



nie
NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION

Nice Sweet Wicked

FAST FACTS

- ▶ About June 2010, the population is 7,238,819, approximately one-third of Australia's total population.
- ▶ There are about 200,000km of roads and 12,000km of rail track.
- ▶ Jervis Bay Territory was surrendered by NSW to the Commonwealth Government in 1915 so that the nation's capital at Canberra would have "access to the sea".
- ▶ The state is divided geographically into regions: Outback NSW, New England, North West, Northern Rivers, North Coast, Hunter Valley, Central NSW, Blue Mountains, Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Sydney, Illawarra, South Coast, Capital Country, Riverina, The Murray, Snowy Mountains and Lord Howe Island.

HOW much do you know about the great state you live in? We are taking a look at some of the facts, visiting some of the special places and generally finding out more about New South Wales. Join us as we take a quick trip around the most populous state in Australia.

HOW IT CAME TO BE

THE area referred to as the state of New South Wales was formed during Federation in 1901.

Before that it was a colony of the British Empire. Captain James Cook named the east coast of Australia, New South Wales, during his 1770 voyage. Of course before this the Aboriginal people were the custodians of the land. The first British settlement was made when the First Fleet, led by Captain Arthur Phillip, established a penal colony in 1788 in the area where

modern-day Sydney is located. This colony struggled in the early days but in the next 40 years the frontier of settlement spread with exploration and as industry developed. During the 1900s Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland formed separate colonies. Today, NSW, which borders Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and encompasses the whole of the Australian Capital Territory, covers 809,444sq km.

PLACES TO SEE - THINGS TO DO

- ▶ SYDNEY Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House: These iconic landmarks are on the world famous Sydney Harbour.
- ▶ Taronga Zoo: Australia's leading zoological gardens has a collection of native and exotic species of animals set in lush gardens overlooking Sydney Harbour.
- ▶ Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo: This zoo offers a safari-like adventure through 3sq km of bushland with 700 animals to see.
- ▶ Jamberoo Action Park: For a fun-filled day visit New South Wales' biggest water theme park near Kiama on the South Coast.
- ▶ Bells Milk Bar and Museum, Broken Hill: Step back in time to a 1950s milk bar and sample the famous milkshakes or soda spiders.
- ▶ Jenolan Caves, Blue Mountains: This cave system has 11 spectacular show caves.

TOURISM

"TOURISM comprises the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment" – World Tourism Organisation.

There are many things to see and do around NSW: explore natural habitats, view galleries and museums or visit a theme park.

Did you know?

- ▶ Tourism generates \$53,843 a minute for the NSW economy.
- ▶ Tourism and travel directly accounts for one in every 21 jobs in NSW.
 - ▶ NSW attracts 52% of international visitors to Australia.
 - ▶ NSW has four of the top-10 destinations for domestic overnight visitors.

GOVERNMENT

THE State Parliament is composed of two houses: the Legislative Assembly (lower house) and Legislative Council (upper house). Elections are held every four years, the most recent being on March 26 this year. At each

election one member is elected to the Legislative Assembly from each of the 93 electoral districts and half of the 42 members of the Legislative Council are elected by a state-wide electorate.

QUICK QUIZ

1. What is the capital city of New South Wales?
2. What animal is represented on the state badge on the flag of New South Wales?
3. Who is the current premier of New South Wales?
4. List these New South Wales cities in order of size based on population: Albury, Coffs Harbour, Maitland, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Sydney, Tamworth, Tweed Heads, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong.
5. What is the highest mountain in New South Wales?
6. Which geographical region do you live in?



NEXT WEEK: Holiday time