

# OUR CANBERRA

Belconnen edition



ACT  
Government

December 2017

## CANBERRA NAMED *World's 3<sup>rd</sup> Best City*

TO VISIT IN LONELY PLANET'S BEST IN TRAVEL 2018.

**CANBERRA:**  
highest ever  
ranked Australian  
city in this  
annual list.

Lonely Planet thinks that our little city packs a big punch naming Canberra the number three city to visit in the world in its 'Best in Travel Top Cities' list for 2018.

Best in Travel 2018 is Lonely Planet's annual agenda-setting collection of the world's hottest destinations, experiences and trends for each upcoming year. Canberra has ranked higher than any Australian city has ever been ranked before in the travel publisher's annual Top 10 Best in Travel lists.

Lonely Planet said Canberra has a new lease of life, a unique sense of style, cool bars, cafes and endless family friendly entertainment.

**We are world-class Canberra!**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

There are many reasons to be proud of our city and last month we felt particularly proud of how Canberrans responded to the marriage equality postal survey.

The national vote was a resounding yes, but the ACT stood out. We had the highest response rate of any jurisdiction at 82.4 per cent, which demonstrates how much Canberrans care about the future.

And we had the highest yes vote proportional to population at 74.1 per cent of any jurisdiction, demonstrating how inclusive Canberrans are.

Fairness and equality are at the heart of Australian society. Canberrans have voted for all Australians to have the same opportunities for love and happiness.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- > Chromebooks for students in years 7-11
- > Let the airport shuttle take you away
- > Check Fix My Street for info on your suburb

## BETTER CONNECTIONS TO TOWN CENTRE **A**

Buses, cyclists, pedestrians and motorists now have easier access to the Belconnen Town Centre.

The upgrade of Aikman Drive between Ginninderra Drive and Emu Bank is now complete. The dual lanes improve congestion and allow for better access to the University of Canberra Hospital, due to open around mid-2018. Landscaping along the road will create an attractive streetscape for this important connection to the town centre.



For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit [act.gov.au/ourcanberra](http://act.gov.au/ourcanberra) or follow us on social media.

**YOURsay**

For information on community consultations in Canberra, visit [yoursay.act.gov.au](http://yoursay.act.gov.au)



## **NEW APP TRACKS** TRAFFIC HOT SPOTS

Avoid traffic build ups in Belconnen by downloading a new app called 'ACT Traffic'.

Users will get audio alerts on their phone about hazards or delays, so you can find an alternative route.

The app is available on iTunes or [tccs.act.gov.au](http://tccs.act.gov.au).

## **KEEP COOL THIS SUMMER**

It's officially summer. Here are some tips to keep cool in the capital when the weather heats up.

- > Keep fluids up by drinking plenty of water. Free outdoor water refill stations are available across Canberra. For water station locations visit [tccs.act.gov.au](http://tccs.act.gov.au)
- > to beat the heat, head to cooler public places like libraries, shopping centres or cinemas and
- > don't forget to Slip-Slop-Slap.

Most importantly, check on your neighbours, especially if they are elderly.

 For more information visit [health.act.gov.au/summersafety](http://health.act.gov.au/summersafety)



## **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE** THIS CHRISTMAS

Let's be kinder to the environment this festive season.



### **RECYCLE RIGHT**

Go to the website for A-Z tips



**SAY NO TO**  
Plastic bags



**REDUCE**  
Less is more



**NOT RECYCLABLE**  
No Polystyrene



**REUSE**  
Wrapping paper



**RECYCLE CHRISTMAS TREES**  
Free real tree drop off



**REDUCE WASTE**  
Love your leftovers



**RECYCLING DROP OFF**  
Belconnen Jolly Street



For more information visit [tccs.act.gov.au/recycling-and-waste](http://tccs.act.gov.au/recycling-and-waste)



## **HOLIDAY CONTACT INFORMATION**



### **HEALTH SERVICES**

Walk-in Centres at Belconnen and Tuggeranong are free and open on public holidays from 7.30am to 10pm. Emergency Departments at Canberra Hospital and Calvary Hospital are also open.

For information or advice phone **1800 022 222** or visit [health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)



### **REPORTING CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT**

If you are concerned about the safety and well-being of a child or young person, you can notify Child and Youth Protection Services **1300 556 729**



### **ANIMAL CARE**

If you come across a lost or injured pet contact Domestic Animal Services **13 22 81** to speak with the on duty ranger.



### **PRIORITY HOUSING**

If you are seeking priority housing, please contact Housing ACT on **133 427**.



### **CRISIS ACCOMMODATION**

Anyone experiencing domestic violence during the holiday period can contact the Domestic Violence Crisis Service on **6280 0900** (24-hour service).



### **BUSHFIRE INFORMATION**

Call **000** in an emergency and stay tuned to [esa.act.gov.au](http://esa.act.gov.au) for alert and updates.



For information on holiday period operating hours for ACT Libraries, Domestic Animal Services, Yarralumla Nursery and Waste Management Services visit [act.gov.au/our-canberra](http://act.gov.au/our-canberra)






## A NEW DEVICE FOR ACT PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Every public school student in years 7 to 11 across Canberra will get a brand new Chromebook in 2018.

This device will give students the chance to participate in technology-based learning regardless of their family circumstances.

 For more information visit [education.act.gov.au](http://education.act.gov.au)




## AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR CANBERRANS

The ACT Government has a new Housing Strategy for 2018.

Almost 200 people from all over Canberra brought their energy and ideas to the Housing and Homelessness Summit in October. Information collected at the Summit has created three new strategies:

- > a \$1 million dollar Housing Innovation Fund for an affordable housing initiative
- > an affordable home purchase database
- > annual affordable, public and community housing supply targets.

 For more information visit [planning.act.gov.au/topics/affordable\\_housing](http://planning.act.gov.au/topics/affordable_housing)



## FIX MY STREET

## SEE IT. CHECK IT. REPORT IT.

A new and improved 'Fix My Street' website now offers more information on what's going on in Belconnen.

On the new website you can:

- > easily report street issues that need attention, like street lights out or graffiti
- > see what other street issues have already been reported in your suburb with the interactive map
- > check on scheduled services in your suburb, like street sweeping, mowing and bin collections.

 For more information visit [act.gov.au/fixmystreet](http://act.gov.au/fixmystreet)



## A HIDDEN TREASURE IN COOK

This summer focus on less screen time and more green time with a walk to the summit of Cook's Mount Painter.

A sealed trail will take you to the top of the 742 metre summit where you can enjoy unhindered views of Canberra. There are several access points, the most popular is on Booth Street.



## PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARDS



Vanessa Stephens, a teacher at Mount Rogers Primary School, has been named Primary Teacher of the Year at the Public Education Awards.

"I can see the students really enjoy coming into the classroom."






# LET THE AIRPORT SHUTTLE TAKE YOU AWAY



For those getting away this festive season, let Transport Canberra take you to or from Canberra Airport on the Airport Shuttle. It runs seven days a week with pick up and drop off in the City.

 For more information visit [transport.act.gov.au](http://transport.act.gov.au)



## REVISED CHRISTMAS BUS TIMETABLE

Revised bus timetables will run over the Christmas and New Year period, from 21 December to 8 January 2018.

There is a special FREE service on Christmas Day.

 For more information visit [transport.act.gov.au](http://transport.act.gov.au)

# ARE YOU BUSHFIRE READY?



After a dry winter the ACT can expect an above normal bushfire risk this summer.

Get online at [actmap.act.gov.au](http://actmap.act.gov.au) to assess the bushfire risk in your area. Select the Emergency Services tab, click on "Am I in a bushfire prone area?", and enter your address.

 Be prepared by completing a Bushfire Survival Plan which can be found at [esa.act.gov.au](http://esa.act.gov.au)




# CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN GLEBE PARK

**Kicking off on Friday 8 December are two-and-a-half weeks of Christmas fun in Glebe Park.**

The celebrations will include light displays, a Christmas forest, food and drink options, and entertainment for kids and adults.

Entry to Glebe Park will be free but some activities will request a small donation to the event's charity partner, Red Nose.

 For more information visit [cityrenewalcanberra.com.au](http://cityrenewalcanberra.com.au)



# FAREWELL 2017 IN STYLE



Get ready to celebrate the end of another year right here in Canberra. The skies will again fill with a colourful display of fireworks at 9.00pm and midnight.

In Civic Square there's an all ages concert while Garema Place will be rocking with DJ sets.

 For more information visit [events.act.gov.au](http://events.act.gov.au)



For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit [act.gov.au/ourcanberra](http://act.gov.au/ourcanberra) or follow us on social media.

YOURSAY

