

## CHAPTER FOUR - WESTRIDGE, YARRALUMLA CONTINUED - PART TWO

### CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS

*The Canberra Times* 26 August 1927

#### CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS - WESTRIDGE TO MOVE

*Drinking fountains are about to be installed in the children's playgrounds at Causeway, Westlake and Ainslie while the construction of a playground is to be undertaken by voluntary labourer at Westridge. Mr Woodlands of the Westridge Social Service Association states that the enrolment of voluntary workers for the project has been slow. Considerable assistance is expected to be gained from the Australian School of Forestry in the near future, when the staff of the school will be in residence at Westridge. Material for enclosing of the Westridge tennis courts is expected to be available next week and will call for voluntary effort in placing the courts in good trim.*

### MANY PEOPLE REMAINED AT WESTRIDGE

Although this work officially ends at 1929 I have included the details of those people on the 1935 electoral roll. Many of their names are on the early rolls. A strong community developed at Westridge. Following World War Two many New Australians moved to the area and some from Westlake and other old areas of Canberra.

Today - 2010 - many of the old weatherboards erected in 1927 have been pulled down and replaced by big dwellings that almost cover the yards. The area is now one of the desirable places to live. It is close to Lake Burley Griffin and Stirling Park (Section 22 & 128 Stirling Park, Yarralumla). There are many newcomers but amongst them are many of the members of the original brickworks and nursery families. Today there is, as there was in the beginning, a strong progress association.

The two mud maps in this chapter were drawn by members of the Westridge Community whose stories, along with others are published in *True Tales From Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge & Acton*. Gugler, Ann 1998.

### 1935 ELECTORAL ROLL, WESTRIDGE

BARBER, Lance cleaner

14/48 BLUMENTHAL, Amy & Stanley home duties & ranger  
Amy Blumenthal of 12 Eyre Street Kingston (1954) paid for the grave in the Anglican section of Woden Cemetery for Elizabeth Bottenh (? hard to read) of the same address who died on 1st April 1954 aged 87 years.

BOYD, Doris & William home duties & carrier  
Robert Boyd, his wife Mabel and children were allocated one of the ex-Molonglo cottages erected in the area of modern Banks Street in front of the area of the Forestry School that opened in 1927. They had three children, William, Don and Jean. William married Doris Townsend, Don married Marjie Day (of Briar Farm born 24 June 1922 and died 7 January 2010) and Jean married the son (Claude) of the Brickworks' Manager, Sid Oldfield. All three families remained in Westridge - Yarralumla. Doris Louisa Boyd died on 8th April 1978 and her husband, William Frederick on 15th January 1977. Both are buried in graves next to each other in the Anglican section of Woden Cemetery. William Frederick Boyd of 73 Novar Street (1961) paid for the grave in the Anglican section of the Woden Cemetery for Alfred Townsend of the same address who died on 19th April 1961.

William Frederick Boyd of 73 Novar Street paid for the grave at Woden Cemetery of Robert Boyd of 8 Triculo Place of Queanbeyan. Robert died on 25th February 1955 aged 82 years. Mabel Josephine Boyd was buried in the grave next to Robert and died on 5th January 1959 aged 77. Donald Robert Boyd died on 6th July 1974 and was buried in the same grave as his mother.

*The Canberra Times* 26 April 1929 - *Westridge Social*. It was originally intended by the Westlake Tennis Club and residents to give Mrs R Boyd a presentation and dance at Westridge Hall to-night, but owing to the illness of Mrs Boyd the function has been postponed until some further date to be arranged. Mrs Boyd, the popular post mistress at Westridge will shortly be leaving the Territory.

CARGHILL, Mildred & Peter home duties & labourer

CONNELLY, Bertha & William home duties & labourer

COREY, Kathleen & Edward home duties & labourer  
Edward Corey paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery of Lynette Marie Corey who died on 4th February 1957 at Camperdown Children's Hospital. She was 20 days old. Ernest Albert Corey was buried in the Ex-Servicemen's section of Woden Cemetery. He died on 8th January 1972. Gordon Francis Corey was buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery on 27th August 1938. He died on 26th August 1938 aged 13 years. His father Edward Corey paid for his grave.

COTTERILL, Annie & Maurice home duties & labourer

FISHER, John labourer

GRAY, Richard lecturer

HORAN, Doreen, Merlie, John & Michael home duties, home duties, labourers' supervisor & brickmaker

HORAN, Marguerite & Michael home duties & ranger  
Michael Horan and his wife came to the district around 1910. Michael died on 18th September 1942 aged 60 years. His grave was paid by Michael J Horan who also paid for the grave of Marguerite Horan who died on the 9th September 1955 aged 64. In 1946 Leslie D Horan of 23 Herbert Crescent paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery for Marguerite Horan who was 8 hours old when she died on 28th August 1946. Michael Horan married Marguerite Gammon in England. He came to Australia in 1910 and was later followed by his wife. The Horan children are - Michael (1905), John (1910), Dora Constance (1911 - married Joe Riddle), Leslie Darcy (1916), Eileen Maud (1920 - married Lee), Terry (1928) and David (1932).

HOWES, Patricia & William home duties & brickmaker

JACOBS, Phyllis & Maxwell home duties & brickmaker

JOHNSON, May & Michael home duties & brickyards employee  
Michael Johnson paid for the grave of Edward L Johnson who died on 14th September 1939 aged 19 years. He is buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery.

JONES, Meredith brickyards cook

KILBY, Elsie & Sidney home duties & gardener

LANE-POOLE, Ruth & Charles home duties & civil servant (Head of Forestry School. Mrs Lane Poole was employed before moving to Canberra to organise and supervise the refurbishment of Yarralumla House in readiness for the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of York in May 1927.)

LEE, Ruby & John home duties & timberman  
Neville Lee who may or may not be related to the above and gave his address as c/o Westridge Post Office, paid for the grave of Mrs Enid Dorothea Lee who died on 14th May 1946 aged 19 years. She is buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery.

LYNCH, Amelia & Albert home duties & labourer

McKAY, Elsie & Francis hd & labourer  
Frank (Francis) McKay died on 26th February 1958 and is buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery. His grave was paid by Mrs Elsie Lilian McKay of Mueller Street. She reserved the grave next to her husband.

NOBLE, Jessie & Henry home duties & labourer  
Henry Leslie Noble of 11 Hooker Street Westridge paid for the grave in the Methodist Section of Woden Cemetery of Jessie Abbott Noble who died on 3rd April 1947 aged 55 years. Henry Leslie Noble paid for the grave of Alfred George Noble of the same address who died on 6th October 1954 aged 79 years.

OLDFIELD, Catherine, Claude & Sydney home duties, labourer & brickmaker  
Sydney Oldfield paid for the grave of Katherine Margaret Oldfield who died on 27th August 1945 aged 59. She is buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery. Sidney Oldfield of 70 Novar Street died on 20th February 1958 aged 71 and was buried in the Anglican Section of the Woden Cemetery. (NB The spellings of the Christian names differ in the documents.)

QUIGG, Morris

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Morris Quigg was buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery on 16th May 1968.

RADCLYFFE, Jessie & John

home duties & brickmaker

[A John David Radcliffe of Hooker Street Westridge (1954) paid for the grave in the Woden Cemetery for Baby Radcliffe who was stillborn on 7th January 1954.]

REIDY, Maude & Harold

home duties & nurseryman

RIDDLE, Dora, Leila, Louisa, Joseph & Sidney home duties, home duties, home duties, brickburner & labourer  
Joseph Henry Riddle of 5 Hooker Street paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery of Joseph William Riddle who died on 3rd June 1948 aged 73 years. He lived at the same address. He also paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery for Louisa Riddle of the Goodwin Homes who died on 13th August 1964. The grave was bought at the same time as that of Joseph William Riddle.

REYNOLDS, Kathleen & Reuben

home duties & caretaker

SHARP, Vera, Ethel, Thomas & Joseph

home duties, home duties, labourer & nurseryman

John Henry Sharp died 2nd August 1955 aged 37 years. He and Rachel Sharp who died the same day lived at 24 Farrer Street and both graves at Woden Cemetery were paid by Joseph Sharp who then lived at 24 Banks Street Yarralumla. Rachel Sharp was 36. Joan Ann Wilson of 27 Newman Street paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery for Robert Sharp who died on 4th October 1954 aged 38. He lived at the same address. Joseph Sharp of 24 Banks Street paid for the graves of John Henry Sharp who died on 2nd August 1955 aged 37 and Rachel Sharp who died on the same date aged 36. The couple's address was given as 24 Farrer Street Braddon. Ethel Hazel Quigg died on 6th April 1996 and is buried in the Woden Cemetery.

TAYLOR, Norman

blacksmith

PO TONKIN, Mena & Francis

home duties & plumber

TOWNSEND, Alice & Alfred

home duties & labourer

TULLY, David

grazier

David Thomas Tully died on 16th October 1941 aged 89 years and was buried in the Presbyterian Section of Woden Cemetery. His address was given as *The Springs* Bungendore and his grave was paid by Donald Robert Tully of *Hillview* Weetangera.

Post Office TURNER, Amos

labourer

Amos John Turner of 14 Suttor Street Ainslie (1951) paid for the graves in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Arthur John Turner of the same address who died on 15th July, 1951 aged 59 and Sarah Ann Turner who died on 26th May 1953 aged 82 years.

TURNER, Donald

labourer

Donald James Turner of 10 Wise Street Braddon (1953) paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery for Robert Charles Turner who died on 8th May 1953 aged 14 years.

WARE, Michael

labourer

Arthur Charles Ware of 2 Schlich Street paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery of Clive Vivian Ware who died on 10th February 1949 aged 32. Clive Ware lived in Giles Street Kingston. On 20th June 1956 Allan Henry Ware of 35 Hutchins Street paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery for Lilian Julia Ware who died on 15th June 1956 aged 65. She lived in 35 Hutchins Street. Lillian Julia Ware paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Michael William Ware who died on 5th July 1940 aged 59.

WEAVER, Gwenith & Keith hd &

labourer

Gwenith Weaver paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for John T H Weaver who in 1935 lived in Uriarra. John Weaver was 54 at the time of his death on 23rd October 1942. K J Weaver of 12 Howitt Street Kingston (1948) paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Keith Joseph Weaver who died on 11th July 1948 aged 43 years.

WRIGHT, Charles

labourer

### AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY SCHOOL, WESTRIDGE 1935

CLARKE, Bert	student
FARRELL, Beverley	student
MADIGAN, Walter	caretaker
MILLETT, Mervyn	laboratory assistant
O'BRIEN, Cornelius	student
REGAN, Eric	student
RICHARDS, Alan	student
SHARPE, William	student

### (JOSEPH) BANKS STREET, WESTRIDGE 1935

BATCHELOR, Margaret & William                      home duties & nurseryman  
William Arthur Batchelor of 22 Banks Street paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery of Margaret (?) Batchelor who died on 6th March 1950 aged 52.

The Woden Cemetery Burial Register mentions a Cecil William Clements of 4 Banks Street (1951) paid for the grave in the Presbyterian Section of the Woden Cemetery of Ethel Ann Clements who died on 22nd September 1951 aged 44.

### BENTHAM STREET, WESTRIDGE 1935

WOOD, Euphemia, Minnie, Andrew & John    home duties, home duties, labourer & labourer

### BRICKYARDS, WESTRIDGE 1935

JONES, Meredith    cook

PARKER, Frederick    miner  
Frederick WRA Parker died on 21st April 1942 aged 49. His grave was paid by the RSS&AILA and he is buried in the Returned Soldiers section of Woden Cemetery. His address was Causeway Mess. In 1935 he lived in the Westridge Brickyard's Mess.

The Woden Cemetery Burial Register mentions a Thomas Earl Flint of the Brickyards' Hostel died on 13th July 1951 aged 64. He was buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery and his grave was paid by Barrington Earl Flint of 13 Isabella Street Queanbeyan.

### HUTCHINS STREET, WESTRIDGE 1935

QUIGG, Emily & Harold    home duties & ---

### MUELLER STREET, WESTRIDGE 1935

NEWCOMBE, Edith & Reginald    home duties & brickmaker  
Edith Dorothy Newcombe was buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery on 3rd August 1966. Reginald Alfred Newcombe was buried in the ex-servicemen's section of Woden Cemetery on 7th September 1949. His grave was purchased by the RSS&AILA. He died on the 5th and was aged 47 years. His address was given as 10 Mueller Street, Westridge.

The Woden Cemetery Burial Register mentions Joseph Vivian Robertson of 29 Mueller Street who paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Ellen Elizabeth Robertson aged 49 at the time of her death on 3rd July, 1951. He also paid for the grave of Joseph I Robertson buried at Woden - the date given is 5th September 1927 - 57? Joseph I Robertson was aged 59. The same address was given.

### NOVAR STREET, WESTRIDGE (formerly named *Mountain Way*) 1935

CURLEY, Amy & William    home duties & labourer

HARRIS, William    ---

JESS, Ada & Norman	home duties & cook
LAWRENCE, Arthur	overseer
LEE, Rita	home duties
LOMAS, Maurice	labourer
STREATFIELD, Ethel & Herbert	home duties & brickmaker
SULLIVAN, Katherine & Leo	home duties & labourer

Leo Frederick Sullivan of 28 Novar Street paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Brian Arthur Sullivan of the same address who died on 19th October 1952 aged 28.

The Woden Cemetery Burial Register mention Stanley Yandell of 21 Novar Street who paid for the grave of Baby Yandell who was stillborn on 22nd September 1947. The child is buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery.

#### **NURSERY, WESTRIDGE 1935**

HOBDAI, Elsie & John home duties & civil servant  
Mrs Elsie Jane Hobday paid for the grave of John Peace Hobday of Yarralumla Nursery. He died on 4th July 1944 aged 65 and is buried in the Presbyterian Section of Woden Cemetery. Elsie Jane Hobday died on 20th July 1964 aged 71. At that time she lived at 19 Bremer Street Griffith.

#### **OAKLEY HILL, WESTRIDGE 1935**

MAGUIRE, Clara & Jack home duties & grazier

#### **People on the Woden Cemetery Burial Register who lived at Westridge at the time of their deaths.**

Frederick Bentley of Westridge paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery of Frances Annie Hunt of Westridge who died on 25th October, 1941. She was 85 years of age. John Vincent Hunt of 24 Novar Street paid for the grave in the Presbyterian Section of Woden Cemetery of Laurence John Hunt who died on 19th November 1952 aged 8 months.

James Thompson of Westridge died on 27th August 1945 aged 60 years.

Gerald Druce of 7/52 Yarralumla paid for the grave in the General Section of Woden cemetery for Baby Druce who was still born on 3rd May 1951.

Harcourt John Humphres of 58 Novar Street paid for the grave in the Presbyterian Section of Woden Cemetery of Jacqueline Ann Humphres who died on 3rd June 1951 aged 15 months.

Mrs Doris Nott of 25 Grant Crescent Griffith paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery of Lewis Windamere Nott of Weston Street Yarralumla who died on 27th October 1951 aged 63.

D James McGovern of 14 Schlich Street paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery of Irene May McGovern who died on 10th February 1951 aged 3 days.

Daniel Stokes of 12 Reynolds Street Braidwood paid for the grave in the Returned Soldiers Section of Woden Cemetery of William Stokes who died on 3rd February 1952 aged 26 years. William Stokes address was Bentham Street Yarralumla.

William McLeod Burns of 11 Rodway Street paid for the grave in the Presbyterian Section of Woden Cemetery for Warren McLeod Burns who was still born on 31st January 1953.

Margaret Cecely Gardner of 21 Mueller Street paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Florence Roberta Fallon aged 55 at the time of death on 16th February 1953.

24th September 1953 Gelona Azzopardi of 52 Schlich Street paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery of Charles Azzopardi who died on 20th August 1953 aged one day.

On 27th October 1953 Jerzy Sydrych of 3 Hamilton Row paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Baby Sydrych who was still born on 22nd October 1953.

Alfred Ernest Tarrant of 28 Rodway Street paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery for Jacqueline Audrey Tarrant who died on 20th December aged 2 years.

Peter Dukic stillborn son of Milos Dukic of 15 Maxwell Street was born on 16th June 1954 and is buried in the General Section of Woden Cemetery.

On 7th October 1954 Juchim Smijewski paid for the grave of his wife Nina who died on 22nd September 1954 aged 47 years. They have just moved from 57 Westlake where they shared a house with the Robinson family to 9 Musgrave Place. Juchim is buried in the grave next to his wife.

The Curator of Deceased Person's Estates paid for the grave of Rubls (?) Vilhelm of 48 Rodway Street who died on 21st October 1954 and is buried in the Lutheran Section of Woden Cemetery.

Phillip Senior of 6 Schlich Street paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Baby Senior who was stillborn on 9th February 1955.

Kenneth Mark Haddock of 11 Newman Street paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Geoffrey Haddock who died on 18th March 1955 aged 2 hours.

James Henry Geach of 42 Novar Street paid for the grave of Baby Geach who died on 16th April 1955 aged 3 days.

Cyril James Miners of 36 Novar Street paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery for Baby Miners who was stillborn on 7th September 1955.

Cyril M Keddle of 55 Novar Street paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery of Gary John Keddle who died on 29th September 1955 aged 2 weeks.

JJ Greaney of 39 Bentham Street paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery for June Louise Davis and Arthur George Davis who died on 21st January 1956. June was aged 27 and Arthur 34. Their address was given as 34 Gunn Street Yarralumla.

Richard E Cavanagh of 3 Schaumburg Street paid for the graves in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Phillip G Cavanagh who died on 9th April 1956 aged 2 hours and Michael Cavanagh who died on 13th April 1956 aged 5 days.

Clarence William Pickerd of 4 Abbott Cir paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Mary Pickerd who died on 4th May 1956 aged 2 hours.

Kazimierz Urbanczyk of 3 Cam...St paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery of Sliwa Pr.toni aged 49 years at the time of his death on 30th June 1956. He lived at Hillside Hostel.

Walter Stephen Palmer of 16 Brown Street paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery for Baby Palmer who was stillborn on 6th March 1957.

Don Burgess Canerib of 23 Guilfoyle Street paid for the grave in the Methodist Section of Woden Cemetery of Baby Cameron who was still born on 11th May 1957.

Alma Posmyk of 25 Schomburgk Street paid for the grave in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery for Martin Posmyk who died on 31st May 1957 aged 34.

Norman William Kerry of 30 Bentham Street paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery for Mark E Kerry who died on 18th June 1957 aged one day.

John Hully of 6 Weston Street paid for the grave in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery for R... Charles Hully who died on 19th August 1957 aged 4 months.



Westridge children in the mid 1940s. Kath Devlin top of the pyramid. She married Reg Newcombe of Mueller Street Westridge. Photograph courtesy Kath & Reg Newcombe.

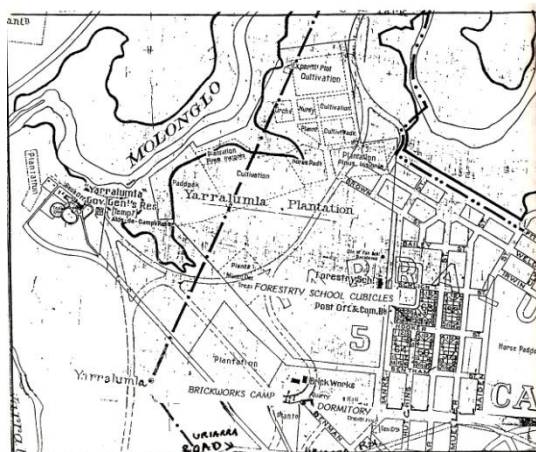
## 1939

A list of employees at the Brickyard 27 February, 1939 contained the following names, occupation & suburb:

W Curley	Pit Foreman	Westridge
J Kinleysides	Pitman	Oaks Estate
A Blewitt	Jumperman	Oaks Estate
KC Johnston	Pitman	Queanbeyan
W Haines	Pitman	Westlake [Bill Haines was the Powder Monkey worked Quarry]
K Ware	Pitman	Westlake
D Fletcher	Pitman	Ainslie
LD Horan	Pitman	Queanbeyan
W Lee	Pitman	Westridge
HM Lawless	Pitman	Capitol Hill
W Howes	Panman	Westridge
A Townsend	Panman	Westridge
MJ Ware	Machineman	Westridge
C Oldfield	Machineman	Westridge
W Ryan	Mixerman	Causeway
A Ware	Mixerman	Westridge
F McKay	Burner	Westridge
HL Noble	LM Burner	Westridge
JW Riddle	Burner	Westridge
M Johnson	Burner	Westridge
A Riddle	Burner	Westridge
HA Charlton	Burner	Ainslie
J Fisher	Setter	Queanbeyan
LN Colquhoun	Setter	Westridge
MJ Horan	Setter	Westridge
JH Riddle	Setter	Westridge
R Quigg	Setter	Ainslie
J Horan	Setter	Westridge
CH Riddle	Setter	Westridge
SC Riddle	Setter	Westridge
M Quigg	Setter	Westridge
N Quigg	Setter	Westridge
V Marsh	Setter	Westridge
H Ward	Blacksmith	Queanbeyan
A Burton	LH Fitter	Westridge
J Devlin	Fitter	Westridge

NC Webb	Fitter	Griffith
L Quigg	Youth	Westridge
D Boyd	Youth	Westridge
R O'Reilly	Youth	Causeway
K Elliott	Youth	Causeway
F McDermott	Youth	Causeway
DM White	Youth	Westlake
J Edwards	Youth	Westlake
W Hawke	Youth	Westlake.

## THE GREEN AREAS



Above: Map of the Westridge area around 1927

*The Canberra Times* 21 June 1927

### AFFORESTATION

#### PROGRESS IN TERRITORY

#### HISTORY OF A GREAT WORK

*The need for conservation of timber resources and the planting of additional forests has of late years been urgently impressed upon the nations of the world, and in many countries the re-planting of depleted areas is now proceeding steadily.*

*Perhaps nowhere in the world, however, has a more comprehensive scheme of afforestation been undertaken than in the Federal Capital Territory. From small beginnings forests have made their appearance on many of the hills and in the valleys of the Territory, and the passing of each year marks some advance in this monumental work.*

*The plain country of the Territory, such as the large plain on which the city is situated is naturally treeless and devoid of any woody vegetation but the intervening hills were originally well wooded with box, stringybark and gum, most of which was cleared to provide grazing country in the early days before Federation, and is still being cleared - except on the hills in the vicinity of the city, where it is reserved, although practically all the timber of any value has been used for construction works in connection with the development of Canberra.*

*The mountainous country to the west of the Murrumbidgee is still heavily timbered with stringy bark and gums, and the higher slopes carry a fine belt of valuable mountain ash, which is at present inaccessible on account of the rough nature of the locality. Frequent uncontrolled bush fires, have, however, since the advent of white man and especially graziers in New South Wales to the west of the Territory, caused*

tremendous damage to the area as a forest by injuring and destroying the larger trees, preventing the successful advance of re-growth and consuming the organic content of the upper soil, thereby lessening its fertility.

The early settlers have dotted the plain country with small plantations and specimen plants of exotic trees such as pine, the elm, the oak, the locust tree and the hawthorn, planted mainly around old homesteads and as small copses in their paddocks as protection against the bleak westerly winds which are a feature of the district.

In May 1913 Mr TC Weston was appointed Afforestation Officer for the Territory, and immediately realising the urgent necessity for experimental work in connection with the growth of such long lived plants as trees on an area naturally treeless, set up a nursery at Acton, where work was commenced. Amongst the gardening work special attention was given to the rearing of many different tree species, both indigenous and exotic, as he could obtain the seeds of. This work has been carried on consistently ever since, although it was soon found necessary to transfer the bulk of the operations to the larger area available at Yarralumla and from where the first experimental plantings were made in 1915 into Westbourne Woods, and continued ever since.

At the same time it was decided to clothe the slopes of Mount Stromlo facing the city, on which the timber had been destroyed for grazing. In view of the economic importance of such a large area, it was decided it could be satisfactorily handled as a forest to supply merchantable timber, and it therefore was planted on forest lines, the main plantings consisting of *pinus insignis*, which has proved most successful, although many other species have been tried on a limited scale. This planting has been carried on annually ever since, and to date about 1200 acres of plantations are in existence.

Early in 1926 a Chief Forester was appointed to take charge of the forestry work of the Territory, and the old Afforestation Branch became the Park and Gardens Branch confining its attention to park and garden work within the city and the Afforestation of the surrounding hills for scenic purposes.

The present intention is to carry on the forest planting from the Stromlo across the Molonglo and across the bare hills on the north-eastern side of the city to Black Mountain forming an urban forest and a background of scenic value, a profitable commercial proposition, and a decided protection to the city against the bleak westerlies which so frequently sweep up the Molonglo Valley from the west and north-west.

Simultaneously with this planning on Mount Stromlo an attempt has been made to increase tree growth on other hills surrounding the city, by the formation of small plantation at Mount Majura, Mount Russell, Red Hill, Mugga Mugga and Eastlake park.

Mount Majura was practically treeless and barren until it was reserved from grazing in 1919 to permit the natural regeneration of the native species, with the idea of forming a fodder tree reserve. With this end in view about 20,250 trees, mostly kurrajongs, were planted during the years 1919 and 1920.

During the years 1917 and 1918 about 10,000 trees of various species of eucalyptus were planted on portion of Mount Russell. In 1925, 5,000 more were planted.

At Red Hill, a small area, about six acres, was planted with various species of bottle brush during 1917 and 1920.

Mugga Mugga was planted with box trees, with the idea of forming a grey hill as follows:- 1918, 21,581: 1919, 7,585: 1920 and 1921, 2,000.

Eastlake Park was planted with 100,000 redwoods in 1919, and 23,000 in 1920 with the idea of forming a redwood grove. Locality not altogether suitable, and the failures were replaced by 20,500 cedars in 1923.

These smaller areas remain in charge of the Superintendent of Parks and Gardens as part of the scheme of city beautification.

In 1918 and 1919 about 36,500 cedars (mostly *derus deodara*) were planted at Green Hills, but failed to survive the drought in 1919. In 1923 about 10,000 more were planted and found successful. About 10,000 cypresses planted in 1918 have grown satisfactorily. During 1917, 1918 and 1920 about 10,000 cork oaks were planted nearby, and are progressing satisfactorily.

*In 1925 about 25 acres were planted with various conifers at the sewer outfall works.*

*These last three areas will be included within the forest to be formed between Stromlo and Black Mountain.*

*In 1919 and 1920 about 3,500 kurrajongs were planted and a large amount of wattle seeds sown on Bullen Ridge, on the steep bare slopes of the western side of the Murrumbidgee near its junction with the Cotter, with the idea of preventing erosion, and the results have been satisfactory.*

*In 1926 a commencement was made with the afforestation of the Cotter Valley, by the establishment of a plantation of 100 acres of various conifers at Uriarra.*

*A forest area has also been taken in hand in the Kowen district, where it is proposed to convert poor grazing country into a combined pine plantation and firewood forest.*

*Schemes are on hand for the management of forests and other large areas of the Territory which are more suited to forestry than any other form of utilisation.*

*Owing to the difficulties experienced in obtaining seed supplies from abroad during 1926, following a poor seedling year, the planting operations for 1927 will not be as large as was anticipated.*

<i>Stromlo</i>	<i>100 acres</i>
<i>Green Hills</i>	<i>50 acres</i>
<i>Uriarra</i>	<i>100 acres</i>
<i>Kowen</i>	<i>100 acres</i>

*The area of effective forest plantation in the Territory at present is estimated as under:-*

<i>Stromlo</i>	<i>1,200 acres</i>
<i>Green Hills</i>	<i>50 acres</i>
<i>Uriarra</i>	<i>100 acres</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,350 acres</b>

*During the 1926-27 fire season the fire protection of the Territory was organised and controlled by the Forestry Branch, with satisfactory results. The forest area under direct fire control was as follows:*

<i>Stromlo</i>	<i>2,500 acres</i>
<i>Green Hills</i>	<i>150 acres</i>
<i>Uriarra</i>	<i>2,500 acres</i>
<i>Kowen</i>	<i>5,000 acres</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,150 Acres</b>



**THE NURSERY, WESTRIDGE**

The first nursery was set up at Acton by TCG Weston who in 1914 established the permanent nursery in the area now known as Westbourne Woods. The first plantings took place on Shale Hill Reserve and the initial plantings were completed by 1918. Weston was responsible for the growing of trees, shrubs, and other plants required for the territory. In addition to the plantings in the public areas of Canberra, the nursery supplied free trees and shrubs to new home owners (and renters). Even as late as the 1960s people in Canberra could apply for a number of free shrubs and trees to plant on their blocks.

The pine trees planted on Stromlo in the early years were grown to provide a picturesque background to the city and those grown near the Cotter River to hold the soil to prevent the silting of the dam. This was a particular problem in the catchment area because of the high numbers of rabbits burrowing into the ground. A number of pines were planted around areas of Canberra as windbreaks. The Northbourne Pines and those near the Power House along with some at Fyshwick (former Molonglo) are part of those plantings.

Both nurseries were favourite spots for the locals to acquire fruit and vegetables without permission and a number of Sergeant Cook's cases recorded in his charge book note people illegally on Commonwealth lands who were probably there for the purpose of obtaining free fruit and veggies.

Such was the problem that a caretaker was employed by the Nursery to prevent the illegal pinching of fruit and vegetables. However, the produce was made available to the Bachelors Quarters, Hospital and Yarralumla House but according to a letter written by T Weston 25 September 1922 this was not a success. He went on to say that the services of the man provided to look after the needs of these establishments was needed to for stock raising purposes.

#### **PINE PLANTATIONS:**

*The Canberra Times* 5 February 1938 has a short article in the section on *Reader's Views* that refers to TCG Weston MBE. An excerpt follows: *To one man now departed the late Mr TCG Weston MBE does that honour belong. [Honour to Whom Honour is Due] Mr Weston after much official opposition not only planted Mt Stromlo [Mr Hobday planted the first pine] but was responsible for the inauguration of forestry in the Federal Capital Territory. As Officer in Charge of Afforestation and Superintendent of Parks and Gardens from May, 1913 to November 20, 1926, he was entirely responsible for the selection and planting of all trees within the FCT. Mt Stromlo was planted purely for aesthetic reasons, but alas the powers that be have not seen fit to consummate the vision of Mr Weston by continuing a chain of plantations from Mt Stromlo to Black Mountain as was his intention...* [Following the departure of Mr Weston his job was taken over by Mr AE Bruce who was the man responsible for the rose garden at the Provisional Parliament House and other plantings throughout the city.]

**The suburb of Weston Creek is named after Weston? Weston Street Yarralumla named after TCG Weston (CT 11.2.1952)**

Harold Tuson was one of four men employed in 1926 as overseers for the planting of the pine plantations. He was born 20 August 1898 and came with his wife Margaret (nee Davies) from Cootamundra. In 1928 the family lived at Kowen where Harold was responsible for the first plantings there. The family's next permanent move was to Pierce's Creek where the family was provided with three cubicles to form a house. They gradually moved into better accommodation at Pierce's Creek where the family remained until Harold's retirement in 1960. He was the man who named Laurel Camp - it was near Hardy Mountain - Laurel and Hardy were two famous comedians of the time. Harold Tuson was the man responsible for putting down the road between Pierce's Creek and the Cotter. [NB - Harold Tuson in the section occupation in the electoral rolls put down - *labourer*. ]

#### **THE FORESTRY SCHOOL**

The establishment of the school grew out of a recognised need to have a national approach to Forestry. Charles Lane-Poole was the first acting principal of the school. Prior to coming to Canberra he worked in Western Australia. *Broadly his [Lane Poole] notable achievements were to give Western Australia the legal framework (the 1918 Forests Act) on which the future successful practice of forestry would be built in that state, and lead the push for a national forestry organisation - pressure that would result in the establishment of a Forestry Bureau and Australian Forestry School, both of which Lane-Poole headed for some 17 years.*

Lane-Poole's programme had four principles:

1. All prime country should be reserved permanently for forestry purposes.
2. Cutting should be restricted to the rate at which forests could reproduce and replace timber taken (the practice known as substantial yield).
3. Pine plantations, sufficient to meet the state's future softwood needs, should be established.
4. Areas equally cut over should be replanted or reseeded to ensure future supplies of top quality timber.

The site for the forestry school was chosen in 1925 but was not ready until 1927. Next door is a two storey house for the principle originally known as Tudor House - now known as Westridge House. Today it is used as office accommodation for the CSIRO. The house was designed by Harold Desbrowe and was completed in January 1928 at a cost of 4,880 pounds 12/4d. The finish of the exterior of the building is in white stucco. This house has a number of innovations that includes Australia's first flush doors, provision for built in cupboards and furniture, windows which slide vertically into the wall cavity and fly screens which automatically cover the window when open. In addition to Charles Lane Poole, two other teaching staff formed the first lecturers at the school.

An insight into the reason for choosing the Westridge site for the forestry school may be found in an article in *The Canberra Times* 10 October 1928 with a heading *ABORITUM, VALUABLE CANBERRA COLLECTION NOW OPEN TO PUBLIC* which in part reads: *The Canberra Arboretum at Yarralumla, sometimes called the Westbourne Woods, is now available for public inspection and contains a valuable collection of trees which have been planted at various times since 1915...The arboretum forms a valuable outdoor laboratory for the students of the Australian Forestry school and the principal of the school, Mr CE Lane Poole has frequently stated that the only reason for the choosing of the site at Yarralumla for this institution was the presence of the excellent collection of trees that had been established there... Some 639 species of trees have been planted in the various sections of the arboretum. The earliest lot to be planted are on Shale Hill tree reserved where during the 1914-15 season species were established. They comprise largely trees of the pinus(?) family with a few other varieties interspersed.*

*A valuable collection of eucalypts was planted in 1915 and included in the same clump are varieties of acacias....*

(Copy)

F.C.L.17/1079.

HOME AND TERRITORIES.

FEDERAL CAPITAL OFFICE,

MELBOURNE, 8th August 1917.

MEMORANDUM:

The Honorable

The Minister for Home and Territories.

Modifying my previous recommendation of vacating the leases of the properties comprising the Federal Capital area, in view of the change of policy as to progress, I now urge the desirability that the lands at the Federal Capital which are to form local National Parks, and on which it is proposed to establish forests be preserved in, or restored to their natural state, and I have to submit for your approval that the undermentioned areas which will be required in the near future for afforestation and natural reforestation be withdrawn from grazing leases as early as possible:

Green Hills Paddock	
Red Hill	" (as soon as cleared of rabbits)
Mugga	" (or front slope paddocks if more than one paddock)
Black Hill	"
Ainslie	"

(Sgd.) W. B. GRIFFIN,

Federal Capital Director of  
Design and Construction.

How are these paddocks let or leased; rents; Mr. Griffin says if not cleared, sections planted must be fenced off from rest. Probably 3 out of 5 to be planted, would take about 2 months - about 50 men. He says trees planted will grow through following summer. On cessation of planting, men can be put to nursery work. Approved subject to existing rights.

(In'd) P. McM. G.  
10-8-17.

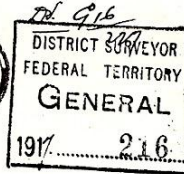
The Chief Surveyor.

For action.

(In'd) A.H.  
14.8

A192/1 REC 19/359

URGENT



Officer in Charge of Afforestation.

PLANTING ON MUGGA MUGGA.

For favour of report as to what action has been taken in this case

*P. L. Shaffe*

District Surveyor.  
24 - 1 - 17.

The Chief Surveyor,

C a n b e r r a.

Re the planting of Mugga Mugga, I desire to state that the present nursery stock of the Eucalyptus named in accompanying papers are as follows :-

Eucalyptus Cinerea.	2,600.
" Pulverulenta.	300.
" Hemiphloia.	450.
" " Albens	260.
<hr/>	
3,610.	

Sowings of Eucalyptus Cinerea were made on the,

12. 10. 16.  
27. 10. 16.  
20. 11. 16.  
25. 11. 16.  
11. 12. 16.

It was anticipated that from these sowings of a stock of some twenty to thirty thousand plants would have been available, but in each case these anticipations were not realised owing to the repeated destruction of the seed beds by heavy rains.

An endeavour will be made to obtain a further supply of local seed and the sowings will then be continued.

*W. Weston*

Officer-in-Charge,  
Afforestation Branch.  
30th January 1917.



A 192/11 PCL 19/1359

#### ARRIVAL OF STUDENTS & BUILDING PROGRESS.

- **9 December 1926:** Minister for Home & Affairs Melbourne wrote to Secretary Charles Daley requesting information about available accommodation for Forestry School Students. He was particularly concerned about two married students who might have found Canberra too expensive to bring their wives. Daley replied that accommodation at Hotel Acton was 3 pounds per week and Hotel Kurrajong 4 pounds per week. The Bachelors Quarters 2 pounds per week and boarding houses 2 pounds 15/- per week.
- **11 March 1927:** Accommodation made available for students at the Printers Quarters (Kingston) where three semi-detached houses were made available for the sixteen students and one lecturer.
- **25 March 1927:** Estimated cost of the Forestry School and residence was 34,554 pounds 10/-
- **1 April 1927:** Messrs Rule (lecturer) and Crivelli (student) by car from Yass to Printers Quarters and Mr and Mrs Wilks, caretaker & wife to be lodged in temporary quarters at the school.
- **7 April 1927:** Messrs Carter and Gray (lecturers) to accommodation at Hotel Kurrajong.
- **9 April 1927:** Mr Lane Poole (Principal) to Hotel Kurrajong, Mr Robertson (student) to Printers Quarters (he travelled by motor cycle to Canberra) and Miss Lamb, typist to Hotel Ainslie. Seven students were due to arrive via Queanbeyan and seven via Yass. All were to stay at the Printers Quarters.
- **11 April 1927:** Australian Forestry School opened.
- **12 April 1927:** Cottage for caretaker commenced on Block 7, Section 58 at a cost of 700 pounds build - cottage designed by Eckman & Miles.
- **28 June 1927:** Message from Home & Territories Department - accommodation urgently required for a maximum of 30 students.
- **18 July 1927:** Plans made for a site lying north of Westridge subdivision to be used for accommodation of students.
- **16 November 1927:** Cabinet approved plans for erection of buildings for accommodation of students - not to exceed 4,000 pounds.
- **13 January 1928:** First tenders called for erection of shells of four brick cottages at Westridge and the erection of two cottages at Blandfordia.
- **18 January 1928:** Decision made to erect three cottages instead of four - Dining, Ablution and Recreation. 27 lines cubicles erected behind the three cottages in Solander Place. Each cubicle supplied with electric light, wardrobe, table and chair. Students did not share cubicle. The tenders for the recreation and ablutions cottages were let to Johnson and Brachen for 189 pounds. The kitchen and dining areas were let to Toy Erikson for 1105 pounds. Mrs Dora Riddle was Mess Caterer. In the 1950s a timber barrack like building known as *TheWaldorf* was added.
- **30 May 1928:** Concerns were raised by the students that the floors and verandahs had a rough finish and were unsuitable for dancing. Money at this time was made available for linoleum, lounge chairs, curtains and mats. A request was also made for a tennis court.

Mrs Lane Poole who was responsible for the renovations of Yarralumla House also ran the first florist business in Canberra. She may have run her business from this dwelling.

*The Canberra Times* - 13 September, 1927 - **BOARDING HOUSE For Forestry Students** - To cost nearly 20,000 pounds. Plans are now in preparation in the Architectural Branch of the Commission for a boarding house to accommodate students at the Australian Forestry School. The proposed building will be of two storeys and will be of brick construction. It will be erected at Westridge north-east of the school. The building will accommodate about 25 students and it is possible that provision will be made of a gymnasium and other recreation rooms. The estimated cost is between 18,000 pounds and 10,000 pounds. [This building was not built, instead three shells of cottages were erected in Solander Place and cubicles arranged behind them.]



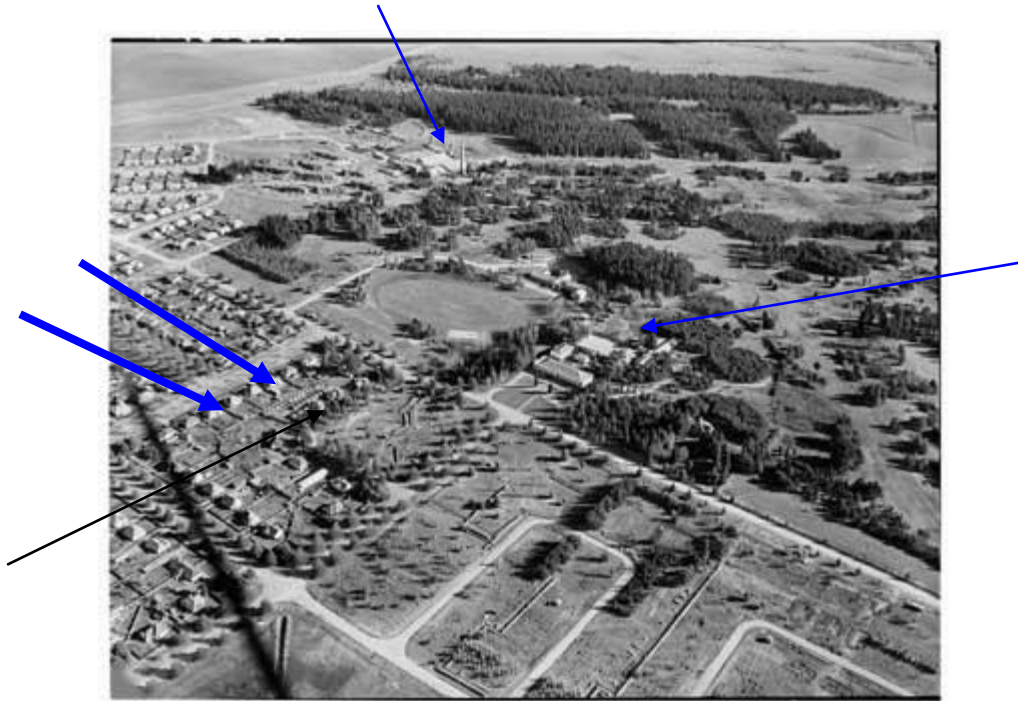
Above back entrance area to the Printers Quarters where the Forestry School students were first accommodated. NAA collection.



NAA A3087,3 Barcode 7827607 Printers Quarters No 15 - accommodation forestry school students 1927



NAA image no A 3087, 37 Outside Cubicle No 16 - 15 October 1937



NAA- A7973/1 Aerial view Forestry School and the cubicles and three cottages used as Mess, Ablution and Recreation buildings. 15.7.1955 - Top left arrows point to some of the cubicles and the black arrow to the three cottages. Mid top arrow points to the Brickyards and right arrow points to Forestry School in Banks Street.

#### EXAMPLES OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

*The Argus* 3 October 1927:  
**FORESTRY ACTIVITIES**  
**MR LANE-POOLE'S VIEWS**

*More Qualified Men Required.*

CANBERRA. Sunday, - For the last two weeks students of Forestry at Westridge Canberra have been engaged in conducting an assessment and topographical survey on the position of the mountain forest land which is within the basin of the Condor River and Lees Creek. These are important tributaries of the Cotter River, which forms the main water supply of the Federal Capital Territory. The inspector of forests (Mr CE Lane-Poole) who returned on Saturday night from Westridge, said that the students were a fine type, but he was fully convinced as he said in evidence before the Royal Commission which is inquiring into the Federal Constitution, that when teamed students went out into the world of forest work there could be little hope for them unless their activities were directed and inspired by fully qualified and first-class foresters. The devoting of half their year to practical work was not sufficient. If the forestry work were under control of the Commonwealth there would be better opportunity for the providing the necessary supply of fully qualified foresters to direct the work of the students when they took up positions.

When the assessment and survey work which the students at the school were at present engaged upon was completed, said Mr Lane-Poole, which would be at the end of the week, the areas available for conversion (?) to plantations and the areas which must be retained for fuel reserves for the Federal Capital would be known. Apart from the valuable training which such work afforded the students the results would be of great economic value, for they would form the basis of forestry work for the Federal Capital Commission. 'It is the policy of the school to give such practical work as possible in the two years of its diploma course,' Mr Lane Poole added. 'although theoretical training is essential it is the practical application of that knowledge to existing forests which makes the forester, and it is because of that important fact that more fully qualified foresters are required in the conduct of all forestry activities.'

**The Canberra Times 25 November 1927**

**AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY SCHOOL - Officially Opened by Governor-General -TRAINING MEN TO CONSERVE AUSTRALIA'S TIMBER RESOURCES.**

The Australian Forestry School at Westridge, Canberra, was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor-General yesterday morning in the presence of the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, members of Parliament and citizens of Canberra.

In performing the ceremony, His Excellency said the School in training men to conserve Australia's timber resources would play an important part in the future development and prosperity of the Commonwealth.

The extravagance which has marked the utilisation of the timber resources of the Commonwealth was the subject of comment by the Prime Minister and the Governor-General yesterday, when the Australian Forestry School was officially opened.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Governor-General (Lord Stonehaven) in the presence of a gathering of public(?) men of the Commonwealth and citizens of Canberra. Included in the assembly were the Prime Minister (Rt Hon SM Bruce), the Minister for Home and Territories (Hon CWC Marr), Senator Sir George Pearce, the Speaker of the House of Representatives (Sir Littleton Groom), the Chief Commissioner (Sir John Butters), Sir John Harrison and Col TJ Thomas (Federal Capital Commissioner).

The Prime Minister in requesting the Governor-General to officially open the school, said it was extremely suitable that the ceremony should be performed so soon after the establishment of the national capital city. Looking back over the past hundred years of Australian history it was evident that we had used the resources of the Commonwealth in an extravagant and proliferate manner. With the timber resources Australians had been most profligate. The time had now arrived when a halt must be taken not only to conserve the supplies of hard woods, but to establish resources of softwoods for which Australian was now dependent upon other countries. 'The man who made two blades of grass grow where one grew before rendered invaluable service to the world. Of considerably greater value, however, is the work of the man who makes two trees grow where one grew before,' he added.

Continuing Mr Bruce said the States had been moving towards a saner polity of Afforestation during recent years but had been handicapped by the lack of experienced foresters.

The Australian Forestry School, however, was designed to overcome this handicap. The school had been established with an agreement made some years ago between the Commonwealth and the States under the terms of which the Commonwealth agreed to furnish the school if the States would furnish the students. The opening of the school should mark the commencement of an era of prudent use of the great timber resources of Australia.

In officially opening the school, His Excellency, the Governor-general, said he was happy to be associated with the start of what would be one of Australia's greatest assets. Referring to the comment by the Prime Minister, upon the profligate utilisation of the resources of the Commonwealth, His Excellency remarked that there was nothing in profligacy in youth. 'Many men who in after years have become great were profligate in their youth, and the same may also be true of Australia,' he added.

Continuing, Lord Stonehaven said that Australians should not merely talk about the resources and to use them to the best advantage. Afforestation was something to which serious...(part missing) the school. When those assembled had thought(?) had to be given throughout the Empire and in many of the dominions the conservation of forests was receiving specific and thoughtful study. To promote interest in the work the Empire Forestry Association was formed after the war, with His Majesty the King as Patron, and the Prince of Wales as Vice-President. The last meeting of the Association was held in London in 1926 and the second in Canada.

*The third meeting of the Association will be held in Canberra next year, continued His Excellency. It augured well for the progress of afforestation in Australia that the Commonwealth should so early be in a position to extend hospitality to the Association.*

*His Excellency predicted that the Empire would be faced with a timber famine in another generation. Australia, however, was taking time by the forelock and doing its best to prevent such a famine. The danger of war had been eliminated for many years to come, because of the determination of civilized peoples to prevent its reoccurrence. Another day would, however, when the world would be confronted with a danger equally as great as that of war - the economic crisis. To prevent this economic crisis men would be doing great work for both the Empire and humanity. Shortage of timber would be a contributing factor if the crisis and forestry school and the students would play a great part of preventing that timber shortage.*

*His Excellency then officially opens ... (part missing) entered Sir George Pearce standing in the domed hallway in the centre of the building, moved a vote of thanks to the Governor-General for performing the ceremony. In doing so, Sir George paid tributes to Lord Novar formerly Governor-General and to Mr CE Lane-Poole, Inspector-General of Forests to the Commonwealth and Acting Principal of the School for the great services they had rendered to forestry work in the Commonwealth. It was mainly due to the ambition of Mr Lane-Poole that the school had been established. Mr Lane-Poole was one of the greatest foresters in the Empire, but his services had almost been lost to Australia some time ago because he had found so little forestry consciousness in the Commonwealth.*

*In seconding the vote of thanks, the Minister for Home and Territories supported the tribute paid by Sir George Pearce to Mr Lane-Poole. Apart from doing great work in the cause of forestry in the Commonwealth, Mr Lane-Poole had rendered valuable service to(?) the territories attached to the Commonwealth.*

*Continuing Mr Marr said it was stated when Canberra was in its early stages that if the whole of the Federal Capital Territory were planted with *pinus insignis*(?) within thirty years they would be able to repay the entire war debt of the Commonwealth with the soft woods represented by these forests. He believed that this was still possible.*

*At the conclusion of the function the school was thrown open to inspection.*



Left: Charles Lane-Poole, acting principal Forestry School 1927-1945. A3087.1 NAA

### YARRALUMLA HOUSE

Yarralumla House, former home of Frederick Campbell is now the residence of the Governor General of Australia. During the early years after the takeover of the property by the Commonwealth the house was used to accommodate Commonwealth Ministers; Members of Parliament, relatives accompanying them; secretaries to Ministers in attendance with them; Federal Capital Director of Design and Construction (Walter Burley Griffin) and persons to whom special privilege had been extended by Ministers. The Ministers and MPs had the first week's accommodation free. Accommodation rates were 7/- per day or 2 guineas per week. Lady visitors paid 6/- per day or 15/- per week and children under 14 years were charged half rates. When Hostel No 1 [Hotel Canberra] became available from December 1924 Yarralumla House closed on 28 January 1925. It remained empty until the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of York in May 1927.

A poem written in the Visitors' Book at Yarralumla House *Written, composed and Sung by the Federal Members at Canberra for the First time on Tuesday 12/2/1920:* refers to the delays in the building of the city.

#### *Canberra's National Anthem*

*Billy, Billy, Billy, my boy,  
What are you waiting for now?  
You promised us Canberra sometime last June,  
As did Ministers, Poynton and Groom,  
All the members' Secs  
Keep asking me,  
Which Day? What day?  
We'll get from Vic away,  
Billy, Billy, Billy, my boy.  
What are you waiting for now?*

Billy was Billy Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia.

Mrs Lane-Poole, then living in Melbourne at 915 Punt Road, was responsible for the renovations that took place in 1926 and 1927. She conferred with Lady Bruce (wife of the Prime Minister) and Lady Stonehaven. Her expenses are noted in the NAA and one document noted that for a trip to Canberra in April 1926 she received the sum of 70 pounds 12/- travelling expenses. Reference to supervision by of her work is noted in the *The Sydney Morning Herald* 31.3.1927 that states Lord Stonehaven is *now at Yarralumla House, his future residence. His mission to supervise the furnishing of the building which is being carried out under the direction of Mrs Lane Poole...*

However, articles in the newspapers in 1927 and 1928 indicate that not all in parliament were happy with the costs of the work carried out by Mrs Ruth Lane-Poole. One wonders if there may have been a little anger by those who missed out on the work. It was unusual for the times for a woman to be given such a responsible job that also required regular travel between her home in Melbourne and Canberra. If she travelled by train she had to first go to Yass which was the nearest train stop and then probably by car to Canberra. Not mentioned in the newspaper reports found to date is that she did confer with the wives of the men who were to move into each residence.

*The Canberra Times* 18.11.1927: **OFFICIAL HOMES - Details of Staggering Costs - BIG PRICES FOR 'TEMPORARY' RESIDENCES.** [Yarralumla House was intended to be temporary. The site chosen by Burley Griffin was in the area of Stirling Ridge, Yarralumla which today is one of two sites set aside for the Prime Minister's Lodge.)

*Staggering costs of the erection and furnishing of the homes of the Governor-General and the Prime Minister were supplied by the Minister of Homes and Territories (Mr Marr) to-day, in answer to a question asked some time ago by Mr Coleman (Reid).*

*Particulars supplied by the Federal Capital Commission state the cost of Government House at a total of 69,281 pounds, the main items of which have been 24,445 pounds in alterations and 14,861 in additions to the main buildings and 15,425 pounds in furnishings.*

*The Prime Minister's residence has cost a total of 25,870 pounds, the main items being 17,046 pounds for the residences, 8,000 in furnishings and 2,731 pounds in laying out the grounds and gardens and fencing.*

*The Canberra Times* 1.6.1928 has an article that refers to discrepancies in estimated costs in connection with the preparation of the **Governor-General's residence** and figures supplied to parliament. Part of which states:

*Further interesting evidence by the Building Commissioner, Sir John Harrison, was given yesterday morning before the Joint Parliamentary Committee of Public Accounts, which is inquiring into housing and building conditions in Canberra generally. Discrepancies in his estimated costs in connection with the preparation of the Governor-General's residence and figures supplied to the House of Representatives by the Minister for Home and Territories were a feature of, the proceedings, and received exhaustive examination at the hands of Mr. Parker Moloney.*

A newspaper article in *The Canberra Times* 14 June 1928 refers to costs of furnishings for the Prime Minister's Lodge and Governor-General's residence by Mrs Ruth Lane-Poole. Mr Casboulte was questioned by Mr Parker Moloney. An excerpt from this article follows:

*Mr Casboulte then stated that the sum of 1,247 pounds had been paid to Mrs Lane Poole for her services in advising the Commission on the selection of furnishings and hangings for the Prime Minister's and Governor-General's residences.*

*Mr Parker Moloney: Doesn't that seem to you an excessive amount? What would her duties consist of - going down to the warehouses and selecting the goods?*

*Mr Casboulte: I suppose that sum was paid for her artistic ability: the exact value of which would be hard to estimate.*

*Mr Parker Moloney was then informed that the architect's fees in the case of the residences would only amount to 800 pounds net.*

*Mr Casboulte explained that the basis of the fees in the two cases would be quite different. He thought that the question of furniture and the treatment of the hangings quite as important as supervising the construction of the buildings.*

*Mr Moloney: Surely the architect's position would be much more important from the point of view of public expenditure? - Yes, but it would be unfortunate if his work were spoiled by wrong finish inside the building.*

*Mr Casboulte said that if the sum paid to Mrs Lane Poole covered her services for both buildings it was an extremely reasonable one. He could realise the amount of time and worry that must have been given to the question of furniture in Government House. Fully fifty percent of the hangings and furniture on the ground and first floors of Government House had to be fabricated.*

Mrs Lane-Poole and her daughter, following their move to Canberra established a florist shop and took part in many community activities including Horticultural Society and other societies set up during the period of World War 2. Miss Lane-Poole was the first woman to obtain a motor cycle license. The event was reported in *The Canberra Times* 3 May 1932 part of which reads:

*Canberra now has a woman motor cyclist. Miss Charles [Charlotte?] Lane-Poole on Thursday passed her licence test and daily she can be seen bent over the handle-bars of her own machine speeding between her home at Westridge and Telopea Park School where she is studying for the Leaving Certificate...Miss Lane-Poole, whose resourcefulness has enabled her to overcome the difficulties associated with the travel from Westridge, which is not provided with a 'bus service, is the eldest daughter of the Director-General of Forests and acting-Principal of the Australian Forestry School. She also drives her parent's motor car and is taking motor engineering course at Telopea Park so that she might keep in good order her own cycle and the family automobile.*

## **CONCLUSION:**

In 1963 the boundaries of Yarralumla were extended to include the area of the former Westlake now Stirling Park, Yarralumla that up until that time was part of Acton. In 1963 work on the preparation of Lake Burley Griffin was completed and began to fill with the dammed water of the Molonglo River. The lake was formally opened in 1964.

The brick cottages erected in 1921-1922 in Section 64 have been heritage listed. The weatherboards and other early cottages have not and are gradually being replaced with large brick dwellings. The character of the suburb has changed from a workers' temporary suburb to one of the *up market* suburbs of Canberra.

However in the nearby Westbourne woods, the pine plantations and brickyards there are reminders of the beginnings of the suburb and its part in the history of the federal bush capital. Still in situ are the brickyards, railway cutting, section of Uriarra Road, culvert, old entrance to Government House, the Forestry School, Westridge House, early brick and weatherboard cottages, the arboretum and one of the three 1925 heritage listed sewer vents. In nearby Stirling Park the remains of human occupation of the area are littered (including

bricks from the yards) throughout the park. Attunga Point is the old quarry that supplied the white shale necessary for the *Canberra Creams*.

*The Canberra Times* 20 May 1927 WATER AND SEWERAGE WORKS

Construction work at the sewerage treatment works at Western Creek is practically finished. The provision of tipper, filters, electrical installation and making of pathways have been completed. Four tanks are in operation and rotary filters have been tested. There is only a small amount of planting and clearing up work to be done to bring the whole of the work to completion. The sewerage syphon is complete with the exception of the construction of one manhole on the north side of the river and in general cleaning up. The sewerage reticulation at South Ainslie and Blandfordia Subdivision No 5 is finished, and the work is progressing at North Ainslie and the new subdivision of Westridge.

Water reticulation services consisting of the laying of 9in main from Wellington Avenue to Eastlake and from Russell Hill Reservoir to Prospect Parkway [Anzac Parade] are practically finished. The chief storm water drainage work is located at South Ainslie and its construction is well in hand.

*The Canberra Times* 15 July 1927 POSTMEN TO APPEAR SHORTLY IN CANBERRA STREETS

Preliminary arrangements are being made for the institution of postal deliveries in the permanent suburbs of Canberra in the near future. A considerable amount of organising remains to be done before the delivery can be put into practice and the actual details of the scheme worked out.

Three letter carriers will probably be required to carry out the work which will involve walking long distances. The main suburbs of the city are to be served. On the Southern side the delivery will cover Eastlake, Telopea park, Manuka, Blandfordia, and Red Hill while on the Northern side of the river letter deliveries will serve Civic Centre, Ainslie, North Ainslie, South Ainslie and Acton. It is not known whether Causeway will be included in deliveries owing to this being a temporary suburb. Only Westlake and Westridge will continue under the present system.

*The Canberra Times* 23 September 1927 - SNAKES AND DEVILS FOR CANBERRA'S EDEN - PREPARATION FOR ZOO.

Preliminary work is proceeding for the Zoological Park of Australian fauna which is to be situated on the Southern Bank of the Molonglo near Westridge. Among the first buildings which is to be designed is the snake house and the abodes of Australian Animals comprising all species including the Tasmanian devil, whose movements in Canberra, however, are to be very restricted.

Dr Colin McKenzie visited Canberra this week and was in conference with the Federal Capital Commission regarding the project, but it is not yet known what building will be required to house the whole of the collection of animals which it is intended shall be living under next to nature conditions in the zoological park. The park is bounded by the Molonglo River on two sides, while the Westbourne Woods afford it protection on the Southern side, thus removing the park from disturbance from the spread of Canberra.

It is intended to carry out tree planting in the selected area so that on the completion of the park there still be a semblance at least of the natural state in which the various animal existed prior to captivity. The tree planting may be embarked upon in the near future but by reason of the large stock of growing trees in the various plantations and nurseries of the commission when the planting actually takes place grown trees will figure in the park. The transplanting of grown trees has been carried out very successfully in the past and very few losses occur.