



Frencham Place, Downer ACT 2602

AROUND DOWNER

ISSUE MAY 2011

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THE DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FRENCHAM PLACE, DOWNER 2602
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DCA Website and Email Website: <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 todownerassociation@gmail.com. For matters concerning the Community Centre, use downercentre@gmail.com or phone on 62496443

IMPORTANT DATES:

Sunday 22 May 2011 10:00am-2pm -- Downer Preschool Fete

Saturday 4 June 2011 11:00am to 3 pm – Dickson wetland planting

Update on Downer Former School Site and Shops

Progress continues to be made on getting some action on the Downer Centre area. The Chief Minister has written to the DCA stating that the Downer local centre is an issue that requires decisive action in 2011. A reference group including community representatives is to be established to work in partnership with Government to decide on the future of the site without further delay.

Proposed is redevelopment of the Former School Site for mixed residential and community uses. This would include some medium density and community housing. Other uses such as aged care facilities and a childcare centre are also being considered. The former shops would become a community facility.

On this issue the Canberra Times 11 March reported *The ACT Government is understood to be considering two sites, in Dickson and Downer, for the development of affordable rental accommodation for low-income earners. Several community organisations are interested in investing in the development, which could be eligible for funds under the National Rental Affordability Scheme. The ACT Department of Land and Property Services chief executive David Dawes said the affordable housing proposal was at an early stage but it was hoped that building could begin within 18 months.*

If you want make your views heard on this issue a working group of the DCA is meeting monthly every second Thursday at 7:30pm at the centre.



DOWNER PRESCHOOL FETE

10am to 2pm
Sunday 22 May
Cotton Street Downer

Attractions include: Sausage Sizzle, Face painting, African drum performance, cake stall, White elephant and Book stall, Kung Fu display, Kids activities, and more!



Dickson Wetland

Downer Preschool Fete

Dickson Wetland is nearing completion.
Come and join in a

**COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY
DICKSON WETLAND
Hawdon St, Dickson**

**SATURDAY 4 JUNE 2011
11am-3pm**

Activities: we will be mainly planting native grasses and shrubs.
What to wear: enclosed shoes, trousers, warm clothes, gloves, hat
Wet weather arrangements: we will be planting regardless of the weather (unless it's cyclonic)
BBQ: 12.30pm (organic sausages and vegetarian options)
RSVP: By sending us an RSVP it helps us better plan for the event.

**** Dogs on leads welcome

Find us on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Dickson-Wetland/153700034669405>

Downer book and CD

MISSED OUT ON THE DOWNER BOOK AND CD?
'Downer@50', published for the 50th Anniversary in March 2010, has been very popular. We still have copies left, so if you or your family or friends missed out, they are still available. The follow CD called **Downer@50 "PS"**, a postscript containing further photographs, stories of the suburb and records assembled from more recollections from the day and other archives, is also available. To obtain your copies contact Denys and Jennifer Garden (62498392) or Miles Boak (6262 5851). Copies can also be bought at the DCA office, if it is open. Prices are \$10 for book or \$5 for the CD.

Help with your tax?

DOWNER TAX HELP CENTRE

Later this year qualified volunteers will be available at the Downer Centre to assist people on low incomes with basic tax returns.

Tax payers with no dependent children and on incomes below \$40,000 will be eligible for free assistance. The threshold rises if they have dependent children. The Tax Help volunteers are not able to assist those with more complex tax affairs such as income from business, investment properties etc.

You can phone 0423663041 any time after July 15th to make an appointment for an evening session in August, September or October.

Clean Up Day in Downer Report

"Clean Up Australia Day 2011" in Downer

On Sunday 6 March, 25 volunteers turned up at the Downer Community Centre to pick up bags and gloves and walk the parks and lanes of Downer picking up trash and recycling. 8 of those volunteers were under 18 years of age.

They collected 12 bags of rubbish, 9 bags of recycling, 3 TV's, 1 cubic metre (approx) of cardboard, a pile of wood pieces, misc scrap metal, an air conditioner, a vacuum cleaner, and a wheelie bin (recycling) w/o wheels. They also identified areas with broken glass which were later reported to Canberra Connect (and cleaned up!!)

Jim (with the trailer) was a great help again this year, rounding up those bigger items. Next year we could use more rubbish bags relative to recycling. We had to empty half-filled bags in order to give new volunteers something to collect into. Thanks to all who participated!!

Barbara Burns
DCA Clean Up Day Coordinator