



Frencham Place, Downer ACT 2602

AROUND DOWNER

ISSUE: OCTOBER 2012

DISTRIBUTED BY

THE DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

FRENCHAM PLACE, DOWNER 2602

(02) 6249 6443

DCA Website and Email Website (**NEW ADDRESS!**): www.downercommunityassociation.org
DCA email: downerassociation@gmail.com
Community Centre email: downercentre@gmail.com or phone on 62496443

IMPORTANT DATES

20th October 2012:

26th November 2012:

Downer Spring Fair at Downer Community Centre

DCA AGM at Downer Community Centre

1. Downer Spring Fair

The Downer Community Association is hosting the 2012 Downer Spring Fair on 20 October at the Downer Community Centre (Frencham Place). Politically savvy residents will have twigged that's the same date as the ACT election. Conveniently, the Downer Business Park (in the old primary school) is a polling place, which means after casting your vote it's a short wander over to the Spring Fair.

The Downer Spring Fair is a showcase of the local community and will include stalls from local organisations (the delicious cakes of the Downer Preschool are back!) and community groups.

If you would like to volunteer to help out please contact Robyn at ms.robyn.unger@gmail.com.

Proceeds the Spring Fair Raffle will be donated to the Hands Across Canberra Foundation



<http://www.handsacrosscanberra.org.au/>

Buy a ticket for your chance to win a TORKER Unistar CX generously donated by our friends at

Mal Adjusted Bicycle Emporium
Bicycle sales, spares and repairs

8/55 Woolley Street, Dickson
Phone: 02 6230 0887 or 02 6230 0169
<http://www.maladjusted.com.au>

Mal Adjusted Bicycle Emporium has a wide range of products and facilities to suit you and your steed, whether you favour the fast pace of road cycling or gentle flow of touring or single-track, they can help you get the most joy out of cycling.

If you do face painting...
If you sell homemade jewellery...
If you have the makings of a white elephant stall in your garage...

You may want a stall at the Downer Spring Fair!

email ms.robyn.unger@gmail.com for more information

2. Downer Preschool

In August we met with ACT Education Minister, Dr Chris Bourke about our concerns regarding recent changes to the administration of Downer Preschool. He has responded to our concerns with a letter to pass on to all Downer residents.

In essence, the letter provides his assurance that Downer Preschool students will be given a place at the local primary school of their choosing, either Majura, North Ainslie or Lyneham. Downer Preschool will be supported during the year by Lyneham Primary School and we are encouraged by the relationship that we are developing with such a fantastic school.

Downer Preschool is a beautiful preschool - fabulous teachers, enviable location and active parent involvement. With a long history in our suburb it is very much a hub in our community. We would encourage all Downer parents to take advantage of the opportunity to have their child's first year at school at a fabulous Preschool.

Please read the letter from the Minister, and if you have any further questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact either Gabrielle Tramby (gabrielle.tramby@gmail.com) or Downer Preschool.



Dr Chris Bourke MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
MINISTER FOR CORRECTIONS

MEMBER FOR GUERRIERA

Ms DI Fielding
Treasurer
Downer Community Association

di-fielding@grapevine.net.au

Dear Ms Fielding

Thank you for your email of 21 August 2012 following the Management Committee meeting at the Downer Community Association on 6 August 2012. I understand that you are seeking assurance about matters discussed at the meeting in relation to administrative arrangements for the Downer Preschool from 2013 and I am pleased to be able to provide to provide this assurance.

As discussed at the meeting, Downer Preschool will be linked administratively to Lyneham Primary School from 2013. Work has commenced to implement this administrative change, and I understand that the principal of Lyneham Primary School is working closely with the Downer Preschool staff and community to ensure a seamless transition. I have been told that the coordination is also occurring across inner north schools, and the principals of Lyneham Primary School, Majura Primary School and North Ainslie Primary School are working together to ensure that families are supported during this period of change.

From 2013, residents of Downer will be able to choose to attend Majura, North Ainslie or Lyneham Primary Schools. I can confirm that students living in Downer and attending Downer Preschool will have a choice of the three primary schools. The three schools will continue to work collaboratively to ensure that children in Downer are placed in their school of choice.

If residents of Downer have enrolled at Watson Preschool to ensure that they gain access to Majura Primary School and, following clarification of the administrative change, now wish to attend Downer Preschool, they should contact Lyneham Primary School on 6205 6511 to discuss enrolment.

Given current suburban regeneration, along with current and future urban development occurring in the inner north, Downer Preschool will continue to be an important part of the public school provision in north Canberra. Ongoing monitoring of all public school enrolments and capacities is undertaken by the Education and Training Directorate to ensure that residents have access to a local school, transitions are managed effectively and that educational infrastructure meets the needs of the community.

I have been assured that the relevant ACT Government Directorates, including Minister Corbell's, are aware of the administrative change involving Downer Preschool and the planning implications relating to the Northbourne transit corridor. They are working collaboratively to deliver education, planning and transport infrastructure and policy, so the needs of all local communities will continue to be represented.

Preschool is an exciting time for both parents and their children. It is the first interaction they will have with school, teachers and the education system and it is important that parents and children feel supported, engaged and involved in these early days.

As Minister for Education and Training and as a parent myself, I believe that creating strong connections between parents and the education their children are getting at school is the best way to start.

I trust that this information will be useful to you and to the members of the Downer Community Association.

Yours sincerely

Chris Bourke MLA
Minister for Education and Training

12 SEP 2012

3. Consultation report on redevelopment of former school site is now available on the web

The latest on the redevelopment of the old school site project is that the community consultation process on the amended design concepts closed on 27 July 2012. A report has been completed summarising the submission received by the Economic Development Directorate (EDD). The report is available on the ACT Government website www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/___data/assets/pdf_file/0006/346227/Downer_Report_final.pdf

The next step is that the EDD will report to the ACT Government on the process through the consultation report. The Government will then make a decision about when the necessary Territory Plan Variation will proceed and what form it will take. The land is currently zoned "community" so will have to be rezoned for "residential" and "commercial" for the proposed uses to occur. The public will have another chance to comment on the development in the rezoning process.

As far as DCA is aware, the Government's intention is still to conduct a direct sale to CHC Affordable Housing. EDD worked in partnership with CHC to undertake the concept designs the community were presented with in July 2012. DCA representatives are still participating in a reference group for the project, to ensure the project benefits existing and future residents of the suburb.