



**Origins of personal  
names used on  
buildings & campus  
features at the  
Australian National  
University**

The following buildings and site features, listed alphabetically, are named after some of the men and women who made a significant contribution to the establishment and development of the University or of Canberra University College.

**Bruce Hall** *a University hall of residence*

Stanley Melbourne Bruce (1883–1967) was Prime Minister of Australia and Minister for External Affairs when the decision was taken to move the seat of government from Melbourne to Canberra, following which, the move for a national university began. Bruce was Australian High Commissioner in Great Britain from 1933–45 and served as the University's first Chancellor from 1951–61. He was created a life peer in 1947.

**Burgmann College** *an affiliated college*

Bishop E.H. Burgmann (1885–1967) was Anglican Bishop of Goulburn from 1934 and Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn from 1950–60. During the 1930s he frequently stated that a national university should be established in Canberra so that it would be a capital in which 'Australia not only governs but thinks'. He moved a resolution to this effect at the General Synod of the Church of England in 1937.

**Burton Hall** *a University hall of residence*

Professor H. Burton (1900– ) was Principal of, and Professor of Economic History in, Canberra University College from 1949–60. After association of the College with the University in 1960 he was Principal of the School of General Studies from 1960–65 and held a professorship in Economic History. He served a term as Executive Director and Secretary of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

**Canberry Bridge** *over Sullivans Creek*

In the early days the area which is now Canberra was generally known as Canberry or Canburry. The name is said to be derived from an Aboriginal word for 'meeting place'.

**J.B. Chifley Building of the Library**

Joseph Benedict Chifley (1885–1951) was Prime Minister of Australia from 1945–49, and his Government introduced the Bill which led to the establishment of the Australian National University in 1946. Chifley took a strong interest in the University's development and played a role in attracting eminent Australian-born academics to return to Australia to staff the new University. He also saw clearly the need for generous expenditure on long-range research projects.

**Cockcroft Building** *in the Research School of Physical Sciences*

Sir John Cockcroft (1897–1967) is credited with being the founder of modern nuclear science research and, with T.S. Walton, gained the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1951. In 1954 he arranged for the British Government to donate the Cockcroft Walton synchrotron to the University. He served as Chancellor of the University from 1961–65. Cockcroft received numerous honorary degrees from universities throughout the world and was a member of several international academies.

**Copland Building** *housing the Faculty of Economics*  
**Copland Lecture Theatre**

Sir Douglas Copland (1894–1971), an economist, was the first Vice-Chancellor of the University, serving from 1948–53. He had previously been Sidney Myer Professor of Commerce and Dean of the Faculty of Commerce at the University of Melbourne from 1924–44. Following his Vice-Chancellorship at the University he served as Australian High Commissioner in Canada and was the first Principal of the Australian Administrative Staff College, Mt Eliza.

**H.C. Coombs Building**

**H.C. Coombs Lecture Theatre**

Dr H.C. Coombs (1906– ) has been Chancellor of the University since 1968 but his active interest in the University spans the past three decades. As Director-General of Post-War Reconstruction, he was a member of the Interim Council and has been a member of Council ever since, serving as Deputy Chairman since 1957 and Pro-Chancellor from 1959 to 1968. Dr Coombs, one of Australia's foremost economists, has been the instigator of many initiatives in the University including the Creative Arts Fellowships for Australian artists and the establishment of the North Australia Research Unit. He is a former Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia and is currently Chairman of the Council for Aboriginal Affairs, past Chairman of the Australian Council for the Arts and economic adviser to the Prime Minister.

**Cornick Room** *common room for technical staff in the Cockcroft Building*

Mr S.R. Cornick (1902–1974) was one of the first staff employed by the University. He was chief technical officer of the Research School of Physical Sciences from 1948–64. Mr Cornick had previously been laboratory steward and chief technical officer in the Department of Nuclear Physics in the University of Birmingham.

**John Curtin School of Medical Research**

It was during the Prime-Ministership of John Curtin (1885–1945) that much of the ground work for the establishment of the University was carried out. Mr Curtin, Australia's leader during most of the war years, invited Sir Howard (later Lord) Florey to Australia in 1944 to advise on the production and use of penicillin. During the visit Florey stressed the need to establish a medical research school to reverse the 'brain drain' which had occurred during previous decades.

**Daley Road**

C.S. Daley (1887–1966) was Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior (earlier known as Canberra Civic Administration) from 1932–52. He was active in getting the Canberra University College established and then worked for the foundation of a predominantly research university, the Australian National University. He was a member of the College Council from 1930–58 and was a member of the Interim Council of the University from 1946–51.

**Dedman Building** *housing Departments of the Arts Faculty*

J.J. Dedman (1896–1973) was Minister for War Organisation of Industry and Minister in charge of the CSIR (now CSIRO) in 1943 when an inter-governmental department was set up to formulate and co-ordinate Commonwealth activities in relation to education. A second committee considered the matter further and in August 1945, as the Minister for Post-War Reconstruction, Dedman made the public announcement that the government would establish a postgraduate and research university in Canberra. John Dedman was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University in 1965 and graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in 1966. He was a member of the University Council from 1967 till his death in 1973.

**Dickson Road**

Dr B.T. Dickson (1886– ), a botanist and plant pathologist, was Chief of the Division of Plant Industry at the CSIR (now CSIRO) in Canberra from 1927–51. He was a member of Canberra University College Council from 1937 and was its Chairman from 1954 until the association of the College with the Australian National University in 1960.

**Duffield Building** *at Mt Stromlo Observatory*

Dr W.G. Duffield (1879–1929) was first Director of the Commonwealth Solar Observatory, Mt Stromlo, from 1923–29 and was Vice-president of the first Council of the University Association of Canberra in 1929.

**Eggleston Road**

Sir Frederic Eggleston (1875–1954), a lawyer and diplomat, was one of several leading Australians who perceived at an early date the need for Australia to greatly increase its knowledge and awareness of its Pacific neighbours through the establishment of a Pacific studies school in the proposed national university, Sir Frederic, who was first Chairman of the Commonwealth Grants Commission, from 1933–41, and Minister to China from 1941–44 and to the United States from 1944–46, was a member of the University's 1946 Interim Council.

**Fellows Road**

The University chose the term 'fellow' to describe its basic term of appointment for academic staff in the Research Schools.

**Florey Theatre** *in the John Curtin School of Medical Research*

**Howard Florey Professorship of Medical Research** *held by the Director of the John Curtin School of Medical Research.*

Howard Walter Florey (1898–1968), Australian-born experimental pathologist, was best known for his research in developing penicillin. He was Professor of Pathology at Oxford University for 27 years and during this time, in 1944, he visited Australia at the invitation of Prime Minister Curtin, and stressed the need for a medical research establishment. Following the formation of the 1946 Interim Council, Florey was the key figure in the academic design of the John Curtin School of Medical Research. Florey shared the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1945 and was created a life peer in 1965. Lord Florey's interest in and assistance to the University culminated in his accepting the role of Chancellor from 1965 till his death in 1968.

**Garran Hall** *a student residence*

**Garran Road**

**Robert Garran Professorship of Law**

Sir Robert Garran (1867–1957), a keen federalist, served as Secretary of the Attorney-General's Department and Parliamentary Draftsman from 1901–16 and as Solicitor-General from then till 1932. In 1927 he was Chairman of the second committee appointed by the Federal Capital Commission to examine a proposal to establish a university in Canberra. He was president of the first Council of the University Association of Canberra, and Chairman of the Council of Canberra University College from 1930–53. When plans for the national university were announced he was made a member of the planning committee on the Research School of Social Sciences and a member of the Interim Council of 1946. He was the first honorary graduate of the University, receiving a Doctorate of Laws in 1951.

**Haydon-Allen Building** *housing Departments of the Faculty of Arts*

**Haydon-Allen Lecture Theatre**

J.F.M. Haydon (1882–1967) with Dr L.H. Allen (1879–1964) were the first lecturers appointed fulltime to the teaching staff of Canberra University College. Mr Haydon, who was Senior Lecturer in Modern Languages, had previously been Professor of that discipline at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, while Dr Allen, Senior Lecturer in English and Latin, had been Professor of English at Duntroon.

**A.D. Hope Building** *housing Departments of the Faculty of Arts*

Professor A.D. Hope (1907– ) is one of Australia's foremost poets. He was Professor of English at Canberra University College from 1951–1960 and Professor of English in the School of General Studies at the University from 1961–68. He was the first Dean of the Faculty of Arts and in 1972 was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Letters by the University.

**Jaeger Building** *housing the Research School of Earth Sciences*

Professor J.C. Jaeger (1907– ) was foundation Professor of Geophysics in the Research School of Physical Sciences at the University from 1952–72, during which time he served a term as Dean of the School. During his period at the University Professor Jaeger strengthened the study of geophysics and geochemistry and suggested the formation of a separate Research School of Earth Sciences to further develop these disciplines in the University.

**John XXIII College** *an affiliated college*

Pope John XXIII (1881–1963) was Pope for five years from 1958 during which time he fostered the Ecumenical movement and encouraged dialogue with other church leaders. The motto of the College, *veritas vi veritatis*, means 'truth will out'.

**Kingsley Street Hall**

Henry Kingsley (1830–1876) was an Englishman who arrived in Melbourne in 1853 and tried his hand at several occupations before returning to Britain four years later to write. Among his popular novels, which were set in Australia, were *Recollections of Geoffrey Hamlyn* and *Ravenshoe*.

Henry's better known brother, Charles, was a clergyman social reformer and novelist whose works included *Westward Ho!* and *The Water Babies*.

**Lathan Court** *between the Law School and Asian Studies Building*

Sir John Latham (1877–1964) was Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia from 1935–52 and served as the first Australian Minister to Japan from 1940–41. He was a member of Federal Parliament from 1922–34 and was Minister for External Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister between 1931–34. He was Chancellor of the University of Melbourne from 1939–41.

**Linnaeus Way**

Carolus Linnaeus (1707–1778), a Swedish naturalist, is known as the father of modern botany. From 1742–78 he was Professor of Botany at the University of Uppsala where he completed his most famous work *Systema Naturae*.

**MacPherson Bridge**

John MacPherson (1798–1875) came to Australia in the 1820s and in the middle 1830s he was formally granted land in Canberra. His property, known as Springbank, is part of the site now occupied by the University. William Sullivan later owned some of MacPherson's property along the banks of the Canberra Creek, now known as Sullivans Creek, over which MacPherson Bridge was built. MacPherson's children are thought to have been the first European children born in the 'Limestone Plains' district.

**McDonald Room** *exhibition room in the R.G. Menzies Building of the University Library*

Mr A.L.G. McDonald (1898– ) was the University's first Librarian and held the position from 1948–60, having previously been deputy librarian at Melbourne University.

During his time at the University he did much of the planning for the Menzies and other library collections within the University.

**Melville Hall**

Sir Leslie Melville (1902– ) was Professor of Economics at the University of Adelaide from 1929–31 and held several positions in the Treasury and Commonwealth Bank before becoming Vice-Chancellor of the University in 1953 – a position he held for seven years. He has subsequently been Chairman of the Tariff Board, a member of the Development Advisory Service of the International Bank and, more recently, Chairman of the Grants Commission.

**R.G. Menzies Building of the University Library**

Sir Robert Menzies (1894– ) was a member of Federal Parliament from 1934 and was Prime Minister from 1939–41 and from 1949–66. During his Prime Ministership the Australian Universities Commission was formed and the Commonwealth Government took over substantial financial responsibility for Australian universities. Barrister and scholar, Sir Robert is credited with having taken a far-sighted and generous approach to tertiary education and research. He has been awarded more than twenty honorary degrees from universities throughout the world.

**Mills Road**

**Mills Room** *the Council room in the Chancery*

Professor R.C. Mills (1886–1952) who was Professor of Economics at the University of Sydney from 1922–46, played a leading role in the founding and development of the University. He was Chairman of the University Grants Commission in 1943 when an inter-governmental committee was set up to examine a proposal for a national university. He was chairman of the second inter-departmental committee of 1945 whose report to Cabinet was accepted and led to the Act of Parliament in 1946 establishing the Australian National University. Mills, who was then Director of the Commonwealth Office of Education, was Chairman of the 1946 Interim Council and remained a Council member until 1951. He helped to launch the Commonwealth Scholarship scheme which provided tuition and maintenance to thousands of students over a 20 year period.

**Nadel Room** *a seminar room in the H.C. Coombs Building*

Professor S.F.S. Nadel (1903–1956) was foundation Professor of Anthropology and Sociology in the Research School of Pacific Studies from 1950 until his death in 1956, and served a term as dean of the School.

**Hanna Neumann Building** *housing the Departments of Mathematics in the School of General Studies*

Professor Hanna Neumann (1914–1971) was Professor and Head of the Department of Pure Mathematics in the School of General Studies in the University from 1964 until her death in 1971 and Dean of Students from 1968–69. Professor Neumann was the first woman to be appointed to a Chair at the University.

**Oliphant Building** *Research School of Physical Sciences*

Sir Mark Oliphant (1901– ) played a major role in the formation of the Research School of Physical Sciences and

in encouraging frontier research in Australia in nuclear physics. While Professor of Physics at the University of Birmingham from 1937–50 he gave advice to the University's Interim Council on the direction in which research in the physical sciences should take. His research, particularly at Birmingham, led to basic discoveries in radar and atomic energy. He was Director of the School from 1950–63 and is currently Governor of South Australia.

**Rivett Road**

Sir David Rivett (1885–1961) was Professor of Chemistry at the University of Melbourne before joining the CSIR (now CSIRO) in 1927 where he served as chief executive officer till 1945 and Chairman from 1946–49. In the twenties he advocated the eventual formation of a national postgraduate university and in 1943 was a member of the first inter-departmental committee on educational policy. He was a member of the University's Interim Council of 1946 and remained a member of Council till 1956.

**Scarth Room** *a private dining room in University House*

Mr T. Scarth (1906–1963) was manager of University House from 1957–63 and did much to establish its reputation as a centre for visiting scholars and postgraduate students.

**Sullivans Creek**

William Sullivan (1829–1911) came to Australia from Ireland in the 1850s and a few years later moved to the Canberra district where he leased land. In 1888 he purchased Springbank which had originally been owned by John MacPherson. As Sullivan owned land on either side of Canberra or Canburry Creek, it became known as Sullivans Creek.

**Ursula College** *an affiliated college*

Ursula was a fourth or fifth century Breton princess who had a great reputation for holiness and learning. She is the patroness of the University of Paris (Sorbonne) and the Ursuline order, founded by St Angela Merici, was named after her.

**University Avenue Bridge**

In Walter Burley Griffin's original plan for Canberra he indicated the general site for a university and included University Avenue. Although the building of the University Union and pedestrian court have phased out much of the avenue, the original name is being preserved through calling the nearby bridge University Avenue Bridge.

**Ward Road**

Professor H.K. Ward (1887–1972) was Bosch Professor of Bacteriology at the University of Sydney from 1935–52. In 1946 four advisory committees were set up to advise on research schools for the National University and Professor Ward was a member of the medical committee. He served on the Interim Council and Council from 1948–53.

Compiled by University Information with assistance from The Australian Dictionary of Biography.