

AROUND DOWNER

Downer Community Association (DCA) Newsletter

Issue: February 2014



Frencham Place, Downer ACT 2602

IMPORTANT DATES:

Sunday 2nd March: Clean-up Australia Day

Saturday 15th March: Party at the Shops

The DCA Management Committee meets at 7pm on the 1st Monday of every month at the Downer Community Centre. All Downer residents welcome.

DOWNER PARTIES AT THE SHOPS
Saturday 15th March 10am-2pm
Stalls and events by DCA Tenants
Rural Fire Service truck & kids games (fire activities permitting)

Other text elements: Coffee stall, DCA stall Membership Book/CD sales, Artists, SEE-Change, Musicians, Sculpture

Following the successful series of parties at shops as part of the Canberra Centenary year in 2013, the ACT Government is again sponsoring parties for interested local shopping centres.

On **Saturday 15th March, from 10am-2pm**, the Downer Community Association, in collaboration with the Parties at the Shops planners, will be holding a party at Downer shops.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY YOURSELF!

Special event at 1pm. See Amit lose all his hair for the Leukaemia Foundation!

Downer Centre Co-ordinator

The Centre Coordinator, Jingwen Wang 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/



It's on again! Keep your suburb tidy by taking part in Clean Up Australia Day. Start at Downer Central area or Oval or take on a smaller park or street in Downer after coming to the Centre to register and collect bags.

When: Sunday 2nd March 2014, 9am-12 noon.

Registration Place: Downer Community Centre, Frencham Place.

Bring: Sturdy shoes, gloves, hat, & drink bottle.

Note: Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Information: www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/.

Join up at the special site for Downer:

(www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/Downer+Central+Area)

Downer organisers: Miles Boak, 6262 5851 or 0427 919 192 or Barbara Burns, 6161 7846.

Development issues in Downer

The DCA has been involved in a number of issues regarding development in Downer, including the following:

- a submission on the Development Application for 90 & 92 Blacket St, highlighting several items which did not comply with planning laws. ACTPLA has since refused the DA, and the developer is considering whether to make changes
- a submission on the proposed light rail connection from Gungahlin to the City. DCA suggested Government should be looking at Downer in an integrated way – community needs, development, transport and infrastructure. An example of an inconsistent approach is high density development on the old school site when the main transport corridor will be along Northbourne Ave, 1 km away. Also noted was the lack of stops for light rail in Downer.
- a submission on the proposed demolition of the old Downer School buildings (imminent). Issues raised were:
 - demolition before clear plans of the proposed development had been presented to local residents and approved by ACTPLA
 - concern over the time a bare site would remain before construction
 - effects of noise, dust and traffic on nearby residents
 - preservation of the old school courtyard
 - protection of trees
- The long-running saga of redevelopment of the old Downer School site. In November and December, DCA asked for comments on this issue from Downer residents. Several people responded, with the following issues consistently being raised:
 - Parking/increased traffic flow
 - Preference for retirement village/townhouse development
 - Community good should be a priority, not just Government profit
 - Part of the site to be retained for community use (e.g. childcare)
 - Development should be compatible with redevelopment of the shops

Early this year, a DCA delegation met with representatives from the Chief Minister's office to discuss many of these issues. No clear outcomes came from this meeting, but Government expressed interest in the views of residents collected in the above survey.

Downer Shops update

Despite ACTPLA approval and assurances from the developer, work has still not commenced on the site. The developer continues to seek tenants for the various shops, obviously preferring to defer on-site work until leases are signed. The DCA will continue to talk to the developer to encourage progress. As noted in an earlier Newsletter, the expected order of work will be:

- removal of asbestos roofing and replacement with other materials
- cleaning exterior to original brickwork
- extending rear service courts
- addition of basements and new floor
- partition into retail space
- addition of new timber pergolas
- provision of external water tank
- reconfiguration of existing carpark.

Have you seen this?



Sometime in the last few months the kangaroo statue in the courtyard of the old Primary School has disappeared, probably stolen. This is a valuable sculpture, and part of the character of the school courtyard which we are trying to maintain, even if the buildings disappear.

If you know anything about it, **please contact Amit on 0400 221 034.**