



**AUSTRALIAN
OUTDOOR LIVING**

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

to Outdoor Living
**in THE AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL TERRITORY**

Insights and inspiration for living in the Country's Capital

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE

to Outdoor Living **in THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

The Australian Capital Territory may be the smallest of Australia's territories and states, but what we lack in size we make up for with plenty of culture, festivals, and surrounding natural beauty.

We're one of Australia's youngest cities and we're still expanding, as more people move here for the country lifestyle with city benefits – who would object to no road tolls or traffic jams? But this city expansion means we're seeing newer developments cropping up on much smaller blocks, making the backyard even more precious.

Here at Australian Outdoor Living we've put together this little celebration of ACT to give you a better idea of where our territory is headed in the future *and* how to make the most of the abundance of natural beauty we've got close at hand.

We've enlisted the help of property experts to share with you some of their expert knowledge on the future of the Aussie housing market and how property trends currently sit in Canberra.

Next, **STYLE CURATOR** creator Gina Ciancio explains how our backyards feature a growing focus on sustainability.

Here in the ACT we love to make the most of a long weekend. In this eBook, we explain what our favourite public holidays are and how Canberrans like to celebrate them. We've included an ACT events calendar to help keep you up-to-date with all the outdoor goings-on in this tiny territory of ours.

We love to make the most of the great outdoors we have at our fingertips, and I really hope this guide helps you make the most of it too.

Todd Obara

Australian Outdoor Living General Manager, Australian Capital Territory



**AUSTRALIAN
OUTDOOR LIVING**

CLIMATE & THE LAND



① Australian War Memorial

② Mount Ginini

③ Namadji National Park

④ Lake Tuggeranong

⑤ Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

⑥ Kowen Pine Forest

WEATHER CONDITIONS



SUMMER

Bright.

Average temperature:
27°C average



WINTER

Weak sun.

Average temperature:
11°C average

The ACT's high elevation (at 600 metres) means we're hit by extreme winter chills as well as those summer scorches. And sometimes we can get all seasons in a single day. The ACT enjoys a dry climate with four distinct seasons. Summers can be scorching, frequently hitting the 40s, yet our winter embraces frequent frosts and fog.

Our climate – along with our proximity to the Great Dividing Range and other national parks – makes the ACT an ideal outdoors adventure destination. For example, Namadji National Park's forests, rivers and waterholes comprise 40% of the ACT, making it the perfect place for bushwalking. And with the Australian Alps not far away, skiing and snowboarding opportunities are rife in winter!

FUN FACT



Canberra can get pretty chilly! Its lowest recorded minimum temperature was -10°C in July 1971. Brrrr!

THE FUTURE OF ACT PROPERTIES

Australian properties are as popular as ever, but with a growing population and greater demand for homeownership, Aussie blocks are getting smaller. We spoke to the experts to hear what they've got to say.

Property expert and **Professionals Ultimate** Director Peter Taliangis says the days for huge blocks and big backyards are gone. *"The average family home is currently being built on 450-500 m²," he says.*

"There's generally enough room for 20 m² of grass, or maybe a fraction more if a two-story home is built. That means pools and tennis courts are slowly making way for an al fresco area and a strip of garden bed."

Todd Schulberg from **Homely.com.au** says this trend towards smaller blocks means people have to rethink how to make their backyards work better for them:

"People are living on smaller blocks and starting to adapt their idea of a dream home to be something a little more versatile and unique ... In the future, an Aussie backyard is more likely to be a balcony with a railing or a very small outdoor area."



And what about the ACT?

It's been a slow couple of years in the ACT but the market's beginning to improve, says Chief Minister Andrew Barr. **Domain** reports: *"Mr Barr said the city had displayed a strong resilience over the past few years, especially in the housing market, where prices had been steady following an appropriate flow of land release and urban infill providing new housing."*

Your Investment Property says high wages keep ACT properties affordable. In fact, it's the most affordable state or territory in Australia. It says Macquarie, Chisholm and Harrison are all suburbs to watch. Their proximity to quality infrastructure, including transport, schools and parks, makes them popular Canberran suburbs.

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IMPROVING PROPERTY VALUE

"Adding value to your home should be about adding value where you can use it most, not where you can see it most. People are more attracted to liveability rather than image. On top of that, people don't want to pay top dollar for someone else's personal touch and style; they want to buy something neutral that they can make their own and then add their own value. Keep things simple, clean and remember to not over-clutter."



Todd Schulberg
Homely.com.au



Peter Taliangis
Professionals Ultimate

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TIME TO SELL?

"Keeping up-to-date with maintenance, painting and upgrading every 7 to 10 years are all vitally important to producing good selling outcomes when the time comes."



DESIGN YOUR

BACKYARD FOR THE ACT LANDSCAPE



STYLE CURATOR creator Gina Ciancio has been a Canberra resident for the past eight years. She's really making the most of her "own little oasis" in the outdoors. Here's what she has to say about backyard landscaping in the ACT:

In Australia, we're so lucky to have the opportunity to make our backyard an outdoor living room that can be used for most of the year. To me the best thing about backyards is that they are our own little oasis - whether it's a large outdoor space or just a little balcony, it becomes a space we can make our own.

In Canberra there's a move towards organic, home-grown produce so people aren't just using their backyards for entertaining or relaxing. And the creative ways people are converting sections of their backyard into vegetable gardens is impressive – corrugated iron or wood pallet raised planter boxes, and wall-mounted herb gardens are just some of the clever ideas I've seen.

In terms of backyard 'trends', I'm seeing people use more commercial materials like gabion walls and steel structures. Accent lighting, like LED up lights, are also becoming more popular and can transform the average backyard into one that is dynamic.

I'm currently building a new home and am excited to finally create an outdoor space that will be stylish, usable and suited to our lifestyle. Our old house, which we demolished to make way for the new home, was unmanageable. We're looking forward to creating an outdoor space that will be planned, with defined 'zones', and low maintenance.

"... the best thing about backyards is that they are our own little oasis... a space we can make our own."

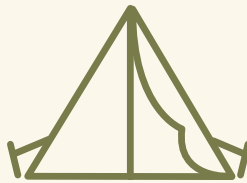


Gina Ciancio
STYLE CURATOR



HOW TO SPEND A RIPPER

LONG WEEKEND AWAY, THE ACT WAY



Canberra is pretty unique among Aussie capital cities in that it turns into a ghost town come any grand public holiday. Being close to so much natural beauty, every long weekend heralds a mass exodus, with locals heading off for some outdoors adventure.

With the snowfields and the coast just a short drive away, we've really got the best of the best. And with so many national parks and alpine rivers nearby, it's hard to stay in town when nature entices.

Easter is the big one; with four days off, Canberrans take to the national parks or the coast for a spot of camping, bushwalking, or beach sports. Head to Tidbinbilla or Namadgi National Park for some bushwalking, or take a trip to Jervis Bay for its pristine beaches. When the season arrives, hit up the ski slopes at Brindabella.

There are times it's worthwhile sticking around town. Australia Day is naturally big in the nation's capital; you can join the crowd on the lawns of Parliament House on Australia Day eve to hear the announcements of the Australians of the Year.

The Anzac Day Dawn Service is another important event in the ACT calendar. Join the contemplative silence of a thousands-strong crowd as the sun rises over the Australian War Memorial.

Aside from the big holidays, Canberra has some more subtle festive occasions. In spring, Canberra hosts Australia's biggest flower festival, Floriade.

This is the event STYLE CURATOR blogger Gina Ciano looks forward to all year. Here's what she has to say about the festival:

"It's a time to spend a day out with your family and friends, enjoying the millions of flowers and fun entertainment.

I personally love to go to the Nightfest at Floriade, when the park comes to life after dark. The light shows are so impressive and you can also enjoy great entertainment from DJs and comedians."

love *Your Life* outdoors

ANNUAL ACT EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY

Australia Day
Live

FEBRUARY

National Multicultural
Festival

MARCH

Enlighten
Canberra

APRIL

Anzac Day Dawn Service
Canberra Marathon
Canberra & Region
Heritage Festival

MAY

The Canberra
International Music Festival

JUNE

The Truffle
Festival

JULY

Skate in
the City

AUGUST

Fireside
Festival

SEPTEMBER

Floriade

OCTOBER

Canberra Nara
Candle Festival

NOVEMBER

Stargaze
@ Mt Stromlo
Observatory

DECEMBER

Canberra
Carols by
Candlelight



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THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Peter Taliangis uses his years of experience as a trusted real estate advisor to find West Australians the homes of their dreams or their desired investment opportunity. Experienced as a property developer and investor, he is Director of **Professionals Ultimate**. He is a member of a number of property and investor groups, which ensures he stays up to date on the latest trends, but can also find buyers that other agents may not be aware of.



Peter Taliangis
Professionals Ultimate



Todd Schulberg
Homely.com.au

Todd Schulberg lives and breathes property, handling all things marketing for **Homely.com.au**. Todd has a keen interest in the movements in the market and how agents can utilise new tools and technology in order to be more connected. Using all things social, Todd suggests different ways that agents can engage and think outside the square with their marketing approach.

Gina Ciano is the blogger behind **STYLE CURATOR**, a home and interiors blog for people who appreciate design and want regular inspiration to create a more stylish home.

At **STYLE CURATOR** you'll find tips and advice, interviews with artists and experts in the design industry, regular updates about Gina's home build, and lots of other stylish news.



Gina Ciano
STYLE CURATOR



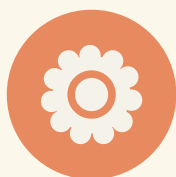


ACT

GARDENING RESOURCES



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
BOTANICAL GARDENS



CANBERRA ORGANIC
GROWERS SOCIETY

love *Your Life* outdoors

For a FREE measure and design
on one of our quality products,
contact our Canberra Office:

Australian Outdoor Living ACT

36 John Bull Street

Queanbeyan West NSW 2620

Outdoor Blinds

Roller Shutters

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