



Frencham Place, Downer ACT 2602

Around Downer

Downer Community Association Newsletter

June 2016

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IMPORTANT DATES

Federal Election

(Sat Sat 2nd July, 8 am-6 pm)
Community Centre is Polling Booth.

ACT Election

(Sat 15th October, 8 am-6 pm)
Community Centre is Polling Booth.

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 at the Community Centre.

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 (see over page). 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.

Downer Community Centre is Polling Booth on 2nd July

On Saturday 2nd July, the Downer Community Centre is a polling booth for the Federal Election. Vote in your own suburb and support the Downer Preschool, who will be running a cake stall and sausage sizzle on the day. Details below. We suggest Downer residents walk to the polling booth, as parking is limited at the Centre because of construction work on the Shops.

Downer Preschool

Downer Preschool in Cotton St has been a significant feature of the suburb since 1963. The Preschool provides a caring, interactive early years learning program for children turning four years of age on or before 30 April each year. Downer Preschool has a high standard, and was assessed as 'Exceeding' against the National Quality Standard in 2015.

Downer Preschool is one of two government preschool sites aligned to the broader canopy of Lyneham Primary School. However, families can choose to enrol at Majura, North Ainslie or Lyneham Primary Schools.

Downer Preschool Parent Association has worked industriously over the years to build a resource rich learning centre, and have an established natural play environment which supports children to thrive in both indoor and outdoor aspects of play.

Downer Preschool currently runs a single unit program on Thursday and Friday of each week and alternate Wednesdays, from 8.45am – 2.45pm. The preschool encourages community involvement and is currently receiving enrolments for 2017 from families of children in the priority enrolment area. Enrolments can be completed online by visiting www.education.act.gov.au. Parents can contact the preschool to arrange a tour (Ph: 6205 5050).

The Preschool prides itself on its strong and ongoing connection to the local community. We encourage local residents to contribute to the teaching and learning program through music, dance, sustainable practices, age-appropriate storytelling and cultural sharing.

Please contact us on 6205 5050 if you would like to share your skills and knowledge with us.

Downer Preschool
BBQ and cake stall!
2 July 2016, from 9am-2pm
Cast your vote for the Federal Election at
Downer Community Centre Polling Station.

All money raised from the BBQ and cake stall will support Downer community preschool

COMMUNITY CENTRE

For room rentals and any other issues to do with the Centre, contact the Centre Coordinator 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

OUR MURAL HAS BEEN REPAIRED!

Earlier this year the mural painted as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations of Downer in 2010 was damaged by graffiti. The DCA has paid the original artist to repaint the damaged areas and restore the mural.

CHC AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON OLD DOWNER SCHOOL SITE

Community Housing Canberra (CHC) is presently working on plans for redevelopment of the former Downer Primary School site. CHC attended the June DCA Committee meeting and presented some information about their plans for the site. Although not finalised, some likely features are:

- Increased numbers of townhouses
- Approx 275 apartments, with an assisted living section
- All resident parking underground
- Separate entrances for traffic from Melba, Bradfield and Frencham streets, so there is no large road feeding traffic onto a single street
- Possibly a road from Melba St to join with the carpark behind the shops (similar sized road to Frencham Place)

Sometime later this year, a Development Application will be lodged which will show all aspects of the development. Residents will be able to comment on these plans as part of the ACT Planning system.

CHC have indicated that there may be other information sessions held before plans are submitted. These will be public events, and the DCA will ensure dates are publicised in advance.

DOWNER SHOPS

Progress on the Downer Shops is continuing. The building is being reconstructed in old Canberra bricks recovered from the old building. This was the form in which the original building was constructed as a machinery shed by CSIRO in 1945.



Partitions are presently being erected to break up the building into individual shops and service areas are being built on the oval side. We don't know definitely the types of businesses which will be in the building, except for a vet in the eastern end of the building and a pub/bistro at the western end.

No completion date has been given for the work, but now the building has a secure roof, wet weather delays should be minimised.

The shops developer has agreed to work with the DCA in encouraging the Government to renovate the courtyard between the shops and Community Centre. This area is on public land, and was first renovated in a special Bicentennial Project in 1988, organised by the Community Association. The Government has given verbal agreement to fund its renovation.

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.

Decision on Dickson Shops soon

A decision on the revised Development Application for the Dickson Shops is expected soon. Despite being rejected previously, there is every chance that the development will be approved with minor amendments. If it goes ahead, expect chaos for parking and disruption to smaller traders in the shopping centre.