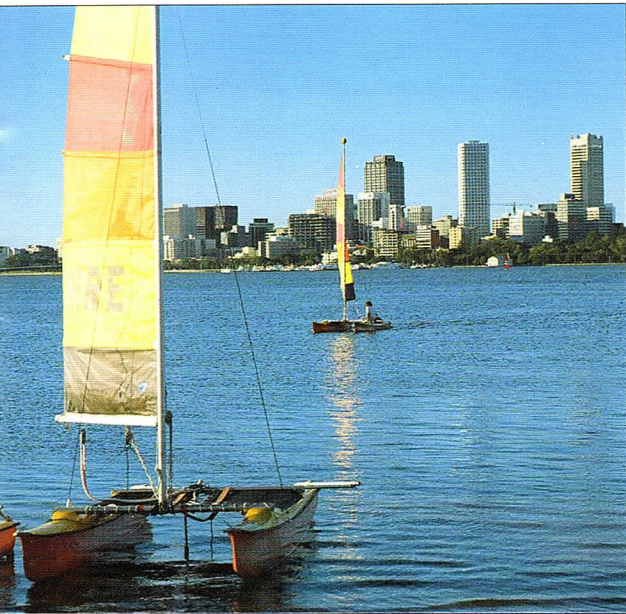


Australians have their own kind of football, called Australian Rules. On the day of the final match, in September each year, everything stops in Melbourne!

Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth are all large modern cities. In Brisbane you can still find stilt houses – wooden houses on tall posts which let cool air underneath the house. Adelaide has a famous festival of music, theatre and film every two years. And in Perth about one-third of the families own a boat. Hobart is a smaller, quieter city. It began in 1803 with 433 people – 281 of them convicts. Now it has about 170,000 people.

*Perth*



Finally there are Darwin and Canberra. Darwin, in the north of Australia, has no tall buildings, only long low ones, because during the summer storms the winds are sometimes very strong. In 1974 a storm called Cyclone Tracy killed sixty-seven people and destroyed nearly all the buildings in Darwin.

Canberra – an Aboriginal word meaning ‘meeting place’ – is the newest city of all. It is also different from the other cities because it is a long way – 120 kilometres – from the sea. It was designed by an American, Walter Burley Griffin, in 1912, and became the capital of Australia in 1927. This beautiful city has thousands of trees, and a big lake in its centre.

*Darwin after Cyclone Tracy*

