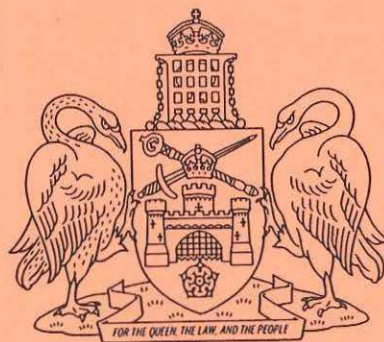


# CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL



# C A N B E R R A

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL



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# ArchivesACT Research Guide

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## CANBERRA

Canberra, a local name of aboriginal origin, is pronounced with the first syllable heavily accented. This city is the national capital of Australia and was built entirely in this century - in fact, its full-scale development was undertaken as recently as 1958, although there had been steady building for forty years before that.

From the beginning, the traditions of careful town-planning, garden setting and public ownership of land have been jealously guarded.

The central areas of Canberra are boldly planned as grand avenues, vistas and government buildings around a large lake. The residential areas are a series of districts each containing a number of neighbourhoods.

Apart from being the seat of government of the Commonwealth of Australia (and therefore the headquarters of most Commonwealth departments), Canberra has become a notable diplomatic, academic and scientific centre and a base for some units of the armed services.

Development and population growth are very rapid. From a population of only 14,000 in 1946 and 39,000 as recently as 1958, the city already has a total of 100,000 and should reach 250,000 about 1980.

Such an explosive growth rate is being accomplished with surprisingly little discomfort, but Canberra cannot yet be expected to display all of the urbanity, sophistication or mellowed dignity of the world's ancient capitals. Yet it has its own atmosphere of informality, leisure and outdoor contentment which many people prefer.

### SITUATION

Canberra lies in a valley on the N.S.W. Southern Tablelands, adjacent to the Australian Alps. The city has been built at an elevation of 1,800 to 2,000 feet, but mountain ranges rising about 6,000 feet are well within sight. The Pacific coast of New South Wales is only 50 air miles away, or 100 miles by road.

The city is in the direct line between Sydney and Melbourne; the Hume Highway, connecting those cities, passes within 35 miles of Canberra. The road distance from Canberra to Sydney is 190 miles and to Melbourne 420 miles.

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## CLIMATE

Canberra's magnificent climate was an important factor in selecting the site of the national capital. The hours of sunshine are remarkably high, the rainfall is normally adequate, the summers are warm but seldom oppressive, autumn and spring are long and mildly warm, winter is sunny, with frosty nights.

Monthly temperatures show less variation than other Australian cities; the highest monthly maximum temperature occurring in January ( $82.3^{\circ}$ ) and the lowest in July ( $51.7^{\circ}$ ). Minimum temperatures are low during the winter months; the lowest mean minimum is in July, ( $33.8^{\circ}$ ).

## TRANSPORT

Airline and railway timetables cater for large numbers of Canberra people visiting other capital cities for week-ends, without encroaching on Canberra office hours.

The single fares to Canberra from Sydney and Melbourne are -

### Airlines

Sydney First Class, 87 flights weekly	\$10
Melbourne First Class, 49 flights weekly	\$22.50

### Railway

Sydney First Class, 31 trains weekly	\$ 6.88
Sydney Second Class, 31 trains weekly	\$ 4.76
Melbourne First Class 4 trains weekly	\$13.10
Melbourne Second Class 4 trains weekly	\$ 9.85

### Parlour Coach

Sydney One Class, 14 coaches weekly	\$ 7.30
Melbourne One Class, 14 coaches weekly	\$10.50

Transport within Canberra involves no serious traffic or parking problems. Although there are adequate bus services, many people prefer to drive to the office and go home to lunch.



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## ACCOMMODATION

Hostels Most single people who move to Canberra to join the Commonwealth Service are initially accommodated in one of the Commonwealth hostels.

Hostel rooms are furnished and provided with linen, towels and power points. Occupants may use their own electrical appliances in the room, but in some hostels a charge is made for electricity used. All hostels have hot water, laundry and ironing facilities. Toilet facilities are shared. Lounges, television rooms and indoor sporting facilities are provided and hostel social clubs organise social functions.

In the higher-tariff hostels, the dining room has a waitress staff, whereas in the lower tariff hostels there is a cafeteria-style meal service. Central heating is not provided in the lower-tariff hostels, but the high and intermediate-priced hostels, however, are heated.

The weekly tariffs for single accommodation and meals are

Higher tariff hostels	\$18.30 per week
Medium tariff hostels	\$15.90 per week
Lower tariff hostels	\$13.90 per week

## Family Hostels

Married officers of the Service on the waiting list for houses are accommodated in government hostels of the guest-house type, or may avail themselves of a private house rental. While in a hostel, they receive an allowance which reduces the net cost of meals and lodgings according to salary and number of children. The following selection of rates shows the maximum weekly rental an officer is expected to pay without reimbursement.

<u>Salary</u>	<u>No Children</u>	<u>One Child</u>	<u>Two Children</u>	<u>Three Children</u>
\$3001-3200	\$24.40	\$26.60	\$28.82	\$30.05
3201-3400	25.30	27.60	29.90	31.20
3601-3800	27.10	28.60	32.10	33.50
4001-4400	29.50	32.30	35.10	36.65
4401-4800	31.00	34.00	37.00	38.65

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## Private Board

Canberra newspapers carry advertisements almost daily of private board and lodgings available. Estate agencies are also a helpful guide. The cost varies with the type offered but would usually be within the range of \$12-\$18 per week.

## Boarding Allowance

An officer whose salary does not exceed \$2100 a year, and who is living away from home, may be paid a special boarding allowance while boarding in Canberra.

## Flats

Government flats, range from bed-sitter to two-bedroom types. The bed-sitters each consist of one large room, a small kitchen (equipped with a stove, sink and cupboard space), a cupboard room and a small bathroom with shower and toilet. Blocks of laundry facilities are separate. All flats are unfurnished and the waiting time is :-

If married, waiting time approx.	18 to 24 months
Bachelor waiting time approx.	36 months
Bedsitter waiting time approx.	29 to 30 months.

The rent for a bed-sitter type flat is comparatively low ranging from a little more than \$6 per week upwards.

Private flats are more readily available but much more expensive. A single bed-sitter would cost approximately \$16 or more per week. Larger flats usually cost \$25 per week.

## Houses

So that officers of the Commonwealth Service can obtain houses for a reasonable rental in Canberra, an allowance is paid towards the rental of a furnished house. This is payable from the date of registration for a government house until the date when one is allocated.

It is usually possible to obtain a house for a rental of \$20 to \$25 per week and the following table sets out examples of the maximum cost to be borne by the officer renting such a house -

<u>Salary</u>	<u>Maximum Rental</u>
\$3001-3200	\$ 9.10
\$3201-3400	\$ 9.40
\$3601-3800	\$10.00
\$4001-4400	\$10.60
\$4402-4800	\$10.90

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Government-built houses in Canberra make up a high proportion of the houses and flats now being built. However, due to the growth rate of the city, and the resultant pressure on accommodation, there is a considerable waiting list. The waiting period averages about three years. Rentals range from about \$8 to \$13 a week.

Upon renting a government house, the tenant has an immediate option to buy the house. The purchase prices for these houses vary from \$8,000 up to \$12,000 depending on size and location, but the average is \$10,000. These houses may be purchased on a deposit of 5% and repayment spread over 45 years at an interest of 4.75%. The option of buying government homes is widely exercised.

## Building or Buying a House

The cost of building a house in Canberra ranges from \$10,600 for a two-bedroom house to \$20,000. A single-storey cottage with a floor area of 1,200 to 1,400 sq. ft. and containing 3 or 4 bedrooms may be built for about \$12,000. This does not include the amount paid for the land lease. For a ready-built house the cost will range from approximately \$12,000 to \$28,000 according to size and location.

## Land

In the Australian Capital Territory all land is leased, not sold. Residential land leases (99 years) are regularly auctioned. Some blocks are restricted to married people who have not held a lease in the A.C.T. during the preceding three years. Building on these must commence within six months of the purchase of the lease and be completed within 12 months.

At the auction held in April 1965, leases in the restricted auction sold within the range of \$700-\$1750 whilst leases in the unrestricted auction were sold within the range of \$1700-\$6800. More recently, however, it has been possible to obtain a block at the restricted auction for as little as \$50.

## EDUCATION

Schools in Canberra are of high standard, in terms of instruction, equipment, architecture and siting. The complete range of education is available, from pre-school years to post-graduate research.



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Government schools are located on a neighbourhood and district basis. Each neighbourhood has a pre-school centre (4-5 year age group), an infants' school (5 to 7 years) and a primary school (8 to 12 years), usually within walking distance of the children's homes. High schools (12 to 18 years) are in all residential districts, within walking or easy cycling distance.

No tuition fees are charged by government schools, but small contributions are usually levied for the purchase of text books, library books, sporting equipment and school amenities.

There are two Church of England Grammar Schools, for boarders and day boys and girls. with primary as well as secondary classes, and Roman Catholic schools for infant, primary and secondary pupils. Fees are payable at all Church schools.

The Australian National University in Canberra is organised in two institutions, for graduate study and post-graduate research. The School of General Studies conducts degree courses in the faculties of Arts, Economics, Law, Oriental Studies, and Science. The matriculation requirement from British schools is GCE "O" level (four passes) plus "A" level (Two passes).

The University's Institute of Advanced Studies conducts Research Schools of Medicine, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences and Pacific Studies, leading to a Doctorate of Philosophy.

The University is growing rapidly and at present has almost 3,000 students, including those attending part-time. The campus is no more than five miles from any part of Canberra, but many students live in halls of residence within the University.

Among the national institutions located in Canberra are the Royal Military College, the Academy of Science, the Institute of Anatomy, the Institute of Aboriginal Studies, some divisions of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, the Commonwealth Observatory and the Australian Forestry School - the last two now incorporated in the Australian National University.

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## CHURCHES

Among the many denominations represented in Canberra are -

Assemblies of God (Pentecostal)	Methodist
Baptist	Presbyterian (Church of Scotland)
Church of Christ	Roman Catholic
Church of England	Salvation Army
Christian Science Society	Seventh Day Adventist
Congregational	Society of Friends (Quakers)
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Christ	United Evangelical Lutheran
Greek Orthodox	
Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church	

## ENTERTAINMENT

The scale of entertainment in Canberra cannot yet be compared with that of large cities but it is remarkably diverse. The main centre of entertainment is a new theatre complex, with a modern concert hall for opera, ballet, drama, symphony and celebrity performances, as well as a smaller playhouse, rehearsal rooms and exhibition galleries. Many of the celebrity artists and companies are on tour from Sydney, Melbourne or overseas.

There are several local repertory and dramatic groups, as well as philharmonic, orchestral, chamber music, recorded music and musical comedy societies. The Canberra School of Music has recently been established under the control of distinguished musicians.

There are two television studios in Canberra, linked to Sydney and Melbourne by coaxial cable for many programmes. There are also three radio stations and four cinemas, including one drive-in-type and one in the adjacent town of Queanbeyan. Another is under construction.

Much of Canberra's entertainment is centred in clubs based on mutual interests, including national, trade union, ex-service and social groups.

It would be almost impossible to list all of the societies but they embrace activities as widely separated as painting, flying, poultry, chess, jazz and philately.



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Youth organisations, including Church groups, are numerous and dancing is very popular. There are no night clubs of high standard, but some of the better hotels have regular floor shows and there are some centres featuring popular music.

## SPORT

Little time is spent in Canberra travelling to or from work; most people work for only five days a week and leave the office before five o'clock, so that there is plenty of time for relaxation. And because Canberra citizens are drawn from all parts of Australia and the world, the range of sport is almost complete.

This is a list to begin with -

Athletics, badminton, baseball, basketball, bushwalking, canoeing, cave exploring, cricket, croquet, cycling, football (Rugby Union, Rugby League, Soccer and Australian Rules), golf, hockey, horse racing and trotting, lawn bowls, motor-car, motor-cycle and go-kart racing, polo, shooting, sailing, softball, squash, table tennis, tennis, ten-pin bowling, water-skiing and water polo.

Although there are three modern swimming centres and a heated pool is planned, nearby rivers and lakes have great appeal for aquatic sports, as well as for fishing and family picnics.

However, many Canberra people seek their recreation still further afield. In summer, the surf beaches are the main attraction and are only about two hours away by road. Many Canberra residents have seaside cottages. In winter, the main ski resorts of the Australian Alps are within three hours' drive and there is a local snowfield only 45 miles away.

## SHOPPING

Retail shops, like schools, are provided on a district and neighbourhood basis, so that essential shops should be within walking distance of every house. A major shopping concentration is located in the city centre, with branches of many well-known Sydney and Melbourne stores.

Shopping hours are more liberal than in other parts of Australia -

9 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.	Monday to Friday
6.30 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Friday night
9 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.	Saturday

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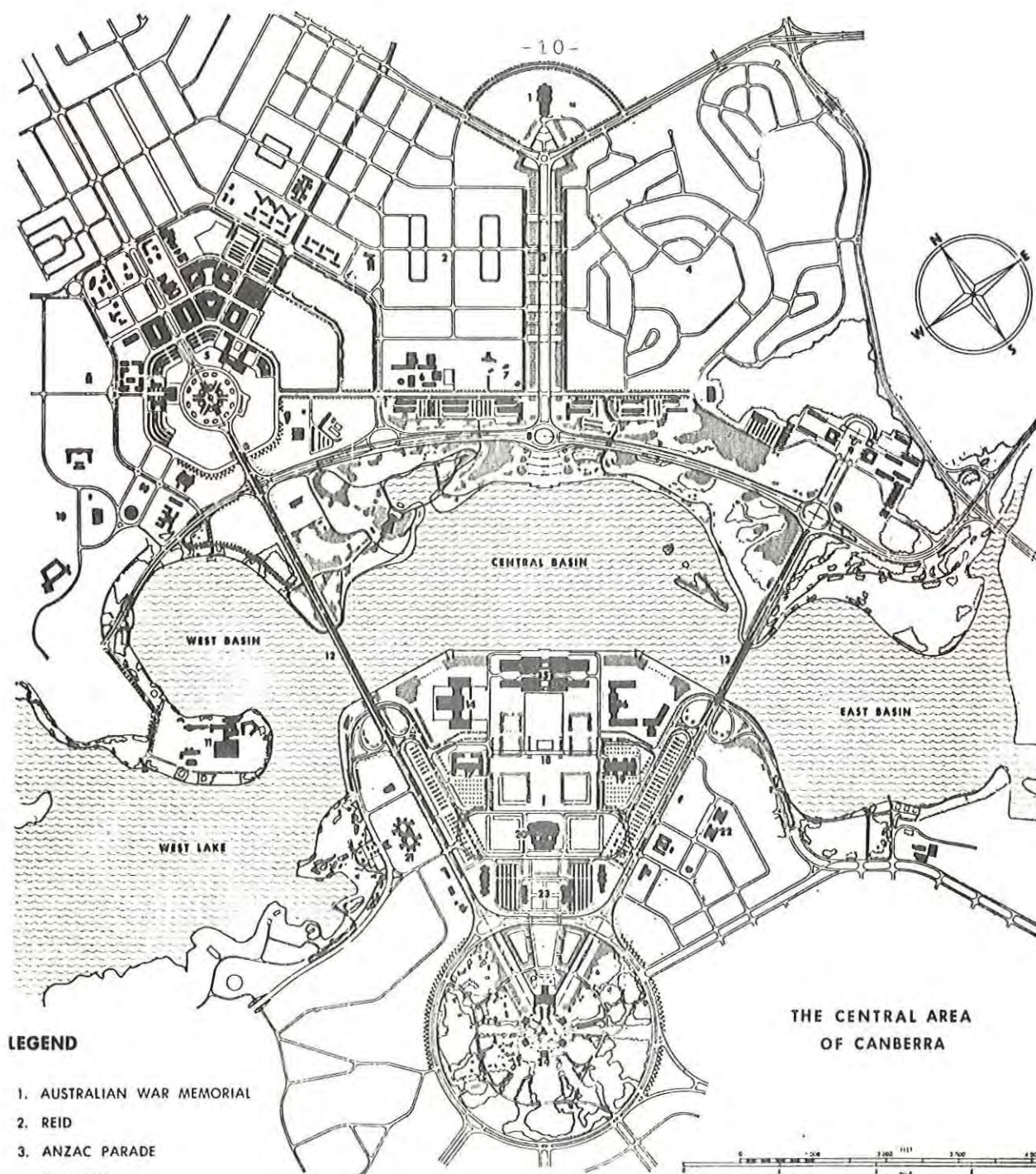
## MEDICAL

Canberra Community Hospital serves the whole of the Australian Capital Territory. At present it has 400 beds, but the capacity will be extended to 600 beds which will later provide facilities of a complete teaching hospital for the University. The hospital provides a 24-hour ambulance service and a district nursing service operates at low charges.

Health services in schools are outstanding. Each school has a permanent dental clinic providing free treatment, and medical officers make regular examinations of all children in the schools.



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## LEGEND

- |                                    |                           |                                   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL         | 13. KINGS AVENUE BRIDGE   | 19. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING       |
| 2. REID                            | 14. NATIONAL LIBRARY SITE | 20. PARLIAMENT HOUSE              |
| 3. ANZAC PARADE                    | 15. PARLIAMENT HOUSE SITE | 21. HOTEL CANBERRA                |
| 4. CAMPBELL                        | 16. HIGH COURT SITE       | 22. BARTON OFFICES                |
| 5. CIVIC CENTRE                    | 17. TREASURY BUILDING     | 23. CAMP HILL                     |
| 6. TECHNICAL COLLEGE               | 18. PARKES PLACE          | 24. NATIONAL CENTRE: CAPITAL HILL |
| 7. ST. JOHN'S CHURCH               |                           |                                   |
| 8. ROND POINT                      |                           |                                   |
| 9. RUSSELL OFFICES                 |                           |                                   |
| 10. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY |                           |                                   |
| 11. CANBERRA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL    |                           |                                   |
| 12. COMMONWEALTH AVENUE BRIDGE     |                           |                                   |





CANBERRA CITY  
AND SUBURBS

MAIN ROADS —————  
PROPOSED MAIN ROADS - - - - -

0 1/2 1 2  
SCALE OF MILES