



Frencham Place, Downer ACT 2602

AROUND DOWNER

2012 ISSUE No.2, MAY

DISTRIBUTED BY

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

DCA Website and Email Website: <http://tinyurl.com/downerassociation>. Email downerassociation@gmail.com.

For matters concerning the Community Centre, use downercentre@gmail.com or phone 6249 6443.

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 DATES: 9th & 12th May - Government Information sessions on Downer Central Revitalisation Project

Redevelopment of former school site

We encourage all residents to come and hear what the Government has in mind for the redevelopment of the former Downer school site and the wider central Downer area. It is understood that the project consultants will be presenting two potential designs for redevelopment of the site, and will be seeking community input and feedback.

This is a great opportunity for people to have a say in what happens in their suburb. There will be three sessions for people to choose from. One on Wednesday after work and two on the Saturday (see box at R). The process is being run by the ACT Economic Development Directorate. By now, you should have received a letter of invitation from the Government.

This is another step in what has been a long process. Background information on this most recent attempt at getting something going is available at the website.

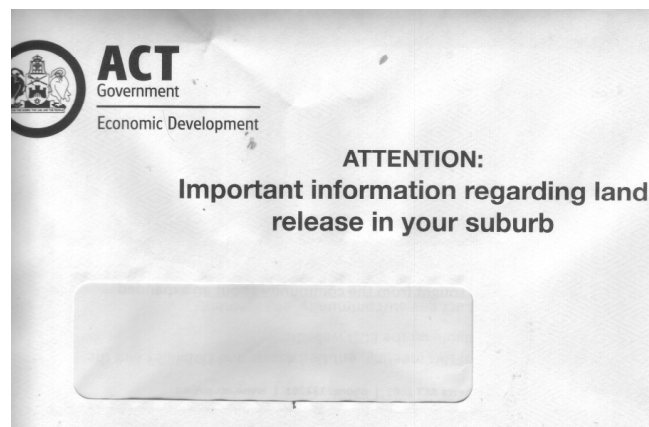
www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/community_engagement/current_activities/downer_local_centre_reference_group

On this website are the outcomes of the public meetings held, opportunities and constraints of the site and information on the Reference Group. DCA representatives have participated in the two meetings of this group held since the process commenced in July 2011.

The ACT Government has invited Downer residents to attend an information session at the Downer Community Centre to view the design concepts for the proposed redevelopment of the Downer Local Centre Precinct. Residents will have the opportunity to attend one of three sessions:

- **6.30pm-8pm, Wednesday 9 May 2012**
- **10am-12pm, Saturday 12 May 2012**
- **12pm-2pm, Saturday 12 May 2012**

The format for all sessions will be a presentation by CHC Affordable Housing (approximately 20 minutes) outlining two proposed design concepts. The community will have the opportunity to study the designs and provide feedback. There will also be a Question and Answer session



**← EVERYONE SHOULD
HAVE RECEIVED THIS
ENVELOPE IN THE MAIL WITH
THE DETAILS OF THE PUBLIC
INFORMATION SESSIONS TO
BE HELD**

People may be interested in information included on the Downer Community Association website on the four other planning processes the Government has run on this site in last ten years. These give some background on where we are today.

- The Downer Neighbourhood Plan, 2004
- Central Downer Urban Design Study, 2006
- TAMS Former School Sites Investigation, Downer Primary School, 2008
- ACTPLA Central Downer Planning Principles, 2009

A stumbling block for development has always been the rundown Downer shops. However, it is understood that the shops have recently changed hands, and that the new owners plan to refurbish the building and re-open shops on the current site.



Changes for Downer Preschool

For many years, Downer preschool has been part of Majura Primary but, in 2013, is to be reallocated to be part of Lyneham Primary. This is because of the Government's restructuring of priority placement areas, in response to expected population changes with development of Majura Rise and the start of the new suburb of Kenny, adjoining the Federal Highway. Further information is available at the website:

www.det.act.gov.au/school_education/enrolling_in_an_act_public_school/priority_placement_areas

Downer children will still have the choice of attending either Majura, Lyneham, or North Ainslie in 2013. It is considered, however, a backward step to move the preschool administration. Downer has been just as much part of Majura Primary School as Watson. When Downer Primary was closed in 1989, Majura Primary was created to take children from Watson, Hackett and Downer. The Downer community has always been seen as an equal partner in the school, and longer-term residents will remember how hard parents/teachers worked to ensure this was the case. Lyneham is on the other side of the great divide (Northbourne Avenue) and the worry is that this is the first step in our kids being forced there.

Contact DETSchoolPlanning@act.gov.au or call (02) 6205 4865 if you want to voice your opinion.

DON'T MISS THIS!

Downer Preschool Fete

19 Cotton St, Downer, Sunday 27 May, 10am – 2pm

Jumping castle, magic shows, dance performance, face painting, clothes, books, toys, cakes, sausage sizzle, fresh spring rolls