

Australian Capital Territory

Public Place Names (Forde) Determination 2007 (No 3)

Disallowable instrument DI2007-222

made under the

Public Place Names Act 1989— section 3 (Minister to determine names)

I DETERMINE the name of the public place that is Territory land as specified in the attached schedule and as indicated on the associated plan.

Neil Savery
Delegate of the Minister

13 September 2007

SCHEDULE

Public Place Names (Forde) Determination 2007 (No 3)

Division of Forde: *Community Service*

NAME	ORIGIN	SIGNIFICANCE
Convine Street	Alice Maud Convine née Worster (1899-1954) 	Canberra Community Alice Maude Worster was born at Keithleigh, Yorkshire, England and William Isaac (Bill) Convine was born at Rawtensall, Lancashire, England. Alice and William married in 1920. William Convine served with the West Riding Regiment in France in the First World War. Initially a drummer, later a Lewis gunner, he was in the trenches for some years until badly wounded by shrapnel. After the war, and with two children, Alice and Bill attempted to migrate to Australia but Bill was unable to pass the medical.
	and her husband William Isaac (Bill) Convine (1895-1973) 	The family movement to Australia began in late 1923 with Bill and his brother Jack arriving first. They had worked for several years in cotton mills and paid their way to Australia. After arrival they tramped from Horsham, Victoria to Junee seeking work before turning to the ACT. Alice came to Australia later on the "Osterley" in mid 1924 with her mother, two sisters, a brother (Horrie) and her two children (one a baby (Verna) who was the reason for Alice's delayed departure). Alice and Bill managed the Molonglo Workers Mess catering for the 150 men who lived there from 1925 for two years. The Mess was mainly for workers on the first Parliament House. They were assisted with their catering by Jack and Horrie Worster (Alice's brothers) and a substantial staff. Alice and Bill had three children at Molonglo: Harold, Jackie and Verna. But the family suffered extreme tragedy when the younger two (Jackie and Verna) were killed in separate accidents at the Molonglo Mess. Verna, the baby, perished by falling into a tub of boiling water being used by female staff to scrub floors and Jackie died from an accident in the kitchen of the Molonglo Mess. The couple had three more children after leaving Molonglo: Bill (junior), Geoffrey and Dion. Bill Convine was involved with brass bands throughout his life and was a member of the Third Battalion in Queanbeyan as Band Sergeant. Ironically in 1941 when the Japanese invaded New Guinea the 'Thirty Third' was sent to meet them at Kokoda and Bill remarked 'wasn't fit enough to be migrant but now fit enough to fight'. The Third Battalion was the first unit to physically stop the Japanese on land at a cost of 73% casualties. In 1944, after he returned to Australia and his

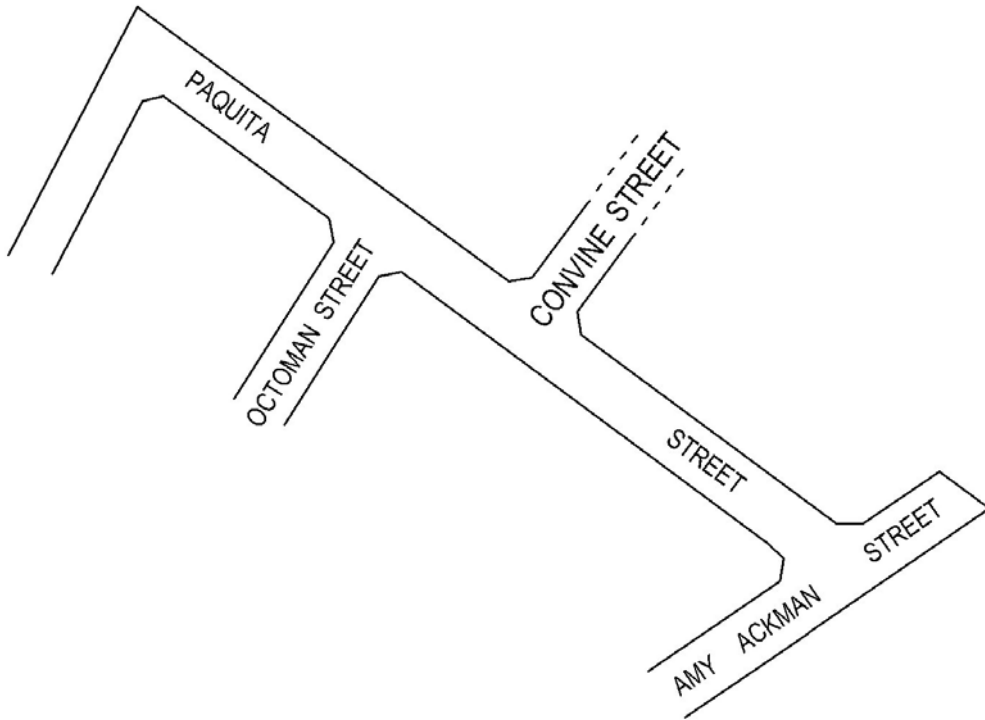
NAME**ORIGIN****SIGNIFICANCE**

discharge from the Army, Bill reformed the Canberra Band.

Bill retired as an attendant at Parliament House aged 65 and after a 'stroke' at age 72 was forced to retire from the Canberra Band. He lost part use of his left leg and 'couldn't keep up in the marches'.

Alice had an outstanding singing voice, was an avid short story writer and was well known locally as a clairvoyant. While working for the Red Cross she 'manned the 'Red Cross Tent' every festival day, mainly at the 'old Acton Racecourse', where she read palms and cards for two shillings a sitting for the Red Cross. Many people sought out her forecasts and she was also conveyed to the Lodge for 'sittings' on a regular basis.

Alice was a trained cook and specialised in pastry cooking including cake decorating; and after the worker's Mess she opened her own pastry shop. During the depth of the depression "swaggies" were never turned away without a 'cornish pastie' and a 'hot cuppa' to help them on their way.



DIVISION OF FORDE