

AROUND DOWNER

Downer Community Association (DCA) Newsletter

Issue: August 2013



Frencham Place, Downer ACT 2602

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Saturday 7th September 2013 10am-2pm: Downer Election Fete (Polling Day!)**
- **The DCA Management Committee meets at 7pm on the 1st Monday of every month at the Downer Community Centre. All Downer residents welcome.**

Downer Election Fete

The Downer Community Association is hosting the 2013 Downer Fete on 7th September at the Downer Community Centre (Frencham Place). Politically savvy residents will know that's the same date as the Federal election, so we are calling it an 'Election Fete'. Downer Community Centre is a polling place, so after casting your vote, why not stay on and enjoy what is on offer.

WHAT'S ON AT THE FAIR?

- Coffee van
- Delicious cakes from the Girl Guides (tea and scones if the weather is fine)
- Sausage sizzle by Downer Preschool
- Displays by tenants of the Community Centre
- Activities of the Downer Community Association
- Information on the redevelopment of the Downer shops



At the 2012 Spring Fair

Management Committee changes

After several years on the Committee, Robyn Unger has decided to move on to other things. We thank her for her many contributions, particularly organising and running the very successful 2012 Downer Spring Fair.

Fortunately, Chris Paterson has agreed to take Robyn's place on the Committee for the remainder of the year. Chris helped organise the Downer 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2010, and is one of the main people organising this year's Election Fete.

If you are interested in becoming a non-voting member, we can co-opt members. To become a full member, ensure you are nominated for election at the Annual General Meeting (November).

Management Committee Minutes now on website

Following a recent decision of the Committee, Minutes of the Management Committee's monthly meetings will now be placed on the DCA website.

Downer Centre Coordinator

Since the last Newsletter, there has been another change of Centre Coordinator. The new Coordinator is Jingwen Wang, who can be contacted at the DCA Office for all matters to do with the Downer Community Centre. Please phone 6249 6443 - leave a message and you will be contacted promptly. You can also email on downercentre@gmail.com

General information on the Centre, hiring of rooms and other matters of interest to Downer residents is available on our website:
www.downercommunityassociation.org/

Community Centre activities

The Downer Community Centre hosts a number of community activities. If you would like to take part in any of these activities, check the Centre noticeboard or our website for times and contacts. If you'd like to book a room for another purpose please call the Centre Coordinator as outlined above.

Note that we do not accept bookings for private parties.

Plans for the Downer Shops

In the last Newsletter we reported that a development application had been submitted for the shops. This was approved in July, subject to some issues over parking. The developer of the shops has submitted an amended plan for the change of lease clause for parking. DCA supports the developer in this latest submission, which essentially retains the present parking arrangements. We are hoping for final approval soon, so work can begin to resurrect Downer's shops.



Downer Shops in 1981 (top) and 2010 (bottom)
(What will they look like in 2014?)

Development of the old school site

The July meeting of DCA was addressed by representatives of EDD and other groups involved in planning for the school site. A scoping study is being conducted to support the rezoning changes of the Territory Plan. The study is addressing "big picture" aspects of the development including demographics, community use, traffic, roads through the site, trees, heritage impacts, etc. Hopefully, the report will be submitted to Government by Sept 2013, with approval by early 2014. DCA members sought assurances on possible competition for the development at the shops, and the provision of public open spaces within the new development.

The impact of the proposed development on services such as sewerage, traffic, etc was discussed. It was acknowledged that the road layout will be fundamental to the success of any plans, and discussions are underway with TAMS on this matter.

A representative of EDD responded to a number of questions about aspects of the development proposed as follows:

- higher density development is now planned for the western side of the site
- the maximum height of buildings on the site will be 4 storeys.
- community concerns about the large number of one bedroom dwellings and preferences for more townhouses, larger apartments and capacity for ageing in place are acknowledged and under consideration
- there are no plans to include public or social housing in the development
- community concerns about adequate parking for the site are acknowledged and under consideration as part of the wider public transport plans
- the impact of the new development on Downer's already overloaded sewage system has been reviewed, and a number of options are being developed
- plans are in place to assess the impact of the development on traffic through Downer.