



Frencham Place, Downer ACT 2602

Around Downer

Downer Community Association Newsletter

February 2016

IMPORTANT DATES

CHC Site Office Launch

(Sat 13th Feb, 10-2 pm)

For details, see back page.

Downer Community Garden Workshops

(Tues 16th Feb 6.30-9.00 pm)

(Sat 20th Feb, 2.00-4.30 pm)

For details, see back page.

Clean-Up Australia Day in Downer

Sun 6th March 2016 9am-12 noon

*Register at Downer Community
Centre, Frencham Place*

DCA Management Committee meetings

DCA members and other Downer residents are always welcome to attend these meetings, held on the 1st Monday of each month at 7 pm.

DCA Management Committee, 2016

Convenor: Miles Boak
Secretary: Fiona Dickson
Treasurer: Stephen Sedgwick
Public Officer: Brian Callahan

Other Committee members are: Amit Barkay, Denys Garden, Patti Kendall, Jacqui Pinkava, Robyn Rennie and Philida Sturgiss-Hoy.

You can contact the Committee on our email address:
downerassociation@gmail.com

Want to become a DCA member?

Membership is free, and allows us to contact you more easily when we have important information.

Membership forms are available on our website Print out, fill in and give to a Committee member, or put through the slot in the DCA Office door at the Community Centre.

We need a new Downer Centre Coordinator

Jingwen Wang, our previous Coordinator has left, so we are seeking someone to take on this important paid part-time job. If you have an interest in this position see our website (www.downercommunityassociation.org) for further information.

RIP Di Fielding



Many in the community would be already aware that the much loved Convenor of the Downer Community Association, Di Fielding, died on 22nd November last year after a short illness.

Di was a tireless contributor to the Downer community and will be sadly missed. She had an important career in the Commonwealth Public Service in the Australian National Audit Office, Veteran's Affairs, Centrelink and Department of Defence.

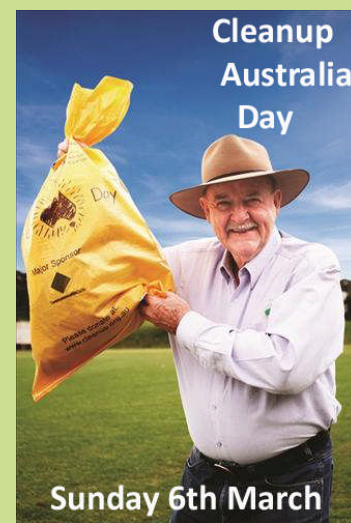
After her retirement, Di qualified as a Company Director, and served on several boards and committees. However, she found time to devote to the Downer community, serving as Committee member, Secretary and, finally, Convenor of the Community Association. She played a big part in organising the 50th Anniversary celebrations for Downer in 2010, and worked tirelessly on community events, local planning and other issues that affected the suburb.

Di was made a life member of the Community Association at the DCA's 30th Anniversary dinner held on 24th October 2015, so it was nice she received that acknowledgment while she was still with us. She will be greatly missed by the Community Association and the Downer community generally.

Clean Up Australia Day in Downer

Clean Up Australia Day is firmly entrenched in the Australian environmental calendar. The DCA encourages everyone to join in and help keep our suburb clean and tidy.

Register first at the Community Centre and collect bags. Then work on Downer central area or ovals, or take on a smaller park or street in our suburb. Come for a short time or a couple of hours. Kids must be accompanied by an adult.



Time: 9 am-12 noon

Registration Place: Downer Community Centre, Frencham Place

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

For more information, see Downer's Clean Up Australia website:

[www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/
Central+Downer](http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/Central+Downer)

Or contact DCA organisers Miles Boak on 6262 5851 or 0427 919 192, or Barbara Burns on 6161 7846

COMMUNITY CENTRE

For room rentals and any other issues to do with the Centre, contact the Centre Coordinator, Jingwen Wang on downercentre@gmail.com For further information about the Centre facilities see our website (address below).

DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

To reach the Management Committee by email for other matters, use downerassociation@gmail.com

DCA WEBSITE

www.downercommunityassociation.org

The website has information about the Community Centre, room rentals, membership and other forms, etc. There are also copies of previous Minutes and Newsletters, information on planning issues, and photos from previous Fairs.

BOOKS & CDs

There are still copies of the book 'Downer@50' and the follow up CD released in 2010. If you don't have these, they are available at \$10 for the pair. Phone 6249 8392 or email downerassociation@gmail.com

DO YOU GET OUR EMAILS?

If you are a DCA member (and give us an email address) we can send you more frequent information. Joining is easy. Forms are on the DCA website. You can also contact us by email

Future development of the old Downer School site

Please note the upcoming events below where you can find out information about, and give feedback on, things planned for the old school site.

CHC AFFORDABLE HOUSING HOSTING OPENING CELEBRATION FOR NEW INFORMATION CENTRE ON DOWNER SCHOOL SITE: Saturday 13th Feb 2016

CHC Affordable Housing, who will be redeveloping former Downer Primary School site, have recently installed a demountable just behind the Downer Community Centre in Frencham Place. This will be converted into an information centre that will be opened regularly. CHC will be holding an event to celebrate the opening of the CHC at Downer information centre.

Where

Frencham Place Downer, adjacent to the Downer Community Centre.

When

10am-2pm Saturday 13 February 2016.

More details

Downer residents and other people with an interest in the development are invited to attend. There will be:

- An Aboriginal smoking ceremony at 10am;
- A sausage sizzle;
- Face painting and balloon fun;
- Tea and coffee;
- Information from SEE-Change about the upcoming consultations on community gardens; and
- A Downer Community Association stall.

If it is raining the event will be in the Downer Community Centre.

COMMUNITY GARDENS WORKSHOPS *Identifying solutions for the community*

Take part in this unique opportunity to actively learn about, and collaborate on, solutions for how community gardens could be planned for the Downer Development.

Workshop 1: Tuesday 16 February, 6.30-9.00pm

Workshop 2: Saturday 20 February, 2.00-4.30pm

Venue: Downer Community Centre, Frencham Place, Downer.

In December 2015, SEE-Change and Canberra City Farm were engaged by Community Housing Canberra (CHC) to create a set of best practice guidelines for developing community gardens in developments, using the CHC Downer Development as the case study.

These two workshops will engage with the Downer Community Association and Downer residents to increase the capabilities and understanding of best practice community garden design, and identify some possible solutions that could work for the Downer Development specifically.

These workshops are being led by Jodie Pipkorn from SEE-Change (www.see-change.org.au) and Keith Colls from Canberra City Farm (www.ccfarm.org.au). These local, not-for-profit community organisations aim to support the community to be more informed and to collaborate to create more sustainable communities.

Please register your interest in attending one or both of these workshops and you will be provided with additional information: downerdevelopment.eventbrite.com.au

If you have any questions, please contact: office@see-change.org.au.

Have you tried the CHC at Downer website?

CHC have established a special web page at www.chcatdowner.com.au with information on the School site development. This web page allows people to sign up to an email newsletter. There is also a Q & A page, to allow residents to ask questions about the project.