commenced on pumping infrastructure and by 1918 water from the reservoir was travelling to a pumping station through cast iron pipes running along the bank of the Cotter River to a tunnel under the Murrumbidgee River. The pumping station, still fully operational but infrequently used, overlooks the road as you approach the Cotter Bridge just before the campground.

The pumping station survived the bushfires of 2003 but houses, bridges, walkways and much of the natural landscape were destroyed. Visitors can enjoy new facilities, playgrounds, walks and camping. Try the Cotter Dam Discovery Trail – a short walk along the Cotter River and through the surrounding natural environment. The trail is lined with stories of Canberra's water history and features a 16-metre wide amphitheatre-style viewing platform which provides direct views of the Cotter Dam.



The original Cotter dam. NLA



The Cotter Reservoir Pumping Station. MW



View to the Cotter dam from the Discovery Trail viewing platform. LP

Cotter campground—where the Cotter meets the Murrumbidgee

The Cotter has been a meeting place for thousands of years. A safe crossing point with the Murrumbidgee River meant that it was a natural location for Aboriginal groups to meet – evidence of campsites and even burial sites in the area is testament to this.

Once Canberra was identified as the location for the nation's capital, the population in the surrounding region naturally grew. Early residents of Canberra flocked to The Cotter to escape the desolate landscape of a city under construction. Throughout the 1920s, The Cotter was popular with picnic parties, sightseers and campers. In its early days, visitors to Canberra were usually taken to The Cotter. On any given Sunday, dignitaries and political staff took a dip in the fresh waters alongside road workers and members of the local forestry industry. The Cotter is a great equaliser and today there are many points along the river where anyone can stop, relax and enjoy Canberra's backyard.

The Cotter Campground is the most highly serviced bushland camping area in the ACT. It's a great base to explore the nearby Cotter Dam, The Avenue and Cotter Bend or to travel further afield to explore the Tidbinbilla Deep Space Communication Centre, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Tharwa Village and Namadgi National Park. The area caters to organised groups, tent campers, campervans and small, private parties. The campground has electric barbeques, toilet and shower facilities – it's the perfect place to 'chillax' and is right on the banks of the beautiful and historically important Cotter River at its junction with the Murrumbidgee.



"I caught a fish this big..." af



Cotter River sunrise. af



A packed campground and great weather. af

Casuarina Sands, Cotter Bend and The Avenue—take your pick

Tall shady trees, green grass and the river flowing with purpose greet you at the Cotter. With so much to do, your Cotter experience is many and varied - from a simple family picnic and playground ruckus to river swimming and educational walks.

Casuarina Sands, on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River is an ideal location for picnics, river swimming and fishing or to launch your kayak or canoe. With 360 degree views of the surrounding hills and under the watchful gaze of the Cotter Pumping Station, Casuarina Sands is perfect to take in the best of the Cotter precinct.

The Cotter Bend, where the Paddys River meets the Cotter is a favourite with many for a swim, splash and for fishing. A wide pool and sandy beach marks the meeting of the two rivers. Paddys River has its genesis at Mount Tennent beyond Tharwa in Namadgi National Park and its fresh, clean waters complement the Cotter as they come together at the 'Bend'.

The Avenue is a perennial favourite with families keen to sizzle a sausage and is ideal for kids with its well serviced grounds and modern adventure playground – all on the banks of the Cotter below the wall of the Cotter dam. Visitors can set out after lunch to enjoy a number of walks; most convenient is the Cotter Dam Discovery Trail which takes in views of the Enlarged Cotter Dam.



Ranger-guided activity, Casuarina Sands. Ir



A leisurely paddle at 'the Bend'. af



Flying fox at The Avenue. af

Pine Forests and Recreational Spaces - for the ride of your life

Located throughout the national capital, the ACT Government currently owns over 7,500 hectares of Pinus radiata forests. Forest plantations are ideal for all forms of event-based recreation such as car rallies, mountain bike racing, horse riding and dog sledding.

Within the forests you'll find some of the best purpose built and informal mountain bike trails in Australia. From free flowing single track winding through dense pine forests, to technical challenges navigating rocks, gullies and drops, Canberra has it all for mountain bike riders of all standards.

The facilities on offer in the forests are made possible by the ACT forestry industry. By balancing commercial, environmental, social and recreational outcomes, ACT Forestry has enjoyed a positive relationship with all Canberrans.

For more information:

TEL Canberra Connect 13 22 81

WEB www.tams.act.gov.au



39 Pierces Creek Forest

Access off Paddys River Road, 5.4 km from the junction with Tidbinbilla Road.

A large area of commercial plantation around Pierces Creek was destroyed during the 2003 bushfires, with 1,552ha of plantation re-established or remaining for timber production. Recreation is limited, however a small grassy picnic area is located on Murrays Corner next to Paddys River, walk or drive across the low level crossing to the picnic areas. Size: 1,552 ha



40 Uriarra Forest

West of Canberra, north of Cotter River.

Since the 2003 bushfires, 1,175 ha of plantation has been re-established for timber production. A large part of this former pine plantation (3,500 ha) is now part of the Lower Cotter catchment (LCC) which is a very important part of Canberra water supply. While recreation activities in the catchment are restricted, the pine plantation area is very popular for recreation activities including bushwalking and mountain biking. Size: 4,675 ha



41 Blue Range Recreation Area

Access off Blue Range Road, via Cotter Road and Brindabella Road.

Centred around the heritage-listed remains of a World War II Italian internment camp, the Blue Range camp is a very popular camping and events location. Perfect for family or large groups. Bring your own drinking water and firewood. Fires are permitted in designated fireplaces only. Bookings essential, phone 6207 2900 or book online at www.booking.act.gov.au



42 Majura Pines

Access from Mount Majura Nature Reserve off Mackenzie Street in Hackett.

At the time of publication, Majura Pines has restricted access from the eastern side due to major road works. Some existing mountain bike tracks have been removed and new tracks will be developed in the future. For more information phone Canberra Connect: 13 22 81.



43 Fairbairn Pines

Access off Pialligo Avenue, adjacent to speedway area.

Most of the plantation is now owned and operated by the Australian Defence Force and is unavailable for public use. The Air Disaster memorial can be accessed by walking along existing forestry trails. A paintball operator maintains a long-term lease on the remaining area. Size: 54 ha



44 Molonglo Gorge

Access from Sutton Road.

The river has carved its way through a fault zone creating a scenic gorge. A popular picnic area situated on this picturesque section of the Molonglo River at the western end of the Gorge. From the recreation area, take a walking trail that follows the river to a small-grassed picnic area called Blue Tiles. There is no drinking water or bins at Blue Tiles, so please bring your own water and take your rubbish home. Molonglo Gorge is also great for picnicking, having a BBQ, fishing and swimming.



Blue Range Hut. MM



Mountain biking in Kowen Forest. RB



Molonglo Gorge. LP



Walkers at Blue Range. LP

Opposite: World and Australian 24 Hour Champion, Jason English negotiates the challenging trails of Majura Pine Forest during the Australian Solo 24 Championships in April, 2012. RB



Dog sledding at Kowen Forest. CT



View to Mount Tennent from Tuggeranong Pines.



Glenburn Homestead within the Kowen Forest.



Mountain bike event, Sparrow Hill. Ip



45 Kowen Forest

Access off Sutton Road.

As well as being Canberra's largest commercial pine plantation, Kowen Forest is very popular with organised recreation groups including orienteering, bush walking, running, mountain bike riding, horse riding and car rallies. The scenic and popular Old Kowen Homestead Recreation Area campground is suited to large organised groups and is a great base for events. The campground is accessed via a dirt road 10 km behind locked gates. Bring your own drinking water and firewood. Bookings are essential. Book for camping online at www.booking.act.gov.au or visit TAMS website for an application to hold an event. Size: 4,670 ha



46 Sparrow Hill

Access off Kings Highway.

Rated by many locals and interstate riders as their outright favourite track, Sparrow Hill offers a riding experience like no other. Located just 20 minutes from Canberra on the Kings Highway heading toward Bungendore, 'Sparrows' is a must-ride location where many riders have become hooked after sampling just a few metres of these challenging trails. Walkers and horse riders should be aware that the area experiences heavy mountain-biking traffic all year.



47 Tuggeranong Pines

Access off Monaro Highway.

Small pine plantation southeast of Tuggeranong, hosts some great trails ranging from gentle traverses around the base of the hill to some very steep and rocky sections toward the top. A paintball lease is located at the entrance to the pines. Size: 32 ha

Forestry in Canberra—a symbiotic relationship

Canberra has been Australia's 'forestry capital' for many years. ACT forests enjoy a unique relationship with Canberra, its people and its environment. This has resulted from almost a century of forestry, which has always been concerned with environmental and social values, in addition to the obvious commercial value of forests.

Forestry in the ACT has existed in many guises over the past decades. Its responsibilities include the supply of timber products, catchment and soil protection, scenic and aesthetic values, recreation and tourism plus areas for research and education. ACT forestry successfully meets fiscal, environmental and recreational outcomes for the benefit of all ACT residents.



From humble beginnings. mw



Soft wood logging at Kowen Forest.



The view from the Kowen Forest fire tower. BF

Canberra's forests—mountain bike utopia

Canberra offers some of the best purpose-built mountain bike trails in Australia with a single-track network of over 150 kilometres throughout the forests. The riding areas of **Majura Pines**, **Kowen Forest**, **Sparrow Hill**, **Tuggeranong Pines** and the world class **Stromlo Forest Park** (refer to page 25 for further information) are a must for mountain bikers of all levels.

Kowen Forest east was originally designed to host the Australian 24 Hour Mountain Bike Championships but it quickly developed a strong network of trails that far outgrew the original 20 kilometre lap. Following its initial design as a trail catering to beginners, the later expansion of trails has been developed with the same friendliness in mind. The parking area for Kowen Forest east just off the Kings Highway also accesses Sparrow Hill.

Sparrow Hill offers a riding experience like no other and is rated by many locals and interstate riders as their outright favourite track. Many riders have become hooked after sampling just a few metres of these pristine trails. With an amazingly flowing design, the trails cater to inexperienced riders while providing thrills for anyone prepared to tackle the smooth, undulating tracks with a pinch of speed.

Tuggeranong Pines is a well kept secret, littered with some great trails ranging from gentle traverses around the base of the hill to some very steep and rocky sections toward the top. A fire road climb to the south will give riders an easy way to reach the peak allowing many options to reach the bottom. Riders will find several runs including those used for local races.

Majura Pines, at the time of publication, has restricted access from the eastern side due to major road works. Some tracks have been removed and new tracks will be developed in the future. For more information phone Canberra Connect: 13 22 81.

Did you know?



Cork Oak plantation, National Arboretum Canberra.

Cork Oak - a true survivor

Quercus suber, commonly known as Cork Oak has a special place in Canberra's history. Commercial cork was formerly an essential component of life jackets, fishing nets and insulation equipment as well as its traditional role as corks in bottles.

Walter Burley Griffin recognised its potential for Canberra's climate and, in 1916, sent a supply of acorns to Yarralumla Nursery for trial by Charles Weston.

Cork Oak is quite fire tolerant. It produces little leaf litter with the bark providing excellent heat protection to the trunk and the foliage is relatively inflammable.

Disruption of supplies during World War I provided opportunity for cork plantations in Canberra. However, the project was delayed in 1918 when the SS Boorara, carrying a shipment of acorns for Canberra was torpedoed and sunk. Replacement supplies were obtained and, by 1920, 9,600 Cork Oaks had been planted at Green Hills - now part of the National Arboretum Canberra (refer to page 24 for further information).



24 hour event at Majura Pines. RB



Event at Kowen Forest. RB



Canberra Off-road Cyclists 'For the Birds' event at Sparrow Hill. RB

For further information
 WEB www.ridecanberra.com.au
www.corc.asn.au

Googong Foreshores - experience your heritage

Googong Foreshores is 10 kilometres south of Queanbeyan and is managed as a water catchment, wildlife refuge and public recreation area. Head out to Googong Foreshores to sail your yacht, paddle your canoe, go fishing, observe wildlife or ride your mountain bike on the fire trails. It also has a fascinating historic homestead and the 20,000 year old rock formation London Bridge Arch.

Aboriginal people maintained a hunting and gathering lifestyle around this region for thousands of years. Long before Captain Mark Currie's journey of exploration, this valley was occupied by Aboriginal people. Aboriginal camps in this area have been dated by archaeologists to be at least 800 years old.

Europeans first settled in this area in about 1834. As you walk along the track, you can see how much this landscape has been altered by their land uses. Originally, this area was grassy woodland. When Europeans arrived with their grazing flocks many trees were ring-barked to create more pasture, while others were cut down for building or firewood.

If you enjoy picnics, barbeques, bird watching, bushwalking, sailing, boating, canoeing, fishing, mountain bike riding or delving into history, then Googong Foreshores has it all.

Opening times:

North GOOGONG FORESHORES

Daylight saving: 8 am – 8 pm

Non-daylight saving: 8 am – 7 pm

South GOOGONG FORESHORES

Daylight saving: 8 am – 7 pm

Non-daylight saving: 8 am – 5 pm

For more information:

TEL ZX Canberra Connect 13 22 81

WEB www.tams.act.gov.au



48 North Googong Foreshores

Cascades

From the car park, the Cascades Walk (200 metres return, easy) takes you down into the Cascades Gorge where there are a number of large water holes. The Cascades Lookout and the Dam Wall Lookout are two scenic vantage points.

Downstream picnic area

Gas barbeques, picnic tables and toilet facilities are available at the downstream picnic area. The area serves as a great base to explore Googong via many walks such as the Black Wallaby Loop (2.6 km return) or for the more adventurous, the Bradleys Creek Walk (14.2 km return).

Western Foreshores walk/ride

A great way to take in all of the Googong Foreshores on foot or by bike. The track can be accessed from either north or south Googong and is a moderate 20 kilometre return trip. Follow the trail through open grasslands and open woodland with scenic vantage points of the dam and the Queanbeyan escarpment to the east. Mountain bikes are only allowed on formed vehicle trails. They are not allowed on single walking tracks.

Foreshores boat launch – Drumstick Point

Why not see Googong from the water using a sailing boat, canoe, kayak or electric motor boat. The only public boat ramp at the foreshores is at Drumstick Point which accesses the open northern waters of the reservoir. In order to protect the region's precious water supply, conventional powerboats (with petroleum fuels) and windsurfers, surf skis and jet skis are not permitted.



49 South Googong Foreshores

Tin Hut Dam

Tin Hut Dam features a bird hide with displays, bird hide screens, seats and a loop walk. More than 165 bird species have been recorded at Googong, and the bird hides and walk at Tin Hut Dam are ideal for spotting some of them. Parking, toilet and wood barbeques are available making a day of birdwatching or bushwalking a breeze.

London Bridge Woolshed

This woolshed and adjacent shearer's quarters are an important link to the region's pastoral history. The structures were built in the 1930s and operated until 1973 when the woolshed and surrounding land was acquired by the Commonwealth to protect part of the catchment of Googong Reservoir. The area, including the homestead, are a must see for history buffs or anyone keen to learn more about European settlement in the region.

London Bridge Arch

London Bridge Arch and the Googong area is an important site to the local Ngunnawal people. The arch was first recorded in 1823 when explorer Captain Mark Currie was directed to the arch by an Aboriginal guide. Currie described it as 'a natural bridge of one perfect Saxon arch, under which the water passed'. Enjoy this magnificent landmark by taking the Queanbeyan River Walk (18 kilometres return) which starts at the London Bridge car park, crosses the arch then branches on to management trails to Flynn's Crossing.

London Bridge Homestead

In 1857, John McNamara, an Irishman from County Clare, paid 30 pounds for 30 acres of land in the Burra Valley. 'London Bridge' became one of the first properties in the area. The homestead is a rare example of a vernacular homestead group that contains progressive additions over the period from about 1870 to 1950. In 1928, it was sold to the Douglas family with who it remained until the Commonwealth resumed most of the property in 1973 to protect the catchment of the dam. A 3.4 kilometre, two hour circuit walk takes you from the London Bridge woolshed and shearer's quarters, across London Bridge Arch and along Burra Creek to the London Bridge homestead.



Googong Dam. MW



London Bridge Woolshed. MW



The Googong reservoir from Drumstick Point. MW



London Bridge Homestead.

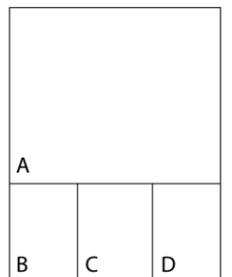


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- Cover: A Ranger guided activity. BA
 B Grinding stone.
 C Native Bluebell. BA
 D Male Gang-gang. HF
- Page 2: A Forgotten fence posts. MK
 B Fishing on Lake Ginninderra. MK
 C Getting air at Stromlo. RB
 D Seesaw at The Avenue. MW
- Page 4: A Wedge-tailed Eagle. JO
 B Googong dust. BB
 C Rangers at Mulligans Flat.
 D Grinding grooves.
- Page 22: A Floriade colour. MW
 B Tiptoe through the tulips. NCA
 C Tulips and Ferris Wheel. NCA
 D Enjoying Floriade up close. NCA
- Page 24: A Aerial view of the Arboretum, Black Mountain and beyond. JG
 B Nest III, Dairy Farmers Hill. RL
 C Family picnic. NAC
 D Inside of Visitor Information Centre. SS
- Page 31: A Red-bellied Black Snake. MM
 B Brush-tailed Possum.
 C Eastern Grey Kangaroos.
 D Australian Magpie.
- Page 35: A Hazard reduction burn.
 B PCS fire tanker. MW
 C Parks 22 in action.
 D Squirrel pilot gets briefed. MW





Useful contacts

Canberra Connect: 13 22 81 for any information on the ACT's parks and open spaces.
www.4wdnsw-act.asn.au for more information on 4WD clubs in the region
www.anbg.gov.au for more information on the Australian National Botanic Gardens
www.australia.com for more information on Tourism Australia and National Landscapes
www.australialps.environment.gov.au for the location of parks in the high country
www.actpla.act.gov.au for the Cycle Map and more information on planning Canberra
www.conservationvolunteers.com.au for more information on volunteering
www.corc.asn.au or www.ridecanberra.com.au for biking information
www.esa.act.gov.au for more information on fire safety and management
www.floriadeaustralia.com for more information on Floriade
www.liveincanberra.com.au for more information on living and working in Canberra
www.tams.act.gov.au for more detail on the information contained in this guide
www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au for information on the National Arboretum Canberra
www.nationalcapital.gov.au for self-guided walking and drive tours of the Central National Area
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au for the location of parks in the surrounding region
www.nationaltrail.com.au for the Bicentennial National Trail
www.tidbinbilla.com.au for more information on the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve
www.visitcanberra.com.au for the self drive heritage tracks and tourist information

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