

## Canada and Australia Relations Begin with Trade 1895

In January 1895 when John Short Larke disembarked from the *Warimoo* at Sydney Harbour to take up his assignment in Australia, he became the first emissary appointed by the Government of Canada to any country in the world.

Larke's instructions included: "to collect information both on the general trading requirements in Australia and specific trade opportunities" and "to promote trade between Canada and Australia in every possible way".

His efforts stimulated trade in a wide range of goods including textiles, carriage wheels and cereals. Canadian exports increased ten-fold during his time. Larke continued to promote Canadian trade in Sydney until just before he died in 1910. His descendants are still doing business in Australia.

He also played a significant role in the establishment of the Pacific cable which helped bridge the vast ocean between Canada and Australia. Larke is recognised for his efforts in improving shipping services between the two countries.

## Diplomatic Relations Established 1939

Although the first known Canadian arrived in Australia from Montreal in 1790, official relations were not established until the advent of World War II.



In September 1939, with the outbreak of war in Europe, Canada and Australia agreed to establish full diplomatic relations and despatched envoys to each other's countries.

Canada was the first country apart from the United Kingdom to establish a diplomatic mission in Canberra during World War II. Its first envoy, Charles J. Burchell, arrived in May 1941 after having had a difficult time travelling to Australia during the war.

In June 1940, the mission established its first offices in Casey House, State Circle, which was a former residence of the Honourable Richard Casey, Australian Treasurer and later Minister for External Affairs, before he became Lord Casey and Governor-General of Australia.

## High Commissioner's Official Residence 1950

The Official Residence located at 32 Mugga Way, Red Hill, was built in 1929. It was purchased by the Government of Canada in 1950 as a residence for the Canadian High Commissioner.

The residence has historic significance and is listed within the Red Hill Conservation Area in the Register of the National Estate.

The Red Hill Conservation Area is one of the most important areas of early housing in Canberra. It was planned by Sir John Sulman in 1924 within the road layout in Walter Burley Griffin's Official Plan of Canberra.