

## CANBERRA

18 February 2009

For the first time in more than a decade, the Qantas Socceroos are set to play an important international match in the nation's capital, making it the perfect opportunity for the people of Canberra to show their support for the round ball game.

The Qantas Socceroos will meet Kuwait in their first home match of the AFC 2011 Asian Cup qualification stage, presented by FOXTEL, at Canberra Stadium on Thursday 5 March.

Now it is in the hands of the Canberra community to demonstrate their interest in football – and the most practical way to do this is to come along to the match on 5 March, according to former Qantas Socceroos captain and Canberra Cosmos player, Paul Wade.

"If ever there was an opportunity to justify a Canberra team in the Hyundai A-League now is the chance, when the whole country is watching," said Wade.

The last time the Qantas Socceroos played an international in Canberra was an Oceania Cup match on 1 November 1996 against Tahiti. This match also marked the final appearance in the green and gold for Wade.

The crowd at that game was 9,421, with the most number of fans ever to fill a stadium to see the Qantas Socceroos being in 1980 when they met the then Czechoslovakia with 15,000 in attendance.

"For a city of more than 320,000 people, this record should be easily broken," said Wade.

"It was almost 30 years ago, which shows that there was a good level of interest in football in Canberra back then. I see no reason why there wouldn't be more now and this is the perfect opportunity to show that Canberra is serious about football and to break this record."

Wade said that Qantas Socceroos Head Coach, Pim Verbeek, is tipped to name a largely Hyundai A-League based side for the match next week.

"Led by Craig Moore, who is a first choice player for Verbeek and one of Australia's outstanding players of the past decade, this will nonetheless be a very good side.

"The Hyundai A-League is growing in reputation and improving every season, as evidenced by Adelaide's achievements in reaching the Asian Champions League Final.

"I expect a very good and competitive match," said Wade.

This is only the second time Australia has participated in the AFC Asian Cup after joining the Asian Football Confederation in 2006.

Indonesia, Kuwait, Oman and Australia have been drawn in Group B. The top two teams from each group of the qualification stage will progress to the AFC Asian Cup 2011 which will be held in Qatar.

Tickets on sale now – visit [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au), any Ticketek agency or call 132 894.

All Qantas Socceroos matches are broadcast live and exclusive on FOX SPORTS .

## Fast football facts

- Qantas Socceroos have played in Canberra six times, between 1976 and 1996 (W3-D1-L2) namely:
  - 11/08/1976 v Hong Kong (Friendly) L0-1 (A-international)
  - 27/01/1980 v Czechoslovakia (Friendly) L0-4 (A-international)
  - 25/01/1981 v Dinamo Zagreb (Friendly) D3-3 (non-A international)
  - 23/09/1985 v China Select (Friendly) W2-0 (non-A international)
  - 26/02/1988 v Taiwan W3-0 (Olympic Games Qualifier W3-0 (A-international)
  - 01/11/1996 v Tahiti W5-0 (Oceania Nations Cup - final, 2nd leg) W5-0 (A-international)
- Biggest crowd to see a Qantas Socceroo match in Canberra: 15,283 (Australia 0 v Czechoslovakia 4) on 27 January 1980 at Canberra Stadium
- Canberra Stadium opened in 1977, football first played there in 1978
- Canberra hosted 11 football games at 2000 Olympic (5 mens, 6 womens)

## Match Details

AFC Asian Cup 2011 – Qualification Stage – Group B  
Australia v Kuwait  
Thursday 5 March 2009  
Kick-off 8:00pm AEDT (7:30pm ACDT, 7:00pm AEST, 6:00pm AWDT)  
Canberra Stadium, Canberra

### Ticket Prices

Category A - \$60 – all tickets  
Category B - \$40 Adult, \$20 Concession, \$100 Family  
Category C - \$25 Adult, \$15 Concession, \$65 Family

### Concession (Pensioner, Student, Child)

Pensioner - Aged, TPI (valid ID cards) including seniors cards  
Student - Full time tertiary and secondary school students (valid ID required)  
Child - 4–16 years inclusive (children 3 years and under are free unless they are occupying a seat)  
Family - 2 Adults and 2 Children