PMEA Canberra Tour 2026

The Federation Tour to the National Capital of Australia



16th,17th,18th,19th November 2026



Welcome,

On behalf of the Committee, we would like to welcome you to the 2026 PMEA Canberra Tour.

We have a four-day tour organized for you staying in one motel so you don't need to pack and unpack several times, this will allow everybody to spend more time together and provide us with a more relaxed time away.

Repeating from last year we have an early start on Monday heading to Goulburn for a lovely morning tea/early lunch at The Rose Café followed by a stop and wander around Bungendore. After lunch heading to our motel in Canberra.

On Tuesday morning we have a drive to the National Capital Exhibition on the edge of the lake followed by a free afternoon.

Wednesday brings a visit to the Canberra Deep Space Centre at Tidbinbilla to the south west of Canberra followed by lunch and a wander around the Lanyon Homestead,

Thursday brings a visit to Australian War Memorial in northern Canberra and lunch at Memorial Poppy Cafe. Then heading off back to Sydney.

Please wear your name badge if possible as it is difficult to remember everybody's name, it also helps our new members feel more at home.

Thanks Gavin & Barry

Programme of Events

Monday 16th November

9.00am	Meet at the Terry Hills Tavern carpark for a entrants meeting.
9.30am	Leave Terry Hills Tavern Drive along Mona Vale Road/Ryde Road to the M2, turn west on the M2 and proceed along the M2/M7/M31 past Eastern Creek, Campbelltown, Pheasants Nest, Marulan and on towards Goulburn. Comfort stops along if needed at several service stations and RTA laybys.
12.00pm	Take the first exit to Goulburn off the freeway and continue along into town along the main street. After you pass the beautiful park (Belmore Park) on your left, turn right at the next street (Vener Street) and travel up one block and arrive at The Rose Café on your right, 59 Verner Street, Goulburn
2.00pm	Leave the Rose Café and back down to the main street (Auburn Street). Turn right and head down one block. turn left (sign says Braidwood), go one block and turn right continue along one block and left over the railway line where the road turns into the Braidwood Road. Continue along Braidwood Road past the racetrack, the heritage rail centre and under the freeway and continue along this road You will pass the old Wakefield Park racetrack on your left a little way down the road Continue along approx. 25kms through Lake Bathurst and then into Tarago, just after the Tarago school and service station turn right at the Loaded Dog pub and head towards Bungendore. Continue on this road (Bungendore Road) to Bungendore, as you come into town turn left at the roundabout and head into town for a coffee and look around.
3.30/4.00pm	Leave Bungendore on the Kings Hwy heading towards Queanbeyan/Canberra. Travel through Queanbeyan and on towards Canberra. Put the Motel address into your GPS (the Garden City Motel, 55 Jerrabomberra Ave, Narrabundah ph. 6295 3322) After you leave Queanbeyan approx. 3-4kms turn left onto Hindmarsh Drive, travel along Hindmarsh Drive approx. 2 kms and turn right into Jerrabomberra Ave. Travel approx. 200-300m and you will see the Motel/Hotel on your right.
Evening meal.	Free Choice.
6.00pm	Dinner maybe in the Motel Restaurant

Tuesday 11th November

	Breakfast at the Motel
9:30am	Assemble at Motel entry for a quick talk.
10:00am	Drive to the National Capital Exhibition on the edge of the lake on Barrine Drive, Regatta Point, Commonwealth Park, Parkes where the water spout is Have a look at exhibition of the history and establishment of Canberra over the years Following a look through the Exhibition Centre we suggest then a walk along the lake side around to the Carilion Tower then back for a coffee back at the National Capital Exhibition before heading off.
12.00pm	We are leaving the afternoon free for you to select a venue to visit. For the members that didn't come down last year they may wish to visit the New Parliament House for a tour, the National Arboretum, or the National Art Gallery. The others that came down last year may wish to visit the National Museum. Others may wish to enjoy lunch down at the Kingston Foreshore complex or in Manuka (the Mosman of Canberra) for a shop and lunch or have afternoon tea at the Hyatt Hotel Canberra which is the oldest hotel in Canberra just across Commonwealth Ave near old parliament house Maybe take a drive up to the Mount Ainslie Lookout Mount Ainslie Drive, Ainslie, it has been rated the best view in Canberra and looks over the War Memorial straight up Anzac Drive to the New Parliament House All these venues are a less than 15 min drive from the National Capital Exhibition
5.30pm	Leave Motel for Evening Meal down by the lake at Snapper & Co at the yacht club
6.00pm	Arrive at Snapper & Co. Mariner Pl, Yarralumla ACT 2600 (next to Canberra Yacht club)

Wednesday 12th November

	Breakfast at the Motel
8.45am	Assemble at Motel entry ready to leave for the Canberra Deep Space Centre for a guided tour. The tour is free of charge; it's a 45 min drive to the complex.
10.00am	Assemble at the Canberra Deep Space Centre for our guided tour of approx. 90mins
12.00pm	Leave the Deep Space Centre to drive to Lanyon Homestaed, drive back along the road we came down but travelling down through Tharwa Road
1.00pm	Lunch at the Lanyon Homestead café then after lunch tour around the homestead and grounds.
3.00pm	Head off at your leisure to return to our motel
6.00pm	Dinner at the Harmonie German Club, next door to our Motel

Thursday 13th November

	Breakfast in the Motel.
	Pack up and check out of the Motel. (Don't forget to fill the car with fuel).
9.30am	Gather in front of the Garden City Motel for a quick talk before heading off to the Australian War Museum.
	Drive to the Australian War Memorial (GPS Treloar Cresent, Campbell, ACT)
10.00am	Enjoy the Australian War Memorial, the new Anzac section is now open so those who travelled down last year can tour this section and the newbies can tour the old section. Tours are ad hoc and so roll up to the tour desk to list yourself for the next tour for the section you wish to look at.
12.00pm	After your tour I suggest we meet at the Australian War Memorial café (across the road) it's called Poppy Café for lunch before we head off home
After Lunch	Bid farewells for a safe trip home.

ROSES
Cafe & Bar
GOULBURN NSW

59 Verner Street, Goulburn

The Rose Family has created a cafe that emulates their combined love of food and entertaining. Carole and Michael Rose began this adventure in 2006, along with their four daughters, in Goulburn.
Their dream was to create a cafe and space that was different to the rest.





Our Accommodation

Best Western

Garden City Hotel

55 Jerrabomberra Avenue Narrabundah, Canberra,

Ph. 6295 3322

The Garden City Hotel, BW Signature Collection is Canberra's favorite 4.5-star hotel.

Great value is the Garden City Hotel's commitment - guests enjoy free Wi-Fi, free undercover parking, free Foxtel and free movies!

Conveniently located, the 4.5-star Garden City Hotel, Best Western Signature Collection is nestled in the heart of Canberra's vibrant inner-south. Just a five-minute drive from the trendy shopping and restaurant district of Manuka-Kingston, the Garden City Hotel, BW Signature Collection features 72 modern and comfortable hotel rooms, a lagoon-style swimming pool, gymnasium, conference facilities and meeting rooms, restaurant, bar and lounge.

The popular Secret Garden Bar & Restaurant is located on the ground floor and open Monday through Thursday for dinner and seven days for breakfast. Offering a range of dining options, the Secret Garden Bar & Restaurant serves contemporary cuisine in a relaxed, stylish setting.

Just ten minutes' drive from Canberra's CBD and five minutes from the Parliamentary Triangle, the Garden City Hotel is an ideal base to explore Canberra's main attractions without the bustle and noise of the inner-city.







BW | Best Western Hotels & Resorts



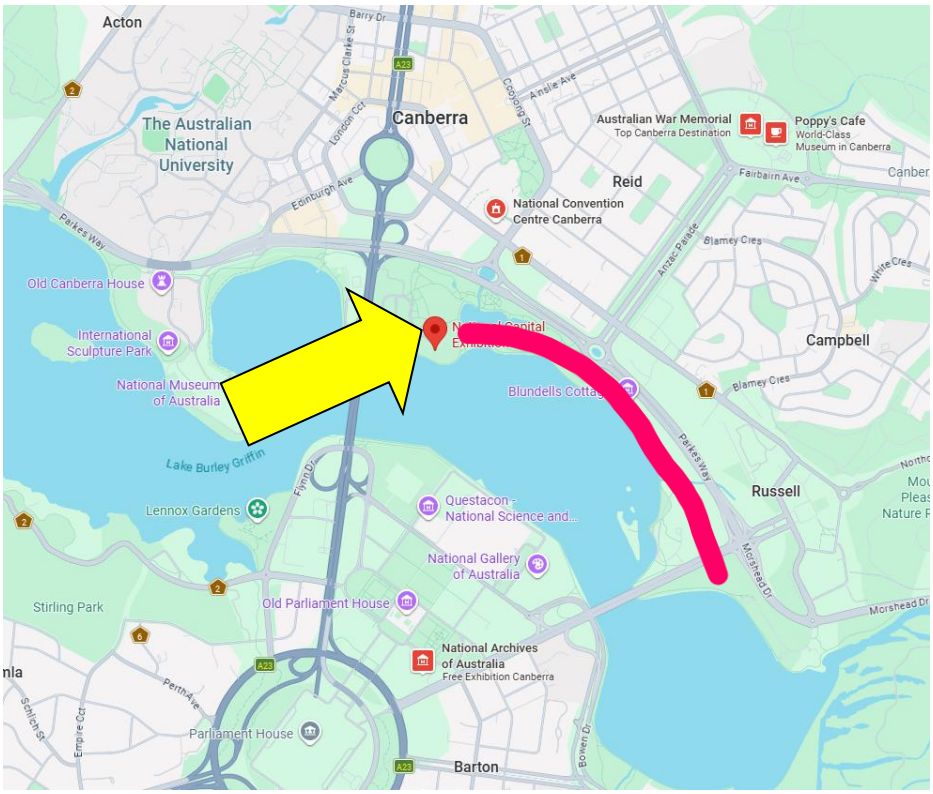
Barrine Drive, Regatta Point, Commonwealth Park, Parkes ACT

The National Capital Exhibition is an essential stop on any tour or visit to Canberra.

Explore the people and the events that shaped the story of our National Capital. From choosing of the site, the international design competition and the horticulturists behind Canberra's beautiful trees you will discover the history of Canberra.

Canberra's story was pivotal in the history of town planning. The built and the natural landscapes have equal importance to the city itself. Thanks to husband-and-wife team, Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin, who won the design competition, and Charles Weston the officer-in-charge of afforestation, all visitors and locals rejoice in the beauty of this capital city.

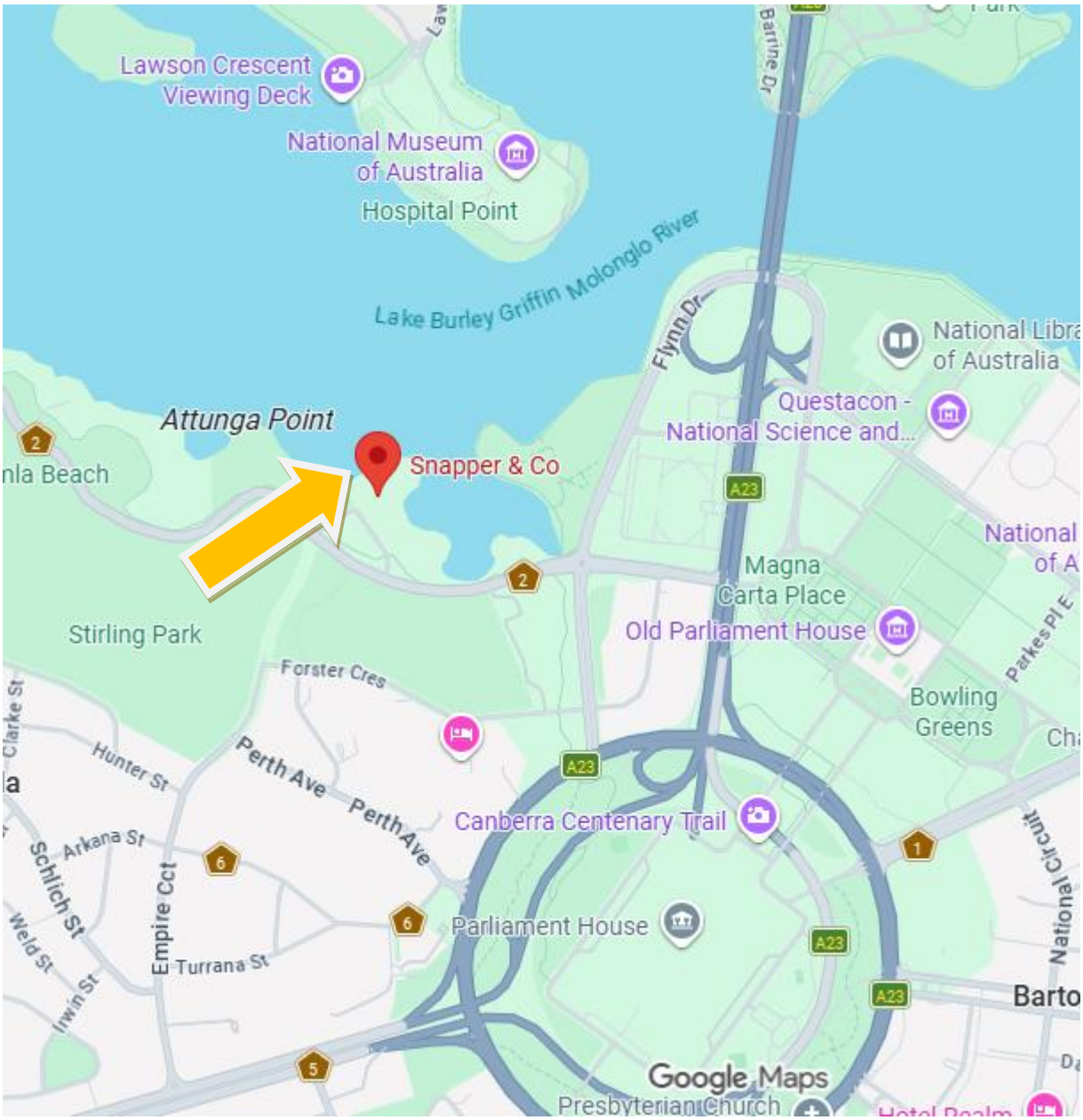
Come visit this unique story and discover more about the Nation's Capital.



Suggest a look through the exibition followed by a walk around the lake to veiw the Gallery, High Court etc across the water , the water spout in the lake, around to the Carrillion Bells

Dinner on Tuesady Night at

1 Mariner Pl, Yarralumla ACT 2600
At Canberra Yacht Club
Arive at 6.00pm, closes at 8.00pm, not BYO



DEEP SPACE NETWORK
Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex



Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex., 421 Discovery Drive, Tidbinbilla
off Cotter & Paddys River Roads

GPS Enter into your nav. systemDiscovery Drive, Paddys River District

The CDSCC Visitor Centre offers visitors the chance to learn about the role that Australia plays in the exploration of space. You can take in magnificent views of the largest antenna complex in the southern hemisphere, see a piece of the Moon that's over 3.8 billion years old, check out the latest images from across the Solar System and beyond, check out spacecraft models, plus flown space hardware and memorabilia. Discover the foods that astronauts ate on the space shuttle and space station, watch a movie on the history and future of space exploration, or take a hands-on trip around the Solar System or across the galaxy.

After deciding that the remote Woomera site was not ideal for a deep space tracking station, the search began for an alternative site. By the 1960s the growth of the National Capital was considered to be occurring at too slow a pace and pressure was placed on the Australian Government to remedy the situation. The decision was made to locate a new tracking station in the Australian Capital Territory in an effort to promote growth in the region.

The Tidbinbilla valley, 35km south-west of Canberra, was chosen due to its close proximity to a growing city, with the surrounding ridges helping to shield it from unwanted radio interference.
Construction of the complex began in June 1963 with operations commencing in December 1964, in time to support the Mariner 4 spacecraft encounter with Mars. The centrepiece of the complex was the 26-metre antenna (Deep Space Station 42). Two years later a crewed spaceflight wing was added to the complex to assist with the Apollo missions to the Moon. By 1970 the complex featured a power station, and facilities to manage the sewage and water supplies, while a cafeteria, and sleeping accommodation fed and housed the many workers on site. During early 1969 construction started on a new antenna. At 73 metres in height and weighing more than seven million kilograms, the then 64-metre antenna (Deep Space Station 43) took nearly four years to complete. The need for such an antenna was brought about by the increasing amounts of data received and the rapidly expanding distances that spacecraft were travelling. The new 64-metre antenna was more than six times as sensitive as the existing 26-metre antenna, and therefore could extend the useful lifetime of a spacecraft as its signal became weaker the further it was from Earth.

During the 1980s the Voyager spacecraft travelled billions of kilometres to investigate the 'gas giants' Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Over such distances, the signals from the spacecraft would be extremely weak and requiring more sophisticated equipment on Earth to receive them.
Consequently, in 1980 the 26-metre antenna was upgraded to become a 34-metre antenna, improving the surface of the dish and adding higher frequency receiving capabilities. Similarly in 1987, the 64-metre antenna was upgraded to 70 metres in diameter. Even today, the 70-metre antenna is the largest steerable parabolic antenna in the Southern Hemisphere.
When Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station closed in December 1981, the 26-metre antenna was relocated to Tidbinbilla and renamed Deep Space Station 46 where it was used for spacecraft positioned close to the Earth. It was retired in 2009.

In 1986 the construction of a new high efficiency 34-metre antenna (Deep Space Station 45) was completed to provide better reception at higher frequencies. The antenna was completed in time for the Voyager 2 encounter with Uranus, where it was used in conjunction with the 70-metre antenna to provide even greater sensitivity for the reception of signals. Deep Space Station 45 was decommissioned in 2016.

In 1993 the GRO Remote Terminal System (GRTS) antennas, consisting of a 4.5-metre and an 11-metre antenna, were built to support the orbiting Gamma Ray Observatory (GRO) designed to communicate with Earth via TDRS. The GRTS antennas were fixed in place, and were occasionally used to support Space Shuttle missions and the Hubble Space Telescope as they passed over the Indian Ocean and Australia. The antennas were decommissioned in 1996. Radio Astronomy has benefited from new advances in arraying techniques. Arraying is electronically linking antennas at one or more locations to increase the strength of the signal. This Very Long Baseline Interferometry technique (VLBI) was expanded into space VLBI after the completion of the 11-metre antenna (Deep

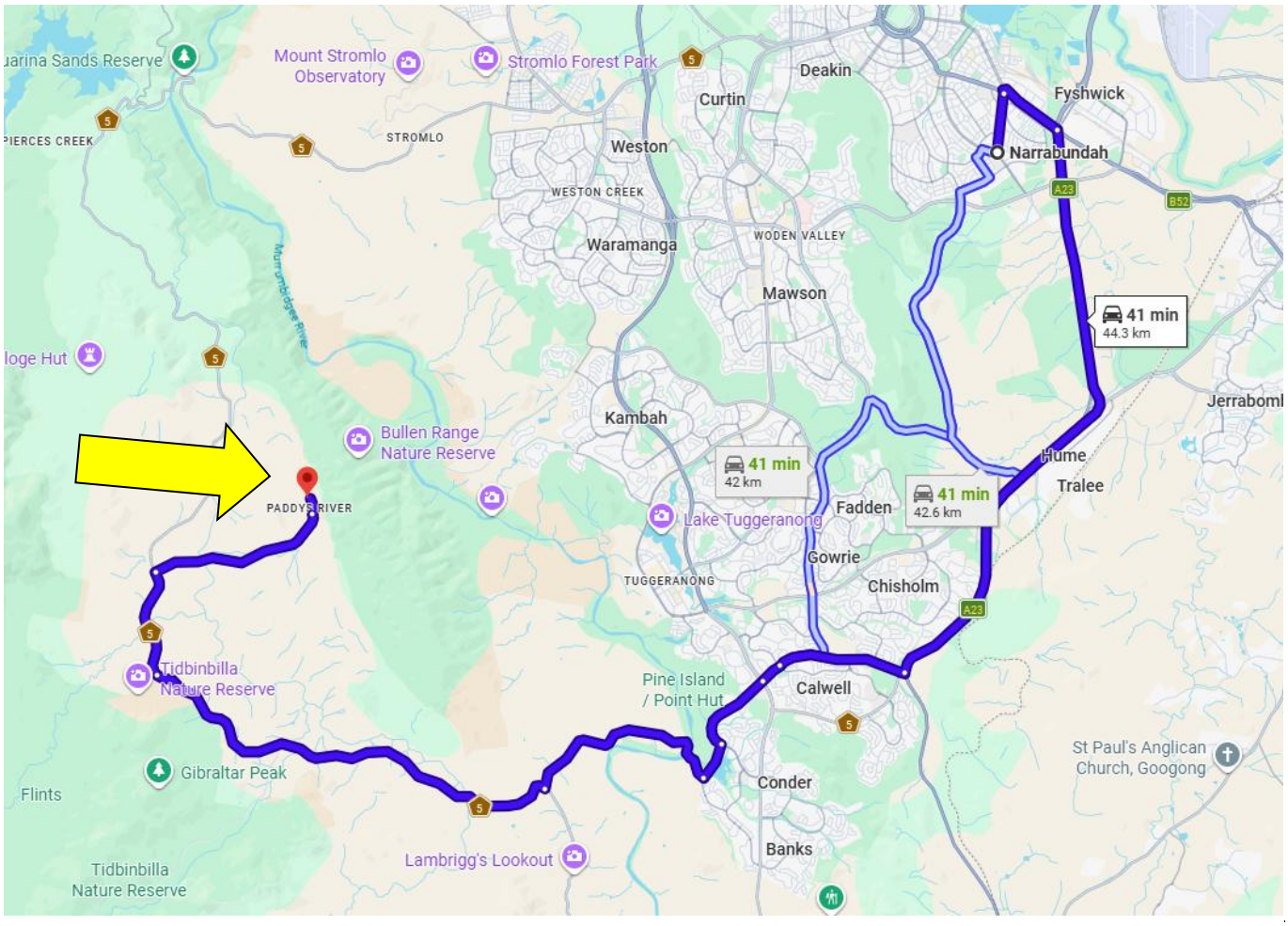
Space Station 33) in June 1996 (decommissioned in 2002). This antenna allowed communication with space based interferometer elements such as the Halca satellite from Japan. Such satellites work together with ground stations to simulate a radio telescope much larger than the Earth, increasing sensitivity.

A 34-metre Beam Wave Guide antenna (Deep Space Station 34) was built in 1997. The antenna is very similar in structure to the 34-metre High Efficiency antenna (Deep Space Station 45), however the transmission and reception equipment is located underground. This reduces the weight on the dish, minimising the strain on the antenna structure.

To ensure that the signal is focused onto the receiver the dish has a hole in the centre followed by a series of mirrors that reflect the signal downward. An added advantage of this antenna is that the receiving equipment located on the ground can undergo maintenance independent of the position of the dish.

In 1998, after almost 35 years of service, the decision was made to decommission Deep Space Station 42. There were a number of contributing factors including discontinuities in its performance, metal fatigue in the structure, and significant non-repairable wear in the drive mechanics. The antenna was removed in 2000.

Two additional 34-metre Beam Wave Guide antennas (Deep Space Station 35 and 36) became operational in 2014 and 2016 respectively.

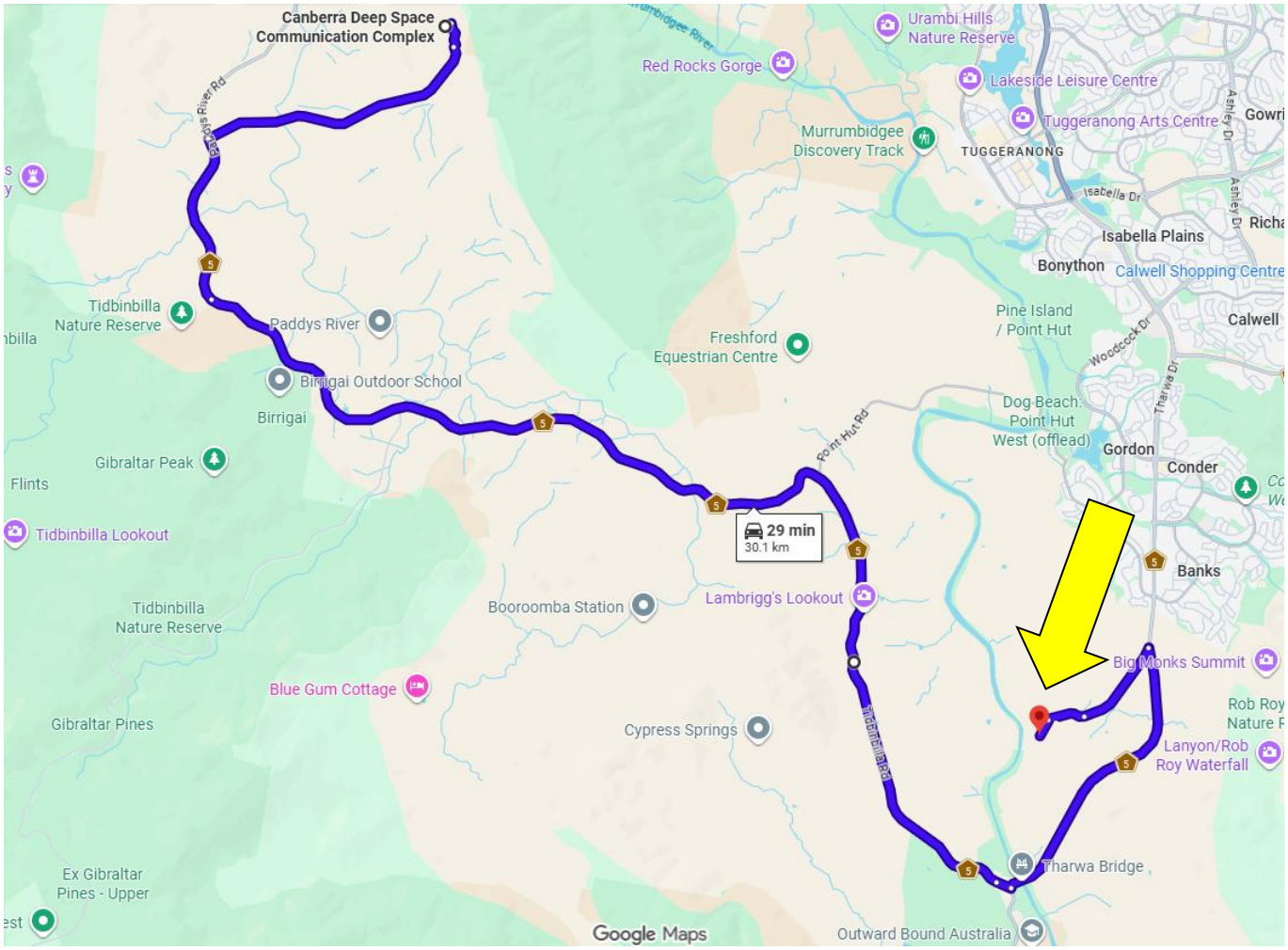


Lanyon Homestead

Tharwa Drive, Tharwa



Experience the restored 1850s homestead, discover the convict-era outbuildings, and explore the stunning gardens that make Lanyon Homestead a gem in Canberra's history.



Lanyon Homestead
Tharwa Dr, Tharwa ACT 2620

Dinner on Wednesday Night at the German Club across the road from the Motel

Guten tag! Welcome to Harmonie German Club

Get ready for plenty of food and beer





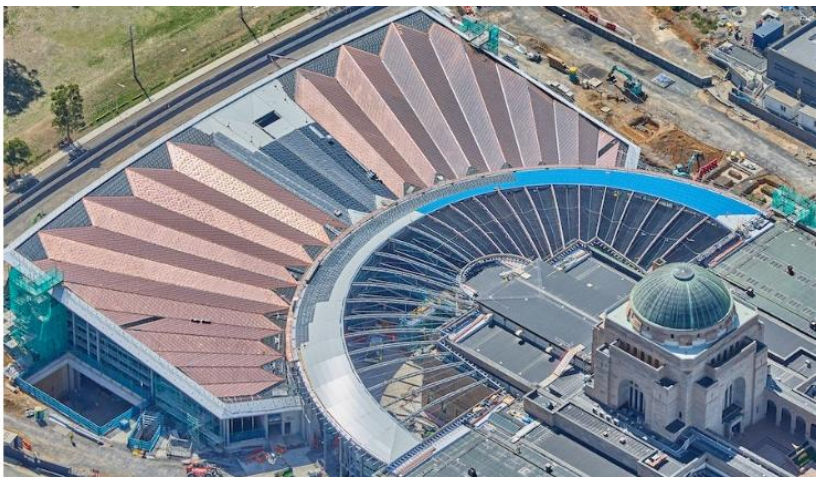


The Australian War Memorial is a national war memorial, museum and archive dedicated to all Australians who have died as a result of war, including peacekeeping duties.

Address: Treloar Cres, Campbell ACT 2612

I know we went there last year but the new extension is now opened for those who toured last year and the original section for those who didn't





The rising sun copper rof on the new section of the War Memorial

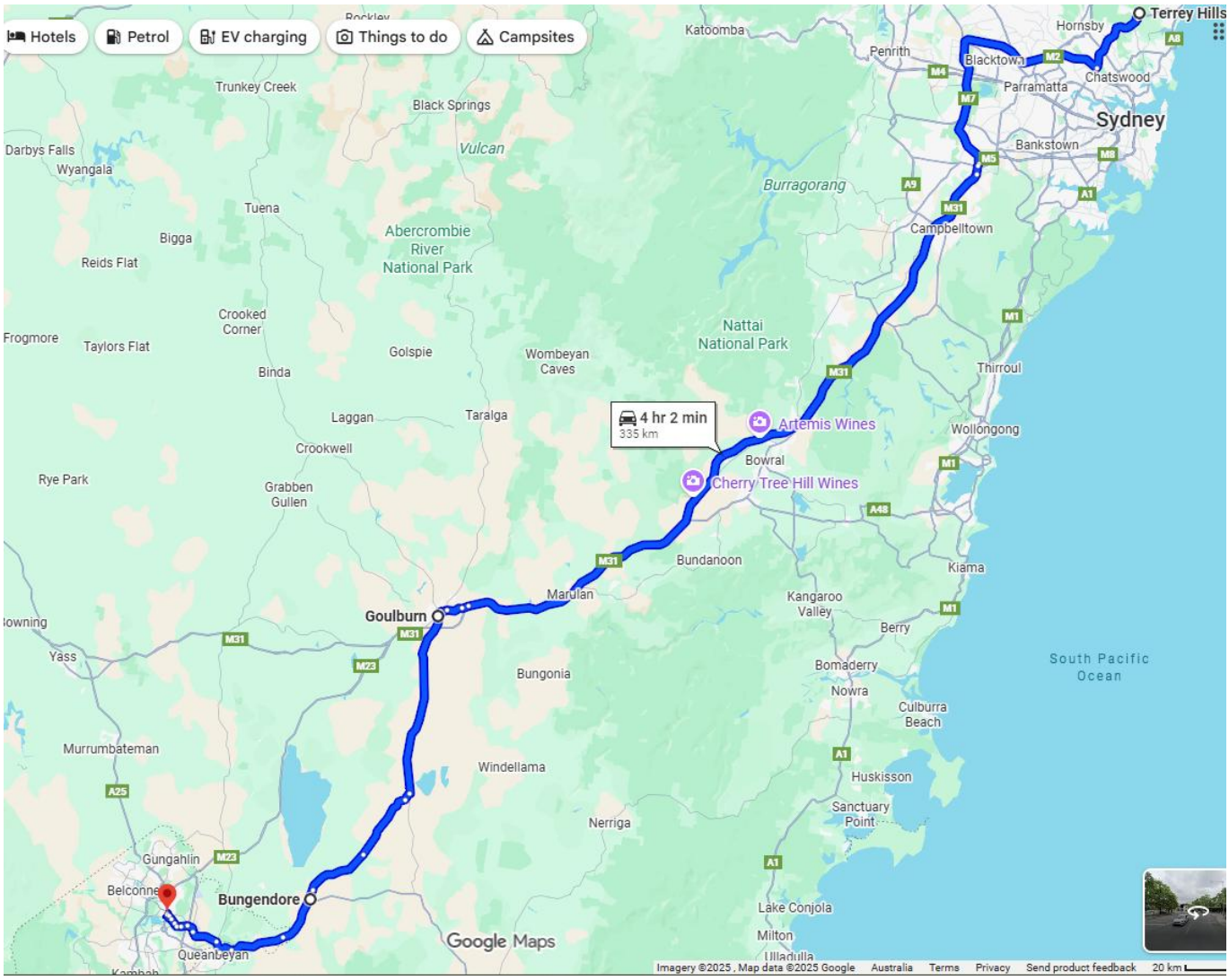




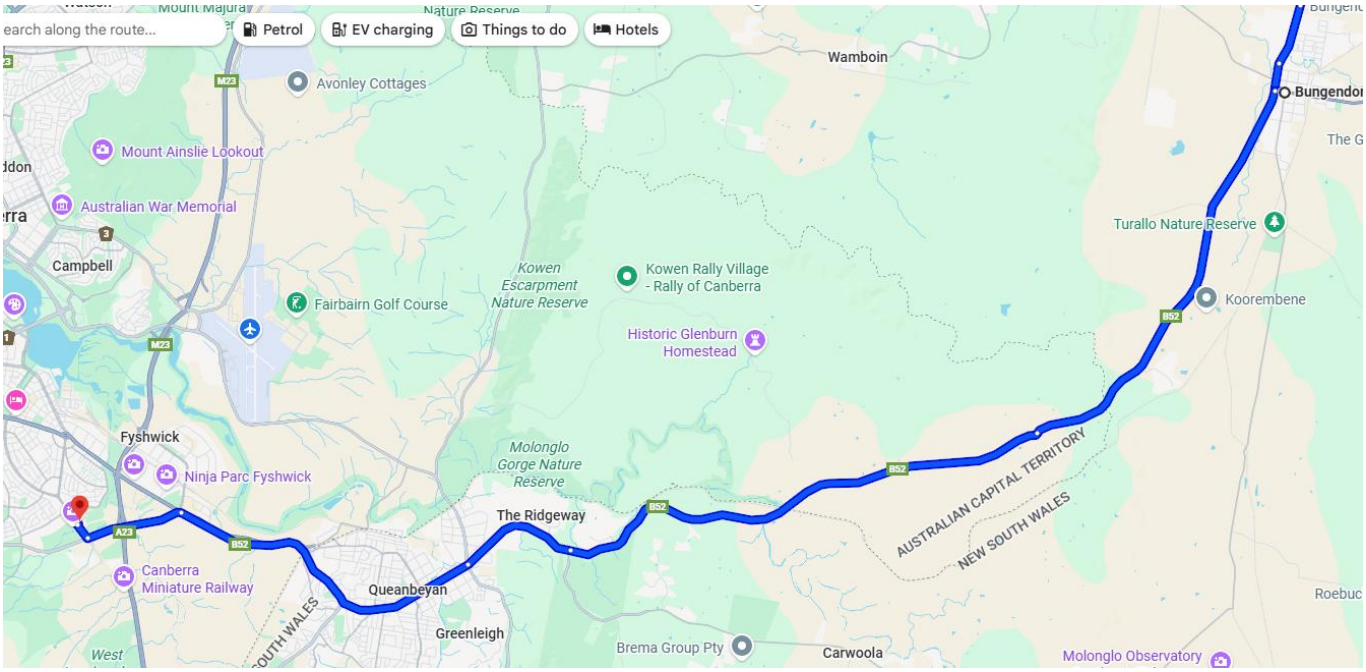
Tours are a bit haphazard at the War Memorial so it is suggested when we arrive to roll up to the tour desk on the LHS and book a tour not as a big group as they have difficulty doing this, also some people want to see the origianl section and some to see the new section or some may wish to self tour for a particular section relivant to their family history.

It is suggested we assemby for lunch in the War Memorial café (Poppy Café) accorss the road for luch around 12.00-12.30.

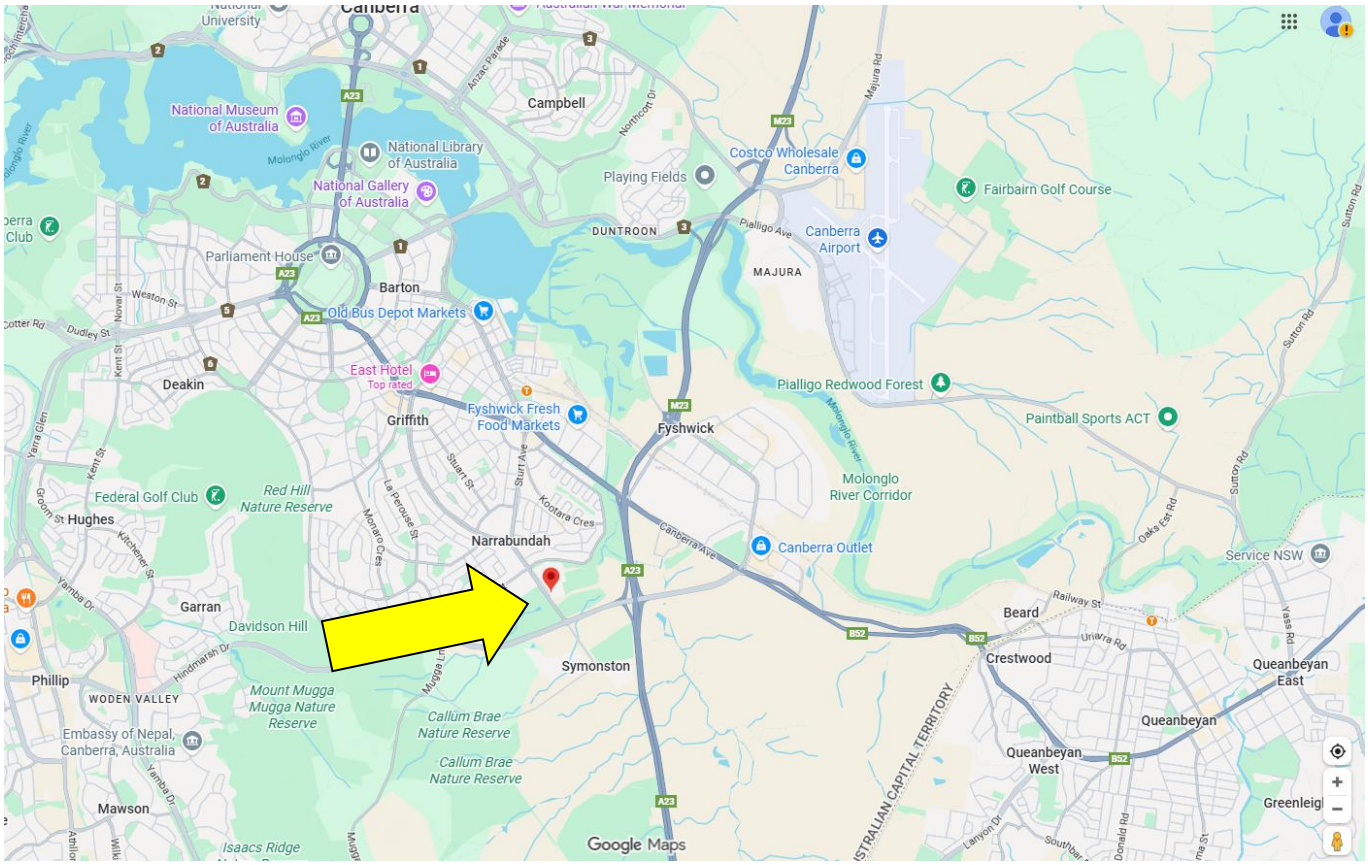
Following lunch head off for a safe trip back to our lnorthern beaches.



Sydeny to Canberra



Bungendore to Garden City Hotel



Garden City Hotel