

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



The Australian Capital Territory came into being on 1st January 1911 and was, as the name suggests, the area reserved for the new national capital. The Commonwealth of Australia had been formed on 1st January 1901 and since then Melbourne had played the role of temporary capital. Now a new capital was to be built on this land given by New South Wales for that purpose.

The Australian Capital Territory comes under the direct jurisdiction of the Commonwealth (Federal) Government of Australia. Administratively, therefore, it is independent. Geographically, though, it is completely surrounded by New South Wales, on which state it tends to rely for some of its services. The rail service, for example, is provided by Countrylink.

The Australian Capital Territory occupies an area of 2,360 square kilometres and consists of Canberra and its suburbs, together with some surrounding countryside. That is all. It has, therefore, the distinction of being both the smallest and the most densely populated of the Australian states and territories. It even spills over into New South Wales, for Queanbeyan is in New South Wales, but the majority of that town's working population is employed in Canberra.



CANBERRA

Population 330,000

4 hrs 30 mins by train from Sydney
4 hrs by bus from Sydney



Canberra has been the capital of Australia since parliament moved here in 1927. It is essentially an artificial city, created because both Sydney and Melbourne aspired to the position of national capital, so the logical compromise was to build somewhere new between the two. Before the decision was taken in 1908 to create the capital here, Canberra hardly existed. Some people love the feeling of a newly created and purpose-built city, while others wonder why it is here at all.

The Australian Capital Territory came into being on 1st January 1911, and an international competition was held for the design of the capital itself.

Finally, an American from Chicago, Walter Burley Griffin was declared the winner. Canberra was named on 12th March 1913 and construction began soon after.

You will soon find that Mr. Burley Griffin was not much of a straight lines man. Many of the roads in Canberra are parts of circles, so remember to take your compass with you when walking on an overcast day. He also believed in grand sweeping avenues and using plenty of space, since it was readily available. This means that it is not easy to walk from one place to another in Canberra. Be prepared to use buses, or expend a lot of energy.

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Burley Griffin's basic plan remains at the heart of Canberra. He designed a triangle of avenues linking three circles, Vernon Circle in the commercial heart of the city, Capital Hill, which is the centre of the nation's government, and Russell, lying to the east. In the centre of these was to be a lake, with important public buildings to its south, so that the sun, shining from the north, would strike them and cause them to be reflected in the lake. The damming of the Molonglo River in 1964 brought this dream to fruition and **Lake Burley Griffin** was formed. You can see it now, just a short distance south of the city centre, with its famous **Captain Cook Water Jet**.

Burley Griffin's Canberra was designed for a population of 25,000. Now the city accommodates 330,000 and it has spread out from its main centre to include four other major conurbations. These are Woden to the south, Tuggeranong even further south, Belconnen to the north and Queanbeyan to the east. Queanbeyan, however, does not lie within the Australian Capital Territory, but is a part of New South Wales.

Canberra can be reached in a little over four hours by train from Sydney. From Melbourne, there are three different connecting routes, changing from train to bus at Yass (Countrylink to Yass and Transborder bus from there), Wodonga (V-Line) or Sale (V-Line). The last of these operates only on Mondays, Thursdays and some Saturdays.

By bus, services from Sydney are operated by McCafferty's, Greyhound and Murray's. The last is quickest and cheapest. Average journey time is four hours. There are also services from Melbourne, Adelaide, Wollongong, Batemans Bay and beyond, and the ski fields around Thredbo.

There is so much to see in Canberra - and a lot of it free. This book details the major attractions, but if you have time you will discover more to suit your own particular interests.



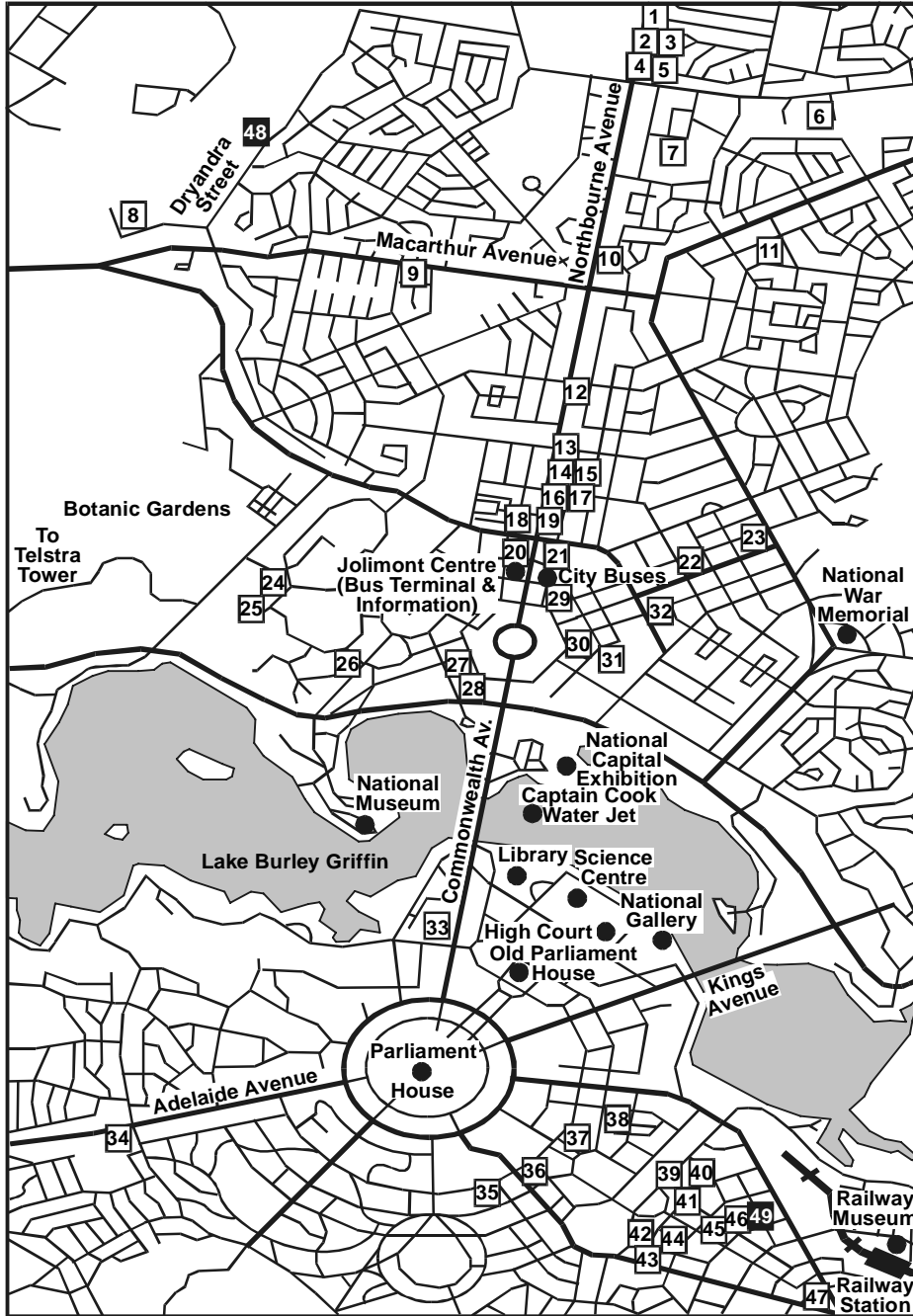
Of course, the most important sight is **Parliament House**, sitting atop Capital Hill and ruling the nation. This is a spectacularly new construction, which the hill had been awaiting for a long time. It was opened in 1988 and now the 81-metre flagpole which surmounts it can be seen from almost any place in the city. It is three kilometres from the city centre, quite a long walk, so you may prefer to take a bus no. 34 or 39. Parliament House is always open to visitors from 9:00 until 17:00. Admission is free and there are free guided tours every half hour lasting about 45 minutes.



Nearby is **Old Parliament House**, a much more traditional, but still most imposing, construction. Burley Griffin imagined that this was just going to be a temporary building, but, in fact, Parliament sat here for 61 years, from 1927 until 1988. There are guided tours lasting about an hour for the sum of \$2, and there is also a sound and light presentation entitled *Order! Order!* The **National Portrait Gallery** is housed here too. Old Parliament House is open daily from 9:00 until 17:00.

In front of Old Parliament House, the **Aboriginal Embassy** may still be standing, although threatened with demolition. It is (or was) a temporary structure erected some years ago, in this most conspicuous of positions, by the aboriginal communities of Australia to emphasise and publicise their complaint that they had no say in the government of their own country.

Walking a little further towards the lake, you will come to a string of important national buildings. On your left is the **National Library**, open daily (free) from 9:00 until 21:00 (17:00 at weekends). There are free guided tours. Outside the library is a Henry Moore statue.



CANBERRA

Black numerals in white boxes indicate hotel accommodation
White numerals in black boxes indicate backpacker hostels

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Next in line is the **National Science and Technology Centre**, a high-technology science museum. This, however, costs \$10. It is open daily from 9:00 until 17:00.

Then the **High Court of Australia**, which can be visited on weekdays from 9:45 until 16:30 (free). The building itself was the winner of a design competition and was opened by the Queen in 1980.

Last in the line is the **National Gallery of Australia**. It is open daily from 10:00 until 17:00. Admission to the permanent collection is free, but there is a charge for any special exhibitions. There are free guided tours lasting about half an hour.



On the other side of the lake is the **Australian War Memorial**, a moving display which is well worth visiting. It has been rated one of the best war museums in the world. It is open from 10:00 until 17:00 daily and is free. There are free guided tours lasting about an hour. The War Memorial is about three kilometres from the city centre, or about four kilometres from the buildings at which we have just been looking. From the city, take bus no. 33. From the National Gallery, take bus no. 28 or 63. There are other services too which pass within reasonable walking distance.

The **Australian National Botanic Gardens** are over two kilometres to the west of the city centre, a distance which can be walked, or bus no. 34 goes close. They contain the best collection of Australian flora in the world. The gardens are open from 9:00 until 17:00 and admission is free. Free guided tours are available.

The **National Capital Exhibition** is at Regatta Point, walking distance from the city centre, right beside the lake and near the Water Jet. It tells the story of Canberra from the start of aboriginal times up until the present. The exhibition is open from 9:00 until 17:00 and admission is free.

The **National Museum of Australia** is on the peninsula extending to the west of the bridge across the lake. This is a relatively new museum, opened only on 11th March 2001, on which day the author happened to be in Canberra. It uses new technology to display themes both old and new. The museum is open from 9:00 until 17:00 daily, and admission is free, unless there happens to be a special exhibition.

The **Royal Australian Mint** is interesting. You can even make your own coin there, although, unfortunately, you have to pay for it. It is in Denison Street, Deakin, about seven kilometres from the city centre. Take a bus no. 30, 31 or 32 from the city centre, or no. 84 from the railway station. The mint is open from 9:00 until 16:00 and admission is free.

The **Telstra Tower** is known for its view. It is 195 metres high and built on the top of Black Mountain, five kilometres from the city centre. There is no ordinary bus service. The main purpose of the tower, of course, is its telecommunications functions, but it also has a public viewing gallery and an exhibition showing the history of telecommunications in Australia. Admission costs \$4 and the tower is open from 9:00 until 22:00.

The **Canberra Railway Museum** is near the railway station, as one might possibly anticipate, and that is not near the city centre. Take a bus no. 39, 80 or 83 for the six kilometre journey. The 39 goes closest to the museum, which is in Geijera Place, off Cunningham Street. It is open on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 13:00 until 16:00. Admission costs \$4. The exhibits include the engine, built in 1878, which hauled the first train into Canberra on 25th May 1914.

Although the railway did not come to Canberra until 1914, because Canberra was not even named until the previous year, it reached nearby Queanbeyan in 1887 and was

continued to Michelago in the same year. Now the Canberra Branch of the Australian Railway Historical Society runs trains on this line between Canberra and Royalla via Queanbeyan on Sundays only. On the first and third Sundays, there is a steam service costing \$20, and on the other Sundays a *Tin Hare* 1920s rail motor operates at a cost of \$16. It is hoped that services will be extended to Michelago when a dispute with a local farmer can be resolved.

Local bus services within the Australian Capital Territory are operated by a company known as Action. The routes are divided into three zones, but almost all journeys which visitors are likely to make will be within the central zone. The fare for a single journey within one

zone is \$2.30 and this permits any transfers within the same zone made within one hour of boarding the first bus. Better value is an off-peak day ticket. This costs \$4.40 and allows unlimited travel in all zones between 9:00 and 16:30, and again after 19:00.

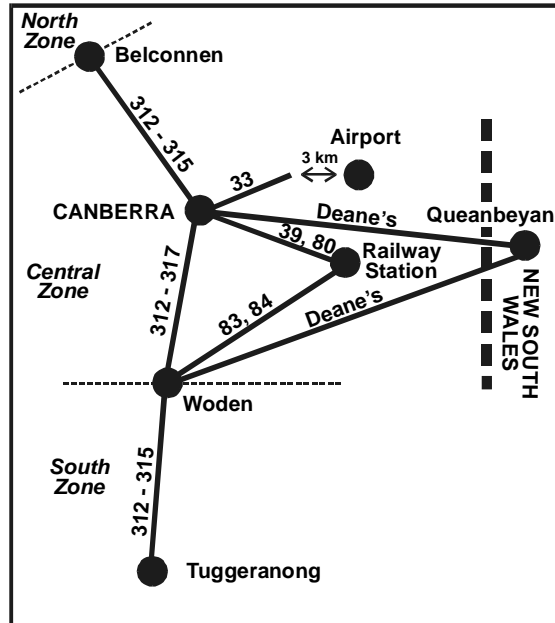
If you arrive by bus, you will find yourself at the Jolimont Centre in the middle of the city. If you arrive by railway bus (Countrylink or V-Line), you will find that the bus visits the station, except for the V-Line bus from Wodonga, and then continues to the Jolimont Centre. If you arrive by train from Sydney, you will be at the railway station some six kilometres from the city centre. Take bus no. 39 or 80 to reach the city centre.

If you want to go to Queanbeyan, which is in New South Wales, there is a regular service from the city centre, and also from Woden, operated by Deane's Buses.

MAP SHOPS AND BOOKSHOPS

<i>Map World</i>	<i>Jolimont Centre, 65 - 67 Northbourne Avenue</i>
<i>Dymocks</i>	<i>177 - 179 City Walk</i>
<i>Smith's Alternative Bookstore</i>	<i>76 Alinga Street</i>
<i>Paperchain Bookstore</i>	<i>City Walk</i>
<i>Collins Booksellers</i>	<i>Shops G33 - G34, Woden Plaza, Woden</i>
<i>Collins Booksellers</i>	<i>Shop 32, Westfield Shopping Town, Belconnen</i>

Canberra is a city with plenty of good bookshops, and also a specialist map and travel guide shop. This is *Map World*, located within the Jolimont Centre where all long-distance buses arrive and depart. Just round the corner, opposite the post office, at 76 Alinga Street, is *Smith's Alternative Bookshop*. In City Walk, the pedestrian area



CANBERRA SUBURBS

Showing principal bus routes and bus zones

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near the city bus stops, are the *Paperchain Bookstore* and *Dymocks*.

In Woden you can find *Collins Booksellers* in the shopping precinct, while in Belconnen there is another branch of *Collins* in Westfield Shopping Town.

ACCOMMODATION

There is plenty of accommodation in Canberra, but, unfortunately, it is relatively expensive. For those wanting single accommodation at reasonable prices, the places to stay are the two Australian National University colleges, Burgmann House and Ursula College, which have single rooms at \$55 and \$61 respectively. Since Canberra is not an old city, it does not have the older and cheaper hotels found in most towns in eastern states. If you want those, you should go to Queanbeyan, half an hour away by bus, where all accommodation is considerably cheaper than in Canberra.

(i) Hotel Accommodation in Canberra

Name	Stars	No. on Map	Telephone No.	Address	Lowest Price (Double/Twin)
Hyatt Hotel Canberra	5	33	02-6270-1234	Commonwealth Avenue	\$220
Hotel Kurrajong	4½	37	02-6234-4444	8 National Circuit	\$211
Parkroyal Canberra	4½	31	02-6247-8999	1 Binara Street	\$208
James Court Apt. Hotel.	4½	19	02-6240-1234	74 Northbourne Avenue	\$205
Gazebo Canberra	4½	28	02-6276-3444	2 Marcus Clarke Street	\$200
Pinnacle Apt. Hotel	3½	44	02-6239-9799	11 Ovens Street	\$200
York Canberra	4½	39	02-6295-2333	31 Giles Street	\$200
Capital Hotel	4	13	1-800-026-129	108 Northbourne Avenue	\$195
Olims Canberra Hotel	4	23	1-800-020-016	Ainslie & Limestone Avs.	\$185
Rydges Canberra	4½	27	02-6247-6244	London Circuit	\$185
Rydges Capital Hill	4	36	02-6295-3144	Canberra Av & National Cct	\$185
Argyle Executive Apts.	4	32	02-6275-0800	Currong & Boolee Streets	\$170
Brassey of Canberra	2½	38	02-6273-3766	Belmore Gs & Macquarie St	\$170
Novotel		21	02-6245-5000	65 Northbourne Avenue	\$170
Chifley on Northbourne	4½	14	02-6249-1411	102 Northbourne Avenue	\$165
Medina Classic Canberra	4½	40	02-6239-8100	11 Giles Street	\$165
Quest Canberra	4	20	02-6243-2222	28 West Row	\$158
Saville Park Suites	4½	16	02-6243-2500	84 Northbourne Avenue	\$158
Waldorf Apt. Hotel	4½	30	02-6229-1234	2 Akuna Street	\$155
Kingston Court Apts.		41	02-6295-2244	4 Tench Street	\$150
Kingston Terrace Apts.	3½	45	02-6239-9411	16 Eyre Street	\$150
Oxley Court Apartments	3½	43	02-6295-6216	Oxley & Dawes Streets	\$149
Diplomat Boutique Hotel	4	47	1-800-355-169	Canberra Avenue & Hely St.	\$145
Kythera Motel	2½	15	02-6248-7611	98 Northbourne Avenue	\$145
Manuka Park Apartments	3½	42	02-6239-0000	Manuka Circle & Oxley St.	\$140
Pavilion on Northbourne	3½	12	02-6247-6888	242 Northbourne Avenue	\$140
Embassy Motel	3½	34	1-800-659-950	Adelaide Av & Hopetoun C	\$135
Parklands Apt. Hotel	4	6	02-6262-7000	Hawdon Place	\$135
Tall Trees Motel	3½	11	02-6247-9200	21 Stephen Street	\$135
Blue and White Lodge	3½	4	02-6248-0498	524 Northbourne Avenue	\$125
Canberran Lodge		2	02-6247-1600	528 Northbourne Avenue	\$125
Forrest Inn	3½	35	1-800-355-170	30 National Circuit	\$125
Northbourne Lodge	3	5	02-6257-2599	522 Northbourne Avenue	\$125
Quality Inn Downtown	3½	17	1-800-026-150	82 Northbourne Avenue	\$125
University House	3½	26	02-6249-5211	1 Balmain Crescent	\$120
Dickson Premier Inn	4	7	1-800-100-215	Badham & Cape Streets	\$110
Motel Monaro	3	46	1-800-241-721	27 Dawes Street	\$110

(i) Hotel Accommodation in Canberra, continued

Name	Stars	No. on Map	Telephone No.	Address	Lowest Price (Double/Twin)
Burgmann College		24	02-6267-5222	Daley Road	\$107
Canberra Motor Village	3½	8	1-800-026-199	Kunzea Street	\$105
Pasmore Cottage B&B	3½	9	02-6247-4528	3 Lilley Street	\$105
Canberra Rex Hotel	3½	10	02-6248-5311	150 Northbourne Avenue	\$101
Miranda Lodge	4	1	02-6249-8038	534 Northbourne Avenue	\$99
Parkview		3	02-6248-0655	526 Northbourne Avenue	\$99
Acacia Motor Lodge	2½	22	02-6249-6955	65 Ainslie Avenue	\$95
Ursula House		25	02-6279-4300	Daley & Dickson Roads	\$92
City Walk Hotel		29	02-6257-0124	2 Mort Street	\$80
Canberra Central Apts.	2	18	02-6230-4781	Northbourne Av & Barry Dr	\$75

(ii) Backpackers Hostels in Canberra

For backpackers, there are three choices. There is a youth hostel, which is cheapest, but rather a long walk from anywhere. Take bus no. 35 from the city centre. There is Victor Lodge, near the railway station and a very pleasant place to stay. And there is City Walk Hotel, right in the centre of the city, which offers some backpackers' rooms.

Name	Group	No. on Map	Telephone Number	Address	Lowest Price (Dormitory)
City Walk Hotel		29	02-6257-0124	2 Mort Street	\$28
Victor Lodge	VIP	49	02-6295-7777	29 Dawes Street	\$25
Canberra Y.H.A.	YHA	48	02-6248-9155	191 Dryandra Street	\$20

MOVING ON**(i) By Train**

There are three trains a day back to Sydney. For the timetable see below.

Eden, Bombala and Canberra to Sydney

Days of Operation	Daily	Daily (Bus)	M, W, F (Bus)	Daily	Daily
Eden		0720			
Merimbula		0750			
Bega		0824			
Bombala			0830		
Cooma		1019	0940		
Canberra Station	0645	1140	1100	1215	1715
Canberra Jolimont		1205	1115		
Queanbeyan	0653			1223	1723
Goulbourn	0811			1342	1844
Moss Vale	0901			1432	1934
Strathfield	1042			1610	2112
Sydney	1055			1624	2126

Then there are three different bus plus train routes to Melbourne (following page). The most comfortable is by Transborder bus to Yass, where the day train to Melbourne may be boarded. The bus leaves Canberra Jolimont, Bay 8, at 10:05. The second route is by V-Line bus to Wodonga and then train to Melbourne. The longest but prettiest route is by V-Line bus to Sale and then train to Melbourne. This service operates only on Tuesdays, Fridays and some Sundays. There are also Countrylink buses to Cooma, Bega and Eden. These buses start from Jolimont and call at the railway station on their way, awaiting rail connexions if necessary. The timetable for these is on page 93.

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Canberra to Melbourne via Yass, Wodonga or Sale

Days of Operation	M – F (Bus)	M – F	Tu, F, Sun* (Bus)	M – F	Sun	Daily (Bus)	Daily	Sat (Bus)	Sat	Sun (Bus)	Sun
Canberra Jolimont	0730		0850			1005		1115		1140	
Canberra Station			0905								
Yass	0815					1057	1125	1200		1225	
Albury	1210	1225					1502	1555	1615	1620	1640
Wodonga	1220	1233						1605	1623	1630	1648
Cooma			1025								
Bombala			1130								
Orbost			1405								
Lakes Entrance			1455								
Bairnsdale			1535								
Sale			1635	1650	1655						
Melbourne		1551		1930	1943		1815		1950		2014

* Operates only on certain Sundays.

(ii) By Bus

There are bus services to Sydney operated by McCafferty's, Greyhound and Murray's. Murray's is cheapest, quickest and most comfortable. McCafferty's and Greyhound also operate to Melbourne, and McCafferty's has a daily service to Adelaide. Murray's operates to Wollongong, and to Batemans Bay and Narooma. Transborder runs four times a day to Yass. A summary follows.

Destination	Operator	Via	Distance (km)	Fare	Journey Time	Frequency
Sydney	McCafferty's		214	\$40	4 – 4½ hrs	3/day
Sydney	Greyhound		262	\$40	3¾ - 4½ hrs	6/day
Sydney	Murray's		214	\$39	3¾ - 4 hrs	3/day
Melbourne	McCafferty's		626	\$70	8¼ - 8¾ hrs	2/day
		Albury	343	\$38	4¾ – 5 hrs	2/day
Melbourne	Greyhound		626	\$70	8 – 10 hrs	2/day
		Albury	343	\$38	4 - 5¾ hrs	2/day
Melbourne	V-Line		651	\$62	8½ hrs	1/day
		Wodonga	352	\$39	5 hrs	1/day
Melbourne	V-Line		771	\$62	10¾ hrs	2 - 3/week
		Sale	534	\$62	7¾ hrs	2 - 3/week
		Lakes Entrance	429	\$61.60	6¼ hrs	2 - 3/week
Adelaide	McCafferty's		1268	\$141	19 hrs	1/day
		Nuriootpa	1208	\$141	17¼ hrs	1/day
		Mildura	885	\$95	12¾ hrs	1/day
Wollongong	Murray's		210	\$34.80	3½ hrs	1/day
Narooma	Murray's		195	\$40.25	4½ hrs	1/day
		Batemans Bay	146	\$26.95	3 hrs	1/day
Yass	Transborder		57	\$16	1 hr	4/day
Eden	Countrylink		280	\$46.80	4¼ - 4½ hrs	1 - 2/day
Thredbo (Winter)	Greyhound		123	\$60	2¾ hrs	2/day
		Ski Tube	118	\$59	2¼ hrs	2/day