

Minutes

Downer Community Association committee meeting

7 pm Monday 2 March 2026

1. Acknowledgement of Country (Chair Robyn Rennie)

2. Attendance and apologies

Attendance: Robyn Rennie (Convenor), Leon Arundell (Secretary), Miles Boak (Treasurer), Jacqui Pinkava (Public Officer), Amit Barkay, Bea Brickhill.

Apologies: Ramya Victor, Jane Teasey

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous committee meeting 2 February 2026

The minutes were accepted.

4. Action Items arising from previous meetings

See list attached below

5. Correspondence report (Jacqui Pinkava)

See correspondence report below

6. Treasurer's report (Miles Boak)

Miles distributed the February Income and Expenditure report to the committee prior to the meeting and explained various entries.

7. Centre Management Report (Amy Barthet)

Amy reported that SpacetoCo provided a suitable set of words to alert potential tenants regarding the need to be basically apolitical, areligious, respectful etc...

These words are: *"We are committed to providing a space that is welcoming and safe for all members of the community. We do not accept bookings from organisations or individuals promoting hate speech, discrimination or exclusionary agendas. By requesting a booking, you confirm that your event adheres to these values of mutual respect."*

Amy sought the committee's approval for a wedding to be held at the Centre. Suggested that the potential clients visit the venue on a Sunday to assess for themselves the suitability.

Amit reported that he is meeting with ACT Property on Friday 13th to review maintenance issues, gutters, mould and carpet in the SEEChange office.

Amy has informed clients of the need to test and tag all their electrical equipment used at the Centre, and the need to have induction suitable cookwear should they wish to use the stove top. Amit to look into getting a cheaper internet provider rather than iiNet.

8. Decide on installing solar panels and battery, should a 5 year lease be in place

On hold, pending lease renewal.

Lease Agreement: Amit reported on the 10 February meeting of reps from not-for profit community organisations who have had lease agreements with the ACT Government. The issue that seems to be stalling the lease agreements is the need to standardise some 76 contract

arrangements. We can expect the new lease to be long and detailed, but offering a 5 year term on a “peppercorn” rent as has been the case since 1986.

9. North Canberra Community Council report

The NCCC committee meeting on 16 February discussed ways to better engage with local residents, the complexity of ACT Government consultation processes, the possible submissions on the ACT Budget, the draft ACT Climate Change Strategy, the draft Nature Conservation Strategy and the draft Aquatic strategy.

The meeting noted a report from the Reid Residents Association, and asked the Secretary to remind each member group, before each meeting, to provide its monthly report.

The next NCCC meeting will be a General meeting 7pm Wednesday 18 March.

10. Inner north district submission (Miles Boak)

Miles reported that DCA did not make a submission on the City and Gateway Urban Design Framework.

11. ACT Budget Consultation 2026-27

Action: Leon to draft a submission arguing that funding for the replacement Downer public toilets should be sufficient to provide at least two toilets, plus a baby change table, with a confirmed completion date.

12. Clean up Australia Day – Sunday 1 March (Miles Boak)

We had a very good turnout of forty people, The offer of a complimentary drink at the cafe was well received, especially by the participating children.

We **agreed** to pay the tab to Gang Gang cafe for the complimentary Clean Up Australia Day drinks, and to reimburse Miles for the tip fees for disposal of bulk rubbish that could not be removed by the ACT Gov.

13. Possible meeting with Ventia (Jacqui Pinkava)

We **agreed** to invite Ventia to present, on installing NBN Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) access in Downer, from 7 to 7.30 pm at the committee meeting on May 4, and to invite DCA members to attend the presentation.

ACTION: Jacqui to contact Vanessa Kerton from Ventia to invite her to present at this meeting.

14. Other Business

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Next Committee Meeting: 7 pm Monday 2 April 2026.

Robyn Rennie
Convenor
Date: 6 April 2023

Leon Arundell
Secretary
Date: 6 April 2023