

Study Item/ Area	Department of Earth & Marine Sciences (DEMS), Wes Whitten Building
Acton Campus Precinct	BANKS Precinct
Building Nos. & Names	47 (DA Brown Building, DEMS), 133 (Wes Whitten Building)

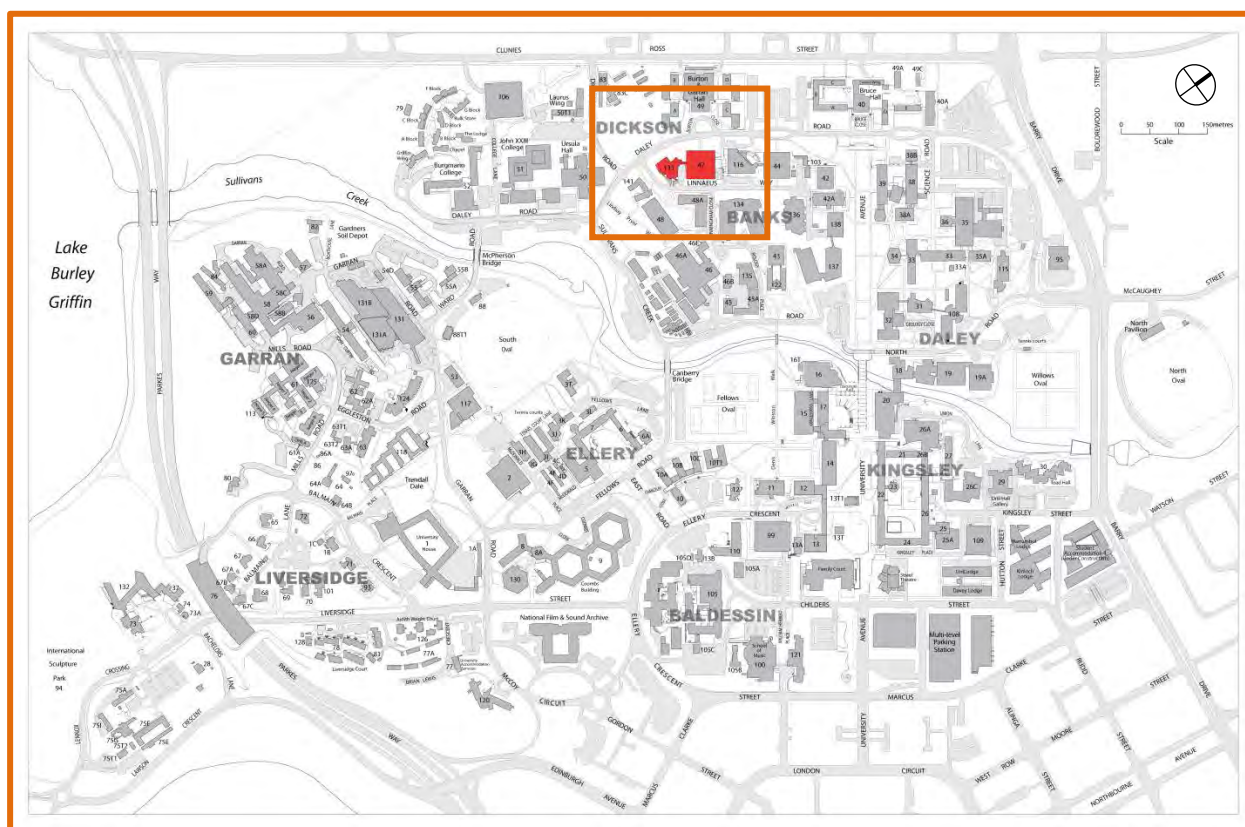


Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking	DA Brown— Moderate —Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List Wes Whitten Building— Neutral —Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List
Heritage Listing	The Department of Earth & Marine Sciences (DEMS) and Wes Whitten Buildings are not individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).
Condition—Date	The condition noted here is at March 2012. Department of Earth & Marine Sciences (DEMS) and Wes Whitten Buildings continue to be well maintained for student education and research and are in good condition.
Relevant Documentation	There is currently no relevant documentation for Department of Earth & Marine Sciences (DEMS) and the Wes Whitten Buildings.

Context of the Buildings

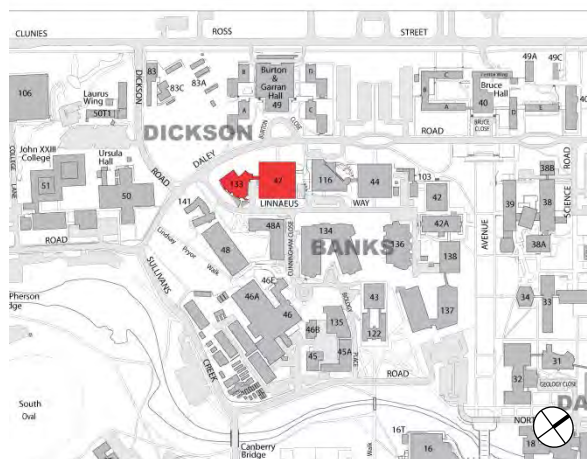


Figure 2: The Department of Earth & Marine Sciences (DEMS) and Wes Whitten Building in the context of the Banks and Dickson Precincts.

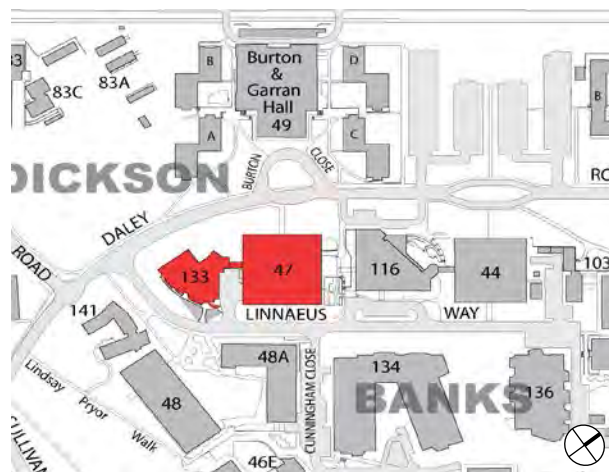


Figure 3: The Department of Earth & Marine Sciences (DEMS) and Wes Whitten Building in relation to Burton & Garran Halls.

Brief Historical Overview

The Department of Earth and Marine Sciences (DEMS), also known as the DA Brown Building, originally housed the Department of Botany in the early years of the University. The building, designed by Roy Grounds and built by LV O'Hara, was completed in June 1966. During this period the Botany Department was led by the Founding Professor Lindsay Pryor (1958-1976). Professor Pryor's contributions to the development of both the city of Canberra and the ANU are considerable, with his continuation to Charles Weston's work in the directorship of the Parks and Gardens body in 1944 -1958 for the development of the Capital. This coincided with his support and supervision of the development of the National Botanic Gardens from 1945-1958.

During the 1980s works were done to enhance the building's basement and in 1989 there was a change of tenants from the Department of Botany to the Departments of Geology and Forestry and the newly established School for Resource and Environmental Management (SREM). With this change the building required refurbishment in order to better accommodate the studies and research of the Geology Department. These were completed in 1991. In 2004 the department was renamed to be more inclusive with the title Department of Earth and Marine Sciences.

The Wes Whitten Building was constructed in 2009 by Hindmarsh Construction Company and designed by May and Russell Architects. It was constructed as an animal breeding establishment to supply research into biology and chemistry as well as teaching in these fields. Wes Whitten was the University's first Veterinary Officer and served from 1949 to 1961.

In 2010 the building won the 2010 AIB New South Wales Professional Excellence in Building Award, won by Hindmarsh for their construction of the building.

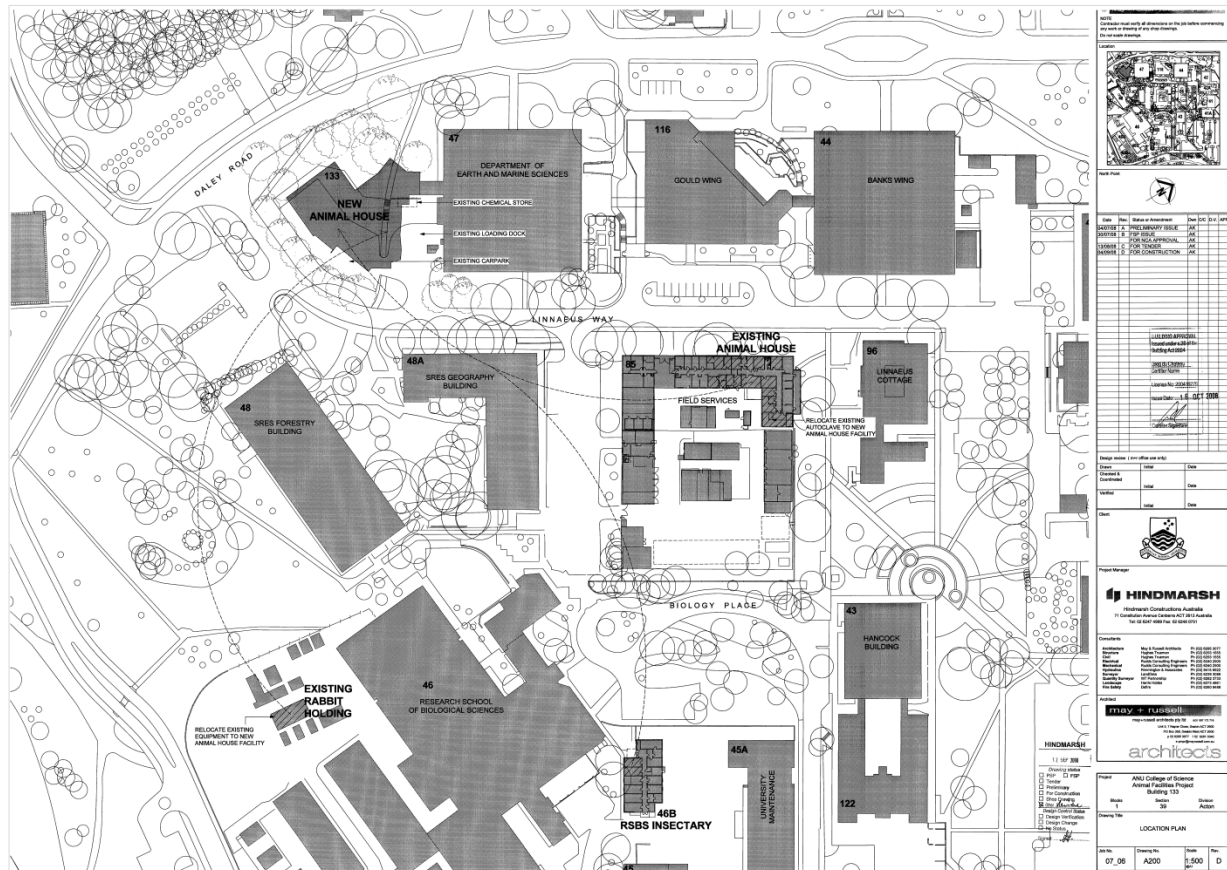


Figure 4: Site Location Plan for the Wes Whitten Building. Drawn by May & Russell Architects for Hindmarsh Construction Australia. Plan approved on October 16 2008.

Description of the Department of Earth & Marine Sciences (DEMS), Wes Whitten Building

Buildings

The DA Brown Building is a face brick, hollow square building with a metal parapet and recessed windows. The building is a single level at the west and north facades and drops to form a 'basement'. Retaining walls allow for south and east lower level external access. The upper level is organised with rooms either side of a central corridor. The internal courtyard provides light to the inner rooms.

The basement was extended in 1988 for the occupation of the Department of Geology. The northern internal verandah has been in-filled with aluminium framed windows. The northern entrance is a recent addition in clear anodised aluminium window and door suites with pre coated metal cladding below and to the parapet.

The upper level foyer has seven different granite slab paving units and painted brickwork walls. It is constructed of brown and black face brickwork with vinyl tiles and suspended ceilings. Lower level walls are all black brickwork.

Externally the building is constructed of brown face brickwork with copper parapet and window sills. Windows are clear anodised aluminium.

The Wes Whitten Building is a metal framed partial two storey building. It has a combination brick and metal cladding exterior with painted metal plumbing. The interior includes suspended ceilings, painted plasterboard walls and patterned grey carpet tiles in the administrative sections of the building. The laboratory sections of the building have similar suspended ceilings and waterproof plasterboard walls with vinyl flooring, custom doors and stainless steel appliances.

Landscape

The landscape of the area contains predominantly grassy lawns with heavily manicured shrubs in beds. There are also mature eucalypts along the Daley Road aspect of the building.

Summary Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

Statement of Significance

Criteria	Brief Assessment
(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>The DA Brown Building originally housed the Department of Botany in the early years of the University and currently houses the Department of Earth and Marine Sciences (DEMS). The building was designed by Roy Grounds (of Boyd, Romberg and Grounds Architects) in 1966.</p> <p>During its time as the Botany Department, the building department was led by the Founding Professor Lindsay Pryor (1958-1976). Professor Pryor's contributions to the development of both the city of Canberra and the ANU are considerable, with his continuation to Charles Weston's work in the directorship of the Parks and Gardens body in 1944 -1958 for the development of the Capital.</p> <p>The DA Brown Building meets CHL criterion (a) for historic values.</p> <p><i>Attributes</i></p> <p>The building and its association with Lindsay Pryor.</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>The DA Brown Building does not meet criterion (b) for rarity values.</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>The DA Brown Building does not meet criterion (c) for scientific values.</p>

Summary Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

(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.

The DA Brown Building does not meet criterion (d) for representative values.

(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.

The DA Brown Building does not meet criterion (e) for aesthetic values.

(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.

The DA Brown Building does not meet criterion (f) for creative/technical values.

(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.

The DA Brown Building does not meet criterion (g) for social values.

Summary 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 DA Brown Building is strongly associated with several key figures in the history of the University including its namesake David Alexander Brown, the foundation Professor of geology at the ANU.</p> <p>The building is also notably associated with Professor Lindsay Pryor, the founding professor of the Department of Botany at the ANU and major contributor to the development of the natural environment of the capital and the foundation of the National Botanical Gardens. During this period the Botany Department was led by the Founding Professor Lindsay Pryor (1958-1976).</p> <p>Professor Pryor's contributions to the development of both the city of Canberra and the ANU are considerable, with his continuation to Charles Weston's work in the directorship of the Parks and Gardens body in 1944 -1958 for the development of the Capital.</p> <p>Attributes Associations with DA Brown and Professor Lindsay Pryor.</p>
<p>(i) Indigenous The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.</p>	<p>The DA Brown Building does not meet criterion (i) for Indigenous values.</p>

Photographs



Figure 5: View of the north entrance to the DA Brown Building. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 6: View of the interior of the DA Brown Building showing enclosure of verandahs to the internal courtyard. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2010)

Photographs



Figure 9: View of the inlaid granite slabs forming a feature in the foyer of the DA Brown Building. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2010)



Figure 8: View of the Wes Whitten Building set into the landscape. (Source: <http://www.mayrussell.com.au/projects/institutional/the-australian-national-university-wes-whitten-building/>)



Figure 7: Main entrance of the Wes Whitten Building. (Source: <http://www.mayrussell.com.au/projects/institutional/the-australian-national-university-wes-whitten-building/>)



Figure 10: View of the interior laboratory space of the Wes Whitten Building including purpose built and installed equipment. (Source: <http://www.mayrussell.com.au/projects/institutional/the-australian-national-university-wes-whitten-building/>)

Management Issues

Constraints and Opportunities

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

The DA Brown Building is of moderate heritage values and meets CHL Criteria (a) historic and (h) associative. Elements that 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 a low degree of change or some change and adaptive reuse. Loss or unsympathetic alteration could diminish the Commonwealth Heritage or local heritage values of the ANU Acton campus.

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 DA Brown is able to tolerate some level of change through development whereby the attributes and characteristics are conserved and interpreted. The Wes Whitten building can tolerate a substantial amount of change.

Opportunities arise from any future identifiable heritage values of the DA Brown Building. 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

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 DA Brown Building should be carried out.