

# Around Downer

## Downer Community Association

### Newsletter February 2018

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#### IMPORTANT DATES

**Clean-Up Australia  
Day in Downer  
Sun 4th March**

**E-petition re. possible  
changes to Downer  
Community Centre  
lease presented to  
ACT Assembly  
Thur 22nd February  
(see back page)**

#### DCA Management Committee, 2018

**Convenor:** Miles Boak  
**Secretary:** Jacqui Pinkava  
**Treasurer:** Stephen Sedgwick  
**Public Officer:** Brian Callahan

**Other Committee members:**  
Amit Barkay, Denys Garden, Sam  
Hussey-Smith, Patti Kendall, Greg  
Mulvaney, Robyn Rennie

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 the form, fill in  
and give to a Committee member,  
or put through the slot in the DCA  
Office door at the Community Cen-  
tre.

#### Details for The Village Vet

**Ph:** 02 6113 0542

**E:** [Hello@thevillagevet.co](mailto:Hello@thevillagevet.co)

**W:** [www.thevillagevet.co](http://www.thevillagevet.co)

**FB:** <https://www.facebook.com/thevillagevet.co/>

#### Clean Up Australia Day in Downer Sunday 4th 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.

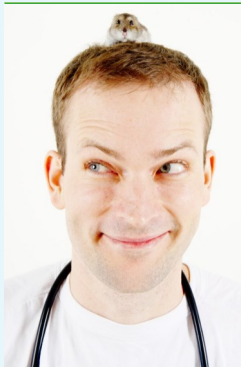
For more information, contact DCA organiser Miles Boak on 6262 5851 or 0427 919 192

2018 Community



**9am Sunday 4 March  
DOWNER SHOPS**

#### The Village Vet at Downer Shops



The Village Vet Hospital is now open for business. It is run by veterinary couple, Damien Solley and Amanda Keast, who met while studying Veterinary Science at Sydney University. They have provided some information about their practice in Downer.

"Our work is challenging, rewarding and joyous. Of course at times it can be frustrating and heartbreaking too. By far the most enjoyable part of our day is greeting and treating our patients. Fur-cuddles really are the best form of therapy. We like to observe the bonds between people and their pets - each connection is unique and

often-times moving. When people trust us to take care of their companion animals, it's our privilege.

Veterinary hospitals can be really stressful places for fur-kids and their family members. We are passionate about providing a "safe" space for people and their pets. We have spent countless hours consulting with the fear-free society in the United States to ensure that our hospital is comfortable. The design features include:

- Separate dog and cat waiting areas, consultation rooms and patient wards
- Acoustically rated walls and doors
- Daylit areas for patients (Vitamin D is just as important for their health as it is for ours!)
- Dimmable lighting in wards and exam rooms
- Acoustically lined air conditioning ducts to reduce noise (cats & dogs hear frequencies we can't)
- Flat, slip-free scales for cats and dogs
- A fear-free colour palette (dogs & cats do see in colour, but on a different spectrum to us).

#### What we do

Watch. Listen. Involve owners in the decision making process regarding their pet's health. Practice evidence-based medicine and surgery. Take our time. Take time out. Drink coffee.

#### What we don't do

Rush consultations or procedures. Take short cuts. Mix cats with dogs. Judge your decision-making process. Upsell. Take ourselves too seriously. Treat racoons.

#### What we want

Regardless of whether you own a pet, we'd love you to come and say hello in the coming weeks, while we continue to evolve into our space. If you have any feedback, please share it with us. We'll be spending a large amount of time in the Downer Village and we very much look forward to being a part of the local community".

*Dr Amanda Keast and Dr Damien Solley*



## COMMUNITY CENTRE

For room rentals and any other issues to do with the Centre, contact the Centre Coordinator on [downercentre@gmail.com](mailto:downercentre@gmail.com), or leave a message on **6249 6443**.

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

The 1000 copies of the book 'Downer@50' printed for the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the suburb of Downer in 2010 have all been sold. Whether we print more depends on the outcome of Community Centre lease negotiations.

## 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

## DCA Lease of Downer Community Centre

Recently, the DCA has been concerned about the lease for the Community Centre. The DCA has leased the building from the ACT Government on behalf of the community for 30 years, since 1988. In late 2017, ACT Property Group notified DCA that the lease of the Community Centre would not be renewed on the current terms. It is clear that the ACT Government is moving to a more commercial cost recovery model for its buildings, and this would have caused severe financial difficulties for DCA and the clients who use the Centre.

However, in the last few days, ACT Property Group have notified us that there has been a change of plan, and the DCA lease will be renewed after all under the present arrangement for 5 years. While this is good news, we have yet to see the details of the new lease being offered. At least one other group has indicated that there may be hidden costs in these leases, as part of Government cost recovery. We remain hopeful, but wary.

Thank you to those local residents who signed the petition to go to the ACT Assembly regarding this matter. We achieved the 500 signatures required to allow it to be submitted. A big thanks to Gang Gang Café who hosted the signing sheet over the time.

We will still follow through and submit the petition to MLA Caroline Le Couteur who kindly agreed to sponsor the matter before the Assembly. Once tabled, the appropriate Minister, Andrew Barr, has to respond to issues raised in the petition. Caroline, a former Downer resident and DCA committee member, has been of great help, and an advocate for the community in this matter.

**NOTE:** Works to remove asbestos sheeting from the Centre have also taken place in January 2018. The centre has been certified with a clean bill of health as of 14th February, and is now back to business as usual and available for hire.

### Vale Mark Rutzuo

Long time Atherton Street resident Mark Rutzuo sadly passed away recently. Mark had a long association with the suburb with NCGCC cricket club, being the main curator at the present home ground in Harrison. The former Swinden street resident, Keith Tournier, had previously done the job for many years. The original Northern Suburbs Cricket club had its formation meeting in a classroom at Downer Primary School, and first trained at the nets at Downer oval. Condolences to Shona, Louis and Travis.



Players observe a minutes silence for Mark at a recent match

## Light Rail

Canberra Metro have provided some information about the Light Rail vehicles (LRV) and the network.

Each LRV is made up of two modules with a driving cab at each end. Inside there is room to carry 207 passengers per tram, 66 seated and 141 standing.



The LRVs are state-of-the-art and have been designed to provide on-board safety and comfort. They are equipped with on-board Wi-Fi as well as air conditioning and dedicated spaces for wheelchairs and bicycles, making it an accessible, practical and comfortable transport solution. The light rail system has its own dedicated corridor and does not share the road with other vehicles. This will help to assure the speed and reliability of the service, leading to better journey times. Canberra's light rail is fast approaching, so keep in mind:

### Safety Tips

- The overhead wire is LIVE and carries 750 volts of power. Always keep a safe distance from the overhead wire and never come into contact with it.
- The overhead wire is more than 6 m above road level. Be aware and make sure that your vehicle/load does not come into close contact with the overhead wire.
- It is safe to walk on the tracks. It is safe to ride across the tracks.
- Pedestrians should only cross the track at designated crossings.

For more information about Stage 1 of Canberra's Light Rail, Gungahlin to City, visit [www.canberra-metro.com.au](http://www.canberra-metro.com.au)