



Welcome to Canberra ...

CHRISTMAS TIME IN THE 'CAPITAL'

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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 Jenny at: welcometocanberra@act.gov.au

THE 'MERRY' P-JAY'S TEAM



Left to right: Pat, Jeannine, Jenny and Julianne.

HOT SPOT

Canberra Centre

The ultimate shopping destination offering the city's best collection of fashion, lifestyle and food retailers.

Hi Everybody

This is our last newsletter for 2009. It has been a very exciting and busy year for our team. Pat and Jeannine have processed a record number of sponsorship applications and we have almost cleared the backlog. Jenny has welcomed over 300 new arrivals from all around the world to our beautiful city.

We will be closing the office on 24 December 2009 and heading off to the beach. The splendour of the South Coast, with some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, is less than a two hour drive away.

Imagine warm sunny days, lots of suntan cream and crystal white beaches where you can walk for long distances and not see another footprint, except for the endless tracks of sea birds. **Imagine** smelling the fresh, salty sea breeze from the clear waters of the Tasman Sea. **Imagine** hundreds of kilometres of pristine beaches unspoilt by high rise buildings or urban development. **Imagine** standing on the edge of a cliff and watching the famous surfing Bottlenose Dolphins, or seeing a whale and her calf during the migration season. **Imagine** your kids running free around the caravan park, chasing the ice cream van while you relax with friends enjoying a couple of 'coldies'. Beach holidays and enjoying quality time with the family are an essential part of the Australian way of life that we all enjoy.

We wish you a safe and happy Christmas holiday. We will be back in touch in February 2010 with more news about our wonderful home—Canberra.

Julianne

What's Happening?

- **A Feast of Free Entertainment, Live at Lunch (Now Until February 2010):** 'Groovin' in the City' will showcase some of Canberra's best live music and performances, adding to the buzzing atmosphere of the Canberra City lunch crowd. Each weekday between 12.30 pm–2 pm, enjoy a different entertainer at a different location throughout Civic.
- **New Year's Eve in the City (31 December 2009):** Canberra's city centre will be the place to party and welcome in 2010. A huge New Year's Eve is guaranteed as two sites in Civic play host to a packed program of entertainment, including a family concert in Civic Square, a dance party in Garema Place, and two dazzling fireworks displays at 9 pm and midnight. **From 7 pm**, the main stage in Civic Square will be the place for families and music lovers of all ages to come along and experience a range of fantastic performances by four live bands. At 9 pm the first of two fireworks shows will announce the imminent arrival of the New Year, with Civic Square being one of the best spots to view the spectacle. This is a fantastic opportunity for parents to bring their children to Civic to enjoy the early fireworks that promise to be even bigger and better than last year! **From 9 pm** Garema Place will feature top local DJs counting down to midnight with all the dance hits of 2009. One of Canberra's most state-of-the-art pyrotechnic displays will top off the night, with the fantastic fireworks set to an amazing soundtrack that will herald in the New Year.
- **Australian of the Year Awards and Australia Day Live Concert (25 January 2010).**
- **Australia Day in the Park (26 January 2010):** 2010 is shaping up to be a fantastic celebration where Canberrans and Australians join to celebrate what's great about being in the nation's capital on Australia Day. Commonwealth Park will be the place to be, with a **Big Breakfast, Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony**, the ever popular **Children's Festival**, great bands and entertainment and to finish it off, the **Australia Day Fireworks** Finale over Lake Burley Griffin. We can't wait for Australia Day 2010!
- **Live in Canberra Welcome Events:** Don't forget to join the P-Jays at these free events which offer new arrivals a great experience in their new city with the opportunity to make a friend or two along the way.

