

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 3 MARCH 2025 MEETING

PRESENT

Robyn Rennie, Amit Barkay, Jacqui Pinkava, Peter Comisari, Henrietta Flinn (new member), Manik Datar, Peter Carey, Miles Boak

- 1. APOLOGIES:** -Sue Dyer, Leon Arundell,
ABSENT: Jane Teasey (a significant birthday)

Commenced 7.05pm, chaired by Robyn- Convenor. Concluded 8.15pm.

2. DCA CORRESPONDENCE - Jacqui Pinkava

22 Feb- Stephanie Cooper- inquiring if there are any events with stalls to attend. Responded with general information about Party at the Shops usually in spring.

22 Feb- Kerrie Heath- Concerned about the safety of new plantings and poles.

Response bcced to Amit and Robyn in which I suggested that Centre Manager may be able to answer.

24 Feb- Anne Stearman- saying she will do her bit of cleaning up on Saturday.

27 Feb- Jenna Haddin- issue with the access to the car park for people with prams, wanting to know who is responsible for the hedging. I responded (suggesting Fix My Street) and bccing Amit.

27 Feb- Robyn Sirr- thank you for the kind thoughts of the DCA- forwarded to the committee.

1 March- Miles Boak- arrangements for the Clean Up day.

OUTGOING

24 Feb- to DCA members- e-Bulletin inviting participation in the Clean Up Oz Day.

27 Feb- to DCA members- another reminder with photo! About the Clean Up Oz Day.

27 Feb- Email to Tradies thank you for donation for window blinds.

27 Feb- Thank you to Suzanne Pitson

3. MINUTES AND ACTIONS REPORT

Minutes of 3 February 2025- approved and loaded on the website.

4. CENTRE MANAGEMENT- Amit and Amy (via email)

Amy reported that James Houl, the artist who would like to paint murals on the DCA sheds has provided a mock-up of his proposed design which was circulated to the committee.

Committee approved the art concept- local birds in hoodie and duffel jacket. Though the artist indicated there will be no cost (to be confirmed), DCA is prepared to cover the cost of supplies.

She said that it has been a busy time in the centre, with lots of casual bookings and some new regular hirers.

Amit reported that he had completed the test and tag of electrical equipment used by centre clients. Leaking cisterns have been replaced in three toilets, though follow-up plumbing work still required. Clean-up of stored stuff continuing.

SEEChange EV charging station installed.

Noted that at long last the payment of the rubbish removal has been sorted and the company now have our correct contact details for future on time invoice payment.

A safety incident was reported at the Centre on 25 February, with a client injuring themselves on a table leg.

Wage rate for the cleaner given that now she can only work Sundays. It was settled that she would be paid Casual Level 2 weekend rate of \$45.15 per hour.

ACTION: Amit to contact James Houli the artist to confirm that there is no cost and to inform him that DCA approves the mural design.
Amit to prepare a Centre Incident Report Form. Jacqui to send an example form used by U3A.
Miles to contact the cleaner – Nestoria and discuss the pay rate decision.

5. TREASURERS REPORT- Miles Boak

Income and Expenditure Report sent via email. Shows \$87,154 as bank balance. Total Income, principally from room hire for February was \$5,031. Total expenses were \$5,649. Wages and the water bill were singled out as the main expenses. Suspect that DCA is paying commercial rates for water usage, possibly based on number of toilets. Invoice for the cost of the window blinds has been sent to The Dickson Tradies who kindly agreed to cover the cost. A letter of thanks has been sent by Robyn Rennie.

ACTION: Miles to contact Icon/ACTEW to see if there are concessions available for community/ not for profit organisations in regard to water charges.
Amit to send photo of the window blinds to Robyn for her to send to The Tradies.

6. NCCC MEETING REPORT- Leon Arundell

No report on NCCC meeting provided (Leon absent). Provided report via email from the Dickson Residents Group. Downer users of the Dickson shopping centre are likely to be impacted by such things as: the level of anti-social behaviour, the impending massive redevelopment intended by the Dickson Tradies Club, and an untimely and potentially poor upgrade of the Dickson shops.

7. ACTION ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

7 (a) Clean up Downer- 2 March.

Miles reported that the event was a big success with some 25 groups registering. Thanked Peter and Aniko Carey for supplying the Coreflute signage which was strategically placed at entry and exit points in the suburb. Most of the suburb was covered and people reported that the rubbish load was not excessive. A few large items such as a flat TV screen were dumped.

DCA intends to register in 2026 for the Clean Up Australia event.

7(c) Annual Return of an Incorporated Association.

Jacqui as Public Officer, reported that she completed an on-line Smart Form and received an Extract indicating that DCA is an Active association dated 4 February 2025. Copy of Extract provided to all committee members.

7(d) Meeting with Thomas Emmerson MLA, Member for Kurrajong.

Miles has set up a meeting scheduled for Friday 4 April at 11.30am at Gang Gang café. Thirty minutes has been allowed.

Robyn Rennie, Amit Barkay and Jacqui Pinkava to attend meeting.

Copy of Suzanne Pitson's letters to MLAs sent prior to the election to be the basis of the discussion with the issues of re-opening of the public toilets and urgent repairs to the Community Centre added.

7(e) Hedge planting and poles to stop cars parking on grass.

DCA received correspondence from two residents concerned about access and safety issues as a result of the plantings. Responded that it is a matter for the ACT Government and suggested that Fix My Street request is the only way to get a proper access built to join the pathway to the car park. DCA has made a number of such requests to no avail.

7 (f) DCA grant applications.

John Godwin has been liaising with the ACT Government to get information on a number of issues, such as insurance cover, in order to prepare guidelines for DCA to offer Downer residents the opportunity to put in a request for funding from the DCA to do community beneficial projects.

Carried over to next meeting when John is present.

7(g) Disability Inclusion Grant- preparation for 2025 round

Robyn suggested that this grant may enable getting some financial support for making the Centre toilets accessible. Mention was made that perhaps funding for the sound absorbing panels for the West Hall could meet the criteria (assist people with hearing issues).

Robyn to send Amit the application form to determine if appropriate for DCA to apply.

7(h) Bradfield pine trees- unauthorised trimming of the canary pines.

Noted that this is being dealt with by the ACT Government and the Heritage Council. The DCA does not intend to get involved.

NEXT DCA MEETING

Monday 7 April 2025, 7pm

Robyn Rennie- DCA Convenor

Jacqui Pinkava- ag Secretary