

# Canberra's Camps 1928

## CANBERRA CAMPS 1928

Camps for single construction workers were established near to worksites and out of sight of permanent Canberra. In 1925 three semi-permanent camps were constructed - on the north side White City (now covered with School of Music building), centre on Capital Hill and on the south side of the Molonglo River near the railway station Causeway. At Westlake (Stirling Park) three commonwealth single men's camps were established - No 3 Sewer Camp (1922-1925), Old Tradesmen's Camp (1923 - 1927) and No 1 Labourers' Camp (1924 - 1927). Contractor John Howie had already built his Hostel Camp in 1922. It was removed between May and July 1927. The Burns Club was founded in their Mess Room in 1924. Howie also built timber cottages for his married men.

## MOUNT AINSLIE CAMP

ARDOUIN, Alfred joiner

CALLAGHAN, Vernon labourer

CORRY, Joseph labourer

DAVIE, George labourer

GRAHAM, John labourer (Mess)

HALL, William mechanic

KERRIDGE, George labourer

McGRATH, Thomas labourer

McKERROW, William plumber

MILLER, Donald labourer

ROBERTS, Alfred labourer

SMALL, Joseph carpenter

STANLEY, Marion & Thomas hd & caterer  
By the end of the year Mrs Stanley moved to Capitol Hill Mess where she remained until the early 1930s when the affects of the Great Depression put her out of business. Her daughter, Mrs Cecily Hinchcliffe still lives in Canberra in the suburb of Yarralumla.

STUBBS, Ernest gardener

WILSON, Charles labourer

MCKENNA, Harry labourer – Ainslie Camp

## CAPITOL HILL

This camp was built by Contractor John Howie in 1925. Note the spelling of capitOI. In the 1940s it was changed to capitAl. Around 1947 the camp was enlarged to take the new arrivals from overseas. In December 1928 Mrs Stanley became the Mess Caterer and stayed there until the men out of work could no longer afford to pay her and she in turn could not pay her rent to the Commonwealth.



The group of buildings on the right hand side above the middle line is Capitol Hill Camp around 1929. The buildings in the foreground area are part of Forrest. Today the site of Capitol Hill Camp is covered with the building of Parliament House. In the middle top section of the page would be the area of Glebe Park and the building top left is Albert Hall. The road in front of it is Commonwealth Avenue. The map below shows the site of Capital Hill Hostel in the early 1950s. It was built to the right of the old camp. Also shown on this map is Hillside Hostel built in early 1950s.

BASTOW, Henry waiter

BEAUMONT, Percy carpenter

CALCOLT, John carpenter

COOPER, Robert engine driver

CROCKER, James linesman

DENNETT, John blacksmith

FIELD, James plumber

FORSTER, Ellis linesman

GOLDING, Francis blacksmith

KELLY, Denis caretaker

LEE, Margaret & Maurice hd & caretaker

McIVOR, William storeman

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MABIN, George gardener

MAHON, Thomas engine driver

MANGAN, Patrick linesman

NORTHWOOD, Norman steward

PATERSON, Joseph joiner

PLOOG, Henry cook

RYAN, Thomas pantryman

SCOTT, Trevor engine driver

SEWELL, Henry carpenter

SMITH, Frederick assistant steward

TERRY, William linesman

TURNER, David labourer

WARD, Stanley motor driver

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## EASTLAKE CAMP.

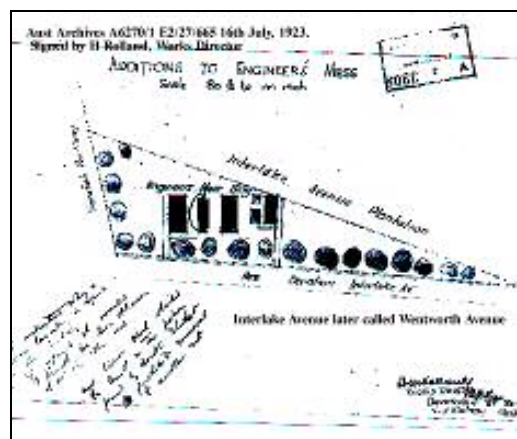
The mess of this camp was burnt down in early 1928 and was next door to Causeway Camp. The Causeway Camp has been included in with the suburb of Causeway.)

CRAIG, Henry watchman



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## ENGINEERS' QUARTERS



Opposite the Power House - originally built circa 1916. One building was moved c1926 to a site near the Railway Station for use as a Friendly Society Hall. In the early 1960s it was again moved - this time to Hovea Street in O'Connor where it now serves as a Scout Hall.



WALKER, John gardener

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## MUGGA QUARRY



The man with his hand resting on the rock front left is Ermino Cappello who came to Australia from Italy in 1913 and worked on the construction of the Power House. He was a naturalised Australian at the time of the electoral roll but did not enrol.

ADRIAN, James labourer

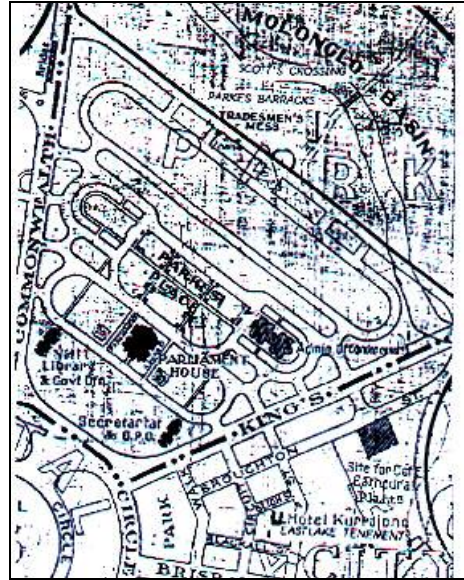
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BEITEITER, Vera hd  
BOWN, Leonard labourer  
CONROY, Michael labourer  
CRISP, John spawler  
DESMOND, James labourer  
ELLIS, Patrick labourer  
EMBLIN, William quarryman  
FETHERSTON, Joseph miner  
GALE, George labourer  
HARRIS, Alfred quarryman  
JACOBS, Florrie & Walter hd & quarryman  
LLOYD, Maud & Albert hd & labourer  
McINNES, Angus labourer  
MANN, Charles quarryman  
MARKHAM, Jeremiah bridge carpenter  
MARONEY, William labourer  
MONSELL, Thomas quarryman  
MURPHY, Edward crusher  
MURRAY, George labourer  
O'MALLEY, Michael ganger  
PATTIE, James labourer  
PETTIT, John labourer  
RYAN, Ena hd  
RYAN, James quarryman  
RYAN, John labourer  
RYAN, Michael labourer  
RYAN, Joseph foreman  
SWIRLES, Andrew engineer  
THEWALL, Alfred labourer

TURNER, Emily & William boarding house  
keeper & loco engine driver

## **PARKES BARRACKS**

Former No 4 Sewer Camp - situated near the Molonglo River in front of the Provisional Parliament House. The men from Old Tradesmen's Camp, Westlake moved to this camp in 1928. Note centre near top of map - Parkes Barracks - Tradesmen's Mess. Nearby is Scott's Crossing.



BULL, Frank haulage contractor  
BRITTON, Albert clerk  
CARGILL, Peter labourer  
CRUMP, George cook  
EDWARDS, Albert engine driver  
FOSTER, Charles caretaker  
HAMPELL, Arthur boiler attendant  
HENDERSON, James fencer  
20 JACKSON, Victor labourer  
LANE, Frank plumber  
LOW, William labourer  
McKEE, Michael labourer  
McCORMACK, Thomas watchman

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- McNEELY, Anthony labourer
- NORMAN, Bridget & Godfrey hd & cook
- O'REILLY, John contractor
- PARSONS, Clarence labourer
- PAYNE, Charles cleaner
- 9 PENTLAND, Colin driver
- QUINN, James labourer
- RANKIN, William machinist
- RYAN, Michael labourer
- SARGEANT, Robert labourer
- SIMONS, William labourer
- SIMPSON, Alexander labourer
- SKINNER, Richard labourer
- SMITH, James labourer
- SMITH, Leslie labourer
- STEWART, Edward carpenter
- SWEENEY, David carpenter
- TALBOT, Patrick labourer
- TAYLOR, Robert painter
- WALKER, William labourer
- WALLACE, Alexander labourer
- WILSON, James craneman
- The following men put Tradesmen's Camp -
- DUGGAN, James linesman
- GREEN, Edward gardener

Below: Tradesmen's Camp at Westlake May 1927. It is in the background behind the Police Camp. The track coming down the hill on the righthand side of the photograph and the road across the hill are still in situ on the hillside now opposite Lotus Bay, Yarralumla.

Just out of sight of this photograph is a ditch that runs diagonally from the area of tent to the Hotel Canberra end. It too is still clearly visible. the timber building on right hand side in background may be a Mess Hall.



## RED HILL

The men from No 1 Labourers' Camp at Westlake moved to this camp in 1927. Some had Red Hill, Westlake after their names.



Red Hill Camp 1927. CC News



- ALLAN, Francis labourer
- BARNES, Joseph labourer
- BISSET, Ronald labourer
- BLAKSTON, James lorry driver

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BLAY, Thomas labourer  
 BRENNAN, John labourer  
 BROWN, William labourer  
 BULL, John labourer (Westlake)  
 BURGE, George electrician  
 BYRNE, Dennis labourer (Westlake)  
 BYRNE, Harold labourer  
 CHRISTIE, John labourer  
 CRAN, Peter labourer  
 DALEY, John labourer (Westlake)  
 FEBEY, John ---  
 FITZPATRICK, John labourer  
 GALLIE, James pipe inspector (Westlake)  
 HASTINGS, William labourer  
 HENRY, George labourer (Westlake)  
 IRVING, Harold labourer (Westlake)  
 JAMES, Wilton labourer (Westridge PO)  
 JOHNSTONE, John labourer (Westlake)  
 LANE, Leslie labourer (Westlake)  
 LAVELL, William labourer  
 LOWE, Alan labourer  
 McINNES, Ronald labourer  
 MARSHALL, Thomas cook (Westlake)  
 MATHIESON, George labourer  
 MEARNS, John labourer  
 MUIR, Harry labourer  
 MURFET, Reginald labourer  
 NOWLAND, Reginald gardener  
 O'CONNOR, John labourer (Westlake)

O'SHEA, John labourer  
 PARKER, Robert labourer  
 POLA, John labourer (Eastlake)  
 PRESTON, Joseph labourer  
 ROBERTSON, William labourer (Westlake)  
 ROBINSON, George labourer  
 ROSS, Charles labourer  
 SMITH, George labourer  
 SMITH, John labourer  
 THORNTON, John labourer  
 THOROGOOD, Joseph camp caretaker  
 WATSON, George gardener

Not on the electoral roll is William Norman Madden who was born on 17th May, 1892 and died on 17th May, 1928. He was 35 years of age and lived at Red Hill Camp. He was the son of Joseph Tyrell and Annie Madden of Wee Waa. He served in the AIF in World War One. His death was the result of an accident. He is buried in St John the Baptist Church Cemetery in Reid ACT. *St John's Churchyard* by Jean Salisbury

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### WHITE CITY CAMP.

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This camp was built in 1925 on the site now part of the School of Music near Civic. It was named after the white canvas of the tents. In 1926/1927 the tents were replaced by cubicles painted green. Removed around 1931. Bill Mitchell was their last Mess Caterer and like Mrs Stanley also went broke. Bill Convine of Molonglo was the first Mess Caterer.

ANDERSON, Aubrey linesman  
 BALFOUR, Samuel labourer  
 159 BARTER, Albert ---  
 BEASLEY, William labourer  
 Mess BEATSON, Mary waitress  
 BLAKE, Matthew labourer  
 CALLAGHAN, Jeremiah labourer  
 CAMPBELL, Robert labourer

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CAMPBELL, Samuel caretaker	LONG, Robert labourer
CHAPPELOW, David labourer	McDONALD, Frank labourer
COOGAN, Michael labourer	McMANUS, George kitchenman
COOPER, Reginald labourer	MANN, William labourer
DANDO, George painter	MARTIN, William engine driver
Mess DAVIDSON, Charles kitchenman	MEDLAND, Guy labourer
143 DAVIES, Percy labourer	MILLAR, William watchman
DURIE, Alexander labourer	MUDIE, Edward carter
FLOOD, John labourer	MUNDY, George horse driver
FLYNN, Cornelius labourer	MURRAY, Archibald labourer
GALLAGHER, Joseph chainman	MURRAY, Sydney camp postman
GIBSON, Alexander hairdresser	MUTTINSON, Joseph labourer
125 GIFFORD, Samuel labourer	OVEREND, James labourer
GLENNON, Michael labourer	O'BRIEN, John labourer
GRATTAN, John labourer	O'BRIEN, Thomas labourer
GREENAN, James gardener	166 O'DONNELL, John labourer
GRETCHEN, William labourer	O'GORMAN, Thomas labourer
HICKEY, Gregory boot repairer	PATTERSON, William labourer
JOHNSON, Ernest boot repairer	146 ROBERTS, John labourer
JOHNSTON, Harry labourer	ROGERS, John labourer
JOHNSTON, Leslie labourer	RUSH, Matthew labourer
JONES, David labourer	RUSHTON, George labourer
JONES, Ruth & John hd & mess caterer	RYAN, Edward labourer
KATSCH, Edward gardener	RYAN, Edward chainman
KENNEDY, Michael labourer	SCANLON, Bernard car driver
KERR, Alfred labourer	SAVAGE, Malachai shop assistant
LEMASURIER, Thomas labourer	SIMPSON, Stanley tractor driver
LESTER, Robert labourer	SMITH, Frederick labourer
LYNCH, Michael labourer	



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SMITH, Sidney labourer

SPEIRS, George labourer

SPRINGS, Edgar labourer

SUTHERLAND, William labourer

TAYLOR, James labourer

TAYLOR, William labourer

TEASDALE, George labourer

TEASEDALE, John labourer

THOMAS, Albert labourer

THOMPSON, James labourer

TOBIN, Jack labourer

TOWNSEND, Robert cleaner

TREANOR, Charles labourer

WALKER, Ethel waitress

WALSHE, George labourer

WARK, Henry labourer

YATES, Harold labourer



Below left is a photograph taken around 1926. The man top row second from the right is HLB Lasseter. This photograph was loaned by the Biddles family. Mr Biddle was in Canberra in this camp. He is second from right wearing a cardigan. It is probable that this is the Northbourne Camp. It closed in late 1927. Below is a photograph (detail) of the Men of No 1 Labourers Camp at Westlake - 1924. Loaned by the CDHS.



Below: The Cooks' Tents at No 1, Westlake 1925. This photograph is to be found in Australian Archives and *The Canberra Community News* (1925).



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Above Capitol Hill Camp circa 1927 and below - Westlake, Red Hill Horse Camp 1927 (Baum photograph)

