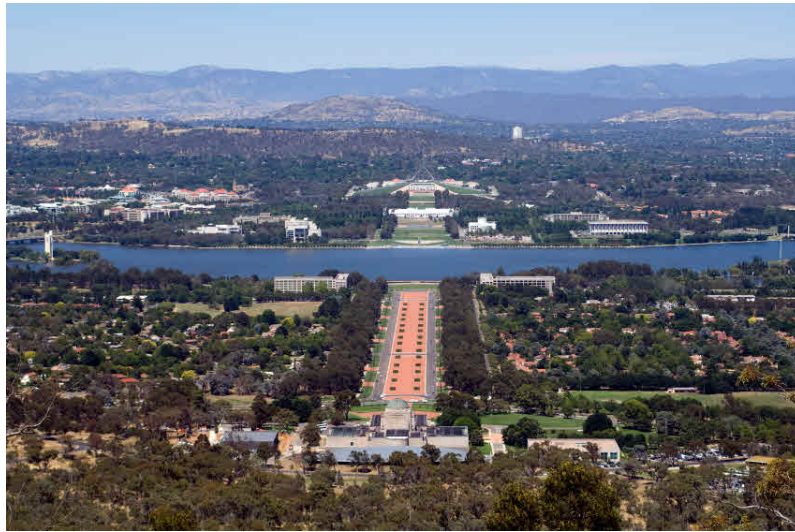




Australian Capital Territory

Australian Capital Territory



- The total area of the Australian Capital Territory is 1,440 square miles
- Canberra is the Capital of the Capital Territory
- The average temperature in January is 28 °C and
- Around 11 ° C in July

Canberra was established in 1901 (at Federation) to provide a 'neutral' headquarters for the new seat of government. Canberra situated midway between Sydney and Melbourne was a compromise between the two cities who both felt they had the greatest claim to be the Capital of Australia and the place where the government headquarters should be located.

Rising from the middle of nowhere Canberra is an oasis of low rise buildings with an abundance of local and European vegetation with glorious seasonal colour in autumn and springtime. It was planted with almost 12 million trees many of them imported from Europe in the early 20th Century.

The American architect, Walter Burley Griffin, won the international competition to design the new capital city, and it is a very attractive City despite being derided by most Australians who dislike its planned and highly ordered feel.

In the centre of the city sits a huge artificial lake around which sit the many government, law, and museum buildings. Many citizens now windsurf and sail on the lake.

Canberra has a population of 309,800 people. 60% of Canberra's residents are civil servants, many of whom leave the capital at the weekends.

Many people who work in Canberra live in hamlets or on farms outside the city on an excellent road network. Traffic Congestion is relatively unknown in the city.

Its Population may be sparse however Canberra's cultural life is very rich due to the number of important visitors, the high education level of its residents and their diverse and sophisticated interests.

The city is home to the Australian National University, the Australian Institute of Sport, the Australian National Gallery, and the Australian National War Memorial and Museum. The city also boasts many parks and recreational areas.

Useful Links

<http://www.act.gov.au/>

<http://www.visitcanberra.com.au/>