

AROUND DOWNER

Downer Community Association (DCA) Newsletter
Issue: May 2013



Frencham Place, Downer ACT 2602

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Sunday 26 May 2013 10:00am-2pm: Downer Preschool Fete**
- **DCA meets at 7pm on the 1st Monday of every month at the Downer Community Centre. All Downer residents welcome.**

DCA Committee for 2013

The AGM of the Downer Community Association was held on Monday 26 November 2012. A new committee was elected and the Office bearers for the coming year are:

Convenor: Di Fielding
Secretary: Denys Garden
Treasurer: Stephen Sedgwick
Public Officer: Brian Callahan

Other Committee members are: Jane Ahern, Amit Barkay, Miles Boak, Patti Kendall, Caroline Le Couteur and Robyn Unger.

A big welcome to the new committee members. All Downer residents are welcome to attend monthly meetings. If you are interested in becoming a non-voting member, we can co-opt members. To become a full member, ensure you are nominated for election at the AGM (November). There is no better way of keeping up with what is happening in Downer than being on the Management Committee.

STOP PRESS

We now have a vacancy on the DCA Management Committee. If you would like to take part in this activity, contact us on downerassociation@gmail.com.

Downer Centre Co-ordinator

We farewell Centre Coordinator, Vera van Kempen, who was with us for a short time. Please welcome her replacement, Larissa Antonova-Pitts. She 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/

Downer Preschool Fete

Downer Preschool is turning 50

Help us celebrate at the Downer Preschool Fete

10am - 2pm
Sunday 26th May
Cotton Street

Cake Stall	50th Birthday Cake	Raffle
Jumping Castle	Cafe	Face Painting
Sausage Sizzle	Plants	White Elephant

Downer Preschool turns 50 on 21st May, so this year's Fete is going to be a special celebration. Come along and share your memories, pick up a bargain and support Downer Preschool.



The old days: Downer Preschool and Mothercraft Centre, 1960s.

Canberra City Farm

Canberra City Farm has approached the DCA about the possibility of creating a site in Downer to demonstrate how cities can be made sustainable for food and services. This may include community workshops, garden plots and sustainable building and energy options. The group is presently in discussions with the developer of the shops regarding collaboration with future tenants in the refurbished Downer shops building.

For more information, visit their website (www.canberracityfarm.wikispaces.com) or email them on canberracityfarm@gmail.com.

Central Downer update

Background documents will be available on the DCA website if you want further information, including DCA's past submissions on the various studies on central Downer.

There's also information on the redevelopment of the old school site, including public meeting outcomes, on the ACT Government Economic Development Directorate website at: http://www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/346227/Downer_Report_final.pdf

Since this report was produced, the DCA has obtained information on the likely timeline of development on the old school site.

December 2013

- Territory Plan variation completed
- Tenants relocated
- Direct sale finalised

February/March 2014

- Buildings demolished
- Other on-site works commenced
- DA process (including consultation) to begin

July 2015

- Construction to commence

The process of moving tenants in the old school buildings to temporary accommodation elsewhere has been initiated. Our information is that those that want to return to Downer will be able to have space in the commercial areas of the new development.

Downer Shops Update

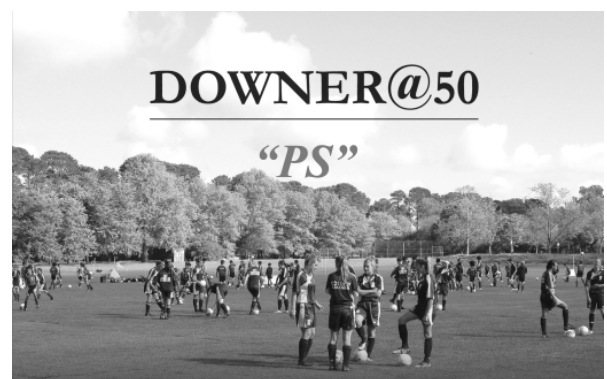
A Development Application for the refurbishment of the Downer Shops was submitted by the developer and the period for public comment closed on 2nd May 2013. This application was for removal of asbestos roofing and replacement with other materials; cleaning exterior to original brickwork; extending rear service courts; addition of basements and new floor; addition of new timber pergolas; provision of external water tank; new linemarking and reconfiguration of existing adjacent carpark.

There were some issues relating to carparking, but we understand that these have now been resolved. We hope that work on the shops will commence in the near future.

Trees in Downer

The DCA has been contacted by an interested Downer resident drawing attention to the beauty of trees in Downer. She has suggested having a featured street from time to time to make residents aware of this. The DCA is planning to do something about this, commencing next autumn.

Those of you who have the follow-up CD from the 50th Anniversary celebrations will have a complete photographic record of all street trees in Downer. If you don't have this CD, you can obtain one by ringing 6249 8392, or emailing downerassociation@gmail.com.



Community Centre Activities

The Downer Community Centre hosts a number of community activities. Check out the centre noticeboard or our website for times and contacts. If you'd like to book a room please call the DCA office on 6249 6443, or email on downercentre@gmail.com.