

- Australian Institute of Sport (Acrobats Statue)
- University of Canberra (Student Residences) Courtesy of the ACT Heritage Library.
- John Knight Memorial Park

LISTED PLACES IN
BELCONNEN [1]

1. Gossan Hill and Roadcut
2. University of Canberra
3. Fern Hill Park Technology Centre
4. Canberra Institute of Technology
5. Australian Institute of Sport
6. Lake Ginninderra Wetland Areas
7. Diddams Close Park
8. John Knight Memorial Park
9. Northwest Lake Ginninderra
10. Belconnen Naval Radio Station



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A heritage tour of
BELCONNEN

AROUND LAKE GINNINDERRA

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. GOSSAN HILL & ROADCUT

Roadcut on south side of College Street and Gossan Hill south of College Street, Bruce. A walking track leads from the eastern end of the cutting on College Street to the top of Gossan Hill.

This area is one of complex geology with a number of different rock types present. The formation visible in the roadcut on College Street formed 500 million years ago. Gossan Hill, behind the cutting, is formed from ancient ocean sediments. For more information on Canberra's geology see the Geoscience Australia website at www.ga.gov.au.

EDUCATIONAL, SPORTING & TECHNOLOGY PRECINCT

2. UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

Located between Lake Ginninderra and Haydon Drive adjacent to the Belconnen Town Centre.

The University was established in 1967 as the former Canberra College of Advanced Education. It became a university in January 1990. The University offers courses within the faculties of Applied Science, Communication, Education, Environmental Design, Information Sciences and Engineering, and Management. There are about 10,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students at the University (website: www.canberra.edu.au)

Set on 119 hectares, the campus grounds are planted with native trees and shrubs. With its own mob of kangaroos living in the woodland area, it has a real Australian feel to it. Visitors are welcome to walk around the campus.

3. FERN HILL PARK TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Located on Haydon Drive between Battye Street and Eardley Street

This area to the east of Haydon Drive is an area devoted to government information technology development and is the Canberra base for the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (website: www.dsto.defence.gov.au) and several private information technology firms.

You can experience this tour in a variety of ways:

On foot — be prepared for a walk of around 4–5 hours.

On bicycle — the tour takes about 3 hours.

By car — the tour takes up to 2 hours.

4. CANBERRA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

East off Haydon Drive.

Formerly a college of technical and further education, the Bruce campus is one of many of the Canberra Institute of Technology's (CIT) campuses across the city. The Bruce campus offers courses in applied sciences, engineering, construction, electrical and electronics (website: www.cit.act.edu.au).

5. AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

Between Ginninderra Drive and O'Connor Ridge. Access via Tucker, Agar, Masterman streets or from Battye Street off Haydon Drive.

Following public concerns about Australia's poor performance in the 1976 Montreal Olympics the Government established the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) to improve Australia's performance in international sporting competitions. The AIS' facilities were opened in 1981.

The AIS covers all major sports. The complex includes facilities for track and field athletics, swimming, gymnastics and has a stadium proving for 25,000 spectators. The AIS provides a world recognised centre for sports medicine and science.

Call in at the visitor centre and museum to arrange a guided tour and try your skill on the rowing machine (website: www.ais.org.au).

6. LAKE GINNINDERRA WETLANDS AREA

Lake Ginninderra was formed in 1974 by the damming of Ginninderra Creek.

The Lake follows the original sharp bend of the creek and its floodplain. It now forms part of the Belconnen Town Centre environs. Since its formation the Lake has evolved aquatic ecological habitats along its foreshores. These areas, which are characterised by several species of tall rushes provide shelter for the many aquatic birds which are associated with the Lake. Of particular scientific interest are the areas of wetland habitat at the northern end of the Lake. The shores of the Lake provide recreational areas with easy access.

7. DIDDAMS CLOSE PARK

Access to the park is from Ginninderra Drive.

Situated between the two northern arms of the Lake, Diddams Park has two lookout areas, barbecue and picnic areas and an area for swimming. A walking and cycling path runs around the perimeter of the Lake. The main wetland areas are at the south end of the park.

8. JOHN KNIGHT MEMORIAL PARK

Access is from Townsend Place off Aikman Drive.

The park is named in memory of Senator John Knight who was a prominent Canberra politician. Senator Knight served a long term in the Australian Senate of almost forty years (1943-81).

The park offers picnic areas with barbecues, and a fitness track. A walking/cycling path runs around the edge of the lake to the south side of the park.

John Knight had a strong commitment to the development of Canberra's health system.

9. NORTHWEST LAKE GINNINDERRA

Access along MacDermott Place off Joynton Smith Drive.

Situated on the northwest side of the lake between Coulter and Ginninderra drives, the park offers barbecues, picnic and swimming areas with views across the lake to Diddams Close Park area. The Ginninderra Drive end

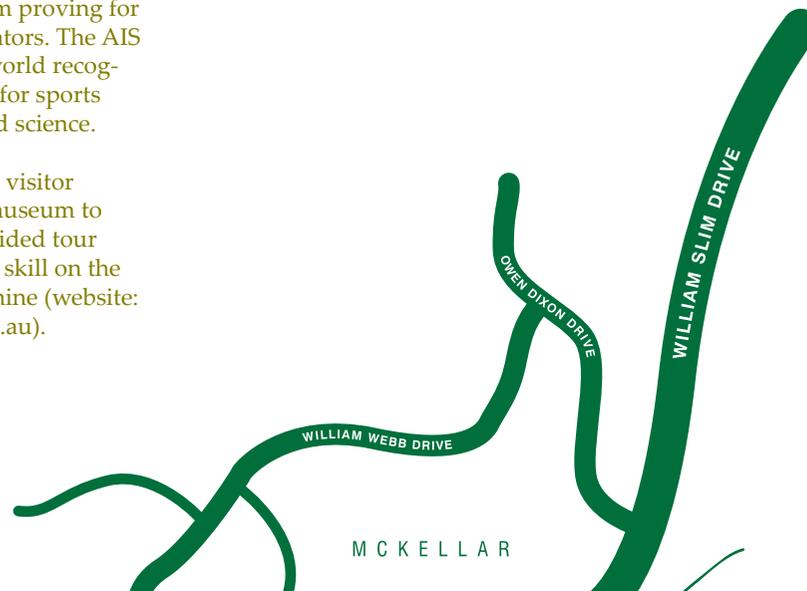
10. BELCONNEN NAVAL RADIO STATION

Located off Baldwin Drive to the residential area; entry to the main grounds is restricted.

Situated on the north-eastern arm of the Lake the Naval installation is part of HMAS Harman.

The Belconnen Naval Radio Station dates from 1939. The facility was demonstrated Australia's capabilities in engineering as it was constructed in less than a year before the outbreak of the second world war.

During the Second





of the park is an important wetland area.

World War the station transmitted battle orders to Australian ships. Belconnen was the transmitting station and HMAS Harman (near Queanbeyan about 30 km away) was the receiving station.

The western part of the grounds of the Naval Station bordering on Lake Ginninderra form part of the wetlands habitats of the lake.

Because of the restricted entry to the station, the grounds have provided safe habitat areas for wetland species and the legless lizard which lives in the grassland areas.