

Study Item/ Area	Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions
Acton Campus Precinct	-
Building Nos. & Names	87 (South Oval), 88 (South Oval Sports Pavilion), 88T1 (Division of Information Transportable), 89 (Fellows Oval), 90 (Willows Oval), 91 (Willows Oval Tennis Courts), C002 (North Oval), C003 (North Oval Pavilion), miscellaneous tennis courts.

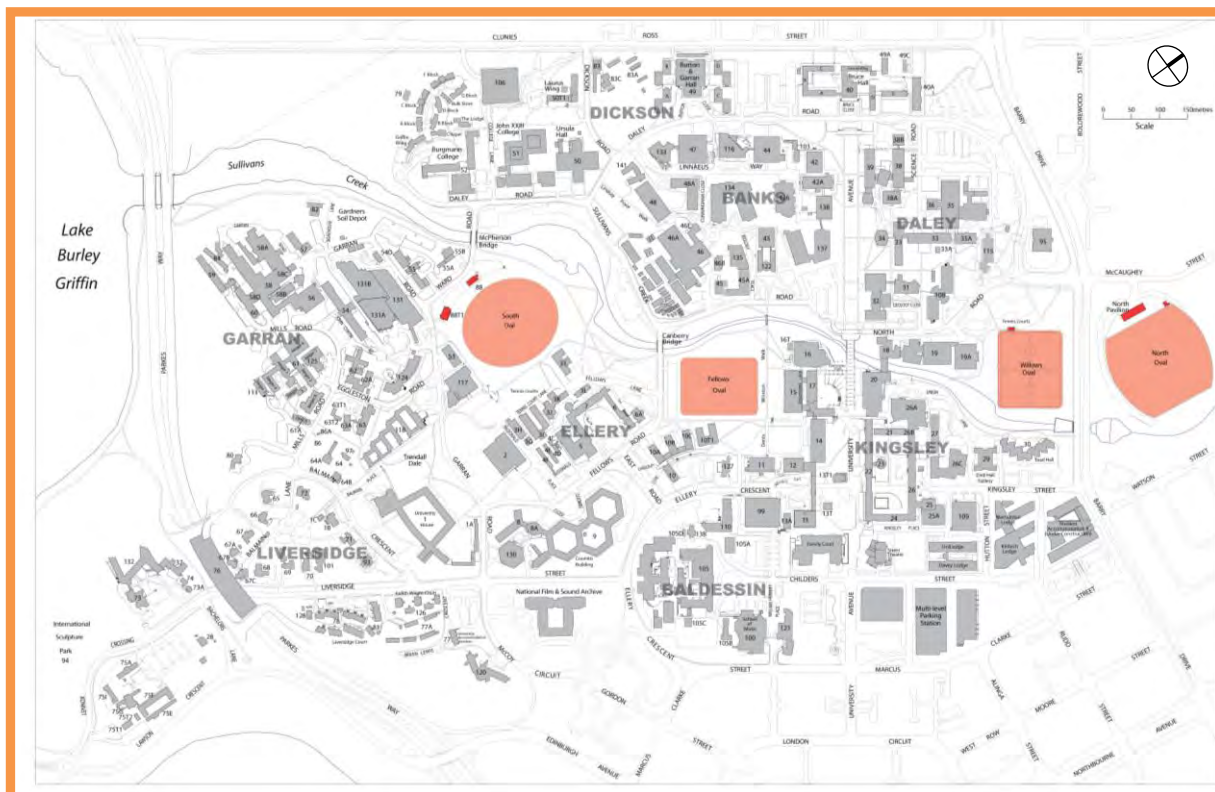


Figure 1: Location of sports ovals and pavilions within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking	Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions— Moderate —Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List
Heritage Listing	Two tennis courts are located within the Acton Conservation Area, which has been listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (Place ID 105340). No ovals or sports pavilions are individually listed on the CHL.
Condition—Date	<p>The condition noted here is at October 2011. The sporting facilities of the Acton campus continue to be well maintained and are in good condition.</p> <p>The sporting facilities of the ANU have gradually been developed over time. The tennis court at Old Canberra House date from 1914, the tennis court at the Old Hospital Buildings dates from 1930 and the remainder were developed for the University from the 1960s. The current configuration of ovals and pavilions was established in the 1960s.</p>
Relevant Documentation	No heritage assessments have previously been prepared for the sporting facilities of the Acton campus.

Context of the Buildings

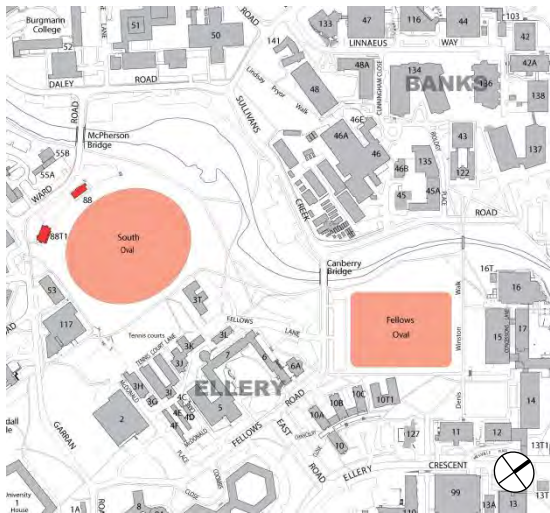


Figure 2: South & Fellows ovals in the context of the Ellery and Banks precincts.

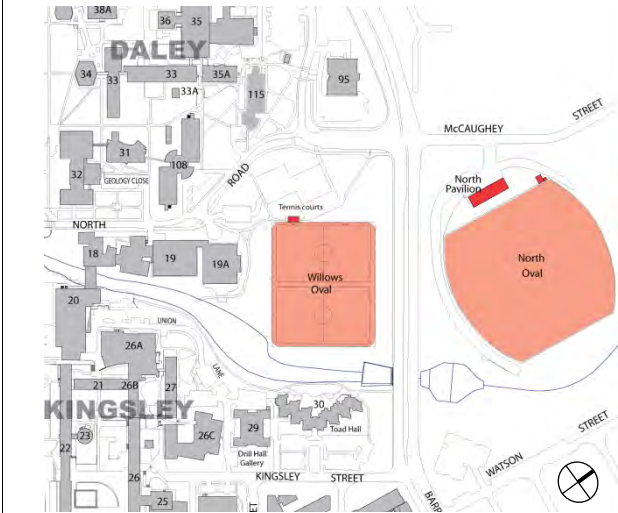


Figure 3: Willows and North Ovals in the context of the Kingsley and Daley Precincts.

Brief Historical Overview

Tennis courts

Sports facilities were an important part of the social life of early Acton during the foundation years of the Federal Territory. The first tennis court was established at the Bachelor's Quarters (Lennox House) in 1911, followed by one formed for the middle-level public servants behind the Liversidge Street cottages in 1912. Thomas Weston, Canberra's first city landscapist, planned and supervised the construction of the tennis court at the Administrator's Residence (Old Canberra House) in 1914. The Federal Capital Commission also established a court for the nurses of the Canberra Community Hospital in 1930. The only courts remaining from this early period of Canberra's development are the Administrator's court at Old Canberra House and the nurses' court at the Old Hospital Buildings.

Control of the early tennis courts fell to the University in the early 1950s and are still used regularly by staff and students. A set of double courts and weatherboard clubhouse were established to the west of the Old Administration Area in 1961. The courts have since been removed and replaced with the Fellow's Lane Cottage 'transportable' building. A group of four courts were instead formed to the south and are today heavily used. The clubhouse was burnt down in the early 1990s and was not rebuilt. A small concrete practice wall to the west of Fellow's Lane Cottage is the last remnant part of the original tennis courts.

Three sets of double courts, the North Road tennis courts, were established to the east of Willows Oval in 1974, and extended in 1987. Two of these courts were recently removed to make way for additional campus car parking. All courts were designed by the ANU.

Ovals

The ANU maintains four sports ovals on the Acton campus. South Oval site was formally levelled and the oval formed in 1961, to be reconstructed in 1994. South Oval is used for soccer, AFL and is the primary cricket pitch for the ANU. In 1965 a weatherboard pavilion was constructed to the southwest of the oval. In 2004 a small galvanised 'transportable' was erected nearby and is used by the Division of Information.

The Turner Oval was located in the north-west corner of the campus site. It has since been demolished.

North Oval was developed in 1967, followed by the original clubhouse a year later. The oval is still used, though the clubhouse has been replaced by a large galvanised auditorium and equipment store.

Willows Oval, originally an open area used by the Military Forces groups located in the Drill Hall, was engineered and levelled as an oval in 1970.

Fellows Oval was surveyed and formed in 1973. A few years later a laser tower was built on the oval by the ANU Design Section, displaying lights and lasers corresponding to musical notes. Fellows Oval is used heavily for lunchtime and competitive sports,

including soccer, cricket, touch football and other sports. Fellows Oval is bordered by Sullivans Creek to the west and a number of remnant willows trees to the north, demarcating the original loop of the watercourse.

Description of the tennis courts, sports ovals and pavilions

Artificial turf has been added to all tennis courts, bar the nurses' court, which remains a clay surface. They are fenced with cyclone fencing. All tennis courts are in good condition, though the small practice wall near Fellow's Lane Cottage may be impacting on nearby mature eucalypts and is in poor condition.

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

Statement of Significance

The Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions are significant in demonstrating the historic and ongoing recreational use of the campus by staff and students. These sites have been the setting for many social and sporting activities of the life of the campus.

The tennis courts included in the Acton Conservation Area are some of the earliest examples of tennis courts in the ACT.

Criteria	Assessment
<p>(a) Historic The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.</p>	<p>The Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions are significant in demonstrating the historic and ongoing recreational use of the campus by staff and students. These sites have been the setting for many social and sporting activities of the life of the campus.</p> <p>The tennis courts included in the Acton Conservation Area are some of the earliest examples of tennis courts in the ACT.</p> <p>The Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions meet criterion (a) for historic values</p> <p>Attributes</p> <p>The physical fabric of the sites and their use by staff and students.</p>
<p>(b) Rarity The place has significant heritage values because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.</p>	<p>The Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions do not meet criterion (b) for rarity values</p>
<p>(c) Scientific The place has significant heritage value because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.</p>	<p>The Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions do not meet criterion (c) for scientific values</p>

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<p>(d) Representative The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of: A class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or A class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.</p>	<p>The Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions do not meet criterion (d) for representative values</p>
<p>(e) Aesthetic The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.</p>	<p>The Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions do not meet criterion (e) for aesthetic values as this has not been formally tested</p>
<p>(f) Creative/Technical The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.</p>	<p>The Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions do not meet criterion (f) for creative/technical values</p>
<p>(g) Social The place has significant heritage value because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</p>	<p>The Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions do not meet criterion (g) for social values as this has not been formally tested</p>

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<p>(h) Associative The place has significant heritage value because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural and cultural history.</p>	<p>The Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions do not meet criterion (h) for associative values</p>
<p>(i) Indigenous The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.</p>	<p>The Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions do not meet criterion (i) for Indigenous values</p>

Photographs



Figure 5: View of Willows Oval with Toad Hall in the background. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2006)



Figure 6: The new synthetic turf of Willows Oval, installed in 2010. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)

Photographs



Figure 7: Aerial view of the Campus with original sporting ovals in 1961. (Source: ANU Archives)



Figure 8: View of Fellows Oval. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)



Figure 9: Tennis courts, 1965. (Source: ANU Archives)



Figure 10: South Oval Sports Pavilion Under Construction 1965 (Source: ANU Archives)



Figure 11: The Fellows Lane tennis courts. (Source: ANU Heritage 2012).



Figure 12: View from the south towards the Old hospital Building's tennis court and Auxiliary Canteen. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)

Management Issues

Constraints and Opportunities

Constraints arise from the identified heritage values of the Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions and the requirement under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth)* (EPBC Act) to conserve them. The significant fabric of the Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions, as indicated in the attributes above, should be conserved wherever possible.

The Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions are of moderate significance and meet the EPBC Commonwealth Heritage criteria a) historic. Elements which are of moderate heritage value and make a contribution to the overall heritage significance of ANU Acton campus and should be retained and conserved. They require care in their management and can generally tolerate some degree of change and adaptive reuse. Loss or unsympathetic alteration could diminish the Commonwealth Heritage or local heritage values of the ANU Acton campus. The Beryl Rawson Building is of low significance in that it contributes to the overall significance/values of the ANU Acton campus, however does not fulfil criteria for heritage listing on its own merit.

The **Tolerance for Change** heritage management tool, outlined in Section 7.6 of the ANU Acton Campus Heritage Study 2012, will assist in conserving heritage values through a process of change. The Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions are able to tolerate a reasonable level of change through development whereby the historic attributes and characteristics are conserved and interpreted.

Opportunities arise from the identified heritage values of the Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions. The history of the sites should be interpreted to maintain the historic and associative values of significant attributes identified in the assessments above. A greater degree of change may be tolerated if interpretation is of a very high quality and considered in any future development, which presents the identified heritage values for the future.

Recommendations

Referral to the current Heritage Management Plan for the Acton Conservation Area is required when preparing advice for alterations to the Tennis Courts, Sports Ovals and Pavilions.

If development resulting in loss of significant fabric is proposed, interpretation and a heritage impact assessment would be a prerequisite according to EPBC Act requirements.

Photographic recording for the ANU archives should be undertaken prior to any potential loss of significant fabric, buildings or landscaping in any future development

A formal assessment of the aesthetic and social values of the building should be carried out.