MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

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!

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.

For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit act.gov.au/burcanberra or follow us on social media.

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

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.

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

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.
- 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

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
- Reduce: Less is more
- Reuse: Wrapping paper
- Reduce waste: Love your leftovers
- Say no to: Plastic bags
- Not recyclable: No Polystyrene
- Recycle Christmas trees: Free real tree drop off
- Recycling drop off: Belconnen Jolly Street

For more information visit 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.

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.
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

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

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

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.”
For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit act.gov.au/ourcanberra or follow us on social media.

**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

**ARE YOU BUSHFIRE READY?**

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

Get online at actmapi.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

**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

**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

**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

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