



Australia News

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NOVEMBER 2011

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Ottawa**

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Farewell from High Commissioner Brown

I am leaving Ottawa with a sense of confidence about the links between our two countries.

The last three years have produced some good results, notably the creation of the Australia-Canada Economic Leadership Forum, the launch of a joint study on the trade and investment relationship, co-operation in combating people smuggling and strengthened foreign and defence policy consultative mechanisms.

I have been particularly pleased at the close links between Australia and Canada in the G20, a fact which underscores the common ground between our countries on economic issues such as financial regulation and the need for open markets.

As two middle powers with a major stake in a well-functioning global rules-based order, now more than ever our two countries should make the most of our economic credentials and capacity for policy innovation to exert influence on the direction of the global policy debate.

As I have said many times since coming to Ottawa, there is much to do in the world, but relatively few countries that can do it. Working together, we can make a greater impact than if we act separately.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of my Canadian friends and colleagues for their cooperation and assistance. I have deeply appreciated the many well wishes that my family and I have received. I hope that the festive season and the New Year bring much happiness and success to you and your families, and I trust you will remain firm and active friends of Australia in Canada.

Justin Brown



Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations (TPP)

Commenting on the expressions of interest from Canada – together with Japan and Mexico – in joining the TPP negotiations, Australia’s Trade Minister Dr Craig Emerson emphasised that Australia is looking for a comprehensive, high-quality agreement.

Dr Emerson noted that the TPP is more than a traditional NAFTA-style trade agreement; it will also deal with so-called ‘behind-the-border’ impediments to trade and investment.

From Australia’s perspective, we want the TPP to produce genuinely new market access openings. The TPP has the potential to form a building block for free trade across the Asia-Pacific region, and to generate new growth opportunities at a time when the WTO global negotiations are stalled.

CHOGM makes progress in reinvigorating the Commonwealth

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), chaired by Prime Minister Gillard, took place in Perth, Western Australia from 28-30 October. 51 developed and developing nations were represented at CHOGM, with 38 Heads of Government attending, including Prime Minister Harper.

The agenda for CHOGM was ambitious and ended with leaders reaching agreement on a number of significant resolutions, many relating to the recommendations contained in the report presented by the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) which was established at CHOGM 2009 to examine ways to reinvigorate the Commonwealth. Canadian Senator Hugh Segal was a member of the EPG.

Of particular significance was the agreement by the Commonwealth leaders to conclude a charter of the Commonwealth, a central recommendation of the EPG. The charter is envisaged as bringing together the Commonwealth's values, principles and aspirations in one clear and powerful statement. CHOGM 2011 agreed that there would now be a process of consultation on the text of the charter with the aim of finalising it in 2012.

Leaders also addressed the EPG recommendation for a commissioner for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, which was supported by Australia and a number of other delegations, but not all. The proposal for a commissioner will now be evaluated by the Secretary-General and the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group who will report back to leaders.



In a significant development for global food security, Commonwealth leaders agreed to the 'Perth Declaration on Food Security' which emphasises the importance of reducing barriers to trade in agricultural goods, improving agricultural productivity and providing market-based incentives for farmers in developing countries to grow food.

The final CHOGM communiqué, outlining the 17 major areas of agreement, is available online.

chogm2011.org

The High Commissioner addresses a pre-CHOGM reception held at his residence on 21 October.



CHOGM 2011
PERTH, AUSTRALIA

Image courtesy of thecommonwealth.org

Parliament approves carbon pricing package

Australia's 'Clean Energy Future' legislation has now passed through both houses of Parliament, clearing the way for the introduction of a price on carbon in July 2012.

The carbon price will apply to around 500 of the country's biggest greenhouse gas emitters. At the same time, a \$40 million Energy Efficiency Information Grants program will lend support to small to medium sized businesses to help them reduce their energy costs.

Prime Minister Gillard described the passage of the legislation as a major milestone in Australia's efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions and to create economic and job opportunities in zero emitting technologies.

climatechange.gov.au

cleanenergyfuture.gov.au



Launch of Asia White Paper

In October Prime Minister Gillard announced the launch of a *White Paper on Australia in the Asian Century*.

She described the White Paper as providing a 'national blueprint for Australia' to help it navigate the Asian Century.

An advisory panel will prepare the White Paper. It will be led by Dr Ken Henry, former Secretary of the Treasury Department. Other members are Professor Peter Drysdale, Catherine Livingstone, and John Denton.

The development of the White Paper will include an intensive period of consultation with the community and international partners. The panel is due to report to the government in the first half of 2012, with the White Paper to be released in mid 2012.

Australia to host G20 in 2014

The recent G20 summit in Cannes agreed that Australia would host the G20 in 2014. This meeting promises to be the most significant gathering of international leaders Australia has ever hosted. The host city has not yet been named

G20.org

Cairns Group ministers in Saskatoon

The 36th Cairns Group Ministerial meeting took place in Saskatoon from 7-9 September and was chaired by Dr Emerson and hosted by Canada's Minister for Agriculture, Gerry Ritz. The Cairns Group is a coalition of 19 agricultural exporting countries committed to agricultural trade liberalisation and reform.

Dr Emerson said there had been a frank and honest assessment at the meeting on the disappointing state of play in the WTO Doha Round of negotiations.

Food security issues were also discussed, with the Group agreeing that market mechanisms provide the best hope of matching world food supplies with rising demand. There was also consensus that now is the right time to eliminate agricultural export subsidies and limit farm subsidies, given the budgetary pressures in the United States and Europe and high global food prices.

cairnsgroup.org



Top left: Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Gerry Ritz; Deputy Premier of Saskatchewan, Ken Krawetz; Australian Minister for Trade, Dr Craig Emerson.
Top right: Ministers Ritz and Emerson.



Bumper trade surplus and record exports in Asian century

Australia posted a trade surplus of \$3.1 billion in August - the second highest on record. Dr Emerson said Australia's convincing bounce-back from the export slump earlier this year testified to the resilience of Australian exporters.

trademinister.gov.au

Australia helps fight international crime

Australia's Attorney-General Robert McClelland and Foreign Minister Rudd announced the Australian Government will provide a \$250,000 funding boost to support the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC), as part of Australia's ongoing commitment to international criminal justice.

Mr Rudd said the ICC continues to play a critical role in bringing perpetrators of serious crimes of international concern to justice.

foreignminister.gov.au

Foreign Ministers Rudd and Baird meet in Bali



Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Kevin Rudd and Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird meet for the first time, along with New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully, at the 44th ASEAN Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia.

Australia assists developing countries into trade

Australia will contribute \$2 million under the World Trade Organization's Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), a multi-donor program which brings together least-developed nations, donors and international agencies, to assist the world's poorest countries integrate into the global trading system. Foreign Affairs Minister Kevin Rudd and Trade Minister Craig Emerson announced the contribution in connection with the Third Global Review of trade-related development assistance (Aid for Trade) at WTO headquarters in Geneva on 18-19 July.

Landmark agreement to help world's poorest

Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Kevin Rudd, and World Bank Group President, Robert B. Zoellick, have signed a Partnership Framework, which will elevate Australia's partnership with the World Bank Group to a new level, providing a model for future donor cooperation. The agreement follows Australia's Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness, which recommended that Australia build greater strategic partnerships with multilateral institutions.

Microfinance support for 26 million women in developing countries

Australia will help millions of women in developing countries to achieve economic independence through microfinance funding. At the APEC Women and the Economy Summit, chaired by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in San Francisco, Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd committed \$2.2 million to help women start and expand their own small businesses.

foreignminister.gov.au



The High Commissioner, Canadian Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney, Ms Caroline Linke and Miss Gabriella Brown attend an Australian Dinner at the Calgary Stampede on 14 July, 2011.

Climate change research team established

Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has announced that Dr Wenju Cai has received a five-year CSIRO fellowship to establish a new research team examining climate influences on Australia. Dr Cai will build the team with funds provided through a 2011 CSIRO Office of the Chief Executive Science Leadership Award.

Dr Cai said the core of his research will centre on detection and attribution of climate change in Australia and links between ocean climate influences and Australian climate, with particular attention to influences on rainfall variability and water availability.

Since 2005, Dr Cai has been lead-author or co-authored some 40 peer-reviewed scientific papers on climate variability, change, predictability, and detection and attribution, and on the response of Australian climate to climate change forcing factors, such as increasing carbon dioxide and anthropogenic aerosols.

csiro.au

Australia-France issue joint statement on climate change

Foreign Minister Rudd welcomed France's Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Alain Juppé, to Australia for the first time in September. The two countries reaffirmed their commitment to a global solution to the challenges caused by climate change.

foreignminister.gov.au

On 22 August, the High Commissioner accompanied Wally the Wallaby, official mascot for Australia at the 2011 Rugby World Cup, to Parliament Hill.

Two officers of the RCMP were on hand to lend a uniquely Canadian feel to Wally's visit.



Canadian Ashes returned to Australia

The Australian High Commission's cricketers regained the coveted Canadian "Ashes" Trophy with a resounding victory over the British High Commission team on 22 July at Rideau Hall. The trophy is a reference to the original Ashes, which the Australian and English national cricket teams vie for every two years. This year's match was the resumption of an Ottawa tradition dating back to 1996.

On a perfect day for cricket, the Australian batters posted a competitive score of 106, aided by the sturdy top order of Kris Adams and Jamie Patten-Richens and some enterprising batting by Darren Roffey, Josh Gleeson and the tailenders. The Britons struggled to chase the target, losing early wickets to the wily medium pace of David Martin, Joel Dawes and the High Commissioner, who were ably supported in the field by Luke Walsh and Ross Highfield, and behind the stumps by Dave Charlton. The Brits were dismissed for 50.

The victory capped a fine week for Australia in world sports, as Cadel Evans won the storied yellow jersey in the Tour de France – the first Australian to do so.



Top: David Martin opens the bowling for the Australian High Commission (photo courtesy Sam Garcia—*Embassy Magazine*).

Bottom left: The High Commissioner reflects on the game with British Deputy High Commissioner Martin Hill.

Bottom right: the Australian team with the Ashes trophy (clockwise from back left): Luke Walsh, Tom Edwards, Dave Charlton, Joel Dawes, the High Commissioner, Darren Roffey, Jamie Patten-Richens, David Martin (c), Josh Gleeson, Kris Adams, Ross Highfield.



Team Canada in Australia for International Cup

Canada's national teams in the sport of Australian Rules Football travelled to Sydney and Melbourne in August to participate in the triennial International Cup against teams from around the world.

The men's team, the Northwind, and the women's team, the Northern Lights, performed admirably in the tournament, winning a number of matches.

Australian Rules Football (known as Aussie Rules) is expanding across Canada. Men's leagues are well established in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, while women's competitions are developing strongly in Alberta and Ontario.

aflcanada.com

Australian Rules Football and rugby - what is the difference?

Australian Rules Football is Australia's official national sport – not rugby. While rugby is popular in the states of New South Wales and Queensland, "Aussie Rules" is the most popular winter sport and is played countrywide. A professional league, the Australian Football League (AFL), has teams based in seven cities around Australia and matches played in every state and territory. Mike Pyke of Victoria, BC, in 2010 became the first Canadian to play in the AFL when he dressed for the Sydney Swans.

Though often confused with rugby, Aussie Rules resembles neither rugby, nor soccer, nor North American football. It is played by teams of 18 players on an oval field approximately 150 metres by 120 metres. Teams move the ball by punting it or punching it to teammates and score goals by kicking the ball between the upright goal posts. There is no offside in Australian football, making it a very free-flowing and creative form of football. It is also played with full contact but no padding.

Those interested in the game can watch or join the Ottawa Swans, the local team playing in the Ontario AFL, during the summer months. New players are welcome.

ottawaswans.com

Australians in Whitewater Ontario Summer Series

Ottawa's Pumphouse training facility played host to Australia's finest young white water paddlers on 26 June. The Australian Junior A Team was in Ottawa for the first leg of a four-week North American tour including races in Madawaska and Minden, Ontario.

On the day, a number of the Australians showed some fine skills to tame the course in quick time. The Australians achieved numerous podium finishes throughout their tour and Maggie Webster won the series while Daniel Watkins finished third overall in their respective age categories.

ntsslalom.canoe.org.au



Australia on podium in Montreal International Fireworks Competition

Australian firm Howard and Sons performed superbly in the world renowned International Des Feux Loto-Quebec competition held throughout July and August in Montreal. Along with competitors from around the world, the Australians impressed Montreal's audiences with their superbly synchronised music and fireworks.

The pyrotechnics of Howard and Sons were fired to the unforgettable percussion and didgeridoo sounds of musical duo eMDee, with the theme "Colours of Kakadu". At the conclusion of the competition, the Australians placed third in the prestigious competition and also won the prize for best soundtrack.

Public Diplomacy Officer David Martin watched the performance on 16 July and met the artists of Howard and Sons and eMDee at a networking reception after the show. Two weeks later, Carrie McKay represented the High Commission in accepting the two prestigious awards on behalf of Howard and Sons and eMDee.

internationaldesfeuxloto-quebec.com



Top: Representatives of the winning teams in the International Des Feux Loto-Quebec.

Bottom left: Public Diplomacy Officer David Martin with members of Howard and Sons and musicians eMDee.

Bottom right: Carrie McKay with the trophy for Best Soundtrack.



Australians on show at TIFF

On 9 September the High Commission co-hosted a networking reception with Screen Australia to profile the significant Australian presence at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

The reception preceded the world premiere screening of *The Hunter*, one of seven fine Australian films nominated for this year's festival. A number of members of the film industry, including producers, directors and financiers, attended the reception, as well as stars of some of the Australian films on show.

The Australian films selected for TIFF in 2011 were typically diverse. The films were:

Burning Man
The Eye of the Storm
The Hunter
Killer Elite
Sleeping Beauty
Snowtown
The Tall Man

TOP: Canadian alumnus Naz Zarafian with actors Geoffrey Rush (L) and Sam Neill (R).

RIGHT: CEO of Screen Australia Dr Ruth Harley with Public Diplomacy Officer David Martin.



Australian football celebrated in Ottawa

Deputy High Commissioner Bruce Soar attended the Ottawa Swans Australian Football Club's annual Steve Spurrell Medal dinner—Ottawa football's night of nights.

Mr Soar presented an award at the event and spoke of his pleasant surprise at finding such a thriving Australian football club so far from Australia.

Darren Roffey was the big winner on the night, winning the Steve Spurrell Medal, given to the Swans' best and fairest player of the season, as well as the Most Consistent Player award. Mr Roffey also won both awards in 2010.

Other Swans to win awards included:

Runner-up Best & Fairest: Blake Hurley - Leading Goal Kicker: Ryan Gregory - Clubperson of the year: Ben Birt
Best Canadian: Mike Kozlowski, Jay Goldhawk - Rookie of the Year: Tom Delaney - Coach's Award: Dave Martin

ottawaswans.com

Alumnus profile: Beth McNally

The High Commission has been contacted by Canadians from across the country who studied in Australia in response to our own alumni outreach efforts. Beginning in this edition, we will profile some of our alumni excelling in Canada.

The High Commission recently caught up with Beth McNally, Director, OzTREKK Educational Services, based in Perth, Ontario.

Q. What and where did you study?

I completed a Master of Public Policy degree at the University of Sydney.

Q. How and why Australia?

In my Grade Six class in elementary school, we took a geography lesson (in French!) about Australia, and I remember being intrigued by this island country on the other side of the world. Since then, I had always wanted to visit Australia. When I finished my undergrad degree at Ottawa U, I applied for a Working-Holiday visa and backpacked around New Zealand and Australia for a year. I had originally wanted to attend university in Australia, but had not yet decided on a graduate program. After my year travelling and working in Australia, I knew I wanted to go back to study. I returned to Canada for a year to save money, and started my graduate studies in Australia a year later.

Q. What are your memories of Australia?

My best memories of studying in Australia involved classroom discussions on political and policy issues. In one of my graduate Public Affairs classes, there were students from 17 different countries with diverse political and bureaucratic experiences and perspectives. It was amazing to analyse issues and consider opportunities and options for political systems and government agencies from around the world. I found those discussions fascinating and my mindset was challenged. I felt like the experience unlocked a part of my brain that had been set to view the world only through a North American lens.

Q. People say that Canada and Australia are culturally similar. Is this true of the academic world?

Yes and no. In my opinion, there is a strong entrepreneurial spirit in Australia generally and I find that translates into the academic world.



Australian universities are more focused on research, and they strongly encourage their students to partake in research opportunities. I also find that the British model is more prevalent in Australia, with professional degrees traditionally offered at the undergraduate level. One obvious difference is the diversity on campus with Australians welcoming so many international students from around the globe.

Beth McNally (centre) with Matt Miernik and the High Commissioner during the first gathering of Ottawa-based alumni of Australian universities.

Alumnus profile: Beth McNally

Q. Was there anything unexpected that you found about Australia?

There were quite a few things that I did not expect to learn about Australia. I was surprised by how interested Aussies were to meet me and want to speak with me because I was Canadian. Almost every Australian I encountered had either visited Canada or a trip to Canada was on their wish list. When I first arrived in Sydney, I was shocked that people would take ferries as public transportation. Coming from landlocked Ontario, it baffled me that I could take a boat to get to uni each day!

I was living in Sydney when the September 11, 2001, attacks occurred on the US. I was surprised at how strong the impact was felt in Australia, when we were located so far away. The morning of September 12, I took a ferry across the harbour and you could hear a pin drop. Everyone was shocked and it was eerily quiet. In the days that followed, Sydneysiders watched the 9/11 news reports from big screens set up in Circular Quay. This experience made me realize just how small the world can be.

Q. Your company, OzTREKK, sends young Canadians to Australian universities. What made you want to help other Canadians?

I had already been living and working in Australia, but I found the process of applying to an Australian university difficult. I also met a lot of Canadians who were confused about how to get organized to study in Australia. Although Canada and Australia share similarities, the education systems differ and moving to another country across the world can be daunting. This is where we had the idea to set up OzTREKK, to help make the process easy for other students.

Q. What advice do you give to the young people that head to the other side of the world through OzTrek?

Enjoy the opportunity! Australia has a lot to offer, and if you can make it happen, the experience will change your life. I think many Canadians view Australia as an ultimate destination, and if you study in Australia, you become part of the country.

Q. What feedback do your clients tend to give you when they return to Canada?

Most returning students say the same thing: "I love Canada, but I absolutely loved Australia and I'm not sure I should have come back!" It can be hard to endure a Canadian winter after you've enjoyed beach weather down under!

oztrekk.com

Advance Global Australian Awards

Advance, the worldwide organisation of Australian expatriates, has announced that nominations are open for its Global Australian Awards. The awards recognise Australians who have made outstanding contributions in their field of endeavour around the world. In addition, the Advance Global Alumni Awards will recognise a non-Australian who attended an Australian university.

Members of the public are encouraged to submit nominations online. The deadline for nominations is 2 December 2011.

globalaustralianawards.com

Visit by Indigenous leader Dr Tom Calma

Prominent Australian Indigenous leader, Dr Tom Calma, was in Ottawa in November to address the Assembly of First Nations.

Dr Calma also took time to meet with Canadian Government representatives and give presentations at the University of Ottawa and the Institute on Governance. Dr Calma's presentations focused on Close The Gap, the initiative he has driven to improve health outcomes for Indigenous Australians.



Dr Calma (R) following his address at the Institute on Governance, with Mr Scott Serson.

Visit by Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

A delegation of representatives from Australia and New Zealand attended the International Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Forum in Banff in August. The delegation was led by the Australian Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, and included senior representatives from the Australian, New Zealand and Western Australian Governments as well as a host of SKA scientists and key industry representatives. Australia and New Zealand have a joint bid to host the SKA.

ska.gov.au

Visit by Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Mr Warren Snowdon, Australia's Minister for Defence Science & Personnel, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister for Indigenous Health, and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC, visited Ottawa from 26 – 31 August.

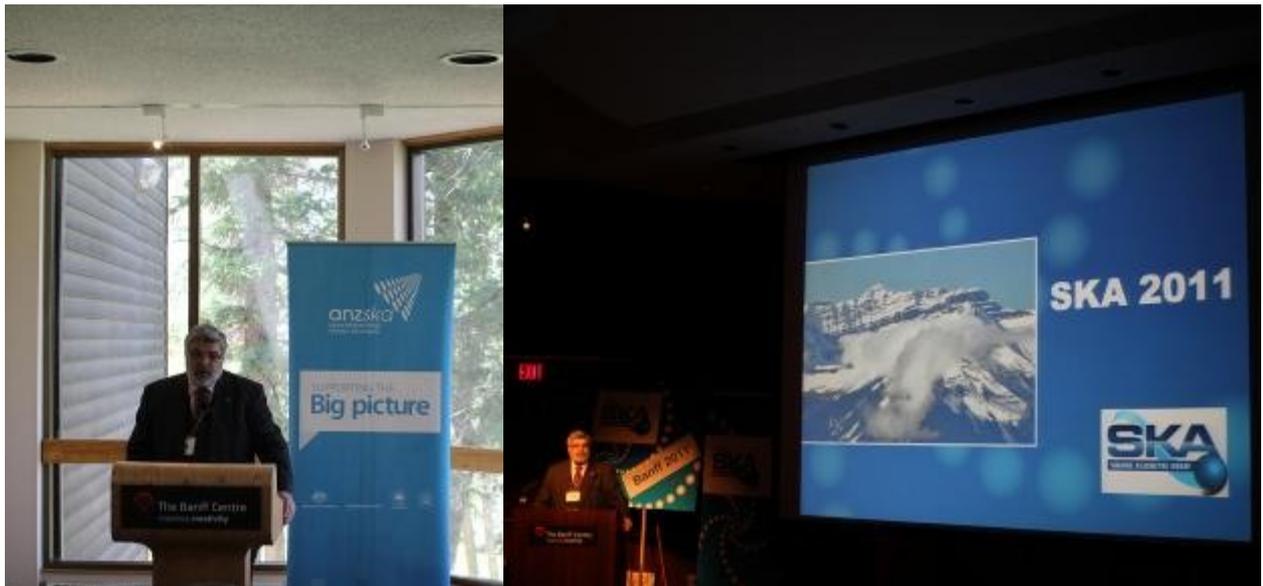


The primary purpose of the Minister's visit was to attend the Veterans' Affairs Ministerial Summit hosted by the Canadian Veterans' Affairs Minister, Mr Steven Blaney; however, the visit also provided

a valuable opportunity for the Minister to engage Canadian counterparts in discussions relating to his other portfolios of Defence Science and Personnel as well as Indigenous Health.

The Minister was also able to attend the 8th Annual Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans Day of Remembrance ceremony at the National War Memorial on Sunday 28 August along with the High Commissioner and Defence Advisor. Also in attendance at the ceremony was the Canadian Minister of Veterans Affairs and Vice-Admiral Paul Maddison, Commander, Royal Canadian Navy.

Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research



Minister Carr addresses the SKA Forum in Banff.

Think Tank Corner

Australian art on show in Montreal

The Lowy Institute

Has released a policy brief identifying long-term threats to Australia's claims in Antarctica and recommends policy changes and capability investments to protect Australia's interests. An analysis released by Lowy, entitled "Improving access to climate financing for the Pacific Islands", discusses the challenges and opportunities for Pacific Island governments to access adaptation funding, to respond to the adverse effects of climate change.

lowyinstitute.org

Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Has published the 2011-2012 edition of its annual defence almanac. The publication provides information on defence legislation, ADF personnel and equipment, defence funding, and Australia's defence and security treaties and agreements. A new report by the institute, "Forks in the River", argues that Australia will be drawn increasingly to grow its strategic engagement with Asian partners and outlines options for Asian engagement.

www.aspi.org.au

The Centre for Independent Studies

Report, entitled "Australia's Angry Mayors", discusses the effects of population growth on municipal budgets. It concludes there is inadequate finance for required infrastructure upgrades and calls for local government finance reform.

cis.org.au



Public Diplomacy Officer David Martin (R) alongside Australian artist-in-residence Wade Marynowsky at the annual XL fundraiser at the Darling Foundry, Montreal. Earlier, Mr Martin attended the opening of Water Portraits: Queensland-Quebec International Print Exchange, Dawson College.



Australian Wine Society of Ottawa celebrates summer

Enjoying a summer's evening at the Rideau Carleton Raceway: (from left) Deputy High Commissioner Bruce Soar, Ottawa Swans Australian Football Club President Ray Kaduck and Australian Wine Society President Karina Rolland-Sardana.

awsottawa.com

- IN PROFILE -

In profile: Northern Territory (NT)

Area: 1,420,970 km²

Population: 229,700

Density: 0.16 persons/km²

Capital city: Darwin

State Emblems: Wedge-tailed Eagle, Red Kangaroo, Sturt's Desert Rose

Chief Minister (Premier): Paul Henderson (Labor)

Political system: Unicameral Legislature

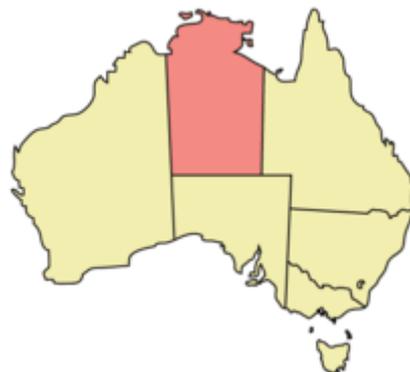
Federal Representation: 2 House seats (of 150), 2 Senate seats (of 76)

Famous Territorians: Cadel Evans (cyclist), Maurice and Cyril Rioli (footballers), Ian Moss (musician), Mandawuy Yunupingu (musician), Robert Tudawali (actor), Warwick Thornton (director), Damien Martyn (cricketer)

Exports: \$6.3 billion.

Major exports: Natural gas (\$2.2 billion); Manganese ores and concentrates (\$1.0 billion); Zinc ores and concentrates (\$0.25 billion).

Trade with Canada: Merchandise trade with Canada approximately \$146 million last year, making it the territory's eighth largest trading partner.



Map courtesy *virtualoceania.net*

The Northern Territory is the most sparsely populated of Australia's states and territories. With an average age of 31.3 years, it has the youngest population in Australia. Indigenous Australians make up 30 per cent of the overall population. The Indigenous society of the Northern Territory has the longest continuous cultural history in the world with settlements in the northern region of Arnhem Land dating back over 50,000 years.

The first European contact with the people of northern Australia was between the Dutch and the Tiwis in 1705. In 1824, the British established the first European settlement in the Northern Territory, but abandoned it five years later. Darwin Harbour was discovered in 1839 by John Lort Stokes, Captain of the *Beagle*, who named it after former shipmate Charles Darwin. The capital city of Darwin was founded in 1869. It was the only Australian location heavily attacked during World War Two, as there were 64 Japanese air raids on the city between 1942 and 1944.

Mining is the largest contributor to the territory's economy. Mineral and energy resources account for \$2.5 billion in revenue each year and the industry directly employs over 4,600 people. The tourism sector is another important economic contributor, employing 3,000 Territorians. Unique outback attractions such as Uluru draw 2.4 million tourists from around the world annually.

Australia third in hosting international tertiary students: OECD

A report from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has revealed that Australia ranks third behind the US and Britain in hosting international tertiary students. Following significant expansion of international education services, about 22 per cent of tertiary enrolments in Australia are by overseas students. The percentage of foreign students at Australian universities is more than three times the OECD average. The report, 'Education at a Glance', highlights the explosion in international student numbers. In 1975, 800,000 students went overseas for an education; in 2009 the number was 3.9 million.

oecd.org

Out and about with the High Commissioner



In a last ditch effort to host an outdoor event not hampered by rain before the end of his posting, the High Commissioner hosted a summer garden party at his residence in June. Mother Nature was not on his side and the usual downpour ensued on the day. Fortunately, rain did not dampen the

spirit of the large crowd, including members of parliament and the diplomatic corps, government officials and many friends of Australia in Canada.

In July, the High Commissioner travelled to Calgary to attend the Calgary Stampede and visit Spruce Meadows. He hosted a dinner that was attended by several parliamentarians and prominent Albertans. He also met with staff at the Canada West Foundation and at the University of Calgary.

In July the High Commissioner travelled to Halifax where he met with representatives of the provincial government and the NDP parliamentarian Robert Chisholm. In Vancouver later, he met with Premier Christy Clark.

In recognition of Australia hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth, the High Commissioner hosted a reception attended by High Commissioners of Commonwealth countries and senior government officials. Senator Hugh Segal, a member of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group, also attended the event. The High Commissioner also gave a series of background media interviews on CHOGM.

He also hosted two receptions to farewell High Commission staff members, Ms Melissa Fransen, who is replaced by Mr Tom Fuller, and Ms Jane Bartlett, who is replaced by Mr Evan Gallagher.

The High Commissioner welcomed a number of Australian visitors to Canada during the months of summer and fall, including Australia's Deputy National Security Adviser; the Adviser from the Defence, Intelligence & Research Coordination from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet; the Assistant Secretary from the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency; the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Dr Tom Calma, a prominent Australian Indigenous leader.

He also had the honour of welcoming a number of Australian ministers to Canada including The Hon Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science & Research, who attended the SKA International Forum in Banff, The Hon Warren Snowdon, Minister for Veterans Affairs, Defence Science and Personnel and Indigenous Health, who attended the ministerial meeting on veterans affairs, and The Hon Dr Craig Emerson, Minister for Trade who co-hosted the Cairns Ministerial Group meeting in Saskatoon with The Hon Gerry Ritz.

A number of state parliamentarians visited Canada during summer also, including the Hon John Day, Minister for Planning; Culture and the Arts; Science and Innovation, Western Australia, Mr Ian Blayney, MLA, Western Australia, and the Hon. Kevin Foley, M.P., South Australia.

The High Commissioner made a number of presentations during his final months in Ottawa. He presented to the board of Brookfield in August, NRTEE Board Members in September, and at a Canada 2020! Conference on Global Strategic Outlook. He also appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage.

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ONLINE

For information about the High Commission, visit canada.embassy.gov.au

HOLIDAY HOURS

The High Commission will be closed for the holidays on:
23, 26, 27 December
2011 and 2 January 2012.