

Information Brochure

14th London Group Meeting (28 April - 1 May, 2009) Canberra, Australia.

The Centre for Environment and Energy Statistics of the Australian Bureau of Statistics welcomes you to Canberra, Australia!

We hope this information brochure will help make your stay in Canberra a pleasant one. For any enquiries please contact **Peter Comisari** on:

+61 2 6252 5381 or <mailto:peter.comisari@abs.gov.au>.

MEETING VENUE

The 14th London Group meeting will take place at the **Brassey Hotel** of Canberra.

- ❖ **Physical address:** Belmore Gardens & Macquarie Street, Barton, ACT 2600, Australia;
- ❖ **Telephone:** +61 2 6273 3766;
- ❖ **Fax:** +61 2 62732791.



The Brassey of Canberra is located within the central, quiet, tree-lined suburb of Barton. The Brassey is a **7 minute** drive to the City's Centre. Canberra Airport is only 10 kms away and Kingston Train Station is just 1km. It is within walking distance to many of Canberra's tourist attractions:

- ❖ The National Gallery of Australia
- ❖ New Parliament House
- ❖ Old Parliament House
- ❖ The National Science and Technology Centre
- ❖ The High Court of Australia
- ❖ The National Library
- ❖ Lake Burley Griffin
- ❖ Kingston & Manuka Shopping Villages.

For more information on the venue please visit: <http://www.brassey.net.au/>.

Map:



ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is available at Brassey Hotel itself. To book at the Brassey Hotel, please visit <http://www.brassey.net.au/>.

If you wish to stay away from the meeting venue there are a number of alternatives nearby.

Accommodation within walking distance:

- ❖ **Hotel Realm**, 18 National Circuit, Barton (+61 2 6163 1800) - <http://www.hotelrealm.com.au/>
- ❖ **Rydges Capital Hill Canberra Hotel**, Cnr Canberra Avenue & National Circuit, Forrest (+61 2 6295 3144)- <http://www.rydges.com/hotel/0/RACAPH/Rydges-Capital-Hill-Canberra.htm>
- ❖ **Pinnacle Apartments**, 11 Ovens Street, Kingston (+61 2 6239 9799) - <http://www.pinnacleapartments.com.au/>
- ❖ **The York Canberra**, 31 Giles St, Kingston (+61 2 6295 2333) - <http://www.yorkcanberra.com.au/>
- ❖ **Kurrajong Hotel Canberra**, 8 National Circuit, Barton (+61 2 6234 4444) <http://www.hotelkurrajong.com.au/kurrajong.html> .

Other accommodation nearby:

- ❖ **Hyatt Hotel Canberra**, Commonwealth Av., Canberra (+61 2 6270 1234) - <http://www.canberra.park.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>
- ❖ **Bentley Suites**, Cnr Canberra Ave & Dominion Circuit, Forrest (+61 2 6124 0000) - <http://www.bentleysuites.com.au/>

To find out more, visit: <http://www.hotelclub.net/hotel.reservations/Canberra.htm>.

TRANSPORT

Canberra does not have an international airport, but there are flights from all Australian State capital cities. The closest international airport is in Sydney. Canberra airport is 7km (4mi) southeast of the city centre. You can catch a shuttle minibus or a cab to the city and to various hotels.

For more information visit the following websites:

- ❖ Cheap domestic flights in Australia - <http://www.webjet.com.au/city%2Dflights/domestic%2Dflights/?gclid=CLuKwLTnmZgCFQ6jago d40i4mQ>
- ❖ Road transport by Coaches - <http://www.murrays.com.au/>, <http://www.greyhound.com.au/>
- ❖ Car hire in Canberra - <http://www.airportrentacar.com.au/canberra/>, <http://www.carhire.com.au/car-rental/canberra/>
- ❖ Canberra public transport - http://www.tams.act.gov.au/move/public_transport

VISA

A Visa is required to enter Australia. The following site describes Australian Visa requirements. <http://www.immi.gov.au/visawizard/>

TIME

Canberra is 11 hours ahead of GMT.

WEATHER/CLIMATE

Autumn (March to May) in Canberra is gorgeous. Days are sunny and crisp, tree leaves are changing colour and everything looks lovely. Average day time temperature is about 19 degrees Celsius and average night-time temperature is about 7 degrees Celsius. The average monthly rainfall is around 40mm. Humidity ranges from 50% to 75%.

CURRENCY

Australian currency operates on a decimal system, and the dollar (AU\$) is the basic unit. Notes come in \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, and \$5 denominations. Coins come in \$2, \$1, 50c, 20c, 10c, and 5c denominations.

1 EURO corresponds to approximately 1.95 AU\$

1 USD corresponds to approximately 1.50 AU\$.

CREDIT CARDS

The most frequently accepted credit cards are Visa and MasterCard. Diners Club and American Express cards are also widely accepted.

BANKS

Banks are generally open between 09:30 and 16:00, Monday to Thursday, and until 17:00 on Friday. Some banks and credit societies will open Saturday mornings but this should be checked in advance. ATMs are widely available, including in all larger shopping centres.

SHOPPING AND EATING OUT

Many shops and restaurants are in Civic and Manuka, also just south of the lake, with a few cafes sprinkled through the inner suburbs. General city shopping hours are Monday to Thursday 9am-5.30pm with late night shopping on Friday to 9pm. Most shops are open all day Saturday (9am-5pm) and Sunday 10am-4pm.

- **City centre:** hidden away in the arcades of City Walk and Garema Place you'll find lots of interesting boutiques, street fashion, designer shoes and antique books.
- **The Canberra Centre:** Bunda St, City. Three major department stores, a discount department store, major supermarket and more than 200 unique specialty outlets. Boutiques in Canberra House on Marcus Clarke Street offer imported designer wear and Italian shoes.
- **Manuka and Kingston:** the small 1920s shopping centres of Manuka and Kingston are just a five-minute walk from each other. Splurge on Australian and international designer labels, beautiful antiques, gourmet food, high quality home wares and exquisite jewellery amongst the cafe-lined streets.

To find out more, visit:

- ❖ <http://www.medina.com.au/default.asp?page=/travel-guide/things-to-do-in-canberra/canberra-shopping-precincts>
- ❖ <http://www.canberraonline.com.au/eatingout/>
- ❖ <http://www.world66.com/australiaandpacific/australia/australiancapitalterritory/canberra/eatingout>

TIPPING

There is no tradition of tipping in Australia. It is not obligatory and is up to the individual whether they wish to reward good service. Restaurants do not add a service charge, and a tip of around 10% is probably appropriate for waiters. Taxi drivers would not expect to be tipped, although do appreciate small change.

ELECTRICITY

The standard electrical current in Australia is 220-240V. Plugs are three pronged (two flat angled blades and one vertical grounding blade)



SMOKING

By law, restaurants in the Australian Capital Territory operate a complete no-smoking policy.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

There is plenty to do in Canberra. It is home to cultural and artistic attractions, such as the National Museum of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia and Parliament House. Canberra is an outdoorsy city with many natural attractions – the bush is right on our doorstep. For those seeking a little more excitement, Canberra has a thriving café / restaurant scene and plenty of other nightlife options.

<http://www.visitcanberra.com.au/>

