

AROUND DOWNER

Newsletter of the Downer Community Association (DCA)

Issue: September 2014



IMPORTANT DATES:

Saturday 20th September: Downer Spring Fair

November: Annual General Meeting (date TBA)

The DCA Management Committee meets at 7pm on the 1st Monday of every month at the Downer Community Centre. All Downer residents welcome.

Downer Spring Fair

On **Saturday 20th September, from 10am-2pm**, the Downer Community Association will be hosting the Downer Spring Fair at the Downer Community Centre (Frencham Place). The Fair is a showcase of the local community, and will include stalls from local organisations and community groups, music, food and coffee. It will be a fun day for all ages, and the Spring Fair is an easy way to find out more about the activities that are available in your community.

If you would like to be involved in the Downer Spring Fair as a stall holder or volunteer please contact Di at di-fielding@grapevine.net.au or Chris at patersons2@webone.com.au.

COME ALONG AND ENJOY YOURSELF!

Stalls include:

Coffee	Cakes	Sausage sizzle
Crafts	Knitted goods	Jigsaw puzzles
Music	etc.	



Cake stall at a previous Fair

Community Centre improvements

- Recently, most gas heaters in the Downer Community Centre were replaced by Community Services Directorate (manager of

the building). The previous heaters were very old, unreliable and not very efficient. Hopefully, clients will now be more comfortable during winter.

- There is a plan to convert all lights to LED to minimise power costs. This has been agreed to under the joint ACT Government and Commonwealth Government Community Energy Efficiency Program.

Downer Preschool

There has been some confusion over where students from Downer Preschool are entitled to enrol in Primary School, with the suggestion that Downer students have to go to Lyneham Primary. This is not correct. Parents of students from Downer Preschool can be assured that their children have priority placement status at Majura, Lyneham or North Ainslie Primary Schools. See the following from Di Fielding, Convenor of DCA.

ADVICE FOR ALL DOWNER PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO WILL BE OF PRESCHOOL AGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE

The Priority Enrolment Area (PEA) for Downer children, including those attending Downer Preschool, consists of Majura, North Ainslie and Lyneham Primary Schools. This means that you must be given priority if you wish your child to attend any of these three schools. I have also been advised that the Education and Training Directorate will soon be conducting a review of PEAs, which will take into account the confusion that has been caused for Downer residents in relation to which schools give their children priority access.

If you would like to discuss this further you can contact me on 62411372

Diane Fielding, Convenor
Downer Community Association

Development issues in Downer

The DCA has been involved in a number of issues regarding development in Downer, including the following:

- a submission on the proposed temporary carpark on the corner of Antill St and Cowper St during construction of new supermarkets in Dickson.
- The Omnibus revision of the Territory Plan. This combines a number of revisions into one proposal, with the danger that individual revisions may slip through unnoticed. One issue which has been considered recently is the possible re-zoning of Section, 72 Dickson (area between Cowper St and Rosevear Place) to allow some residential development. Details are at http://www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/community_engagement/current_activities/dickson-section-72. There will be further community consultation on this matter, but initial comments can be emailed to EDDcomments@act.gov.au. The deadline for these is Monday 7th September.
- The long-running saga of redevelopment of the old Downer School site. The demolition of the old school buildings has been completed, and we have been assured by EDD that the site will be grassed until decisions are made on rezoning and the final design of buildings.

Unfortunately, the school site has the potential to be caught up in the Omnibus revision process, as a Territory Plan variation is required. DCA will be monitoring developments closely to ensure Downer residents' comments previously made in consultations with EDD are considered.

Downer Shops update

Despite ACTPLA approval and assurances from the developer, work has still not commenced on the site. Our understanding is that a number of tenants have been engaged, and that the project is still going to go ahead.

Watson Preschool fundraising

We have been asked by Watson Preschool Parents Association to promote their 'engraved pavers' fundraising endeavour. In their own words:

"We encourage past, present and future students, parents, staff and friends of the

preschool community to take the rare opportunity to have your name and/or drawing as a permanent feature. This year's major project is landscaping the area between our classrooms. We will be using the engraved pavers in this area to create an outdoor learning space. It will give the children a space to grow and care for a vegetable garden".



Sample engraved paver

For more details, email the Parents Association at mppafundraising@gmail.com.

Community Centre Coordinator

The Centre Coordinator, Jingwen Wang 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 (see footnote below).

Want to get on the Downer email list?

The Downer Community Association maintains a list of members which we use for sending information to residents. For example:

- A copy of the Newsletter – usually earlier than the one delivered to your letterbox
- Information about important meetings
- Information about planning issues which affect the suburb, and where you can make comments

If you want to get onto this list, become a member of DCA – print a form from our website (see below), and return to the address on the form.

Note: The list is presently being updated, and we have found many redundant email addresses. If you are a member of the Association but are no longer receiving emails from us, please send your new email address to downerassociation@gmail.com.