



Dickson Library, 1968 drawing by the architect Enrico Taglietti (Source: www.enricotaglietti.com)

1956-65 Suburban streets and subdivisions

starting in 1959, streets and houses built by NCDC. Original creek re-aligned and concrete stormwater channels built in 1958-59

1958-62 Local schools opened

North Ainslie '58, St Brigid's '60, Downer '61, Daramalan '62, Dickson '62

1959-66 Dickson shops and post office

roads, shops, carparks and pool built by NCDC by 1965. Baptist Memorial Church privately built in 1964. Area paved, new post office built in 1966

1965 Downer shops and post office

opened in former farm buildings, which were heritage listed in 2011

1968-69 Dickson Library

NCDC commissioned Enrico Taglietti, an acclaimed Italian architect, to design new district library in modern style. Place heritage listed by ACT Government in 2008

Who We Are

About Us

North Canberra Community Council (NCCC) is the officially recognised peak community body representing the interests and concerns of residents and businesses within the Inner North region of Canberra. We liaise with the ACT Government, our community and other interested parties to promote and enhance the economic, cultural, social and environmental wellbeing of the North Canberra community.

Contact Us

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DICKSON-DOWNER HERITAGE WALKS

PO Box 396

Dickson ACT 2602



1943 Women's Land Army, Dickson Experiment Station (Source: CSIRO Archives)

DICKSON- DOWNER HERITAGE WALKS

*by North Canberra Community
Council and Downer Community
Association, 6 & 7 May 2017*



Dickson Experiment Station Windbreak planted in early 1940s, heritage listed in 1998 (photo by Jane Goffman)

Early aboriginal and rural history

Pre 20th century

Before European farmers, squatters and settlers arrived in the 1830s on the limestone plains, this area was home for thousands of years to the Ngunnawal people and their ancestors. Aboriginal groups lived on and moved through the hills and valleys. Waterways, forest and open grasslands provided food, medicine, and supplies. Creeks and rivers were also an important navigation tool.

1912 Walter Burley Griffin plans

(drawn up by his wife, the architect Marion Mahony) were selected as the winning design for the capital, and the Commonwealth Territory was gazetted. Freehold land was resumed and leases offered, causing many families to leave

“I have planned an ideal city, a city that meets my ideal of the city of the future”

1914-19 World War I

1919 Soldier Settlement Scheme granted small blocks to returned soldiers

1925 FCC formed

and Griffin plan gazetted. Depression years stymied plan during 1930s

1924-26 Aerodrome began at Dickson

1927 CSIR recruited Dr B T Dickson

1939-45 World War II

1940-64 Dickson Experiment Station

Dr Bertram Thomas Dickson, Chief of CSIRO Plant Division (a UK botanist and Canadian



1926 Northbourne aerodrome with RAAF De Havilland DH9 (Source: National Archives)

professor) established research farm on Griffin's Industrial Area of Dickson. Retired 1951, continued as Chair of College that became ANU in 1960 and went on to work for FAO. Succeeded by Dr Otto Frankel.

To support war effort, Dickson Experiment Station grew opium, pyrethrum, rubber, created a seed bank, bred merinos, ran experiments and trialled new farming techniques

Post-war urbanisation

1948 Town Planning Section formed

Department of the Interior hired its first senior town planner, Trevor Gibson. By 1950, Industrial Area on Griffin Plan was changed to residential and shown accordingly on new Outline Plan for city in 1951

1958 NCDC formed