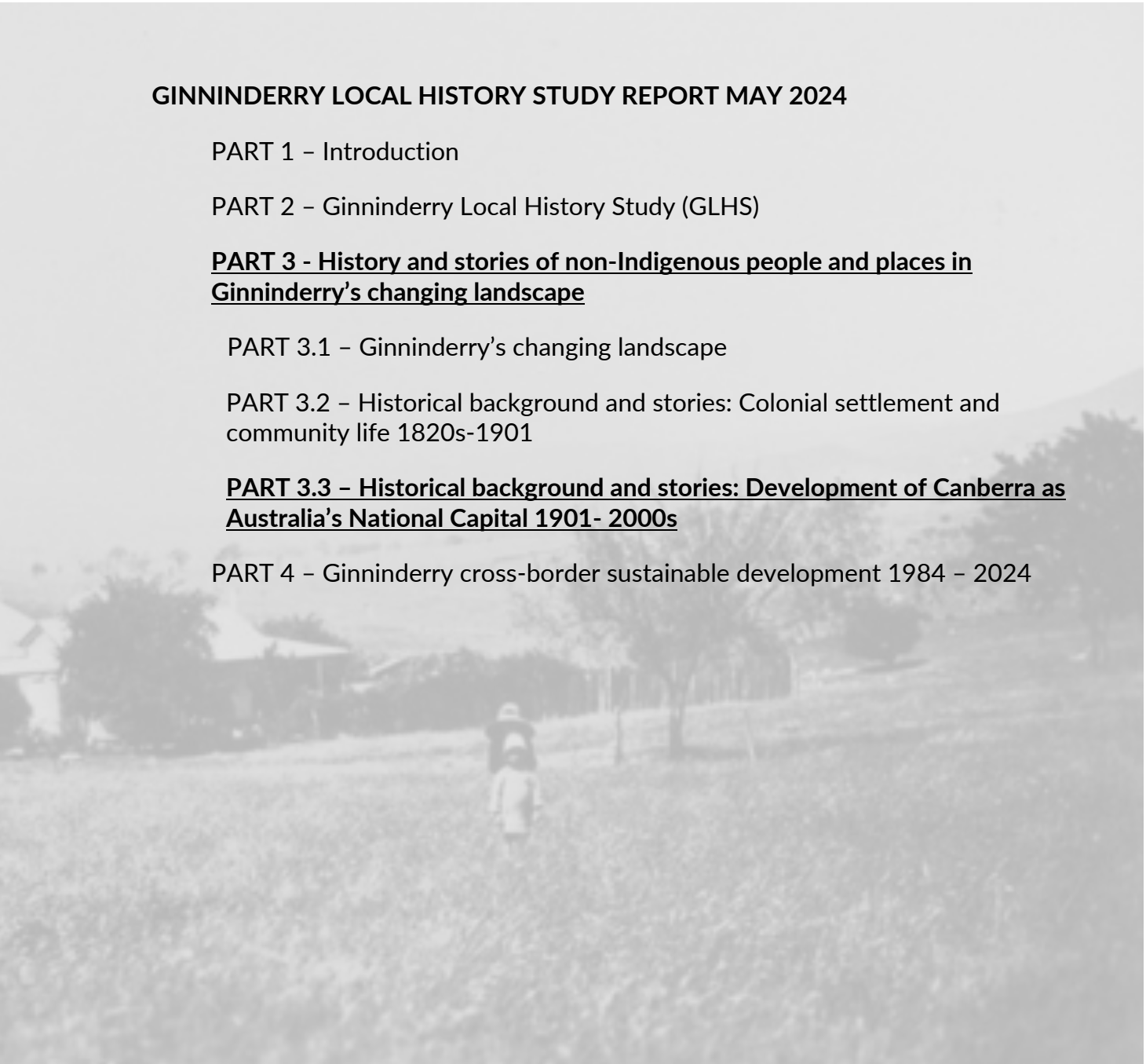
Interpretation for sustainable development

STORIES AND HISTORIES OF NON-INDIGENOUS GINNINDERRY PEOPLE AND PLACES

PART 3.3

DR MARY HUTCHISON



GINNINDERRY LOCAL HISTORY STUDY REPORT MAY 2024

PART 1 – Introduction

PART 2 – Ginninderry Local History Study (GLHS)

PART 3 - History and stories of non-Indigenous people and places in Ginninderry's changing landscape

PART 3.1 – Ginninderry's changing landscape

PART 3.2 – Historical background and stories: Colonial settlement and community life 1820s-1901

PART 3.3 – Historical background and stories: Development of Canberra as Australia's National Capital 1901- 2000s

PART 4 – Ginninderry cross-border sustainable development 1984 – 2024

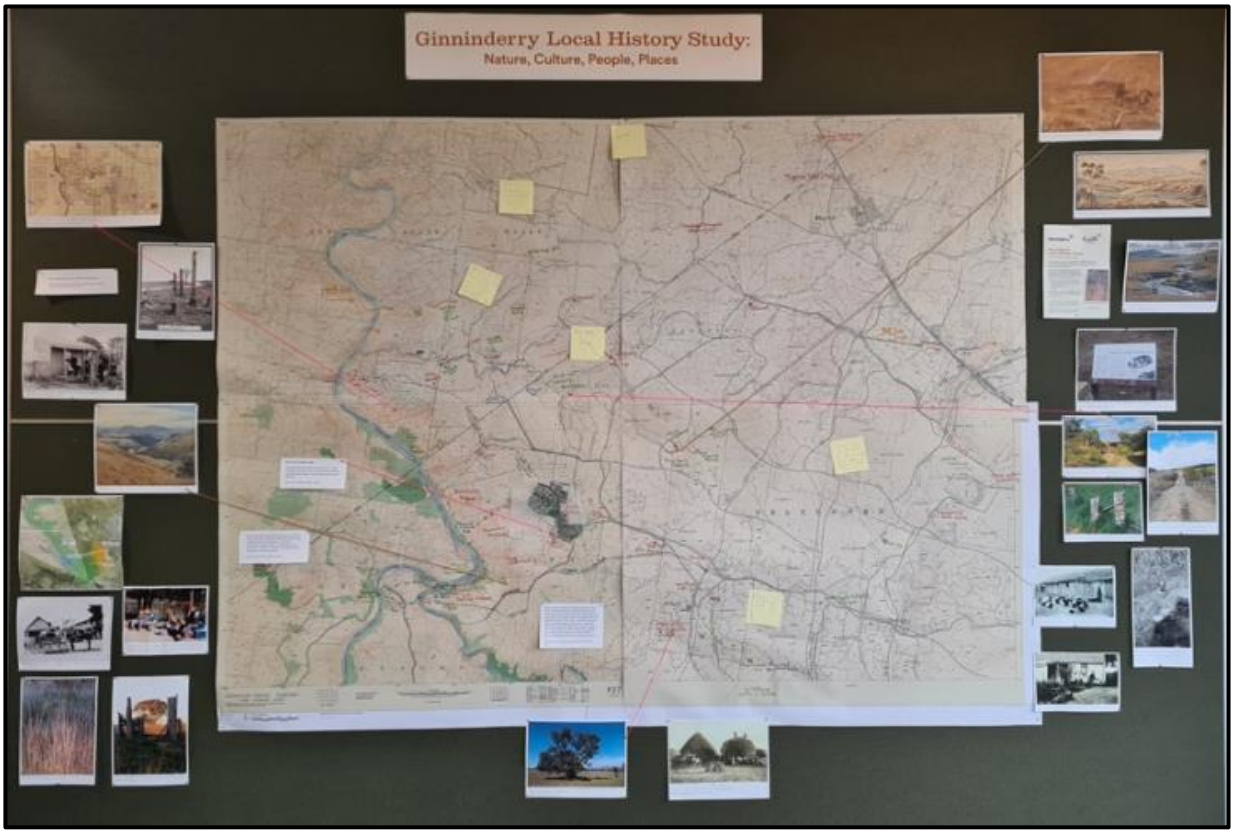
Cover page image: Belconnen Farm looking south. c.1928. Jean and Bob Shepherd in foreground with the house on the left. From the photo album prepared by the late Jean McLennan for her son Stewart. Courtesy: Stewart McLennan

Following page, Acknowledgement of Country image: Murrumbidgee River and landscape from Shepherds lookout. Photo: Ginninderry

Acknowledgement of Country

Ginninderry proudly acknowledges Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water on which we rely. We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities to Australian life and how this enriches us. We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards the equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice.





Ginninderry Local History Study, GLHS Story Map, The Link, June 2020. Photo: Tulitha King.

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Recommended non-Indigenous interpretation location index

The historical information in this report provides context and stories relevant to the GLHS 'blueprint' report, *Stories of Ginninderry Places: Recommended non-Indigenous interpretation locations* (Hutchison & Skitmore, 2021). An index to information concerning these locations is provided in the preliminary pages of each Part. The locations are mapped in Figure 3-1. Most are referred to in Parts 3.2 and 3-3.

Recommended Interpretation Hubs:

Strathnairn Homestead Interpretation Hub, 2, 115, 117, 118, 120, 129

Belconnen Farm heritage Interpretation Hub, 2, 4, 9, 10, 17, 19, 20, 27, 34-38, 47, 48, 61-63, 71-74, 76, 80, 84, 88, 99, 129, 135, 150

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Part 3 History and stories of non-Indigenous people and places in Ginninderry's changing landscape

Overview

Part 3 concerns the history of non-Indigenous people and places in and around Ginninderry from the arrival of British colonists to ACT suburban development. In the context of wider NSW history, it documents changes in social life and uses of the land in the Ginninderry locality through the experiences of people connected with it in various ways.

To manage the large amount of material that Part 3 includes, it is further divided into Parts 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3. Part 3.1 is a brief overview of Ginninderry's wider geographical, geological and changing cultural landscape. Parts 3.2 and 3.3 respectively concern the Ginninderry locality's 19th century NSW colonial and 20th century ACT history. In these two parts, material is presented under headings and subheadings. Historical maps with overlays showing the land's changing uses and management over time, provide a graphic history of the landscape. Present-day landmarks on the maps include the Ginninderry boundary, key locations within the project area, and other relevant present-day elements. Where stories of families and individuals cross the two centuries, they appear chronologically across Parts 3.2 and 3.3. Some continue in Part 4. As well as maps, sources include oral history and other personal accounts, government and local archives, databases, and secondary sources such as local histories. It is inevitable, particularly in the colonial period, that there are gaps in information about lived experience and that what evidence can be found is often inconclusive. These may be seen as points of interest and discussion for audiences as well as opportunities for further research.

Recommended interpretation locations

The historical background, stories and images in Part 3 provide material for interpretation of recommended non-Indigenous Ginninderry places (Hutchison and Skitmore, 2021). These can be found through the index to recommended locations in the preliminary pages of each Part. In the map below, Figure 3-1, they are shown as numbered yellow circles. Roman numerals denote 'possible locations'. Four locations are identified as potential interpretation hubs. These are Cusack's Crossing Track Active Travel Hub, and three locations represented by stars which are also key landmarks within Ginninderry.

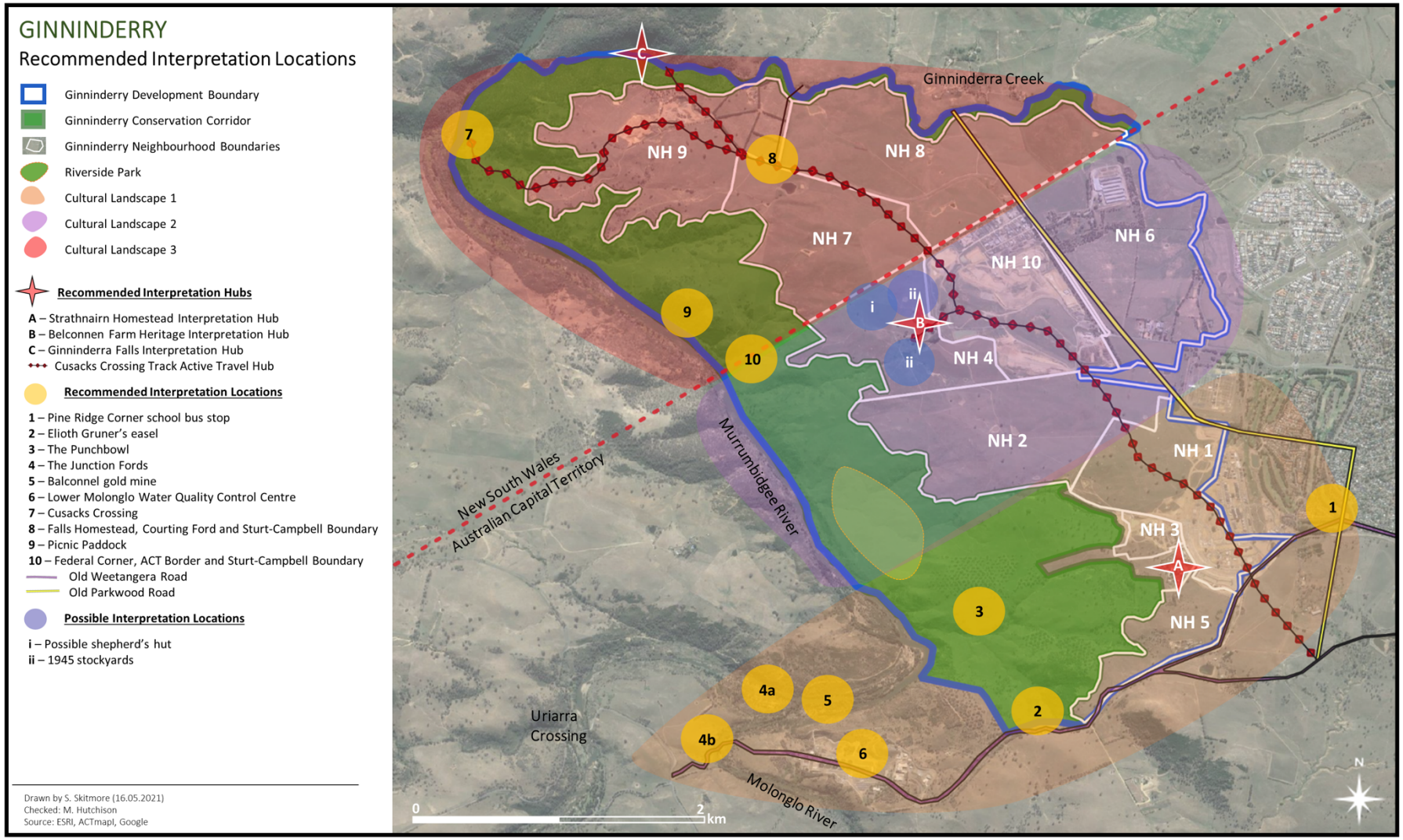


Figure 3-1 Ginninderry Local History Study 'blue print' overview of non-Indigenous interpretation locations

Part 3.3 Historical background and stories: Development of Canberra as Australia's National Capital 1901-2000s

This section charts Ginninderry's life over the 20th century from the selection of the area around the rural settlement of Canberra as the site for Australia's national capital. It covers the period from federation in 1901, when most of Ginninderry became part of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), to the expansion of ACT suburbs from near the centre of Canberra towards the Territory border[1].

The history and stories of people and places 1901-2000s focus on the impact of new land uses and management on both ACT and NSW Ginninderry community life and landscape. In this era, Ginninderry comes into focus as several rural blocks farmed as leasehold in the ACT and as freehold in NSW. Newcomers, as well as members of some of the colonial families, are part of Ginninderry's 20th century rural life in the context of the growing national capital.

Federation and establishment of the ACT 1901-1921

After successful referenda in all the Australian colonies, the Commonwealth of Australia was inaugurated on 1 January 1901. The process of determining a site for the 'seat' or capital of the new Government, as stipulated in the Constitution (Figure 3-2), took place over the next ten years.

> The seat of Government of the Commonwealth shall be determined by the Parliament, and shall be within territory which shall have been granted to or acquired by the Commonwealth, and shall be vested in and belong to the Commonwealth, and shall be in the State of New South Wales, and be distant not less than one hundred miles from Sydney.
>
> Such territory shall contain an area of not less than one hundred square miles, and such portion thereof as shall consist of Crown lands shall be granted to the Commonwealth without any payment therefor.
>
> The Parliament shall sit at Melbourne until it meet at the seat of Government.
>
> (The Australian Constitution, Chapter VII, Miscellaneous,125. Seat of Government)

Figure 3-2. Excerpt from the original 1901 Australian Constitution
https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Senate/Powers_practice_n_procedures/Constitution/chapter7

[1] For further research see Ted Ling's comprehensive research guide to records about the ACT held in Archives ACT and the National Archives of Australia (2013).

Long contention between sites for the capital was resolved with the selection of the 'Yass-Canberra' district in 1908 (Gillespie, 1991, p. 245). The following year, NSW District Surveyor, Charles Scrivener, was seconded to the Federal Government to carry out initial surveys of the district to identify the exact site for the capital. His work led to agreement 'on lands comprised in Duntroon and adjoining holdings'(Gillespie, p. 246). Scrivener's contour survey and definition for the boundaries of the wider area of land to become the 'territory' of the capital, was modified and agreed by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments in October 1909 (Gillespie p. 246).

The framework for managing the new territory was finalised in The Seat of Government (Administration) Act (1910), and maps recording colonial land administration and ownership were revised. On 1 January 1911, 2,360 square kilometres of NSW land, including most of Ginninderry, became the Australian Capital Territory – known as the Federal Capital Territory until 1938 (Gillespie, 1991, pp. 246-248; National Capital Authority online). Figure 3-3 shows Ginninderry within Weetangera Parish in the county of Murray after the official declaration of the ACT. The border leaves a small portion of both Ginninderry and the Parish in New South Wales. An Indicative Ginninderry development boundary is shown in red. Belconnen Station is highlighted in yellow.



Figure 3-3. Ginninderry, after the finalisation of the ACT/NSW border, c. 1912. County of Murray, Parish of Weetangera, Sheet reference 1, Edition 2, HLVR (13891901.jp2).

Defining the ACT-NSW border: the straight line through Ginninderry

Once the site for the Federal Capital and its Territory was finalised Scrivener was appointed as Director of Commonwealth Lands and Surveys which included managing detailed border and contour surveys of the new capital territory. For this work he established three surveying teams. Each was led by a surveyor and included local residents familiar with the terrain as axemen and chainmen as well as guides. Percy Sheaffe was one of the first surveyors to arrive. His work started in June 1910 with the straight line section between Mt Coree and One Tree Hill which passes through present day Ginninderry (Birtles, 2013, pp. 131-134; Higgins, 2018, online). It is now part of the border named the Sheaffe Line (see Figure 3-4).

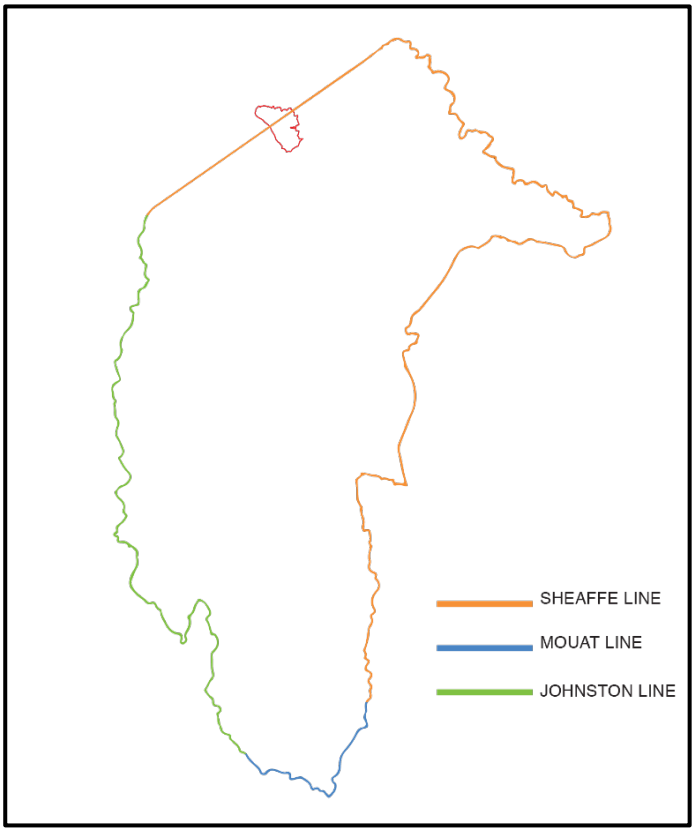


Figure 3-4. The Sheaffe Line. Public Place Names (Australian Capital Territory) Determination 21 April 2010 (No. 1), p. 3.

Percy Sheaffe's work from the heights of Mt Coree with a small team working in rugged conditions over long periods of time was typical of the difficulties encountered on the border survey.

> *In places the country was so rough that the party carrying out the survey had to crawl on all fours, measure over precipices, and descend in one mile about 1500 feet* (Percy Sheaffe in Higgins, 2018, online).

The surveyors' field books also provide a graphic example of the terrain and the work of the surveying teams. As a valuable record of the creation of Australia's national capital, they were accepted for listing in UNESCO's Australian Memory of the World Register in April 2023. Figure 3-5 from field book A69 is Percy Sheaffe's survey map of the first length of the straight-line border. It shows the beginning of their descent from the top of Mount Coree in June 1910. The central column of the map shows the first six tally points of the survey in which the team covered 1.2 kms of precipitous and often rocky terrain.

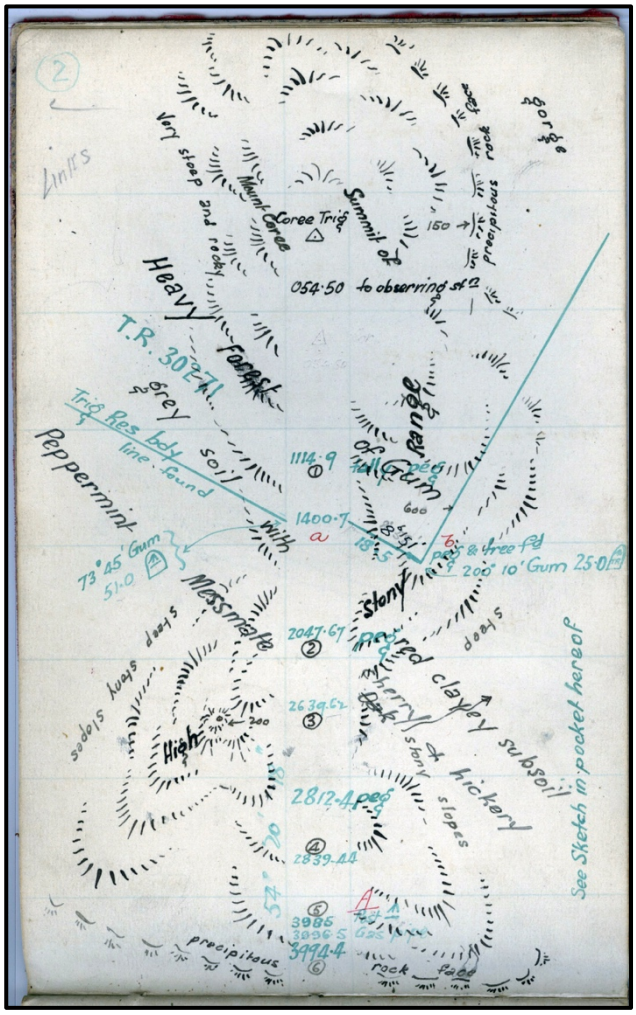


Figure 3-5. Border survey map showing the first part of the descent from Mt Coree in June 1910. Excerpt from Field Book A69.

Sheaffe's Coree to One Tree Hill field book number A71 records Ginninderry's eight-kilometre section of the border. Figure 3-6 shows the survey team's progress along the border between the Murrumbidgee River and Ginninderra Creek. In the overview map (b), the numbers 1-6 correspond with the approximate location of each numbered page from the field book. The maps marked 1-6, graphically record the landscape encountered by the surveying team.

Map 1 shows the western side of the Murrumbidgee and the stony spur the team traversed down to the river. On the Ginninderry side, they started in the southern-most region of J.K. Kilby's Portion 74 as shown in map 2. This was the moment that J.K. lost a small corner of his property which he subsequently named Federal Corner. Maps 3-6 describe the country as they moved north-east to Ginninderra Creek through Kilby's north and north-east portions to Belconnen Station. Map 3 records a 'house' the surveyors located – Belconnen Station overseers' cottage. Map 5 notes 'res road, 100 wide' – the 1886 Parkwood Road. Other notes on the maps identify further elements of the land, including vegetation and typical aspects of the early 20th century pastoral landscape.

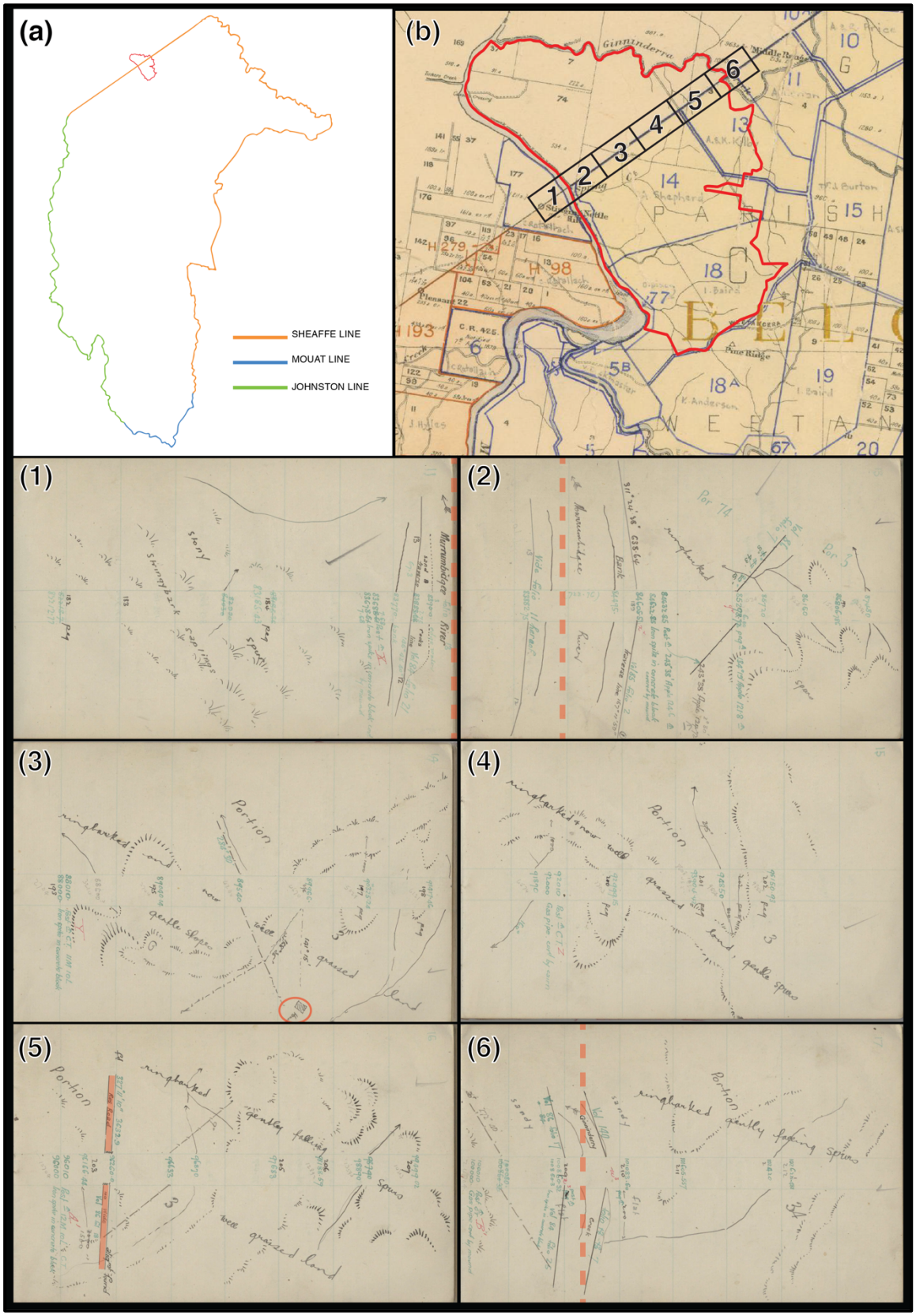


Figure 3-6. Survey map of Ginninderry's section of the border, Field Book A71, pp. 11-17 with overview maps (A and B). A is the border with the Sheaffe Line and Ginninderry's location on it. B shows the location of Ginninderry as a red line on the 1940 Rural Leaseholders map (Archives ACT TL256). The numbers along the border in B are associated with the approximate location of each numbered page from the field book (Images 1-6). Red dashed line in Image 1, 2 and 6 identifies the Ginninderry Development boundary.

Ginninderry was also the site of one of many incidents highlighting the hazards of the entire border survey. It took place on the Murrumbidgee River at the lowest point of the straight line where Sheaffe's surveying team had set up camp. It was June and the Murrumbidgee was flowing rapidly. As a place for having a wash it was probably no more dangerous than the daily survey work. Terry Birtles tells the story of the ensuing event recorded in Sheaffe's papers held in the National Archives of Australia. Figure 3-7 shows an indicative location of their camp on the Murrumbidgee, adjacent to the western boundary of Ginninderry along the ACT/NSW Border as shown in Field Book A71.

> *On 23 June,1910, during ablutions, one of Sheaffe's four-man team slipped into the swollen Murrumbidgee River below Uriarra Crossing on Belconnen Station, to be carried swiftly downstream. Sheaffe stripped off his clothes and dived to the rescue into freezing cold water to find his mate paralysed with cold and unable to move. Sheaffe dragged him out and restored circulation, but the two naked men were compelled to walk 8 km back to camp which they reached with cut and bruised feet* (Birtles, 2013, p. 134).

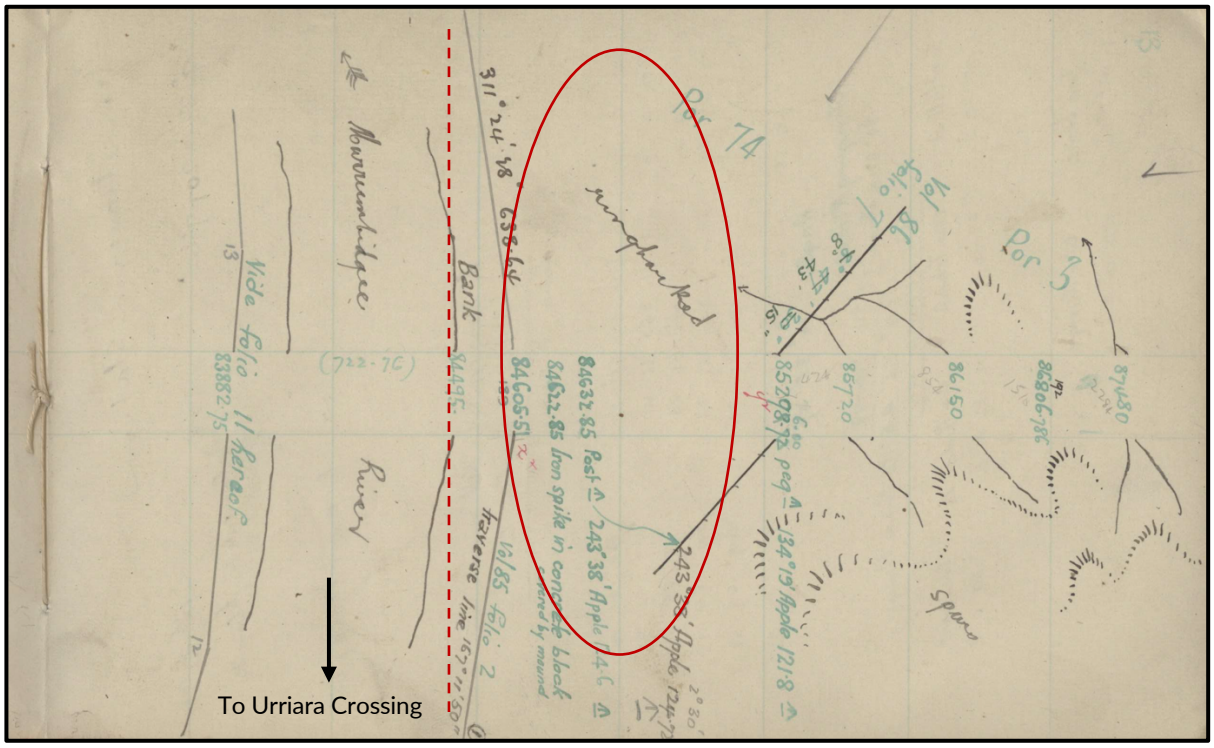


Figure 3-7. Excerpt of page 13 from Field Book A71. The red dashed line indicates the indicative boundary of Ginninderry, and the red circle identifies the possible location of the survey camp based on Birtles' description. The drawing also shows the Murrumbidgee River, a fenceline (straight line), water courses flowing into the Murrumbidgee River (converging lines with arrows identifying water flow direction), portion 74 of The Falls property and a spur that runs up to the north-east away from the river.

The straight line border in retrospect

Scrivener's decision to draw a straight line between Coree and One Tree Hill trigs is an anomaly in the border which elsewhere follows the contours and natural features of the land and pays particular attention to water supply. At the north-western end of the ACT it resulted in the final downstream section of the Ginninderra Creek being left in NSW along with the relatively small northern part of the old Weetangera parish which included J.K. Kilby's property The Falls (formerly a village and water reserve), and the northern section of Belconnen Station.

CBRE Planning's report for Riverview Projects' Ginninderry development in 2009 assessed Scrivener as 'incorrect' in assuming that the straight line would not impact on water management. Not to contradict that assessment, Matthew Higgins' research suggests how the decision on the straight line came about in the context of its impact on the critical supply of water from the Cotter catchment. Given the size of the territory that Scrivener had to mark out, he could not do it all physically and had to rely on existing maps of parishes and landholdings. Due to lack of resources the maps sometimes included inaccuracies. Higgins discovered that the parish map of Uriarra at the time inaccurately indicated that Coree Creek could be incorporated within the straight line. The impact on the Ginninderra catchment followed (Coleman, 4/10/22, online).

In a new era, Ginninderry's cross-border development has reinstated Ginninderra Creek as a boundary. In doing so it has opened the advantage of the natural terrain and water supply and also reconnected the historical parish of Weetangera. As a result, Ginninderra Falls, the village reserve and The Falls property, the alignment of Belconnen Station's western land boundary, and remnants of the 1830s section of the track to Cusack's Crossing are part of Ginninderry's historical landscape.

Impact of Commonwealth management on the ACT rural community

With the transfer of NSW land to the Commonwealth, residents of the new capital territory were also transferred to management by the Commonwealth under the Seat of Government (Administration) Act (1910). In some ways, little changed. The Act provided for the continuation of many NSW laws as well as enabling supplementary ordinances to be made by the Commonwealth Parliament (Gibbney, 1988, p. 2). But there were two exceptions to this almost business-as-usual approach. One concerned ACT residents' position as citizens. They were no longer part of the NSW system of representative government and were seen as too few to warrant local representation in the Federal Government. As a result, in 1911, they lost the right to direct representation – an issue that took the rest of the century to resolve (Gillespie, 1991, p. 266; Brown; 2014, p. 44). Initially the Federal Member of Parliament for Eden-Monaro, Austin Chapman, kept relevant ministers in touch with ACT concerns (Gibbney, p. 4).

The other main impact, and most troublesome for many ACT landowners, was the management of their land. The Seat of Government Act (1910) confirmed the intention that ACT land would not continue to exist as freehold. Over time and, as necessary for the construction of the Capital, the Commonwealth

would buy properties and either use the land immediately or lease it until required. Many parliamentarians understood this as the most economical, consistent and equitable way of compensating landowners and funding the Capital (Gibbney, 1988, pp. 2-4; Brown, 2014, pp. 43-44). In the words of the first Federal Prime Minister Edmund Barton:

> *… ownership will be retained in the Commonwealth. The land will be let for considerable terms but with periodic reappraisal so that the revenues thus obtained will assist in the cost of creating the Commonwealth Capital.* (Brown, p. 43).

In the following years, poor compensation for resumption and unfair leasehold arrangements became familiar themes. Many freeholders, pastoralists and small holders alike, saw leasehold subject to government regulations and without a clear timeframe as no alternative to independent freehold. Some sold their land and moved away before the ACT was transferred to the Commonwealth Government. Another exodus began after 1911 when the Government started acquiring land and as the realities of a compensation rate set at 1908 land prices and uncertain period of tenure became apparent (Gibbney, 1988, p. 4).

In early 1911, with the unofficial support of Austin Chapman MP, ACT landowners formed the Federal Territory Vigilance Association to protect their interests (Gibbney, 1988, p. 4). As well as the issue of inadequate compensation, there were other problems to resolve such as farms becoming unviable because they included blocks on both sides of the border. Although some farmers like Edmund Rolfe eventually won adequate compensation on this basis, the Government generally maintained its position (McDonald, 2019, online). After the failure of the Vigilance Association's representation of landowners' grievances to Federal Parliament in 1913, landowners gave up on direct political action, preferring to take acquisition issues to delegated officers posted to the local ACT administration centre established at Acton (Gibbney, 1988, pp. 4-5)[2].

The first acquisitions were properties north and south of the Molonglo River designated for Government establishments. The old Canberry holding, by this time known as Acton, was the first of these. The owner, J. Jeffreys, made an attempt to negotiate the sale of the entire property with the Government but was unsuccessful (Gillespie, 1991, p. 266). In the same year, the sale of Duntroon, already identified as an ideal site for the Commonwealth Military College, was completed. In 1912, Frederick Campbell's Yarralumla also became Commonwealth property (Gibbney, 1988, p. 4-5; Gillespie, p. 272).

[2] For further details of the Vigilance Association's activities, see Maher and Wood, 'Title Fights', Journal no. 62 2009, Canberra and District Historical Society. https://www.canberrahistory.org.au/resource/21522/title-fights-jeremiah-keeffe-federal-capital.html

Managing the ACT: Colonel David Miller and the Acton administration centre

Under the Seat of Government Act, the Department of Home Affairs was responsible for the development of the capital. The Department included Lands and Surveys and Works branches, responsible respectively for the acquisition and management of ACT land and building the capital. The key players in Home Affairs were Minister, King O'Malley, and Departmental Secretary, Colonel David Miller. Miller had been the Secretary of Home Affairs since federation in 1901. In 1909 he authored a preliminary plan for establishing the capital (Gibbney, 1988, p. 7). O'Mallley was appointed to Home Affairs, and leader of the development of the Capital in 1910. He was an American/Canadian with an interest in social reform. Until he won a Tasmanian seat in the Federal Parliament he had been a successful insurance salesman. He was a firm supporter of the land acquisition program, and of the Capital. In Canberra history he is famous for including measures to prohibit alcohol in the first ordinance concerning ACT governance (Hoyle, 2006, online; Gibbney, 1988, p. 2). Miller's achievement in relation to the capital was initiating and managing its early administration. He is a significant and interesting character in the early years of the ACT and had a specific connection with the land that became Ginninderry (see below 'Ginninderry's first leaseholder', p. 130).

The first work to establish the ACT took place in Melbourne where the Federal Parliament and government offices were located before Canberra was developed. In 1911, Miller recommended the newly acquired Acton Farm as an on-site centre of ACT Administration. Acton began with the establishment of a workers' camp and the erection of tents and moveable weatherboard buildings as offices and domestic accommodation for essential staff. Foremost amongst these were Charles Scrivener and his surveying team who had been carrying out their work from a base camp near Capital Hill from 1910 (Gibbney, 1988, p. 1). The Lands and Surveys Branch, directed by Scrivener until 1914, moved into the first office accommodation available in August 1912. Offices were also provided for the smaller Works and Accounts branches (Gibbney, 1988,p. 5-7).

At much the same time Miller was appointed 'resident administrator'. It seems likely that this was a position he created for himself. It included a special allowance, rather than a salary, and he held it alongside his salaried role as Secretary of Home Affairs. His chief clerk remained in Melbourne as Acting Secretary (Gibbney, 1988, p. 7). At Acton he continued his role in acquisition of land and the development of Canberra, as well as overseeing developments at Acton. 'Married cottages' were built for staff with families ('bachelors' were accommodated in the tents.) The 1823 Acton Homestead became Acton House and the home of the Scrivener family. Colonel Miller and his family were initially accommodated in one of the four 'married cottages'. In 1913 a new residence was built for him. It was designed by the architect John Murdoch and known as 'The Residency' (Gibbney, 1988, pp. 5-7).

The differences between O'Malley, the flamboyant reformist, and Miller, the military man, increasingly affected their working relationship, particularly after the Government's acceptance of Walter Burley and

Marion Mahoney Griffin's design for Canberra. During Griffin's controversial tenure as director of Federal Capital design and construction, O'Malley was a staunch supporter. Miller, most definitely, was not. As a result, he lost his capacity to influence Canberra's design and construction and eventually resigned in 1917 (Gibbney, 1988, pp. 24-43). The Residency continued to serve as accommodation for dignitaries and those in the upper echelons of the public service. Later it became 'Canberra House' and today is part of the Australian National University.

Proposed Mountain Lake 1913: From Ginninderry to Central Canberra by steamer

> … *full-rounded life associated with unlimited water facilities.* (A.J. Macdonald, 1944 in Firth, p. 18*).*

One of the many elements of the Griffins' much debated plan for the capital left until another era was a large ornamental lake which finally came into being as Lake Burley Griffin in 1965. There was also another long-lasting suggestion for a lake for Canberra on the drawing board in the first stages of wrangling the design. This one combined the tourist value of Canberra's famed mountain scenery with contemporary government interest in constructing dams for water conservation[3]. Victorian architect and town planner, A.J. Macdonald, envisaged a 'mountain lake' on the ACT/NSW border which would provide access by steamboat to Canberra through connecting weirs along the Molonglo. Ginninderry's place in this scheme is shown in red in Figure 3-8.

[3] For example, Burrinjuck Dam on the Murrumbidgee river near Yass, was a major 1907-1928 project undertaken by the NSW Government.

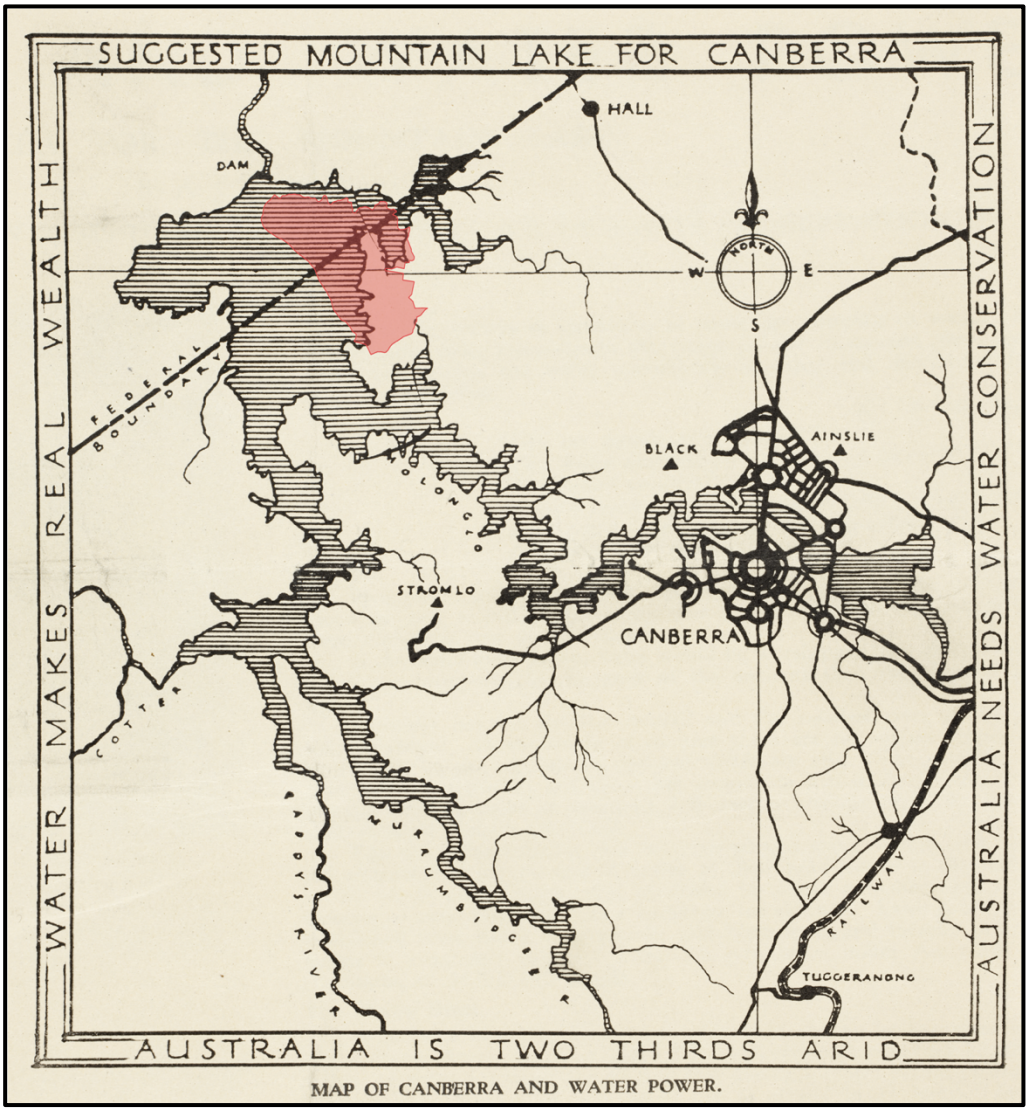


Figure 3-8. A.J. Macdonald's 1944 drawing of his 'suggested Mountain Lake for Canberra' in A.J. Macdonald, 'Canberra and Water Power (Lakes Scheme)', NAA A431 1948/37 item i.d. 68760.

Macdonald had a direct professional connection with the design of Canberra. He had submitted a city plan to the Canberra design competition and later worked in Griffin's Melbourne Office. In 1915, Griffin suggested Macdonald's lake as a proposal for the future to a Public Works Committee inquiry into the construction of the Canberra sewer. However, the Chair of the committee was concerned about the extent of Canberra that the lake would cover and about finances in the context of wartime. The proposal did not proceed. For MacDonald however, the lake remained a live proposition. Towards the end of the Second World War, in 1944, he proposed his scheme again – this time to the then Coordinator of General Works in Canberra.

> *This lake would extend 50 miles through rugged gorge and mountain scenery making available directly by steamers from the heart of the capital several hundred miles of deep water frontage and an infinitude of water view sites, establishing not only a continental attraction scarcely if at all to be matched in the world, but contributing to the capital territory the one climatic amelioration and elemental feature needed to raise mere existence there on dry land to full-rounded life associated with unlimited water facilities* (Macdonald, 1944, in Firth, 2013, p. 18).

One of the difficulties with MacDonald's plan in the 1940s was its cross-border nature as the dam itself would be in NSW. There was to be no mountain lake. The file was closed in 1946 (Firth, 2013, pp. 16-19).

The First World War in the ACT: 1914-1918

Impact on ACT Administration

The dust of the dramatic changes to land ownership in the ACT had barely settled when Australia became involved in the First World War in 1914. By 1916, the diversion of funds and person-power from Canberra to the war effort had reduced the just accelerating development process to a holding pattern of basic maintenance and management. The Canberra responsibilities of the Department of Home Affairs were split between two departments: the Department of Works and Railways (construction) and the new Department of Home and Territories (administration). Lands and Surveys came under Home and Territories headed by Scrivener's successor, John (J.T.H.) Goodwin. The senior Lands officer at Acton was the District Surveyor, Percy Sheaffe. Land management continued at maintenance level (Gibbney, 1988, p. 48; 273-74; 56; Birtles, 2013, pp. 162-64).

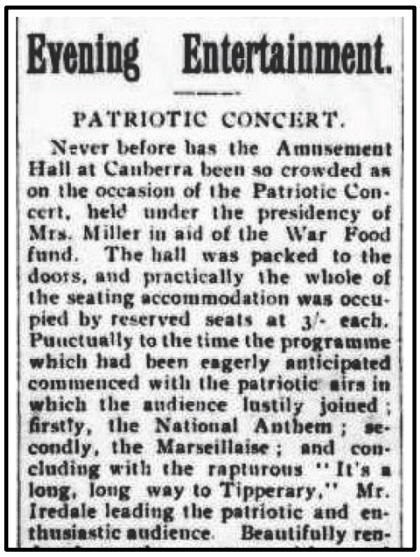
ACT Enlistment

Around 60 men enlisted from the ACT, including members of the ACT rural community and employees at the Administration Centre. Workers living in the construction camps generally enlisted from their home locations. Wartime training for the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) increased the population of officers and soldiers at the Duntroon Military College and enlivened ACT social activities (Gibbney, 1988, p. 45).

Homefront activities: Early ACT social life

Homefront activities supporting soldiers and the war effort give a glimpse of early ACT social life, including interactions between urban and rural communities. High Society events involved the Administrator, Colonel Miller and his family, along with the families of the Commandant of Duntroon, Duntroon officers and Military College staff; the public servants who remained at Acton, and local pastoral families (Gibbney, 1988, p. 44-49). The Canberra Patriotic Fund held one of the first of these

events. It was initiated and managed by three women. As recorded in the *Queanbeyan Age*, they were Mrs Miller, wife of Colonel Miller, Mrs Parnell, wife of the Duntroon Commandant and Mrs Crace of Gungahlin (Figure 3-9). Their event in October 2014 took place two months after Australia's involvement in the War was announced. It included orchestral and popular music, comedy acts and a performance of the trial scene from Shakespeare's play, *Merchant of Venice* and received high praise from the *Queanbeyan Age* writer.



Evening Entertainment.

PATRIOTIC CONCERT.

Never before has the Amusement Hall at Canberra been so crowded as on the occasion of the Patriotic Concert, held under the presidency of Mrs. Miller in aid of the War Food fund. The hall was packed to the doors, and practically the whole of the seating accommodation was occupied by reserved seats at 3/- each. Punctually to the time the programme which had been eagerly anticipated commenced with the patriotic airs in which the audience lustily joined; firstly, the National Anthem; secondly, the Marseillaise; and concluding with the rapturous "It's a long, long way to Tipperary," Mr. Iredale leading the patriotic and enthusiastic audience. Beautifully ren-

Figure 3-9. Image excerpt from *Queanbeyan Age* Tuesday 20 October 'Patriotic Concert' Clip. 'Patriotic Concert' *Queanbeyan Age*, Tuesday 20 October 1914, p. 2.

> *Never before has the Amusement Hall at Canberra been so crowded as on the occasion of the Patriotic Concert held under the presidency of Mrs Miller in aid of the War Food Fund. The hall was packed to the doors … and practically the whole of the seating accommodation was occupied by reserved seats at 3 shillings each. Punctually to the time the programme which had been eagerly anticipated commenced with the patriotic airs in which the audience lustily joined; firstly the National Anthem; secondly the Marseillaise; and concluding with the rapturous 'It's a long, long way to Tipperary'.*

Other fund raising activities were organised by Canberra construction workers at their campsites, and by the farming community. In the Ginninderra district, the village of Hall became the focus of these events – often including Southwell family members as organisers. At the end of the War, Hall residents established a Presentation Committee which welcomed returning soldiers home with gifts of a watch chain and a medal (Gillespie, 1992, p. 164). At least one of these events was enlivened by the popular Duntroon Band whose members were Duntroon workers and soldiers at the Military College (Gibbney, 1988, p. 55).

Changes in the pastoral and new landowner community in and around Ginninderry 1901- 1921

By the time of Federation in 1901 the development of an independent community of small holder families had led to significant social changes in the Limestone Plains district. One was that the old hierarchy of pastoral life dominated by wealthy landowners had started to break down. The creation of the ACT furthered the process – at least within its borders. Both pastoralists and small holders were profoundly affected by the change to leasehold tenure and numbers of both groups decided to leave. However, the conversion of large tracts of pastoral land to smaller rural leasehold blocks also created space for a more flexible, opportunistic and democratic rural order (McDonald, 2019, online). In and around Ginninderry, where resumptions of pastoral property and small holdings for the ACT began in 1913 the experiences and decisions of members of some of the families discussed in Part 3.2, reflect shock and disappointment as well as resilience and determination. For those who stayed, generally small holders, a major challenge was adjustment to farming under the Commonwealth Government's land management.

Frederick Campbell: pastoralist – Belconnen Station, Yarralumla

At the time of the Commonwealth's acquisition of Duntroon in 1912, the property was held by a family trust. Of its members, Frederick Campbell, son of Charles, was the only one of the family still actively involved in pastoralism on the Limestone Plains. Frederick had managed both Duntroon and Belconnen Station for his father in the 1870s and 80s and had inherited Belconnen Station from him. In 1882, he had also purchased Yarralumla Station. With land directly across the Molonglo River from Belconnen Station, Yarralumla had been Ginninderry's earliest southern neighbour (see Part 3.2, 'West of the Murrumbidgee', and 'Pastoral changes 1960s-80s'). By the time the ACT came into being, Frederick's pastoral acquisitions had made it a vast consolidated estate that stretched from Belconnen Station to Tuggeranong and consisted of thousands of acres. Figure 3-10 shows some of its extent.

By this time, Frederick's personal life had also changed. Following the death of his first wife (Frances Wright), he married Christina (Christie) McPhee, a former Duntroon governess who had cared for his daughter. During the 1890s, they had four children and renovated the decades-old Yarralumla farmhouse so that it was larger and more comfortable. In addition, advances in surgery had made a difference to Frederick's life-long speech impediment as a result of a cleft palate (Newman, 2007, online).

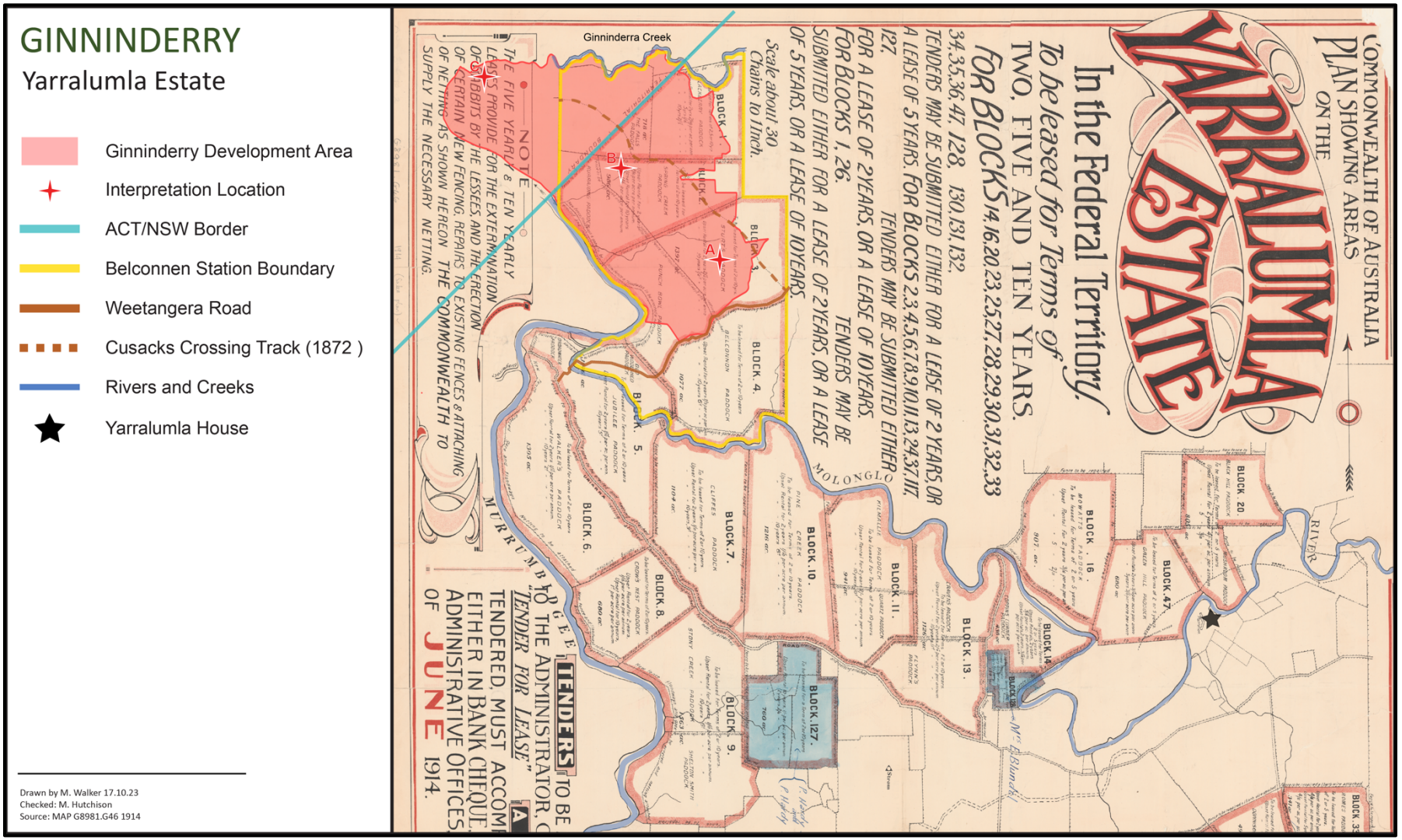


Figure 3-10. Northern portion of Yarralumla Estate. 'Plan showing areas on the Yarralumla Estate in the Federal Territory', Department of Home Affairs, Lands and Surveys Branch, 1914. National Library of Australia MAP G8981.G46 1914.

Frederick initially supported the development of Canberra but in the lead-up to acquisition he was involved, along with other landowners, in various disputes with the Government concerning his properties and various family trusts, including Duntroon. He was particularly upset about losing Belconnen Station. In a letter to Charles Scrivener at the Lands Office he expressed his wish to retain a portion of 626 acres of the Station so as not to be altogether driven 'out of my native district'. This plea apparently fell on deaf ears (Eric Martin and Associates, 2020, p. 52). Frederick and his family left Canberra immediately after the ceremony to name the city in March 1913. The family eventually settled in the Riverina (Newman, online). In Canberra, Yarralumla House remained empty until Miller's suggestion for it to be available for distinguished visitors was taken up (Gibbney, 1988, p. 48).

When the Campbell's left Yarralumla, Frederick and Christie's daughter, Kate, wrote a poem that is included in the biography of Frederick written by his grandson, R.S.C. Newman (2007, online). The following is an excerpt from the poem.

> *…They've decided at last, the suspense is all passed,*
> *The City is coming to stay;*
> *Extravagant waste is sweet to the taste*
> *Of Government we have today.*
> *The land they resume, and even presume*
> *To use it 'ere we can away;*
> *Abandon our home and indefinitely roam,*
> *Is all we can do till they pay.*

Everard Crace: pastoralist-leaseholder - Ginninderra-Gungahlin Estate

As indicated in the discussion of colonial road disputes (see Part 3.2), the ownership of the Gininnderra-Gungahlin Estate by Everard's father, Edward Crace, had increased tensions between pastoralists and the small holders who had bought their blocks under the Robertson Land Acts. Everard was much more popular.

Edward Crace's death in 1892 brought Everard's early career in London as a wool broker to a halt. He returned to Australia to help his mother, Kate Marion Crace, manage the property in the drought conditions of the 1890s. Kate, and those of her nine children who were living at home continued to live at Gungahlin House while Everard lived independently in one of the cottages on the Estate. In 1903, he married Helen Lingen (Gillespie, 1992, pp. 124-25; Hall Heritage Centre, 'Everard Gregory Crace', online).

When the ACT was established, Everard became a member of the Vigilance Committee formed by freeholders to support fair compensation for freehold land. However, the Craces' response to the resumption of their vast property in 1915 was quite different to that of Frederick Campbell and his

family. In later years, the Crace family had struggled to keep their state going and the compensation enabled Kate Crace and her unmarried daughters to move to Sydney. Everard chose to stay on as a government leaseholder of a portion of the Gungahlin property. He and his family moved from the cottage into Gungahlin House (Gillespie, 1992, p. 176). Figure 3-12 shows the location of Gungahlin House.

As a leaseholder, Everard continued to play an active role in the farming and sports associations he and his father had participated in. He also contributed to local wartime fund raising activities. In 1917 he enlisted. As he was over age he served as a battalion cook. On his return he became involved in support for returned soldiers. In this capacity he also supported ACT leasehold as a basis for soldier settlement (Gibbney, 1988, pp. 45-56). He made a successful application for an Ainslie-Majura soldier settlement block in 1919. His other community interests and responsibilities included service on local school boards and on the Yarrowlumla Shire Council. He died in 1928[4].

The Parkwood-Weetangera-Hall community: NSW and ACT

The Parkwood-Weetangera community is the Ginninderry Local History Study (GLHS) name for the small-holder community nearest Ginninderry. It developed after the 1861 Robertson Land Acts made it possible for working people to purchase small portions of land (See Part 3.2, 'The new landowner community near Ginninderry'). Many, if not all, of the owners of Weetangera parish blocks nearest the southeast boundary of Belconnen Station were members of Thomas Southwell's Methodist congregation. His property, Parkwood, on the north side of Ginninderra Creek in the Parish of Wallaroo, was the centre for worship and the site of the first Methodist church in the Ginninderra-Belconnen Station area (see Part 3.2). Parkwood was present day Ginninderry's nearest non-pastoralist property on its northern boundary. Figure 3-11 shows the south-east Weetangera Methodist community blocks nearest Ginninderry, as well as Parkwood at the opposite end of Belconnen Station (see Part 3.2, 'The new landowner community near Ginninderry').

During the 1880s, members of the second and, in some cases, third generation of the Parkwood-Weetangera community were establishing their own families and livelihoods. Some moved further afield to find land and work. Others stayed closer to home, taking up land north and north-east in Wallaroo and Ginninderra parishes. A few remained in Weetangera on their family properties. As documented in Part 3.2, Ginninderry's new landowner, James (J.K.) Kilby moved to the northern end of Weetangera Parish (Ginninderra Creek) when he purchased the land of the former village reserve within Ginninderry in 1895 (Figure 3-11). Many of those who stayed around Weetangera-Parkwood married within the community and remained staunch members of the Methodist congregation.

[4]Hall Heritage Centre's Rediscovering Ginninderra data base includes detailed entries for Edward, Kate and Everard Crace

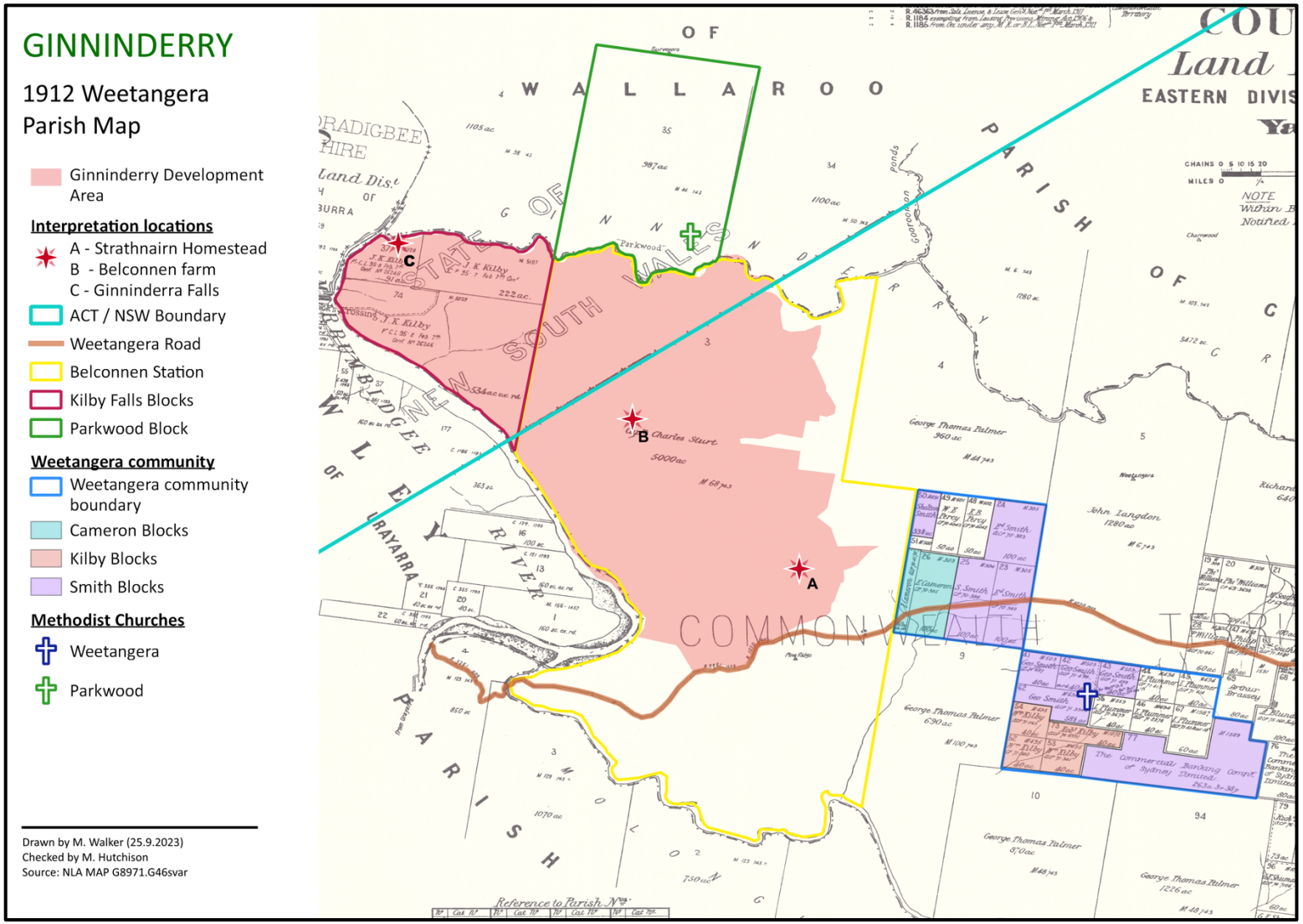


Figure 3-11. Parkwood-Weetangera community 1870s -1880s. 'Parish of Weetangera, County of Murray', Department of Lands, Sydney, N.S.W. 1912. National Library of Australia MAP G8971. G46svar

With the creation of the ACT, members of the closely connected Southwell, Kilby, Smith and Cameron families, identified in Figure 3-11, became residents of either NSW or the ACT – with the Weetangera families being in the ACT. Ultimately however, the rural village of Hall, which remained in the ACT, became a centre of rural community life for both.

Southwell, Smith and Kilby families: NSW and Hall ACT

By the beginning of the 1900s, several of Thomas Southwell's sons and daughters, three of whom had married into Edward and Mary Smith's family, were raising their own families on properties in the vicinity of Parkwood. Figure 3-12 indicates their locations. Samson and Samuel Southwell were near One Tree Hill; James Southwell was at Heywood; and Richard Southwell, married to Amelia Smith, was at Brooklands. John Southwell, married to Louisa Smith and known for his leading role in the 1880s' road disputes (see Part 3.2, 'Parkwood-Weetangera roadway disputes'), held the Rose Hill property. Jane Southwell, married to Ellis Smith, was at Woodgrove. In the tradition of their parents, these families played an important role in establishing a nearby Methodist Church which they named Wattle Park. They were also early purchasers of town blocks in Hall and contributed significantly to the development of local business, civic and recreational activities (Gillespie, 1988, pp. 21-41; Gillespie, 1992, pp. 129-138).

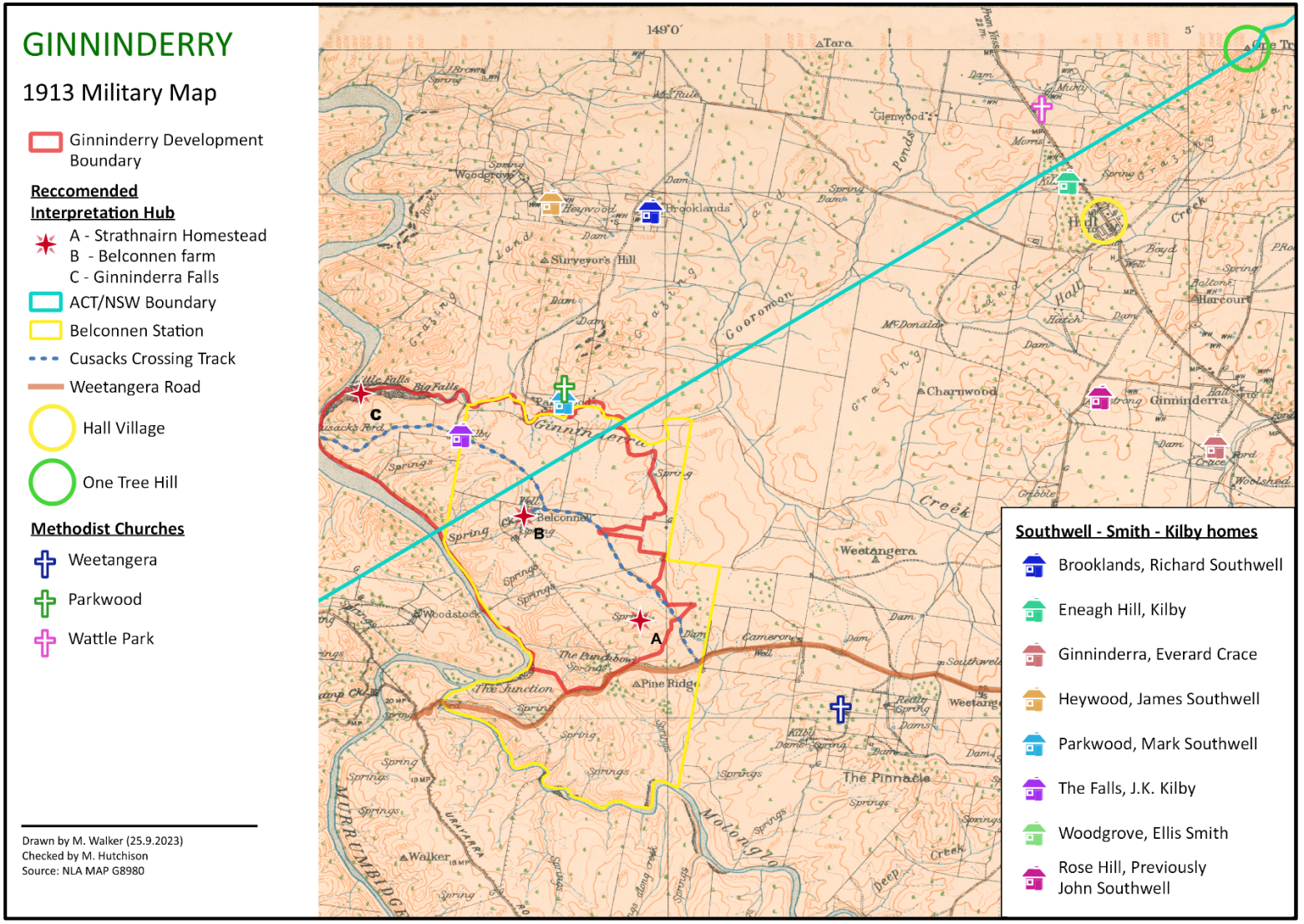


Figure 3-12 Southwell-Smith-Kilby family properties in the vicinity of Parkwood that remained within NSW, including The Falls, within Ginninderry. Overlay on detail of 1913 Military Survey of Australia, Canberra. Great Britain: War Office, Commonwealth Section (Sydney: Department of Lands,1914) NLA MAP G8980 1913

James and Beatrice Kilby (Southwell) family

J.K. Kilby's marriage to Beatrice Southwell in 1897, held at the Parkwood Methodist Church, was the first to connect the Kilby and Thomas Southwell families (see Part 3.2, 'Ginninderry's new land owner'). Their first five children were born at The Falls (Figure 3-12). Wattle Park Methodist Church was a central part of the family's life. Beatrice, who had learned music while at school in Queanbeyan, had become Wattle Park's first organist in 1882, when she was 14 years of age. James was a member of the choir, taught Sunday School and for many years was the Church's treasurer (Gillespie, 1988, p. 40; Kilby, 2013, p. 37).



Figure 3-13. Cattle yard at The Falls before the 1905 fire. Courtesy Wesley Kilby. Enhancement: Tim Brook.

On New Year's Day 1905, a bushfire all but destroyed The Falls. With James away fighting the fire on another front when it approached the house Beatrice gathered the children and escaped in the family buggy with the help of someone passing by. Later, James and his brother Sidney managed to save the house, but there was little else left on the property. James and Beatrice decided to move the family closer to Hall but kept The Falls. They made their new home on a small property known as Eneagh Hill and established a successful butchery in the village (Kilby, 2013, p. 37). Over the next few years, they had three more children and James became one of the main players in a campaign for a local primary school which opened in 1911. All the children attended the school and as adults continued to participate in the Wattle Park congregation and local activities (Kilby, 2013, pp. 37-38; Gillespie, 1988, p. 40). The

location of Eneagh Hill is shown in Figure 3-12 and Figure 3-14. Wattle Park Church is identified in Figure 3-12 and the school in Figure 3-14.

The 1905 fire also had a significant impact on Parkwood, by that time owned by Beatrice's brother, Mark Southwell. He also had decided to leave and sold Parkwood to Edwin Davis. In 1910, Davis sold Parkwood to James Kilby who amalgamated it with The Falls, thus bringing Parkwood more closely into Ginninderry history (Gillespie, 1988, p. 38).

A number of the names on the 1912 map of Hall (Figure 3-14) are those of members of the extended Southwell, Kilby and Smith families. One who joined them late in life was James Kilby's widowed great aunt, Mary Smith, and mother of Louisa, Amelia and Ellis. In her old age Mary was cared for by her daughter Amelia at Ottocliffe in Hall, and Louisa at Brooklands (Figure 3-12 and Figure 3-14). She died at Brooklands in 1907. Her funeral was held at the Weetangera Methodist Church and she was buried beside her husband Edward in the cemetery. Her coffin was carried by six of her grand-daughters (Eyeington, c. 1990, p. 8).

In 1911, with the formalisation of the ACT, the Parkwood-Weetangera Hall community also became a cross-border community when Hall became part of the ACT. There was a flurry of concern in the village about the resumption of freehold town lots but, as it turned out, village residents did not have to engage with leasehold regulations until the 1970s. The only marked change was that the Hall Progress Association had to lobby for amenities from the ACT Administration (Gillespie, 1992, pp. 129-140; Sparke, 1988, p. 196). James Kilby lost a small corner of The Falls in the path of the border – from that time known by the family as 'Federal Corner' (Wesley Kilby, GLHS conversation, 9/12/2023).

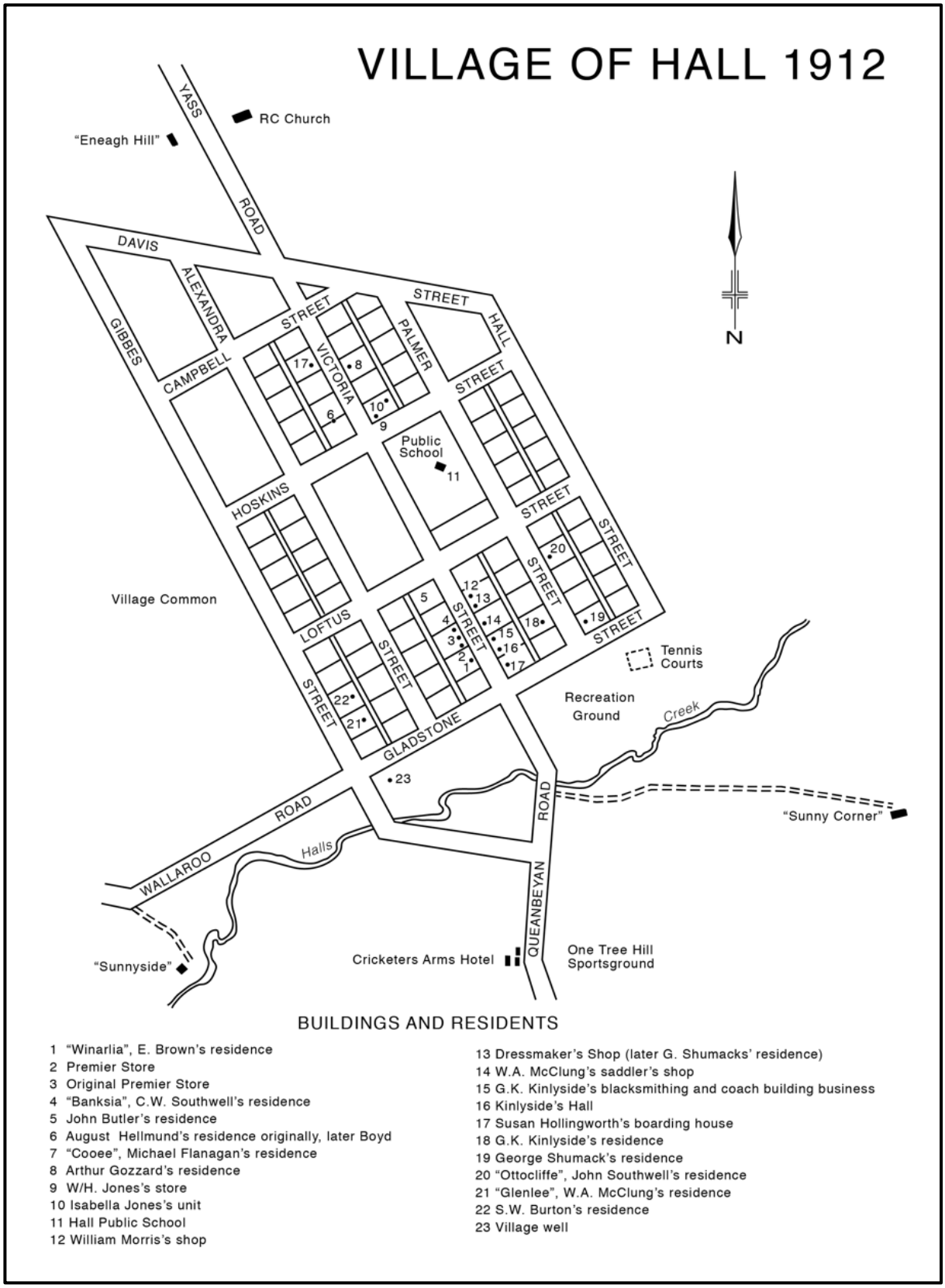


Figure 3-14. Map of blocks and residents of Hall in 1912 (Gillespie, 1992, p. 134). Hall Heritage Centre. Reproduction permission from Neil Gillespie.

Kilby, Smith and Cameron families: Weetangera, ACT

Well before their selection of properties in Weetangera in the early 1870s, strong connections had been made between the Smith, Kilby and Cameron families. The initial tie was the marriage of Mary Kilby to Edward Smith before they migrated to Australia. Later, when Mary's brother William and nephew Robert had arrived in NSW, further bonds were made through work at Duntroon and Ginninderra Estate; membership of the Methodist congregation and, in the next generation, through the marriage of Edward and Mary's daughter, Annie, to Ewan Cameron. Robert Kilby and Ewan Cameron also shared ties to St Ninian's Presbyterian church[5]. As Figure 3-15 shows, Edward Smith and his sons held several of the portions nearest to Ginninderry as well as others next to the Kilby blocks that formed Lands End, including the Methodist Church block. Ewan Cameron's single block was Block 26 between the boundary of Belconnen Station and a Smith block. Edward and Mary Smith's homestead, Weetangera House, was on Block 23 next to the Weetangera Road (see Part 3.2, 'Ginninderry's new south-eastern neighbours').

Most of the second Smith generation moved away from Weetangera. In 1881, Annie and Ewan Cameron and their nine children left when Ewan's work as a teacher took him to Gundaroo and later Murrumburrah. Evan Cameron, the eldest of the Cameron siblings (born 1868), and the only one interested in farming, returned to farm the Cameron family block in the mid-1880s and also contributed to his grandfather's farm enterprises. When Edward Smith died in 1888, his property passed to his daughter Annie, Evan's mother. It seems that Evan then took responsibility for farming what was now his mother's land, as well as the Cameron block. In 1896, when Ewan died, Annie returned to live in the Smith homestead. Her return revitalised Weetangera Church activities and led to fund raising for much needed repairs to the building, carried out by Evan and Sidney Kilby (son of Robert) (Campbell, 1955, pp. 15 and 52; Cameron, 1956, p. 8)

In 1905, the Smith-Kilby-Cameron family connection was reinforced by the marriage of Evan Cameron and Edith Kilby, daughter of Robert[6]. From this time, Lands End and the Smith-Cameron properties were farmed as one, and Edith and Evan lived at Lands End with Robert and Jane (Webster) Kilby. The eldest of the new generation of Camerons were born in the lead up to the finalisation of the ACT. The twins Freda and Thelma were born in 1908. Heather followed in 1909 (Kilby, 1913, pp. 65, 72). The children had a close relationship with their Lands End grandparents. Many years later Heather recounted her first walk to Weetangera School with her sisters guided through the scrub by trees marked with whitewash by their grandfather (Clough, 2004, p. 41). Figure 3-16, Figure 3-17 and Figure 3-18 show the Kilby-Cameron family at Lands End in the last few years before its resumption by the Federal Government.

[5] For further information see Cameron family history on the Hall Heritage Centre database, 'Rediscovering Ginninderra'.
[6] Edith was Mary Smith's great niece; Evan was Mary Smith's grandson

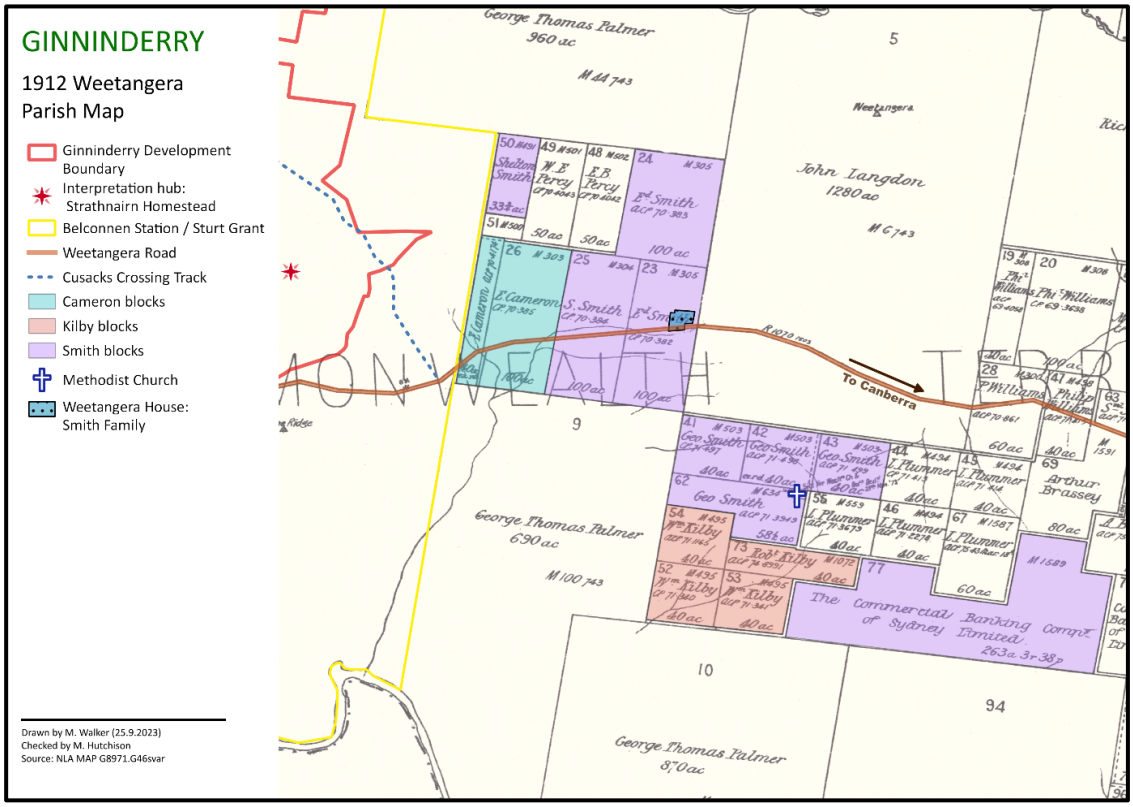


Figure 3-15. Weetangera small holders nearest south-east Ginninderry. 'Parish of Weetangera County of Murray', Department of Lands, Sydney, N.S.W.,1912. National Library of Australia MAP G8971. G46svar.

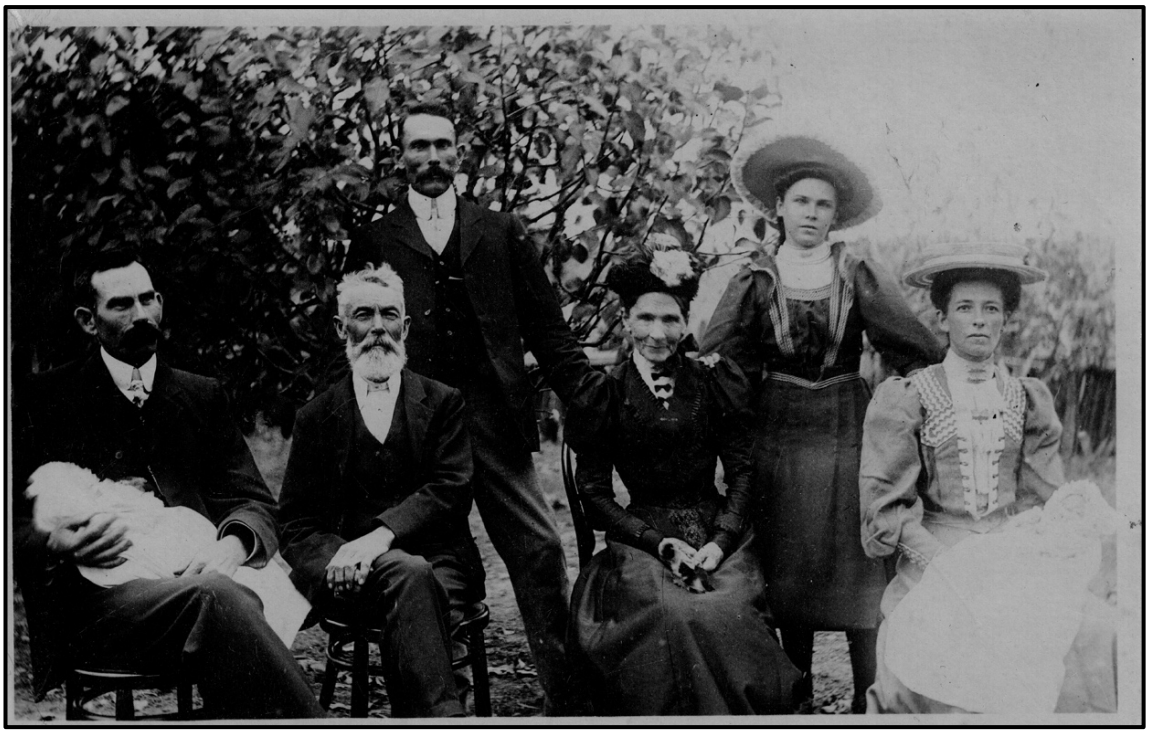


Figure 3-16. Lands End family with Cameron twins, Lands End 1908. Left to right: Evan Cameron with Freda, Robert Kilby, Sidney Kilby, Jane Kilby, Elsie Vest, Edith Cameron with Thelma. Courtesy: Nanette Betts.

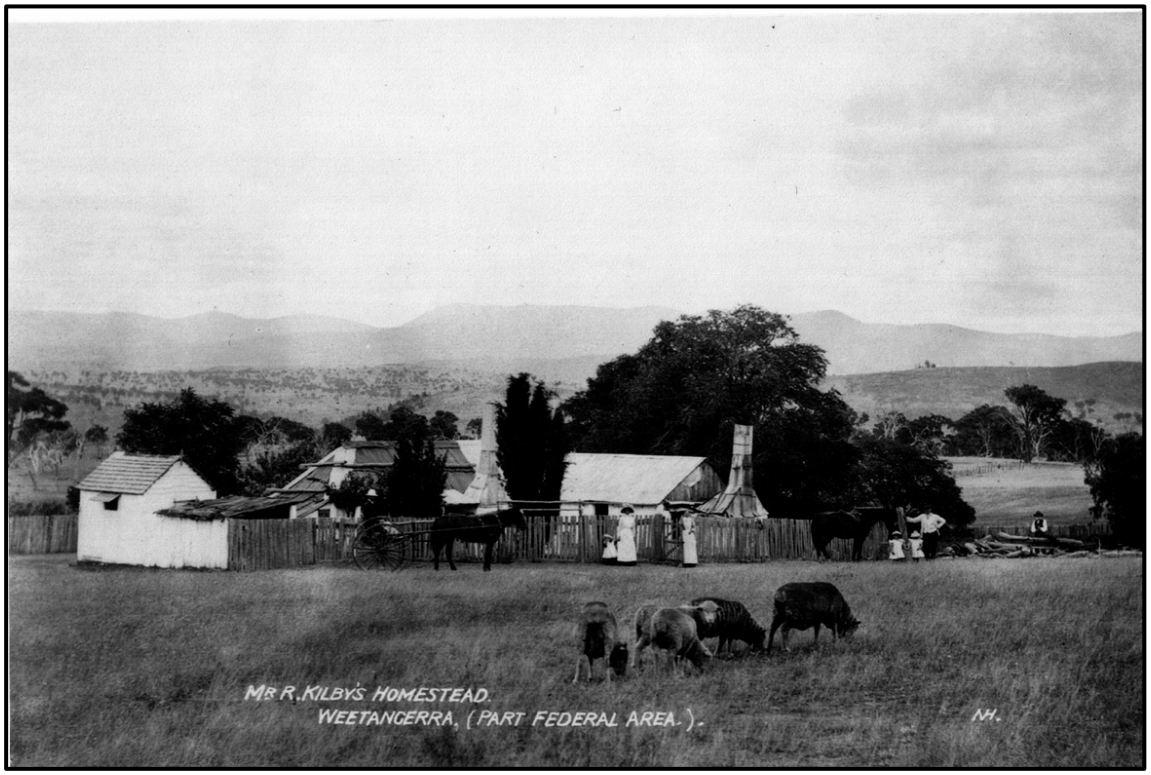


Figure 3-17. Lands End in the 'Federal Area', c. 1912. Left to right: Robert Kilby, Heather Cameron with Edith Cameron, Jane Kilby, Thelma and Freda Cameron with Ewan Cameron, unknown. Photographer: N.H. Courtesy: Nanette Betts.

When the conversion of freehold land to leasehold began in 1914-15, Robert Kilby, by then 75 years old, was profoundly affected. The loss of his wife Jane in 1913, with whom he'd built up the property from the 1870s, must have compounded his despair. For him, as for many other first-generation selectors, including his friend the chronicler of Weetangera, Samuel Shumack, independent land ownership had been a dream realised through hard work and determination. The achievement of a life where they were free to work and make a living from their own land, and secure the future of their children, was woven into their sense of identity and place. With resumption imminent, Samuel decided to leave Springvale. In their postscript to their father's reminiscences, John and Sam Shumack wrote:

> *In August 1915 Robert Kilby from Lands End rode up to Springvale to say goodbye to his old friend. Mother asked what he intended to do. He was silent for some time, staring at the floor, then he said, 'I don't know where I'm going but I'm not staying here'. Then he rode sadly away. Three months later he was dead* (Shumack, 1967, p. 166).

Figure 3-19 provides a glimpse of the changing Weetangera community landscape near Ginninderry, as surveyed and annotated by the early ACT administration, before it was resumed. 'R. Kilby's house' is identified along with the Methodist church and cemetery nearby. 'W.Reilly's house' on the original

Plummer Block 44, 'Pinchfield Farm', was sold by the Plummer Family to George Shumack in 1893 (see Part 3.2, 'The Plummer family'). By 1910 it seems that George was renting the old farmhouse to the recently married couple William Reilly and Elizabeth Shumack (Browning, unpub. ms. 2022). Evan Cameron's role in farming the land his mother inherited, is confirmed in the identification of the old Smith homestead (Weetangera House) as E. Cameron's house.

Mrs Cameron's ownership of the property is noted in the title of the carefully composed photograph of rural life in the 'Federal Area' (Figure 3-18). It also shows the involvement of all family members in the haystacking process Sidney Kilby, brother of James and 'champion' haystack builder is on top of the unfinished stack on the left, next to Stewart Cameron, brother of Evan (Smith, 1975, p. 17). Evan Cameron may be the man on the right next to the wagon, possibly used for carting sheaves of hay. The women in the foreground have brought refreshment. The younger woman is probably Edith Cameron and the other two may be Evan's mother Annie Cameron (owner of the property) and Edith's mother, Jane Kilby. Nanette Betts recalled her mother, Freda, talking about how much everyone in the family enjoyed haystacking time (GLHS conversation, 17/1/2024). This photograph has often been used in Canberra histories, along with two others taken on the day from slightly different angles. Caption names may vary.

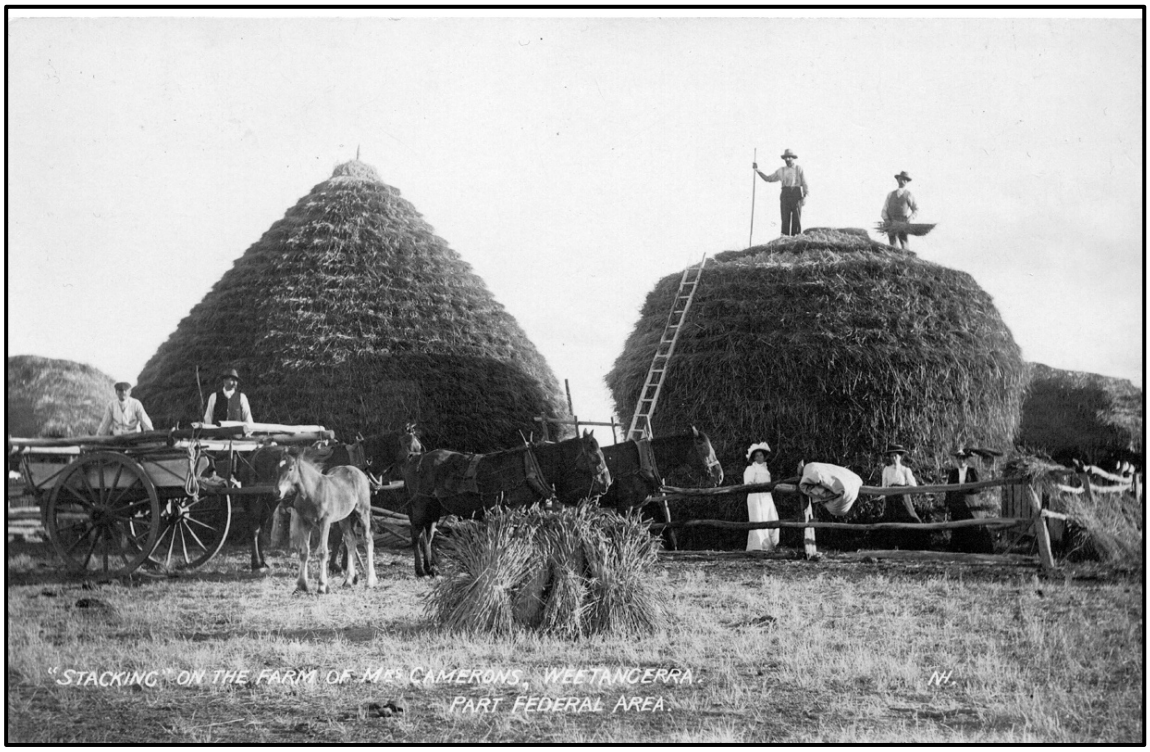


Figure 3-18. 'Stacking on the farm of Mrs Camerons[sic], Weetangera, part Federal area', c.1912. Photographer: N.H. Courtesy: Nanette Betts.

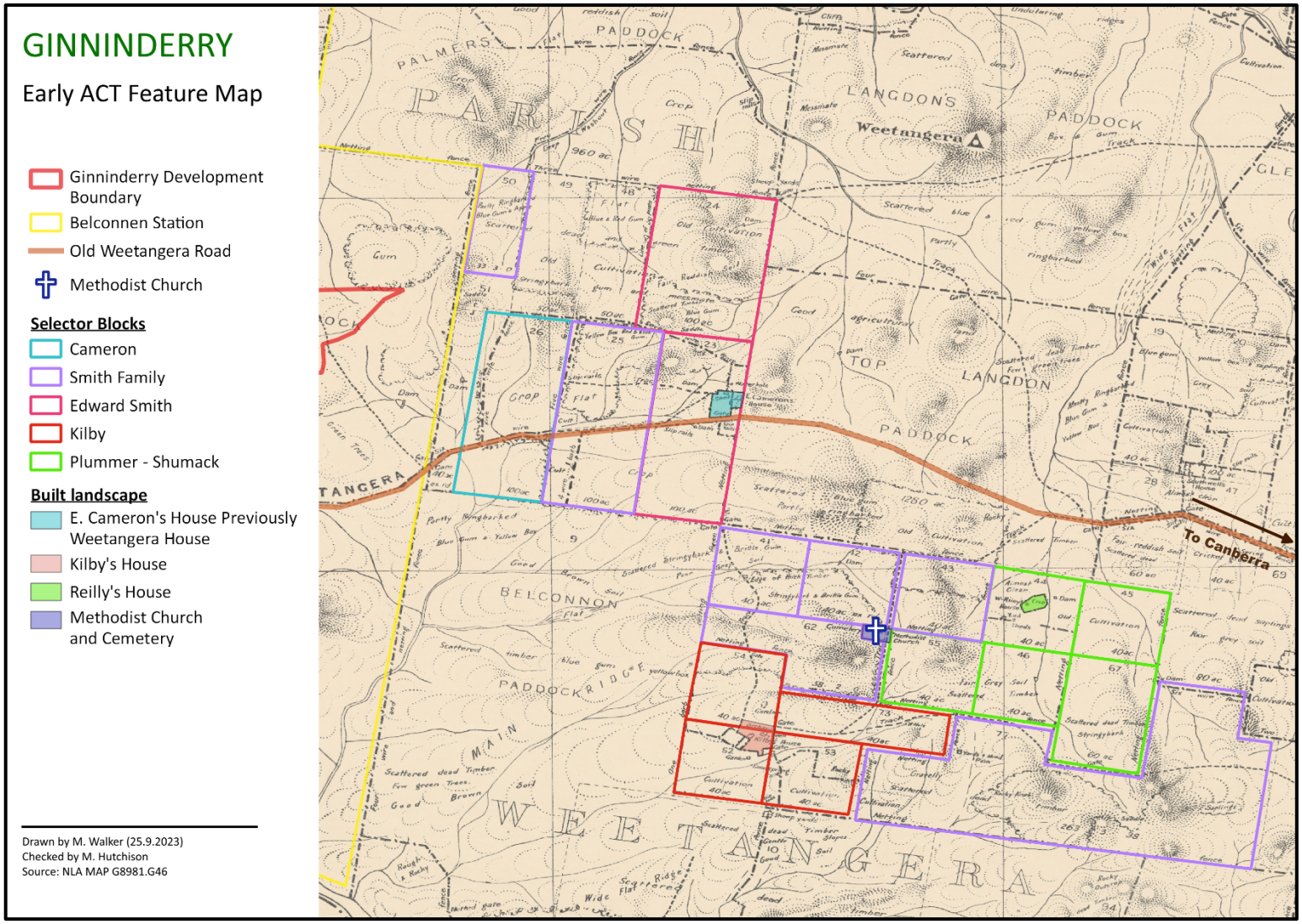
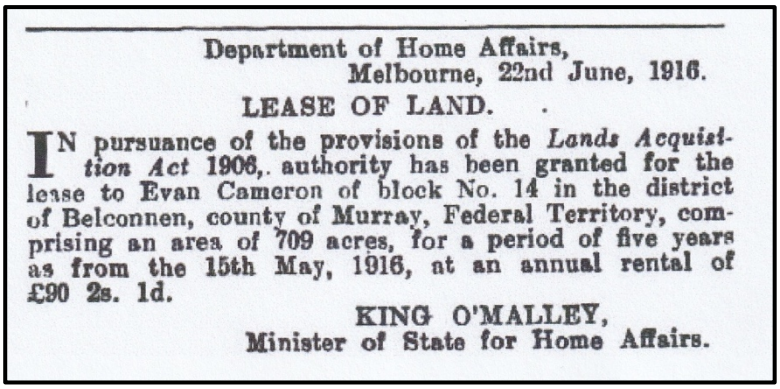


Figure 3-19. Small holder community nearest south-east Ginninderry as recorded on 'ACT feature map', c. 1915. Federal Territory feature map : Australian Capital Territory, Counties of Murray and Cowley, MAP G8981.G46 s15 1915, Canberra : Dept. of Home Affairs,

Evan Cameron – Leasehold Block 14

In the difficult times of 1913-15 for the Kilby-Cameron family, Evan Cameron, though concerned about the situation and its potential financial impact, was ready to take opportunities that arose with leasehold arrangements (Cameron family papers, Evan and Ernest Cameron correspondence). In the event he was able to continue farming on a lease that included Lands End and some of the original Smith blocks – an outcome that continued to hold the stories of the Kilby, Smith and Cameron families together. Evan's memory of taking up his lease is shown in the quote below. Figure 3-20 confirms it in official terms.

> *I was farming at Belconnen for about 25 years before the federal Government resumed the property and was one of the first lessees in the Territory taking a lease of Lands End when it was thrown open for tender …* (Cameron family papers, Evan Cameron memories).



Department of Home Affairs,
Melbourne, 22nd June, 1916.

LEASE OF LAND.

IN pursuance of the provisions of the *Lands Acquisition Act* 1906, authority has been granted for the lease to Evan Cameron of block No. 14 in the district of Belconnen, county of Murray, Federal Territory, comprising an area of 709 acres, for a period of five years as from the 15th May, 1916, at an annual rental of £90 2s. 1d.

KING O'MALLEY,
Minister of State for Home Affairs.

Figure 3-20. Notice in the Government Gazette confirming Evan Cameron as the leaseholder of Block 14, in 1916. Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, 29 June 1916, no. 76, p. 1456.

> ***Department of Home Affairs Melbourne, 22nd June 1916.***
>
> ***LEASE OF LAND***
>
> *In pursuance of the provisions of the Lands Acquisition Act 1906, authority has been granted for the lease to Evan Cameron of Block No. 14 in the district of Belconnen, county of Murray, federal Territory, comprising an area of 709 acres for a period of five years from the 15th May, 1916, at an annual rental of £90 2 shillings and one penny.*

Family history and land records indicate that the land Evan had been farming since his grandfather Smith's death most likely included the old Cameron Block 26, the Smith homestead Block 23 and Block 77 next to Lands End which Edward later passed on to his son Ellis. It may also have included blocks in the name of sons Shelton and George who left Weetangera, as did Ellis, in the 1880s (see Figure 3-19). Most of these were not included in the 709 acres of the 'Lands End' lease. As shown in Figure 3-21,

Evan's new Block 14 covered only the more easterly blocks of Lands End, neighbouring blocks initially in the name of George Smith, including the Methodist Church, Block 77 and the Plummer (later Shumack) blocks, of Pinchfield Farm. The fate of the old Smith homestead, (Weetangera House/E Cameron's house, is documented briefly by Evan on the back of an envelope: *Smith's house built 1872 destroyed by fire 1918* (Cameron family papers). More detail of the Smith's property after resumption is recorded in the 1955 family history which uses the Smith family name for the homestead 'The House'.

> *One of the first casualties after the coming of the Federal men to resume the Weetangera holdings was the old shed in the stockyard*[7]*. Although most of its timbers were sound, one or two parts needed repair and its destruction was ordered because it was regarded as a harbour for rabbits… Accordingly, the fire stick, in a few hours, removed the heavy labour of many days. A similar fate befell 'The House' which was condemned on health ground* (Campbell, 1955, p. 51).

Figure 3-21 shows several views of the Weetangera community landscape through the lens of the 1916 Block 14 plan. Whatever the Cameron family's feelings about the changes to the Weetangera community from 1912, they seem to have been determined to make what they could of the new ACT world. Block 14 was the beginning of a long and successful adaptation of a freehold family farm to an ACT leasehold property. Its later history is detailed in the period 1921-45.

[7]As recorded by Campbell (1966, pp. 19-20) the shed was a significant building combining a barn and horse stud stabling.

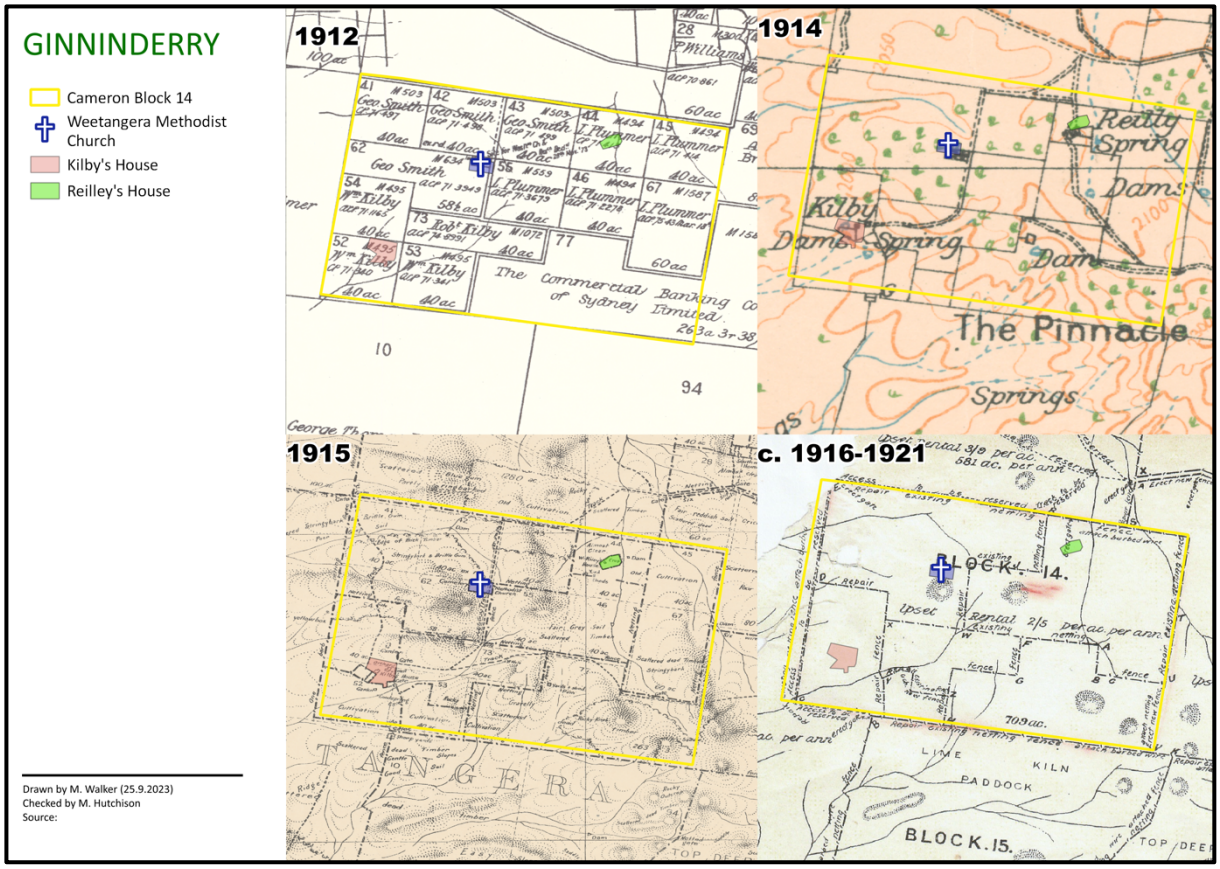


Figure 3-21. Views of the Weetangera community landscape through the lens of Block 14. Base maps: Weetangera Parish (1912) reference; Commonwealth Military map (1914); ACT Feature map (1915). Block 14 plan as shown on leasehold blocks advertisement filed in Block No. 14 Belconnen District. National Archives of Australia. A192 FCL 1923/139.

New Leaseholders

Ginninderry's first leaseholder: Selwyn Miller 1914 – 1924

> *[Colonel] Miller clearly aspired to more than mere acceptance by the pastoral elite and granted his son Selwyn a ten year lease of 1256 hectares at Belconnen …* (Gibbney, 1988, p. 17).

In 1914, Colonel David Miller's position as Local Administrator for the ACT, with the support of Minister O'Malley enabled him 'with implausible speed' to grant his son, Selwyn, three leasehold blocks on Yarralumla Estate (Wood, 2009, p. 29). They were Blocks 1, 2 and 3 on the former Belconnen Station, amounting to approximately 3,000 acres of the original 5,000 of Belconnen Station. Austin Chapman, MP for Eden-Monaro, speaking for the disenfranchised ACT residents who were generally given first option on leasehold blocks, drew attention to the Miller lease in Parliament. His was the only critical voice and the arrangement was never seriously challenged (Gibbney, 1988, p. 16).

Figure 3-22 shows Selwyn's leases in the previous ownership landscape of Belconnen Station and the closest blocks of the Weetangera community. The three leases included what later became Strathnairn (Block 3); Belconnen Farm (Block 2); and the north-western part of Belconnen Station on the ACT side of J.K. Kilby's property,The Falls (Block 1). 'Federal Corner', the small piece of land Kilby lost to the ACT, is also shown. The only buildings on the adjoined leases were on Block 2. They included the stone overseer's cottage, by then with slab extensions and likely used as a dwelling by overseer, Richard Vest in the 1880s. During Vest's use of the cottage, the stables and animal enclosures were also erected by Kilby Brothers – J.K. Kilby and Evan Cameron (Eric Martin and Associates, 2020, p. 52).

Despite his ascendancy to the 'pastoral elite', as a leaseholder, Selwyn was expected to follow the leasehold regulations and requirements managed by the Director of the Commonwealth Lands and Surveys Branch of the Home Affairs Department. These included following instructions based on regular inspection reports concerning work such as fencing and weed and pest control. Another condition was that the Branch's approval was required for activities such as clearing timber or erecting buildings.

As David Miller remained, nominally at least, the Secretary of Home Affairs, alongside his role as ACT Administrator, he may not have expected the Lands and Surveys Branch to insist that he and Selwyn follow established bureaucratic processes on these matters (Gibbney, 1988, p. 7). In October 1914, a statement written by C.W. Vautin to Chief Draftsman Felix Broinowski, began:

> *Different actions and approvals have taken place in connection with S Miller's leases of blocks 1, 2 and 3 without the files coming to this branch for notation.*

Below the statement Broinowski noted:

> *Unless I am supplied with full particulars with regard to all leases, my records will be of little value.*

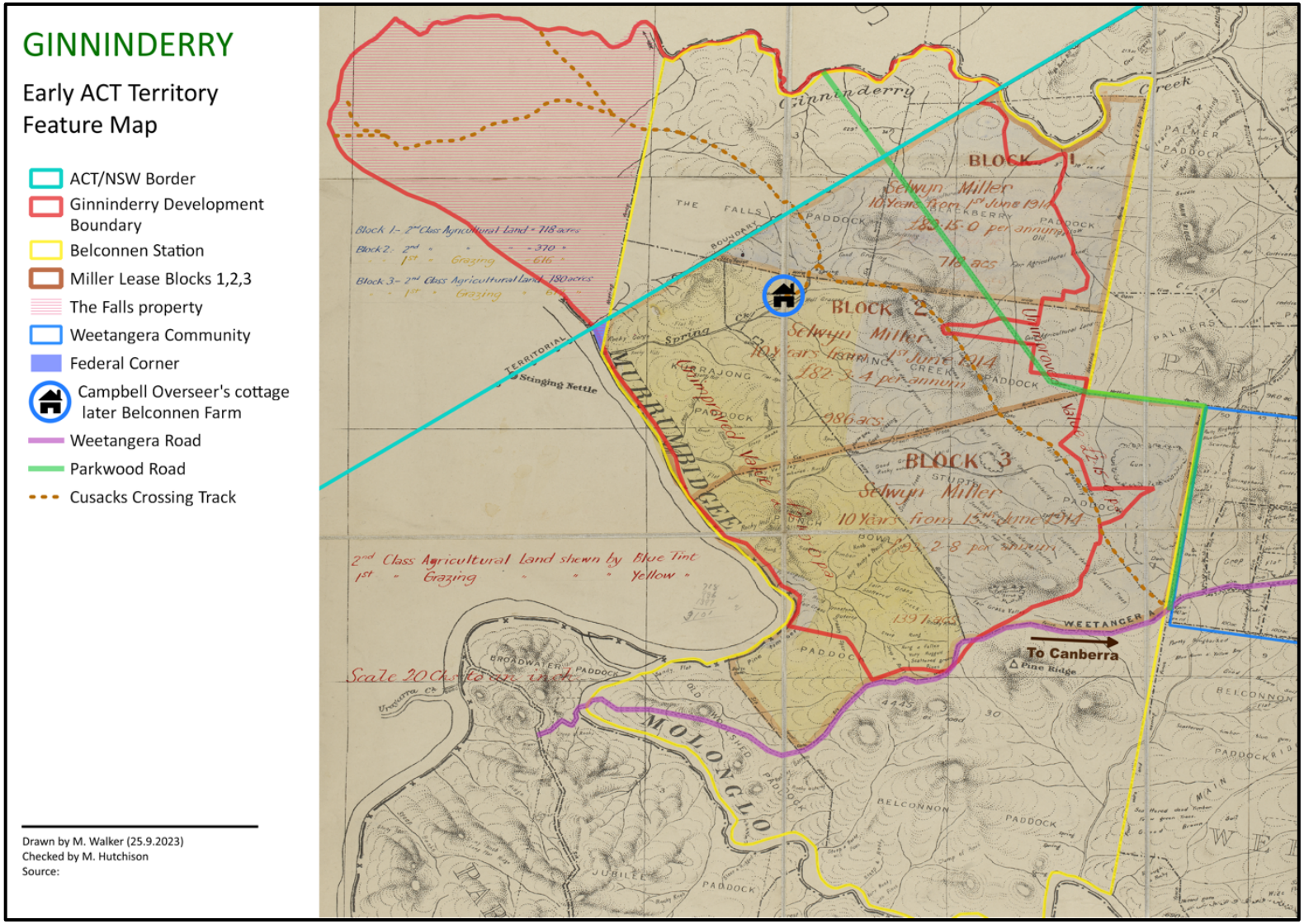


Figure 3-22. Selwyn Miller's leasehold blocks on the former Belconnen Station. National Archives of Australia, A361, DSG24/677

After this correspondence, the formal process was adhered to. For instance, in November 1914, Selwyn wrote to the Director of Commonwealth Lands and Surveys to report that required work had been completed and to seek approval for an extension of time to complete fencing and rabbit control on block 3. The Lands Office then wrote to the Administrator, David Miller, to recommend Mr Selwyn Miller's application for the extension, including the remark '… *Mr Miller has in other directions done more work than the conditions of his lease demanded'*. It can be assumed that the Administrator accepted the recommendation (Leases Belconnen District Blocks 1, 2, 3).

Not long after David Miller's retirement in 1917, Selwyn enlisted in the army and served overseas until the end of the War. During this time, David was again in correspondence with Lands and Surveys as manager of Selwyn's leasehold, signing himself as his son's attorney. In February 1919, he wrote of Selwyn's impending demobilisation and plans to return to his leases and build a house. *My son desires to secure as long a lease as possible.* In April he received a reply stating that *the renewal for a considerable period of a lease embracing such a large area* could not be considered. When Selwyn returned to Belconnen it was just a matter of time and spending as little as possible on the property, before he left (Leases Belconnen District Blocks 1, 2, 3).

In 1921 there was an issue with eradication of weeds which David and Selwyn saw as the result of the Government not attending to the weeds on adjacent grazing blocks. In 1922, some revisions were made to the block boundaries. In May 1923, Selwyn transferred the lease of Block 3 to Francis Leahy, and Lands and Surveys announced that new leases would be gazetted by 1 June 1923. In 1924, David Miller joined Selwyn at his new property in Glen Innes and Francis Leahy made his lease available to A. Field for sheep grazing. All three blocks continued as a grazing lease when Leahy was succeeded by a member of the Hyles pastoral family who used it for his cattle until mid 1924 (Leases Belconnen District Blocks 1, 2 ,3; Gibbney, 1988, p. 39)[8].

An important addition to Ginninderry's history during Selwyn Miller's tenure concerns the track through Belconnen Station from Weetangera Road to Cusack's Crossing. As a subject of the road disputes between the Campbell family and a number of selectors it had been deemed a private road in 1883 (see Part 3.2, 'Parkwood-Weetangera roadway disputes'). Ironically, Lands and Surveys' records indicated that it was a public road. Accordingly, Selwyn Miller was given permission to close the track as a private road in October 1914.

With reference to your application of 21st Ultimo [September] for permission to close the track through Blocks 1, 2 and 3, leased by you, I am to inform you that it has been decided to grant the permission sought (Director

[8] The Hyles family had developed landholdings in the Monaro and Limestone Plains districts from the time pastoral land was available.

of Commonwealth Lands and Surveys to Mr Selwyn Miller Canberra 1st October 2014. Leases Belconnen district Blocks 1,2,3).

A new Ginninderry neighbour south of the Molonglo: Block 5 Kambah subdivision 1914

As a result of the creation of leases on Yarralumla Estate – shown in Yarralumla Estate Figure 3-37 – Ginninderry gained a new neighbour across its southern boundary. In 1914, the first lessee of the new block straddling the Molonglo River on the Jubilee and Woolshed paddocks of the former Estate, was Tidbinbilla resident, Herbert Charles Alexander Reid. The block was originally known as Block 5 Kambah Subdivision. After the War, when the development of Canberra recommenced, the part of the block on Jubilee paddock became Block 5 Stromlo district. The one on the former Belconnen Station's Old Woolshed paddock became Block 5B Belconnen. 5B was converted to a grazing licence (Block 5B Belconnen & Block 5 Stromlo, V.W. Buckmaster).

Eric Bolton of Hall became the leaseholder of both blocks in the late 1920s. Vernie William Buckmaster of Fairlight on the western side of the Murrumbidgee succeeded Bolton in 1931. The Buckmaster family continued as Ginninderry's southern neighbour into the 1950s (Block 5B Belconnen and Block 5 Stromlo, V.W, Buckmaster). Figure 3-50 shows the blocks at the time of the split with Block 5 outlined in red and 5B in green. The southernmost part of Ginninderry is also shown.

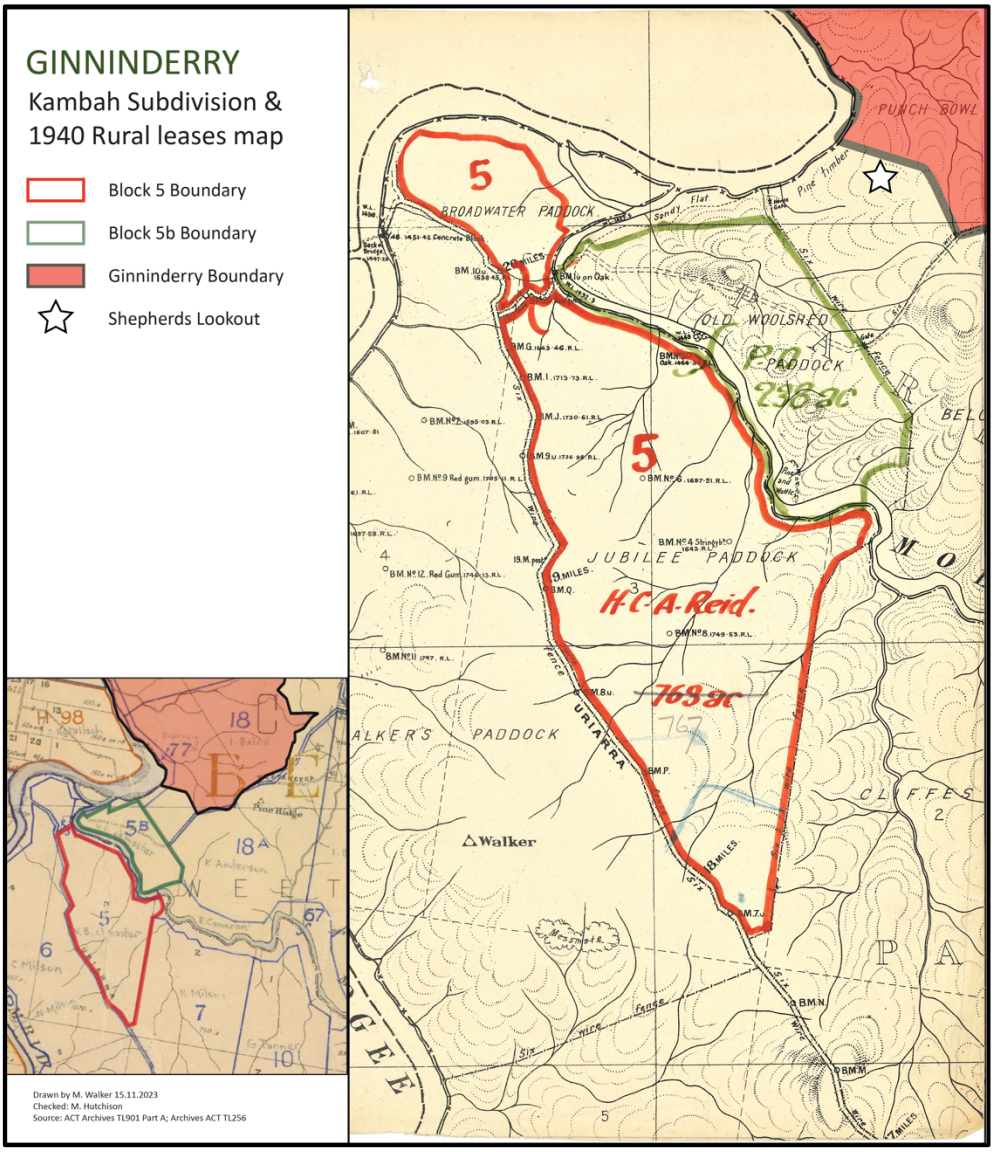


Figure 3-23. Bock 5 Kambah subdivision. Block 5B Belconnen & Block 5 Stromlo -Lessee V.W. Buckmaster, Archives ACT TL901 Part 1A.

Corkhill family – from Duntroon tenancy to Yarralumla leasehold

Following the resumption of Duntroon in 1912, the Robert Corkhill family, who had worked and farmed on the estate from 1893, also became ACT leaseholders (see Part 3.2, 'Corkhill family'). Land records show that one of Robert's first leases, Block 84, Canberra City, included the family's small Duntroon farm (now on the site of the National Library). Their slab farmhouse is shown as a pencil drawing in Figure 3-24. Block 84 was described as 'first class dairying country', with 'a small cottage of little value' (Leases in the Territory held by R. Corkhill, c.1916-1920).

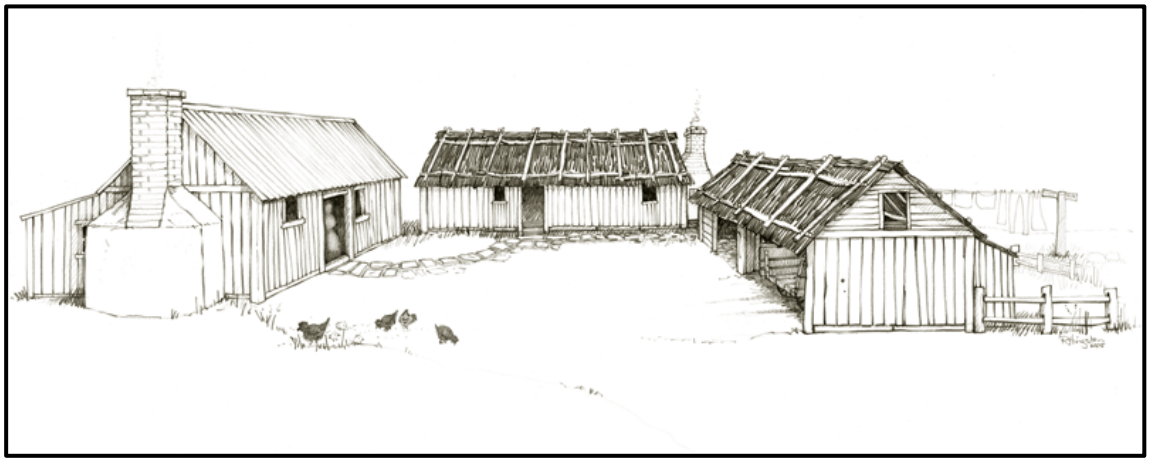


Figure 3-24. Pencil drawing by Ruth Hingston, based on a 1910 photograph, for publication in Linda Young, Lost Houses of the Monaro. ACTHL, HMSS 0194 Ruth Hingston Drawings, 2005.

Another of Robert Corkhill's early leases was Block 22, Canberra City, one of many on Frederick Campbell's Yarralumla land (Figure 3-25). It became the site of the Corkhills' longstanding and well-known dairy, Riverview (Figure 3-26). The block was described by the Lands Office as 'good dairying country' but 'too small for an established dairyman'. Although small it had an important asset – an existing dairy complex including a two-storey house that Frederck Campbell had built in 1889 as part of the original Yarralumla Dairy operated by John and Margaret McPherson. Their daughter Isabella and her husband William Avery continued at the dairy until the land was resumed (Young, 2007, pp. 51-52). Robert acquired the lease in 1916 through an 'after tender offer'. He succeeded in enlarging it through six- monthly requests for 'extensions' (Leases in the Territory held by R. Corkhill, c.1916-1920).

> *[Robert Corkhill] is a dairyman, and a very desirable tenant, and should his application [for a second extension] be approved it will save re-advertising; further I do not anticipate other tenderers are likely.*
>
> *Memo from Percy Sheaffe to the Chief Surveyor 19/3/1917*
> (Leases in the Territory held by R. Corkhill c.1916-1920).

The successful extensions included a series of adjoining Nlocks: 204, 6, 10, and 205. These, joined with Block 22 in the early 1920s, brought the Corkhill's 'Riverview' dairy property to 679 acres (Leases in the Territory held by R. Corkhill c.1916-1920). At the same time, several other leases Robert had acquired, including Block 84, Duntroon, were terminated on the basis that altogether lease holdings could not exceed £6,000 in value. Figure 3-25 shows Block 22 when it was resurveyed in 1934. From the early 1920s, when the Yarralumla Brickworks started operating, Corkhill's Dairy was providing milk for residents of Westridge, the first area of Yarralumla suburb highlighted in Figure 3-25. Other city uses and plans for the area are shown as the sites marked Yarralumla Nursery and Zoological Park.

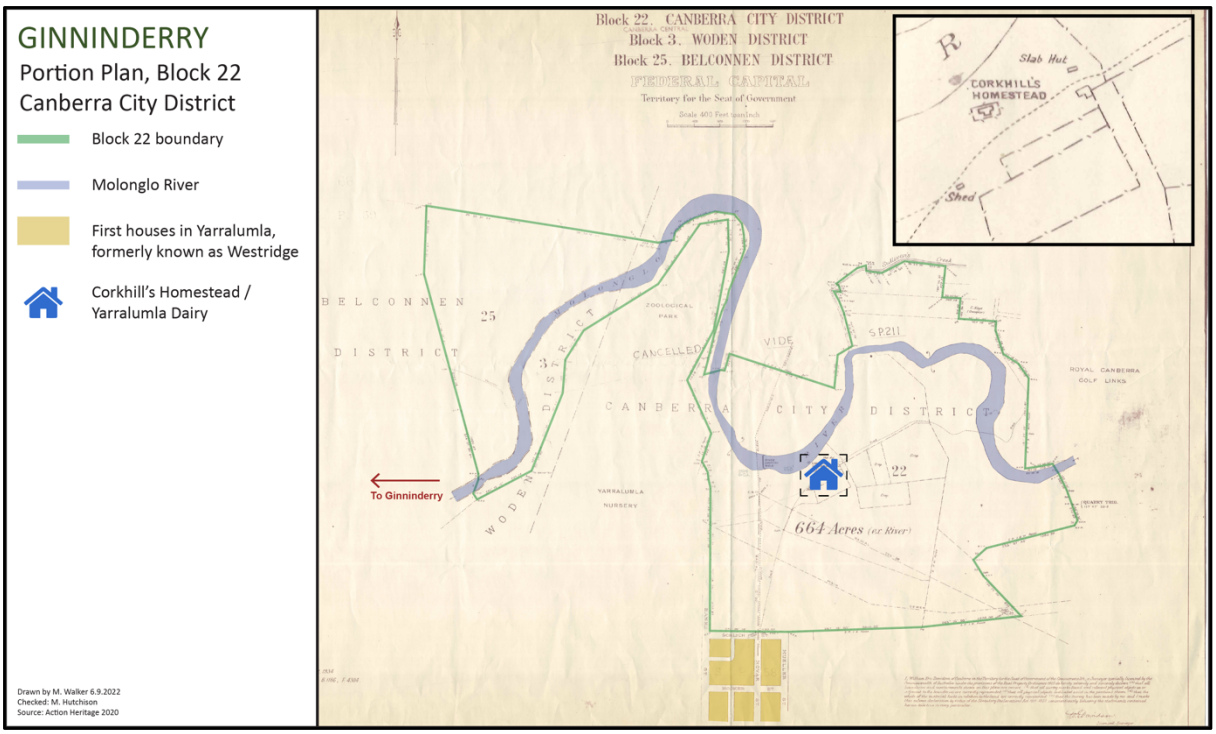


Figure 3-25. Robert Corkhill's consolidated Block 22. Canberra City, 1934. Block 22 Canberra, Corkhill, Block 3 Woden & Block 25 Belconnen, Canberra and District Historical Society.



Figure 3-26. Corkhill family members in front of Riverview. Left to right Kitty Corkhill, Robert Corkhill, John Patrick Corkhill, Jack Corkhill, 1932. Canberra and District Historical Society photograph 1055RID 14758.

Changing landscapes and communities 1920-1945

The Armistice of 11 November 1918 signalled the end of the First World War and the recommencement of creating Canberra as the seat of the federal government. Over the years 1920-30, the Federal Capital and its first suburbs became visible. The population of public servants and building workers grew and the rural community expanded with the arrival of new leaseholders. Despite the following years of the Depression and the Second World War, features of landscape and community we recognise today became part of the landscape of the Molonglo Valley and continued to evolve. Rural areas were shaped by new leasehold subdivisions. Ginninderry became part of the Belconnen-Hall subdivision and the Weetangera-Parkwood-Hall community gradually became the Belconnen-Hall subdivision community in which Hall played a prominent part as a centre for freeholders and leaseholders.

Recommencement of the Capital 1920-30: changing management; changing landscape

In 1921 a new body replaced Walter Burley Griffin's Office of Design and Construction. The Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC) consisted of a small number of experts considered authorities in architecture, town planning and engineering[9]. Its role was to enable the relocation of Parliament and Government offices to Canberra. This included developing plans for managing the construction of a provisional Parliament House and several administrative offices, as well as recommending approaches to providing a liveable environment for a new permanent population involved in both construction and federal government business. The intention was to move quickly but the FCAC was constantly held up by the necessity for FCAC recommendations to be approved by the Government before they could be implemented. In January 1925 the Government replaced the FCAC with the Federal Capital Commission (FCC). The FCC was a small, independent, statutory body designed to manage both construction and administration. Its Chairman and General Manager was John Butters. It was his turn to move into 'The Residency' at Acton, which he promptly renamed 'Canberra House' (Gibbney, 1988, pp. 109-111).

The country and the new city

By 1930, the achievement of the FCAC and the FCC combined was the beginning of a national landscape - Parliament House and the first offices – and an emerging suburban landscape of houses, shops, schools, roads, churches, gardens, meeting halls, tennis courts and sports grounds. Powering this development with the encouragement of the FCC were local progress associations and committees associated with the FCC's Social Service Association. One of these was the longstanding Canberra Mothercraft Society (Gibbney,1988, pp. 99-101). Another organisation of the period was the equally longstanding YWCA. William Mildenhall's photos celebrated the process of construction and the development of community life and amenities through most of the 1920s. For example: the opening of

[9] Griffin declined to participate.

Parliament House; the raising of the Causeway Hall, Telopea Park school sports, new shops in Kingston, the first ambulance van, roadworks, domestic gardens, the completion of Gorman House accommodation, and social events at the Acton race course (Hutchison, 2000).

These developments brought significant changes to the rural landscape and rural livelihoods. In the process they also encouraged interaction between ex-city dwellers and the local rural community. For instance, until Albert Hall was completed in 1928, dances at Hall village and country woolsheds were often attended by Canberra residents. The new social locations in Canberra also provided entertainment for the rural population (Gillespie, 1992, p. 195). New work opportunities also led to further everyday interaction between urban newcomers and a rural community increasingly composed of new arrivals. in 1913, Sidney Kilby's work at Yarralumla for Frederick Campbell morphed into his employment by the Government as the Yarralumla gardener. In this role he lived on the property until it became the Governor General's residence, at which time he was allocated a government house in Westridge (the first streets in what became Yarralumla suburb). He continued working in the Yarralumla gardens until 1940 (Kilby, 2013, p. 33).

In recording Sidney's long working life, his daughter, Margaret (later Swan), also recalled his unfailing dedication to the Weetangera Methodist Church and his regular weekend visits to relatives at Lands End and nearby. *During the [*Second*] World War Years when petrol rationing applied, Sid would leave Westridge on Saturday morning, wade across the river at Yarralumla, walk to Thelma and Don Tully's home for morning tea and a chat, then on to Evan and Edith's at Lands End, stay the night, attend the* [church] *service, and then have a lift home with the minister* (Kilby, 2013, p. 33)[10]. Figure 3-27 is an approximation of Sidney's walk.

Despite its successes, the FCC was short-lived. Although John Butters had established what was effectively a community development program with new residents, the ACT remained without representation either federally or locally. Alongside growing advocacy for a voice in local affairs, there were also signs of a worsening economic situation. In 1929, the Wall Street Crash sparked an international recession. In 1930 the Commonwealth Government abolished the FCC and established an ACT Advisory Council consisting of three elected members and four appointed members. Those appointed were senior public servants from the Departments involved in the development of Canberra. In this scheme there was also a public servant designated as Civic Administrator whose position came under the Secretary of the Home Affairs Department[11].

[10] Thelma was Sidney's niece, one of the Cameron twins. Don Tully took up the lease known as Hillview near Mt. Painter in 1937. Hillview had a long Parkwood-Weetangera history. It was initially farmed by Thomas Southwell's brother Mark, then by members of the Shumack family into its leasehold years. A slab hut built by Mark Southwell in 1866 continued as part of the property and is listed on the ACT Heritage Register. For the full story see Hall Heritage Centre, Rosebud Apiary (online).
[11] Charles Daley, Secretary of both the FCAC and FCC, was appointed to the position of Civic Administrator.

In a further economy in 1932, Home Affairs was abolished and its functions, including ACT administration and land management, moved to the Department of the Interior. The Civic Administrator position disappeared but the Advisory Council continued, with various changes, as an important and often effective local advocate, although without legal authority, until 1974 (Gibbney, 1988, pp. 161-163; 274; Ling, pp. 39-40). A new committee to advise on Canberra Development was created in 1938 – The National Capital Planning and Development Committee (NCPDC).

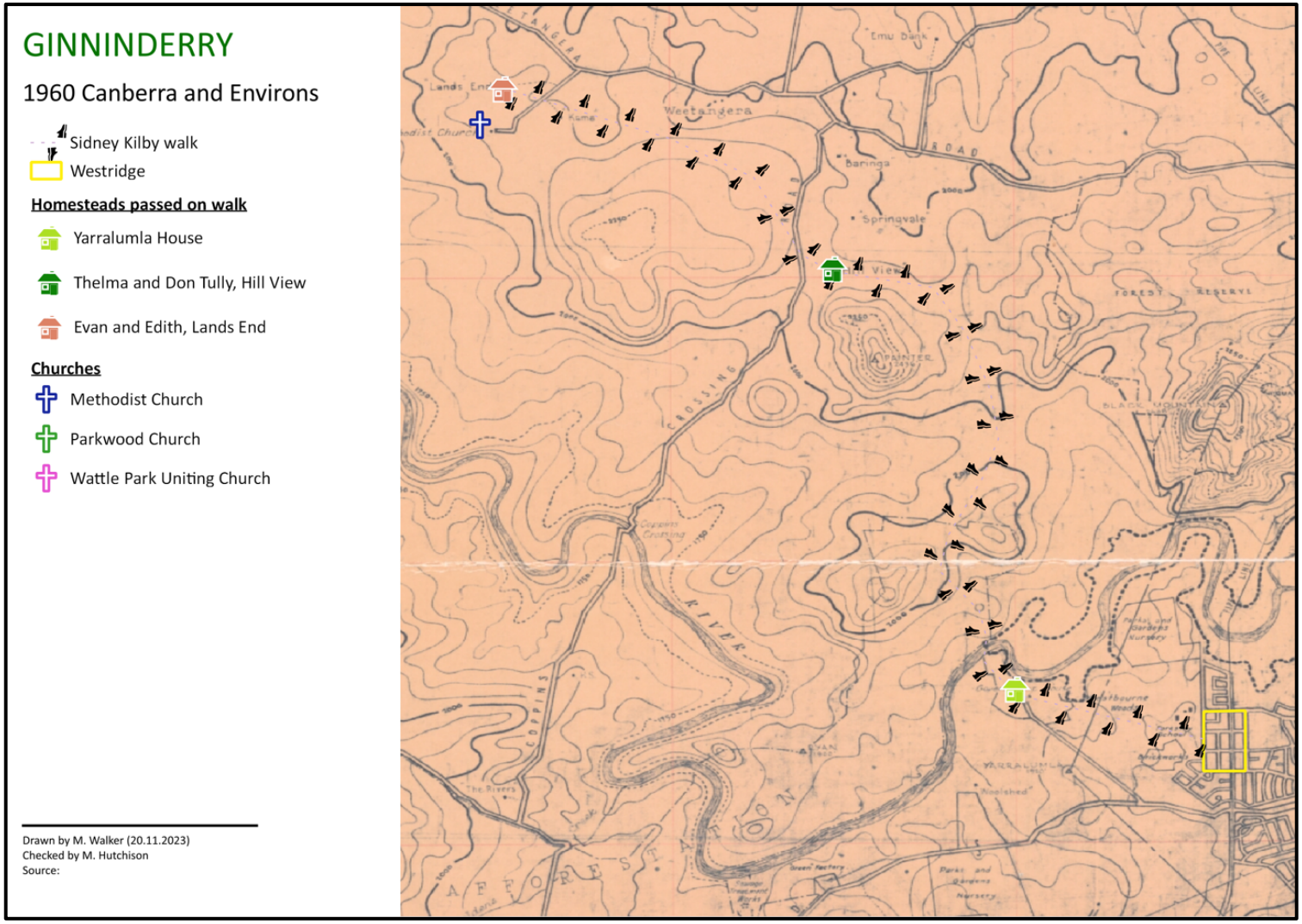


Figure 3-27. Sidney's route to Land's End. Canberra City district & environs / Lands and Survey Branch, Dept. of the Interior 1960 MAP G8980 1960

Changes in rural land management

With the recommencement of Canberra, more defined land management policy was developed for rural areas. It was particularly informed by the strong national interest in providing blocks for soldier settlement (Gibbney, 1988, pp. 41-43; 56; 63) [12]. Guidelines for subdivision and block size policy were developed and new permanent subdivisions were created from 1919-20 (Joint Committee of Public Accounts, 1929).

Alongside these developments the established rural leasehold regime continued on the basis of the Government's intentions to manage the land for the future and to gain some income. This included policing, with regular inspections, the control of rabbits and weeds, as well as development of required improvements such as fencing materials supplied by the Government). Few lessees regularly met these demands. Many also struggled to keep up with rental payments, especially when establishing a lease. Ongoing correspondence concerning rental payments appears on file after file.

Rural leases were advertised by the Government as a call for tender, or invitation for applications, in the Government Gazette. Financially, they were granted on the basis of a set rental according to the block's valuation and the compulsory purchase of any improvements on the lease. 'Improvements' included old and dilapidated farm buildings from the time of resumption and the cost of these, based on government evaluation, was often a considerable burden for new lessees.

In the case of surrendering a lease, the tenant could be compensated for improvements on the basis of 'tenants' rights' in approved improvements. Lease files reviewed by GLHS show that tenants could also sell their improvements to a new lessee with the agreement of the Government. In this case they could also separately claim Government compensation for specific improvements (Block 18 Belconnen, I.H. Baird, Part1). However, 'tenants rights' to compensation for their own improvements was a matter of practice and negotiation rather than legislation (Joint Committee of Public Accounts, 1929).

Another financial problem for rural leasees was that Commonwealth leasehold was not initially seen as appropriate security for a bank loan. In response to this the FCC set up its own loan arrangements for rural lessees until the Government resolved the situation. The size of blocks was a further problem Initially some were too small to be viable (Joint Committee of Public Accounts, 1929). One way in which lessees managed this was to take up further leases – a move that supported viability but was also an additional expense.

An early post-war step towards fairer rural leasehold regulations was the establishment of an advisory land board of three relevant public servants including the District Surveyor, Percy Sheafe. When the FCC took over land management, James Brackenreg who had worked as an Inspector for Lands and

[12] For further details about ACT soldier settlement see Archives ACT, 'Repat and Rabbits: World War 1 Soldier Settlement in the ACT' (https://www.archives.act.gov.au/repatandrabbits).

Surveys in the early Acton days and was well known to many of the local farmers who became lessees, was appointed as FCC Lands Officer. The FCC also made a significant change to the composition of the Land Board by including a Territory lessee (Ling, 2013, p. 25 -26)[13].

In the following years, lessees formed the Federal Capital Territory Lessees Association to lobby for fairer conditions. Evan Cameron was one of them and became an executive member of the Association. He was described as a 'fighting force for the Association' by a fellow member ('Death of Mr Evan Cameron', *The Canberra Times*, 24/9/1956; 'Funeral tributes to Mr Evan Cameron', *The Canberra Times*, 26/91956, p. 8). An important Association achievement was a 1929 Parliamentary report on lessees concerns[14]. It resulted in the creation of a new Land Board with the Territory Lessee member recommended by lessees themselves (Ling, 2013, p. 31). Another improvement during the decade was the average size of blocks, changing from 381 acres in 1919 and to 1,159 in 1929 (Joint Committee of Public Accounts, 1929).

During the Depression, the recommendations of the Parliamentary report and the Lessees Association played a role in rental concessions provided by the Department of the Interior. Broadly these included easing the pressure on payment of rent arrears by extending the period of payment, reducing penalties, and providing rebates at the rate of a percentage of rent paid in full from 1 January 1930 to 30 June 1933 ('Rural rent reductions', *The Canberra Times*, 19/3/1931, p. 3; 'Rural leases', *The Canberra Times*, 30/7/1934, p. 2).

Development of a rural leasehold community: Belconnen-Hall Subdivision 1920s-30s

In 1923, the new Belconnen-Hall subdivision was gazetted (Commonwealth Gazette, February 17, 1923). It included the revision of Selwyn Miller's Belconnen Station leases within Ginninderry as well as the creation of new Weetangera leases and revisions to previous ones. These changes resulted in a new block numbering system. In extending as far as Hall, the subdivision included members of families who had been part of the Parkwood-Weetangera Methodist community closest to Ginninderry since the colonial period.

This section documents changes in their livelihoods and landscape during the 1920s and '30s as well as the experiences of newcomer lessees and freeholders within and nearby Ginninderry. The stories of families in both groups reflect the gradual emergence of a Belconnen-Hall-NSW leasehold and freehold community over the disruption and difficulties of the Depression. As with the stories of freeholder responses to land resumption, they also show how individuals made their way through times of change.

[13] Land Board records of lessee complaints are a source of leaseholder experience.
[14] The inquiry was carried out by the Australian Parliament's Joint Committee of Public Accounts.

Three overview maps provide a reference to the locations of the stories and their changing landscape. Figure 3-28 highlights the Belconnen-Hall subdivision blocks and free holdings relevant to the families in the stories. It covers Ginninderry land from nearby south-east to nearby north-west of the development area. Figure 3-29 provides a closer view of the south-east area and Ginninderry, and highlights changes in landownership from Sturt/ Campbell pastoral land, to the Weetangera Methodist selector community to the new subdivision. Figure 3-30 focuses on the north-west border area of the subdivision and NSW freehold. It shows changes in north-western Ginninderry and the NSW-ACT Parkwood-Hall landscape.

The stories start with the experience of ACT leaseholders south-east of Ginninderry on Belconnen subdivision Blocks 20, 21 and 19. As shown in Figure 3-29 these connect with the land of the Weetangera families nearest Ginninderry before the ACT. The second set of stories concern leaseholders within the Belconnen Station on Block 18A, just outside Ginninderry, and Blocks 18, 14 and 13 within it. Block 18A was also not included in Selwyn Miller's pre-1923 lease of the former Station lands as shown in Figure 3-29.

The south-east stories are followed by stories relevant to NSW Ginninderry. They include members of the earlier 'Parkwood-Hall' community as well as newcomers and highlight the practice of combining leasehold blocks, sometimes with freeholdings, to develop viable properties. As shown in Figure 3-30, they include cross-border leasehold Blocks 1, the composite of Blocks 2, 2a and 3) and Hall rural Block 20.

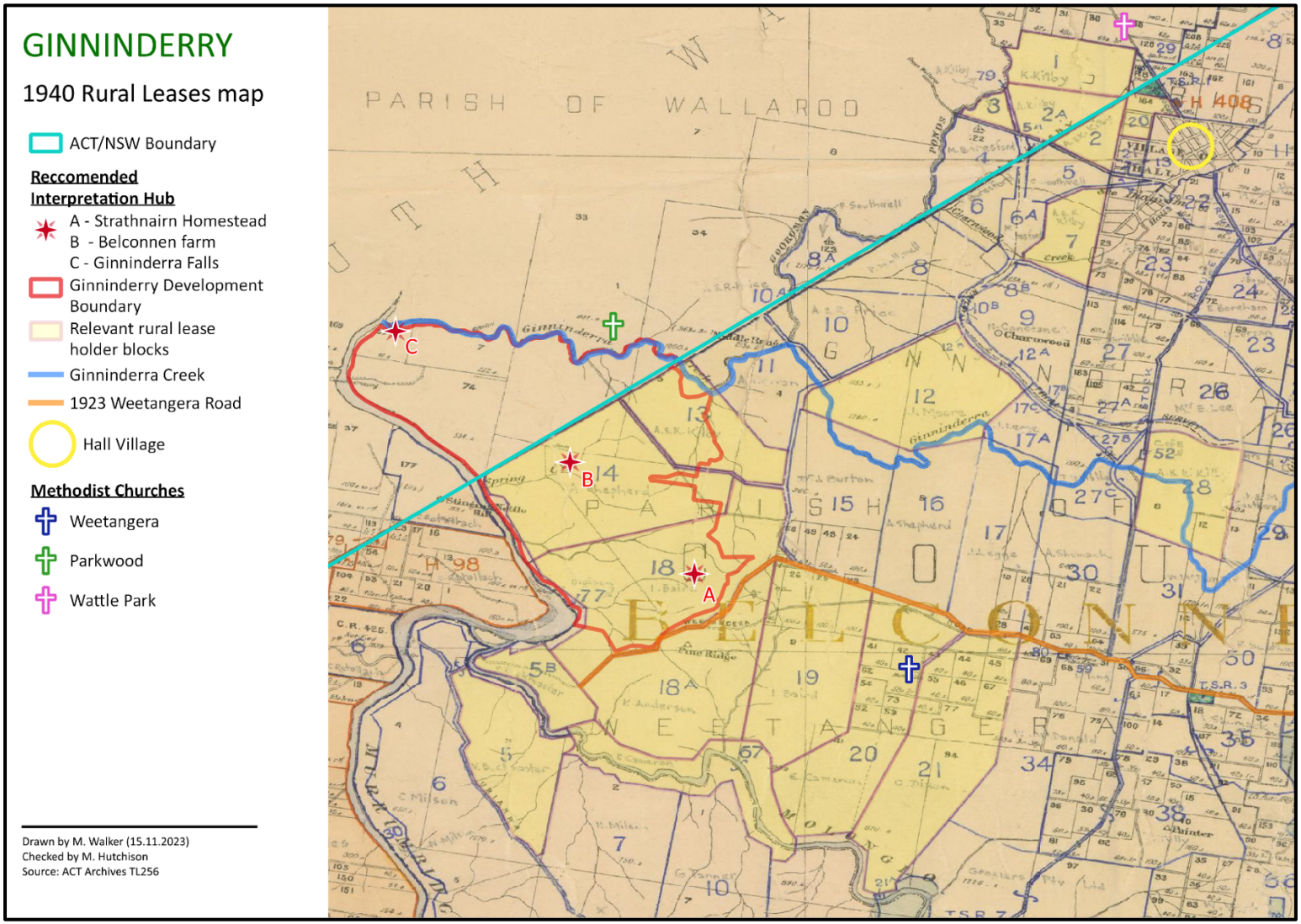


Figure 3-28. Overview of the 1920s-1930s Belconnen/Hall Subdivision. The Federal Territory Counties of Murray & Cowley, July 1915 Map (amended c. 1940) Archives ACT TL256.

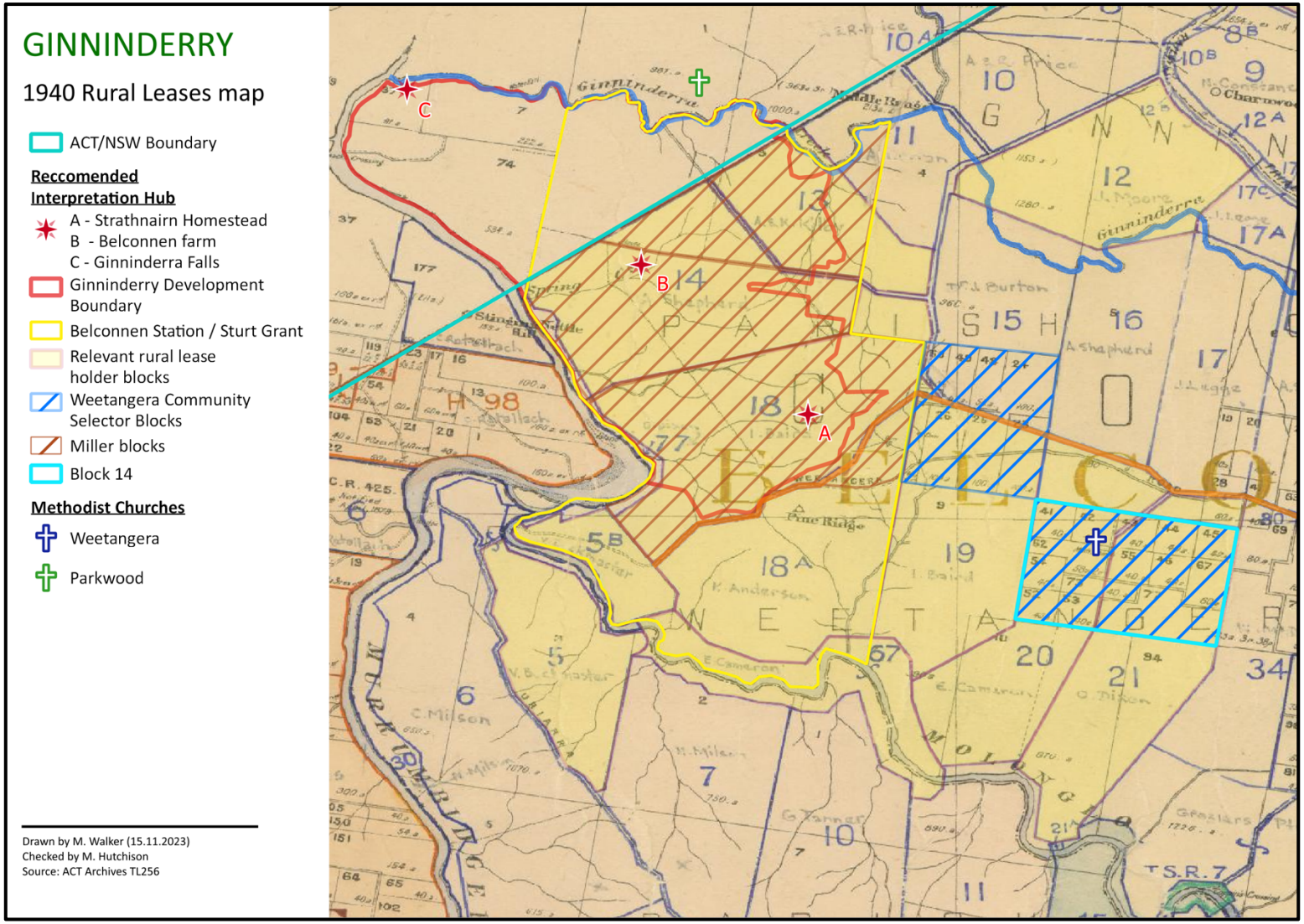


Figure 3-29. Overview of the south-east Belconnen-Hall subdivision area showing the original selector blocks in the old Weetangera Community, Cameron Block 14, and Miller Blocks 1-3. The Federal Territory Counties of Murray & Cowley, July 1915 Map (amended c1940) Archives ACT TL256.

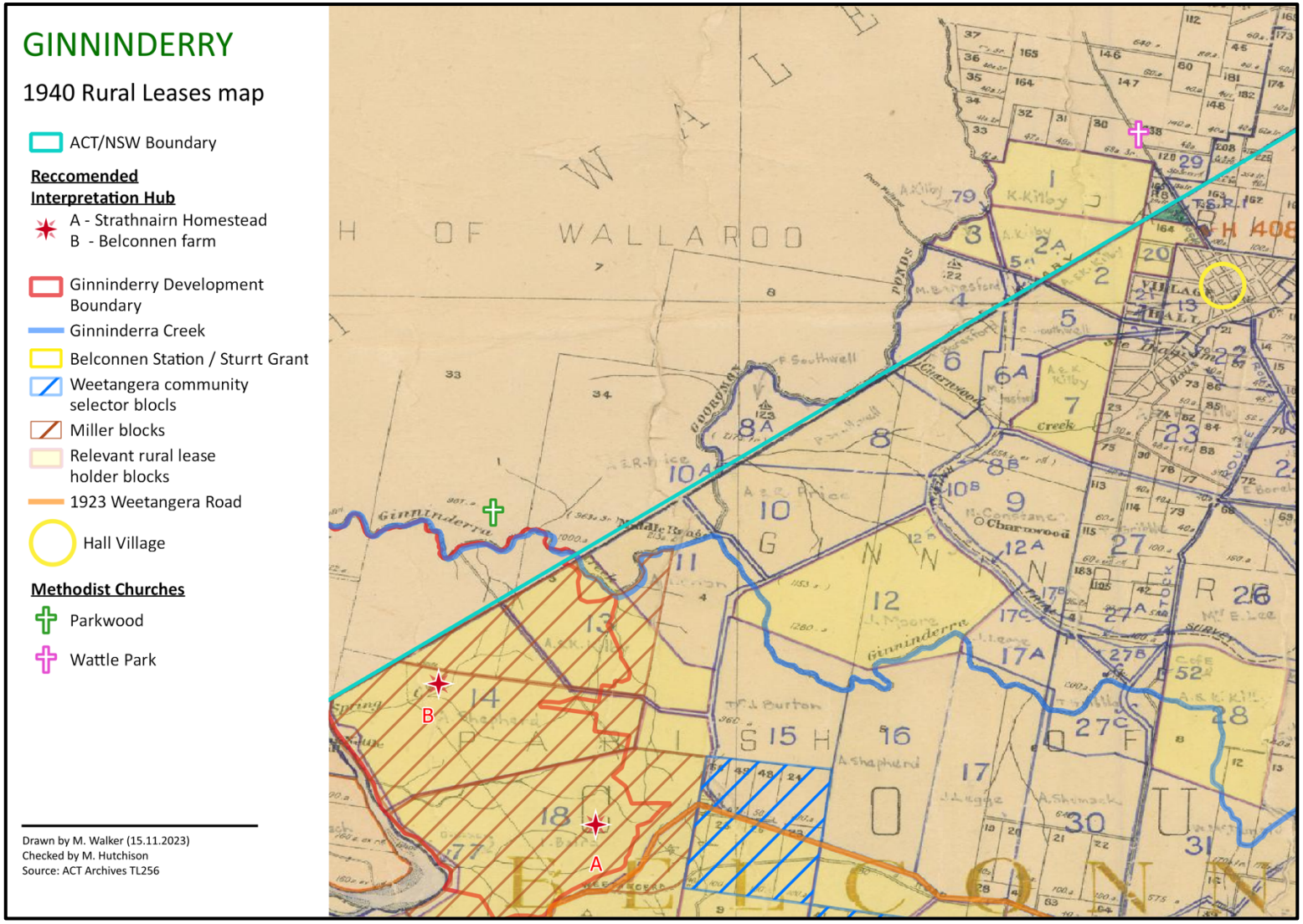


Figure 3-30. Overview of the NSW region of interest in the Belconnen Hall subdivision. The Federal Territory Counties of Murray & Cowley, July 1915 Map (amended c1940) Archives ACT TL256.

Belconnen Block 20, Lands End: Pre ACT freeholders Evan and Edith (Kilby) Cameron

In the Belconnen-Hall subdivision, Evan Cameron's 1916 Lands End lease Block 14 was revised as Block 20 (see Figure 3-31). The process involved several steps. Initially his five-year lease on Block 14 was renewed. Then, as the subdivision progressed, it became a quarterly lease, later followed by advance warning of termination. Finally, in late February 1923, Block 14 was terminated and Evan was offered the lease on its reconfiguration as Block 20. As shown in Figure 3-31 and Figure 3-32 it was slimmer, but overall larger, than Block 14 – consisting of 1,101 acres rather than 709. It included most of the original Lands End blocks but fewer of the original Smith blocks and none of the Plummer-Shumack blocks. Nevertheless Block 20, like Block 14, retained the memory of the Cameron, Smith and Kilby families.

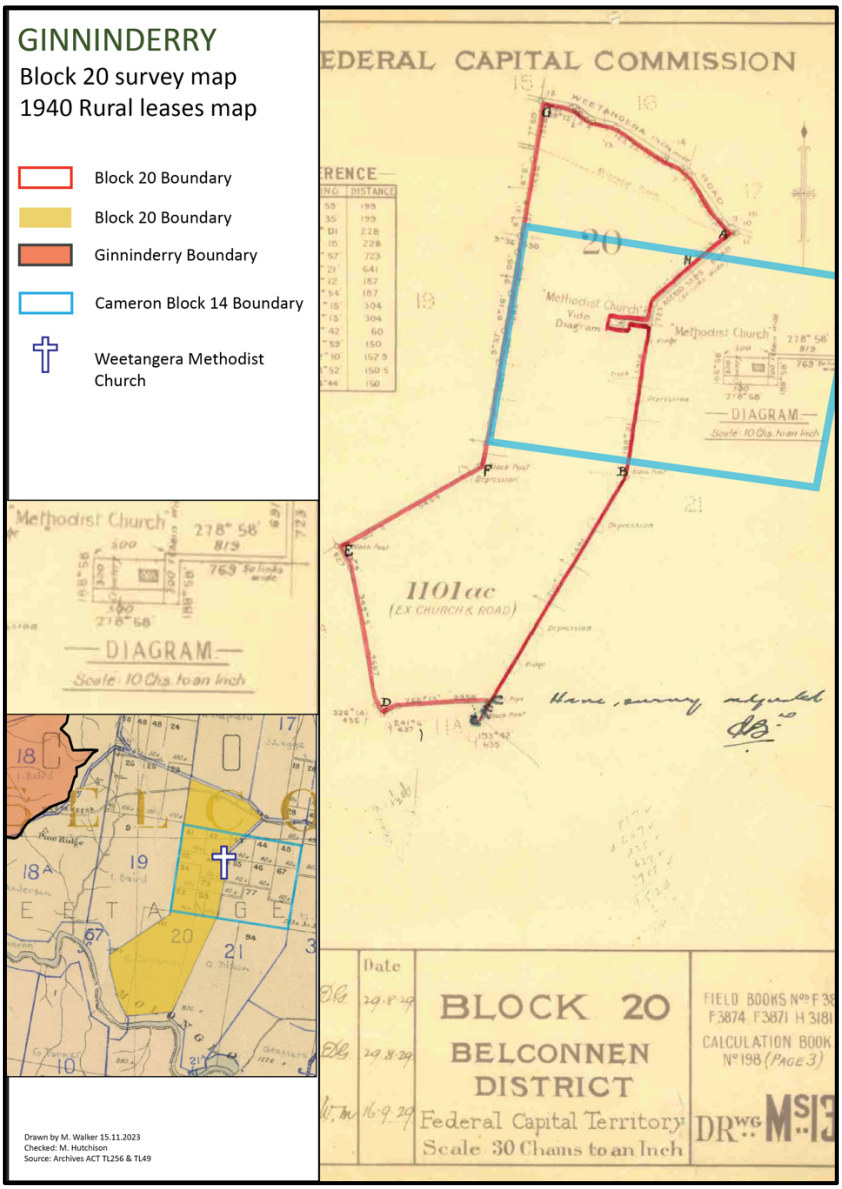


Figure 3-31. Survey of the Lands End lease 1929, Block 20 Belconnen, E. Cameron (1929-1955) Archives ACT TL49 (Part3).

> *With the exception of the few months following its resumption by the Commonwealth, part of Edward's Smith's original selection has always remained in the family, passing from Edward Smith to his daughter, Mrs. Ewan Cameron, thence to Evan Cameron* (Campbell, 1955, p. 52).

In his reply to the offer of Block 20 in July 1923, Evan had concerns about several of the lease conditions. The price wasn't as 'reasonable' as he had hoped and the clause restricting building on a block with an existing residence also worried him. He was ill at the time, as were other members of his family, and he thought the Lands End homestead, built in 1871, might not be 'healthy'. He was also concerned about the sheep grazing quality of some parts of the revised block (Block 20 Belconnen Evan Cameron, 1923-1929).

In the end Evan accepted the terms offered. In the absence of a new house with government support, the answer was to wait until the lease had continued for long enough 'to justify you putting up a new place', and in the meantime cover the cost of any repairs to the old house (Block 20 Belconnen, Evan Cameron, 1923-1929). Evan's own answer to this was not to wait. By 1926 there was a 'New' Land's End, built by a soldier settler becoming known for his building skills, Eric Bondfield (GLHS Conversation, Nanette Betts, 24/11/23; Gillespie, 1992, p. 182). New Lands End was closer to the subdivision's realigned Weetangera Road and closer to the church and cemetery.

There was no real answer to the grazing land issue. Negotiation with the FCC Lands Office in 1925 added 315 acres of permissive occupancy along the Molonglo River to Block 20 - as shown in Figure 3-32. But while it was expedient for the government to have land along river frontage managed as part of a lease, it was not good grazing land. Evan, like his neighbours, initially refused the Government's offer of small grazing areas each. Eventually he was offered their portions and accepted (Block 20 Belconnen, Evan Cameron, 1923-1929).

This extension of his lease made Evan a neighbour of Block 5B at the time it was held by Eric Bolton. Figure 3-31 shows the extension, in green, when it was known as Block 67. Figure 3-32 gives an idea of its topography.

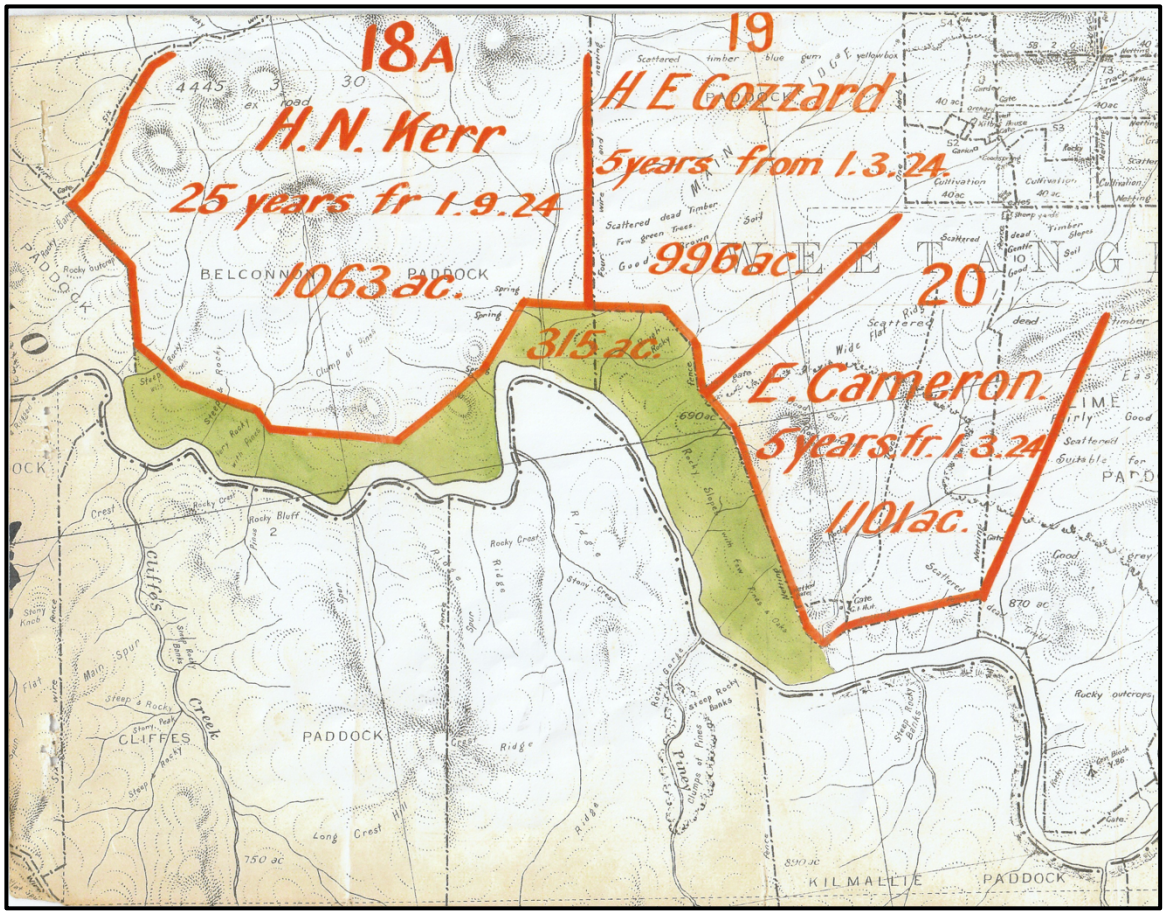


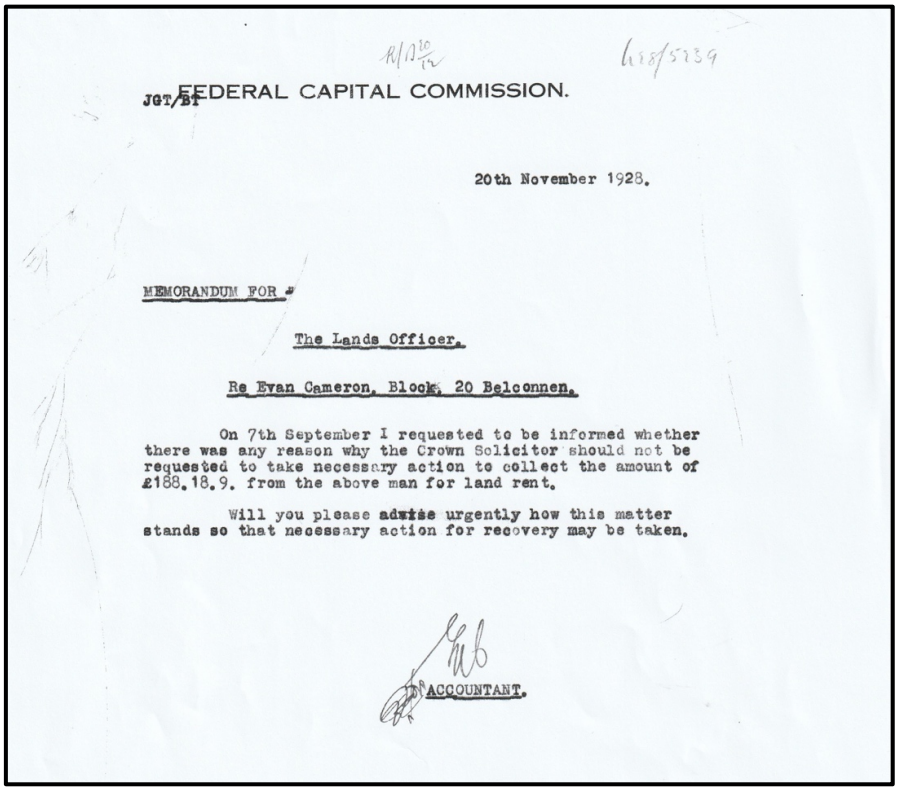
Figure 3-32. Evan's 315 acre grazing lease (green) along the Molonglo River. Block 20 Belconnen, Evan Cameron (1923-1929) NAA A6275 RL 1929/442

By the time of the move to the new house, two boys had been added to the Cameron family, Selwyn (Bob) and Ewan. The girls, Freda, Thelma and Heather were young adults. The family agreed that Heather was the intellectual one and supported her higher education (Kilby, 2013, p. 101)[15]. In 1922, aged 13, she won a scholarship to Goulburn High School and gained her Intermediate certificate. Her ambition was to be a secretary. Her first secretarial job was at Queanbeyan Federal Motors. Her second was in Canberra with the Australia Electric Company. She lost this job when the company had to close as a result of the slow-down in Canberra construction before the Depression. But, in 1929, she found a position as secretary to the proprietor of *The Canberra Times*, Thomas Mitchell Shakespeare (Kilby, 2013, pp. 72-73). Shakespeare was a prominent figure in Canberra affairs and advocate for self-government. He was also a founding member of the ACT Advisory Council (Gibbney, online). Working in Canberra, Heather boarded in Braddon and went home to Lands End for the weekends. Her transport was a

[15] The 1920s was a time of new opportunities for women in education and work. The decision about Heather's education may have been a sign of the times. Equally it may have been based on the Cameron family's firm belief in the importance of education. The majority of Evan's siblings became school teachers, including two of the girls.

bicycle. Like other young working women in Canberra, Heather became an active member of the YWCA (Hutchison & Andrew, 2009, pp. 66-67).

Although Heather found a new job in Canberra, the Cameron's, like other farmers in the lead-up to the Depression were hit by the falling price of wheat and wool. With the collapse of the international financial system in 1929, the situation worsened. In the ACT, public servants' wages were cut. For rural lessees, surrendering their leases was often the only solution (Brown, 2014, pp. 83-85). In 1928, Evan was struggling to pay the Lands End rent as the memo in Figure 3-33 shows. The outcome is not known but with the request for advice from Lands Officer Brackenreg, it seems likely that a more manageable repayment plan was negotiated.



JGT/BT FEDERAL CAPITAL COMMISSION.

20th November 1928.

MEMORANDUM FOR

The Lands Officer.

Re Evan Cameron, Block 20 Belconnen.

On 7th September I requested to be informed whether there was any reason why the Crown Solicitor should not be requested to take necessary action to collect the amount of £188.18.9. from the above man for land rent.

Will you please advise urgently how this matter stands so that necessary action for recovery may be taken.

ACCOUNTANT.

Figure 3-33 Memo re Evan Cameron's rental payments from FCC accountant to the Lands Officer Block 20 Belconnen Evan Cameron (1923-1929) NAA A6275 RL 1929/442.

Memorandum for

the Lands Office 20 November 1928

Re Evan Cameron, Block 20, Belconnen.

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In the mid-1930s, when the economy was recovering, the Cameron's made the decision to demolish the old Lands End house. On the same envelope as the note about the original Smith homestead's life, Evan wrote *Kilby's Lands End built 1871. Pulled down 1935* (Cameron Papers ACTHL.). Perhaps it was a time of new beginnings. In 1936, Freda married the Cameron's neighbour, Oswald Dixon.

Block 21, Kama: Oswald Dixon soldier settler

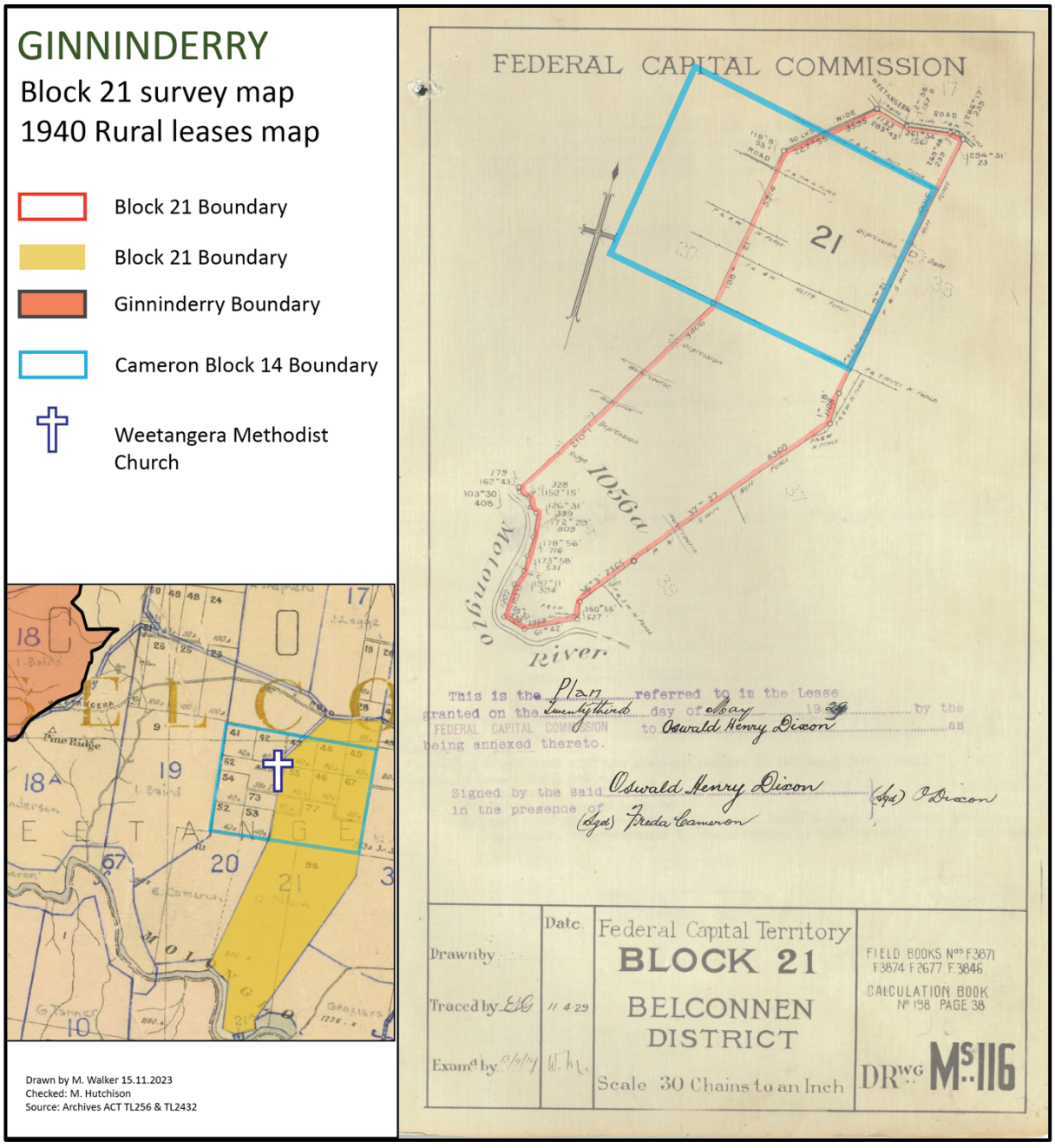


Figure 3-34 Block 21 Belconnen, O.H. Dixon, Archives ACT TL2432 Part 1

Block 21 was created as part of the subdivision on the eastern boundary of the Camerons' Block 20. It included the land of the old Pinchfield Farm, previously in Evan Cameron's Block 14, as shown in figure

3-61. Its first and long term lessee was soldier settler, Oswald Dixon. Oswald was born in Gundagai, NSW and had worked as an accountant and bank teller there and later at The Rock, near Wagga Wagga. His wife died tragically in 1917, leaving a baby daughter. He enlisted in 1918. He was 39 years old and was living in Queanbeyan with his sister's family and seven-year-old daughter when he applied to lease a block of land in the Belconnen-Hall subdivision in February 1923. Block 21 was his first preference. His plan was to run sheep, despite having little practical experience. Overcoming this problem involved hard work and good advice from his neighbour, Evan Cameron (Oswald Henry Dixon online). It seems that Oswald already knew the Camerons by this time and that he and Freda Cameron were thinking of a future together, perhaps even before he applied for the next-door Block 21 (Nanette Betts, GLHS conversation, 5/7/2017; Kilby, 2013, pp. 102-103). The renewal papers for Oswald's lease in 1929 were witnessed by Freda as shown in the signatures below the block survey in Figure 3-61.

In 1923 and 1924, Oswald selected stock – probably with Evan's advice – and purchased them with the help of a mortgage with the Commonwealth Government (Block 21 Belconnen, Oswald Henry Dixon). His first wool clip is shown in Figure 3-35. His sheep were shorn at Harry Vest's shed and the wool carted on Evan Cameron's T Ford truck. The photo in Figure 3-35 shows the truck and members of the Cameron family at Lands End. Oswald is on the truck holding his first daughter, Patricia, then aged seven.



Figure 3-35 The first wool clip from Kama. Courtesy: Nanette Betts.

By the time of the wool clip, Oswald was living on Block 21 in an existing slab hut. Over the next years he fulfilled the residential condition of his lease and completed the Kama homestead with Eric Bondfield as his builder. Some of the material for the homestead was sourced from buildings dismantled at

Duntroon (Nanette Betts and Evan Tully, GLHS conversation, 5/7/2027). Keeping up with the expenses of establishing the property became even harder for Oswald during the Depression and left him with debts that took some years to clear. Nevertheless the post-Depression years of the 1930s were a time for optimism. In 1936, Oswald received the Depression rebate on his rent in1936 and married Freda (Oswald Henry Dixon online).

Block 19: Pre-ACT locals and newcomers Gozzard, Hobbs, Champion, Baird

Block 19 was another new subdivision block. It was north-west of Block 20 on the original land of the Cameron and Smith families as shown in Figure 3-36. Other than the loss of the original farm buildings, nothing is yet known of Block 19's history between resumption and 1923[16]. However, it seems likely that it was the subdivision that brought the destruction of the Smith homestead and barn, described above in Evan Cameron Leasehold Block 14 (see Part 3.2, 'Ginninderry's new south eastern neighbours' and Figure 3-13).

The first lessee of new Block 19 in 1924 was Henry Edward Gozzard junior. He was a member of a Ginninderra selector family who had developed a considerable property at Mulligan's Flat. He would have been well known by the Cameron and Kilby families as he was married to Thomas Southwell's daughter, Harriet (Gillespie, 1992, p. 222). It seems likely that Block 19 became one of several blocks he leased for grazing. Figure 3-36 shows the pre-resumption landscape of Block 19 as recorded on the early ACT feature map. E Cameron's house, formerly the Smith's Weetangera House, marked in green on the Block's eastern boundary. The original Cameron Block 26 (green boundary) is under crop. Other annotations support descriptions in the lease file notes of the good quality of the land on Block 19. In 1925, Gozzard was notified that the track through the block was to be closed. This track was the 'old' Weetangera Road shown in brown in Figure 3-36. It was realigned to the north as part of the Belconnen-Hall subdivision and formed the northern boundary of Block 19. Another development on Block 19 was the FCC's decision to appoint a Ranger to the district. Gozzard agreed to fence off a paddock for the Ranger's hut. It's shown in Figure 3-36 marked with a yellow boundary between the new road alignment and the site of Weetangera/ E Cameron's house (Block 19 Belconnen, E.E. Hobbs).

[16] More research is required to find the number of the block created on the Smith and Cameron selections at the time of Evan Cameron's Block 14).

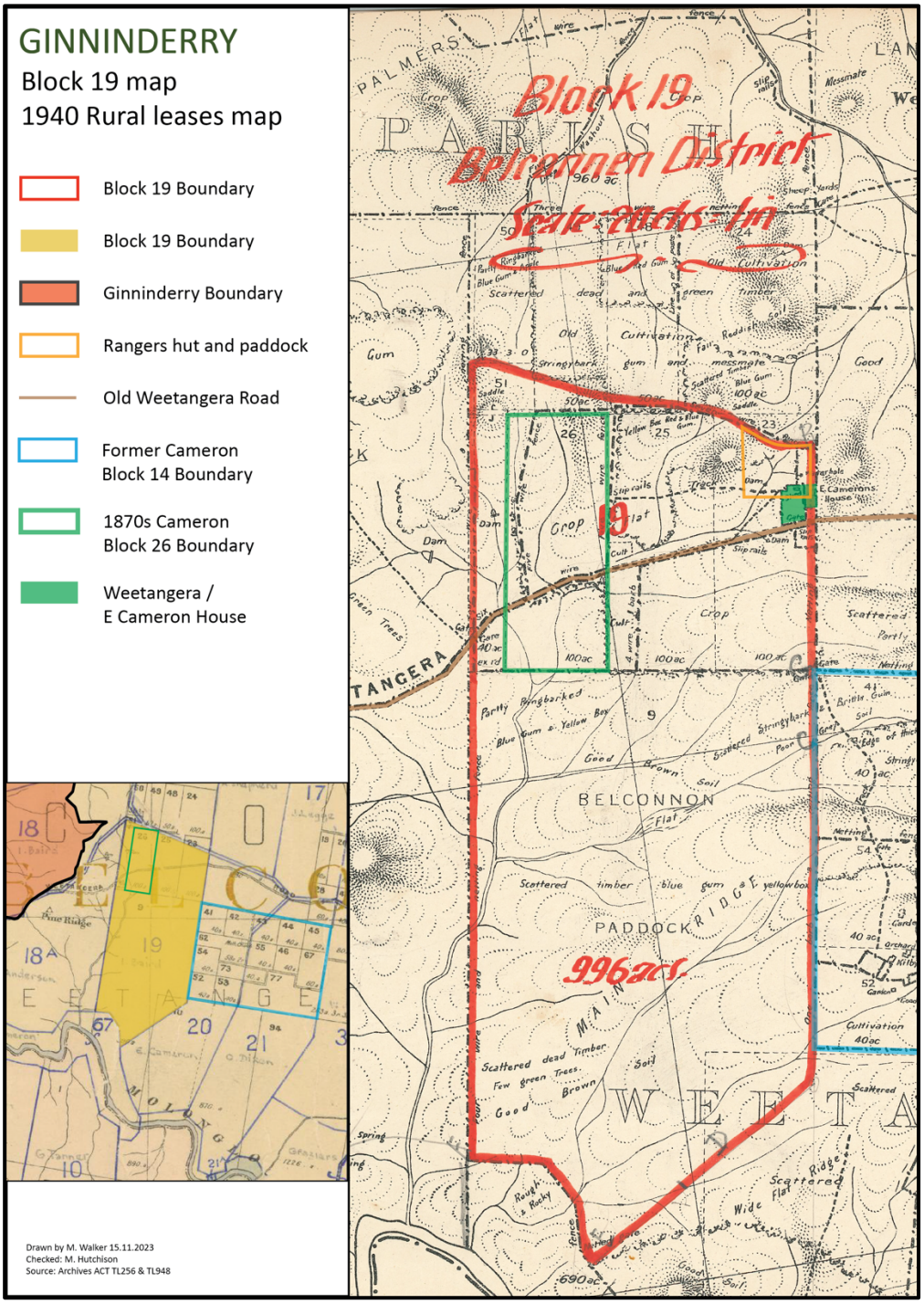


Figure 3-36 Boundary of Block 19 Belconnen on Federal Capital Feature Map, c. 1915. Block 19, Belconnen, I. H Baird, Archives ACT TL948.

In 1928, Gozzard was given approval to transfer his lease to his son-in-law, E.E. Hobbs. This may have been seen as an opportunity for the younger man. However, as the Depression worsened, Hobbs struggled with his rental payments and made several complaints to the Land Board. In 1931, the block was transferred to P.H. Champion who planned to consolidate it with his existing Block 18A. In 1935, it was transferred again – this time to Ian Baird (Block 19 Belconnen, I. H. Baird).

Block 5 Stromlo/5B Belconnen: Vernie Buckmaster

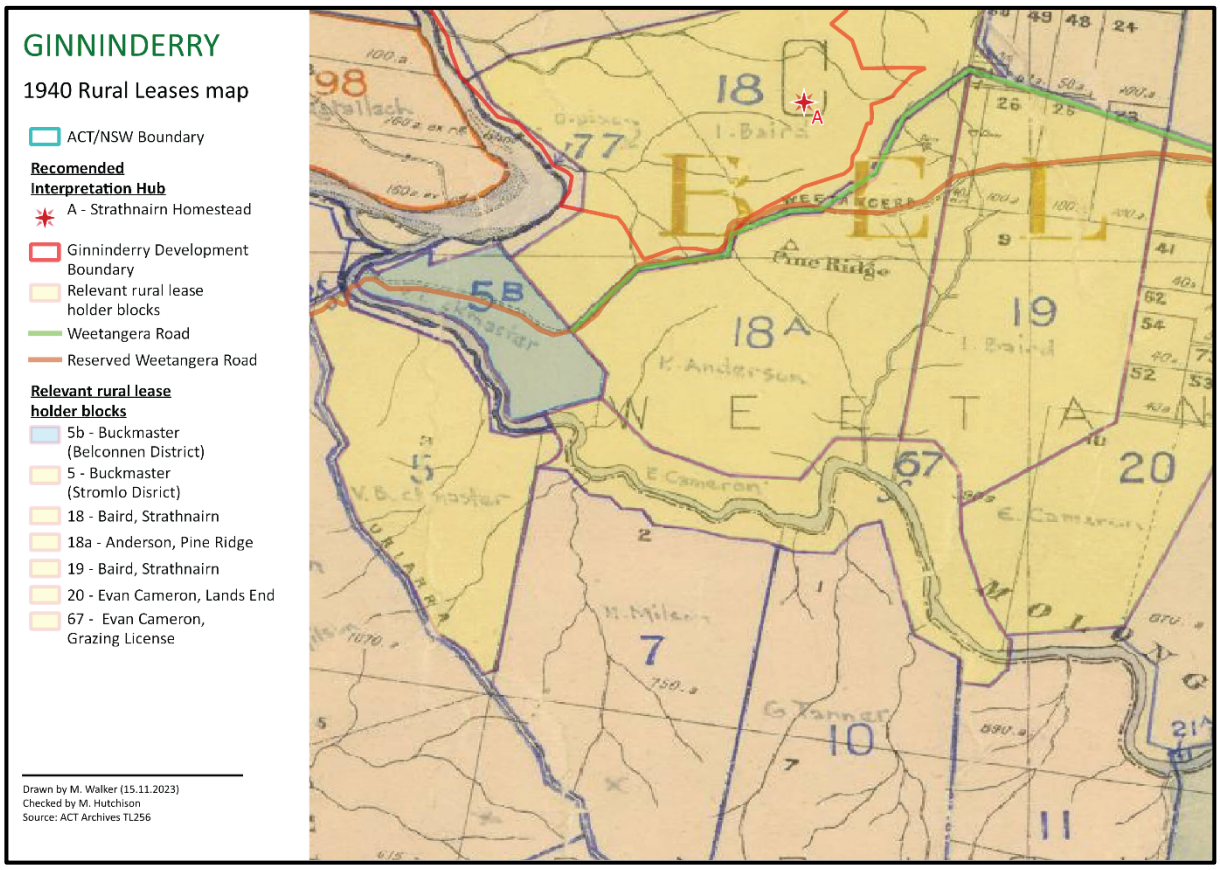
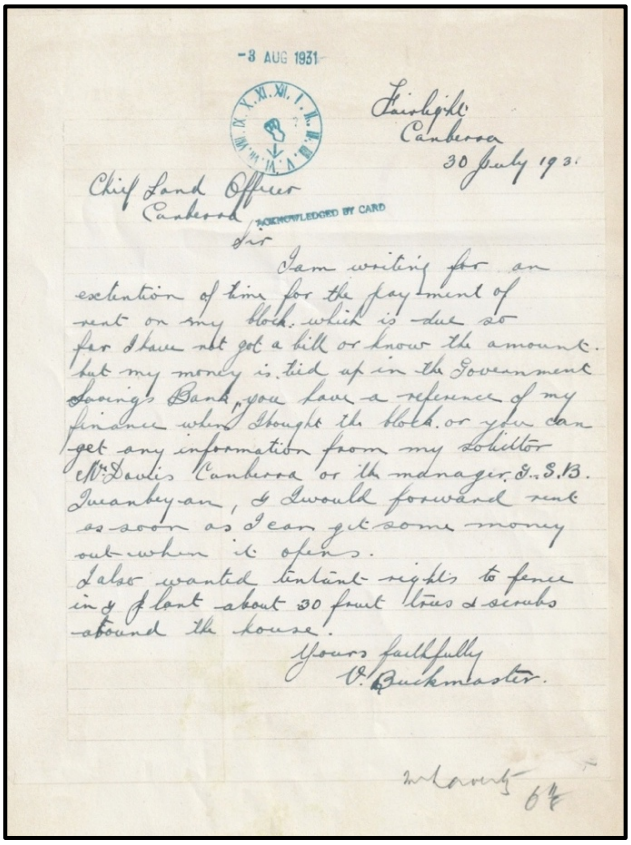


Figure 3-37 Vernie Buckmaster's Block 5/5B and Belconnen neighbours, 1940. The Federal Territory Counties of Murray & Cowley, July 1915 Map (amended c. 1940) Archives ACT TL256

The critical condition of the economy was likely the impetus for Eric Bolton, lessee of Block 5B grazing licence next to Evan Cameron, to transfer his lease to Vernie Buckmaster in April 1931. Although he must have had the capital to take up the lease at this time, Buckmaster's acquisition coincided with another impact of the Depression in NSW. On 22 April 1931, the NSW Government Savings Bank closed the doors of all its branches and agencies after withdrawals by thousands of customers concerned their savings would disappear (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 2021, online). Figure 3-38 shows Vernie's letter to the Chief Land Officer about his unexpected financial circumstances[17].

[17] Vernie's letter was written from his property across the Murrumbidgee, 'Fairlight'. In 1932 his correspondence address became The Rivers, a property that has a long association with the Buckmaster family.



-3 AUG 1931

Fairlight
Canberra
30 July 1931

Chief Land Officer
Canberra

ACKNOWLEDGED BY CARD

Sir

I am writing for an extention of time for the payment of rent on my block which is due so far I have not got a bill or know the amount but my money is tied up in the Government Savings Bank you have a reference of my finance when I bought the block or you can get any information from my Solicitor Mr Davis Canberra or the manager S.M.B. Queanbeyan, & I would forward rent as soon as I can get some money out when it opens.

I also wanted timber rights to fence in my plant about 30 feet trees & scrubs around the house.

Yours faithfully
V. Buckmaster.

Figure 3-38 Letter from Vernie Buckmaster to the Chief Land Officer from Fairlight 30 July 1931. Block 5B Belconnen and Block 5 Stromlo V.W. Buckmaster

> *I am writing for an extension of time for the payment of rent on my block which is due so far I have not got a bill or know the amount but my money is tied up in the Government Savings Bank … I would forward rent as soon as I can get some money out when it opens.*

Belconnen Station Leases

The leases that replaced Selwyn Miller's Blocks 1-3 on Belconnen Station were gazetted in June 1923 and leased in 1924. Between Miller's departure and the new lessees, the land was largely used for grazing. A. Field's sheep were agisted on Francis Leahy's Block 3 from April 1923. By June, cattle belonging to a member of the Hyles family were grazing on Blocks 1-3 with notice to remove all by the end of July (Leases Belconnen district Blocks 1, 2, 3. Selwyn Miller). Figure 3-39 is the map of the Belconnen Station blocks published in 1924 to advertise the new leases. it shows the four subdivision Blocks 18A, 18, 14 and 13 as well its roads. Cusack's Crossing Track, officially closed to the public at the time of Selwyn Miller's lease, is shown as a reserve. New neighbouring blocks to the east include Edward Gozzard's Block 19 on the land of the closest Ginninderry selector neighbours. The gate in the Belconnen Station boundary fence from the road disputes period is still visible.

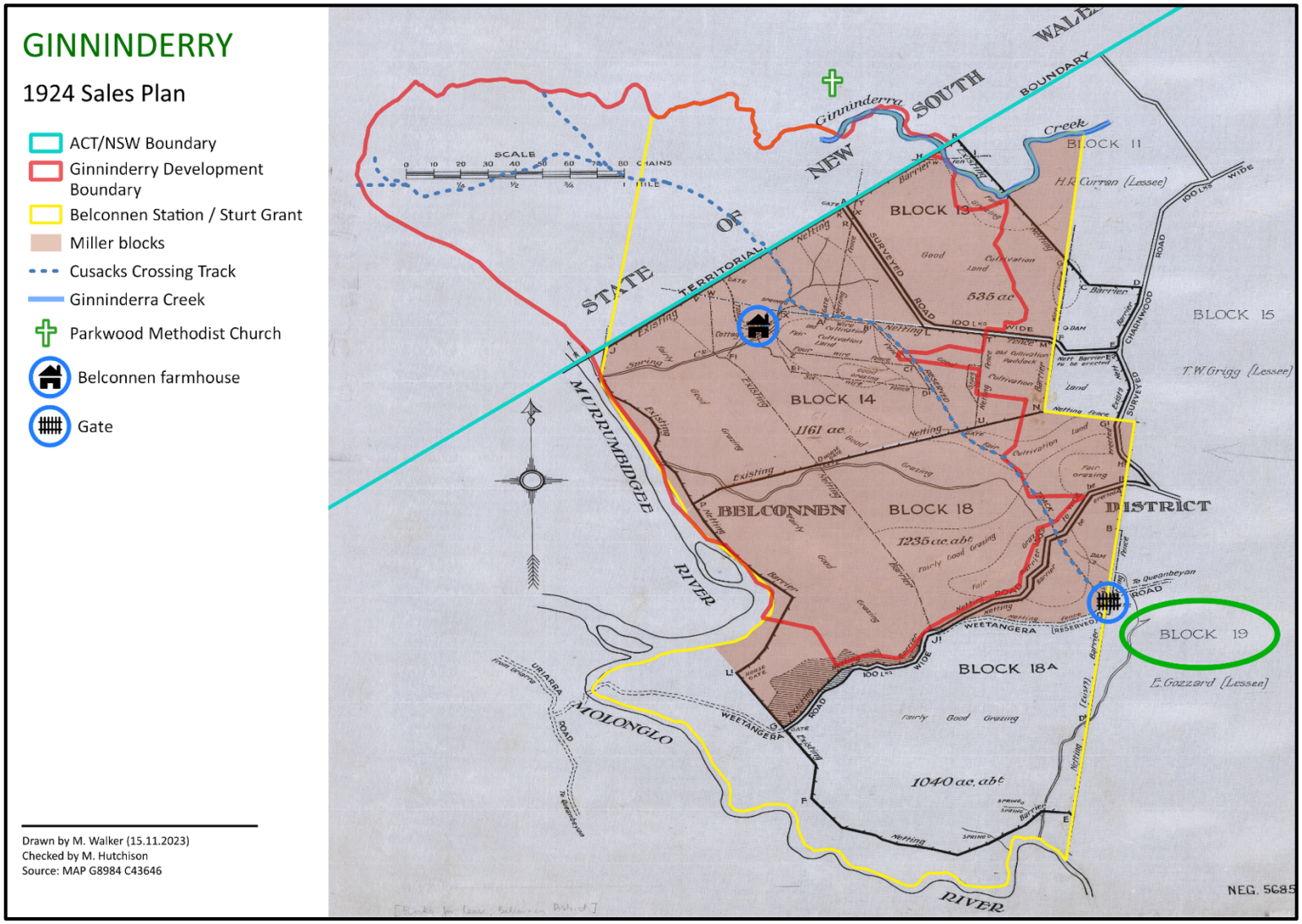


Figure 3-39 Sales Plan of blocks for lease within the former Belconnen Station. National Library of Australia MAP G8984 C3646 (Sales Plan) ,Canberra, Lands and Survey Office c. 1924

Block 18a Pine Range/Pine Ridge: Soldier settlers Kerr, Champion, Anderson

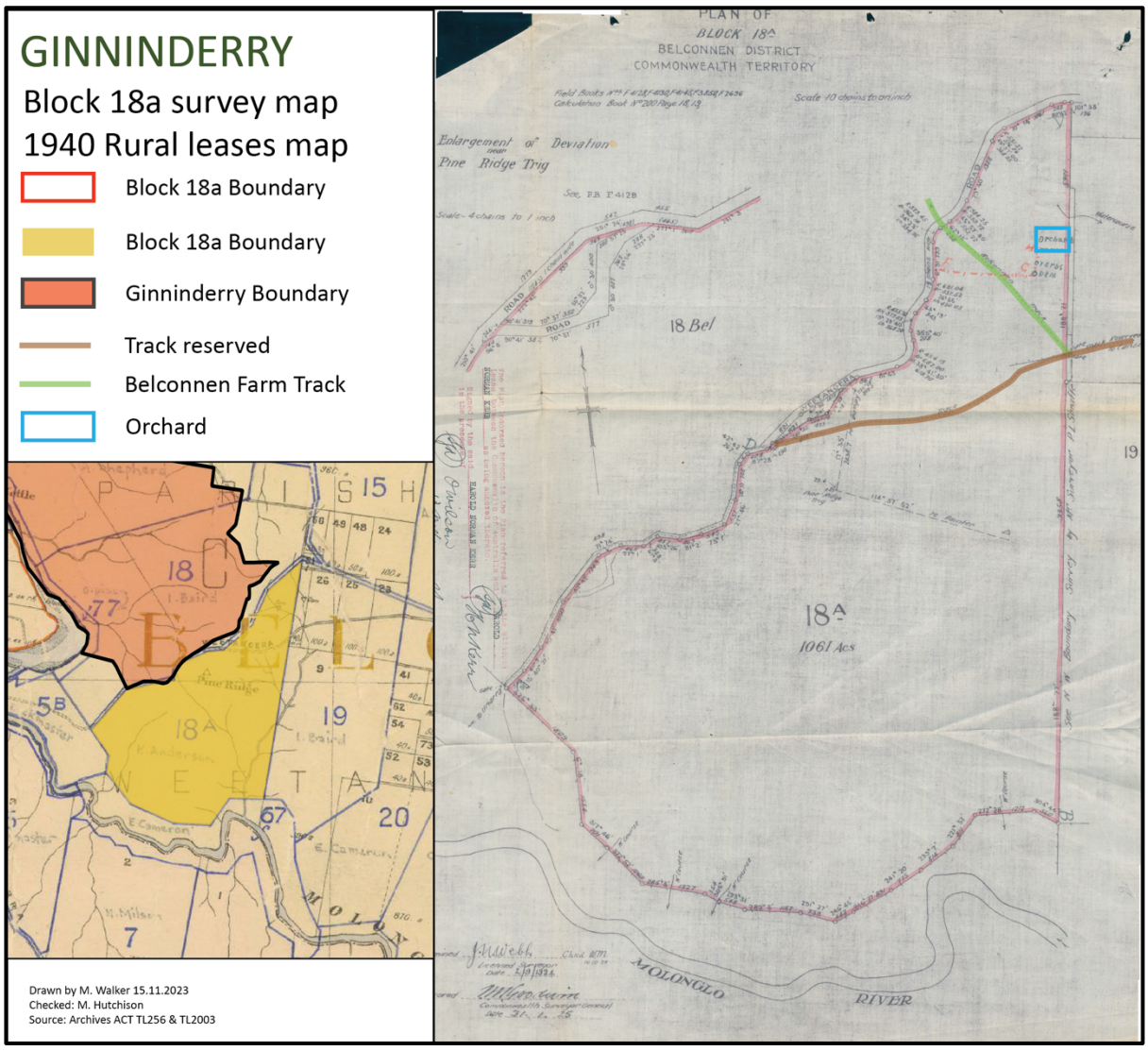


Figure 3-40 Block 18A survey map, c. 1924. The reserved track shown in brown is a deviation of the old Weetangera Road through the block. At the boundary gate it joins the alignment to Canberra. The 'Belconnen track', shown in green, is the southern end of Cusack's Crossing Track (not in Ginninderry) at its junction with old Weetangera Road. Block 18A Belconnen, K.P. Anderson, Archives ACT, TL2003 Part 1

Block 18A was described carefully in the sales plan as 'fairly good grazing' (Figure 3-40). It was the one area of Belconnen Station that Selwyn Miller did not lease. It is not within Ginninderry but is an immediate neighbour on the south-eastern boundary as shown in Figure 3-39. It was known locally for its trees as The Piny Range, more officially Pine Range (Cameron, Ernest, 1951). Its first lessee in 1924 was soldier settler Harold Norman Kerr. He was the brother in-law of the soldier settler builder, Eric

Bondfield, who had already taken up his first block in the Belconnen subdivision and no doubt supported Harold in his application for Block 18A (Block 18A Belconnen, H.N. Kerr) [18].

Harold Kerr was born in Brisbane and was single and working as a clerk when he enlisted in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment in 1914. He returned to Australia in 1919 with a commendation for his valuable service while a staff sergeant in Egypt (Kerr, Harold Norman 1914-19). He was granted the lease at 'Pine Range' when he was living in Sydney. His plan was to breed sheep but after he had inspected the block, decided to focus on grazing. It seems likely that he never lived on the block. His correspondence with the Lands Office was conducted from Sydney and indicated that his brother-in-law was looking after 18A and the stock that Harold had purchased – as well as agisting his own sheep on the block. In 1925, Harold received £125 in advance from the government to build a weatherboard cottage on his block. However, the address on the deed was still Sydney. In early 1926, he paid off the stock mortgage and the advance (Block 18A Belconnen, H.N. Kerr). In April 1926, Major Philip Hulberd Champion's lease of Block 18A was approved (Block 18A Belconnen, K. P. Anderson).

Major Philip Champion (Phil) was a British First World War returned soldier – not an Australian soldier settler. He and his wife Katherine with their three young children migrated to Canberra in about 1925-26. The photo in Figure 3-41 is in a collection of biographical notes and family photographs held by the ACT Heritage Library (Cooleman and the Champion Family, 1904-1971).

[18] Eric Bondfield 's first lease was Block 7 on the original John Southwell property, Rosehill (now Spence). Eric later managed to get a larger block instead on what had been the Charnwood Estate. (Hall Heritage Centre, 'Rose Hill; 'Eric Charles Bondfield').



Figure 3-41 Champion family photograph. 'Dagging sheep at Pine Range' c. 1930. Cooleman and the Champion Family, ACT Heritage Library HMSS 0409.

In 1931, Philip added the 'kinder' sheep country of Block 19 to Block 18a. File correspondence indicates that he was planning to finance this addition by selling land in the Cooma district that he was currently paying off which he said he was intending to sell (Block 19 Belconnen, I.H. Baird; Block 19 Belconnen E.E. Hobbs). In the context of the Depression, it was a risk he survived. At the end of the year he was hit by the slump in British securities and unable to pay his rent in full but was able to negotiate repaying the arrears in instalments. As the financial situation eased, the Champions seem to have returned to their interest in the mountains south of Canberra. In 1935, Philip transferred Block 19 to Ian Baird. The following year, soldier settler Ken Anderson became the lessee of 18A (Block 18A Belconnen,K.P Anderson). Coincidentally, the Champions moved to the Weston Creek block that Ken had earlier leased as a soldier settler and named 'Allawah' They renamed the property 'Cooleman' and built a new homestead on the southern slopes of Mt Arawang where they lived into the 1970s Cooleman included much of the land of present-day Chapman, Rivett and Weston Creek (Cooleman and the Champion family, 1904-1971).

Ken Anderson was born in Kiama. He enlisted for war service in 1916 and fought in France and Belgium. He returned in 1919. In 1926, he was offered the lease on Stromlo Block 2 – subdivided from the Yarralumla Estate. During the Depression the payment he received for his wool could not cover the rent and he was unable to get security for a loan. In 1932, he had to transfer the lease to pay off his arrears. Aware that his difficulties were similar to those of many leaseholders, he became involved in forming the Rural Lessees Association. He leased land at Brindabella until taking over Phil Champion's lease on Block 18A Belconnen (Kenneth Primrose Anderson online). From the Anderson's time the property was known as Pine Ridge. Figure 3-42 is Ken Anderson's sketch of his proposed orchard.

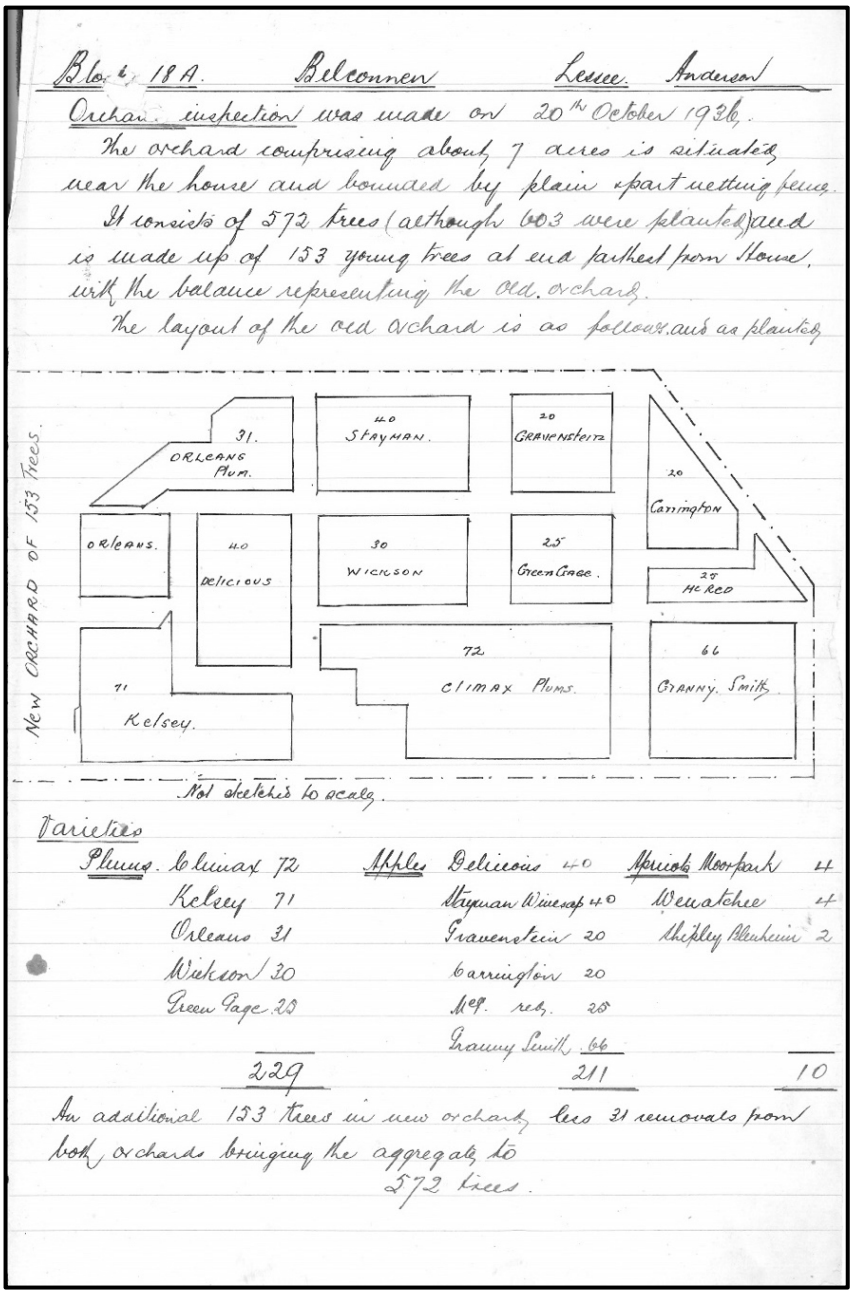


Figure 3-42 Ken Anderson sketch of proposed orchard (see also Figure 3-67 above). Block 18A Belconnen, K.P. Anderson. Archives ACT TL 2003 part 1.

Block 18 Strathnairn: Pre-ACT local Jack Read

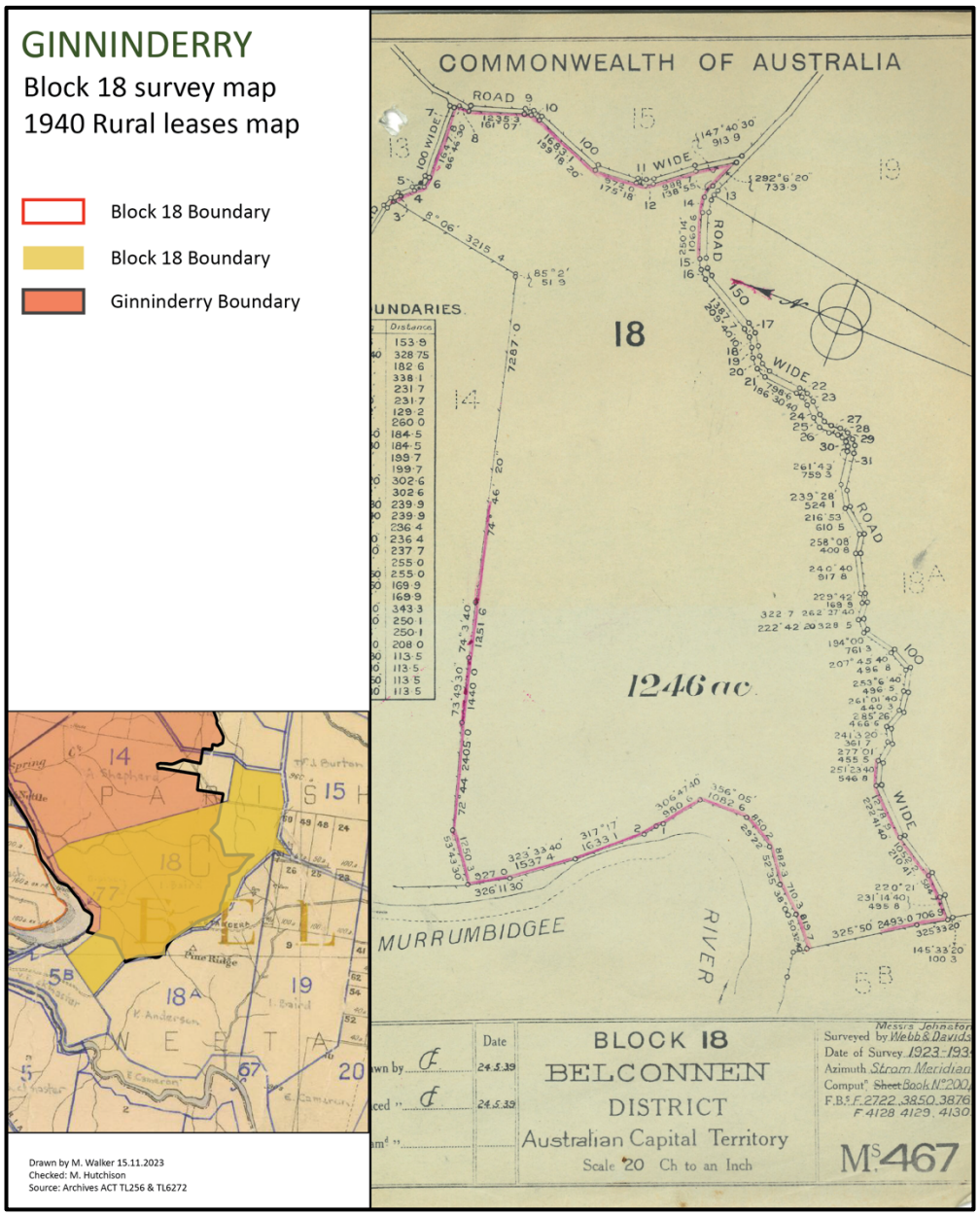


Figure 3-43 Survey of Block 18 Belconnen, c. 1924. Belconnen Block 18, I.H. Baird. Archives ACT TL6272.

Block 18 was the largest in the subdivision (Figure 3-43). It offered 'fairly good grazing', and a comparatively small cultivation paddock as shown in Figure 3-39. Its first lessee in 1924 was Jack Lester Read of 'The Pines' Ainslie. His grandmother was a member of the Shumack family. In 1887, his father, John Read, had purchased the Old Canberra Inn and the land associated with it from his uncle Joseph Shumack. Rather than re-licence the inn, situated on Yass Road, John turned it into his home, planted large pine trees around it and farmed the adjacent land. He was well known for his farming methods as

a 'scientific' farmer. Jack Read was one of John and Ellen (Maloney) Read's ten children (Hall Heritage Centre, John Read, online).

Jack's lease conditions included the requirement to build a house on the property but when he sought a bank loan for building, he ran into the problem of getting a loan on ACT leasehold security. The FCC loaned him £360 to be repaid in instalments. Subsequent correspondence between Jack and the Lands office concerned building supplies and plans for a modest weatherboard cottage (Block 18, Belconnen, J. Read). It consisted of four rooms with two bedrooms and a back-to- back living room and kitchen with a double chimney. At the back of the house there was a bathroom and a verandah. Read's cottage remains as the core of Strathnairn homestead (Haynes et al, 2013, p. 11).

In the years after Jack took up the lease and arranged finance for his cottage, the economic situation became bleak. By February 1930, he was preparing to surrender his lease. Figure 3-44 is a map drawn up by a Lands inspector and attached to a list of 'improvements Mr. Read holds rights in' (Block 18 Belconnen, I.H. Baird, Part 1). These include the 'weatherboard residence' and a number of fences and part fences, indicated on the sketch in red. Apart from the fences, the inspector's map gives a detailed picture of Jack's farm and lifestyle. One of the details refers to his neighbour, Philip Champion on Block 18. A gate on their boundary fence, not in red, is noted as 'Champion's gate'. The following year, Jack married Ivy Smith at Newtown in Sydney. They moved to Tottenham in central west NSW where their son was born in 1933 (Browning, pers. comm. 23/8/2023). According to a Wikipedia entry they bought the Tottenham Hotel and continued working in the hotel business in rural NSW[19].

[19] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strathnairn_Homestead,_Australian_Capital_Territory

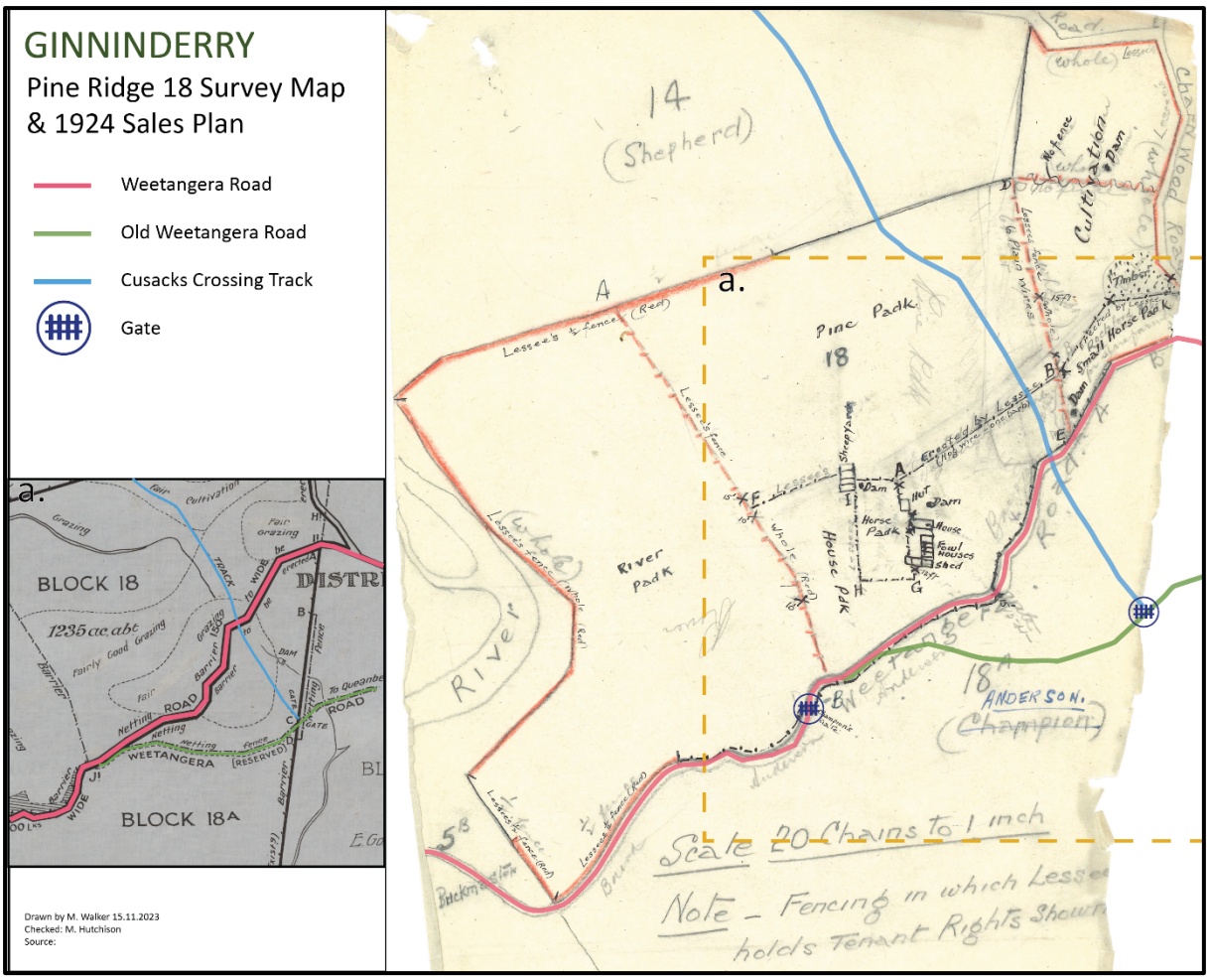


Figure 3-44 Map drawn up by ACT Lands to identify Jack Read's rights to compensation for improvements on Block 18. Block 18 I.H. Baird. ACT Archives TL G972 24/2/1930 Part 1.

Block 18: Newcomers David Elphinstone and Ian Baird

The lessees of Block 18 who followed Jack Read represented two different groups of newcomers, both with more capital than the soldier settlers. In 1931, Jack's lease was transferred to David Bruce Elphinstone. Elphinstone was a builder who had moved to Canberra from Sydney in 1926 when the construction of Canberra was speeding up under the FCC. In Canberra, he and his business partner, Wesley George, were responsible for several buildings, most notably, the Hotel Ainslie completed in 1927. Elphinstone was also an early president of the Canberra Master Builders Association (Haynes et al, 2013, p. 11). It can be assumed that in 1931 he was more interested in Block 18 as a country property than in farming it himself. As a potential lessee he was supported by the newly appointed Civic Administrator, Charles Daley, who assured Arthur Percival, the Surveyor General who was now Chief Property Officer in the Department of Interior, that although Elphinstone had no experience in grazing or farming, he was 'sufficiently substantial to carry out the undertaking' (Block 18 Belconnen, J. Read).

Elphinstone lost no time in setting about the 'undertaking' in a substantial fashion. His first project was to make some additions to the modest Read cottage. These highlighted a change in lifestyle – an additional dining room, two new verandahs enclosed with flywire, water supplied to the kitchen, bathroom and laundry from 4 x 1200 gallon galvanised tanks, and a galvanised 'motor garage'. In 1931, Elphinstone submitted drawings of his improvements to the cottage to the Property and Survey Office (Block 18 Belconnen, J. Read; See Figure 3-45).

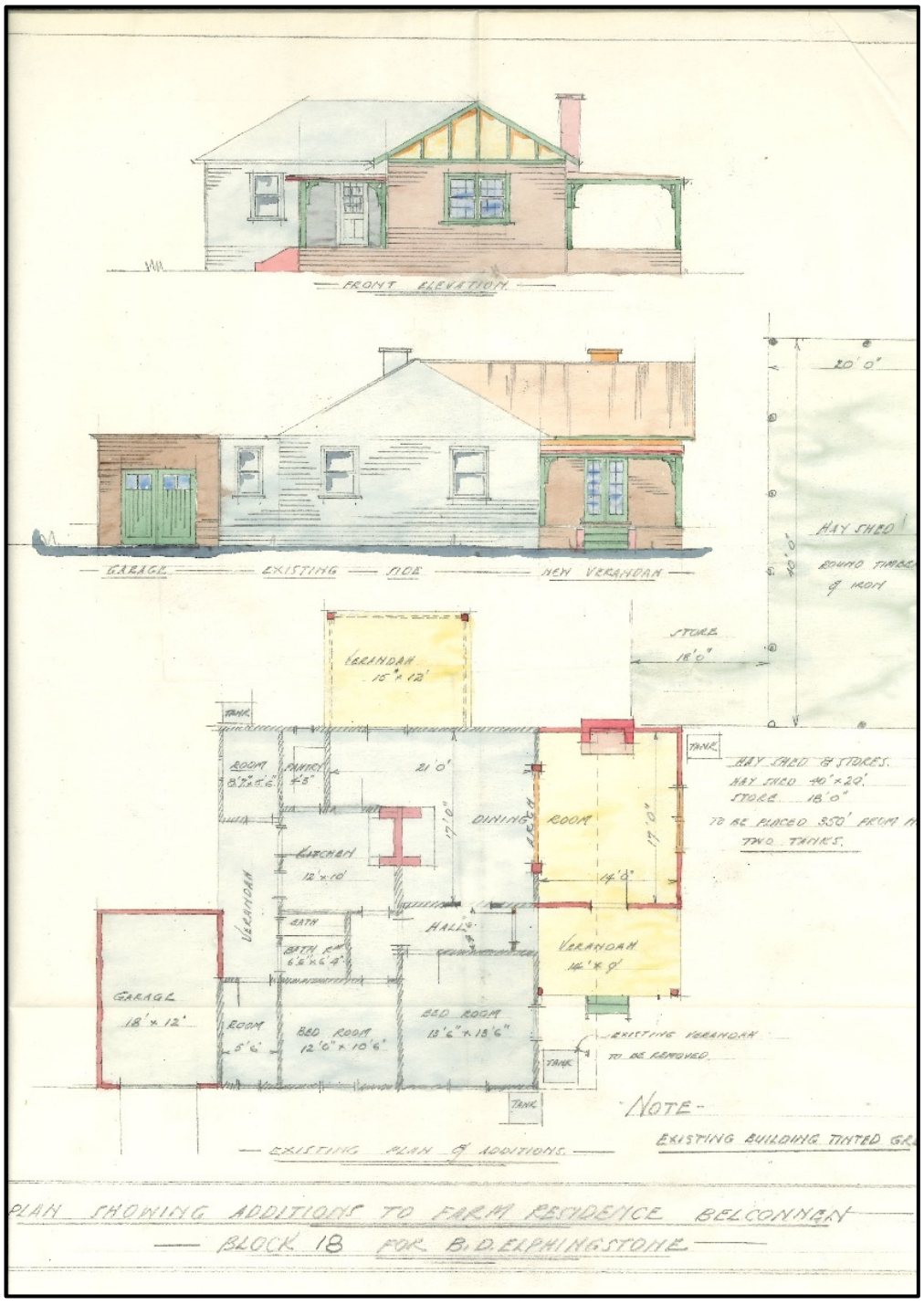


Figure 3-45 David Elphinstone's additions to Jack Read's cottage, 1931. Block 18 Belconnen, J.Read Archives ACT TL 7754.

Further domestic and farming improvements followed and were documented in a comprehensive list of claims for tenant's rights. For example, for the house and garden – a road to the cottage, a telephone line, and '21 fruit and 120 rose trees'. For the farm – fences, clearing and ploughing, excavation of dams, a 'new modern fowl house', a hayshed, stores, a workshop and animal enclosures. In October 1933-34, Property and Survey correspondence concerned finalisation of the transfer of Block 18 to Ian Hamilton Baird. Elphinstone's lawyers were informed that the Commonwealth would pay him £800 for 'allowable improvements'. Ian Baird paid Elphinstone £2,750, presumably the cost of improvements not compensated by the Commonwealth (Block 18 Belconnen, I.H. Baird, Part1).

Ian Hamilton Baird came from a family of wealthy pastoralists in Victoria and NSW. They had Scottish roots and, like some other Scots, had taken up land in Northern Ireland before the 19th century (*The Australasian*, 6/11/1937, p. 38). Ian was a member of the NSW branch of the family. By 1917, his parents had established the property 'Birroon' near Gunning. Ian married Ellen Fox, daughter of a Melbourne lawyer in 1934, the year he became the lessee of Block 18. In 1935, he also acquired the lease of Block 19 from Phil Champion and became a neighbour of the Camerons at Lands End as well as the Shepherds at Belconnen Farm (Block 19 Belconnen, I.H. Baird). With Ian's move to the ACT, his parents retired to Canberra where they had a house in Mugga Way (Haynes et al, 2013, p. 15).

Ian, with practical experience of managing a property, added further farm buildings, including a woolshed. He also commissioned Canberra architect, Ken Oliphant, to design an extension to the north side of the homestead, completed in 1938. The valuation for proposed additions in 1936 notably included 'a lavatory with W.C. and basin' and a septic tank – a lifestyle far beyond Jack Read but commensurate with 1930s housing in Canberra and available to rural leaseholders with the means to support it (Block 18 Belconnen, I.H. Baird, Part 1). Ellen Baird became involved in several charities and organisations in Canberra, including the YWCA (Haynes et al, p. 20).

Block 14 'Belconnen Farm': Soldier Settler Austin Shepherd

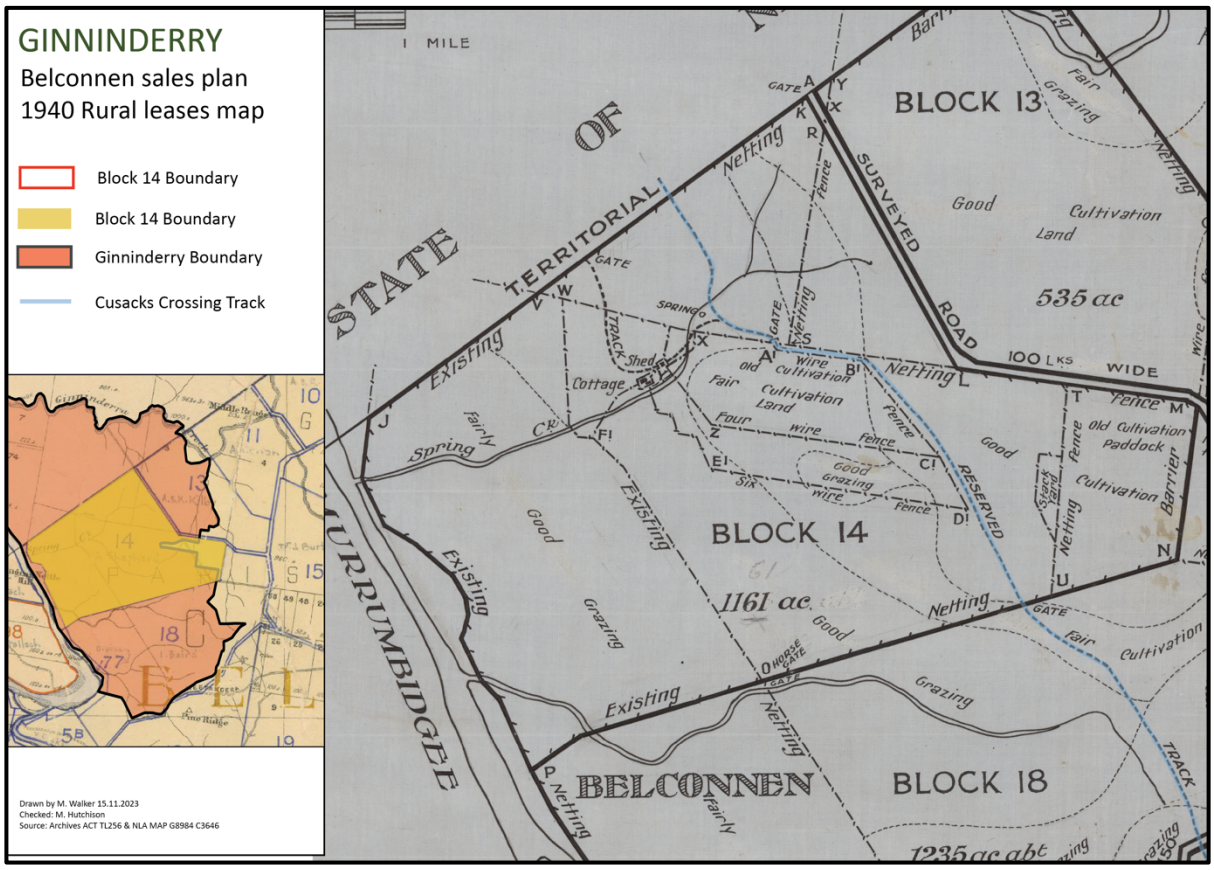


Figure 3-46 Block 14, later Belconnen Farm, as shown on the Belconnen Station leases map. National Library of Australia MAP G8984 C3646 (Sales Plan), Canberra, Lands and Survey Office 1924.

Details of Block 14 as it was advertised for lease in 1923-24 are shown in Figure 3-46. It included the Belconnen Station overseer's cottage, located by Spring Creek, not far from the border, and most recently used and added to by Selwyn Miller. Various farm buildings near the cottage were also part of the existing improvements. Figure 3-46 also shows the recently reserved track that ran through Belconnen Station to Cusack's Crossing, with a side track to the cottage. Soldier settler Austin Shepherd and his family moved into the cottage, which became their farmhouse, in 1925. He had taken the lease in September 1924 and moved to the block some time later, but ahead of his wife, Louise, and young children, who joined him the following year in somewhat inauspicious circumstances (Austin Nugent, Shepherd online).

> *It was pouring rain and we got bogged up in the Pine Paddock. I'm sure it was dark. My father had to borrow a sulky from a neighbour to take us down to the house. The house was just a shambles. My mother always used to say it was raining outside and raining inside - tears! tears!*
>
> ('Jean McLennan interviewed by her son Stewart', 2012. Courtesy: Stewart McLennan).

Jean McLennan (previously Shepherd) was three years old when she, her mother and baby brother, Bob, joined her father, soldier settler Austin Shepherd, at Belconnen Farm in 1925. He met them at Goulburn railway station and drove them to Belconnen Farm in his Model T Ford – a drive well-remembered in family history (Pfanner, 1999, p. 26). For Austin's wife, Louise, the house on the block was a shock – two stone rooms, no running water, no inside sanitation, a slab kitchen, and various weatherboard additions probably from the Miller period (Pfanner, 2011, p. 26).



Figure 3-47 Belconnen Farm looking south. c.1928. Jean and Bob Shepherd in foreground with the house on the left. From the photo album prepared by the late Jean McLennan for her son Stewart. Courtesy: Stewart McLennan

Austin Shepherd was a fourth-generation member of a colonial farming family in NSW, whose first member in Australia was a convict who established a successful farming legacy for his descendants. He was born in Goulburn in 1886 and attended Hawkesbury Agricultural college. He enlisted in 1915 when he was working for the Department of Agriculture as an 'experimentalist' – seeking and trying out crops

for the newly-established Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. The majority of his First World War service was in France with the First Australian Veterinary Evacuation Station (Austin Robert Nugent Shepherd, online). After the War he returned to the Department of Agriculture where his work involved rice-growing trials at Leeton. At became Belconnen Farm he drew on his agricultural experience to use pasture improvement methods to increase production (McLennan, 2014)[20].

Like most of the soldier settlers, finances were tight for the Shepherds– especially as the existing house and farm buildings were valued as 'improvements' that required purchase. Austin expected that his confirmed eligibility for a Commonwealth Repatriation grant would help meet these costs. However, in 1925 he was advised that such advances were no longer available. He was not one to back down and had the skills to pursue this sudden change in policy. Lands Officer, James Brackenreg lent his support on the basis that Austin's position was now the only case caught up in the change of policy, and that 'Apart from his War Service, Shepherd is a man scientifically trained in agriculture and really an acquisition to the Territory'. Austin also sought the support of the Prime Minister, Billy Hughes. By the end of 1926 his campaign had been successful, and he was able to apply for the advance on the basis that it would be favourably considered (Austin Nugent Shepherd, online).

The closure of the NSW Savings Bank also had an impact on the Shepherds as much as on other leaseholders but, unlike many, Austin had enough in savings to meet the arrears accrued over the time of the closure. Like others though, he complained vigorously of unfair valuations on 'improvements'. One of his complaints concerned the valuation of Kilby Brothers' work on the stables: '£100 for stables built of slab with an iron roof in 1894 by two men who were paid £20 for labour and material' (Austin Nugent Shepherd online).

Over the 1920s and 30s, Austin developed a productive farm and added to his property with the lease of nearby Block 16 for grazing. The house (Figure 3-49) was also made more comfortable and convenient with removal of the slab kitchen and use of the materials to add more rooms. These included a new kitchen and a school room where Louise oversaw the children's correspondence lessons. Figure 3-48 shows the Shepherds' renovations to the house based on grandson, Stewart Mclennan's memories.

[20] Stewart McLennan, Austin's grandson, has noted that Austin did not grow rice at Belconnen Farm. And that his full name is Austin Nugent Shepherd not Austin 'Robert' Nugent Shepherd.

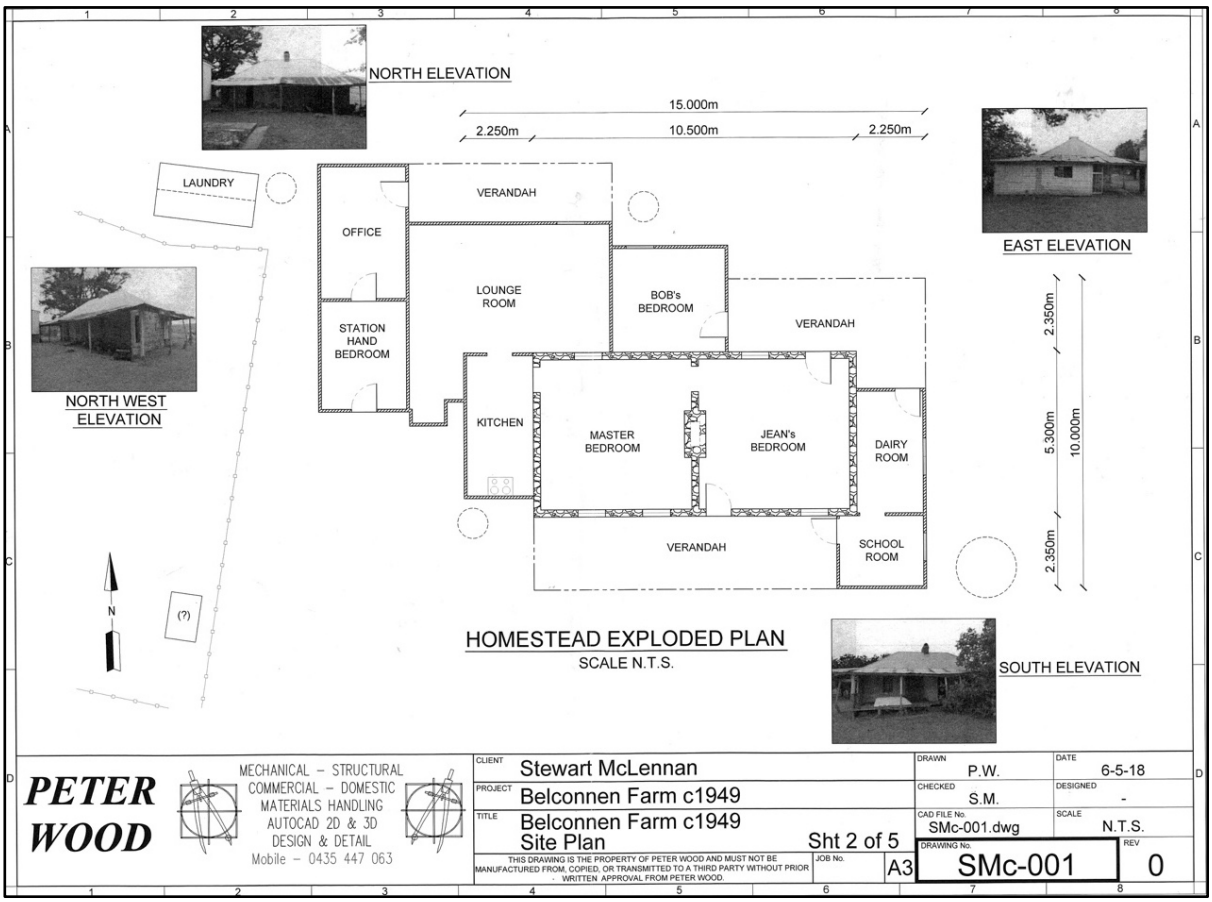


Figure 3-48 Drawing of Belconnen Farmhouse layout by Peter Wood as remembered by Stewart McLennan, grandson of Austin and Louise Shepherd, 2018. Courtesy: Stewart McLennan.



Figure 3-49 Belconnen Farmhouse 1930s additions. Courtesy: Stewart McLennan.

In 1945, Austin provided details of his improvements to the Lands Office. In 1949, he requested approval to build a new house with plans drawn up by architect Ken Oliphant. There was a limit to the tenant's rights he could claim for this improvement and government valuation calculated the sum that could be used (Pfanner, 1999, pp. 26-28). At this time the additions to the original house were dismantled and recycled for other farm buildings. The stone dwelling as it remained was entered on the ACT Heritage register in 2011. Block 14 continued in the hands of the Shepherd family until the lease was bought by Corkhill Brothers in 2003 (Australian Capital Territory, Belconnen Farm Heritage Registration, p. 10).

Block 13: soldier settler Harold Bingley

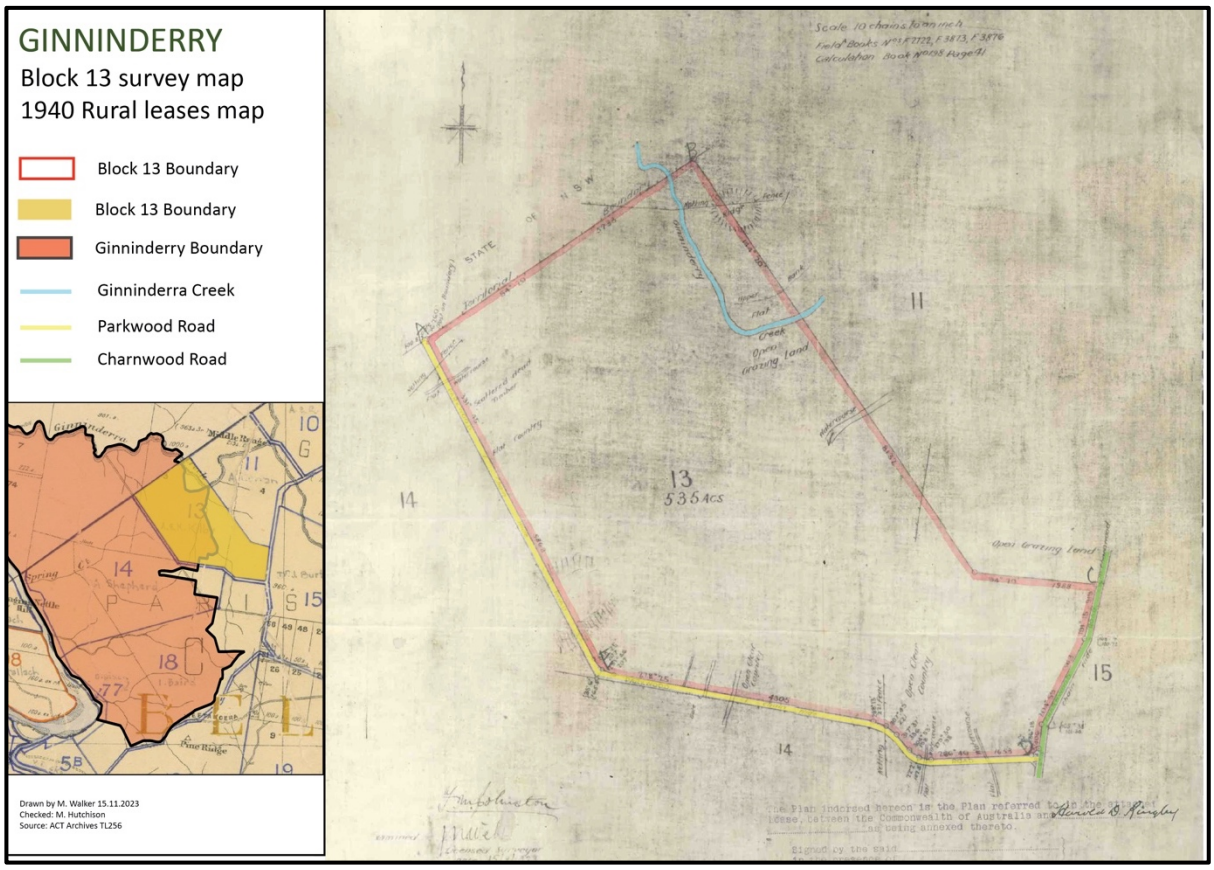


Figure 3-50 Survey map of Harold Bingley's soldier settlement Block 13. Block 13 Belconnen District H.D. Bingley. ACT Archives TL1256.

Harold Bingley took up the lease on Block 13 as a soldier settler in 1924 (Figure 3-50). His neighbour on Block 14 was Austin Shepherd. The boundary between them was the 1886 Parkwood road, shown on the sales plan as 'surveyed road'. Block 13 included a stretch of the Ginninderra Creek that includes a significant Aboriginal Corroboree Ground and Gathering Place. While this knowledge continued to be held by members of the local Aboriginal community, it was not known to descendants of the first settlers by the time of the Belconnen-Hall subdivision. It was entered on the ACT Heritage List in 2021 (ACT Heritage Council, 2021).

Harold (Harry) Bingley's family farmed at Woodfield in NSW near Canberra on the Sutton road. He enlisted in late 1916 and served in France for only several months before he was invalided out. He was discharged a year later in April 1918. He made an early application for a soldier settlement block in the ACT in 1919 but was not successful until 1924 when he was offered Block 13 of 535 acres – the smallest block on the former Belconnen station. In 1925 when he started to work the block he was too late for the Repatriation funds that Austin Shepherd had finally received. It seems he was also caught up in the uncertainty about the development of the Yass-Canberra railway line at the time. The Lands Office

thought the economic prospect of a small cultivation block with a dwelling would be better with railway access in the vicinity and, on this basis, may have delayed Harry's request to cut his losses. In February 1926 Harry wrote to the FCC stating his wish to transfer his lease to Kilby Brothers (Athol and Keith) of Hall (Figure 3-51). The transfer was not finalised until March 1927, when there was still no clarity about the railway (Block 13 Belconnen, H.D. Bingley; Harold David Bingley online). In fact, no definitive answer about the railway line was forthcoming and its easement remains.

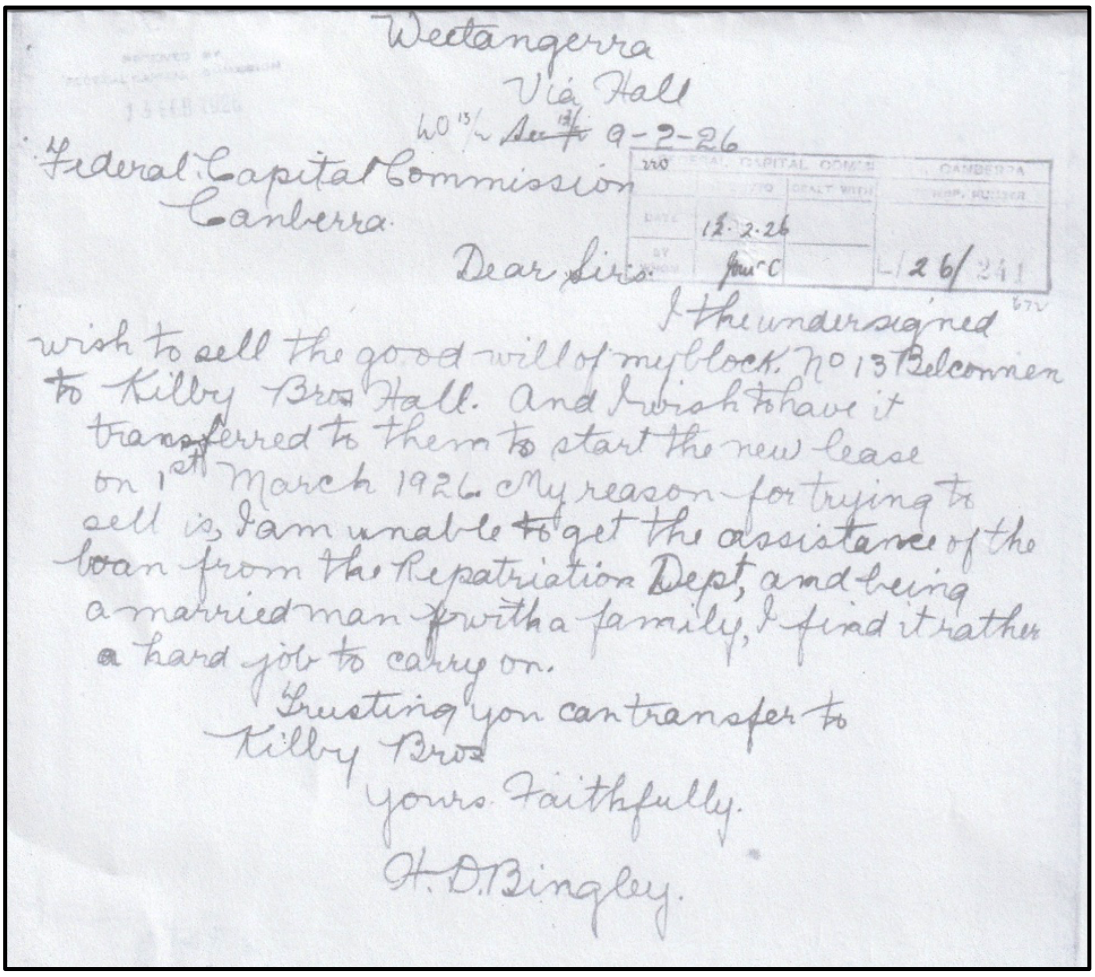

Weetangerra
Via Hall
9-2-26
Federal Capital Commission
Canberra.
Dear Sirs.
I the undersigned wish to sell the good will of my block. No 13 Belconnen to Kilby Bros Hall. And I wish to have it transferred to them to start the new lease on 1st March 1926. My reason for trying to sell is, I am unable to get the assistance of the loan from the Repatriation Dept, and being a married man with a family, I find it rather a hard job to carry on.
Trusting you can transfer to Kilby Bros
Yours Faithfully.
H. D. Bingley.

Figure 3-51. Harold Bingley's letter to the FCC concerning his wish to transfer the Block 13 to Kilby Brothers. Block 13 H.D. Bingley Belconnen District, Archives ACT TL1256.

Dear Sirs, I the undersigned wish to sell the good will of my block no. 13 Belconnen to Kilby Bros Hall. And I wish to have it transferred to them to start the new lease on 1st March 1926. My reason for trying to sell is I am unable to get the assistance of the loan from the Repatriation Dept , and being a married man with a family, I find it rather a hard job to carry on.

Trusting you can transfer to Kilby Bros

Yours faithfully H. D. Bingley

After the transfer Harry took on various rural work. As the Depression struck, his younger brother transferred two of his own soldier settlements blocks in Woden to Harry for a nominal sum. Harry made significant improvements on these blocks and used them for both grazing and cultivation. Then, in 1933, almost all of his land was resumed for a Canberra city block. The remainder was too small to make a living. In 1934, he transferred the lease and received £1000 for his improvements. The family moved to Redfern in Sydney. He was only 50 years old when he died in 1937 in South Sydney Hospital (Harold David Bingley online).

Block 13 and cross-border blocks 3, 2A, 2, 1: Local soldier settlers Keith and Athol Kilby

The transfer of Block 13 to soldier settlers Athol and Keith Kilby, connects Ginninderry directly with the Parkwood Kilby family and the Parkwood-Hall community. It also highlights some early border crossing enabled by the availability of ACT leasehold and several Commonwealth soldier settler blocks in NSW.

Keith and Athol Kilby were J.K. and Beatrice Kilby's eldest sons. They were born at The Falls in 1898 and 1999 respectively They enlisted for war service in the 12th Light Horse Regiment in 1918, aged 20 and 19. They arrived in Egypt just before the armistice and returned in 1919. With the recommencement of Canberra construction both found work with the surveying team, initially on setting out Parliament House. Keith rode his horse into Canberra each day for work, sometimes camping out along the Murrumbidgee River. Athol developed a strong interest in Canberra (Kilby, 2013, pp. 39-44; Athol Carlyle and Keith Kinloch Kilby online).

Keith and Athol each applied for soldier settlement blocks in 1923. They were successful in gaining their preferences. With the exception of one, their blocks were on the NSW side of the border. Athol's Blocks originally 3, 2A and 2 (ACT) amounted to 395 acres. He named his property Homeleigh. Keith's Block 1, Lochleigh, was 390 acres. See Figure 3-52. The blocks were close to their parents at Eneagh Hill, as well as to Wattle Park Church. They are shown in Figures 3-79 and Figure 3-55.

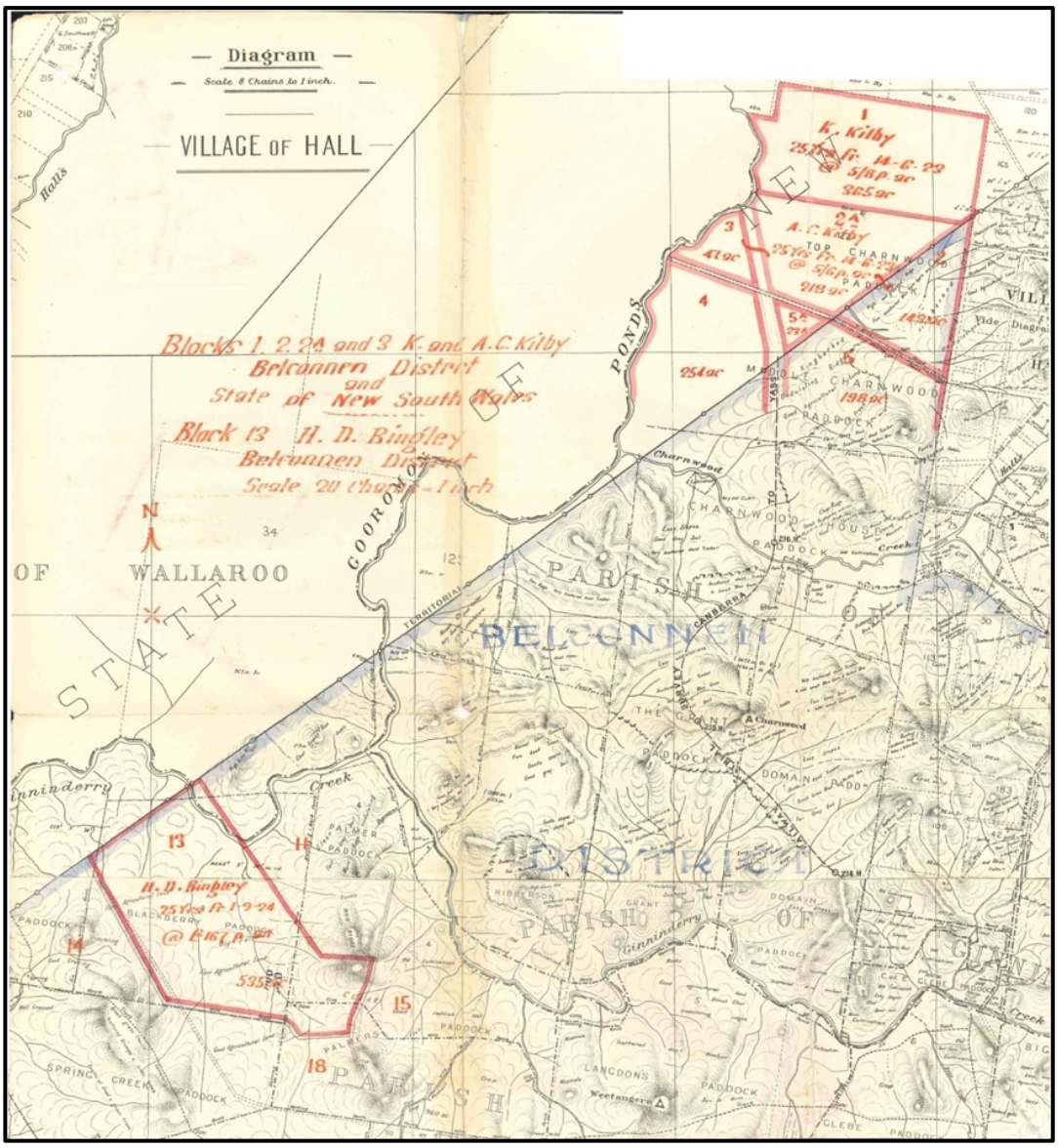


Figure 3-52 Athol and Keith Kilby's cross-border soldier settlement blocks and Block 13 within Ginninderry. Block 13 Belconnen, A.C. and K.K. Kilby. Archives ACT TLI1256.

Over the following years, Athol and Keith's acquisition of additional leases (Figure 3-52) created a property large enough to run a successful grazing business as Kilby Brothers. The first of these was Block 13 in the Belconnen Station subdivision shown in Figure 3-52. The brothers made a number of improvements to the block in the first two years of their ownership including a new iron hut, sheds and fencing. Figure 3-53 is a sketch of the block in support of their claim for tenants rights in their 1928 fencing improvements. In their letter they note that the fencing along Parkwood road is erected according to FCC specifications and provide details of further fencing of their cultivation paddock near the road. The sketch also indicates that Austin Shepherd (Block 14) is their neighbour across Parkwood road . Jack Read's Block 18 is shown next to Shepherd. These blocks are also visible in Figure 3-52.

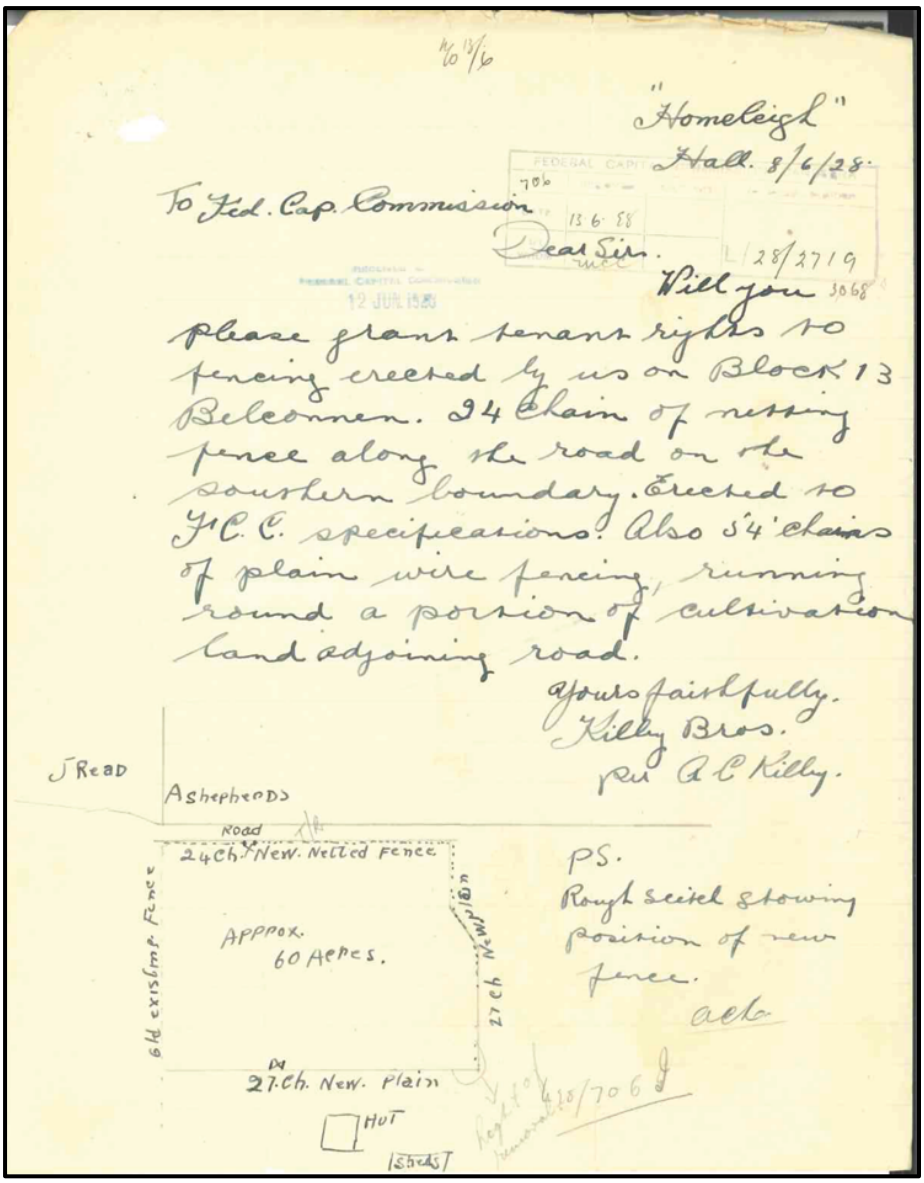


Figure 3-53 Letter re: tenants rights from Kilby Brothers to FCC 3/6/1928. Block 13 Belconnen, A.C. and K.K. Kilby. Archives ACT TLI1256

NSW Ginninderry and nearby cross-border land holders: Kilby and Moore families

The Kilby and Moore families managed the challenges of the ACT in the border area by building up properties consisting of both leases and freeholdings. These are shown in overview form in Figure 3-54. Kilby land was acquired by two generations of the family from 1895 when J.K. Kilby purchased the blocks that made up The Falls. Moore free and lease holdings were acquired and farmed by family members from the 1920s.

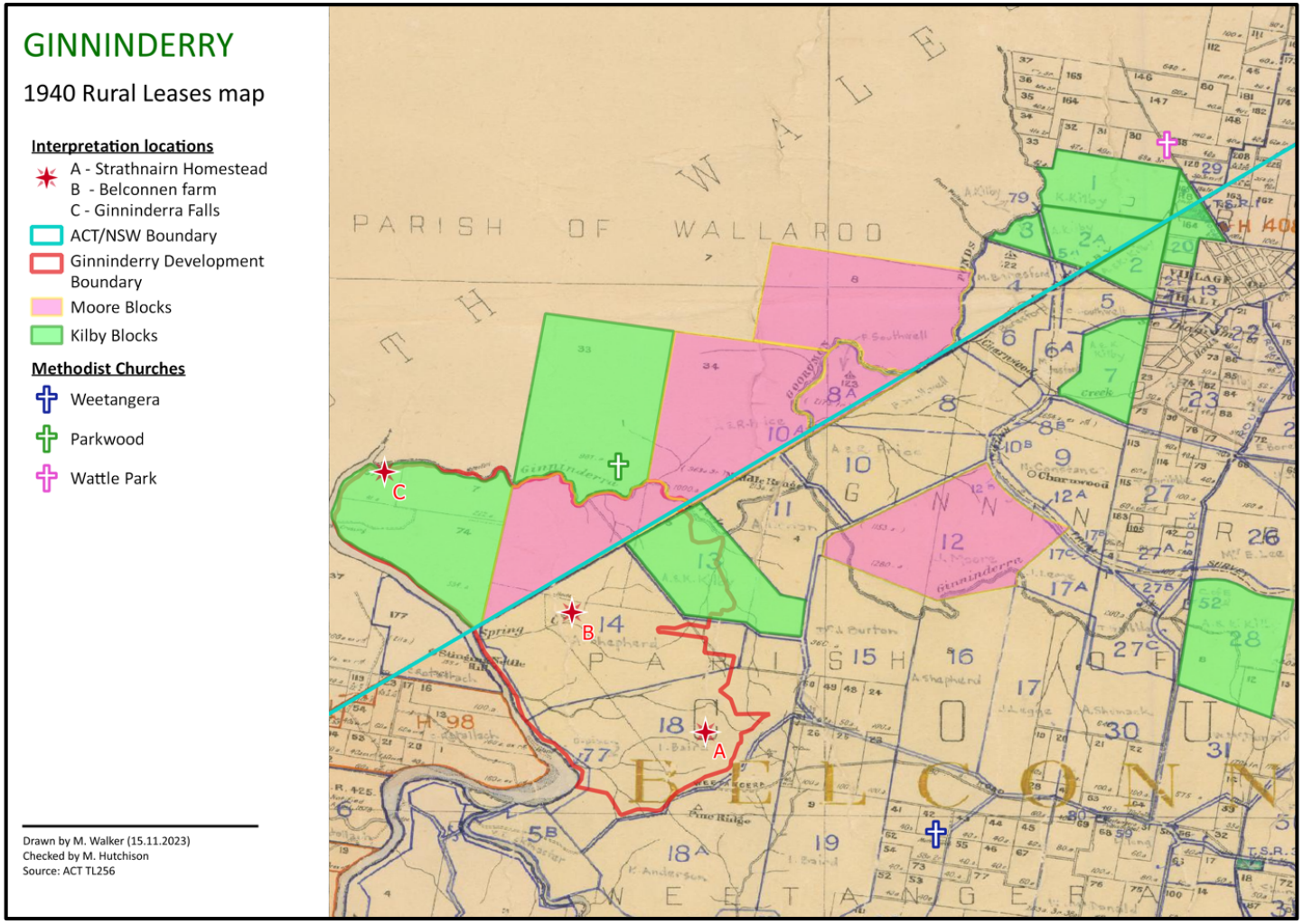


Figure 3-54 Kilby and Moore leases and freeholdings on both sides of the ACT/NSW border. The Federal Territory Counties of Murray & Cowley, July 1915 Map (amended c.1940) Archives ACT TL256.

Athol and Keith Kilby were the only members of their family to take up leases. Their last additional leases, Blocks 7 and 28 (including the railway easement 28a), shown in Figure 3-55, were not soldier settlement blocks and were acquired during the 1930s. They weathered the difficulties of the Depression and managed to keep up their rental payments on time. This earned them the 1.69% per annum rebate on total rent paid from 1 January 1930 – 30 June 1933. In 1940, after several attempts, they successfully applied to purchase their New South Wales bocks as freehold (Athol and Keith Kilby online). In an additional twist of the Belconnen-Hall subdivision, Eneagh Hill (Figure 3-55) became leasehold (Rural Hall Block 20) and J.K. Kilby joined the Territory Lessees Association (see Figure 3-56). The freehold Parkwood property, including The Falls in Ginninderry, became the site of another Kilby Brothers venture.

Working on the Parkwood property from the time they left school at the age of 14 provided Athol and Keith with the experience and business skill to develop their own grazing business on a patchwork of leasehold blocks. For three of their younger brothers who followed in their footsteps, at Parkwood, it was the background for their joint ownership of Parkwood as Kilby Bros. Clyde, the brother who followed Keith, became manager of Parkwood in 1926 and moved into the renovated Parkwood homestead. In 1931 he married Gwyneth Tickner. Over the following years, younger brothers, Bruce and Cleon (Bob), joined Clyde and bought the property from their father (Kilby, 2013, p. 54). Bruce built his own house on the property in 1937-8 using local pine timbers. A longstanding feature of the house is the stable door fashioned as a front door. In 1939 he married Muriel Daines. Bob and his family joined Clyde and Bruce after his return from the Second World War. Bob's house also included local timber as well as bricks made on site. By the 1950s, Parkwood had become a significant farming and grazing business known for its fine wool, fat lambs and beef cattle (Kilby, 2013, p. 45; James (Jim) Kilby interviewed by Mary Hutchison, 15/2/2017, session 1, 00:43:55; 00:57:31).

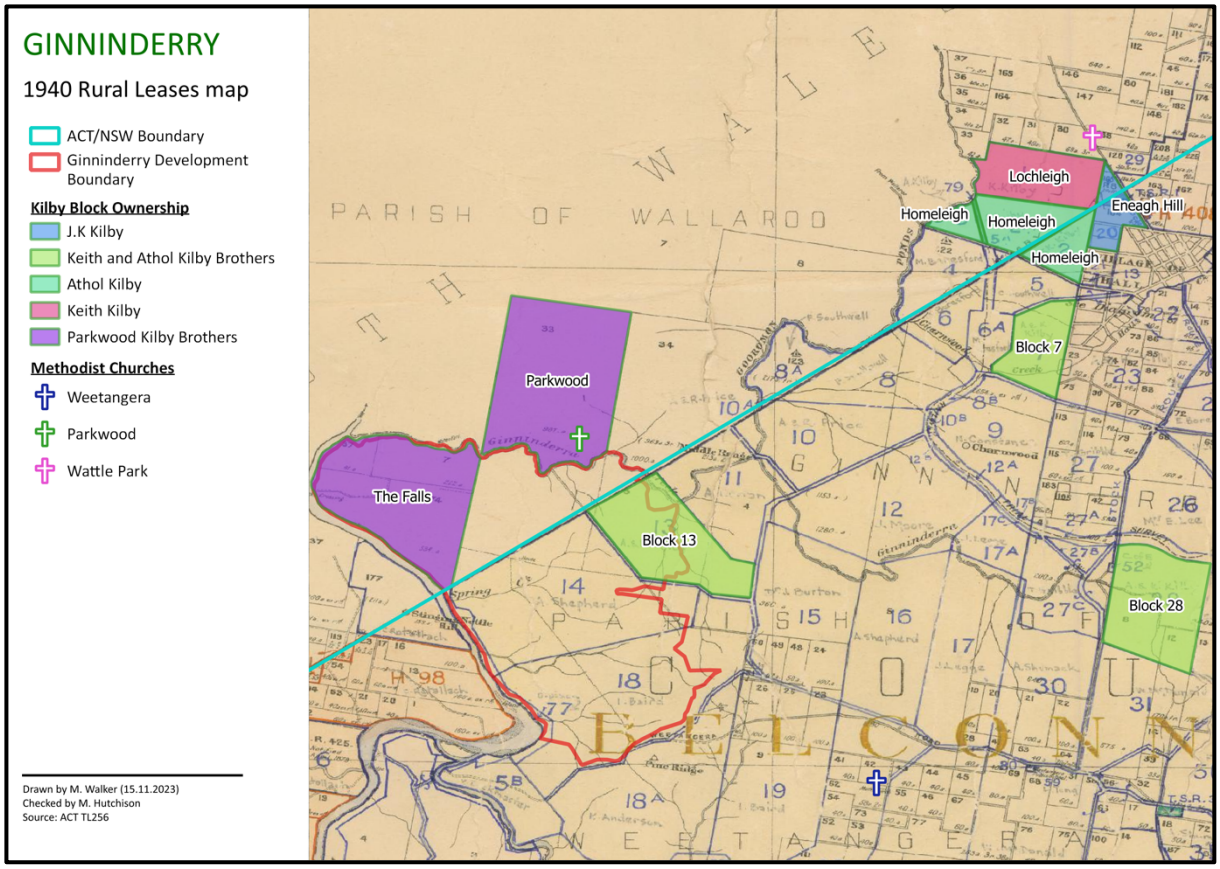


Figure 3-55 Detail of Kilby family holdings on both sides of the borders. The Federal Territory Counties of Murray & Cowley, July 1915 Map (amended c. 1940) Archives ACT TL256.

The Moore family arrived in the NSW/ACT border area in the early 1920s and became neighbours of the Falls when they purchased the land of Belconnen Station that had remained in NSW. They had a similar farming background to the Kilbys and some community connections.

James Courtney Moore's grandfather and father had worked and farmed in the Queanbeyan district from the 1850s. The 1861 Robertson Land Act had enabled them to purchase land near Queanbeyan and further afield in the Bulgar Creek area between the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee Rivers. In 1913, James married Minnie Murty. Her father, Donald Murty, had grown up on at on Ginninderra Estate where his father had worked as a labourer in the 1850s. Minnie's mother was Frances Plummer, one of the Weetangera selector families. Donald and Frances selected land near Hall and named their property, Gledeswood. Gledeswood became James and Minnie's home after their marriage and remained as Moore family property (Gillespie, 1992, p. 235; Hall Heritage Centre, 'Donald Murty' and 'Glenmoor').

In 1926, James and his brother Harry purchased NSW land south and north of the Ginninderra Creek. The southern section had once been in the NSW part of Belconnen Station while the northern section was one of the original blocks of the early Palmer Ginninderra Estate. They named the property Glenmoor and referred to its two sections as 'top' and 'bottom' Belconnen. Bottom Belconnen was next

to The Falls and 'the point' where it joined J.K. Kilby's 'Federal Corner'. Harry and James also bought land that was originally part of the McCarthy Estate from James Hibberson. It was next to Brooklands and they called it 'New Paddock'. They bought another portion of the McCarthy Estate from soldier settler, Frank Southwell – his NSW Block 8A (Frank Owen Southwell online)[21]. A further addition was lease Block 12/12A in the Belconnen-Hall subdivision (Hall Heritage Centre, 'Glenmoor'). Figure 3-56 provides an indicative view of Glenmoor's components.

Harry bought out of the business in 1941 and from then on Glenmoor and Gledesdale were farmed by J.C. Moore & Sons – Colin, Donald and Curtis. Curtis farmed Gledesdale and Donald and Colin farmed Glenmoor. Donald and Curtis served in the Second World War (Hall Heritage Centre, 'James Moore'). After the War Colin and his family built a new homestead on the western portion of Glenmore which they named Jarramlea (Hall Heritage Centre, 'Glenmoor').

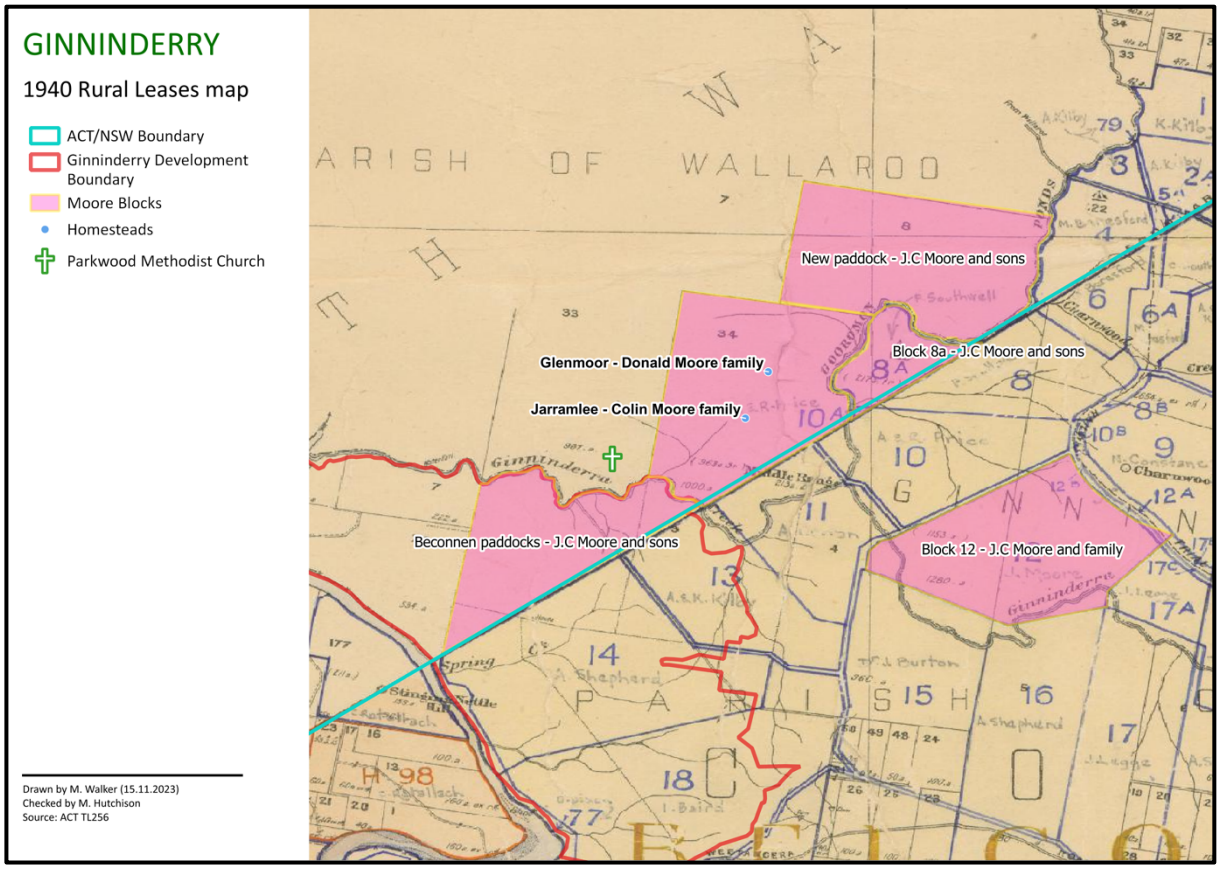


Figure 3-56 The Moore family property, Glenmoor, consisting of separately acquired parcels of land and including Belconnen-Hall subdivision lease Block 12. The Federal Territory Counties of Murray & Cowley, July 1915 Map (amended c. 1940) Archives ACT TL256.

[21] Frank Southwell's story on the Archives ACT Canberra Soldier Settlers website highlights the difficulties of many soldier settlers after the First World War.

A cross- border freehold and leasehold community

With the growth of the Belconnen-Hall subdivision, the rural community on both sides of the NSW/ACT border, for whom Hall was a vital local centre, expanded to include freeholders and leaseholders, once-freeholders, newcomers and old families. All of these groups participated in various ways in its sporting, commercial, civic and agriculture-related activities that took place through various organisations and activities identified with Hall. Soldier settler, Eric Bondfield, whose first lease was on the land of the original Southwell Rose Hill, was an active new community member who made strong connections within the community. He joined the Territory Lessees Association, became captain of the Hall football team and, as previously mentioned, occasionally provided his skills as a builder. Amongst the long term families, both sets of Kilby Brothers were variously involved in sporting teams and agricultural organisations as were the Moore brothers. The Hall Farmers Union, abandoned after resumption, was revived, as were the agricultural shows it had once held (Gillespie, 1992, pp. 159-172).

By the late 1930s, as well as generational change there were new developments in the town's facilities. The stand-out of these, shown in the 1938 map of the township, Figure 3-57, is the show ground, reflecting the town's new and increasingly popular local agricultural show (see 'Hall Agricultural Show' below, p. 105). Eneagh Hill remains in the picture as does Glenona (19), though the Smith family of Woodgrove is no longer there. Leon Smith continued the property after his parents' death but had to sell during the Depression. Similarly, in 1930, Eric Bondfield was finding it difficult to keep his farm going and decided to move to Queanbeyan (Eric Charles Bondfield, online; Hall Heritage Centre, 'Eric Charles Bondfield'). Ottocliff is on the map but no longer associated with the Southwell family. On the other hand, the Premier Store, which had a history of connection between Southwell and Brown families has continued in this tradition after the marriage of Grace Kilby, daughter of J.K. and Beatrice, to Ross Brown in 1934 (Gillespie, 1988, p. 81).

By 1938, the Southwell family name was still visible at Hall and in the farming landscape, but less obvious. James and Hannah Southwell at Heywood had retired to Sydney but Richard's son, Cedric, had continued to farm at Brooklands and was actively involved in the Hall agricultural show. In 1935, he married Beryl Kilby – daughter of J.K. and Beatrice. Beryl played an important role in collecting family history for the first Southwell family reunion at Parkwood. It was attended by around 600 family members and relatives. She continued as the family historian over the years. Through the ACT and District Historical Society, she also introduced urban Canberra to the long role of her family in its rural history. She and her sister Grace jointly continued their mother's role as Wattle Park Church organist (Gillespie, 1988, p. v and pp. 33-35; Kilby, 2013, pp. 57-58).

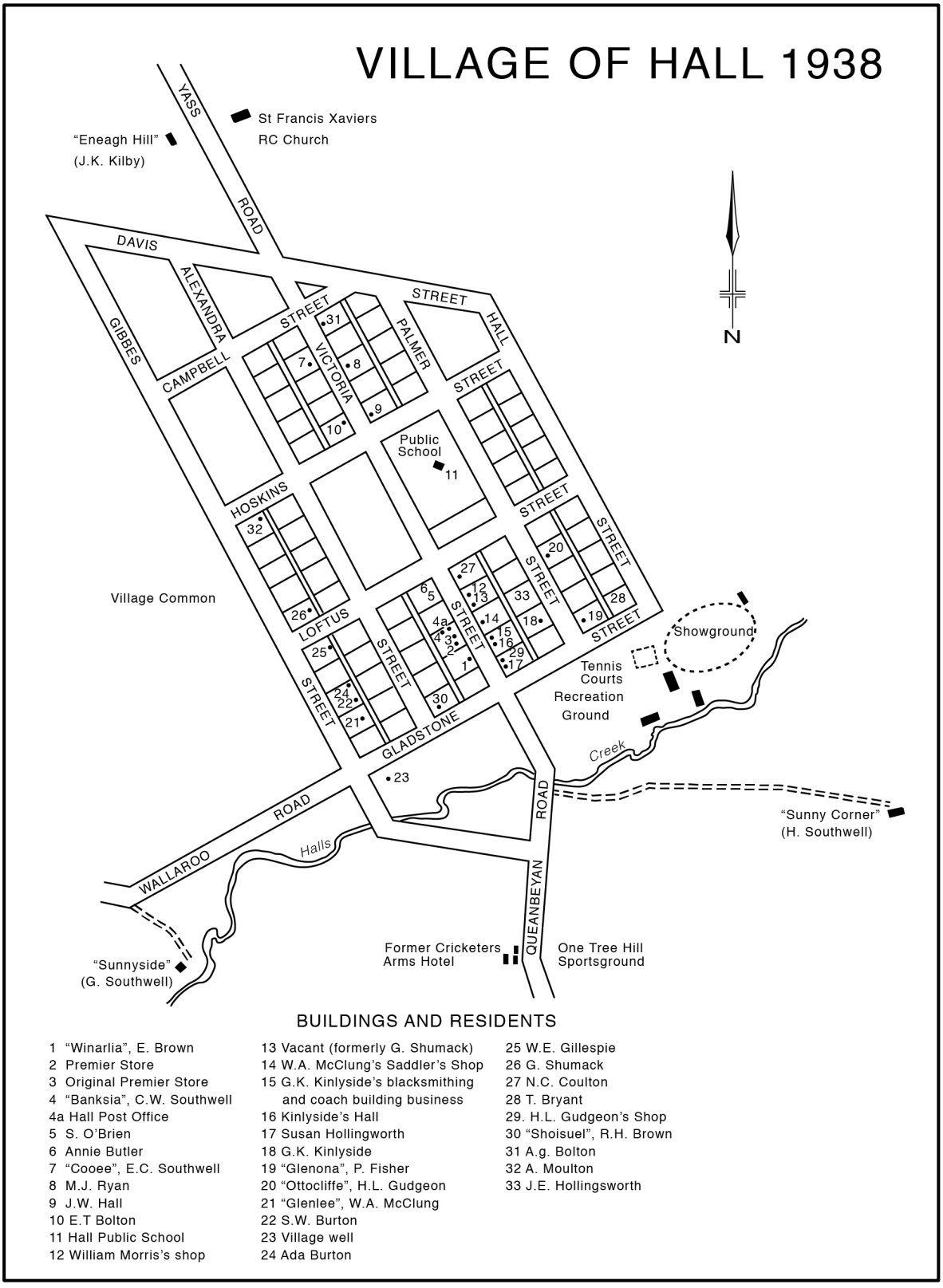


Figure 3-57 1938 Hall township map in Gillespie, *Ginninderra forerunner to Canberra*, 1992, p. 138, Courtesy: Neil Gillespie and Hall Heritage Centre.

Roads for the subdivision

Roadway access was an important part of the Belconnen-Hall subdivision and involved realignments of Weetangera Road and the existing 'surveyed' road as well as the creation of Charnwood road (Figure 3-58).

The green 'surveyed road' in Figure 3-58 was part of the Parkwood road, gazetted in 1886 after the 1870s-80s road disputes (see Part 3.2, 'Road Disputes'). Although it was gazetted it seems never to have been opened as an official road. In 1922-23, it was adapted to provide a route north to Parkwood from Weetangera road. Figure 3-58 shows it as the green line branching off Charnwood road (pink) which closely follows the 1886 alignment to Ginninderra Creek (Action Heritage, 2020, version 2, p. 22). In this form it provided access to subdivision properties such as Blocks 14 and 13. One of its uses was 'to provide a tri-weekly mail service to serve the various lessees in the Weetangera district' (Block 13 H.D. Bingley, Belconnen). It also provided a branch roadway into Belconnen Farm which became known as 'Shepherd's lane' (Action Heritage, 2020, p. 22).

Weetangera road had become the official parish road in 1872. It had several minor realignments before the ACT, including one in 1886 associated with the gazettal of Parkwood road. The 1923 realignment focused on its connections east towards Canberra and north through properties towards the main road to Hall and Yass (Barton Highway). Towards Canberra it was the forerunner of Belconnen Way. To the north it joined the new Charnwood road which passed the Charnwood property and joined smaller roadways leading towards Yass road near Hall. On this route Weetangera and Charnwood roads together provided key access through the subdivision.

Cusack's Crossing Track was officially made private in the ACT in 1914, when then Blocks 1, 2, and 3 Belconnen were leased to Selwyn Miller. Within the 1923 subdivision, it was 'reserved' and on this basis continued as a farm track. Shepherd's lane superseded it as access to Belconnen Farm. In NSW, Cusacks Crossing Track only gazetted (though unsigned) section remained as a 'right of way' to Cusack's Crossing, through the blocks that made up J.K. Kilby's Falls property (Action Heritage, 2020, p. 21). Jim Kilby understood his grandfather's 'right of way' road through his property in terms of a colonial road Act known as 'Roads Act 4 William IV No. 11 1833'. It was the first legislation to allow the Government to make and maintain a public road through private freehold (Act 4 William IV No. 11 roads - Registrar General's Guidelines).

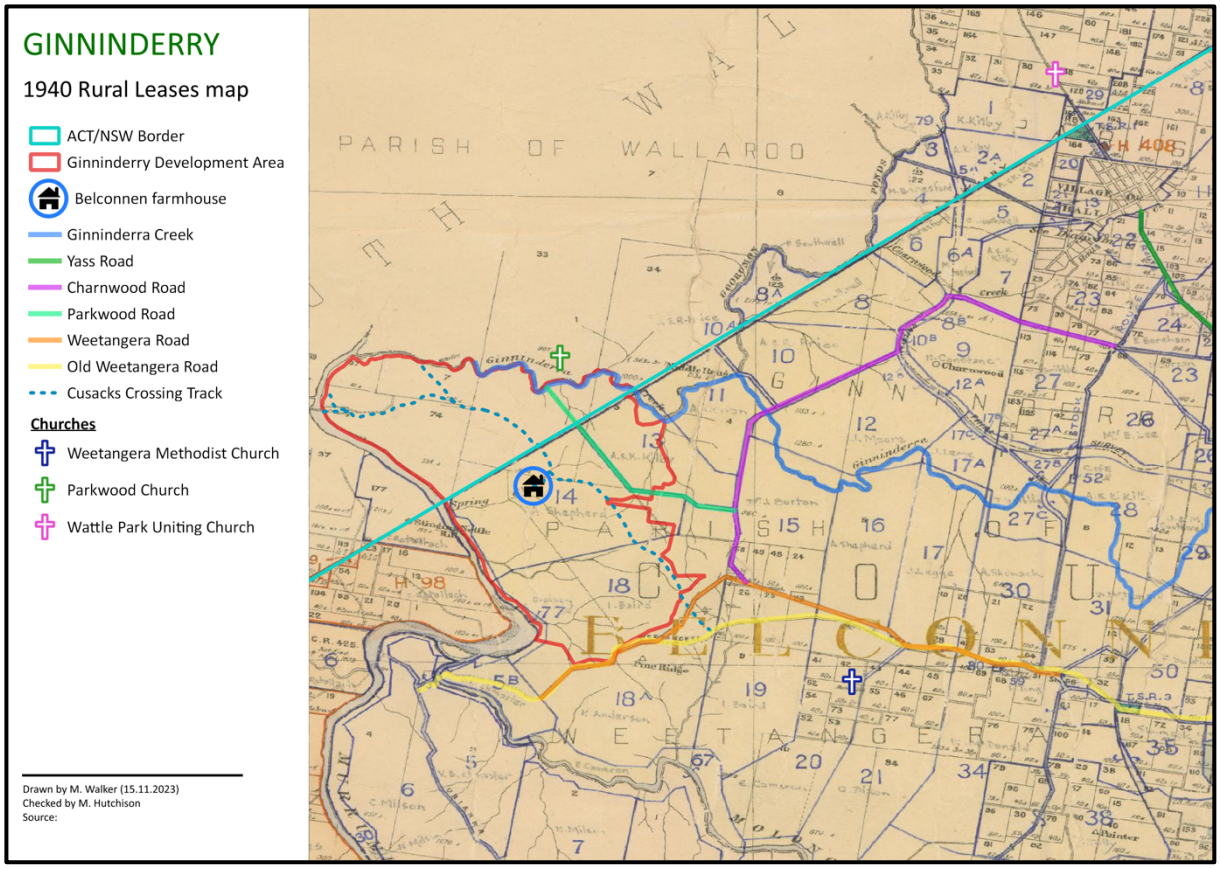


Figure 3-58 Roads associated with Belconnen-Hall subdivision. The Federal Territory Counties of Murray & Cowley, July 1915 Map (amended c.1940) Archives ACT TL256.

Visitors to Ginninderry

Ginninderra Falls

The nineteenth century interest in visiting Ginninderra Falls was rekindled with the growth of a new population. In 1926, the FCC published a booklet of information for public servants which included advice on how to spend their 'annual recreation leave'. The 'unmarried officer' was deemed to have a variety of opportunities while the married officer, more restricted by finances and family concerns, was provided with a choice of local 'beauty spots' accessible as 'day trips by motor'. The Cotter was well advanced as a destination with facilities including a kiosk. Ginninderra Falls was a more vague destination, with no reference to a road.

> *Ginninderra Falls lie some 10 miles to the north of the city on the Murrumbidgee River.*
> *After rain these offer a spectacle of a sheer drop of a fairly substantial vale of water.*
> *The vicinity abounds in sheltered and attractive picnic spots* (FCC April 1926, p. 44).

In 1927, the opening of Parliament House increased interest in attracting visitors from further afield. In the same year, the FCC investigated road access to the Falls but found it was too costly. The following year, the Canberra Tourist Association came into being with the slogan 'for a capital holiday'. In the brief period of Charles Daley's position as Civic Administrator (1930-32), the ACT Advisory Council looked in more detail at the potential of Ginninderra Falls as a source of interest for locals and visitors. It recommended resumption of land for public access as well as co-operation with the NSW government. The Minister for Home Affairs approved the idea. A plan for road access was developed, but Daley agreed with responses from landowners J.C. Moore and J.K. Kilby about the issue of losing valuable grazing land and the hazard of fire created by visitor access. The Advisory Council member who had initiated the access proposal, Paul Horsfield, inquired about possible compromises such as owners' rights to close the track on certain days so that it wasn't seen as a right of way, but access was out of the question. The file was closed in 1933 (Federal Capital Territory Branch, c. 1931).

Figure 3-59 shows the access road in green following the Cusack's Crossing Track from its continuation along the alignment of the old roadway from Parkwood to Cusack's Crossing, with a deviation to the Falls. The landowners Kilby and Moore Brothers are also identified.

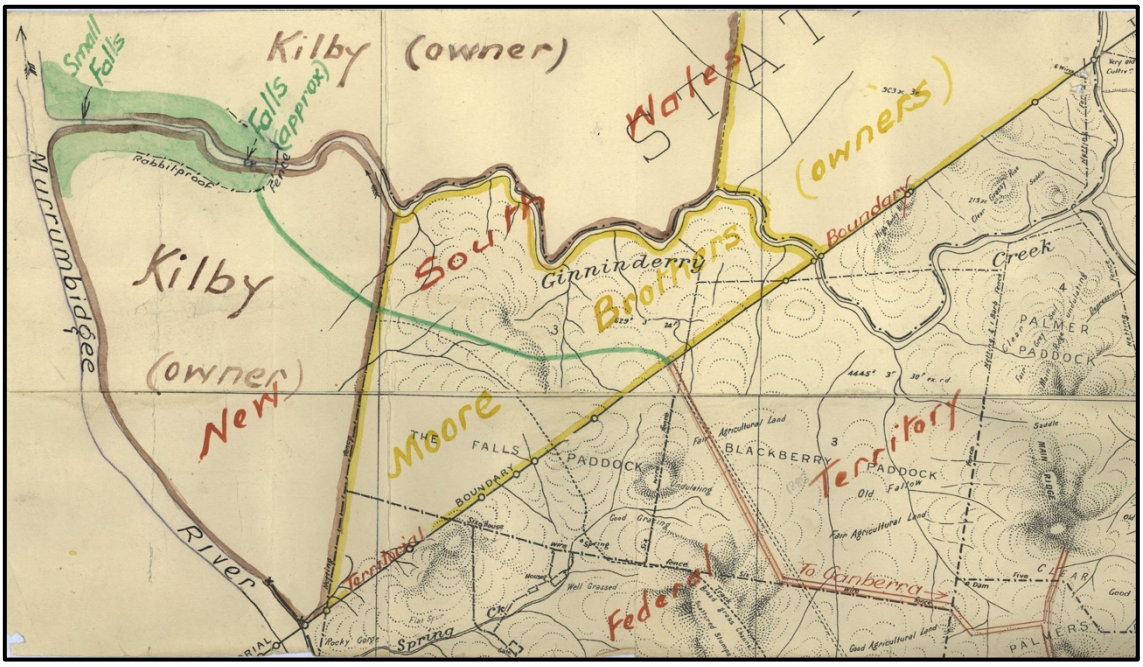


Figure 3-59 Proposed road for public access to Ginninderra Falls, Federal Capital Territory Branch, Department of Interior, c.1931, National Archives of Australia A1 1930/10223

'Weetangera, Canberra': Ginninderry's Murrumbidgee corridor painted by Elioth Gruner

Elioth Gruner started to make a name for himself as a landscape painter in Sydney in the early 1900s. By 1920, he was seeking landscapes further afield, first at Emu Plains and from then more widely. From

the mid-1920s, he travelled extensively around south-eastern NSW. Mountain landscapes and the Murrumbidgee were subjects he returned to frequently and, often in and around Canberra from the Monaro to the Yass Plains and Goulburn. By the 1930s, he was an acclaimed artist with a portfolio of well-known landscapes.

His 1937 painting, 'Weetangera, Canberra', was painted from a spot near the southern end of Ginninderry's conservation corridor (see Figure 3-60). It won the prestigious Wynne Prize. Figure 3-61 identifies several Ginninderry locations encompassed in Gruner's image.



Figure 3-60 Elioth Gruner's view of what is now Ginninderry's Murrumbidgee conservation corridor, 'Weetangera, Canberra'. Winner of the Wynne Prize, 1937. Courtesy: Art Gallery of NSW.

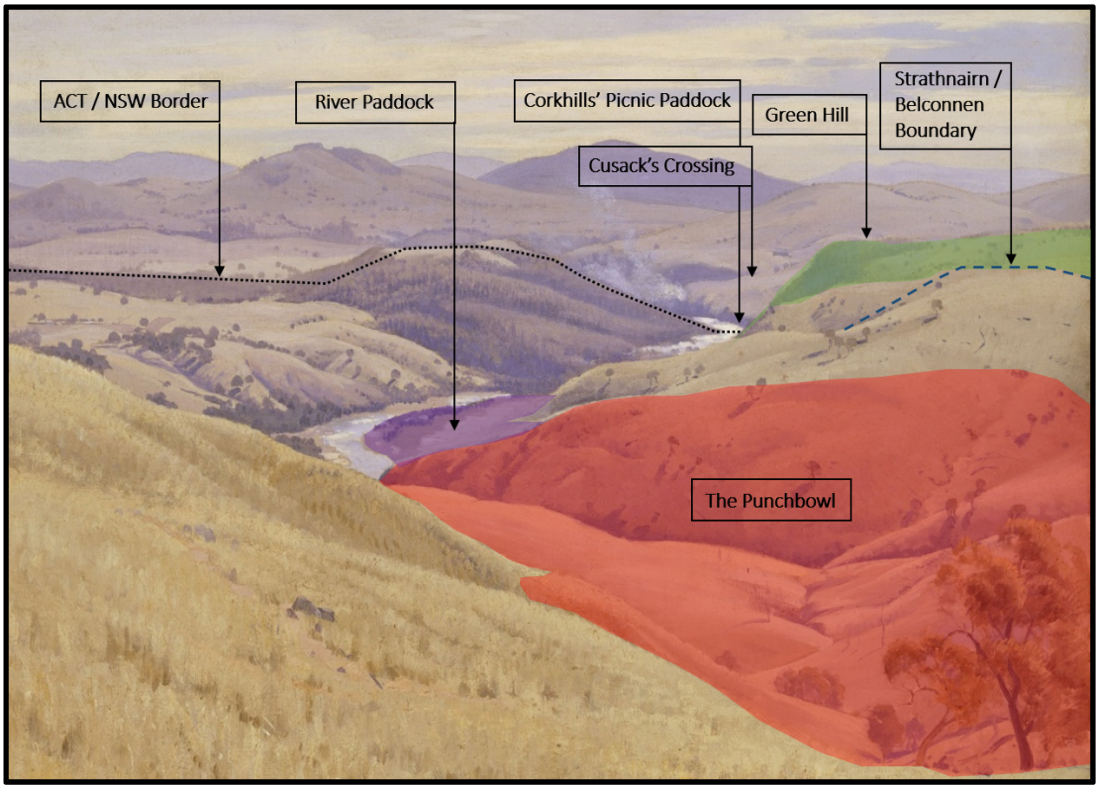


Figure 3-61 Action Heritage , 'Identifying the location of Elioth Gruner's 'Weetangera, Canberra' painting in Ginninderry Conservation Corridor Stage 1'. GLHS, February 2019, p. 8.

'Weetangera' exemplifies Gruner's passion for capturing the form and clarity of light in his landscape paintings. To achieve this, he often worked early in the morning and in frosty conditions, wrapped in chaff bags to keep off the cold. Weetangera is also one of his paintings which highlights his interest in painting 'the anatomy of the earth'. He initially found his subjects by catching a train from Sydney and relying on horse and cart to take him further. Over the years he formed friendships with local people and became a well known visitor in south eastern NSW where he often painted scenes along the Murrumbidgee river (Clark, 2014, pp. 24-34; 46-48; 70; 62).

In the 1930s, Gruner was earning enough from his painting to travel by car and often visited Canberra (Clark, 2014, p. 48). He sometimes he stayed at Canberra's first permanent visitors' campsite on the river flats between Acton administration centre and Commonwealth Avenue bridge. It was a popular spot for travellers during the 1930s and known for its picturesque environment, (Mawer, 2012, pp. 125-128). Like other artists he enjoyed painting the poplars on the site.

When not staying at the campsite, Gruner often stayed at the home of one of his patrons, public servant, Robert Broinowski (Clark, 2014, pp. 34; 70-76;). For Bronowski's ten-year-old daughter, Ruth, these visits, with his companion, Brian Cannell, were much anticipated. '*We used to have good talks … and I used to love that car coming down the street and parking outside'*. Ruth particularly remembered the car's cream-coloured hub caps (Pryor, *The Canberra Times*, 6/6/2014, pp. 1-3).

Ruth also remembered that years after he painted 'Weetangera', there was a multicoloured spot on the fence along the 1923 Weetangera Road where Gruner had wiped his paint brushes (Ruth Schmedding, GLHS conversation, 9/2021).

The information about 'Weetangera' came to light as part of Deborah Clark's curatorship of an exhibition of Gruner's paintings at Canberra Museum and Gallery in 2014. At this time, the location of 'Weetangera', based on comparisons of the painting with the current landscape, was identified as on Stockdill Drive 'uphill from Shepherd's Bluff Lookout' (Clark, 1914, p. 92) In 1918, Stevie Skitmore's research for GLHS used Google Earth mapping, a field survey and visual comparison with the painting, to arrive at approximate latitude and longitude co-ordinates for Gruner's easel: 35.243586,148.986380 (Action Heritage, 2019, p. 4).

In the actual landscape this is approximately on Stockdill Drive at the extreme south-eastern edge of Ginninderry's conservation corridor. Stockdill Drive was developed in 1972 and is on a similar alignment to the pre-1923 Weetangera Road that was reserved in Block 19. The old road is visible as a farm track intersecting with Stockdill Drive as shown in Figure 3-62. Since 1937, the landscape has changed. Gruner's view is now on the other side of a curtain of trees.



Figure 3-62. One of several location guides created by S. Skitmore (Action Heritage) as part of GLHS research, 2018-2020.

Out of the Depression and into the Second World War

As the Depression passed, Canberra construction was revitalised and the future for urban and rural communities seemed more assured but in 1939 the Second World War erupted and brought another major disruption to local life and a further halt to Canberra development. Communities in and around the ACT managed the situation in much the same way as other residents in regional areas and interaction between rural and urban ACT continued to develop as part of everyday life.

The first impact of the War on the ACT was a reduction in the population, particularly men, as a result of enlistment and the movement of some public service departments back to Melbourne. Remaining civilians included those in 'reserved' occupations essential to the war effort – one of which was agriculture. Where there were others to carry out necessary work, members of local farming families enlisted[22]. Civil defences including trenches were built in the city. Air wardens were appointed and preparing for air raids became part of civilian life as did rationing of food and fuel. Nightly blackouts were used to prevent enemy planes having clear sight of the city. Many young men and women were involved in Civil defence. Ian Baird joined the Volunteer Defence Corps, whose members were trained at Duntroon (Haynes et al, 2013, p. 20). Many young women joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment.

Several organisations, including the YWCA, supported service men and women who arrived for training at Duntroon, Harman and Fairbairn by providing social activities and accommodation. The YWCA also provided training in first aid and emergency response for young women to qualify as members of the Voluntary Aid Detachment. It also instigated the very popular Garden Army – a wartime self-sufficiency and fund-raising effort under the banner of 'Vegetables for Victory' (Hutchison & Andrew, 2009, pp. 32-46). During the war years, children, with fathers away, blackouts, air raid drills at school, and helping with fund raising activities, often had vivid memories of the time. For Nanette Dixon, daughter of Oswald and Freda, the war years were a significant early childhood experience.

Nanette was born in 1939, the year the War began. In 1941, Oswald enlisted and was posted to the 13th Garrison in the Northern Territory. In his absence Freda ran Kama and her mother, Edith, looked after Nanette at Lands End (Figure 3-64).

> *Grandma said, 'the little mite cannot be dragged around the paddocks in a cart without springs, nor should she be sat on the pummel of a saddle'. And so it came that I was fortunate enough to be in Grandma's care while my mother drove sheep to the Molonglo River each day for water (Nanette Betts, in Kilby, 2013, pp. 65-68)[23].*

[22] Ginninderry locals who enlisted are mentioned in several family stories.
[23] Elizabeth Kilby's book, *The Kilby Family 'Lands End' 1852-2013*, includes memories of descendants which shed light on the lifestyle and personalities of the Weetangera community near Ginninderry. Nanette's stories in the book focus on the everyday life of her grandmother in the 1940s and 50s.

Nanette learned many things about the farming community she was part of during the war years. Two of these that made an indelible impression on her were first-hand experience of the hard work her grandmother did to keep the farming household going, and the support local farming families gave each other in sharing labour and resources (Nanette Betts, GLHS conversation 24/11/23).



Figure 3-63. Freda settling Nanette on 'Rex'. Courtesy Nanette Betts.

Nanette's father, Oswald, returned to the farm in 1944, when Nanette was about 5 years old (Figure 3-64). She remembers that sometime around this time Heather Cameron swapped her bicycle for a canvas-topped car. It created the effect that she was flying as she drove up and down Weetangera road and Oswald named her 'Madam Butterfly' (Nanette Betts, GLHS Conversation 24/11/23).



Figure 3-64 Nan with Oswald in his army uniform. The old slab hut that had been Oswald's first home on Block 21 is in the background. Courtesy: Nanette Betts.

Becoming Canberra: Urban and Rural ACT 1945-2000s

In the second part of the 20th century Canberra became a city and the majority of ACT farming lands became suburbs. In 1989, The ACT became fully part of Australia's democratic system of government.

The post-war period of Canberra's development took place at a time when Australia itself was changing as a result of the development of large scale industry and an immigration program that was the beginning of Australia's contemporary multicultural society. Alongside rapid urbanisation and changing forms of work and lifestyles, awareness of social and environmental issues came to the fore. In the 1960s and 1970s, concern about pollution and the degradation of the natural environment led to natural conservation programs that became part of the mainstream. Similarly concern about the disappearance

of valued elements of urban and rural environments grew into the idea of heritage conservation. Another issue that came with changing work and lifestyles was social isolation. Bringing people together and encouraging a sense of community became an enduring element in social programs based on inclusion and respect as a basis for human wellbeing. The 1960s – 70s intention to address issues for women, migrants, disabled people and Indigenous peoples has also continued into the present day and has contributed, in association with the other concerns of its time to public recognition of the diverse cultural heritage and historical experiences of Australians, including First Nations Peoples.

In the 21st century the Ginninderry development began the intention of achieving environmental, social, economic and cultural sustainability in the process of changing some of the ACT's last remaining farmland into suburbs.

Changing Places: Urban and Rural ACT 1945-1970

In the early post-Second World War period, a first step towards democratic government in the ACT was taken with the creation of an ACT seat in the Commonwealth Parliament. In 1951, a parliamentary election was held for the first time in the ACT with residents electing Jim Fraser, a member of the Labor Party, as their representative.

At the same time, Canberra construction and plans for the move of government administration from Melbourne were back on the national agenda. However, it soon became clear that there were serious problems in implementing what was required to transform Canberra from a country town to a national capital. The National Capital Planning and Development Committee had no executive power, and management of Canberra lands and construction by the Departments of Interior and Works respectively, suffered from a lack of relevant expertise and inter-departmental disputes (Gibbney, 1988, pp. 251-252).

In 1955, a Senate Select Committee reported on what was required for effective progress in building the capital and administering the ACT. One of its recommendations was to establish a central authority for development and administration. The National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) was established by the Menzies Government in 1957 with John Overall as the lead commissioner. Overall appointed other commissioners with significant expertise in town planning, architecture, engineering, surveying and administration. Further staff with skills in these and other relevant areas were appointed subsequently (Sparke, 1988, pp. 65-77). In 1958, the NCDC started work with four objectives: to complete Canberra as the seat of government, extend its administrative centre, develop its character as a national capital and, in Ling's words, 'further the growth of the national capital as a place to live' (Ling, 2013, p. 55). The process of merging city and country gathered pace. Changes in rural life from 1945-1970 reflect the city's growing influence and rural responses to it.

From Riverview Dairy to Lake Burley Griffin

One of the first items on the NCDC agenda was to go ahead with the Griffin plan for the lake. Leases in the Canberra City district, including the Corkhill's Riverview property, were cancelled. By this time their Yarralumla dairy was run by second and third generation members of the family who had known the time for resumption would come, and had been considering alternative ways of making a living. Brothers Brian and Patrick Corkhill, grandsons of Robert, purchased land in Gundaroo. They also noted the amount of useable sand that was either flooded by the Lake or made available to sand supply contractors by the Government. Brian supplied sand for the construction of Scrivener Dam. The Corkhill dairy ceased operating in 1961 and the dairy herd went to auction. The homestead was demolished soon after (Figure 3-65). It was a sad time for the family. But Brian and Patrick took up the new opportunities presented by the intense construction work in Canberra at the time, and started their own sand supply business (Brian Corkhill interviewed by Matthew Higgins, 2014, session 2, 00:47:56; session 3, 00:08:16 to 00:21:43). Corkhill's sand and gravel supplies business became a household name in Canberra over the next decades and continues today.



Figure 3-65 Demolition of Corkhill Dairy for Lake Burley Griffin, c.1962. 'Demolishing old farmhouse Yarralumla Bay' Richard Clough & the Australian Overseas Information Service, National Library of Australia https//: nla.gov.au/nla.obj-143764234

The Weetangera school bus

By the 1930s, new schools in Canberra were replacing the small rural schools that had provided primary education for several generations of small holders on the Limestone Plains. The Weetangera school,

established in 1875 and attended by Kilby, Smith and Cameron children, as well as many others, closed in 1937. In the early 1930s, two of the last students were Jean and Bob Shepherd who rode their bikes up from Belconnen farm for a couple of years before going to Canberra Grammar School (Pfanner, 1999, p. 27).

In 1937, there were eight students remaining on the roll and the Department of Interior (now responsible for administering the ACT) provided a bus to pick them up from Weetangera School and take them to Ainslie Primary School. There is no record of what that bus looked like. In the 1940s war years, when Nanette Betts was first going to Ainslie School, a 'big black Buick' stopped for about six children on the Weetangera Road in the vicinity of Kama. The journey was not one Nan enjoyed – bumping along the unsealed road and feeling sick (Nanette Betts in Tim the Yowie Man, *The Canberra Times*, 13/4/2019, p. 8).

The Buick was a Department of Interior wartime response to getting children to school during petrol rationing. Beryl Anderson of Pine Ridge had been driving her children, and others nearby, to school and, to save petrol, waiting in Civic all day to pick them up. A chance encounter with a journalist stirred the Department into providing a Commonwealth car to be the 'bus' (*The Canberra Times*, 31/5/1987, p. 2). After the War, the Buick was replaced by a green panel van with stops through the Belconnen-Hall subdivision along Charnwood and Weetangera roads. *We had to climb in the back double doors of the van, sit on a bench seat and hold on tight* (Nannette Betts, 13/4/2019, p. 8). It was a similarly difficult journey for Nan but for one of her fellow travellers, James Kilby (Jim) grandson of J.K., it was an adventure that started with riding his bike or horse to the Pine Ridge Corner bus stop. The 'corner' was formed by the junction of Charnwood and Weetangera roads (similar to Spofforth Street and Drake Brockman Drive today) (Figure 3-67). When he rode his horse, Jim left it in a small yard his father had built near the Corner at the edge of the present-day golf course – the approximate site is shown in Figure 3-66. Jim had vivid memories of the bumpy, dusty journey; of getting bogged at Flea Bog Flat – all passengers required to push; and of getting stuck behind Tom Gribble's chaff cutting machine. He also remembered that inside the bus there was often a lively trade in treasures such as catapults, eggs, peaches and home-made leather items. It intrigued him that Nan sometimes had a farm animal in her bag to show the children at school (James Kilby interviewed by Mary Hutchison 22/2/2017 session 2, 01:03:06 to 01:19:20). Nan talked about this in a 2017 oral history interview with Ainslie School students (Nanette Betts, 29/4/2017, Ainslie School oral histories, vox pop series).

> *I was terribly shy because I was out in the country and lived with my family, my grandparents and lots and lots of animals. So to become popular I used to bring a duckling or a rabbit or a puppy to school. And do you know what? It worked!*



Figure 3-66 Approximate locations of Pine Ridge corner bus stop and Jim's horse yard. The corner is highlighted in yellow. Map: S. Skitmore, GLHS research. Action Heritage

The route along Charnwood and Weetangera Roads is shown in Figure 3-67, based on a 1960 Canberra map annotated with stops, and names of children who caught the bus, by cousins Jim and Wesley Kilby (GLHS conversation, 4/4/2017). Figure 3-68 shows the route in the context of present-day Canberra suburbs. The morning run started on the Barton Highway just north of Ginninderra Creek where it turned west onto a road that passed through the intersection of roads known as 'Fiveways'. From there the bus connected with Charnwood Road. John Cavanagh was the first to get on the bus before Fiveways. Lisle Constance got on at the Charnwood stop. Coming up to Gooromon Ponds near Fassifern, was a stop for Gary and Kaye Moore who had to get across Gooromon Ponds to get there. After the Fassifern stop, the bus crossed Ginninderra Creek and continued along Charnwood Road until it joined Weetangera Road where the next stop was Pine Ridge Corner. Along Weetangera Road (roughly the alignment of Belconnen Way) through Flea Bog Flat and past Black Mountain into Canberra, the bus collected more children and delivered them variously to Ainslie Primary, Canberra High School (the now ANU School of Art building) and Telopea Park primary and secondary school. Its afternoon run was in the reverse order.

Those who got on the bus at Pine Ridge Corner were David Baird from Strathnairn, Ian and Alan Anderson from Pine Ridge and Jim Kilby (Figure 3-66). As Jim remembered it, the Burton sisters from Melrose got on next with the bus turning off near present-day Trickett Street, Holt, to collect them. Returning to Weetangera Road, the next stop was near Lands End where the passengers were Nan Dixon from Kama and Lindsay Beer whose single mother was a live-in housekeeper at Lands End (James Kilby interviewed by Mary Hutchison, 22/2/2017, session 2, 01:03:06 to 01:19:20).The next Lands End housekeeper was a Latvian woman, whose husband was an engineer on the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme. With Nan's help, Mrs Petersens' seven-year-old son, Indy, also took the bus to Ainslie School. He was later a member of the 'league' of children who missed the school bus on days when exciting farm activities were happening at Kama and Lands End (Nanette Betts, GLHS conversation, 7/12/2023).

School buses of different models were provided for farm children into the 1970s. Initial research with community participants unearthed the Chevrolet in Figure 3-69. It was featured in a 1948 article in *The Canberra Times* about the Department of Interior's new panel vans taking pre-school activities to children in new suburbs and remote areas. But although it had some familiar features, it lacked the double back doors well-remembered by its passengers. Later research found the 1957 'school panel van' shown in Figure 3-70. Sadly, neither photograph records the colour of the van.

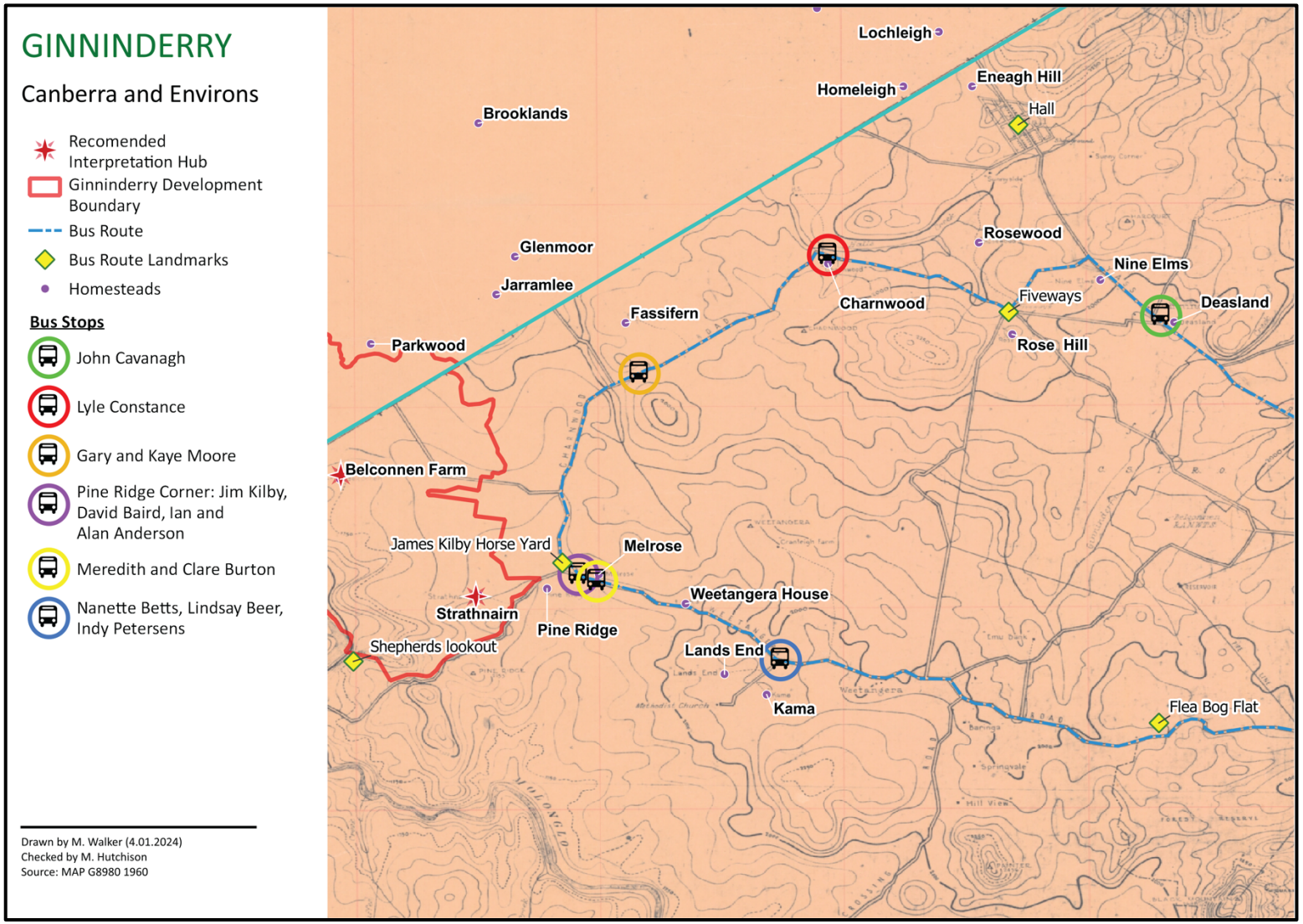


Figure 3-67 Map of Weetangera school bus route as remembered by James (Jim) and Wesley Kilby. Canberra Lands and Survey Branch, Department of the Interior Canberra City District Environs, 1960. NLA MAP G8980.

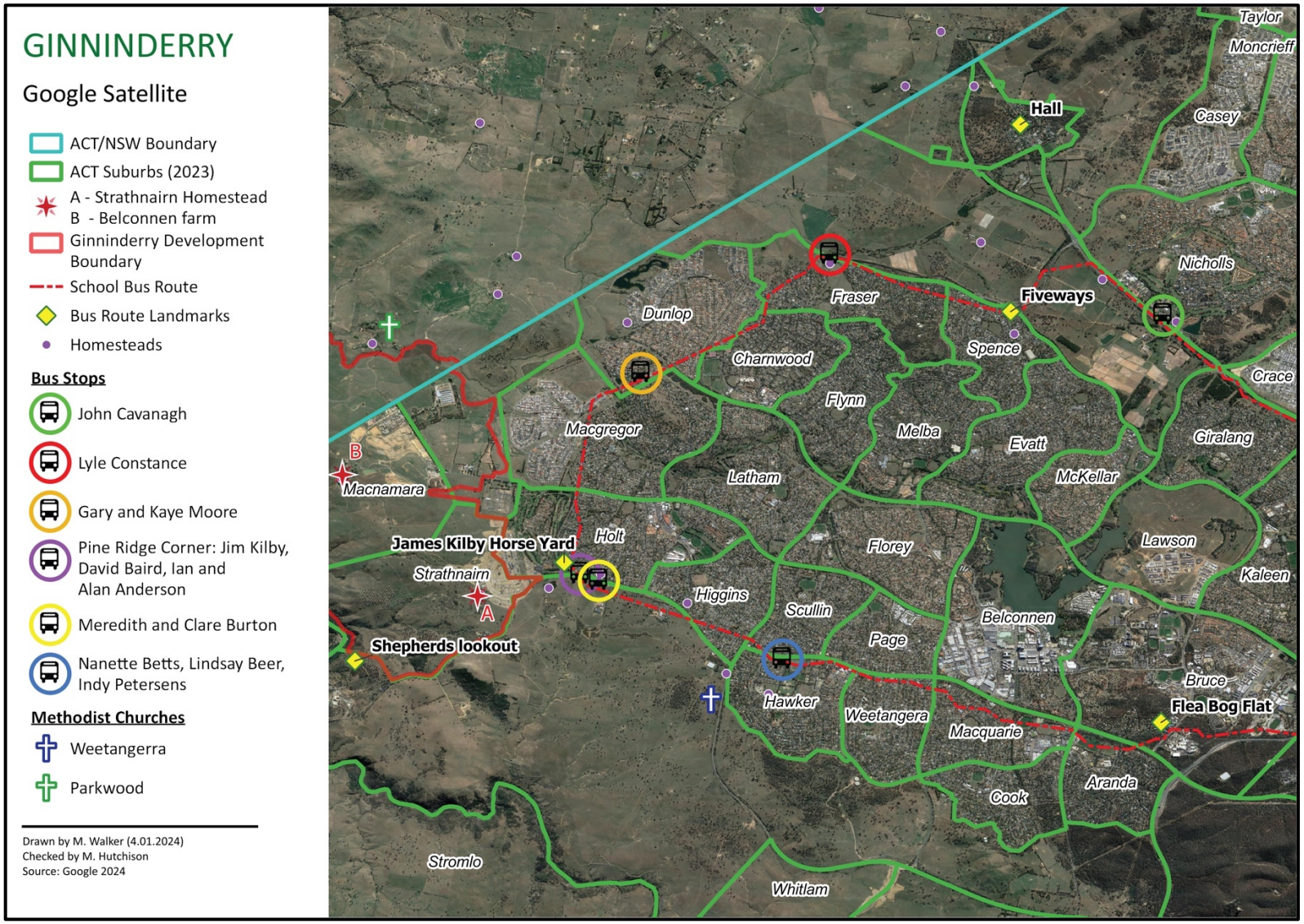


Figure 3-68 Weetangera School bus route and stops in the modern ACT suburban landscape. Source: Google Satellite 2042



Figure 3-69 'Children welcome the arrival of the panel van', *The Canberra Times*, 10/9/1948, p. 2.

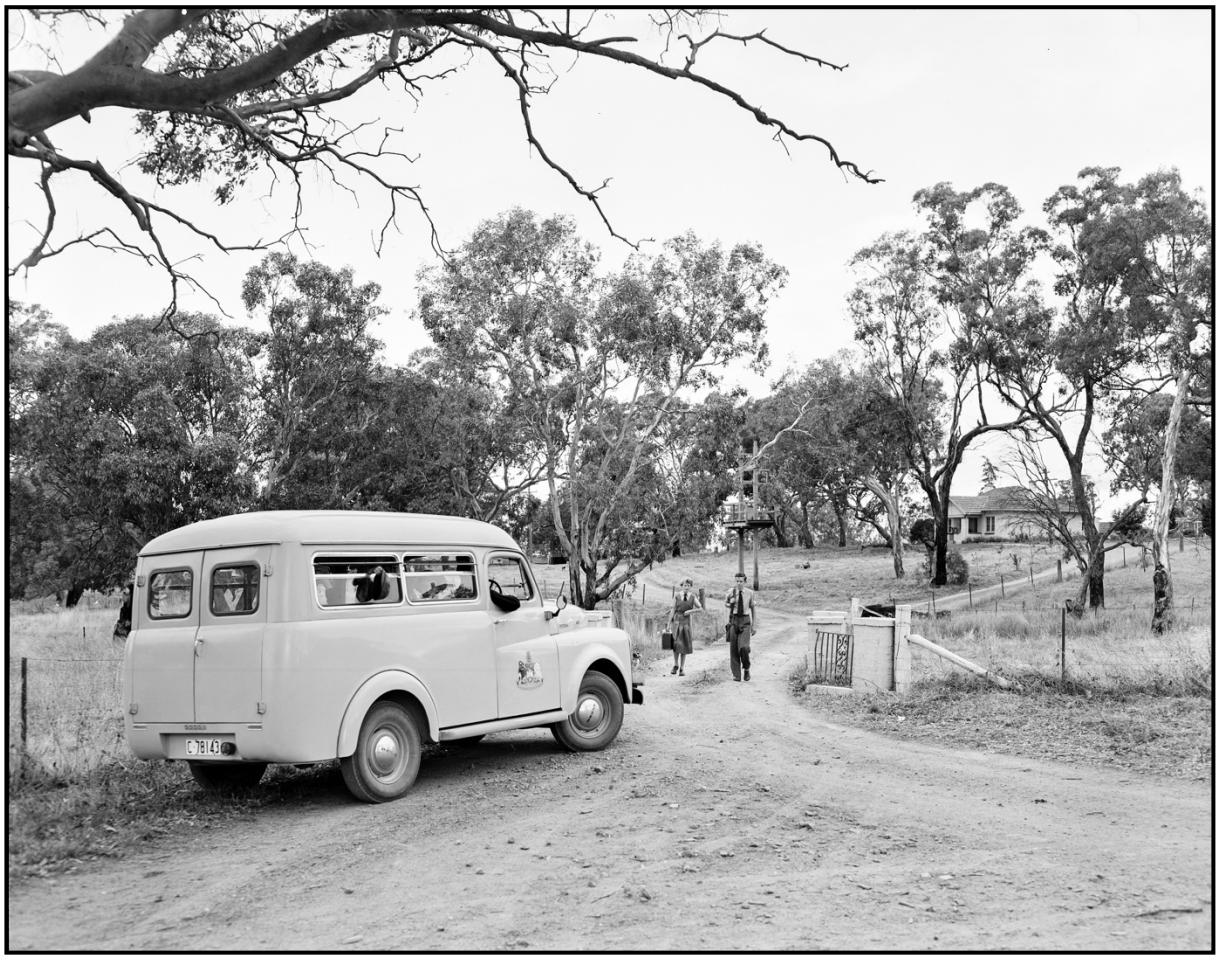


Figure 3-70 'A school panel van calling for high school students at a homestead in an outlying district of Canberra', 1957. W. Pederson. National Archives of Australia A1200L 22309.

Hall Agricultural Show – Canberra Show 1925-1964

The history of the Hall Agricultural Show reflects the contribution of Canberra's rural environment to the growing city. Farm-related sports such as ploughing matches were an important feature of farming life in the vicinity of Ginninderry from the colonial period. At the beginning of the 20th century, the Ginninderra Farmers Union combined entertainment with support and promotion of farmers' interests and skills by providing lectures and concerts as well as sports days. In 1909, it organised an agricultural show attended by people from around the Yass-Queanbeyan region. The shows continued until 1915 when the Union's hall and the land of the Ginninderra district were resumed for the ACT. The Union was disbanded but the growth of Hall provided the basis for the revival of the shows on much the same basis in the early 1920s (Gillespie, 1992, pp. 155-158).

The first Hall Show was held in 1925 and was opened by Federal Capital Commission Chairman, John Butters. It was organised by the Advance Hall and District Association whose committee included Evan Cameron, Athol and Keith Kilby, and Cedric Southwell. In 1927, the Hall Show was officially recognised by the Royal National Capital Agricultural Society as the 'Canberra Show'. The Advance Association changed its name to the Federal Capital Territory Pastoral and Agricultural Association. The shows continued annually and grew in popularity and size. In 1932, the Prime Minister opened the show and announced Federal Government funding. In 1934, it was the Governor-General who did the honours (Canberra Show online).

After the War, the Hall/Canberra how became a national event. In 1961, a new organising body, the National Agricultural Society, was created and 1964 was the first year the Show was held at its Canberra site (Canberra Show online).

The end of the 'Weetangera' era: Lands End and Kama 1945 – 1963

In the years after the War, Oswald and Freda Dixon paid off Kama's debts and took on some new farming ventures. One of these acquisitions to expand Kama's capacity to manage stock was Block 51 which Oswald used for pasturing cattle he was selling. It was conveniently located with access to main roads to Yass and Queanbeyan but was also in the area of the notorious traffic hazard, Flea Bog Flat (see Figure 3-71). Well-remembered by students travelling to school on the Weetangera bus, it was also often difficult for Oswald to get his cattle to Block 51 ('Oswald Henry Dixon' online; Nanette Betts, GLHS conversation, 24/11/2023). Today, the hospital on Haydon Drive and the Aranda playing fields are on the boggy site ('Oswald Henry Dixon' online; Nanette Betts, GLHS conversation, 24/11/2023).

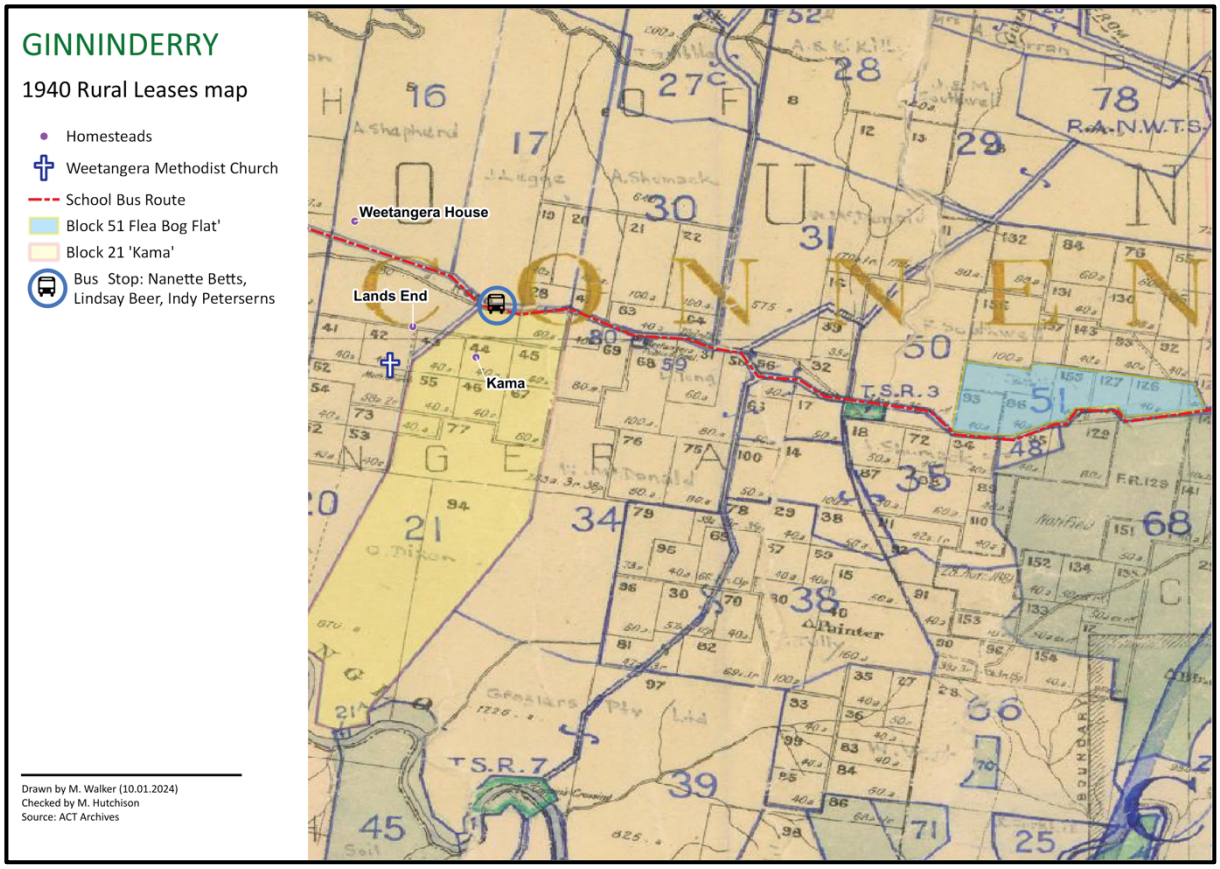


Figure 3-71 Oswald Dixon's Block 51, ACT rural leases map, 1940, Archives ACT.

From the mid-1940s into the 1960s, the Dixons' fortunes improved. Like other farmers for whom wool was an important part of their farming income, they also benefitted from the much better prices for wool in the 1950s.

At Lands End, Thelma Cameron married Don Tully in 1944 and moved to Hillview (now in Cook), and Nan became aware that her grandparents were ageing. In preparing for his retirement, Evan established a formal partnership in his leases with his eldest son, Bob (Block 20 Belconnen, Evan Cameron). For Edith, the nearby Weetangera church was particularly convenient as she aged. For her brother Sidney Kilby, it continued as a lifetime routine (see Sidney Kilby's walk from Westridge to Lands End, Figure 3-27). But while the Church had a firm place in the hearts of those who had built it, the congregation had dwindled. The last service in the Weetangera Church was a memorial service for Sidney Kilby in 1952.

> *The Weetangera Church, in a very real sense, became one of the many victims of the motor car, capable, as it is, of carrying the majority of the worshippers swiftly into Canberra, or to join with other congregations at a somewhat similar distance* (Merrick Webb, in Cameron,1956, pp. 3-4).

In 1955, the trustees of the Church and remaining members of the congregation decided that the old church was too badly out of repair to restore and that it should be demolished.

> *… the circumstances of life in the area in recent years had so vastly changed and the means of transport had so greatly improved that it was generally agreed that it would be better to allow this fine chapter of pioneering worshipping to an end* (Cameron, 1956, p. 16).

The demolition took place earlier in the year under the supervision of the Queanbeyan Methodist Minister, Rev. Merrick Webb. Volunteers were from Wattle Park as well as Weetangera and Queanbeyan. The good material from the structure was recycled for a building on the grounds of the Queanbeyan Methodist Church. In the church's place the trustees erected a cairn with a bronze plaque reading: *On this site the Weetangerra Methodist Church was erected in 1873; demolished in 1955*[24]. The cairn was made from a large, water-washed stone from the Ginninderra Creek. It was shaped so that it could act as an open air pulpit for commemorative services. At its dedication on the site of the church, Beryl Southwell played the Kilby organ from the Wattle Park Church (Southwell Family Society, Australia, 2013, p. 45).

The names of the Church trustees at this time, despite many past trustees having left, represented familiar names of the old Parkwood-Weetangera community. They included Evan Cameron and his son Bob, and Parkwood Kilby bothers, Clyde and Cleon (Bob), as well as Macks Southwell, Keith Smith and the Rev. Merrick Webb. With the demolition of the church, they became the trustees of the Cemetery. They were informed by an inspector from the Department of the Interior that it was 'the best kept Cemetery in the ACT' (Cameron, 1956, pp. 11-12).

Evan Cameron and his brother Ernest (who lived in Sydney) wrote a history of the Weetangera Church published in the year after its demolition. Heather Cameron played a key role in bringing it together in public form and Clyde Kilby was noted as vital in seeing the project come to fruition (Merrick Webb, in Cameron, 1956, p. 4). Their history provides the material for this story and carries with it the Weetangera Church and Cemetery's cultural meaning.

[24] Weetangerra with the double 'r' is the original form of spelling Weetangera



Figure 3-72 An occasion at the small Weetangera Methodist Church when extra seating was required. Courtesy: Kingsley Southwell and Hall Heritage Centre

Evan and Ernest were also involved in a larger historical undertaking in their retirement years – gathering information together for a booklet about their Kilby and Smith forebears from arrival in Australia and work at Duntroon and Ginninderra, to their legacy as successful small landowners. The Cameron Papers in the ACT Heritage Library record the memories, notes, newspaper clippings and other material they gathered for W.J.M. Campbell who wrote the book, *Four Pioneers of the Limestone Plains* (1955). Evan's memories of his grandfather Smith's blocks and farming skills are a key part of the book. The slab Weetangera homestead with the corrugated iron roof, unusual amongst the smallholders of the time is also detailed. Campbell notes that, by the time of writing, the place where it once stood was the site of a 'new concrete block residence' known as 'The Cottage' (Campbell, 1955, p. 21). As the position of ranger for Weetangera was still in place at this time, the cottage may have been a new version of the Ranger's Hut (Clough, 2004, p. 54).

Campbell was posted to Canberra as a journalist in 1926 and became a parliamentary reporter and Hansard writer. He was also an active member of the Canberra Methodist congregation. He contributed his editorial and writing skills to both the Weetangera Church history and the *Four Pioneers*.

The collaboration in telling the stories of Edward Smith, Mary Smith, Mathias Smith and William Kilby also included Ernest and Evan's cousin, Leon Smith, son of Ellis Smith. By this time Leon had left full time farming, established a family home on Beltana Road, Pialligo, and was working at the Government

Printing Office in Kingston. Leon later wrote a book about the people and places of Hall, *Memories of Hall*, (1975). Wesley Kilby remembers him as someone who was more comfortable with singing and leading church choirs than farming (Wesley Kilby, GLHS conversation, 9/12/2023).

Evan and Edith retired from Lands End in 1951 and moved, with Heather, to Lister Crescent, Ainlsie. Edith died that year. Evan died in 1956. In 1957, Bob Cameron and his wife Phyllis (Phyl) made the decision to get out of ACT leasehold and bought land across the border. Some thirty years after the break-up of McCarthy's Glenwood estate, they purchased the original McCarthy homestead portion, and some additional blocks around it, from the Hibberson family. Bob and Phyl named their new property Glengalla[25] (Kilby, 2013, p. 75). As shown in Figure 3-73 the homestead is on Block 33. One near neighbour, well-known by the Cameron family, was the Keith Kilby family at Lochleigh, also on Glenwood land and next to Block 33. Nearby, were members of the Moore family who had previously purchased land from the Hibbersons near the Southwell family's Brooklands. In her family history, Kay (Moore) Jones noted that in the 1960s sheep drenching always took place at Glengalla (Hall Heritage Centre 'Glenmoor').

[25] Glengalla was the name of a property in north Queensland that Phyl had inherited from her family. She and Bob later sold it as Bob felt that 'you had to be born to that country' (Kilby, 2013, p. 75).

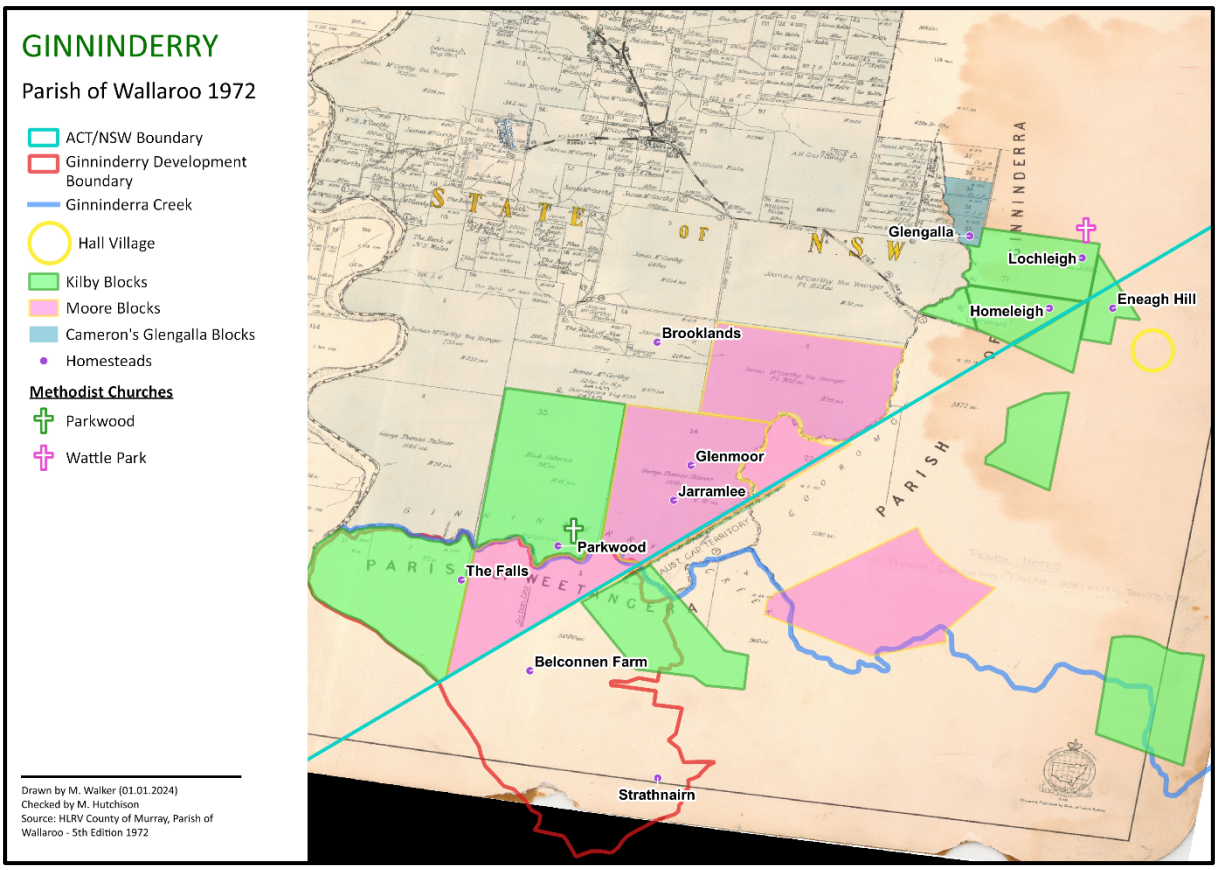


Figure 3-73 Cameron property, Glengalla, near Kilby, Moore and Southwell families. HLRV County of Murray, Parish of Wallaroo 5th Edition, 1972.

There were also other family changes. In around 1960, Nanette Dixon was preparing for her wedding and move to a farm at Yass. In 1963, her parents, Freda and Oswald, retired to Campbell. In the same year, Heather Cameron, having worked for the Shakespeare family at *The Canberra Times* for most of her working life, married Arthur Shakespeare, the paper's long term editor and proprietor.

In June 1966, a formal ceremony was held to commission the new Belconnen district town centre and suburbs – suburb plan shown in Figure 3-74. Work began in July on the town centre and new suburbs closest to Canberra. Aranda was one of the first. Kama homestead became the site of the Hawker College (Figure 3-75). The 1923 Weetangera Road from Canberra to the end of the suburbs was replaced by a new road on a similar route to Canberra. It was named Belconnen Way and opened in 1967 (Sparke, 1988, pp. 180 -82).

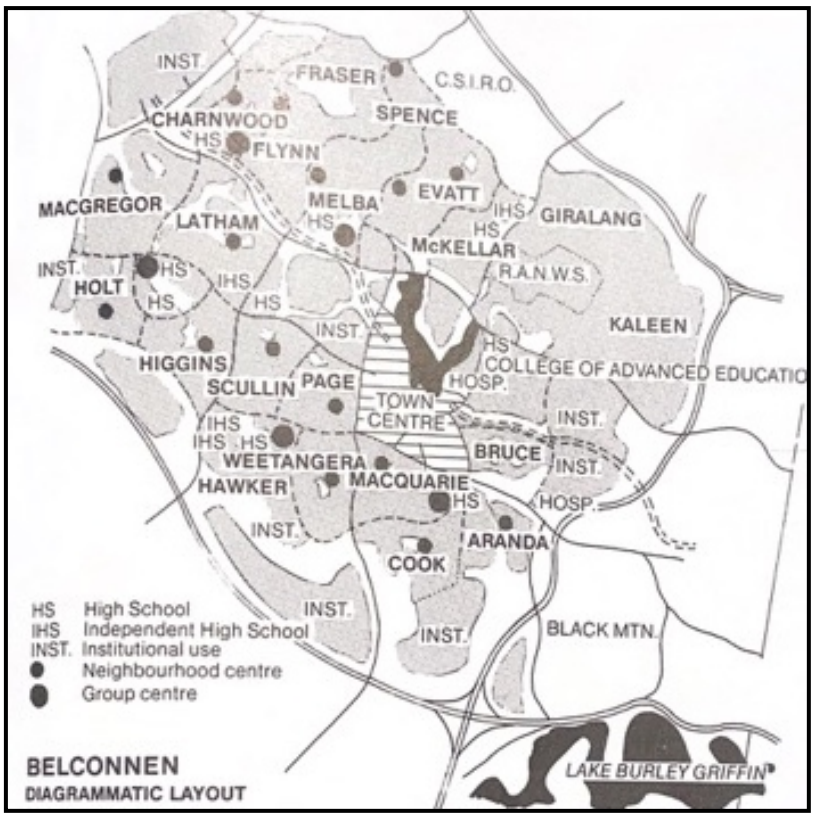


Figure 3-74 Plan of Belconnen suburbs, 1966 (Sparke, 1988, p. 185)

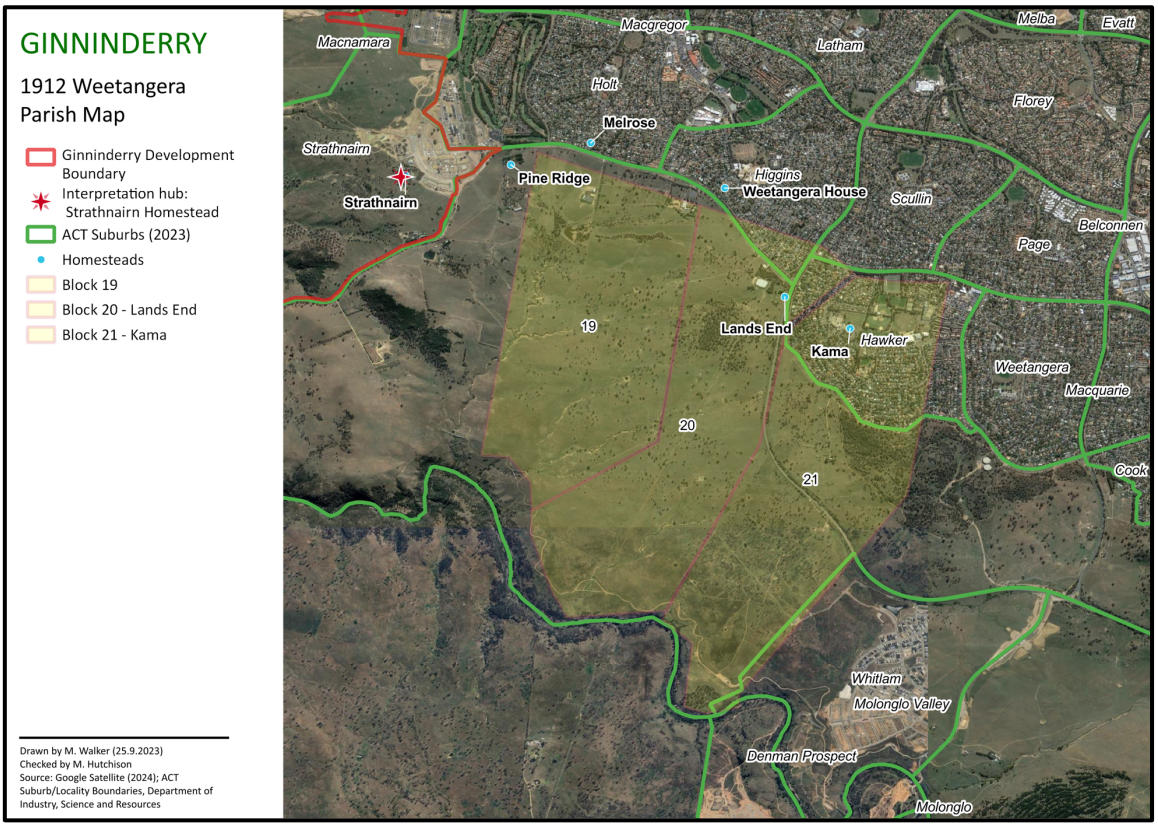


Figure 3-75 Close up of modern landscape with the 1923 Blocks 21 (Kama), 20 (Lands End), and Block 19. Google Satellite,2024. Suburbs and Locality data from the ACT Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources (2023).

The old Weetangerra Road

From the outskirts of my old home town
Where time morphed the old road
Milestones once marked the course
Along the old tree lined rutted road.
My to and from school memory marred
Just marked by a potholed rattle track
Swinging kids off the school bus seats
In the back of the old green panel van.
A penny paid to the driver each day,
I wondered, just what he did with time,
Meandering or roaming until pick-up

The old road was not much better when
Grandad traversed it by horse and cart.
He was smart, his life full of purpose
I couldn't see much school benefiting me!
Modern day old milestones cloaked in moss
Old road euthanized with hot tarred metal
Frantic passers driving smart fast cars
All lost for time racing to find purpose.
Their life and mine, I would not swap
For my old country mile.

Nanette Betts

Although suburban development was at Kama's doorstep, Oswald and Freda had been able to transfer their lease to a new lessee, E.J. (Ted) Dowling's tenure at Kama provides an example of taking the opportunities offered by an ACT rural lease in the developing suburban context. He had served in the Second World War and was an experienced high country stockman from Tumut. After his war service he had a soldier settlement block at Nangus which he worked as a dairy farm. In 1963 he also brought his experience as a heavy vehicle and plant driver to the rapidly developing ACT. At Kama he ran cattle and sheep as the Dixons had done. He also worked on the construction of the Belconnen electricity substation and the Belconnen sewerage line as a plant operator. His rodeo experience made a mark on Canberra when he ran Canberra's first rodeo. Hawker College was built on the site of the homestead in 1976 but Ted seems to have continued working the remaining property and/or on construction projects for some time. He left Canberra in 1983 (Edward Joseph Dowling, Stockman's Hall of Fame, online).

By 1966, Lands End was also in new hands. Percy Allen was the first new lessee in 1958, but not for long. He sold it on to Alec Wallace in 1960. The Wallace family had moved to the ACT in 1958 after the Jindabyne dam, created as part of the Snowy Mountain Scheme, had flooded their property. In Canberra, they built a house in Narrabundah and made it their home. The Lands End house was rented out. Despite the experience of losing the property in Jindabyne, Alec took the risk of potential ACT land resumption and Lands End into the 21st century (Meg Hartmann, GLHS conversation, 10/1/2024).

The rural fringe 1970 –2000s

By 1970, Canberra was looking and functioning more like a city. It had a strong commercial sector and private enterprise had a significant hand in the construction of housing as well as commercial and public buildings. Public service transfers from Melbourne were on the way to completion and the population was growing rapidly. Suburbs were spreading north and south. The number of schools had grown

exponentially, and tertiary education was expanding. Key national buildings and monuments had been completed. The population had become more culturally diverse with many post-war immigrants who had worked on the Snowy Mountain Scheme, and on Canberra construction, making the city their home. National support for the capital had increased as had tourists. There were restaurants and traffic lights and a shopping mall with an escalator (cutting edge when it was opened in 1963), libraries, cinemas, a theatre centre and television stations. Commonwealth Park was a central site for community recreation, celebrations and fairs, and Canberra Day had become an annual event (Sparke, 1988, pp. 103-105).

In the early 1970s, several changes in Canberra governance and development took place. In 1972, 40 years of governance by the Department of the Interior under changing federal governments came to an end. The new Whitlam Labor Government abolished that Department and created a ministerial portfolio to head the new Department of the Capital Territory. This meant the ACT now had a minister dedicated to its administration as well as a Senate representative. At the same time, the new government placed the NCDC within its Department of Urban and Regional Development under minister Tom Uren. In this arrangement, ACT administration could have been sidelined but Ministers Uren and Bryant, and their heads of department, established a working relationship that involved regular interaction between NCDC and the Department of the Capital Territory concerning planning and management of ACT lands and resources, as well as social policies (Sparke, 1988, pp. 207-208).

Democratic representation also came to a head as the urban population increased. In 1969, the eight elected members of the ACT Advisory Council publicly resigned in protest against their position as powerless representatives. Senator for Canberra, Kep Enderby, recommended a parliamentary inquiry into self-government, and in 1974 the Advisory Council was replaced by a Legislative Assembly of 18 part-time members. They were elected from a field of 60 candidates (Sparke, 1988, pp. 269-281). In 1989, the ACT became self-governing, with full-time representatives and its own administrative departments. The NCDC was dismantled and recreated as the National Capital Authority, and the ACT had its own planning and environment agencies.

In the 1970s, several land issues, concerning urban and rural leases, as well as remaining freehold property, came to a head. Long forgotten freehold blocks in the villages of Hall and Tharwa became part of the ACT land system. In 1971, land rent was abolished (Sparke, 1988, pp. 196-200). For urban lessees this meant they were on a virtually private ownership footing. Rural leases remained under the management and control of the ACT Government. Today, in the ongoing context of resumption for development, this takes the form of management agreements between the government and the lessee.

In the 1970s and 80s, Canberra was effectively completed as the seat of national government. It consisted of a largely urban community with a rural fringe. Figure 3-76 shows blocks within and neighbouring Ginninderry in the 1970s with another new numbering system. Next to the Bairds' Block 18 (Block 171 Strathnairn), their Block 19 (172), once connected with Lands End, is shown as 'Strathmore'. Pine Ridge (not Pine Range) homestead is close to the new Drake-Brockman Drive. Lands

End homestead and the cemetery remain on old Block 20 (166). Block 21 is within the new suburbs, though Hawker is still to be developed.

The following stories highlight the responses of rural leaseholders and freeholders in and around Ginninderry to the growth of urban Canberra from the late 1960s to 2000s. In the 1970-80s, planning interests in community uses of rural blocks, as well as conservation of the natural environment, played an influential role. These included community uses of rural blocks, as well as conservation of the natural environment. Conservation took the form of a national urban open space system developed by NCDC planners and the Capital Territory Department's ACT Parks and Conservation Service. The open space plan included national reserves such as Namadgi National Park (declared 1984) and a network of separate reserves on the edge of the city and around the suburbs, of which Black Mountain, in 1970, was one of the first. These later became Canberra Nature Park. Over time, ecological thinking about conserving whole ecosystems informed development planning that sought to conserve interconnected habitats in the form of wildlife corridors (David Shorthouse interviewed by Mary Hutchison, 3/8/2022, session 1, 00:35:15 to 00:47:57).

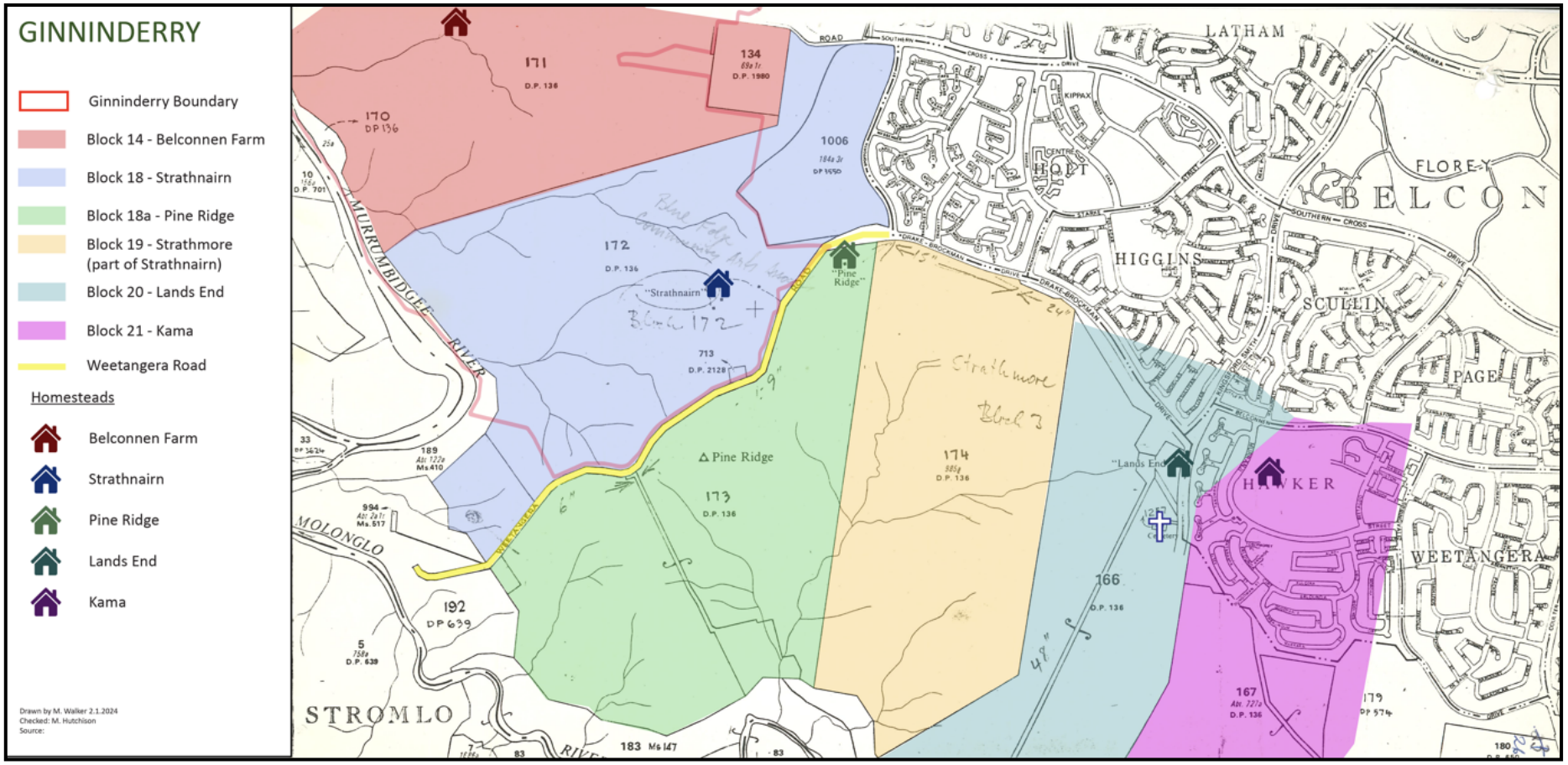


Figure 3-76 Ginninderry and neighbouring rural blocks on the edge of the suburb, c. 1970. Block 1332, Strathnairn Homestead Blue Folk Community, Archives ACT, SP648

Strathnairn - from sheep and cattle to community arts

By 1970, Ian and Ellen Baird had retired from Strathnairn to Deakin. Their son, David, now married to Ann Carey, had taken over the everyday running of Strathnairn. Ann had moved to Canberra from the UK at the age of 18 when her father was posted to Rolls Royce Australia. In Canberra she found work at the British High Commission and continued to work there after her marriage in 1962. In the same way that Ian and Ellen Baird had hosted local functions and noteworthy visitors to Canberra, David and Ann often entertained friends and visitors from the Commission. David's daughter Catriona remembered that her grandfather and father decided to stock a paddock with kangaroos and emus so that diplomats could meet Australian animals. She also remembered childhood friendships at Strathnairn with the latest generation of the Buckmaster family at The Rivers across the Murrumbidgee, and with Peter Anderson, son of Alan Anderson now at Pine Ridge. The Anderson family often came over to play tennis at Strathnairn (Catriona Baird, GLHS conversation 13/3/2018).

In 1970, the north-westernmost suburb of Holt was gazetted and Drake-Brockman Drive took the place of another stretch of Weetangera road. With a suburb and a new throughfare on the doorstep, farming at Strathnairn became more complicated. Children found their way onto the property and often left gates open. Domestic dogs were becoming a threat to local landowners' sheep (Haynes et al, 2013, p. 21). David had been aware that resumption of his lease was likely, but these difficulties and news of potential new roads through the property, shown in Figure 3-77, were the last straw.

In an interview with Maryann Mussared, researcher for the book, *Strathnairn A Place for People* (Haynes et al, 2013), David said that by 1973 he could no longer see a future in farming at Strathnairn (Mussared, unpub. notes provided to GLHS). David sold his most valuable stock and surrendered the lease. A clearance sale managed by Goldsborough Mort was held in November 1974 and the Bairds left Canberra. David and Ann went on an overseas trip and the children went to boarding school (Haynes et al, 2013, p. 21).

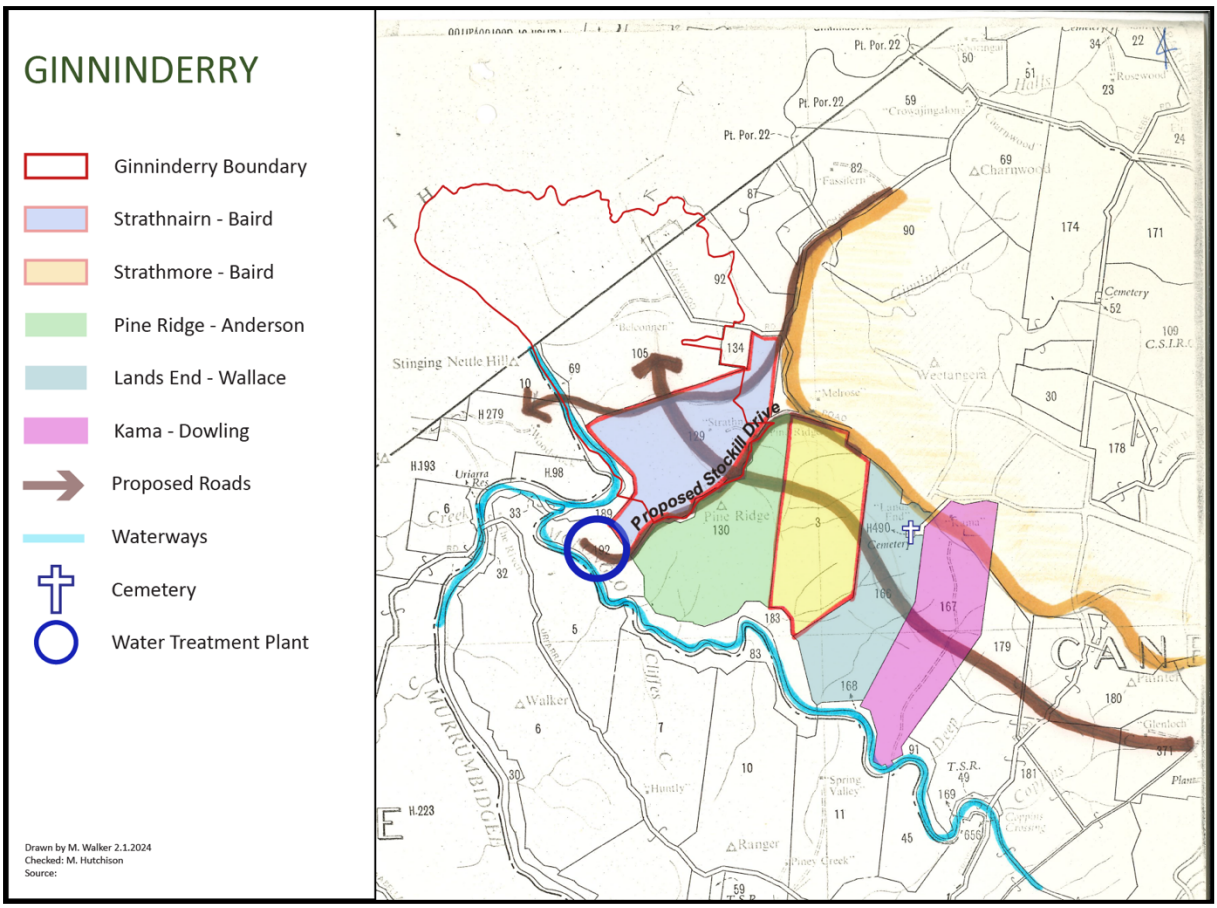


Figure 3-77 Road proposals under discussion early 1970s attached to correspondence with David Baird June 1973. Block 1332 Strathnairn Homestead. Blue Folk Community, Archives ACT, SP648

One of the roads concerning David in 1973, was a planned upgrade of the oldest part of the Weetangera Road to provide access to the new Molongo Water Treatment Plant near the junction of the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee Rivers (Haynes et al, 2023, p. 23). See 'proposed Stockdill Drive' running south-west from Drake-Brockman Drive (orange) in Figure 3-77. For David, it was a further difficulty in managing stock between Baird Blocks 19 and 18, (Haynes et al, 2013, p. 19). The upgrade went ahead and was gazetted as Stockdill Drive in 1984. As Figure 3-78 shows, the upgrade alignment (white dashed line) closely follows the existing 1923 Weetangera Road (yellow line). As they weave together towards the river, they join the much older western end of the road (Skitmore, May 2018. pp. 13-15). The older alignment, reserved in Block 19 in 1923, would have provided the most convenient access from the Strathnairn homestead to Block 19.

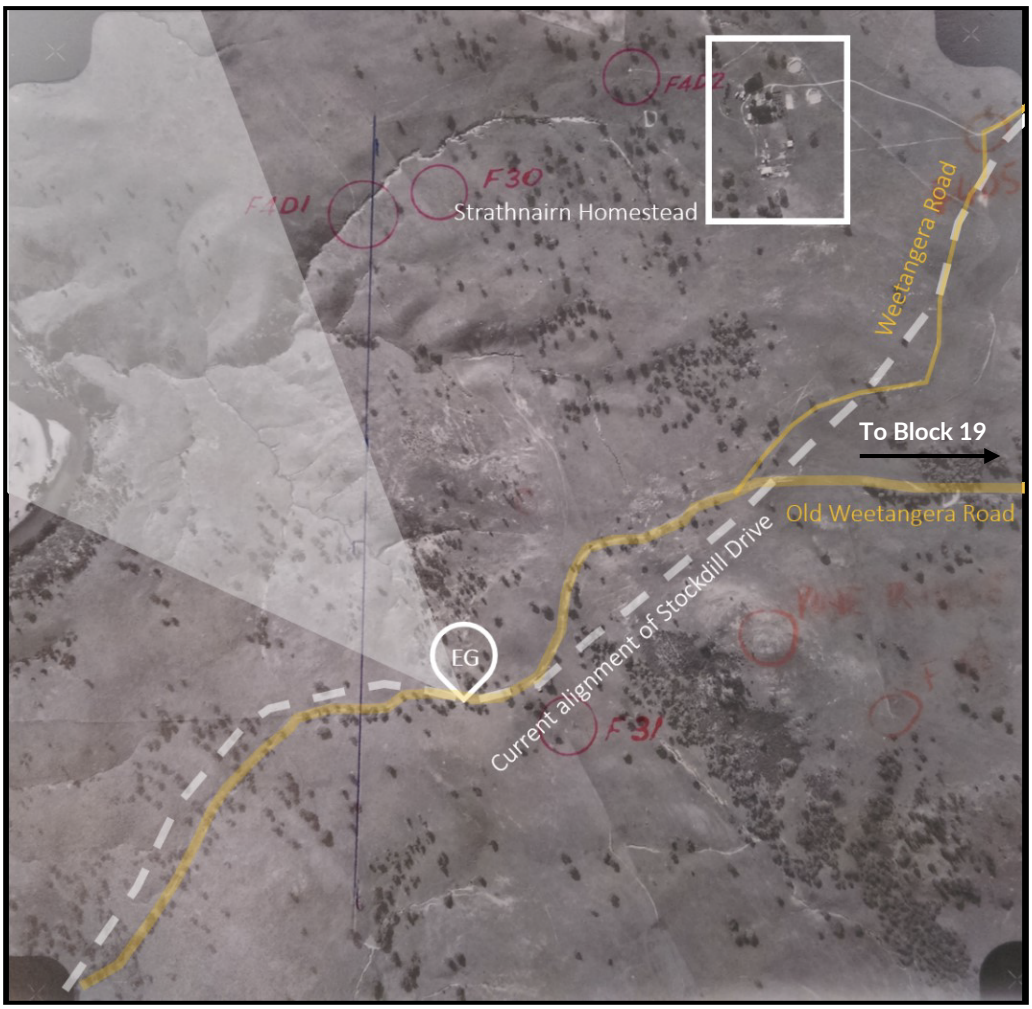


Figure 3-78 Stockdill Drive alignment to Water Treatment Plant (Action Heritage, February 2019, p. 7). Image includes a cone shape identifying the location of Elioth Gruner's 1937 painting, 'Weetangera'.

The other road discussed in the early 70s was Molonglo Parkway. It was the subject of a planning study in 1973 for northwest access across the Murrumbidgee with a possible construction date of 1975 (Block 1332 Strathnairn Homestead, Blue Folk community). In Figure 3-106 The two roads with arrows likely represent the proposal which never eventuated. More familiar contemporary roads are also shown including Southern Cross Drive connecting with old Parkwood road.

David Baird's daughter, Catriona, was seven when the Baird family left Strathnairn. Her impression of the road issue was that a highway was to go straight through Strathnairn – an impression easily implied by the potential Molonglo parkway in the road map drawing. Her conversation with GLHS in 2018 highlights the family's attachment to Strathnairn and the wrench of leaving.

> *Strathnairn was Dad's pride and joy. It was very hard for him to leave. He never went back. The only time was to spread Mum's ashes on the back block overlooking the Murrumbidgee … putting Mum's ashes on the farm meant a lot to him. Dad's there too now*[26].

With the departure of the Bairds, the Strathnairn property was managed jointly by NCDC and Department of Capital Territory. Almost immediately, the homestead provided emergency housing for evacuees from Cyclone Tracy which had devastated Darwin on Christmas Eve 1974. They were followed by a large public service family transferred to Canberra from South Australia, for whom there was no other suitable public housing. In 1975-76, Peter Canham became the non-residential leaseholder of Strathnairn as a rural property. Plans for creating the homestead and an area around it for community lease were also in train. The changing Strathnairn landscape is highlighted in Figure 3-79 and Figure 3-80 which show the Strathnairn 1923 rural lease and the 1977 homestead block.

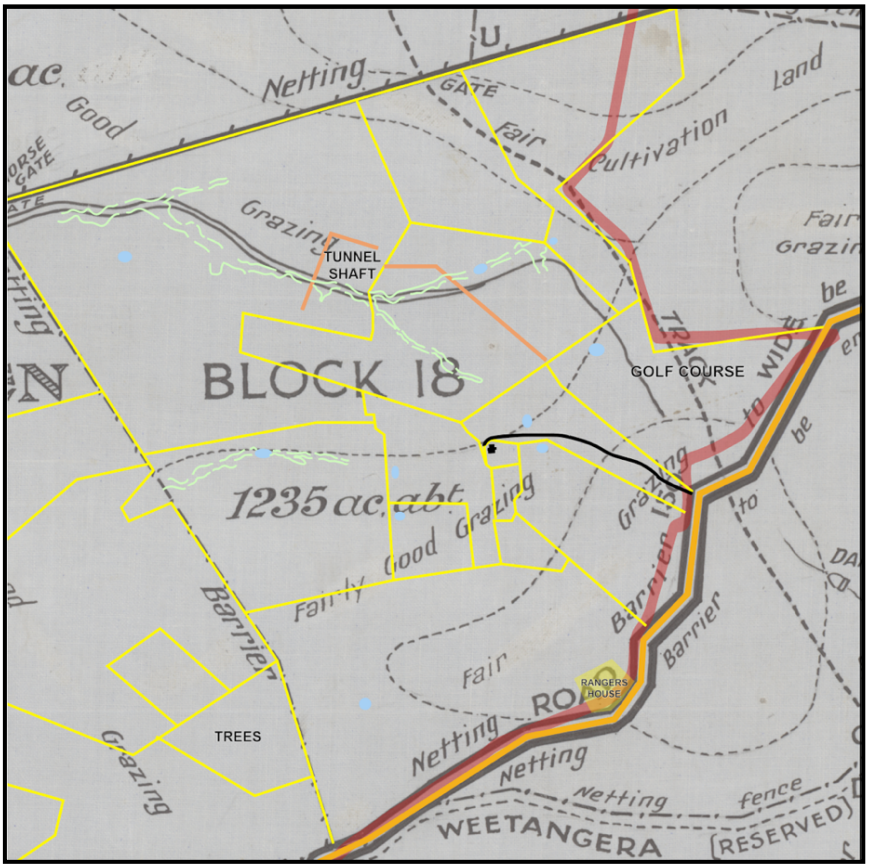


Figure 3-79 Belconnen Lease Plan 1923 with paddock boundaries (yellow) overlain from Figure 3-80. MAP G8984 C3646 (Sales Plan), Canberra, Lands and Survey Office 1924

[26] Catriona said that the family called the back block overlooking the Murrumbidgee, River Paddock. She also noted how difficult it was to get cattle out of what was once called the Punchbowl because it was so steep.

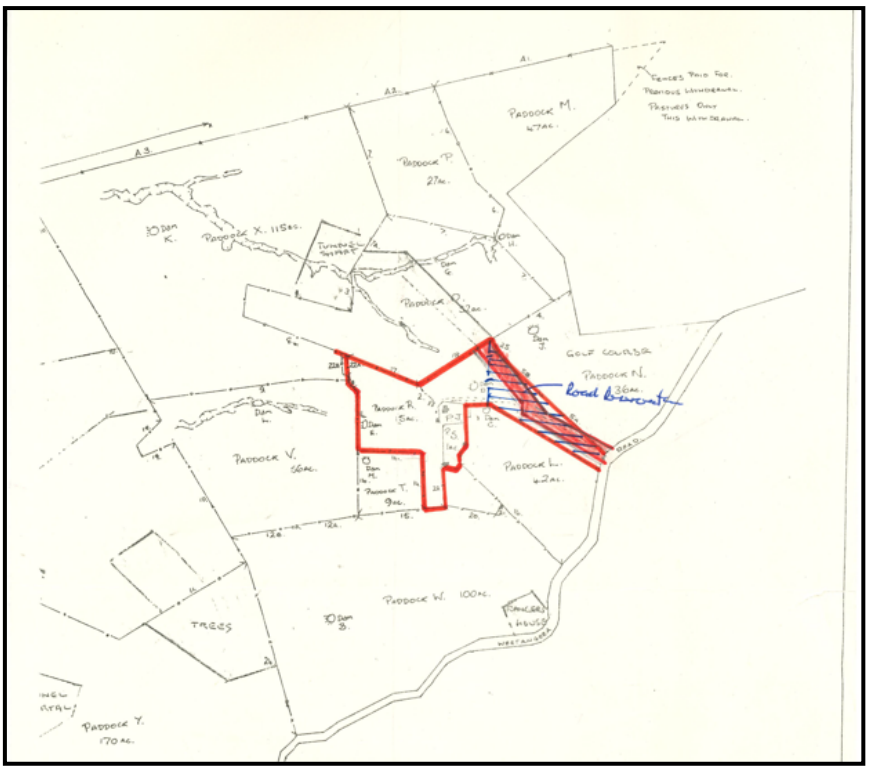


Figure 3-80: Sketch of Strathnairn Homestead block attached to the Department of Capital Territory/NCDC correspondence re Stockdill Drive upgrade, 1977. Block 1332 Blue Folk Community. Archives ACT, SP648

In 1977, the Department of Capital Territory informed NCDC of its intention to lease the homestead and a surrounding area of 26.5 acres (10.73ha) to Blue Folk Community Arts Association. Blue Folk was part of the early community arts movement in Canberra. Its artistic director, Domenic Mico, cared passionately about bringing people together through arts activities and providing opportunities for people to discover what they could do through creative imagination. The Strathnairn homestead lease was an opportunity to use its rural environment as a local canvas, and inspiration for performances, events and workshops, particularly with children and teenagers in mind.

Domenic and his family took up residence at Strathnairn in 1978. Domenic's work included managing the farm animals they had acquired as well as the Blue Folk program of festivals, performances, and classes in visual and performing arts at Strathairn and in other Canberra locations. The animals as well as performance sites like the pirate ship on the dam shown in Figure 3-81, added to the interest of Strathnairn's new identity, particularly for local children.

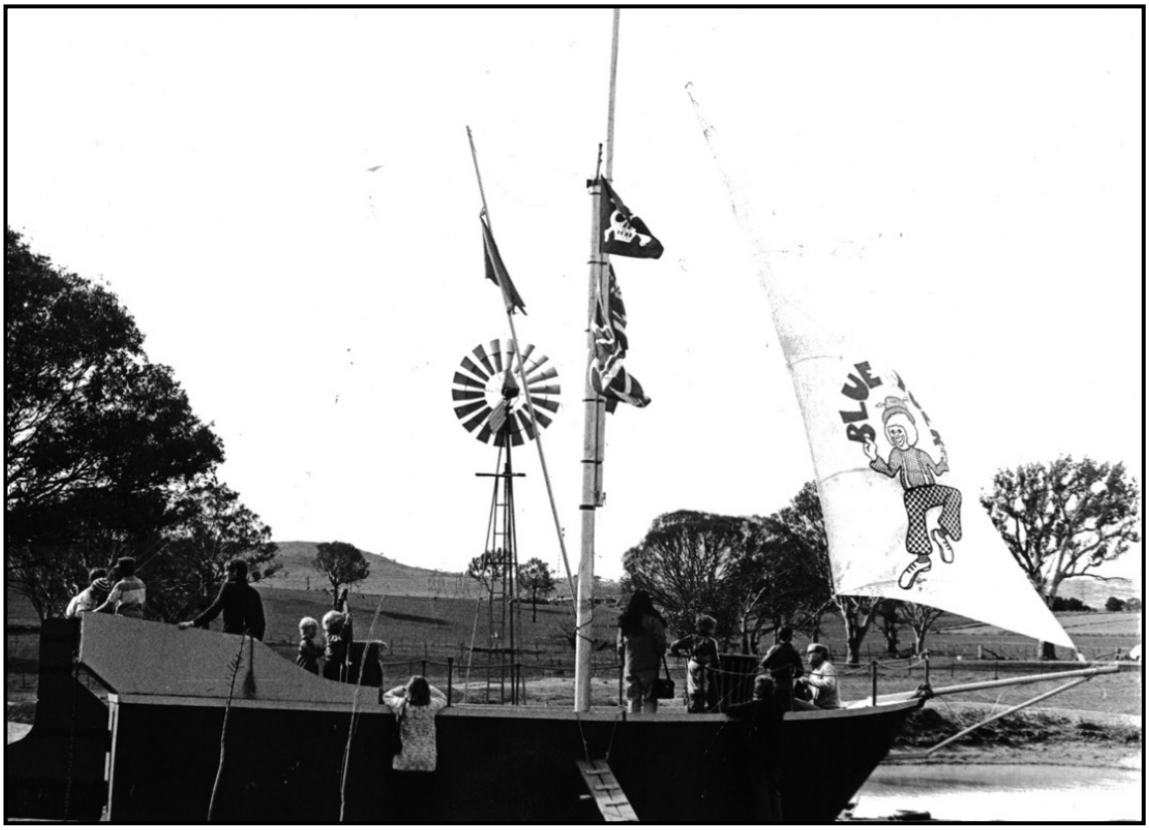


Figure 3-81 Pirate Ship at Blue Folk. Courtesy: Maryann Mussared

> *I grew up in Holt and we used to ride our bikes down to Strathnairn and play on the pirate ship in the dam. I don't know if it was a pirate ship but we called it that. One evening we came up and they'd put on a show in the pirate ship. But even when there was nothing on, we'd ride our bikes up. There were peacocks and ducks out the back and I remember the gobble-gobble turkey chasing us. It was the 1970s!*
>
> (Belinda Redfern Elliot, GLHS conversation, March 2018)

Over the first two years the Association was also working on developing the facilities at Strathnairn for community arts activities such as workshop space. Funding from local organisations, schools, and government arts and child care grants, was an important element in this and was boosted by the International Year of the Child in 1979.

> *The Association have been very active over the past twelve months conducting art and craft activities mainly directed at children and operating an art and craft gallery. They have also undertaken considerable maintenance in the homestead which is used in part as a showroom. … They intend installing a toilet block, converting the shearing shed to a theatre and constructing a children's village.*
>
> (Department of Capital Territory to NCDC, January 1979. Block 1332 Blue Folk)

By 1980, Blue Folk was in full swing. Rose Cahill was a regular participant in the early 1980s.

> *Lots of people from my generation went there and it impacted on our lifestyles and careers. It was classic 1970s community development. The art marking workshops inspired me. A bubble of creativity not far from home … Hop on your bike and in five minutes be in the bush – just be in that landscape of farmhouses that predated our 1970s homes. Riding your bike over wet corrugated roads, that sound as you bumped over the corrugations -d-d-de-de – bumping over and singing, or screaming, at the same time – wheeee – wheeee – feet off the pedals hanging on to the handle bars.*
>
> (Rose Cahill, GLHS conversation, March 2018)

In 1981, Domenic resigned to take up study but Strathnairn's wide range of creative activities continued with workshops in a variety of arts and crafts and a multi-arts program for 8-11 year old's called 'Charlie's Fun Factory'. An art gallery had been established in the homestead. However, drought was adding to the work of looking after the animals and inflation was having an impact on the Blue Folk budget. In this climate, a decision was made in 1984 to change the Association's name to Brindabella Community Arts Farm (Figure 3-82). The program did not change dramatically but new artists brought new interests and skills. Cheryl Jobz for instance expanded the program to include people with disabilities (Haynes et al, 2013, pp. 39-47). In 1987, plans for a wheelchair accessible treehouse were provided to the Department of Capital Territory. Figure 3-83 shows two images of the design and construction of the tree house.



Figure 3-82 Brindabella Farm Community Arts, Julia Williams, Megalo Screenprint, 1986, National Library of Australia

CONSTRUCTION OF A TREE HOUSE

FOR THE BRINDABELLA COMMUNITY ARTS ORGANISATION AT STRATHNAIRN ACT.

DESIGN

The selected design for the main structure is that produced by Phil Tu & Co Ltd. Changes have been made to the original design the main one being the inclusion of several levels instead of a flat platform.

The selection committee has selected many elements from other designs to create a composite. More about that later.

CONSTRUCTION TIME

No matter what happens, the Tree House is to be completed by Friday September 19.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

The main structural elements will be made of Oregon (Douglas Fir). The posts to rest on metal shoes made by us. The beams will be Oregon supported on the posts by metal brackets. The deck will be Tallowood boards, a durable Australian timber. Other decorative elements will be selected as the need arises.

TEAMS

The following teams are required to work on the Tree House:

FOOTINGERS They will dig the required holes under the posts and fill them with concrete after the poles have been located. They will also be required to prepare and place any other concrete that may be required.

BRACKETERS They will make all the necessary brackets required for the poles as well as all the brackets needed for the fixing of the beams. They will also paint the finished product with 'Galmet' or equivalent. This team requires welders and metal workers.

POLERS They will prepare all the necessary 22 poles and erect them in position. The positioning of the poles will hav to be an accurate job.

BEAMERS They will prepare and place all the beams in position.

66

DECKERS They will cut and nail in place all the necessary decking boards.

BUILDERS LABOURERS AND GENERAL LACKEYS They will simply obey and execute any orders given to them by anyone who cares to give such orders.

DRIVERS They will travel to and fro Fyshwick, the College and the site. They will purchase materials. They will use JPF's truck.

PAINTERS They will paint the whole contraption during construction and upon completion.

ADVENTURERS They will build items of interest to be placed in and around the house.

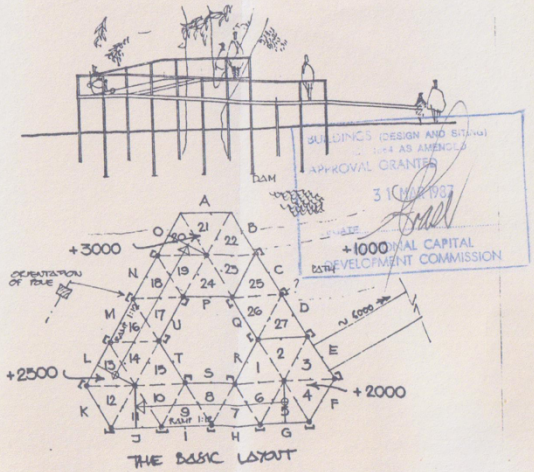
FENCERS They will look after the safety fence to be built around the structure. They will ensure that the client's design requirements are met.

GENERAL RULES

Based on previous experience, the most important rule will be to keep safety in mind at all times.

Please put the tools away after completion of your shift.

JPF - PNB



THE BASIC LAYOUT

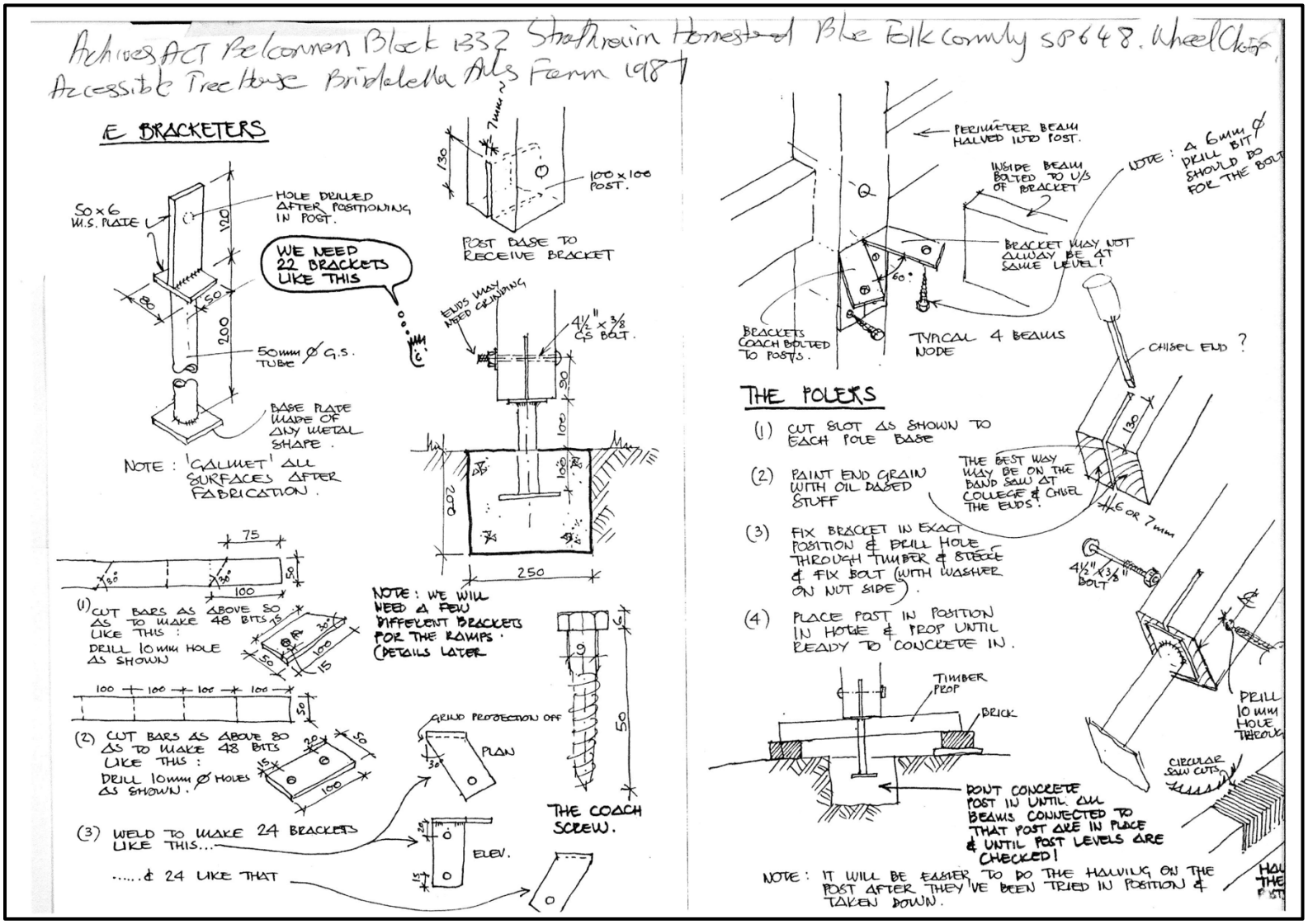


Figure 3-83 Design and construction ofBrindablella Community Arts Farm's wheelchair accessible tree house, Block 1332 Blue Folk Community

Despite the many highlights of the 1980s, by 1990 the energy of the Association was flagging. Maintenance of the farm, the homestead and studios was urgent. Arts worker, Michael Sainsbury's creative and practical skills and artist working bees achieved much needed renovations. However the growing problem of declining arts funding and its impact on sustaining the Farm's program couldn't be sustained. A new direction was found in 1991 through contact with the Ceramics section of the ANU School of Art. The Strathnairn Ceramics Association was formed as a merger of Brindabella Arts and Ceramics interests and, as Hayne's et al write, Strathnairn began 'another stage in its evolution'. By the time the Ginninderry development arrived, it had become the Strathnairn Arts Association, and the pirate ship was no longer on the dam (Haynes et al, pp. 49-55)[27].

Pine Ridge, Belconnen Farm and Block 13

In 1968, the remaining rural residents in Weetangera were hooked up to the same telephone line as their suburban neighbours and the exchange line that had served leaseholders since 1926 was closed (Gillespie, 1992, p. 181). Pine Ridge was the venue for the party to thank and farewell Ted and Barbara Tong. Barbara had managed the Weetangera post office and telephone exchange since 1948, when Ted had been appointed to the position of Weetangera Ranger (Clough, 2004, p. 54). Members of three Kilby families were present as were Bob and Phyllis Cameron from Glangalla, David and Ann Baird from Strathnairn, and Austin and Louise Shepherd from Belconnen Farm (*The Canberra Times*, 8/2/1968, p. 19). By the time of the Tongs' departure, generational change was taking place amongst the leaseholders at the party. In the following years, the growing pressure of development had further impact on their decision making and lifestyle.

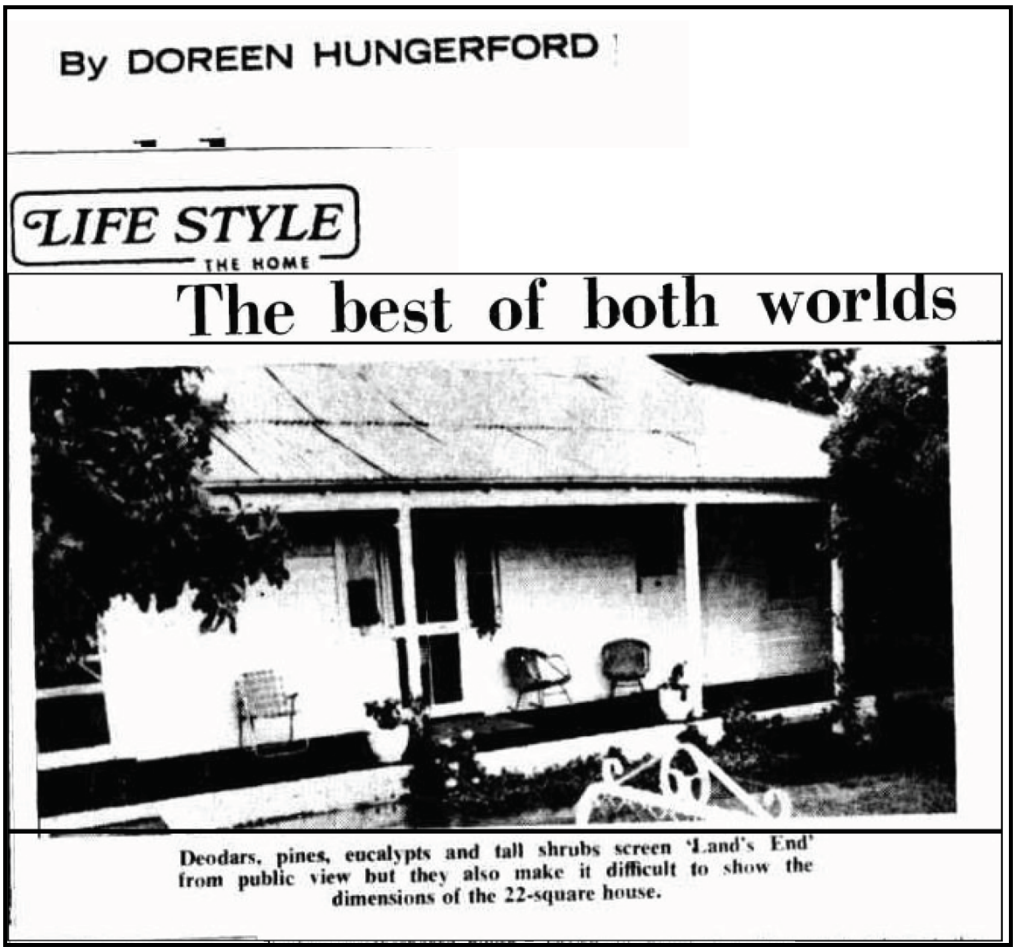
Austin and Louise Shepherd had retired from Belconnen Farm to Campbell. Their son Bob continued to work the property. Although neither Block 14 or 16 were in the line for resumption, early 1970s development had an impact on living on the farm. Most intrusive was the new Belconnen Rubbish tip on a Block 14 paddock. At the time, Bob was in the process of building up a motor retail business and decided to move to the suburbs. However, he retained the family lease on the farm and rented it to Peter Canham who managed it in conjunction with his lease on Strathnairn (Pfanner, 1999, p. 29).

Block 13 continued to be farmed as part of the properties held by the partnership of Athol and Keith Kilby until Athol's death in 1962. Athol's share of the property then became the A.C. Kilby Estate. It was managed by 'the son he never had' Stan Nowland, who had worked for Athol since the 1940s (Kilby, 2013, pp. 42-44). By 1968, when the partnership was officially dissolved, Wesley Kilby was working with his father Keith and they decided to create a formal partnership as W.K and K.K Kilby. In 1973, as the Belconnen suburbs moved further around Ginninderry, Block 13 was resumed (Wesley Kilby, GLHS

[27] See Haynes et al, *Starthnairn A Place for People*, 2013, for a full history of Strathnairn, particularly its life from Blue Folk to the present.

conversation 8/12/2020). As it was only a portion of their leasehold and freehold property, they continued farming as before.

Ken and Beryl Anderson remained at Pine Ridge into the 1970s. In about 1967, their son Alan and his young family rented the Lands End house from the Wallace family. In 1971 Alan's wife Helen was interviewed by Doreen Hungerford for a 'lifestyle' article in *The Canberra Times* 'The best of both worlds' (9/3/71, p. 10)(See Figure 3-84).



By DOREEN HUNGERFORD

LIFE STYLE
THE HOME

The best of both worlds

Deodars, pines, eucalypts and tall shrubs screen 'Land's End' from public view but they also make it difficult to show the dimensions of the 22-square house.

Figure 3-84 Doreen Hungerford, 'The best of both worlds', *The Canberra Times*, 9/3/71, p. 10

Enjoying the best of town and country is one way to describe the life which Mr and Mrs Alan Anderson find suits them down to the ground. With their children, Ken, 6, Malcolm 4, and Samantha 2, the Andersons live on the fringe of Higgins in Belconnen, designed by the National Capital Development Commission as the future home of 120,000 people.

The article provides a history of the property held by Robert Kilby and Evan Cameron and then goes on to describe the 1920s farmhouse and the work the Andersons have done to take it back to its original interiors. It also highlights the benefits of space for beehives and vegetables - and for children. On the possibility of the owner needing the house, Helen was 'unenthusiastic' about finding a suburban house. Not long after the article was written, the owner, Alec Wallace did want it – his daughter Meg and her husband, Mark Hartmann, had returned from travelling and needed somewhere to live. They stayed at Lands End for about 15 months before returning to America (Meg Hartmann, GLHS conversation, 10/1/2024 - 28/1/2024).

As it worked out, around the time of the Hartmann's move to Lands End, Ken and Beryl Anderson vacated Pine Ridge and passed it on to Alan and Helen. Over the following years, in the context of a significant wave of interest in agricultural education in Canberra schools, they became involved in educating students, from pre-school to high school, about farm animals and farming. For example, in 1977 they were involved in providing practical experience of farming at Pine Ridge as partners in an innovative agricultural studies centre at Ginninderra High School.

> *Experimental plots have been set up [at the school], while other programs such as observation of animal behaviour, feeding experiments and ecological studies of fresh water dam life can all be carried out at Pine Ridge …. Mr Alan Anderson acts as tutor-demonstrator for parties of pre-school and primary children who visit the property for half day excursion. Hawker and Copland Colleges will use this facility and it is open to visits from all schools in the ACT* (The Canberra Times, 16/12/197, p. 2*).*

The article also provided a postscript to the story of the Hall show: *Students from Lyneham ran the animal nursery at last year's National Agricultural Show and will do the same this year*.

Pine Ridge remained the family home of Alan and Helen Anderson until 2000 when horsewoman, Jenny Campbell, purchased the property. Jenny had moved to Canberra from Sydney in 1998 when her eight-year-old daughter won a scholarship to the Australian Institute of Sport. As a lover of the outdoors and horses, her process of settling in led her to Pine Ridge as a place to agist her horse. She fell in love with Pine Ridge and after a couple of years mentioned to Alan that if he ever thought of selling it, she would be interested in buying it. Alan's reply began with 'Funny you should say that'. The sale was duly arranged. Jenny continues to manage Pine Ridge's 400 acres. She agists horses and runs grassfed Angus Beef cattle. The cattle enjoy grazing from time to time on land adjoining Pine Ridge which was most recently a vineyard. They do a great job preventing excess grass growth, especially in bush fire season! (GLHS conversation, Jenny Campbell, 23/1/2024).

Lands End and Block 19 in suburban times[28]

Figure 3-85 shows the developing suburban environment of remaining rural leaseholders in and around Ginninderry in 1979. It includes the suburbs of Holt and Macgregor and elements of planned and under-construction suburban infrastructure. Some plans, like the road intended to provide access across the Murrumbidgee and the 'option for national shooting complex' (next door to the Blue Folk community) never eventuated. Others are part of Ginninderry's 21st century landscape: the rubbish tip on Belconnen Farm, the golf course next to Strathnairn and the power substation.

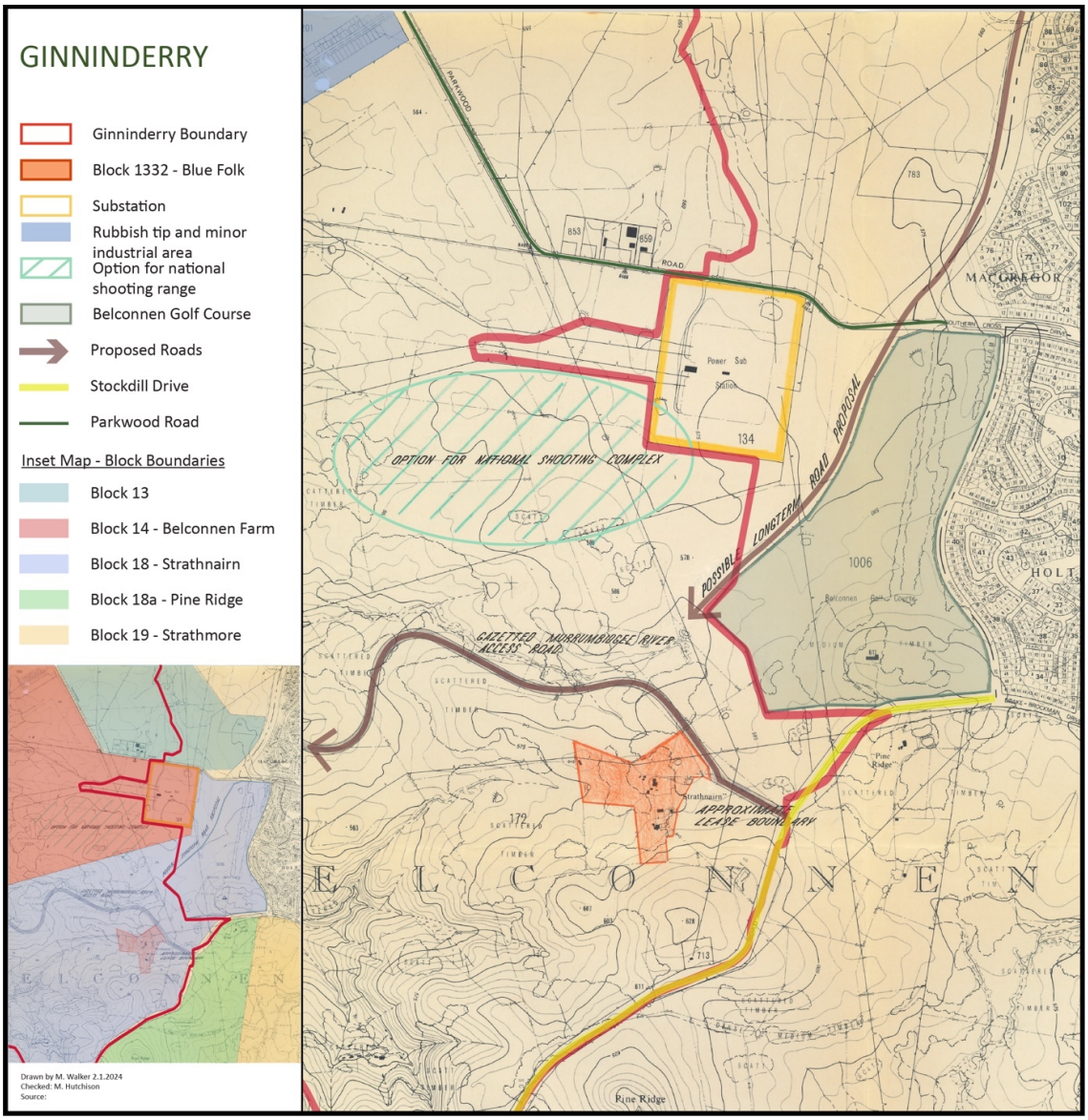


Figure 3-85 Planning map for suburbs and infrastructure in and around Ginninderry, 1979, featuring Strathnairn Homestead Bblock (orange). Archives ACT, Block 1332 Strathnairn Homestead Blue folk community, SP648

[28] information about Lands End and Bock 19 in this section is from GLHS conversations with Meg Hartmann, 10/1/2024 -18/1/2024

During the Wallaces' ownership of Lands End, Cameron family members were able to arrange visits to the 'old' Lands End house site. For instance, Nan Betts organised her mother's 75th birthday party there in the early 1980s (Nanette Betts, GLHS conversation, 24/11/2023). In 1981, Heather Cameron led a visit to the old house and its immediate environment under the auspices of the Canberra & District Historical Society. There she told the story of the walk to school with the aid of her grandfather Kilby's whitewash signs on trees and the stiles made for six-year-old legs to get over fences. She also filled in the everyday experience of the remains of the house, farm buildings, trees and garden plants.

> *A heap of stones and rubble is all that remains of the huge kitchen fireplace in which we used to stand at full height to warm ourselves in the winter … The dairy, made of pise boarded up and nailed with handmade nails stood until recently but now lies in ruins on the ground … The old Banksia rose which covered the porch leading to the sitting room is still blooming along with the pink rose and lilac in the garden …*

A particular landmark for Heather at the house site was the … *ancient apple gum … We children always called it the 'pig tree'… When the pig was killed each year it was hung on a large branch of the tree … the pork sausages which our mother made with a hand sausage machine were a special treat for us all* (Shakespeare 1981, pp. 4-6)[29].

In 2017, GLHS organised a visit to 'Old' Lands End with Cameron family members and other interested individuals and groups[30]. The 'pig tree' was a centre of attention and offered us a magic moment when a Cameron family member discovered a chain buried in the leaf litter below the tree. It was hard not to see it as a remnant of the fate of at least one of those pigs that had been such a memorable part of Lands End farming life. Figure 3-86 shows the tree and the chain.

[29] The pig tree was known by the family as an 'apple gum' which is one of the common names for *Eucalyptus Bridgesiana*. Heather's article about the walk is also reprinted in Kilby, E. (2013). *The Kilby Family 'Lands End' 1852-2013*. Canberra: Kilby family.

[30] Meg and Mark Hartmann generously facilitated the visit with the support of the Suburban Land Agency





Figure 3-86 The Lands End 'pig tree', *Eucalyptus Bridgesiana*, also known as apple box or apple gum (top), and the chain found beneath it (bottom). Photos: Katie Hayne 4/10/2017

Trustees of the Weetangera cemetery were also regular visitors in the 1980s. Most of them were connected with families who had worshipped at the church and whose names were represented in the graveyard. They continued its upkeep for as long as they could. Wesley Kilby, who says he became an 'unofficial' trustee in the 1960s , was still mowing lawns into the 2000s, with a mainly ageing group committed to the job in the absence of support from ACT Heritage or the Uniting Church (Wesley Kilby, GLHS conversation, 19/12/2023). Most recently, the neglected site attracted the attention of green

keeper and garden worker, Joey Leonard, who lives in Macgregor. A chance encounter with the cemetery reminded him of a member of the Southwell family who had been a neighbour during Joey's childhood. He and his brother Gerard have now taken on the voluntary work of caring for the site physically and with a similar spirit to the Trustees. Wesley Kilby's response in a *Canberra Times* article by Tim the Yowie Man, about the brothers' revival of the site, was: *It's absolutely marvellous what Joey is doing* … (25/11/2023, p. 6).

From the 1970s, tenants at Lands End were mainly Wallace family friends and relatives. Meg and Mark Hartmann lived there for a second time after returning from America in 1973. They remained until 1978. The last tenants were Alec's nephew Geoff Wallace and his wife Sandra who took up residence in 1988. During their long tenure, Geoff did a lot of the work on the farm. Alec died in 2007, leaving Lands End to Meg and her brother. Geoff and Sandra moved from Lands End when Meg's brother sold the lease in 2017.

As well as Alec Wallace's long association with Lands End, he also had a role in the history of the Bairds' Block 19. When the Bairds surrendered their Strathnairn leases in 1974, Alec took up the option to purchase a portion of Block 19 adjacent to Lands End. In retrospect, it was a small reconnection of Evan Cameron's pre-ACT Cameron- Smith farm with the Kilby's Lands End (see 'Block 19' and 'Block 20' stories, pp. 58, 52). After Alec's death in 2007, the Lands End portion of the once Block 19 went to his daughter, Meg. At the time of writing, Meg and Mark Hartmann continue to farm 'Bairds block'.

A further connection between Bairds Block 19 and its earlier history was made when NCDC and the Department of Capital Territory created a second 1977 community lease on the Baird's former property. This one was for Pegasus Riding School for the Disabled. In 1973, Judith Burns, a therapist at Canberra Hospital was investigating the benefits of horse riding for children with disabilities. She found an ideal location for regular weekly riding activities at Marcel Judd's Forest Park Riding School. Interest in the concept grew and an association to support it, Pegasus Riding for the Disabled of the ACT, was formed in 1975. When Marcel's lease came to an end, the association's search for a new riding location, led to the NCDC's offer of the remaining land of Bairds' Block 19 which included 'a small and dilapidated cottage, power, telephone, two boundary fences and absolutely nothing else!' (Pegasus online, 'Our Story').

Coincidentally, Pegasus's new home was on the land of the Smith family's 1870s homestead Weetangera House, and their once well-known horse stud (Campbell, 1955, pp. 19-20). The maps in Figure 3-87 and Figure 3-88 bring the historical horse stud and modern Pegasus Riding for the Disabled together with historical maps and a 2024 satellite map, in overview and close-up form respectively. Block 23, outlined in purple on the overview map, is the site of the prominent hayshed and stables, and the homestead, which are marked in blue on the close-up map – look out for the note 'shed'.

A feature of the overview map of the 1923 leasehold Block 19, shown in the close-up map, is the area marked out for the ranger's hut in the 1920s – outlined in orange (see 'Block 19', p. 58). It seems likely that the 'cottage' inherited by Pegasus was the 1950s version of the ranger's hut used by Ted Tong when he was in the position in the 1950s (see 'Pine Ridge, Belconnen Farm and Block 13', p. 126). In 1955, a newly erected cottage on Block 19 was recognised by Smith descendants as in much the same location as the Smith homestead (Campbell, 1955, p. 21). Another feature of the historical site is that the Smith homestead was sited near the 1872 alignment of Weetangera road shown in yellow in both maps. In 2018, Stevie Skitmore (Action Heritage) identified a remnant of the first Weetangera road behind Pegasus's current establishment – as shown in Figure 3-89.

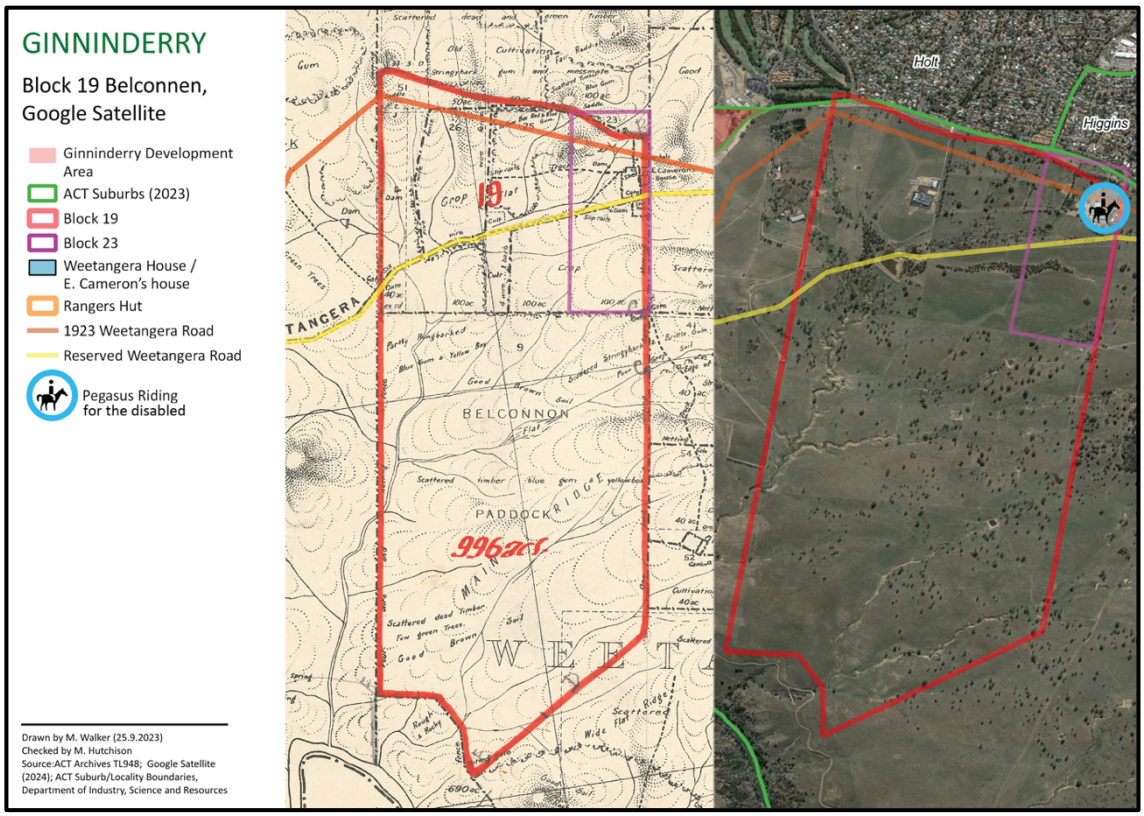


Figure 3-87 Comparison of Block 19 Belconnen with the modern landscape. Block 19, Belconnen, I. H Baird, Archives ACT TL948, Google Satellite (2024)

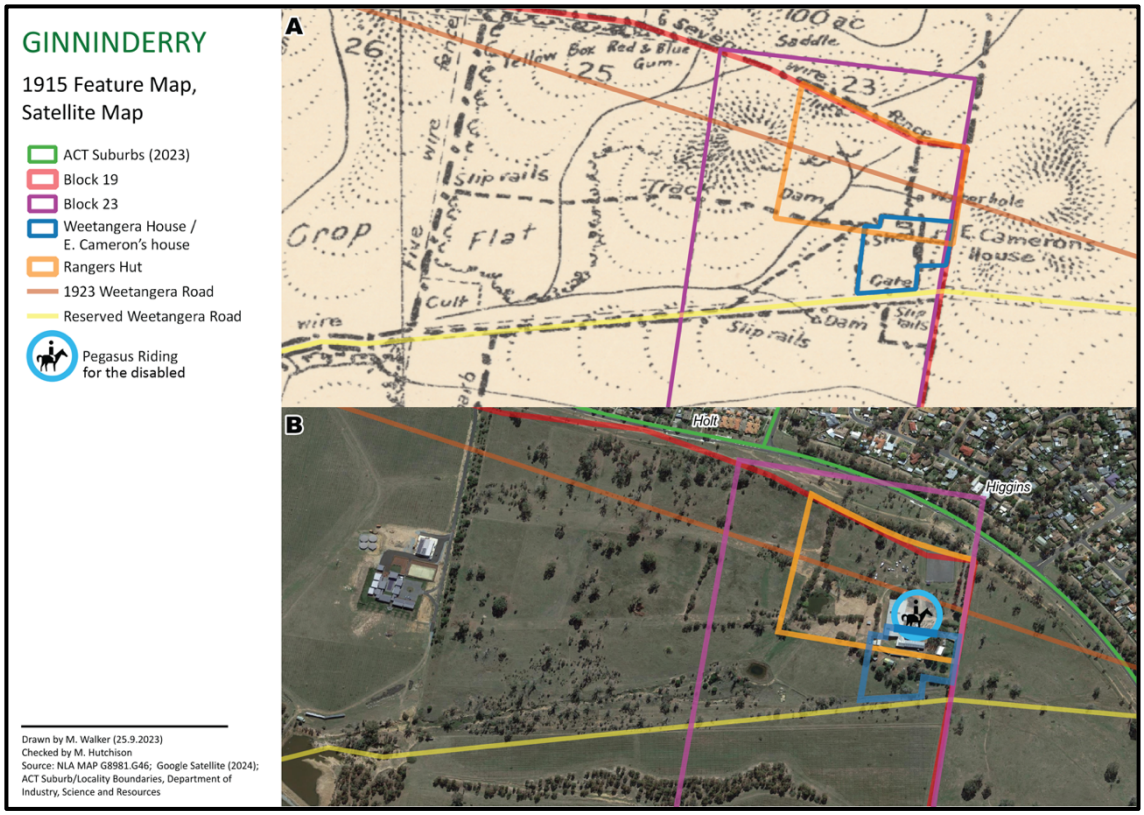


Figure 3-88 Composite map showing the past and present of the 1923 subdivision Block 19. Block 19, Belconnen, I. H Baird, Archives ACT TL948, Google Satellite (2024)



Figure 3-89 Alignment of old (1872) Weetangeera behind Pegasus, Drake-Brockman Drive, Holt, (15/2/2018). The alignment can be seen between the wire fence on the right and the older gate posts on the left. Photograph: Katie Hayne.

Developments on the border: Ginninderra Falls Park

Changes in family circumstances resulted in the sale of Glenmoor and Parkwood properties in 1971- 2. In the case of Glenmoor, the property was broken up after the deaths of J.C. Moore and Minnie, as well as their son Colin and his wife Elma, in the early 1960s. At first, Don and his son Gary continued to farm Glenmoor and Jarramlea but ill health prevented Don from continuing. The property was then managed by Malcolm Dare from 1964 until the sale in 1971. Block 12 was resumed for the Belconnen suburbs. There are now pieces of it in Flynn, Latham, Dunlop, Macgregor and Charnwood. Gledesdale remained with Curtis Moore family members (Hall Heritage Centre online, 'James Moore', 'Glenmoor', 'Donald Murty').

At Parkwood, the retirement of the eldest Kilby brother, Clyde, in 1970 led to the dissolution of the partnership and sale of the property. At this time, it consisted of the original Parkwood and Falls properties as well as 655 acres around Red Hill purchased by J.K Kilby and Leon Smith in 1923. Leon's share went to J.K. during the Depression. In the dividing up of the property, Bruce retained the original Falls property and 20 acres around the family homestead. The latter was called Kilby Park and was not included in the sale. Bruce and Bob stayed on for a couple of years after Clyde left and the sale went through in 1972. Clyde retired to Hackett and Bob continued farming on a smaller scale in Breadalbane, N.S.W. Bruce and his wife Muriel retired to Watson and then to the Gold Coast. Kilby Park was later left to their eldest son, Jim (Kilby 2013, pp. 45-46 and 53-54; James Kilby interviewed by Mary Hutchison, 12/5/2017, session 10, 00:48:42).

Figure 3-90, based on a contour map, and Figure 3-91, based on an aerial photograph, show Parkwood after the sale. Both views include the three Kilby brothers' homesteads; the 1880 stone church; Ginninderra Creek and the waterfalls; and elements of the suburban context of the time such as the Belconnen rubbish tip (aerial view). They also identify J.K. Kilby's right of way from Parkwood Road through The Falls property, then known as Cusack's Crossing Road[31]. The remaining uprights of The Falls homestead are shown in Figure 3-92 - a photograph by a Canberra Grammar student for a school project.

[31] The 1980s Cusack's Crossing Road was originally part of the old disputed roadway through Belconnen Station that GLHS has called Cusack's Crossing Track. See Part 3.2, road disputes.

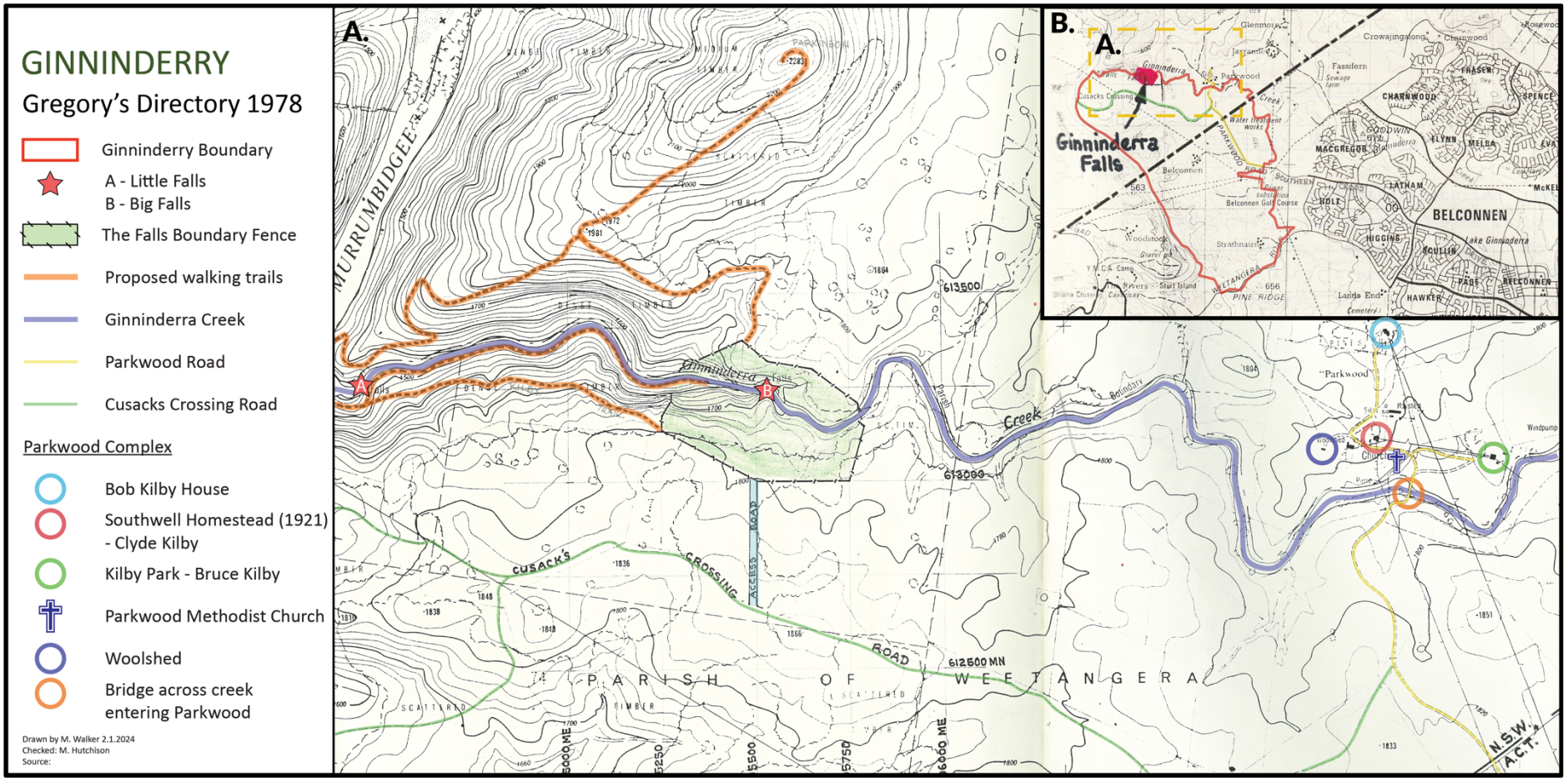


Figure 3-90 Parkwood homestead area and its wider environment c.1978. Contour map and Gregory's Directory map used by Robert Caldwell in his proposal for Ginninderra Falls Park. Courtesy: Caldwell family

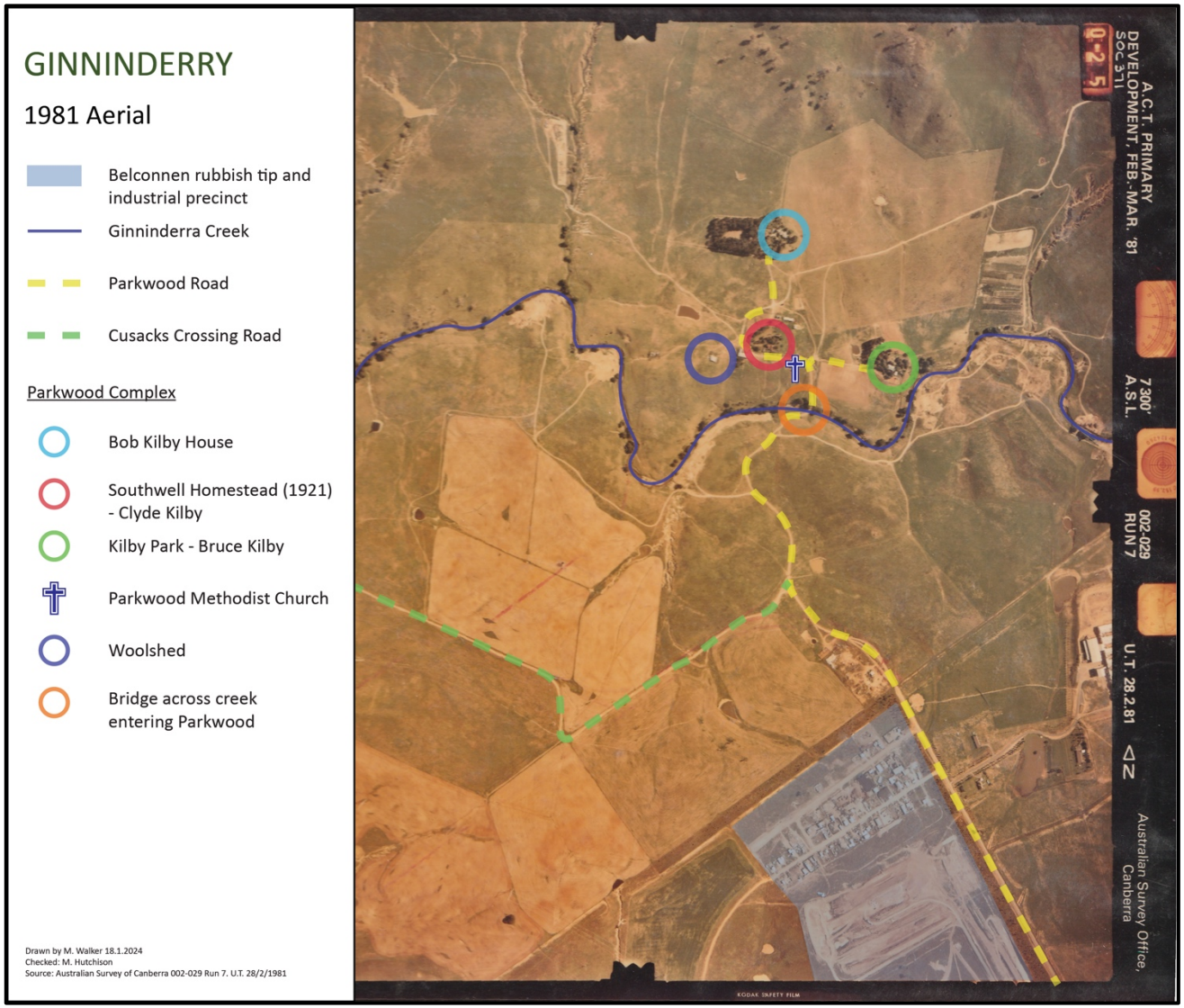


Figure 3-91 Parkwood, 1981. Aerial map, Australian Survey of Canberra 002-029 Run 7. U.T. 28/2/1981. Courtesy: Robert and Elizabeth Caldwell

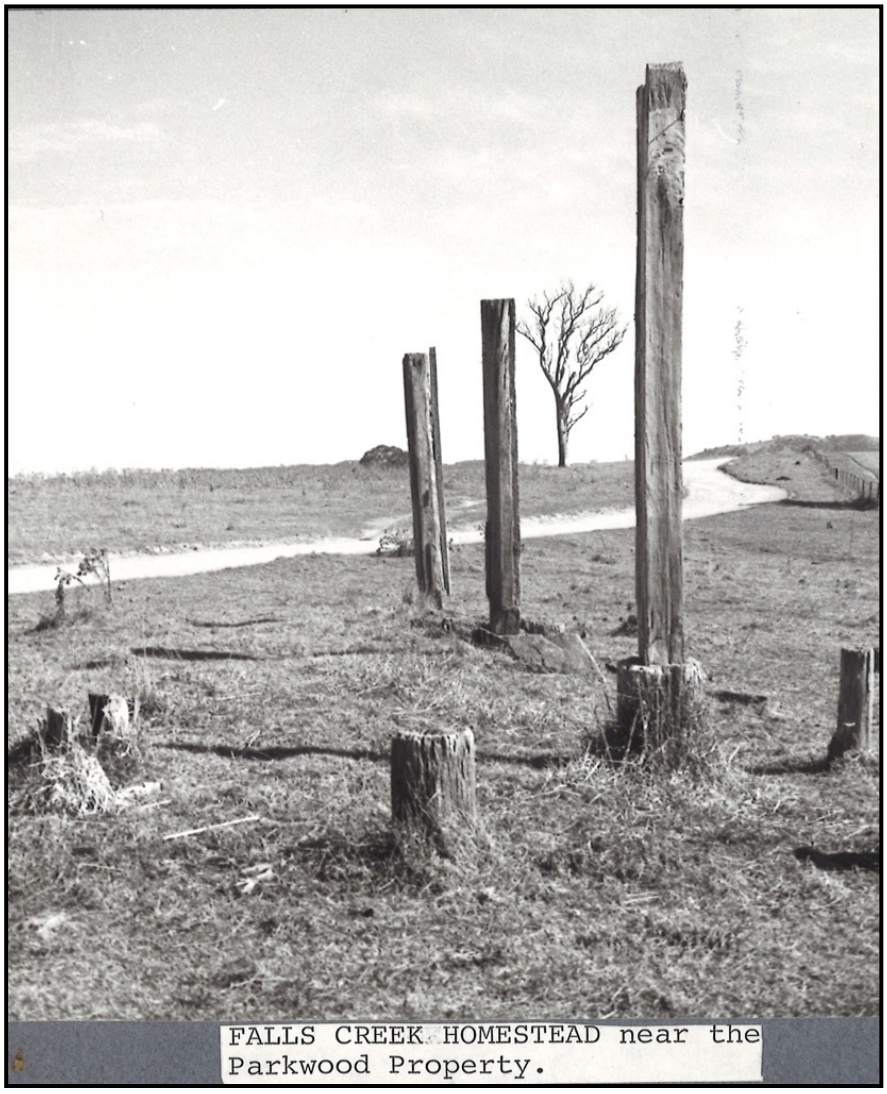


Figure 3-92 Remnants of the Kilby family Falls homestead next to the Kilby right of way section of the Cusack's Crossing Track. Photographer, Stephen Byron, 1982. Courtesy: Stephen Byron

Jim Kilby left Parkwood before the sale when he started teaching agricultural science at Canberra Grammar School in the early 1960s. But the property continued to play an active role in his life. For instance, he incorporated its natural features into his courses for the Australian Outward Bound program in Canberra with bushwalking and rock climbing at Ginninderra Gorge, and kayaking on the Murrumbidgee (James (Jim) Kilby interviewed by Mary Hutchison, 22/2/2017, session 2, 00:47:02). In the late 1970s, after his first marriage broke up, Jim returned to Kilby Park to live. In 1988 he became the proprietor of Clancy's Overflow Hotel in far west Queensland where he ran an aerial mustering and livestock management business as well as providing outback tourist experiences. He returned to Kilby Park in about 2005 with his second wife, Felinda. Their daughter, Brooke, was born in 2007 - a much younger sister to Jim's adult children. Jim's strong connection with his family history, his lively memories of Parkwood and his enjoyment of bringing people together at Kilby Park on his Australia day birthday, played an important part in GLHS research. He died in July 2022.

Jim was very attached to the remnants of The Falls homestead as Figure 3-93 indicates. When they disintegrated his son Sean erected a set of posts in their place where a new house, 'Ginninderry Homestead', now stands. In 2017, when GLHS visited his roadside marker with family members, local historians and heritage professionals, there was some dissension about the exact location of the site in the light of changes in the road alignment and the new house, but it was agreed that the posts provided a marker of the 1895 Falls homestead and its history as the only small freeholding in Ginninderry. In Figure 3-94, a photograph taken during the visit, Jim is leaning on one of the roadside marker posts on the roadside in front of the hedge that surrounds the present day Ginninderry Homestead' Figure 3-95 documents the old gate post on the other side of the road, identified by Wesley Kilby as the likely gate to the homestead.



Figure 3-93 Jim Kilby at The Falls homestead site, 1986. Courtesy: James and Felinda Kilby.



Figure 3-94. The Falls homestead site roadside marker erected by Sean Kilby, Parkwood road, 11/7/2017 GLHS visit. Photographer: Tony Adams.



Figure 3-95 Gate post, in the light of the changing alignment of the road, possibly marking The Falls homestead entrance, GLHS visit 11/7/2017, Photographer: Tony Adams.

A significant aspect of the sale of Glenmoor and Parkwood was that all the portions of land in both properties went to the same buyer, the Freedman family. Their purchase was backed by the finance company, Custom Credit, which was the public face of the Freedman's ownership. Another company with the letterhead 'Matthew Abel and Co', appears in correspondence concerning property management decisions.

The Freedman family, with the financial support of Custom Credit, purchased the 4,500 acres of Parkwood, Jarramlea and Glenmoor in high expectation of subdividing it into 5-10 acre blocks for development. It seems they hadn't done their homework or were over-confident about their influence on zoning laws. The land was zoned for rural development only which meant no subdivision of less than 200 acres (Caldwell, 1978, introduction). From the time of purchase Freedman/Custom Credit made repeated development proposals to the NCDC. Unsurprisingly, they were all knocked back. NCDC had a role in land use on the ACT border, but had no jurisdiction over Yarrowlumla Shire (*The Canberra Times*, 31/10/1984, p. 30). Farming continued from the time of purchase, under the management of Bain Bennet and stock manager, Wal Anderson, but the only distinct development that took place before Custom Credit held a 'fire sale' in 1984, was the creation of the Ginninderra Falls Tourist Park by Robert and Elizabeth Caldwell (Robert Caldwell interviewed by Mary Hutchison, 24/10/2017, session 1, 00:17:00).

The Caldwells' tourist park venture followed two failed attempts to enable public access to the Falls. One in 1902 when cycling had become a popular way of getting around the country, and the other in the first years of the ACT Advisory Council in the 1930s (see Part 3.2, 'Visitors to Ginninderry' sections and Part 3.3 p. 89). When the Caldwells established the Falls Park in the late 1970s, the ACT's impact on freehold rural property and growing awareness of environment issues in the ACT, provided a new context for public access that included conservation of natural resources. In the early 1970s, The Canberra College of Advanced Education (CCAE), later University of Canberra, initiated a ground-breaking ecology course which led to the involvement of teachers and graduates in the ACT Parks and Conservation Service as policy makers and as staff in the developing network of Canberra nature parks (David Shorthouse interviewed by Mary Hutchison, 3/8/2022, session 1, 00:17:54). The same people also had a role in the increasing number of community-based conservation activities and organisations. One of these was the South East and Canberra Region Environment Centre, established in 1974 as an umbrella to various environment groups. Ten years later when the Falls Park was becoming well known, the Conservation Council of the South East and Canberra Region became another influential organisation (Ian Fraser, interviewed by Mary Hutchison, 15/6/2022, session 1, 00:13:05).

In this formative period for conservation of the ACT environment there was little detailed attention paid to local Indigenous cultural values in land that was being conserved and made available for public use. In the 21st century there have been some changes. Knowledge provided by the Ginninderry Aboriginal Advisory Group has provided greater understanding of Indigenous culture relevant to the development area and its wider environment.

> *The Aboriginal cultural values of Ginninderry are elements in a wider cultural landscape bound together and traversed by a complex network of songlines and pathways. The songlines and pathways extend down to the coast, up into the mountains and west along the Murrumbidgee, forming a complex web that connects and binds peoples and places together. …The lower Ginninderra Creek[32] is an area of high significance where people gathered for ceremony. Along the creek are places and pathways that hold great cultural value …*
>
> (Conservation Council ACT Region, c. 2020).

Rob Caldwell was working as a consultant traffic engineer with the NCDC in 1972 when he first saw Ginninderra Falls through transport planning aerial photography The terrain he saw through a stereoscope of a Gungahlin run piqued his curiosity. Rob had grown up with outdoor activities that had taught him to be 'capable of doing things in the bush without harming it' and had a great interest in natural environments. He and Liz had recently returned from four years working in Canada where they had spent much of their leisure time visiting natural sites across Canada, America and Europe. This experience of remarkable places - and the opportunity to see them - made a lasting impression on them (Robert Caldwell interviewed by Mary Hutchison, 24/10/2017, session 1, 00:17:00; 00:07:25).

An important model for Rob and Liz's vision of a privately managed tourist park was the Butchart Gardens near their Canadian home in Victoria, Vancouver Island. Unlike some of the great natural landscapes they had visited, the 55-acre Gardens had been created by Jennie and Robert Butchart in the Limestone quarry that had provided the material for their cement plant in the early 1900s. By the time Rob and Liz visited, it was in the hands of a grandson of the original Butcharts. His management had expanded the Gardens into a world attraction which honoured Jennie Butchart's 'enthusiasm for making something that other people could enjoy'. This ideal was central to Rob and Liz's interest in the Falls (Robert Caldwell interviewed by Mary Hutchison, 24/10/2017, session 1, 00:07:25)[33].

In around 1973, Rob made contact with Matthew Abel & Company (Custom Credit). They expressed interest in his idea for developing and managing Ginninderra Falls as a private tourist attraction and gave him access to the site. Rob's first walk from Parkwood along Ginninderra Creek to the Falls confirmed what he had imagined must be a spectacular landscape that others would enjoy as much as he did (Robert Caldwell interviewed by Mary Hutchidon, 24/10/2017, session 1, 00:17:00).

[32] The lower Ginninderra Creek area encompasses the lower reaches of the gorge as it continues towards and meets the Murrumbidgee river. Ginninderra Falls is incorporated into this broader area.
[33] The Butchart Gardens are in their 119th year and continue to be managed by the family. In 2004, the Gardens acknowledged the cultural heritage of Canadian local Indigenous people with the dedication of Totem Poles by master carvers from the Tsartlip Nation and Tsawout Band. They are now a Canadian National Historic Site.

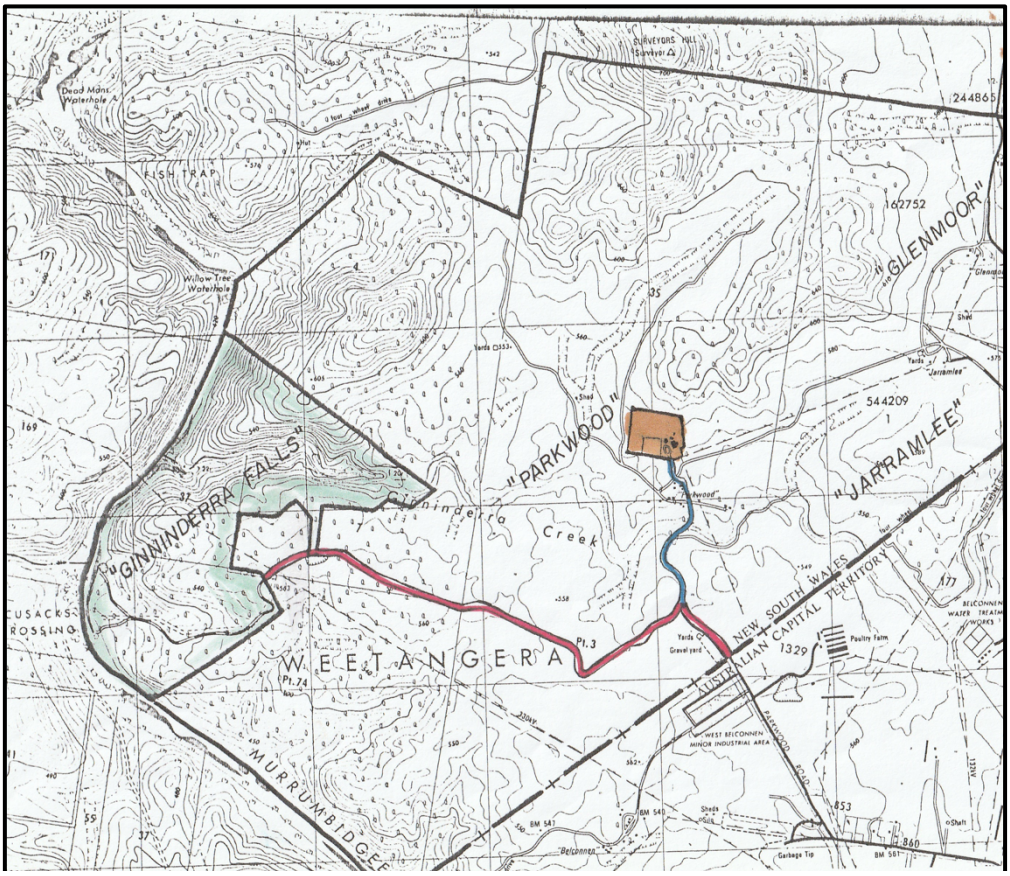


Figure 3-96 Contour map of Falls Tourist Park boundary and location marked up by Robert Caldwell c.1978. Includes location of Bob Kilby's house rented by the Caldwell family and called by them 'Brae Cottage' (within brown area). Courtesy: Robert and Elizabeth Caldwell

Over the next few years, Rob and Liz researched the environment of the Falls with a view to conservation, visitor enjoyment and safety. They also researched its history which included learning that the Falls was a likely Indigenous camping area on the way to the high country. At the same time, Rob continued his traffic engineering consultancy with the NCDC. In 1978, he and Liz completed their ambitious development proposal which included exotic and native gardens and a deer park as well as trails and visitor facilities (Caldwell, 1978). In reality, their focus was the immediate environment of the Falls and the Murrumbdigee where they planned to reference Parkwood family names for particular landmarks which they noted as: The Pulpit, Southwell Canyon, Wallaroo Wall, Weetangera Wall and Bob Land's Bluff [sic] (Caldwell, 1978, p. 7). One exception to the focus on The Falls was the idea for a deer park. Rob kept a number of deer in a large fenced off area in the pines above the Caldwells' house, but they were seen as a breeding proposition rather than a Park attraction during his tenure (Robert Caldwell interviewed by Mary Hutchison, 25/10/2017, session 3, 00:15:22)[34].

[34] Rob created a large fenced off area where he kept deer in the pines above the Caldwells' house. Parkwood. The deer did not feature in publicity seen by GLHS, of Rob's time at Ginninderra Falls Park.

With Matthew Abel's positive response, the Caldwells made a Development Application to Yarrowlumla Shire Council. To facilitate this, Rob, Liz and their young daughters moved into Bob Kilby's old house in April 1979 on a rent-free basis until the Park opened (Robert Caldwell interviewed by Mary Hutchison, GLHS oral history, 24,10,2017, session 1, 00:24:57). The Development Application for *'stage 1' including 'trails, viewing points, picnic and barbecue facilities, toilet facilities and a car park adjacent to Ginninderra Falls, and an entrance gateway with a ticket booth near the ACT border*, was approved in August 1979 (Yarrowlumla Shire Planner's Report to Council Meeting, 11/10/1979, Robert and Elizabeth Caldwell Papers provided to GLHS).

Rob, along with Greg Hayes, a natural sciences student at CCAE, created the 4.5 kms of nature trails with 750 stones from the site for steps and 60 signage pegs linked to a nature trail guide. Wal Anderson put up the fencing. Rob's knowledge of flora and fauna and his membership of the local Conservation Council gave him the background to prepare the trail guides. His graphic design skills meant that he was able to create the guides himself (Robert and Elizabeth Caldwell Papers 2017, p. 1). Rob's first trail guide is shown in Figure 3-97.

ACTHL H919.471 GINN
Ginninderra Falls Parkwood 197?

WELCOME TO

Ginninderra Falls

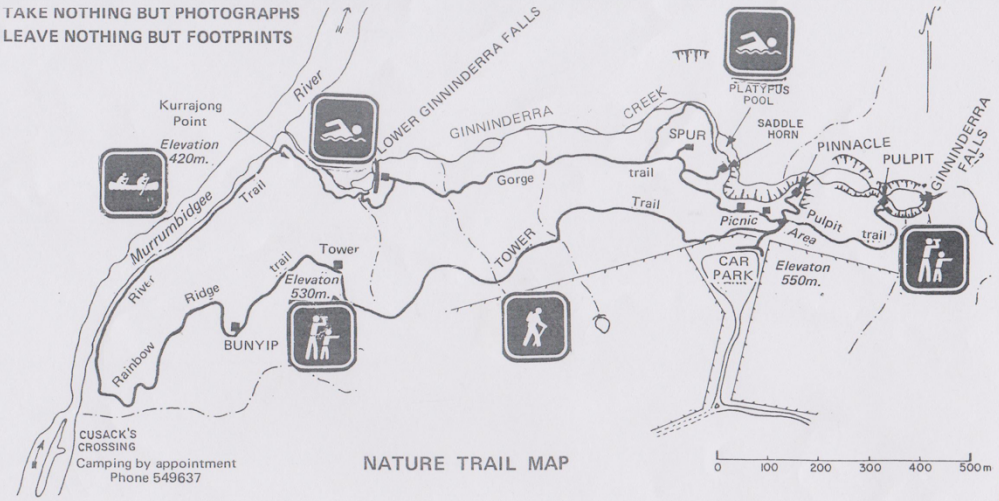


NATURE TRAIL GUIDE

The Nature Trail Guide is designed to lead you toward a greater appreciation and enjoyment of the Falls, the gorge, the Murrumbidgee River and the natural bushland in the area.

We hope that you enjoy your walk along the nature trails and that you will take home with you a deeper knowledge of our natural heritage.

TAKE NOTHING BUT PHOTOGRAPHS
LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS



NATURE TRAIL MAP

WILDLIFE

Occasionally, echidnas, wallabies, kangaroos, rabbits, foxes, lizards, snakes and spiders may be encountered along the trails. STOP, observe them and let them go on their way. Platypus and water rats can often be seen in the pools along Ginninderra Creek.

Remember, all reptiles are protected in NSW. Persons seen harming them should be reported to the ranger.

CANOEING

On arrival at the Rainbow Ridge end of the Murrumbidgee River Trail, you may wish to hire a canoe to paddle the still waters of this mighty river. The canoeing area is 1½km long, 50 m wide and 3 to 4 m deep.

Canoes are not to be taken on or near the rapids at either end of the pool. Available most weekends and public holidays.

"GINNINDERRA" or Ginin-ginin-derry as it was originally spelt, is an aboriginal word, said to mean "sparkling, throwing out little rays of light".

IT IS HOPED THAT THE PEOPLE WHO WERE HERE BEFORE YOU OBSERVED THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS, SO MAKING YOUR VISIT AN ENJOYABLE ONE:

Please:

Do not bring dogs to "Parkwood"

Observe the 40 km/hr limit on roads

Do not leave designated roads

Give way to cattle and horses

Do not leave designated trails or picnic areas

Do not cut, remove or injure any tree, shrub or foliage or any living thing.

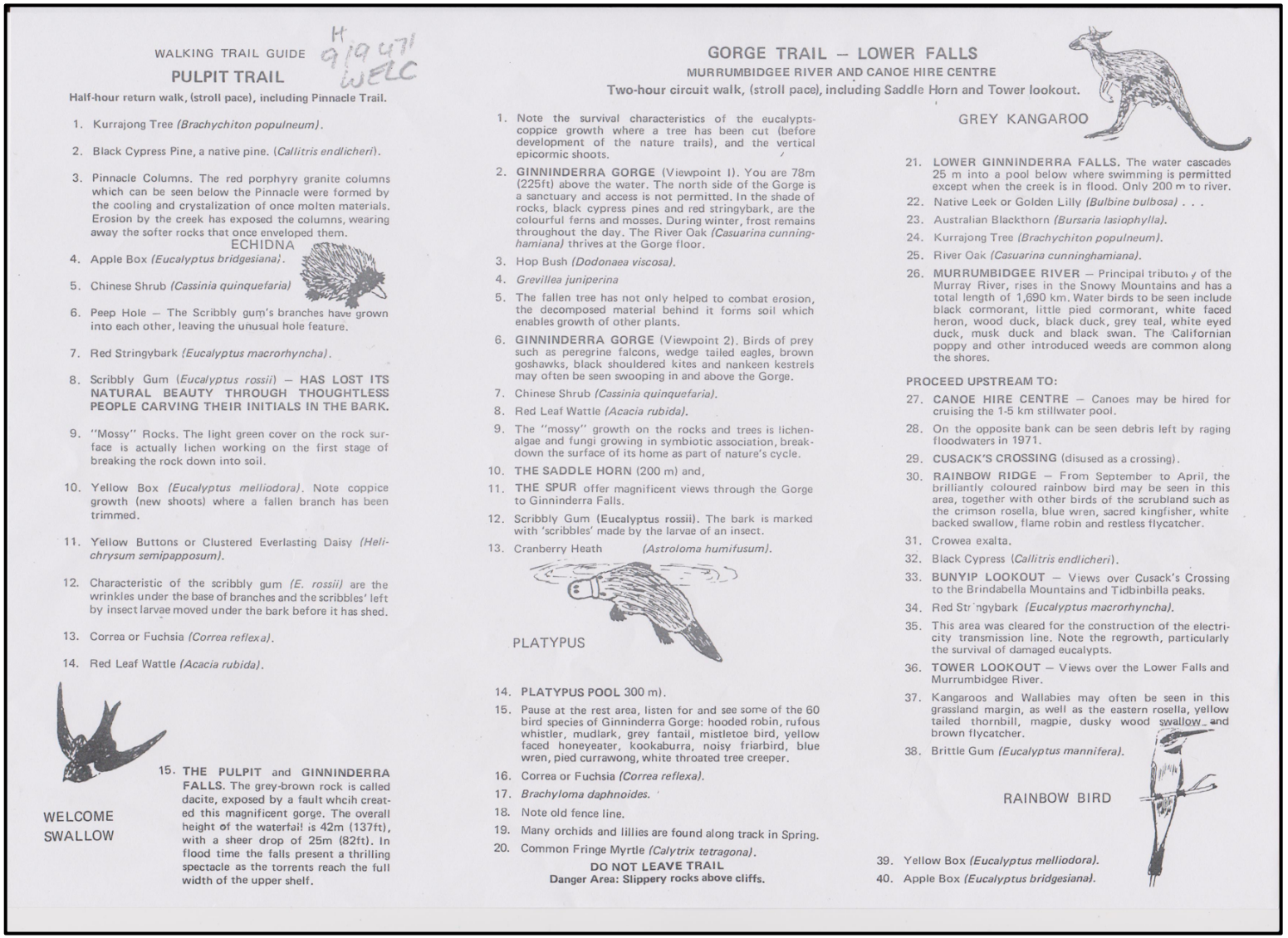
Do not allow children to climb on fences

If you see any wildlife on the trails, STOP, and let it go on its way.

Do not smoke on the trails. Smoking is permitted in the picnic area and along the banks of the Murrumbidgee. Extinquish cigarettes and matches.

Do not litter, put it in a bin or take it home with you. This includes can rings, tissues and cigarette butts.

If you have any questions, ask a ranger.



WALKING TRAIL GUIDE

H 9/9 471 WELC

PULPIT TRAIL

Half-hour return walk, (stroll pace), including Pinnacle Trail.

1. Kurrajong Tree *(Brachychiton populneum)*.
2. Black Cypress Pine, a native pine. *(Callitris endlicheri)*.
3. Pinnacle Columns. The red porphyry granite columns which can be seen below the Pinnacle were formed by the cooling and crystalization of once molten materials. Erosion by the creek has exposed the columns, wearing away the softer rocks that once enveloped them.

ECHIDNA

4. Apple Box *(Eucalyptus bridgesiana)*.
5. Chinese Shrub *(Cassinia quinquefaria)*
6. Peep Hole — The Scribbly gum's branches have grown into each other, leaving the unusual hole feature.
7. Red Stringybark *(Eucalyptus macrorhyncha)*.
8. Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus rossii*) — **HAS LOST ITS NATURAL BEAUTY THROUGH THOUGHTLESS PEOPLE CARVING THEIR INITIALS IN THE BARK.**
9. "Mossy" Rocks. The light green cover on the rock surface is actually lichen working on the first stage of breaking the rock down into soil.
10. Yellow Box *(Eucalyptus melliodora)*. Note coppice growth (new shoots) where a fallen branch has been trimmed.
11. Yellow Buttons or Clustered Everlasting Daisy *(Helichrysum semipapposum)*.
12. Characteristic of the scribbly gum *(E. rossii)* are the wrinkles under the base of branches and the scribbles' left by insect larvae moved under the bark before it has shed.
13. Correa or Fuchsia *(Correa reflexa)*.
14. Red Leaf Wattle *(Acacia rubida)*.

WELCOME SWALLOW

15. **THE PULPIT** and **GINNINDERRA FALLS.** The grey-brown rock is called dacite, exposed by a fault whcih created this magnificent gorge. The overall height of the waterfall is 42m (137ft), with a sheer drop of 25m (82ft). In flood time the falls present a thrilling spectacle as the torrents reach the full width of the upper shelf.

GORGE TRAIL — LOWER FALLS

MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER AND CANOE HIRE CENTRE

Two-hour circuit walk, (stroll pace), including Saddle Horn and Tower lookout.

1. Note the survival characteristics of the eucalypts-coppice growth where a tree has been cut (before development of the nature trails), and the vertical epicormic shoots.
2. **GINNINDERRA GORGE** (Viewpoint I). You are 78m (225ft) above the water. The north side of the Gorge is a sanctuary and access is not permitted. In the shade of rocks, black cypress pines and red stringybark, are the colourful ferns and mosses. During winter, frost remains throughout the day. The River Oak *(Casuarina cunninghamiana)* thrives at the Gorge floor.
3. Hop Bush *(Dodonaea viscosa)*.
4. *Grevillea juniperina*
5. The fallen tree has not only helped to combat erosion, the decomposed material behind it forms soil which enables growth of other plants.
6. **GINNINDERRA GORGE** (Viewpoint 2). Birds of prey such as peregrine falcons, wedge tailed eagles, brown goshawks, black shouldered kites and nankeen kestrels may often be seen swooping in and above the Gorge.
7. Chinese Shrub *(Cassinia quinquefaria)*.
8. Red Leaf Wattle *(Acacia rubida)*.
9. The "mossy" growth on the rocks and trees is lichen-algae and fungi growing in symbiotic association, breakdown the surface of its home as part of nature's cycle.
10. **THE SADDLE HORN** (200 m) and,
11. **THE SPUR** offer magnificent views through the Gorge to Ginninderra Falls.
12. Scribbly Gum **(Eucalyptus rossii).** The bark is marked with 'scribbles' made by the larvae of an insect.
13. Cranberry Heath *(Astroloma humifusum)*.

PLATYPUS

14. **PLATYPUS POOL** 300 m).
15. Pause at the rest area, listen for and see some of the 60 bird species of Ginninderra Gorge: hooded robin, rufous whistler, mudlark, grey fantail, mistletoe bird, yellow faced honeyeater, kookaburra, noisy friarbird, blue wren, pied currawong, white throated tree creeper.
16. Correa or Fuchsia *(Correa reflexa)*.
17. *Brachyloma daphnoides.*
18. Note old fence line.
19. Many orchids and lillies are found along track in Spring.
20. Common Fringe Myrtle *(Calytrix tetragona)*.

DO NOT LEAVE TRAIL

Danger Area: Slippery rocks above cliffs.

GREY KANGAROO

21. **LOWER GINNINDERRA FALLS.** The water cascades 25 m into a pool below where swimming is permitted except when the creek is in flood. Only 200 m to river.
22. Native Leek or Golden Lilly *(Bulbine bulbosa)* . . .
23. Australian Blackthorn *(Bursaria lasiophylla)*.
24. Kurrajong Tree *(Brachychiton populneum)*.
25. River Oak *(Casuarina cunninghamiana)*.
26. **MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER** — Principal tributory of the Murray River, rises in the Snowy Mountains and has a total length of 1,690 km. Water birds to be seen include black cormorant, little pied cormorant, white faced heron, wood duck, black duck, grey teal, white eyed duck, musk duck and black swan. The Californian poppy and other introduced weeds are common along the shores.

PROCEED UPSTREAM TO:

27. **CANOE HIRE CENTRE** — Canoes may be hired for cruising the 1-5 km stillwater pool.
28. On the opposite bank can be seen debris left by raging floodwaters in 1971.
29. **CUSACK'S CROSSING** (disused as a crossing).
30. **RAINBOW RIDGE** — From September to April, the brilliantly coloured rainbow bird may be seen in this area, together with other birds of the scrubland such as the crimson rosella, blue wren, sacred kingfisher, white backed swallow, flame robin and restless flycatcher.
31. Crowea exalta.
32. Black Cypress (*Callitris endlicheri*).
33. **BUNYIP LOOKOUT** — Views over Cusack's Crossing to the Brindabella Mountains and Tidbinbilla peaks.
34. Red Stringybark *(Eucalyptus macrorhyncha)*.
35. This area was cleared for the construction of the electricity transmission line. Note the regrowth, particularly the survival of damaged eucalypts.
36. **TOWER LOOKOUT** — Views over the Lower Falls and Murrumbidgee River.
37. Kangaroos and Wallabies may often be seen in this grassland margin, as well as the eastern rosella, yellow tailed thornbill, magpie, dusky wood swallow and brown flycatcher.
38. Brittle Gum *(Eucalyptus mannifera)*.

RAINBOW BIRD

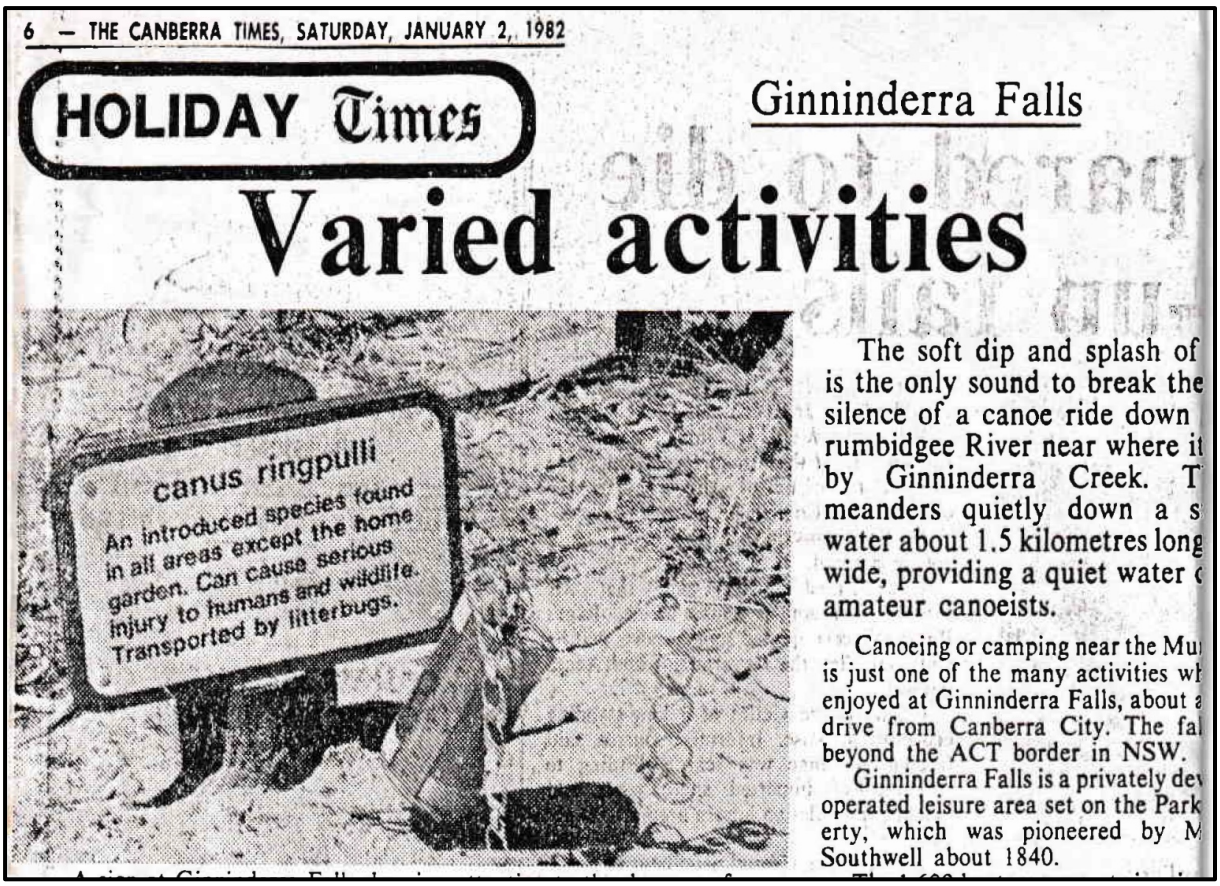
39. Yellow Box *(Eucalyptus melliodora)*.
40. Apple Box *(Eucalyptus bridgesiana)*.

Figure 3-97 'Welcome to Ginninderra Falls', ACT Heritage Library, HN19.471.GINN

The Falls Tourist Park opened with an entrance fee taken at the kiosk and a personal welcome to visitors to share the park. As well as Liz and Rob, two rangers were in attendance with identifying shirts and badges (Figure 3-98). Environmental protection measures were based on examples Rob and Liz had experienced overseas - *take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints* as shown in the trail guide (Figure 3-97. Rob also developed humorous signage to encourage people not to litter –an example is shown in Figure 3-99.



Figure 3-98 Rangers' badge Ginninderra Falls Tourist Park designed by Robert Caldwell, 1979. Courtesy: Robert and Elizabeth Caldwell



6 — THE CANBERRA TIMES, SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1982

HOLIDAY Times

Ginninderra Falls

Varied activities

canus ringpulli
An introduced species found in all areas except the home garden. Can cause serious injury to humans and wildlife. Transported by litterbugs.

The soft dip and splash of
is the only sound to break the
silence of a canoe ride down
rumbidgee River near where it
by Ginninderra Creek. T
meanders quietly down a s
water about 1.5 kilometres long
wide, providing a quiet water
amateur canoeists.

Canoeing or camping near the Mu
is just one of the many activities wh
enjoyed at Ginninderra Falls, about a
drive from Canberra City. The fal
beyond the ACT border in NSW.

Ginninderra Falls is a privately dev
operated leisure area set on the Park
erty, which was pioneered by M
Southwell about 1840.

Figure 3-99 Ginninderra Falls signage to draw attention to dangers of litter. *The Canberra Times*. 2/1/1982, p. 6.

canus ringpulli

introduced species found in all areas except the home garden.

Can cause serious injury to humans and wildlife.

Transported by litterbugs.

The park was widely publicised and well attended. Entrance fees were the main income of the business and Rob continued his work as a consultant. Liz looked after Parkwood's horse agistment business for Matthew Abel as well as managing the books, employing staff, welcoming visitors and looking after three small children. They added activities such as canoeing on a quiet stretch of the Murrumbidgee and a limited amount of camping by appointment at Cusack's Crossing. The employment of two rangers provided useful work experience for CCAE natural sciences students. There were also opportunities for scientific research such as Penny and Gerry Olsen's annual monitoring of the breeding success of the Peregrine Falcons nesting in the Gorge (Figure 3-100). Other birds of prey in the area included the pair of Wedge-Tailed Eagles at Cusack's Crossing and Brown Goshawks. Rainbow Bee Eaters arrived from Indonesia every September. Rob always listened out for the brown song lark. Echidnas and rock wallabies were local inhabitants and platypus were often seen in the Creek and the Murrumbidgee.

Scribbly Gums, Casuarina, Red Stringy Bark and Black Cypress provided the main canopy (Robert Caldwell interviewed by Mary Hutchison, 24/10/2017, session 2, 00:15:22; *The Canberra Times*, 2/1/1982, p. 6).

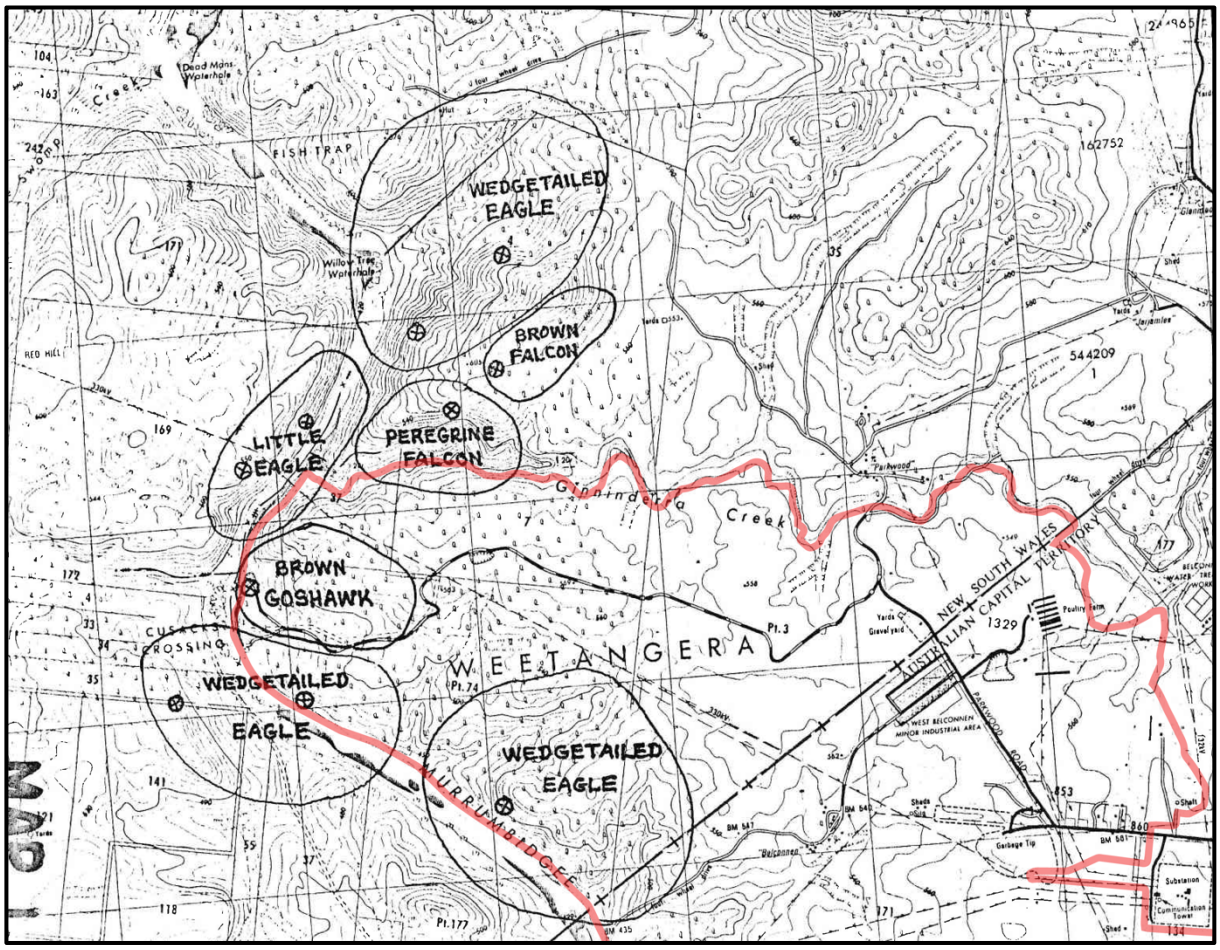


Figure 3-100 Contour map showing bird habitats annotated by Rob Caldwell. Courtesy: Robert and ElizabethCaldwell

While Falls Park was working ideally for the Caldwell family, the whole property had not become the money maker that its corporate owners had envisaged. In 1984, the whole property was divided into blocks of 200 acres or more and put up for auction. Public discussion about the heritage values of Parkwood and the importance of public access to Ginninderra Falls erupted. Rob made it clear that his business, registered as 'Ginninderra Falls-Parkwood was not for sale.

> *It is my intention to defend private enterprise's ability to conserve the environment in an economically viable manner. And to plan and manage a tourism and recreation development such as Ginninderra Falls … It is host to 25,000 – 30,000 visitors per year and provides employment for a full time ranger and three part time rangers.*

The same article noted that Rob wanted to include the Falls 'on the Register of the National Estate, extend the Murrumbidgee river corridor and the Ginninderra Creek corridor, preserve the historic Parkwood property, Parkwood homestead and Parkwood church' (*The Canberra Times*, 12/10/1984, p. 16).

A few days later *The Canberra Times* reported that about 30 people had held a meeting at Ginninderra Falls and called for it to be 'preserved for recreation'. They appealed to the owner to include such protection as a requirement in sales documents and sought the support of the local NSW member of Parliament (*The Canberra Times*, 15/10/1984, p. 3). One member of the group, Chris Watson, a member of the Ginninderra Community Council, and a person not named who was a member of the Conservation Council, 'proposed a trust company to purchase the property to preserve the area and ensure continuing accessibility to the Falls'. The proposal failed (Ginninderra Falls Association, 'History', online).

Rob's plan was to purchase the Falls block at the auction but he was outbid by John Hyles senior as shown in the auction map of blocks and purchasers (Figure 3-101). Corkhill Brothers' bid was more successful. The bought the 629 acre block shown in Figure 3-101. It was their first purchase of land that became the Ginninderry development. Historically it was on the part of Belconnen Station that had remained in NSW and was later bought by the Moore family who called it 'Bottom Belconnen'. Purchasers of the original Falls property were shown on the auction map as Hyles and Tarlington. The exception of Kilby Park from the sale is shown in the small white section of Parkwood.

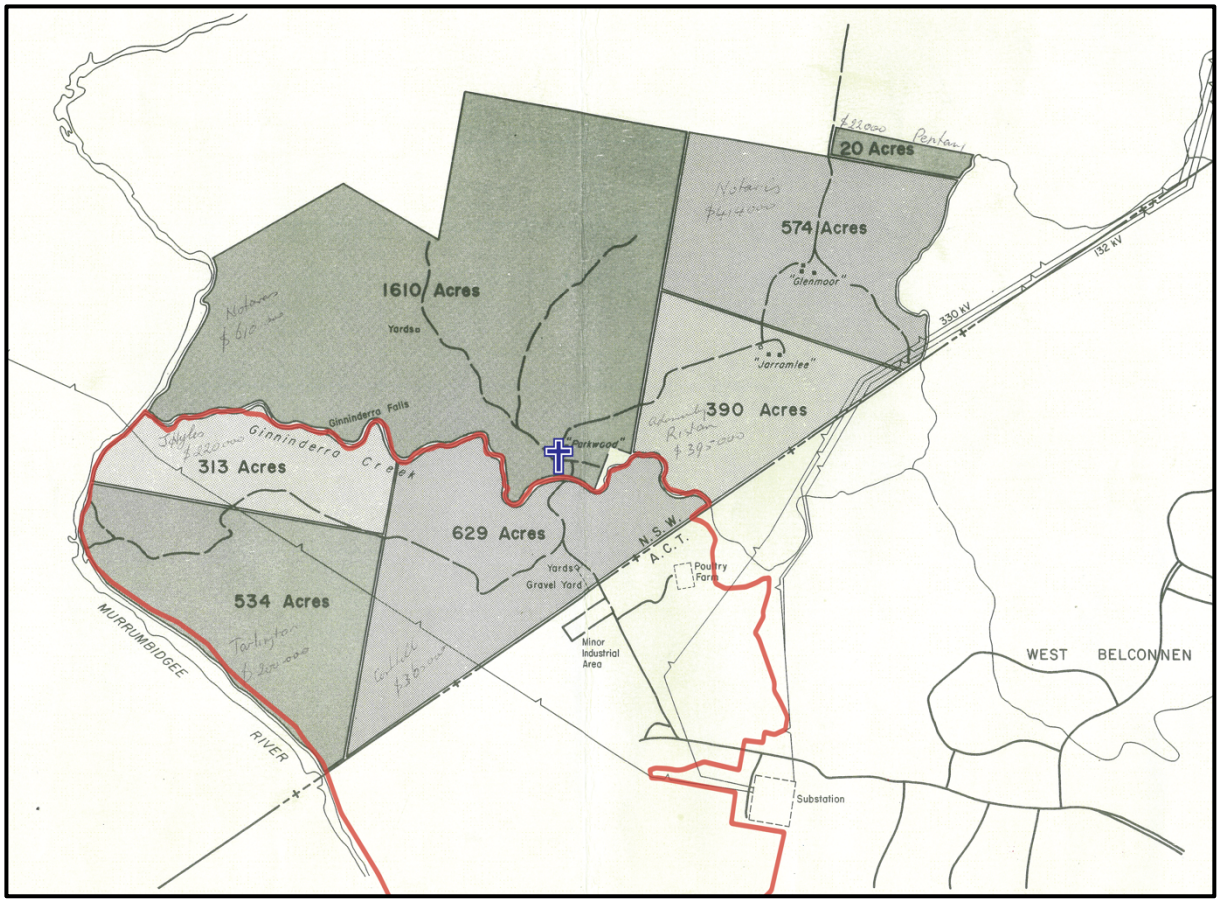


Figure 3-101 Blocks and purchasers of land sold at the 1984 Custom Credit auction with Ginninderry boundary and Parkwood church. Courtesy: Robert and Elizabeth Caldwell

After the auction John Hyles agreed that Rob could continue to manage the Falls. As the Hyles had a home on another of their properties, the Caldwells were also able to continue living in Bob Kilby's family house which they had called 'Brae Cottage' (Figure 3-102). After about 18 months the arrangement fell spectacularly and publicly apart. Rob discovered that John Hyles was building a cement bridge across Cusack's Crossing against Shire environmental regulations and without permission. Concerned about its impact on wildlife and Ginninderra Falls, Rob informed the Shire. The end result, after much public argument and heartache, was that in 1986, John Hyles evicted the Caldwells. The Hyles family continued to make The Falls accessible to the public until 2004 when insurance requirements forced their closure. In 1987, the Caldwells moved to Nelson Bay where they established a successful family-owned and managed Toboggan Park. Figure 3-102 is a 1985 aerial photo of Parkwood and the Falls with landmarks noted by Rob: The Falls homestead, the part of Ginninderra Creek they called the Billabong, and Boxer Hill, one of the hills Thomas Southwell named after bullocks in his carting team. Rob died not long after the GLHS interviews with him. He and Liz welcomed GLHS's interest in an oral history record, and generously provided GLHS with documentation of their experience of developing and running Ginninderra Falls Park.

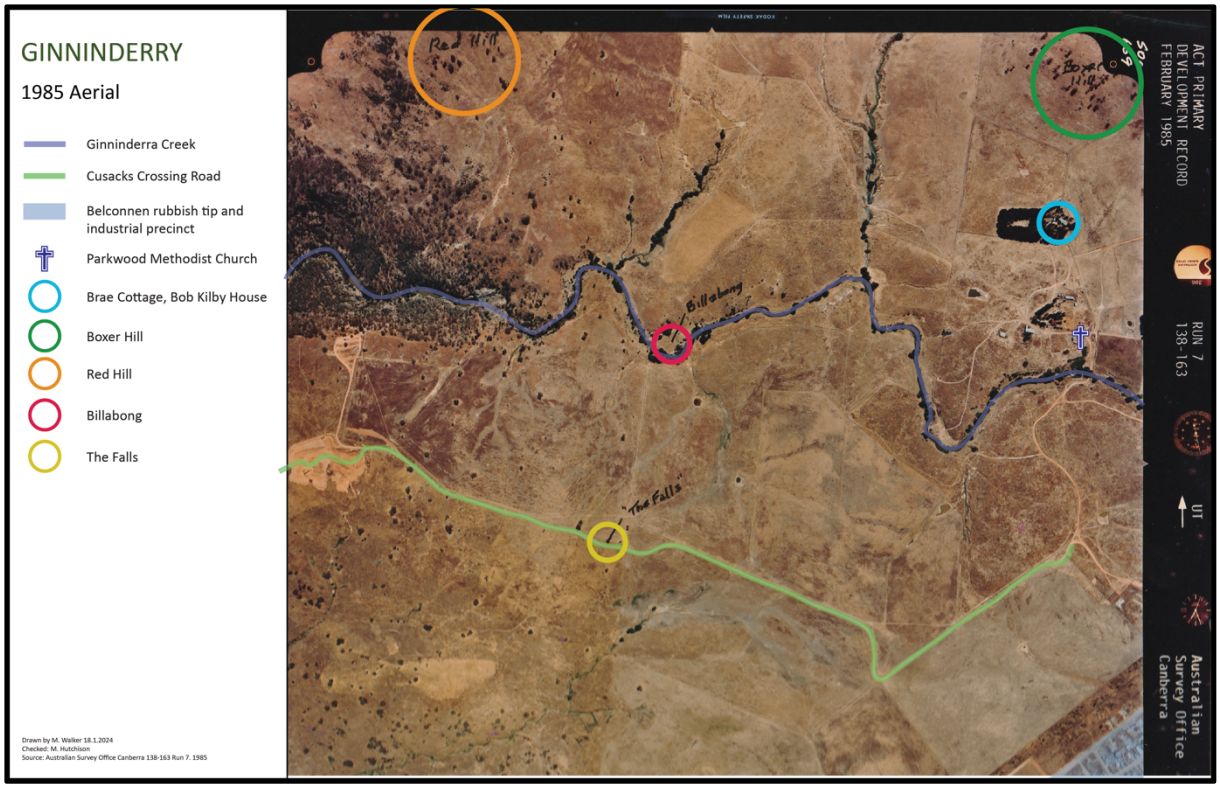


Figure 3-102 Brae Cottage and other landmarks of the Caldwells' Ginninderra Falls era in 1985 including The Falls homestead, Billabong and Boxer Hill as noted by Robert Caldwell. Aerial source: Australian Survey Office Canberra, 1985, 138-163, Run 7. Courtesy: Robert and Elizabeth Caldwell

The future of Ginninderra Falls in terms of both conservation and public access has remained a long-term concern for Canberrans. In the context of the Ginninderry Development, Chris Watson and others formed the Ginninderra Falls Association to advocate for the Falls area as a National Park. In 2017, when the master plan for Ginninderry was under discussion, Rob and Liz wrote a paper in support of Ginninderra Falls being open to the public. They documented their experience as private operators and made a case for the successful private management of a 'natural resource' and its Indigenous and settlement history. 'We have no doubt that with security of tenure and a passion for nature, a private enterprise team, or a dedicated family could operate, maintain and manage Ginninderra Falls Park in the way it started in 1979…' (Caldwell, unpub. ms. Robert and Elizabeth Caldwell Papers, 3/5/2017, p. 2).

Rob and Liz's daughter, Heather Milane, posted her experience of the Falls Park on the Ginninderra Falls Association's history forum.

> *I have very fond memories of growing up at Parkwood. It is where my roots are, it taught me respect for the landscape, for every rock and tree and animal. I have seen the Falls, barely a trickle, in the drought of the early 80s, I have seen them in full glorious flood … About four years ago my husband and I came for a visit , only to find it all locked up and inaccessible … At least if it is a National Park then it would belong to all Australians and all Australians would be responsible for its preservation …*
>
> (https:/ginninderra.org.au/web/node/153 Accessed 2/12/2023)

Ginninderra Falls remains on the Ginninderry master plan as part of the development's conservation corridor.

Developments on the Border 2: Kilby Park 1982 – A final road dispute story

In the early 1980s, while Jim Kilby was living at Kilby Park and Custom Credit owned Parkwood, a dispute developed between Jim and the company concerning access to Kilby Park via the common private Parkwood driveway from Parkwood Road. The dispute stemmed from an arrangement, made soon after Custom Credit's purchase of Parkwood, whereby the Kilby family and the company shared the cost of a new bridge over the Ginninderra Creek on the driveway for the convenience of both. As Jim remembered it, his mother, Muriel, had sourced a higher bridge that was no longer in use and arranged for its delivery and installation. The amicable arrangement changed when Custom Credit asked for half the cost of the bridge and in lieu of payment charged Jim $50.00 a week to drive to and from his house.

With a history of road disputes in the family background and the example of J.K. Kilby's public right of way on the Cusack's Crossing Track through The Falls (gazetted but not signed), Jim sought legal advice and made an application to the NSW Lands Board to convert the private driveway into a public road. Although the NSW Government supported the application, the Commonwealth Government did not. As a result, the case went to the Queanbeyan Lands Court where no one appeared for Custom Credit, and the Commonwealth refused to state its objections on the basis of confidentiality. The Lands Board passed its recommendations in the family's favour to the NSW Minister for Lands (*The Canberra Times*, 2/7/1982, p. *3*). The official Parkwood lane from Parkwood road across the bridge to Kilby Park and Parkwood properties, confirms the Minister's decision.

Summary Indigenous people and settler society after Federation

Historical context to the experience of Indigenous people of the Yass and Limestone Plains from British settlement of the region in the 1820s into the 20th century, is provided in Waters Consultancy's 'Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment Report' (2017, pp. 16-77). GLHS highlights elements of this 19th century context in part 3.2, 'Summary Indigenous people and settlers 1820s-1901'. Waters' report also provides extensive relevant local 20th century context. This section does not repeat her work but draws

attention to several key government policies of the period concerning Indigenous peoples. It also highlights ongoing First Nations Peoples resistance and activism in the face of these policies. A short list of publications and websites that focus on the 20th century experience of local Indigenous people, as they have told and written it, is included.

Federation itself had a critical impact on Australian Indigenous peoples as the Australian Constitution's rules for federal government in 1901, expressly excluded them from the nation and national governance. The following quotes are from the original clauses that concerned them. Note that the quotes are reproduced here as they appear in the Constitution. The names of Acts are also shown in their original form.

> *The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Commonwealth, with respect to …*
> *The people of any race other than the Aboriginal race, in any State for whom it is deemed necessary to make special laws.*
>
> (Australian Constitution 1901, Chapter 1, Pt V. 51(xxvi))

> *In reckoning the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth or of a State or other part of the Commonwealth, aboriginal natives shall not be counted.*
>
> (Australian Constitution 1901, Chapter VII. 127).

Members of the first federal parliament took another step in denying Indigenous Peoples a presence in the nation by passing the *Commonwealth Franchise Act* 1902 which gave all men and women in all states the right to vote in federal elections, with the exception of 'aboriginal natives of Australia, Asia, Africa, or the Islands of the Pacific' (Australian Electoral Commission, 2001, fact sheet 3).

With the exclusion of First Nations Peoples from Commonwealth governance in Australia's Constitution and its Parliament, what happened to them from 1901 was shaped by the policies of the separate states. Twentieth century Indigenous history continued the 19th century colonial themes of land loss and oppressive 'protection' policies. The counterpoint to these themes was First Nations Peoples' persistent resistance and activism. In NSW, intensified settler demands for agricultural land, and the Aboriginal Protection Board's increasing focus on assimilation policies, were the flash points (Goodall, 1996, pp. 115-124).

In the case of land, NSW's 19th century provision of land to Indigenous people in the form of reserves and farming blocks came into conflict with increasingly intense settler demands for agricultural land and townships. A large proportion of the reserves had been created in response to local First Nations Peoples' requests for land that was on or nearby country. They had also seen farming blocks, the staple of colonial culture, as a means of economic self-sufficiency. While the colonial motive for these

provisions was a form of assimilation, and even segregation, Aboriginal motives were based on maintaining their culture, land and autonomy (Goodall, 1996, pp. 75-87, 100-102). In the early 20th century, these gains for First Nations Peoples were undermined. Across rural NSW localities, Indigenous communities came under intense discriminatory pressure from settlers who had no desire for the 'dual occupancy' approach that had developed (Goodall, pp. 116-117).

In this context, the NSW Aboriginal Protection Board was developing a new legislative approach to control the Indigenous population. Legislation passed in 1909 and 1915 concerned the Board's power to 'provide for the 'protection 'and care of Aborigines'. This power included the control and management of First Nations Peoples' reserves and initial provisions for removing their children and sending them to work. This was the beginning of the Indigenous experience now known as the 'Stolen Generations'. Children were taken from reserved and non-reserved lands for any reason, placed in training homes, without any access to their families, and sent to work. In these institutions they were forced to reject their Indigenous identity and become part of white society (National Museum of Australia, *Aborigines Protection Act*, online).

From the 1920s, First Nations Peoples in NSW started organising across communities to fight back against the Protection Board. Across NSW, the limitations on Indigenous autonomy were met by resistance, despite the cost. In 1939, hundreds of Cummeragunja residents walked off their land in protest against the Board manager. The manager was replaced, but the toll on the community was significant.

The Second World War brought some changes. The NSW Welfare Board continued its segregation policies and a restrictions, but the demand for labour provided opportunities for people under Board control to work for wages and move more freely (Goodall, 1996, pp. 247-258). Nevertheless, the considerable number of Indigenous people who served in the War returned to a segregated society.

After the War, the resistance themes of land and civil rights continued in the campaigns of Indigenous activists and their supporters. Amongst various events in the 1950s, there were protests against segregation, and a campaign to change the position of Indigenous people in the Australian Constitution. The successful 'yes' vote in the 1967 referendum altered the Constitution to enable the Federal Government to become involved in Indigenous matters by making laws for Indigenous people and to count them in the national census. By the time of the referendum Indigenous people had been given the right to vote for members of the federal parliament and in all States. In the 1970s, the issue of land rights, which had previously operated in the context of government reserves, came to the fore as a Land Rights movement led by Indigenous people and supported by many other Australians. The Commonwealth *Native Title Act*, 1993 opened the way for First Nation Peopless to claim title to their traditional lands. In 2008 the Federal government apologised to the Stolen Generations.

Since colonial times, Australian First Nations Peoples have been telling and writing their stories of loss and resistance, their land and culture. The following references are a few examples of many based in Canberra and the surrounding region:

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Abbreviations

ACTHL: ACT Heritage Library

CDHS: Canberra & District Historical Society

ms: manuscript

NAA: National Archives of Australia

NLA: National Library of Australia

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