

#### IMPORTANT DATES

### Clean-Up Australia Day in Downer

Sun 5th March, 9am-12 noon

[See details on back page](#)

### Closing date for School site Development Application

*Not presently known: see information on this page: →→→→→*

#### 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, 2017

**Convenor:** Miles Boak  
**Secretary:** Denys Garden  
**Treasurer:** Stephen Sedgwick  
**Public Officer:** Brian Callahan

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

You can contact the Committee on our email address:  
[downerassociation@gmail.com](mailto: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 form, fill in and give to a Committee member, or put through the slot in the DCA Office door at the Community Centre.

### Old Downer School Site

#### Development Application submitted to ACTPLA and likely to be available for public comment in March 2017

The development application (DA) for the former primary school site was submitted to ACTPLA on 14th February 2017 by CHC Homes for the Community. This includes Stages 1 and 2, which are the 33 townhouses and 120 apartment sections of the development. While the exact commencement date is not yet available, the DA is likely to go on public exhibition in March 2017.

An application for Stage 3, Aged independent living complex, will be submitted at a future date.

This is an important development for Downer on a prominent site. DCA encourages all residents to take the time to look at the plans when available and have your say. ACTPLA has confirmed that a notification sign will go on the site giving dates of the public exhibition commencement. A notification letter will also be sent to all adjoining residents.

#### Key matters would appear to be:

How the heritage pine trees are replaced in stages and managed in the future; How the development relates to the surrounding residences and the restored shops; Wider traffic and parking issues; Height of buildings, and public access through the site.

The planning standards applying to the site were developed through the Downer Precinct Code and amendment DV322 of the Territory Plan. The ACT Economic Development Directorate ran a community consultation process over two years and final reports are available at

[www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/have-your-say/community\\_engagement/Previous\\_Projects/downer\\_local\\_centre\\_reference\\_group](http://www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/have-your-say/community_engagement/Previous_Projects/downer_local_centre_reference_group)

The applicant has been quite open with the community regarding the development, which is the same as that presented at the Downer Future Forum in August 2016, and again at the DCA Annual General Meeting in November 2016.

Plans and further details will be able to be accessed at :

[http://www.planning.act.gov.au/development\\_applications/pubnote#D](http://www.planning.act.gov.au/development_applications/pubnote#D) (scroll down to find the DAs for Downer). You will be able to look at or download documents from the site. Submissions ('Representations') can be made using an on-line form, or by:

email: [EPDcustomerservices@act.gov.au](mailto:EPDcustomerservices@act.gov.au)

post: Customer Services at PO Box 365 Mitchell ACT 2911.

hand delivered: EPD Customer Service Centre at 16 Challis St Dickson

The DCA will make a submission but it will clearly state that it doesn't speak for the community as a whole, so it is important for individuals to have their say as well. Numbers of submissions are important, so make your views known if you want to. However, be careful to address the particular planning issues involved with the application. It is too late to suggest that nothing should happen on the site, or that some other development should take place. Make sure you make your submission before the closing date.

**Note:** *All the recent activity on the school site has been related to upgrading the sewer mains on the site and in surrounding streets, and is being undertaken by the ACT Government.*

## COMMUNITY CENTRE

For room rentals and any other issues to do with the Centre, contact the Centre Coordinator, Mara Pangallo on [downercentre@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:downerassociation@gmail.com)

## DCA WEBSITE

[www.downercommunityassociation.org](http://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 0414 813 403 or email [downerassociation@gmail.com](mailto: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

## Clean Up Australia Day in Downer Sunday 5th March

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.

**Time: 9 am-12 noon**

**Registration Place: Downer Community Centre, Frencham Place**

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

Register first at the Community Centre and collect bags. Then work on any area in Downer (ovals, parks, streets, bus stops). Come for a short time or a couple of hours. Kids must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, contact DCA organiser Miles Boak on 6262 5851 or 0427 919 192

Sunday 5 March 2017 9am to 12pm

**Downer Parks and Gardens**

Meet at Community Centre Frencham Place

**2017 COMMUNITY**



## DOWNER SHOPS OPENING SOON

There is good news about the Downer local shops. Construction is almost complete, and the fences should come down soon. The building is looking nice, with the red Canberra bricks restored to their original state. The owners are waiting for TAMS approval for line marking for parking spaces in the carpark. Fit-out crews for the first tenants are scheduled to come in the 1st week of March. The Village Vet and Gang Gang Café have been confirmed as tenants in the building already. A community celebration is planned in coming months.



## TRANSPORT IN DOWNER

After the Downer Future Forum on development in Downer on 23 August 2016, it was decided to form the "Downer Transport Group" to respond to transport issues in the suburb. This was especially in response to the likely impacts of light rail and the knock-on effects on bus transport within the suburb, particularly the 39 bus. The group was formed soon after the DCA AGM in November, with Barbara Burns as the Convenor. The group is meeting with Canberra Metro and Transport Canberra on these issues in late February. Please email [downerassociation@gmail.com](mailto:downerassociation@gmail.com) if you want to be involved with this group, or if you have any issues that you want them to raise with Transport Canberra.

Note that current information about buses and light rail is on the Transport Canberra website at

<https://www.transport.act.gov.au/home>

## Have you seen the new DCA sign?

The North Canberra Community Council has generously provided a grant to replace the circular sign previously located outside the original Downer Community Association office. The office was opened in 1987 by the then Member for Fraser, John Langmore. This was organised by the convenor of DCA at that time, Rosemary Follett, later Chief Minister of the ACT Government.

