



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – CANBERRA

4 to 16 July 2026

CANBERRA AND BELCONNEN - LOCAL INFORMATION

About Canberra

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 Ngannawal 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 (see map below). 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 and takeaway food outlets. Adjacent to the town centre, to the east, is the Canberra University, the Australian Institute of Sport and the Canberra Stadium.

Map of the Belconnen town centre

