



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – CANBERRA

4 to 16 July 2026

LOCAL INFORMATION

Canberra is the capital city of Australia, located in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Situated in between Sydney and Melbourne, it is known for its national attractions, cultural institutions and natural beauty. The city is built around Lake Burley Griffin (formed by damming the Molonglo River) and is known as the "Bush Capital" due to its surrounding nature reserves and mountain ranges.

Canberra is a planned city, based on a design by Walter Burley Griffin, featuring a central land axis and a water axis. The city is structured around these axes, incorporating natural topography, with prominent hills like Black Mountain, Mount Ainslie, Mount Majura and Mugga Mugga (Red Hill). The commercial hub, known as Civic, is in the central part of Canberra. The original suburbs of Canberra are divided into North Canberra with its roads forming a grid and South Canberra where the roads are largely circular. Beyond the central area there are six 'satellite cities', each with its own town centre: Belconnen (the location of the ANC venue), Gungahlin, Woden, Weston Creek, Tuggeranong and the developing Molonglo. Across the border in NSW are Queanbeyan (to the east) and Murrumbateman (to the north-west). Both are growing rapidly as the population of Canberra spills across the border. More than half a million people live in greater Canberra.

The Ngunnawal and Ngambri people are the traditional custodians of the Canberra region with a continued cultural, spiritual and historical connection to the area.

About Belconnen

The Belconnen district (often called Belco by locals) is one of the satellite cities of Canberra. It is about 7 km northwest of Canberra city, in the shadow of Black Mountain and stretches to the NSW border. It was first developed in 1966 and now has a population exceeding 100 000. The district surrounds Lake Ginninderra, a V-shaped artificial lake created by damming Ginninderra Creek, a tributary of the Murrumbidgee River. Belconnen lies in the Federal electorate of Fenner.

The district is named after Belconnen, one of the earliest agricultural land grants made in the area in colonial times. The land grant of 800 hectares was made to explorer Charles Sturt who eventually sold the property to Robert Campbell, owner of the nearby Duntroon Estate.

Lying on the southern shore of the lake is the town centre of Belconnen, part of the suburb of Bruce. The Canberra Labor Club, the ANC venue, is in the town centre. The centre services the Belconnen region and includes the Westfield Belconnen Mall, the recently redeveloped Capital Fresh Food Markets, government offices, medium density housing, a bus interchange and more than 80 restaurants/takeaway food outlets. Adjacent to the town centre, to the east, is the Canberra International Sports and Aquatic Centre (CISAC), University of Canberra (UC), the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the Canberra Stadium.

Climate

With an elevation of nearly 600 metres above sea level, Canberra has a cool temperate climate with four distinct seasons. It is characterised by warm to mild summers, cold winters with frequent frosts, and low humidity. July is the coldest month of the year, with an average maximum temperature of 12°C and an average low just above zero. The mean monthly rainfall is less than 45 mm, falling on an average of ten days in the month. The typical sunny day may start with frosts but warms up quickly. Overcast days may not be frosty but can be foggy and remain cold all day. Snow is rare in Canberra but is often visible on the surrounding mountain peaks in winter. If going outdoors for an extended time in the Canberra winter, we recommend a jacket, gloves, beanie and scarf.

If you are planning to travel to or from Canberra on an early flight in winter, be aware that morning fog may cause temporary airport closures and/or flight delays.