

Self Guided Walking Tour

BURLEY GRIFFIN Walk.....

Your self guided walking tour from the National Capital Exhibition to the National Carillon.

Burley Griffin Walk takes you through Commonwealth Park and along the Lake Burley Griffin foreshore to Blundells Cottage and the National Carillon, then back to the National Capital Exhibition.

Start your visit at the National Capital Exhibition, where you can explore the intriguing story of the national capital through audio-visual displays, films, photographs and artefacts.

Yass-Canberra was chosen as the site for the national capital on 8 October 1908. The city owes its origins to an international design competition won in 1912 by the American architect, Walter Burley Griffin. Today, Canberra is known as one of the world's great planned national capitals, along with Washington DC, Ottawa and Brasilia.

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

Walking is one of the best ways to enjoy your national capital.

National Capital Exhibition to the National Carillon and return

TIME: 2 hours 15 minutes

DISTANCE: 5 kilometres

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: Easy

Your Values, Your Culture, Your Stories

»» Our Nation, Your Capital

START YOUR SELF GUIDED WALK AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL EXHIBITION, REGATTA POINT.

- 1** **WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN TERRAZZO** is set in the pavement outside the entrance of the National Capital Exhibition and is a mosaic of Walter Burley Griffin's 1912 prize-winning design. Created in 2000 by Australian artist David Humphries, the mosaic is set out as a page torn from a book.

Proceed to your left and down the steps towards Lake Burley Griffin.

- 2** **LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN** is the ornamental lake at the centre of Walter Burley Griffin's Canberra plan. It consists of three formal water basins (Central, West and East Basins). In order to create Lake Burley Griffin, the Molonglo River was dammed and Scrivener Dam constructed. Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies officially inaugurated the lake on 17 October 1964.

The lake is nine kilometres long and the lakeshore is 40.5 kilometres in length.

Continue across the lawn towards the edge of the lake.

- 3** **THE R.G. MENZIES WALK** was named in acknowledgment of Sir Robert Menzies' crucial contribution to the development of the nation's capital, Canberra. During his second term as Prime Minister (1949–66), he committed his government to the task of creating a capital worthy of the nation. Further plaques are located by stop 7, on the bicycle path by Blundells Cottage and by the John Gorton Bridge leading to the National Carillon.

- 4 & 5** **THE CAPTAIN JAMES COOK MEMORIAL** consists of the water jet and terrestrial globe. These were constructed to commemorate the bicentenary of Captain James Cook's landing on the east coast of Australia in 1770. Queen Elizabeth II officially opened the Memorial in 1970.

THE CAPTAIN COOK MEMORIAL GLOBE uses meridians of longitude and parallels of latitude to form an open-cage globe, with landmasses depicted in beaten bas-relief copper. The three routes of Cook's voyages, with explanations of ports of call, are inscribed on the surrounding handrail.

THE CAPTAIN COOK MEMORIAL JET is a stunning example of hydraulic engineering. The water exits the jet at 260 kilometres per hour, reaching a height of up to 147 metres. On the low power setting (one pump operating), three tonnes of water are propelled in to the air, with six tonnes on the high setting (two pumps operating).

The Memorial Globe and Jet were both designed by the architectural firm Bunning and Madden, which also designed the National Library of Australia, located across the lake.

At the lake's edge continue to your left along the gravel path.

- 6** **THE CANADIAN FLAGPOLE** was officially presented to Australia on 20 November 1957. A gift from the Canadian Government and the Canadian timber industry, the single spar of Douglas Fir, weighing 7.1 tonnes, was logged from a forest in British Columbia. Canada Day, 1 July, is marked annually at the site with the raising of the Canadian flag.

The flagpole is 39 metres tall with three metres in the ground and 36 metres freestanding.

7 STOP AND LOOK

Look across the lake. You can see, starting from your right:

- the loop of the National Museum of Australia
- Commonwealth Avenue Bridge
- Captain Cook Memorial Jet
- National Library of Australia
- Questacon (National Science and Technology Centre)
- Commonwealth Place
- High Court of Australia
- National Gallery of Australia
- Kings Avenue Bridge
- National Carillon
- Australian-American Memorial

The Australian-American Memorial is a 73-metre column topped with an 11-metre eagle and sphere. Located at the top of Kings Avenue, the Memorial was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 16 February 1954. The location is a key element in Walter Burley Griffin's design.

Continue to the left along the gravel path to the T-junction and turn right, along the footbridge across Nerang Pool. Continue along the lake foreshore.

8 COMMONWEALTH PARK was an integral component of Walter Burley Griffin's design. It began to take shape in the 1960s with official gifts, such as the Canadian Flagpole, from dignitaries who had come to view the park as the national capital's premier garden. In 1965, Dame Sylvia Crowe, one of Britain's best-known landscape architects, prepared the master plan for the detailed development of the park. It is now a showpiece of horticultural excellence.

A major flower festival, Floriade, is held in Commonwealth Park in spring each year. Commonwealth Park covers 34.5 hectares.

Continue your walk, and ahead you will see a large gravel and grassy terrace area called the Rond Terraces. Just before your arrival look to your left for a plinth with a plaque commemorating the naming of the area, 'Gallipoli Reach'.

9 GALLIPOLI REACH was named on Anzac Day 1985 to symbolise the battle site in Turkey where Australian and New Zealand forces fought in 1915. In return, Turkey named the landing site at Gallipoli, 'Anzac Cove'. The plaque commemorates the valour of the men of ANZAC and the Turkish defenders, led by General Kemal Ataturk.

Gallipoli Reach comprises the shoreline of Lake Burley Griffin, between Nerang Pool in Commonwealth Park and Aspen Island in Kings Park.

The word 'ANZAC' derives from the words Australia New Zealand Army Corps, who landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 25 April 1915. On the same day in 1985 a memorial was dedicated to General Kemal Ataturk on Anzac Parade, opposite the Australian War Memorial.

10 STOP AND LOOK

Stand in the centre of Rond Terraces facing Lake Burley Griffin.

Directly across the lake is **Capital Hill**. Looking behind you, you will see **Mt Ainslie**. Nestled beneath Mt Ainslie, out of sight, are the **Australian War Memorial** and **Anzac Parade**. Walter Burley Griffin's plan was structured along two main lines which intersect at right angles. The **Land Axis** runs from Mt Ainslie through Capital Hill to **Mt Bimberi**, in the **Brindabella Range** — while the **Water Axis** runs from **Black Mountain** on your right, through the lake to a right angle at the Land Axis. The vista across Lake Burley Griffin highlights the symmetry of Griffin's design along the Land Axis. **Kings Avenue Bridge** and **Commonwealth Avenue Bridge** represent two sides of the **Parliamentary Triangle**, with Constitution Avenue forming the base.

Directly opposite, on the lakeshore, is **Commonwealth Place**.

On either side of Commonwealth Place is the **International Flag Display**. The flags represent the approximately 80 nations which maintain a diplomatic presence in Canberra.

Further behind Commonwealth Place is **Old Parliament House** and, directly behind on Capital Hill, is **Parliament House** with its towering flagpole. The whole vista is nestled in a backdrop formed by the **Brindabella Range**.

Continue on the path until you crossed the footbridge. Take the path to the left and head through the cherry blossoms to Blundells Cottage.

11 BLUNDELLS COTTAGE was built in the 1860s as a home for workers on the Duntroon Estate. Over almost one hundred years three families occupied the cottage – the Ginns, the Blundells and the Oldfields. George Blundell, whose family occupied the cottage for 60 years, was a bullock driver who delivered the Campbell family's wool to Sydney and returned approximately six weeks later with supplies of flour, sugar, salt, clothes and tools.

Now a 'hands-on' museum, Blundells Cottage is a reminder of the European history of Canberra before it was chosen as the site for the national capital.

For Blundells Cottage opening hours and bookings

phone (02) 6272 2902 or nce@natcap.gov.au.

Admission: Free

Cross Wendouree Drive and continue to walk to the left along the lake foreshore. This area is called 'Kings Park'. Leave the bicycle path and stay on the gravel path.

12 THE HMAS CANBERRA MEMORIAL is a five-tonne anchor and chain of the type normally carried by a naval cruiser, which commemorates the sinking of *HMAS Canberra* during the Battle of Savo Island in 1942. The Memorial was designed by the ACT Naval Historical Society.

13 THE MERCHANT NAVY MEMORIAL commemorates the contribution of the Merchant Navy during World Wars I and II and is designed to reflect themes associated with the Australian Merchant Navy.

These memorials are located at the lake edge because of their association with water.

- 14 THE NATIONAL CARILLON** is located on Aspen Island. The National Carillon was a gift from the British Government to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the national capital of Australia on 12 March 1913. The tower rises to a height of 50 metres. With 55 bells, weighing between seven kilograms and six tonnes, the National Carillon is unique by international standards. The best location to listen to the National Carillon is within a 100-metre radius.

Carillon recitals are played throughout the year. Contact the National Capital Exhibition for times on (02) 6272 2902 or nce@natcap.gov.au.

When leaving Aspen Island via the John Gorton Bridge, turn right and take the path up the hill to the National Police Memorial.

- 15 NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL** More than 700 Australian police officers have been killed on duty or have died as a result of their duties. The Memorial comprises a bronze commemorative wall upon which the names of police officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice are recorded on bronze plaques. A large stone paved area tilts downwards to reflect the uncertain path that police tread in the performance of their duties. The plaques are randomly located across the wall to reflect the arbitrary nature of loss. Many have been left blank as a reminder that future tragedy is inevitable.

Return to Blundells Cottage, cross Wendouree Drive and join the bicycle path. Take the path on the right to the National Emergency Services Memorial.

- 16 THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES MEMORIAL** was dedicated in 2004 in honour of the thousands of men and women who serve and have served in Australia's emergency management and service organisations. The Memorial provides a place to reflect on those who have been injured or died while carrying out their duties for the benefit of the Australian community.

The raised wall of the Memorial symbolically expresses comfort, warmth and shelter. The three-dimensional frieze of images reflects the diversity of emergency personnel and their experiences.

The varied level and scale of detail on the surface allow the images to be read at different distances.

Return to the bicycle path. Past the Rond Terraces on the right is a stand of six large oak trees.

- 17 A COMMORATIVE OAK**, planted in 1964 by Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, was the first gift to Commonwealth Park. The seedling was propagated in Canberra from one of 1 000 English oak acorns.

Walk to the right, through the grove of oak trees, to another path and the nearby wisteria-covered pergola.

- 18 SYBIL HOWY IRVING MEMORIAL** Miss Sybil Howy Irving, MBE was an outstanding Australian, prominent in the Girl Guide movement and many other national organisations.

Continue along the path.

- 19 PIONEER WOMEN MEMORIAL** This Memorial consists of a plaque, a small stone wall and a bench. It is dedicated to the pioneer women of Australia and their contribution to the growth of the nation.

150-metres along the path turn right to cross the causeway separating Nerang Pool and the lily pond. Next on the right is the Marsh Gardens. Enter the gardens and enjoy the artworks.

20 **'UNTITLED'** sculpture by Alan Gauir 1991

This metal flock of birds was one of the prize winning entries in the 1991 Floriade sculpture competition.

21 **'SEATED LADY'** by Herman Hohuas.

Resume your walk around Nerang Pool.

22 **'DANCE OF THE SECATEURS'** by Bruce Radke 1988

Take the path to the right and walk behind Stage 88. The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection is located in the building to the left of the path.

23 **THE NATIONAL BONSAI AND PENJING COLLECTION** Leading Australian artists have used artistic styles to create the collection from a variety of plant species. The display is constantly evolving both with new additions and the changing seasons.

Return to the path behind Stage 88 and along the shore of Nerang Pool. Before reaching the gazebo, turn right towards the Rhododendron Garden.

24 **'TWO FIGURES'** 1976 A sculpture by the internationally acclaimed sculptor, Dame Barbara Hepworth.

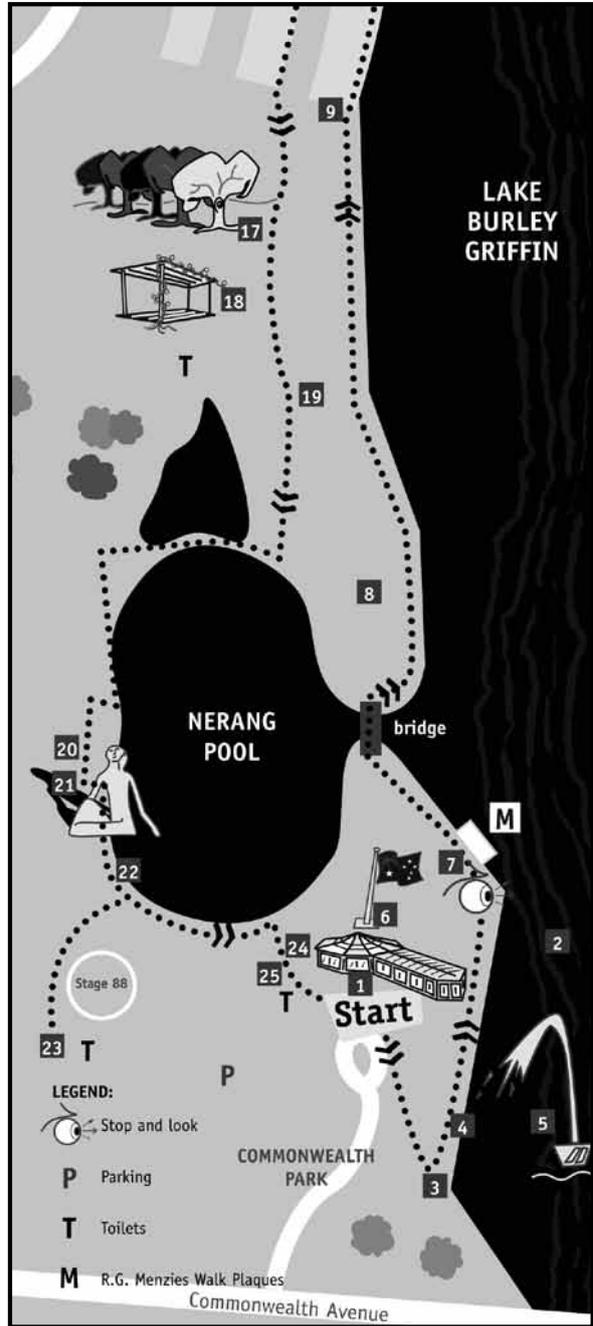
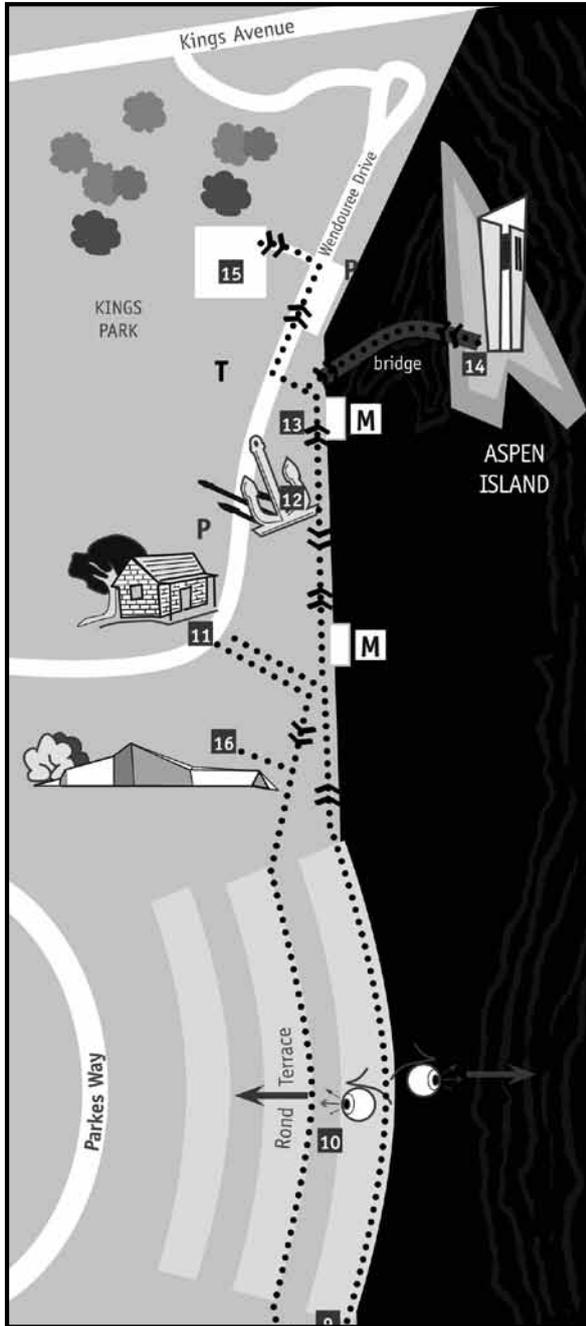
25 **BICENTENNIAL TIME CAPSULE** contains items submitted in 1988 by residents of Canberra. There is no official record of the objects, photographs and memoirs in the 1.5 metre glass capsule, which was sealed with argon gas before being buried at this location.

The capsule is to be opened in 2088.

Return to National Capital Exhibition to complete the Burley Griffin Walk.

This ends the Lake Burley Griffin Walk

BURLEY GRIFFIN Walk



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

Collect your colour copy from the
National Capital Exhibition, Commonwealth Park.
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