

# Canberra: more than just Parliament house

For those delegates lucky enough to be able to spend some extra time in Canberra before or after the conference we have compiled highlights of just some of the many cultural and tourist attractions in Canberra. Why not pay them a visit?

## Australian National Botanic Gardens

Discover the beauty of Australian plants



photo: Australian National Botanic Gardens

The Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) on Black Mountain is administered by the Biodiversity Group of 'Environment Australia'.

The ANBG maintains a scientific collection of native plants from all parts of Australia. The plants are used for research into plant classification and biology. A herbarium of

preserved plant specimens is closely associated with the living collection.

Visitors in wheelchairs, parents with prams, and those for whom walking can be a problem, will find the main path provides easy access to explore the Garden's treasures. In less than an hour you can experience the diversity of Australia's floral heritage, from colourful cultivars to rare and threatened plants that are at risk of being lost forever in the wild. ANBG is open between 9:00am and 5:00pm daily. Of interest is the bookshop which has a wide range of information about the gardens and other horticultural issues.

## Australian Institute of Sport

If you have ever wondered what it takes to become an elite athlete, the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra is the best place to find out.

The AIS is and has been the home and training ground to many of Australia's outstanding athletes who competed in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. When visiting the AIS you will be guided around the world-class facilities by elite athletes. They will show you where they train, describe their preparation for big events and give you a unique insight into the life of a top Australian sports person.

You may catch a glimpse of Australia's up and coming gymnasts in training or swimmers doing their laps, or just bump into a world champion jogging through the AIS. During the tour of these wonderful facilities you can see how you would measure up to an elite athlete in Sportex, the interactive sports exhibition. Here you will see the latest in interactive sports technology and experience such sports as wheelchair basketball.

After the tour relax in the Time Out Café and enjoy healthy refreshments before browsing in the AIS Shop for a memento to take home.

## Australian War Memorial

The Australian War Memorial commemorates the sacrifice of Australian men and women who have served in war, through

*A restored Kittyhawk, part of the Air Power in the Pacific exhibition at the Australian War Memorial*



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its ceremonial areas, extensive exhibitions and research facilities.

The focus of commemoration is the Hall of Memory together with the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier, the Pool of Reflection and the Roll of Honour, that lists the names of more than 102 000 Australian servicemen and women who have died in war.

The Memorial is internationally recognised for its exhibitions that present stories of Australians at war, armed conflict and in peacekeeping. Bradbury Aircraft Hall, the Memorial's newest gallery, continues this excellence. On permanent display in Bradbury Aircraft Hall is *Air Power in the Pacific 1941-53*, featuring a magnificently restored and presented Mosquito, Kittyhawk, Mustang, Wirraway, Sea Fury and more.

This and other exhibitions help to define Australia and Australians for visitors of all ages and origins.

## National Gallery of Australia

Art for all

As well as housing the national art collection of more than 100 000 works, the National Gallery of Australia is home to an ever-changing series of exhibitions including regular 'blockbusters' from overseas.

With its magnificent sculpture garden, its light-filled spaces and its clever design, it is one of the most praised tourist attractions in Australia.

Tours of the masterpieces last about half an hour and are conducted by voluntary guides in a friendly and informal atmosphere, ending in the National Gallery shop with its wide range of art merchandise — books, posters, cards and jew-



*The sculpture garden at the National Gallery of Australia*

ellery. Before you leave, try Juniperberry at the NGA Café for the buzz and its stylish and inexpensive food or, for a perfect combination of food, atmosphere and art, dine in the Sculpture Garden Restaurant.

*continued over...*

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## SideShow — The Science Behind the Fun

Questacon, Australia's premier science and technology centre is proud to present our brand new permanent exhibition — SideShow The Science behind the fun. You can take your guests through a fun night of SideShow entertainment using the classic Knock-'em-down stalls, test your strength on Aim High, visit Zoltan the Fortune Teller, ride the ten-person rollercoaster simulator or brave Free Fall — the five metre vertical slide! SideShow has something to offer people of all ages. This fun circus atmosphere also sets the perfect backdrop for any corporate event from pre-dinner drinks to cocktail and birthday parties.

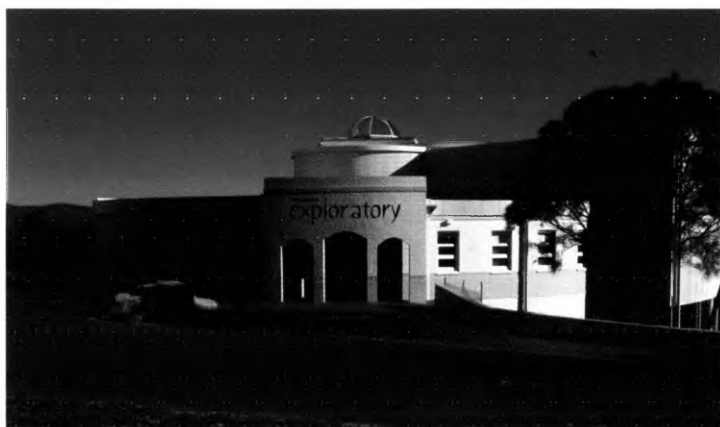


Sideshow gallery at Questacon

## Stromlo Observatory

Reach for the stars

It is only twenty minutes from the centre of Canberra, but Mt Stromlo Observatory and its visitors' centre, the Stromlo Exploratory, seem a world away, overlooking the beautiful Brindabella Ranges.



Stromlo Exploratory is an educational centre designed to help satisfy the never-ending quest for knowledge about astronomy and related sciences. Mt Stromlo Observatory has been a part of Canberra's heritage since 1924, is a fully operational active observatory and is Australia's major research centre in optical and infrared astronomy.

The visitor's centre boasts two floors of hands-on exhibits, telescope tours that take in our giant 74" telescope, and historic Yale Columbia telescope, other beautiful heritage listed buildings around our site and spectacular images of the solar system and beyond at our slide shows narrated by a practicing astronomer. The award winning Red Belly Black Café serves wonderful coffee and funky fresh food. The Star Ware gift shop includes a huge range of fun and educational giftware and teaching resources. ■

## ALIA2000 Fringe: Beyond the square

**A**re you attending ALIA2000? Consider coming along to The Fringe. The Fringe will appeal to library and information professionals who are interested in their own career development and the future of our profession. The program is especially aimed at new and recent graduates, but will also provide a forum for networking, updating and exchanging ideas for anyone who is returning to the profession, contemplating a change in direction, or considering working in non-traditional areas. Informal and interactive, The Fringe will feature keynote speakers, short presentations, panel discussions, group sessions and networking opportunities!

Highlights of the program include:

- John Levett, editor of the *Australian Library Journal* speaking on 'Librarianship beyond the square?';
- keynote addresses from Professor Mairéad Browne, professor and dean, University Graduate School,

University of Technology and ALIA president, and June Garcia, CEO Carl Corporation;

- a career planning session with Leonie Blair from AIMA Training and Consultancy Services; and
- a summary of The Fringe themes from Ian McCallum, director of Libraries Alive!

A mixture of presenters, including recent graduates, will speak on:

- the future directions within and outside libraries;
- what prospective employers are looking for; and
- alternative options for furthering your career.

There will be the opportunity to meet presenters, discuss issues raised and explore topics of interest in small groups.

Full details of the program are



available at <http://www.alia.org.au/conferences/alia2000/fringe/>. Contact Ann Ritchie, 02 6230 1231, for more information. Registration for the Fringe can be made either through the conference registration form, or via the conference web site. Registration fees are for ALIA members \$65, or for ALIA student/unemployed members \$50; and for non-members \$90, and student/unemployed non-members \$60. ■