



Frencham Place, Downer ACT 2602

# Around Downer

## Downer Community Association Newsletter

October 2015

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### **30th Anniversary Dinner**

(Sat 24th October, 6.30 pm)

#### **DCA AGM**

(Mon 23rd November, 7.30pm)

#### **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, 2015**

**Convenor:** Di Fielding  
**Secretary:** Jane Ahern  
**Treasurer:** Stephen Sedgwick  
**Public Officer:** Brian Callahan

Other Committee members are: Miles Boak, Caroline Le Couteur, Denys Garden, Patti Kendall, Chris Paterson 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?**

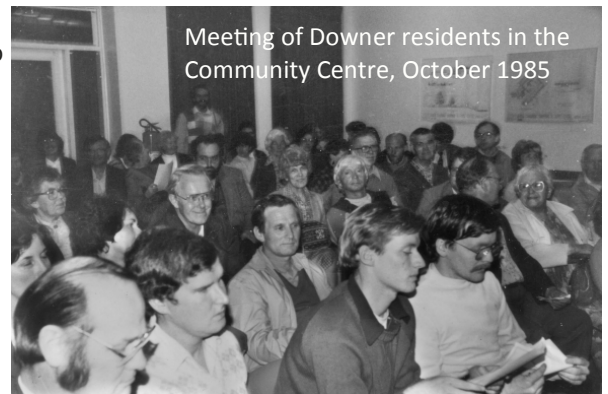
Membership is free, and allows us to contact you more easily when we have important information (especially if you give us an email address). Members are also eligible to nominate to be on the Management Committee. Positions on this Committee are filled at the AGM in November.

Membership forms are available on our website (see over page).

Please print out, fill in and give to a Committee member, or put through the slot in the DCA Office door at the Community Centre.

### **DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 30th Anniversary Dinner Saturday 24th October (6.30 for 7pm)**

In October 1985, a public meeting was held at the Downer Community Centre to discuss issues of concern to Downer residents (see attached photo). This meeting led to the setting up of the Downer Community Association. In 1987, the DCA became an incorporated body, which was a key factor in maintaining good contact with government agencies, obtaining the lease of the Community Centre, and ensuring that rigorous financial systems were put in place. Since its beginning, the Association has operated successfully to manage the Community Centre, and to represent the interests of Downer residents.



Downer Community Association invites all residents to a dinner at the **Downer Community Centre** on **Saturday 24th October 2015**. This will be a catered, sit-down dinner at a subsidised cost. Please RSVP and pay by the dates indicated. Depending on the number attending, places may be limited, so please respond early if you wish to come.

**1985**  **2015**

**Downer Community Association  
30th Anniversary Dinner**

*When: Saturday 24 October 2015 at 6:30pm for pre-dinner drinks*

*Where: Downer Community Centre, Frencham Street Downer*

*Cost: \$30 for catered sit down meal. Wine and soft drink provided*

*RSVP: by 15th October 2015 to [downerassociation@gmail.com](mailto:downerassociation@gmail.com)*

*EARLYBIRDS: RSVP by 8th October and pay only \$25*

#### **Payments may be made as follows:**

1. Direct deposit to DCA's account (preferred).

Bank details are:

**Bank:** Commonwealth Bank

**Account Name:** Downer Community Association

**BSB:** 062900

**Account No:** 00804521

If you use this option, please send an email to [downerassociation@gmail.com](mailto:downerassociation@gmail.com) including your name and a message indicating that you have made a payment for the 30th Dinner.

2. Cheque made out to:

'Downer Community Association'

**Post to:** The Treasurer  
Downer Community Association  
Frencham Place  
Downer ACT 2602

(or put envelope through slot in DCA Office door)

## COMMUNITY CENTRE

For room rentals and any other issues to do with the Centre, contact the Centre Coordinator, Jingwen Wang 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 6249 8392 or email [downerassociation@gmail.com](mailto:downerassociation@gmail.com)

## DOWNER SCHOOL SITE

Variation No 322 to the Territory Plan for Downer section 61, block 17 and block 16 (old school site and Community Centre) and changes to the Downer precinct map and code were passed by the Legislative Assembly in May 2015. The developer, Community Housing Canberra (CHC), is in the process of plan preparation, and eventually will submit a Development Application, which will be available for public comment.

DCA is maintaining close contact with CHC, who have indicated that they wish to engage closely with the Downer Community so that residents' views on the proposed development are considered. They have established a special web page at [www.chcatdowner.com.au](http://www.chcatdowner.com.au) to assist this. This web page allows people to sign up to an email newsletter (first one available at

<http://us11.campaign-archive1.com/?u=727e3eb5e1f8e006097e7b14b&id=13bf324060>).

Eventually, the website will be fully developed to allow community input. One of the most important features will be a **Q and A page**, to publish questions and answers about the development. There will be a 'contact form' on the website, which CHC will use to respond to queries and explain how or why things are being done.

In coming months CHC plan to have a portable office on the Downer site as an information centre which will be staffed

## DOWNER SHOPS

Work is proceeding on the shops building. Asbestos roof sheeting has been removed, and the process of removing render from brickwork is proceeding. The developer envisages returning the building to its original red brickwork by removing render and cleaning bricks. This process has been slower than expected, as old doorways and entrances have been previously bricked up with non-matching bricks. This has required partial demolition of the building and, eventually, rebuilding with matching bricks.

The developer has indicated a finish date of Christmas 2015, although that seems unlikely given the extra work required. The DCA is in close contact with the developer, and will keep you informed about progress.

## DICKSON SHOPS DEVELOPMENTS

The latest information on the Dickson Shops development is on our website, but essentially, the developer is re-submitting plans and contesting the decision made in May to refuse planning approval.

A new proposed development in Dickson is on the old ACT TAB site (Block 29 -30, Section 32 Dickson). 125 residential apartments are planned, with retail at the bottom. The whole complex is 6-storeys high.

Further information is on our website, including DCA's response.

## Do you get our emails?

Downer Community Association members are able to obtain information by email much more frequently than in the Newsletter, which only comes out 3-4 times a year.

If you are already a DCA member, but do not receive emails from us:

1. You may not have previously given us an email address
2. The address we have may be incorrect or out of date

To fix this situation, please email us on [downerassociation@gmail.com](mailto:downerassociation@gmail.com), and we will put you on the list or update your details.

**If you are not already a member, details of how to join are in the sidebar on the previous page.**