



FOLLOWING THE GRIFFIN TRAIL IN CANBERRA

This brochure takes you around Canberra and provides short backgrounds on the Griffins, their work in Canberra and other current reminders of their lives.



The mosaic in the approach court is of the Griffins' winning entry for the design of Canberra

If you are interested in all the sites, it takes about 2 hours driving time by car. Together with your viewing time at each place.

At the end, there are links to the websites of the Walter Burley Griffin Society in Australia and in the USA.

There are also further references providing in-depth background and reading.

(1) REGATTA POINT

The National Capital Exhibition tells the story of Canberra as the capital of Australia.

Looking out over Lake Burley Griffin the National Triangle and Parliamentary Zone are symbolic of democracy and the Constitution

New Parliament House and its architect Romaldo Giurgola's empathy with Griffin's Plan.

The flag structure atop Parliament House reflects Griffin's suggested Capitol.

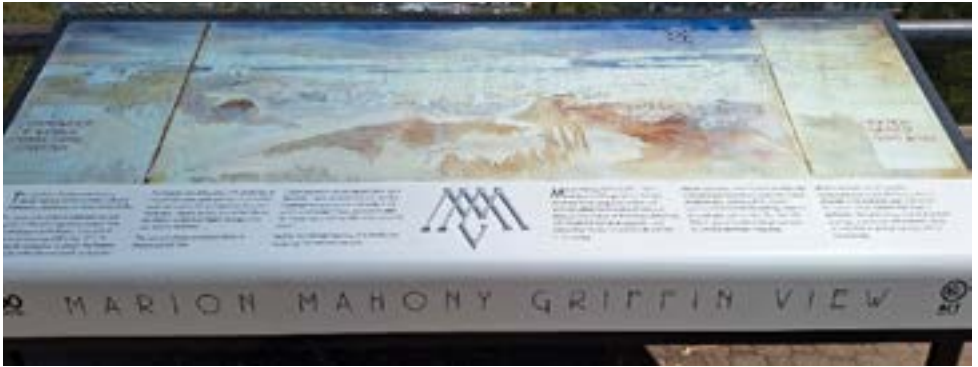
In recognition of the Griffins, The Walter Café and The Marion Function Centre next door were developed by the Grand Pacific Group.

From the National Capital Exhibition to the Marion Mahony Griffin

View, Mt Ainslie turn right to re-enter Commonwealth Avenue then left, over the bridge, turn first left onto King Edward Terrace, along to left onto King's Avenue. At the top, turn left onto Parkes Way, then at roundabout pool right up Anzac Parade, then right at top onto Fairbairn Avenue. Short drive, to turn left onto Mt Ainslie Drive = right to the top.



(2) MT AINSLIE - Marion Mahony Griffin View



Marion Mahony Griffin View from the summit, with explanatory signage.

There is also additional signage explaining the basic design principles of Canberra near this view.

From the “Marion Mahony Griffin View” to General Bridges’ Gravesite,

come down Mt Ainslie Drive, turn left into Fairbairn Avenue, then right at the Gun Gates Entrance to Royal Military College Duntroon into Robert Campbell Road, then right onto General Bridges’ Drive up to Mt Pleasant, turning left about half way up.



(3) GENERAL BRIDGES' GRAVE - Duntroon



Appointed as the first Commandant of Duntroon on 30 March 1910, Major-General William Throsby Bridges led the First Division of the Australian Imperial Forces at the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1915. He died of wounds on 18 May 1915, being the first general killed in action in Turkey.

His was the only body to be repatriated to Australia during World War One.

Designed at the request of his widow Lady Bridges, the memorial grave of General Bridges is Walter Burley Griffin's major piece of design in Canberra.

Source: <https://www.nca.gov.au/attractions/general-bridges-grave#>

From the Gravesite to the Pialligo Redwood Forest. Drive back down General Bridges Drive, turn right on to Fairbairn Avenue, left onto Pialligo Avenue, then past the airport to the heritage [Pialligo Redwood Forest](#).



(4) CALIFORNIAN REDWOODS FOREST - Pialligo

Near the Canberra airport in the suburb of Pialligo, an unusual forest can be found – one of North American Coastal and Giant Redwoods. Central to the Griffins' proposal was a series of constructed lakes. To the east of these was a further, more organically formed lake. The redwood forest would sit on the lake's northern edge. Unfortunately, the drought that caused so many difficulties with the other Griffin plantings also affected the redwoods, which required much more water to thrive. Of the 122,000 that were

planted, only 3000 have survived. Today a 3-kilometre track winds through the forest

Sources: <https://www.naa.gov.au/blog/painting-hills>
<https://visitcanberra.com.au/attractions/56b23b61b042386245d42f21/pialligo-redwood-forest>

From the Forest to the Kingston Mural.

Return to Pialligo Avenue past the airport, straight ahead along Moreshead Drive, turn left at King's Avenue, turn left immediately after coming off the bridge, on to Bowen Drive, then Wentworth Avenue. Turn left at Cunningham St (next to rail lines), past Printers Way and Parbery St.



(5) MURAL of WALTER and MARION - Kingston

on the south wall of the Kingsborough Residences, Cunningham Street/the Causeway Where Marion and Walter can be seen “together” in Canberra.

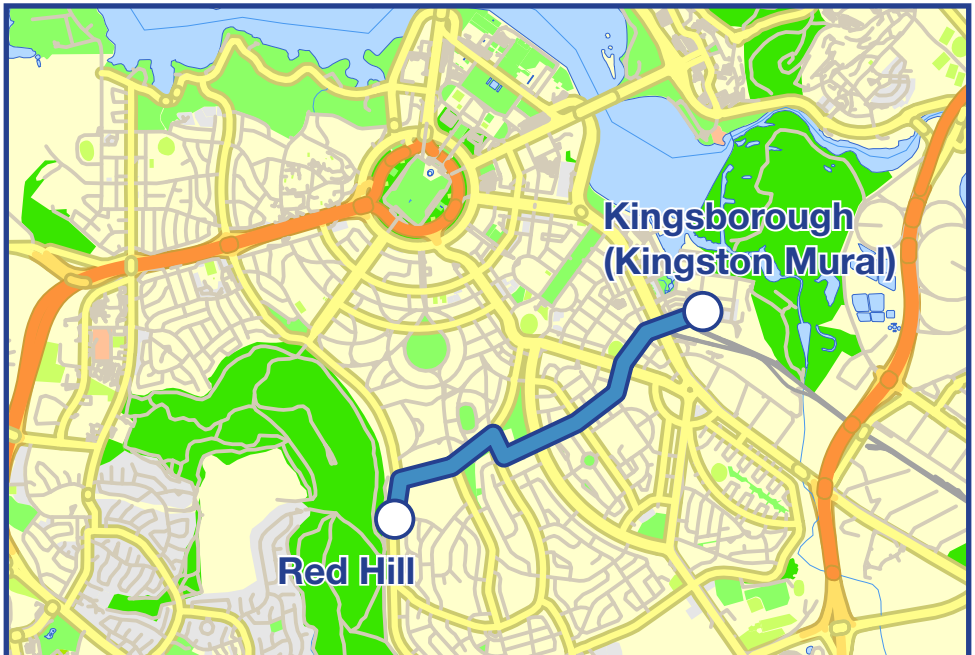


This mural and the photo here are the initiatives of John Gasson, developer of the Kingsborough apartments.

From the mural to Red Hill. Return back along Cunningham St, continue over Wentworth Avenue, turn right on Canberra Avenue, continue past Manuka Oval on Canberra Avenue, turn left on Empire Circuit, then left on Melbourne Avenue, straight ahead over roundabout at Stonehaven Crescent, up Gowrie Drive.

Following Gowrie Drive and Red Hill Drive uphill, viewing of the Grevillea can be seen by stopping at the Red Hill Lookout, before continuing south for a short distance to the parking area at the end of the road, from where the Callistemons can be viewed during November to December.

NOTE: The best months to see them in flower are late spring to early summer – November/December.



(6) GRIFFIN'S PAINTED INNER HILLS

Walter dreamed of painting the hills. He wanted to plant each hill with a distinctive colour, one with reds, another with blues, another with yellow and gold and so on. Griffin compiled eight colour-coded volumes describing the various species of

Australian native flora. A typed copy of the meticulously compiled content appears in the National Archives' collection. (<https://www.naa.gov.au/blog/painting-hills>) A photo is on page 12.

Red Hill was the only one named and heritage listed:
https://redhillregenerators.org.au/?page_id=251

Historic 1917 callistemon citrinus plantings near the summit.

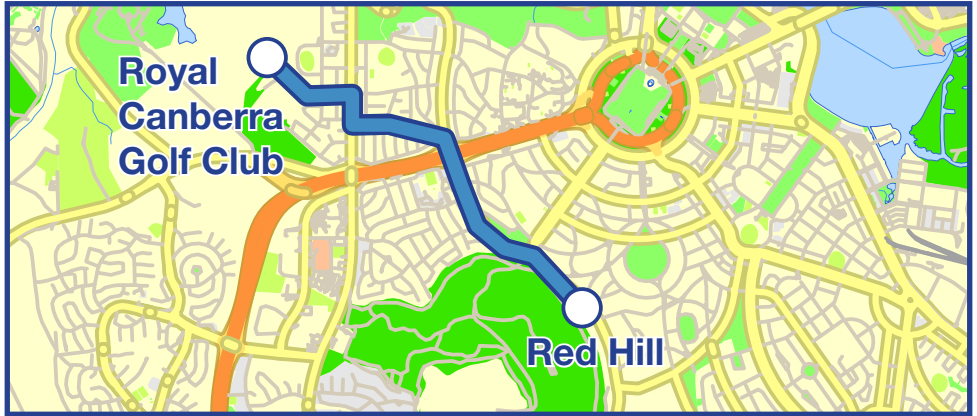


Further information = https://redhillregenerators.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Red_Hill_Historic_Plantings_-_Background_Information.pdf

(7) YARRALUMLA INCINERATOR

From Red Hill to the Incinerator. Start back down Red Hill Drive and turn left into Stonehaven Crescent. At its end, turn right into Strickland, then right again at roundabout into Kent Street. Continue

over Adelaide Avenue along the same street, now named Novar Street. Left at Bentham Street and continue straight ahead to the gates of the Royal Canberra Golf Club.



Please wear enclosed foot wear.



This incinerator has a special connection with Walter Burley Griffin, as a significant Canberra building with which he is associated (apart from the gravesite of

General Bridges at RMC Duntroon). It was designed by Eric Nicholls (Griffin's close partner) and operated between 1938 and 1959.

There is an Information Plaque on site that provides more information.



FRONT



INTERIOR



REAR

The incinerator technology firm REICO engaged the partnership firm of Eric Milton Nicholls and Walter Burley Griffin to prepare plans to house their incinerators. Though Eric Nicholls designed this Garbage Incinerator, he worked closely with Griffin and learned Griffin's style. The Incinerator shows the influence of Walter Burley Griffin and the Prairie School style of architecture, developed in the USA. The Canberra Incinerator was the last built to the design of Griffin and Nicholls in 1938. The association between the Griffin and Nicholls partnership and RIECo continued until 1942.

Source: https://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/195446/448.pdf

From Incinerator to National Arboretum and Cork Oaks Plantation. Return down Bentham St, turn right into Novar St, at the top turn right into Dudley St, turn right at Lady Denman Drive and over Scrivenor Dam, turn left into Forest Drive and under the Tuggeranong parkway, turning right into Cork Oak Road = to the end.



(8) NATIONAL ARBORETUM - Cork Oaks Plantation



Source: https://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1496371/arboretum-master-map.pdf

The Glenloch Cork Oak Plantation is the largest and oldest cork oak plantation intended for commercial harvesting in Australia and the only example in the ACT. The Plantation has strong associations with Walter Burley Griffin, as he brought the acorns from Spain in 1917. They were planted by Charles Weston. Griffin included the idea for a cork oak plantation as part of his planning for the ACT to develop agricultural production. Weston established the Glenloch Cork Oak Plantation, amongst many other ACT forestry plantations.

Source: https://www.environment.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/497125/293.pdf

Numbers 9 and 10 are not available for public viewing.

(9) KNITLOCK BRICK MAKING MACHINE and brick

Patented by Walter Burley Griffin in 1917, “Knitlock” bricks were meant to facilitate the rapid construction of housing in Canberra. However, no such houses were built here. The National Museum of Australia has a Knitlock brick making machine and bricks, but they are at its Mitchell repository and not available for public viewing. A knitlock brick is below.



Source: <https://collectionsearch.nma.gov.au/icons/images/kau12/index.html#/home?usr=CE>

As a measure of continuing interest in this method, an actual construction in 2016 using knitlock bricks can be seen at <https://www.alex-goad.com/knitlock-architecture>. Pholiota Unlocked was an exhibition created for the Melbourne School of Design in 2016. Alex Goad worked with MSD’s Architecture students to re-create Griffin’s Knitlock bricks to build a full scale replica of the Griffins’ iconic home in Melbourne - Pholiota.

(10) WBG-designed ceremonial mallet and decorative casket

Made of over 50 native timbers, this was used at the laying of the foundation stone for the intended Capitol Building, by the Prince of Wales in 1920 and then gifted to him.

They are not available for casual viewing, as they are stored away in Parliament House.

The foundation stone was laid in 1920 on Capital Hill for the Capitol building (which was never built) designed by Walter Burley Griffin. The stone can be viewed on the terrace of the Parliament House Public cafeteria

<https://m.facebook.com/walterburleygriffinsociety/photos/555003076122088/>



FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE GRIFFINS

For another time

National Capital Authority

Generally: <https://www.nca.gov.au/education/canberras-history/walter-burley-griffin#>

National Records Which are not on Public Display

National Library

1. **Griffin and Early Canberra Collection** - <https://www.nla.gov.au/collections/guide-selected-collections/griffin-and-early-canberra-collection>
2. **Donald Leslie Johnson collection** - <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-248969925/findingaid>
3. **Griffin architectural office archives – in the Eric Nicholls Collection**
<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/3912897>

UNESCO Memory of the World

THE GRIFFIN DESIGN DRAWINGS OF THE CITY OF CANBERRA

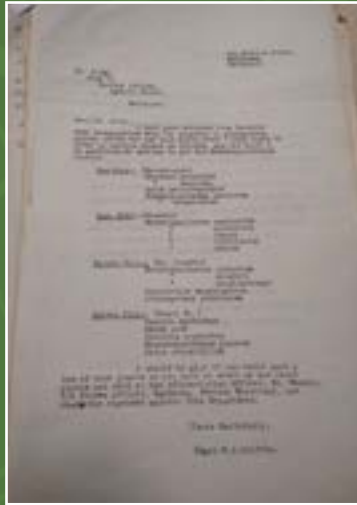
https://www.amw.org.au/sites/default/files/memory_of_the_world/planning-capital-cities/walter-burley-and-marion-mahony-griffin-design-drawings-city-canberra.html

National Archives

1. **Design for Australia's federal capital by Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin. (Entry No. 29)** <https://www.naa.gov.au/visit-us/events-and-exhibitions/marion-other-griffin/federal-capital-design-no-29>
2. **Walter Burley Griffin and the Design of Canberra** - <https://www.naa.gov.au/help-your-research/fact-sheets/walter-burley-griffin-and-design-canberra>
3. **Plan for Canberra** - <https://www.naa.gov.au/students-and-teachers/learning-resources/learning-resource-themes/government-and-democracy/parliament-and-elections/plan-canberra>
4. **Fact Sheet 95. Walter Burley Griffin and the Design of Canberra**, <https://www.naa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/fs-95-walter-burley-griffin-and-the-design-of-canberra.pdf>

Griffin's painted inner hills.

A typed copy of the intended plantings and content appears in the National Archives' collection (below).



Walter Burley Griffin Society

More information and current activities can be found at

Australia = <https://www.griffinsociety.org/>

USA = <http://www.wbgriffinsociety.org/>

Commemorative resting places of Walter (India) and Marion (USA)



Walter Burley Griffin

His grave:

Lucknow, India – 2024

Source: Prateek Hira, Lucknow



Marion Mahony Griffin

Her plaque:

Graceland Cemetery, Chicago, USA

Source: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6819516/marion-mahony_griffin