



# Welcome to Canberra . . .

*'Marvellous May in the Capital'*

Hi Everybody

May is one of my favourite times of the year. The summer heat has passed and we are enjoying the lovely rich colours of the Canberra autumn with sunny days and beautiful blue skies. Last month, one of Canberra's international students undertook an internship with our team and observed the way that we support our new arrivals through the Canberra Settlement Service. His thoughts are below. All the best to you and your family.

## Julianne

Hello Friends, my name is Juan E. Dayang, Jr., a Filipino intern at the Skilled and Business Migration (SBM). I arrived in Canberra in January last year for a doctoral program in Diplomacy at the ANU. Canberra is an ideal place for learning. It has a world-class university, boasts of renowned research centres and policy think-thanks, and provides access to national government agencies. I had the opportunity to observe up-close how SBM promotes skilled migration, assists in the processing of applicants, and takes great care in assisting new migrants settle and start an exciting new life in Canberra.

The SBM, headed by Julianne with her teammates Michele, Pat and Parveen, has set up the Canberra Settlement Service (CSS) with the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Service (MARSS). Andrew, the CSS project officer, is an amazing gentleman who takes care of the needs of clients in a professional and sympathetic manner. Looking for a job can be daunting for those who are new to the Australian job market. No worries, the CSS assists in the job preparedness of skilled migrants within six months after arriving in Australia. The program includes cultural awareness information and training sessions and "Job Ready" seminars where clients can meet and talk with experts in job preparation and the employment sector.

A Colombian migrant recently landed a job in the Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. She thanks CSS for helping her write her CV, respond to selection criteria and assigning her a mentor to help her understand the labour market and gave her relevant information relating to the job hunting process. She now offers to share her experience with new skilled migrants who are undergoing the same challenges she went through.

What is exciting about the program is that clients have themselves become settlement volunteers. They create a community of helping hands for mutual support by building social networks. Indeed, Canberra is a caring and sharing city.

## What's Happening in May?

- [Canberra International Music Festival:](#)
- [Brumbies vs Lions Super 15 Action:](#)
- [Bell Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing:](#)
- [Walk Safely to School Day:](#)
- [Australia's Biggest Morning Tea:](#)
- [Inner Worlds: Portraits and Psychology:](#)

## HOT SPOTS

### [Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve](#)

Tidbinbilla offers outstanding wildlife viewing, the Sanctuary wetlands, bushwalking, great BBQ spots and fun for kids on the Discovery Playground. Only 40 minutes from Canberra City.

## QUICK LINKS

- [ACT Skilled Migration Program](#)
- [Visit Canberra](#)
- [Live in Canberra](#)
- [Arts Around Canberra](#)
- [Map of Canberra](#)
- [Events in the ACT](#)
- [Canberra Kids](#)

## SETTLEMENT SERVICES

The ACT Government offers a range of free settlement services to help new migrants move to Canberra. These include:

- a dedicated 'Welcome to Canberra' team member who will be in contact with you throughout the whole process;
- a meet and greet service on arrival;
- a two-hour guided tour of Canberra; and
- accommodation assistance and employment support.

For further information contact Pat or Michele at: [welcometocanberra@act.gov.au](mailto:welcometocanberra@act.gov.au)

## THE MIGRATION TEAM



Photo: Pat, Michele, Julianne, Jeannine, and Parveen

## Government Services

### [Fix My Street:](#)

This site allows you to report things that need fixing in your street, like pot holes, street lights, graffiti, cracked footpaths, over grown grass, litter, noise pollution and more.

## London — June 2011

Julianne will be visiting London again in early June. If you would like to arrange to meet up for a coffee and to 'talk Canberra', email your request to [businessmigration@act.gov.au](mailto:businessmigration@act.gov.au).



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