



Frencham Place, Downer ACT 2602

AROUND DOWNER

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IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday 25 November 2019 7:00pm - Community workshop on Downer by Design and the AGM of the Downer Community Association

Saturday 28 March 2020 - Downer Party at the Shops

1. Come meet your neighbours and learn what's happening in the suburb at the Downer Community Association ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*****Free BBQ and drinks provided*****

We want to hear your ideas on how the community can improve our suburb

Firstly, there will be a discussion on the progress of the Downer by Design community-led initiative to plan for our suburb's future (see further details below). The meeting will also serve as our annual AGM for election of the DCA Committee for 2020. If you'd like to be involved – even if not in a formal way – please come along to hear how you can contribute.

Getting involved with the DCA is a great way to improve your neighbourhood and help build our community with lots of exciting projects. Or just volunteer to be involved in specific groups, like helping to maintain our new frog pond, assisting with one off-event (like the Downer Party at the Shops), or responding to development and transport issues.

Monday, 25 November 2019, 7pm Downer Community Centre, East Hall

2. Downer by Design Update

Thank you to those people who provided input to the Downer by Design questionnaire. More than 148 submissions were received. This is follow-on from the successful Don't Dump on Downer campaign earlier in year.

Based on the survey results, the committee will be preparing a new framework to guide planning in Downer. These documents will be circulated to the DCA email list and made available on the DCA's website (www.downercommunityassociation.org). A community feedback workshop will be held with our AGM to discuss this new plan. See you there!

Monday, 25 November 2019, 7pm Downer Community Centre, East Hall

3. Downer shops

There has been recent spate of break ins and anti-social behaviour at the Downer shops, usually taking place in the early hours of the morning.

Residents can help by reporting any crimes in the area to ACT Police. Numbers are: Emergency 000, Police Attendance 131 444, Crime stoppers 1800 333 000 and Inquiries 6256 7777. Please, if you are in the area, keep a look out and report any suspicious behaviour.

The DCA committee and shop owners met with the Police Minister, Mick Gentleman, on 30 October 2019 to discuss options for discouraging such behaviour and increasing police surveillance of the area. We hoping to work with the police in the future to increase security for our fledging shops.

4. Community-supported micro-forest in Cole St Park

The local Downer Park Care group are creating a micro-forest in a neighbourhood park smack bang in the middle of Downer. This park is known as the Cole St swings park, or more affectionately as 'the boobs' - after two dry hillocks. It is also well known for the preponderance of bindi weeds and general lack of vitality.

The Climate Factory is coordinating a crowd funding campaign to develop a Master Plan for the park and to install a micro-forest of 1,500 plants. Depending upon the amount contributed, donors will have trees planted on their behalf or can take part in inaugural planting days. If successful, this model of community funded design and urban greening could be rolled out across Canberra.

Pledge now at startsomegood.com/microforest



Cole Street Park Care Group ↑

Downer's new frog pond →



5. New Downer Community Frog pond – Located behind Community Centre

In August a group of Downer residents – led by Fiona Dickson – moved the old Downer school frog pond to a new home behind the community centre. A new pond and habitat were created involving the relocation of about 200 tadpoles including spotted marsh frogs, peron's tree frogs and eastern froglets.

CHC, the school site developer, donated \$4,000 for this task. Next step is to establish an irrigation system to support the new landscaping and we are applying to Bunnings for a grant to finish this project.

6. Update on Downer Trivia Night fundraising.

A total of \$1,400 was raised for the community from the very successful Downer Trivia Night, held on Saturday 28 July 2019. A big thank you to the organisers and those who attended.

We are after your ideas for community projects we can put the monies towards. Ideas we have so far are a dog poo bag dispenser at the shops, the purchase of mature trees for the newly constructed frog pond or garden equipment to maintain Downer Square. Send your ideas to downerassociation@gmail.com.

7. Party at the Shops – 28 March 2020

Downer's next Party at the Shops is scheduled for 28 March 2020 and it's going to be a lot of fun! We need volunteers to help organise it and community ideas to make it even better than previous parties.

We want to make it a big one as it will be Downer's 60th birthday. The suburb was gazetted in March 1960 and it will be 10 years since the big 50th birthday celebrations in March 2009.

