



Frencham Place, Downer ACT 2602

AROUND DOWNER

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DISTRIBUTED BY

THE DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FRENCHAM PLACE, DOWNER 2602
(02) 6249 6443

DCA Website and Email: <http://tinyurl.com/downerassociation>. If you have a community event you would like to advertise on the site, or you have suggestions for additions to the site, please email details to downerassociation@gmail.com. For matters concerning the Community Centre, use downercentre@gmail.com or phone 6249 6443. If you are a local tradesperson and would like to discuss advertising in our Newsletter, please contact us.

Management Committee meetings (open to all Downer residents) are held in the Community Centre at 7 pm on the first Monday of each month

Important date: Sunday 6 March 2011, 9am-12 Noon - Clean up Australia Day in Downer
Register at Downer Community Centre, Frencham Place

DCA Committee for 2011

The Annual General Meeting of the Downer Community Association was held on Monday 29 November 2010. At that meeting, a new committee was elected and the Office bearers for the coming year are:

Convenor: Miles Boak
Secretary: Di Fielding
Treasurer: Denys Garden
Public Officer: Stephen Sedgwick
Centre Liaison Officer: Robyn Unger
Centre Upkeep Officer: Amit Barkay

Other Committee members are Barbara Burns, Patti Kendall, Maurice Lynch and Margot Lynch. Meg Boyd and Brian Callahan have been co-opted onto the Committee as members. Meg is to take on the role of Webmaster.

Any interested residents are welcome to attend the monthly meetings which are held on the first Monday of each month (2nd Monday if 1st is a public holiday).

From the DCA Archives 1



Turning the sod to commence work on the Downer Bicentenary Project, October 1987. Frank Cain, Downer's oldest resident (L) and Kevin O'Brien, Bicentenary Working Group leader (R).

Clean-up Australia Day in Downer

6th March 2011



Clean Up Australia Day is firmly entrenched in the Australian environmental calendar. It is open to everyone to participate. Please come along and help to keep Downer looking clean and tidy. Start at Downer Central area or Oval or take on a street or smaller park after coming to the Centre to register and collect bags. Come for 15 minutes, or a couple of hours. Kids must be accompanied by an adult.

When: Sunday 6 March 2011, 9am-12 noon
Registration Place: Downer Community Centre
Bring: Sturdy shoes, gloves, hat, & drink bottle.

Some cold drinks will be provided

For more information, go to the Clean Up Australia Day website at: www.cleanup.com.au, Or contact Downer organisers Miles Boak, 6262 5851 or 0427 919 192, or Barbara Burns, 6161 7846

From the DCA Archives 2



Young buskers at Downer Markets, April 1990.

What is happening about the derelict Downer Shops? How might local residents be involved in seeking a better future for this site?

As the former Downer shops continue to degrade and memories of the facility become dimmer, the DCA Committee has determined that 2011 will be the year in which some action is taken to resolve the future of this area. If the current owner is unwilling to do anything with the site, the Government needs to intervene to ensure that the current hiatus around the vandalised building is addressed, so that its use is restored to the local community.

To this end, a series of discussions has been taking place with ACTPLA and other Government agencies involved, to get action on the former shops site and the associated wider central Downer area.

We have already gone through several planning exercises for this area with the Government, including the Downer Neighbourhood Plan, the Central Downer Urban Design Study and the Downer Primary School Former School Site Study. While these have been useful, nothing concrete has actually resulted from these consultations. The DCA believes the community should be able to expect better planning outcomes for the area. We are not against development, but want to ensure that, in the process, the needs of the community are respected.

Nevertheless, there have been some recent positive steps towards agreement between all parties involved. Whether the original CS and IR building which housed the former shops can be saved is still under discussion. It seems likely that the former Downer Primary School site will undergo some form of higher density redevelopment.

The DCA sees the resolution of these significant issues as priorities for 2011. If you want to participate and make your views heard, a working group will be meeting on the **second Monday of every month, at 7:30 pm in the Downer Community Centre** (1st meeting, Monday 14th March).

If you want further information, background documents (including the submissions the DCA has made to the various studies undertaken for central Downer in the past) will be available on the DCA website.

Please contact the DCA Office on 6249 4334 for further details.

Miles Boak

Convener

Downer Community Association

MISSED OUT ON THE DOWNER BOOK OR CD?

We still have copies of 'Downer@50', published for the 50th Anniversary in March 2010. The follow-up CD, containing further photographs and stories of the suburb, was launched at the AGM in November. If you, your family or your friends missed out on either the book or CD, contact Denys and Jennifer Garden (6249 8392) or Miles Boak (6262 5851). Prices are \$10 for the book, and \$5 for the CD. A special deal is available: \$12 for both.

Note: If you would prefer to receive future copies of ***Around Downer*** electronically, please send your email address to downerassociation@gmail.com.