

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of DCA

The Downer Community Association will hold its AGM on Monday 24th November at 7.30 pm.

All members and interested Downer residents are invited to attend. Drinks and nibbles provided before, during and after.

Come along and find out what the DCA has been up to in the past year, and what is happening in your suburb.

NOTE: Elections will be held for positions on the DCA Management Committee. If you know someone in the suburb who could contribute to the Committee (or if you would like to be involved yourself), nomination forms will be available at the meeting. They are also available from our website (see over page).



Enjoying the music at the 2014 Downer Spring Fair

DOWNER SPRING FAIR

The 2014 Fair was held on Saturday 20th September, and was a pleasant day for all. Many Downer residents and others attended to take advantage of the many stalls present and the good food and music. Several of the tenants of the Community Centre displayed their wares and skills on the day.

We were pleased that the ACT Government Economic Development Directorate and Capital Metro agreed to attend and provide information for residents. They were kept busy all day, with questions from interested residents about planning in the inner north, including proposed developments in Dickson and Watson, the school site in Downer, and the proposed light rail link from Gunghalin to the City. We were also pleased to see ACT MLAs Shane Rattenbury and Alistair Coe present.

Some photos from the Fair are on the DCA website (see over page).

OLD DOWNER SCHOOL SITE

During the year the buildings on the school site were demolished by the ACT Government, causing some disturbance and annoyance for tenants in the Community Centre and local residents. The area will remain vacant until construction commences on the development planned for the site.



The old school site awaits its new life

It is some time since any consultation has occurred with the Downer Community about what might eventuate on the site. For this reason, the DCA invited one of the Directors of Community Housing Canberra (CHC) to a recent Management Committee meeting. The following information was revealed to us.

- ◆ The site will go to CHC without tender.
- ◆ A variation to the Territory Plan is required.
- ◆ Part of the construction will be affordable housing for people who do not qualify for public housing. The remainder will be sold to offset the lower cost housing.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

For room rentals and any other issues to do with the Centre, contact the Centre Coordinator, Jingwen Wang on 6249 6443 or downercentre@gmail.com

DOWER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

To reach the Management Committee 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 copies of previous Newsletters and Management Committee minutes, and information 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

- ◆ There will be some independent living units for older people, and some commercial development to service these.
- ◆ There will be up to 300 units (max 3 storeys) with a mix of townhouses, apartments and larger independent living units. There will be limited 1br apartments.
- ◆ Changes since the last consultation include more open space, more north-facing units, child-care centre moved closer to the Community Centre

The DCA will be maintaining dialogue with CHC and the ACT Government, and will be keeping a close eye on developments to ensure the best outcomes for Downer

STOP PRESS 1

At the AGM on 24th November, representatives from the ACT Government Economic Development Directorate and from Community Housing Canberra will speak on the Downer school site development.

Staff from Capital Metro will also be present.

Come along and find out what they have to say!

OTHER PLANNING ISSUES

Dickson Shops redevelopment. This is a large development with at least one new supermarket, apartments and other developments. The need for a temporary carpark on the corner of Antill and Cowper streets was related to this. We understand that the Government is encouraging Coles to negotiate with the lessee of the old ACTTAB site, which suggests the proposed temporary carpark may not go ahead. However, there is no guarantee of this.

Proposed rezoning of Section 72

Dickson to allow some residential development. The DCA believes this is the only site left in North Canberra dedicated to community facilities. If this area is eroded, there will be no opportunity in the future for new community facilities such as schools, churches, playing fields, etc.

CLOSURE OF DOWER TOILETS

The public toilets near the old Downer shops have been closed. The ACT Government says this is due to lack of use. The DCA has lobbied to have this decision overturned, making sure that MLAs Shane Rattenbury and Alister Coe were made aware of the issue at the Spring Fair. A letter has been sent to the Minister, together with a petition signed by many people at the Fair.

STOP PRESS 2

The Omnibus Draft Territory Plan Variation has been released! Documents for DV322, Downer are at http://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools_resources/legislation_plans_registers/plans/territory_plan/draft_variations_to_the_territory_plan

DV322, Downer includes documents for the redevelopment of the School site (Public Consultation Notice, Planning report, Background documents). The documents generally agree with information provided above, but the number of storeys proposed seems to go beyond 3. Submissions can be made up until 19th December (see <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2014-567/current/pdf/2014-567.pdf>).