



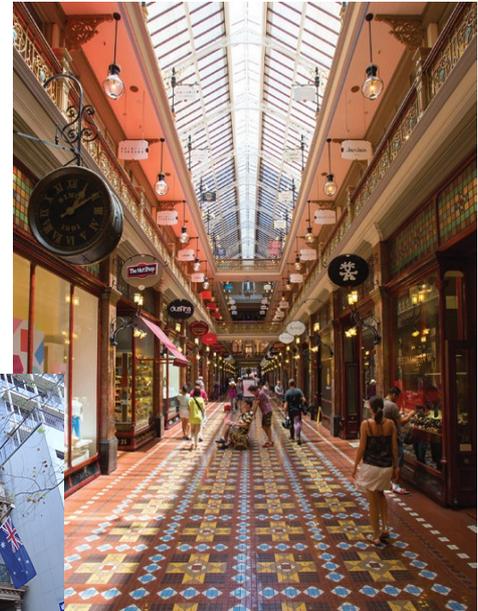
COMPANION TOURS

MONDAY 31 AUGUST

9:45 AM - 2:00 PM

Opera House tour and heritage Sydney walk

We started at the venue after the opening ceremony and took a guided walk (downhill 1.8 km) along Macquarie Street to the Opera House. The walk took us past many of the museums and heritage public buildings of Sydney. At the Opera House companions had a guided tour of the building, including some backstage areas not open to the public. Afterwards there was an Australian tasting plate lunch at the Opera Kitchen with views of Sydney Harbour Bridge and the harbour. Companions had the option of individually visiting the heritage Rocks area or returning to the venue by public bus.



The Strand Arcade (1891)



NSW Parliament House (built 1816 as part of the "Rum Hospital")



Left: History House (1871) – Royal Australian Historical



Right: Concert Hall

Centre: Backstage tour

Below: Opera Kitchen

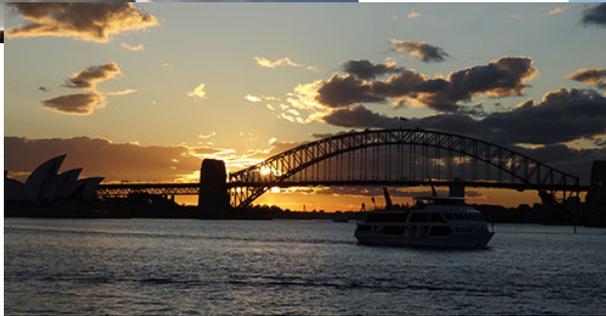


4:15 PM - 7:30 PM

Sydney Harbour sunset cruise

All Congress participants and companions cruised the beautiful Sydney Harbour aboard the MV *Jerry Bailey*, a 21.5 metre long catamaran, with a large main deck with seating, upper deck and viewing areas from the foredeck and the side decks. Sunset occurred at about 5:30 pm, so there was ample time to take in the majestic views of the Harbour itself, the central city district, and the Sydney Harbour Bridge, as we cruised beneath it twice and past the iconic Sydney Opera House.

During the time of our cruise, the MV *Jerry Bailey* flew three specially made flags to commemorate the hosting of ICV 26. The FIAV flag served as a jack. The Congress Flag, plus an ICV 26 Red Ensign, together with an Australian Red Ensign were displayed at the stern. The ICV red ensign was inspired by a similar flag flown at the San Francisco ICV in 1987, which had the NAVA flag in the canton.



TUESDAY 1 September

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Bus tour of Sydney's northern beaches.



Companions travelled by coach to some of Sydney's famous beaches and to enjoy the headland views. Sydney has over 80 ocean and harbour beaches. No swimming was expected, but there was a chance to walk along the beach and dip your toes in the Pacific Ocean at Manly Beach (above left).

The coach returned companions to Observatory Park, where delegates were enjoying a flag display. A catered light lunch was available. Afterwards, for those who want to explore the Rocks area, we had a guided stroll back to the venue. Otherwise there were buses to return delegates and companions to the Congress Venue.

WEDNESDAY 2 September

7:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Bus tour to Canberra, Australia's Capital City.

7:00 AM

Two buses departed Sydney for the approximate 300 kms south-west drive to Canberra. Breakfast packs and water was provided to everyone on the buses. And there was a morning tea break at Sutton Forrest.

12:00 Midday



National Gallery of Australia

Companions arrive at the National Gallery of Australia (NGA). The National Gallery has a large permanent collection and special exhibitions. Companions explored at their own pace. The main galleries are Australian, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander, European & American, Asian and Pacific Arts and an outdoor sculpture garden with a view of the National Carillon and Lake Burley Griffin.

Companions could choose the time they wanted to eat. Lunch was in the Gallery Café (cash was provided).

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

The Companion's bus departed the NGA travelling travel via a brief stop at the Australian War Memorial, to meet up with the Congress Delegates, before arriving at the Mt. Ainslie Lookout, for a panoramic view over Canberra and Lake Burley Griffin (photo right).

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Parliament House Tour. The guided tour included the building's public spaces, both Chambers of Parliament (House of Representatives and The Senate), and the Garden Roof, with a closer look at the 81 metre flagpole atop Parliament House.

5:15 PM – 6:00 PM

For the final stop before departing Canberra, we visited the Avenue of Flags on the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, to view the national flags of all the countries with diplomatic missions in Canberra. While there we had a late afternoon tea.

6:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Buses returned everyone to Sydney, via a mid-evening hot and cold buffet dinner at the Mittagong RSL Club. Participants were dropped off at several pre-designated locations in the city, as close as possible to their hotels.



Canberra & Lake Burley Griffin from Mt. Ainslie

THURSDAY 3 September

Taronga Zoo Tour

9:20 AM – 2:30 PM

Companions enjoyed a guided tour of Taronga Zoo, focussed on Australian Wildlife, including personal encounters with a Koala.

This trip included the ferry across Sydney Harbour from Circular Quay to the Zoo and back, which provided spectacular views of Sydney. Upon arrival at the Zoo the Sky Safari cable car transports the companions to the top of the Zoo, to start the downhill guided walking tour of the Zoo.

The tour finished with an included lunch at the Zoo's "The View" a la carte restaurant, before returning to the City via the ferry.



Koala at Taronga Zoo.
Photo: Elizabeth Dangaard

