

- Weetangera Cemetery
- Federation Square
- The Pinnacle

LISTED PLACES IN  
**BELCONNEN [2]**

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11. Gold Creek Village / Federation Square



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Contact: National Trust of Australia (ACT)  
PO Box 1144  
Civic Square ACT 2608  
02 6230 0533

[www.act.nationaltrust.org.au](http://www.act.nationaltrust.org.au)

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*A heritage tour of*  
**BELCONNEN**

**BEYOND THE LAKE**

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR



**NATIONAL TRUST**

CONSERVING AUSTRALIA'S HERITAGE

European farmers settled in the Belconnen area in the mid-1800s – traces of their agricultural activity remain evident today. Prior to European settlement Belconnen had been the home of the Ngunnawal people for thousands of years.

Urban development in Belconnen began at Aranda in 1966. The most recent urban development has been in Dunlop and Bruce.

## 1. BLACK MOUNTAIN & O'CONNOR RIDGELINE TO THE NORTH

*Bordering Lake Burley Griffin between suburbs of Aranda, Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner.*

Black Mountain is a part of the Canberra Nature Park and is mainly covered by eucalypt forest.

A network of trails provide a variety of walks. The Black Mountain Tower, the reserve, and the Australian National Botanical Gardens, with its emphasis on native flora, are all located in this area (website: [www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au)).

As well as providing a focal point for the planning of Canberra, Black Mountain and the ridge line to the north provide a dramatic visual backdrop to the city. Take note of the small size of the eucalypt trees. Most of the eucalypt vegetation on Black Mountain has regenerated since the arrival of European settlers in the district.

It is believed that the aboriginal people regularly burnt the slopes of the mountain to clear the growing vegetation. Look out for kangaroos and a wide variety of bird-life.

## 2. MOUNT PAINTER

*South of the suburb of Cook.*

Mount Painter (742 metres) was formed about 400 million years ago though volcanic activity in the Canberra and Goulbourn region. Geologists believe that volcanic activity probably began west of Canberra in the Brindabella Ranges and resulted ash layers being deposited in Canberra. The volcanic activity eventually filled the shallow sea where Canberra is now located, causing the area to become land. The eruptions became increasingly violent and culminated in the formation of Mt Painter.

## 3. THE PINNACLE

*Corner of Springvale Drive and Coulter Drive. Access via walking track off Coulter Drive.*

Part of Canberra Nature Park, the Pinnacle is a 709 metre peak in the centre of the reserve. There are several walking trails around the base of the Pinnacle and an equestrian area adjacent to Springvale Road. Look out for kangaroos and birds, particularly rosellas. An equestrian trail leading from the north west of the park and under William Hovell Drive links this area to the entrance of the Weetangera cemetery, making it a pleasant walk between the two.

#### 4. WEETANGERA CEMETERY

*South of the corner of Drake Brockman Drive & William Hovell Drive, Hawker.*

Located on a rise above the road, the entrance to the cemetery is flanked by two old cypress pines. Entry can be gained by turning off William Hovell Drive just north of the cypress pines on to a small track leading to the entrance; or by turning on to Drake Brockman Drive from William Hovell Drive and immediately turning left on to the equestrian trail and following it towards the cemetery.

The cemetery served the largely methodist community of Weetangera between 1873 and 1964. Most of the internments are of the family of Thomas Southwell and subsequent generations of his family.

The Weetangera Methodist Church was erected here in 1873 and demolished in 1955. A stone cairn near the entrance of the cemetery marks its site. The cemetery is an example of the transition between burials on private properties and communal, multi-denominational

#### 5. CRANLEIGH HOMESTEAD SITE

*On the north-west corner of Southern Cross and Kingsford-Smith Drives, Latham. Entry is gained by turning off Southern Cross Drive into O'Loghlen Street then right into Real Place.*

This busy corner was the site of Cranleigh homestead completed in 1923 for Major-General Legge. What remains is a small open space marked by a row of shady pine trees.

The Cranleigh property of 400 hectares surrounded what is now Kingsford-Smith Drive. The Commandant of Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon between 1920–22, Major-General Legge, designed Cranleigh homestead for his retirement.

It had a stark appearance, concrete-block walls moulded on-site, a central verandah and courtyard and flat roof, believed to be a result of his observations of buildings while in India. General Legge was Commander of the Australian Infantry Forces at Gallipoli in 1915, Commander of the Second Division in France 1916–7, and Chief of General Staff 1917–20

#### 6. LATHAM AXE GRINDING GROOVES

*Old Ginninderra Creek opposite Want Place, off Macrossan Crescent, Latham.*

There are 15 grooves and other possible incipient ones in a 50 metre stretch of Ginninderra Creek at an area known as the rock holes. The grooves lie on boulders and slabs of hard volcanic tuff on both sides of the creek and in its bed. Some of the grooves are deep-cut and well-preserved.

These grooves, made by the Aboriginals in the course of sharpening the blades of stone axes, are some of the few examples of grinding grooves in the ACT. The site is therefore an important place in the ACT demonstrating the traditional way of Aboriginal life (website: [www.aiatsis.gov.au](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au)).

#### 7. GINNINDERRA FALLS

*North of the ACT in NSW. Access from the ACT via Parkwood Road. A private nature reserve on Parkwood Estate open to the public. Day use facilities provided. An entry fee is charged.*

The normally placid Ginninderra Creek drops over an upper fall of 42 metres and then over a lower fall of 25 metres. Between the two falls the creek has cut a deep gorge. The area can be viewed from walking trails and lookouts where wildlife can also be seen. It is only a short walk to the upper falls and a more energetic one to the lower falls, the Murrumbidgee River and the swimming spots. Look out for platypus, water rats and echidnas.

#### 8. PARKWOOD CHAPEL & HOMESTEAD

*Parkwood Road, in NSW, 4km north-west of Macgregor.*

Thomas Southwell built the homestead in 1863 and the chapel in 1880. The brick homestead has woodwork from locally cut timber. The rooms include a parlour, dining room, parson's room, schoolroom, girls' room and bedrooms.

The homestead and the chapel have historical associations with the beginnings of the Methodist religion in the Canberra district. The first known Methodists in the district, Thomas and Liza Southwell who arrived in 1840. They purchased Parkwood in 1854 and contributed significantly to the growth of the Methodist religion in the region.

#### 9. PALMERVILLE

#### 10. OLD GINNINDERRA VILLAGE

*(GOLD CREEK VILLAGE / FEDERATION SQUARE) Entry from corner of Barton Highway and Gold Creek Road.*

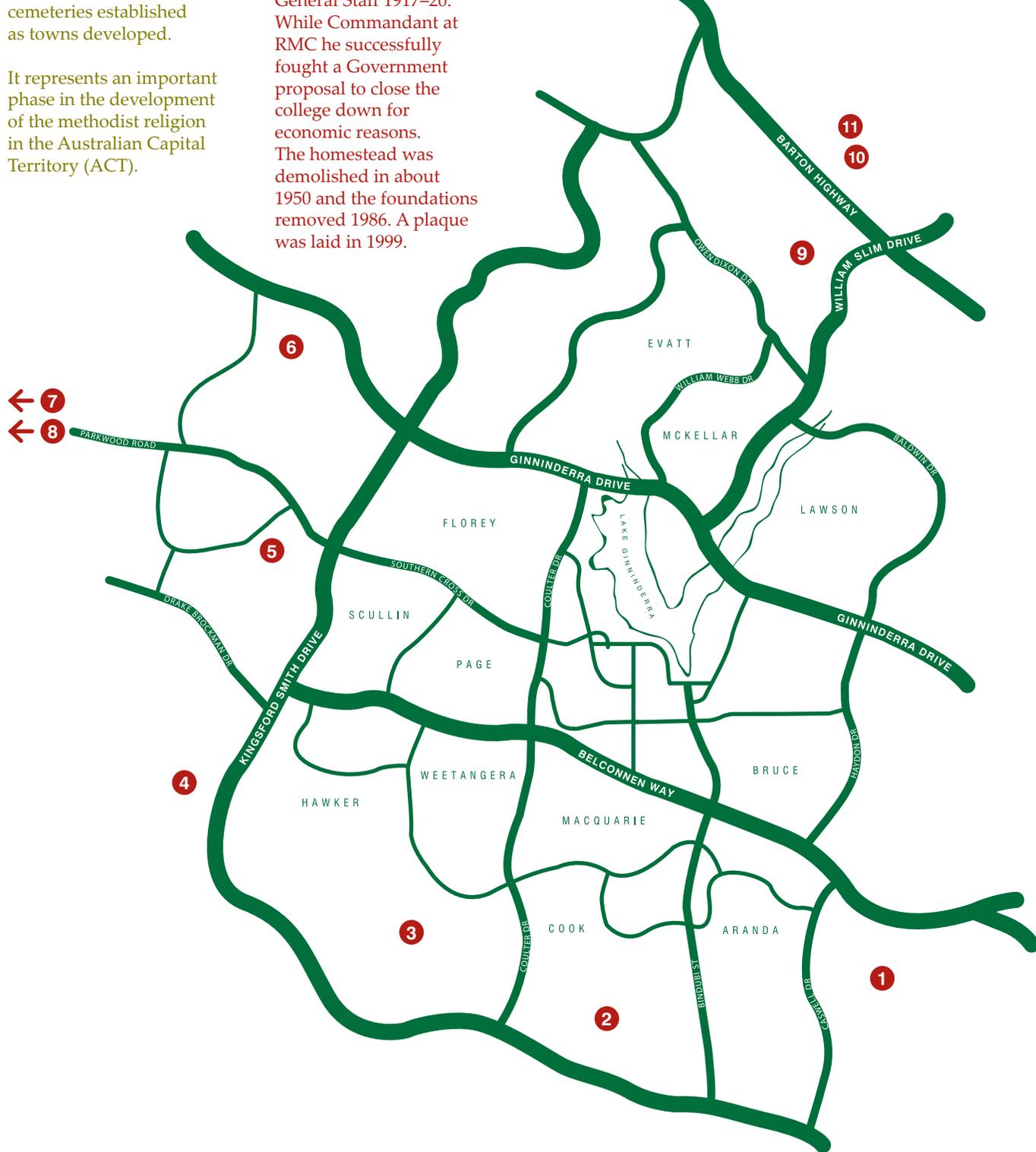
Gold Creek Village and Federation Square are located on the site of Old Ginninderra Village. The village was established in 1826 as a private village and by 1850 it had developed into a thriving, prosperous settlement. It included homesteads, cottage outbuildings, a police station, post office and a school, and was the centre of much of the district's social and sporting activity.

The village declined when the New South Wales Government selected the site of Hall 3km away for a formally designed village. Little has survived of the original village centre and its surrounds, apart from the schoolhouse (1883), and the Roman Catholic church (1872), both of which have been incorporated into Gold Creek Village. Other parts of the original village are the homestead and Dairy (1890), the police station and residence (1905)

cemeteries established as towns developed.

It represents an important phase in the development of the methodist religion in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

General Stan 1917-20. While Commandant at RMC he successfully fought a Government proposal to close the college down for economic reasons. The homestead was demolished in about 1950 and the foundations removed 1986. A plaque was laid in 1999.



## HERITAGE PARK, GIRALANG

*Owen Dixon Drive*

Thomas Palmer settled on Ginninderra Creek in 1826, establishing the Ginninderra Estate, which encompassed much of what is now Belconnen and southern Gungahlin. It adjoined Charnwood Estate to the west and Yarralumla to the east. The property was sold to William Davis, also from a prominent local family, and it continued to prosper.

All land in this estate was resumed when the ACT was created. The immediate areas of the homestead were used for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) purposes. The buildings fell into decline and most were demolished through the 1950s and 60s. There is archaeological evidence of the original structures, now reburied, as well as important landscape and other cultural evidence at the site. The oak trees are said to be the oldest in Australia.

and residence (1905) west of Gold Creek road and the remains of the blacksmith shop, southeast of the village off Barton Highway.

## 11. GOLD CREEK VILLAGE / FEDERATION SQUARE

Gold Creek Village is now the new name of this area and once again it is a thriving place, but now as a tourist destination. There are many art and craft specialty shops reflecting the period of the original village, hotels, restaurants and more modern art and craft shops. The Aboriginal Dreaming Gallery, Cockington Green (a model English village), a Dinosaur Museum, and a Tudor style English pub make the village an attractive tourist destination.

Federation Square on the opposite side of O'Hanlon Place, is a more recent area of the complex. It has many shops that cater for the tourists, a hotel, a large walk-in bird aviary with over 100 species of parrots and finches, and outdoor and indoor eating areas are popular with families.