



Welcome to Canberra . . .

'Springtime in Canberra'

Hi Everybody

Spring is one of the few times in Canberra when I regret working in an office. If I was a gardener I could sit under a tree and enjoy the glorious springtime weather in the Capital. Instead, I sit at my desk and look out the window - the sun is shining, the sky is a glorious blue and the temperature is a delightful 24 degrees.

Our fabulous free celebration of spring, 'Floriade is over for another year. Over 450,000 people enjoyed this stunning flower festival. They were 'intrigued by the garden bed designs; captivated by the artistic entertainment; fascinated with the engaging exhibitions, demonstrations and workshops; enjoyed family time with fun kids' activities and were enchanted by the beautiful ambience of Floriade NightFest'.

Canberra is a beautiful city which blends the multicultural style of a capital city with the natural beauty of the Australian bush. Instead of high rise buildings and congestion, we enjoy parks, gardens and nature reserves. Woven through our city, the 33 nature reserves collectively known as Canberra Nature Park have given Canberra the 'bush capital image' that residents love. Wherever you are you can see grasslands or hills and ridges covered in native woodland and forests. Our parks and open space system provides places for everyone to keep active and fit for life. Residents can enjoy passive and active recreational facilities including playgrounds, fitness trails, picnicking facilities and pleasing sculptures and water features.

We are surrounded by mountains, forests, woodlands, grasslands, rivers, lakes, native flora and fauna and cultural heritage. The open countryside is less than 10 minutes drive from where you will live. It is easy to get out of the city and have a great day in the bush. There are trails and tracks suitable for bushwalking, cycling, horse riding, strolling, running, hiking, looking, smiling, chatting, deep breathing and feeling good.

Ride your bike at Stromlo Forest Park or have a BBQ along the Murrumbidgee River. Visit the Sanctuary at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and see the animals we love including platypus, koalas, emus and kangaroos. A half hour drive west of Canberra and you are bushwalking in the Brindabella Mountains.

We look forward to welcoming you to Canberra soon

Julianne

What's on in Canberra

- **Woden Valley Festival:** ↗ a Festival for community cohesion, sustainability and celebration. 5 November.
- **Wine, Roses, and All that Jazz Festival:** ↗ Twenty-one cellar doors in the Canberra District come alive with entertainment, food, activities, and of course wine tastings. 5-6 November.
- **Canberra International film Festival:** ↗ An exceptional selection of feature films and documentaries from around the world plus Australia's best new releases. Ends 6 November.
- **Sala Aghili & Razo Niaz Ensemble:** ↗ Salar Aghili's passionate and silky voice will take you back into the music, literature and culture of an ancient land named Persia. 12 November.
- **Increible Inner Space:** ↗ Discover ancient flamingo eggs, historic furniture, iron-reinforced teeth, new biopesticides, stronger alloys and next generation vaccine technology at Questacon. Until 31 January 2012.

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

THE MIGRATION TEAM



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

HOT SPOTS

Diplomatic Missions ↗

Canberra is home to over 90 diplomatic missions from around the world.