



Frencham Place, Downer ACT 2602

AROUND DOWNER

ISSUE: SEPTEMBER 2011

DISTRIBUTED BY
THE DOWNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FRENCHAM PLACE, DOWNER 2602
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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 on 62496443

IMPORTANT DATES: Majura Primary School Spring Carnival -Sat 10 September 10-2pm

SeeChange/DCA Downer Spring Fair/Swap Day Sat 22 October 10 3pm

Planning News

Revitalisation strategy for the Downer local centre precinct.

The ACT Government, through the Economic Development Directorate is managing the redevelopment of the former Downer Primary School site. This will involve the rezoning and subdivision of the former school site with the view to permitting residential and commercial mixed use development.

The development will include an affordable rental accommodation component for low-income earners. No development is proposed for the existing sportsgrounds and community centre. Linked with this is the Government's proposed purchase of the former shops for community uses.

A notice went out to all residents on 25 July 2011 from the Economic Development Directorate outlining the process. The detail on the project, terms of reference and constraints mapping for the site can be found at www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/community_engagement/current_activities/downer_local_centre_reference_group

A project reference group has been established to assist in the development of the strategy including four local residents on the group. One meeting has been held to date and the meeting notes are available on the website.

The DCA have been advocating for something to happen for many years. There has been a number of planning exercises over the last ten years namely the Downer Neighbourhood Plan, the Central Downer Urban Design Study and the Former School Sites Study all of which have come to nothing as regard to action on the ground in this area. How the new development is integrated with Downer Village area will be one of the crucial steps.

We would encourage all residents to take interest in this process. This central area is Downer's

"jewel in the crown" and you only get one chance at development of community land. Once it is gone it is almost impossible to bring back into public ownership. Already residents with planning experience have come forward with options how the redevelopment could occur.

A public meeting open to all residents is to be held once it becomes clearer what is proposed. In the interim if want any particular issued raised in reference group meetings email the community association or attend the DCA meetings held first Monday of every month at the Community Centre.

Lights for Downer Oval?

You may have noticed that four light poles being stored at the oval. TAMS have advised that these poles have been relocated from the Southwell Park and that it is intended that lights be erected at Downer Oval in the future.

A development application has to be submitted to allow this to happen. This process is yet to commence and will involve community input.

The DCA has opposed lights when proposed for Downer Oval in the late 1990s and would be interested in resident's views at this time. Apparently lights would not be able to be on after 9pm.

18 Units approved for Frencham Street

Notification has been received dated 1 September 2011 that ACTPLA approved a 18 unit development subject to conditions on Blocks 1, 2 & 3 Section 68 Downer that is No's 30, 32 and 34 Frencham Street.

The approval involves varying the lease to permit the construction of 18 residential units, the demolition of the 3 existing dwellings. The units will be contained in four buildings with two double building fronting the street and two single storey buildings at the rear of the site with basement parking.

Spring Carnival

MAJURA PRIMARY SPRING CARNIVAL

10am to 2pm

Sat 10 September

Knox Street Watson

Market Stalls * Rides for the
Kids * Football Clinic
* Community Displays * Silent
Auction * Raffle * Huge Trash 'n
Treasure * Kids Crafts * Live
Entertainment

* Fabulous Food and Drinks *
Plant Stall * Craft stall * Jams &
Pickles * Books * Clothes *
Chocolate Wheel

and MUCH MORE

Come and enjoy a great
community family fun day

All welcome!



DOWNER TAX HELP CENTRE

Qualified volunteers are 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 \$50,000 are 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, overseas income etc. English, Mandarin and Cantonese are spoken by the volunteers.

Phone 0423663041 to make an appointment for an evening session in September or October.

PROBUS CLUB OF NORTH CANBERRA

The Men's Probus Club of North Canberra for retirees meets at St Margaret's Hall, corner of Phillip Avenue and Antill Street Hackett, on the second Tuesday of each month from 10 am to 12 noon.

Club meeting format is 30 minutes for Club business, 30 minutes for morning tea and a chat, followed by one hour for a Guest Speaker to address members and take questions.

Recent Guest Speakers have covered: -

- The Development of the National Arboretum
- The Australian National Museum
- The Work of the Public Trustee
- The Royal Flying Doctor Service
- The History of the Kingston Powerhouse
- Living with Parkinson's Disease
- Investigation of Air Crashes
- Social Conditions in Afghanistan
- Palliative Care in the ACT
- Farming Truffles in the ACT
- Railways - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
- Tsunamis and earthquakes

NEW MEMBERS MOST WELCOME

For further information please contact
Jim Maher on 02 6248 8925

Keep the date free
SeeChange/DCA
Downer Spring
Fair/Swap Day
Sat 22 October 10-3pm
Downer Village Square