



GOOD PROGRESS ON EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT UPGRADE



Work on the new emergency department at Canberra Hospital is progressing well, with the first stage almost complete.

The new Emergency Medical Unit and the Mental Health Short Stay Unit will open later this year, and a new paediatric area will follow in January 2016.

Other new areas will open progressively throughout 2016.

When complete, the expanded emergency department will have extra beds, three more ambulance bays and an extra 1,000 square metres of floor area.

 For more information, visit www.health.act.gov.au

“ HAVE YOUR SAY ”

ON FOOD AND DRINK MARKETING IN CANBERRA

We'd like to hear from Canberrans, including local businesses and industry, on ideas to better promote healthy food and drinks in the ACT, and on how we can reduce the unhealthy items we eat and drink.

 Visit www.timetotalk.act.gov.au for details on how to have your say.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

Since becoming Chief Minister of the ACT, I have been speaking to Canberrans about how we can improve services to their community.

The ACT Government is unique in Australia because it provides state level services such as health, education and public transport, and also municipal services such as mowing, cleaning and rubbish collection. We've been working hard to

deliver the services Canberrans need. In recent months we've regulated ridesharing, finalised plans for a new hospital at the University of Canberra and have reached an agreement with the Federal Government to continue providing 15 hours of preschool for Canberra's children.

I hope you will find this a useful update on the work going on in your community.

OUR CANBERRA

WODEN, WESTON CREEK & MOLONGLO EDITION

NEW COOMBS PRIMARY SCHOOL OPENS IN 2016

Construction of the new Charles Weston School in Coombs is well under way and will be ready for the first day of the 2016 school year.

Canberra's newest public school will cater for pre-school to year six students from the suburbs of Coombs

and Wright. It will include modern classrooms, a multi-purpose resource centre, as well as outdoor learning and landscaped play areas.

The school is currently taking enrolments and the principal, Kate McMahon, is available on site and can be contacted on (02) 6142 0404.



Artist's impression - Coombs Primary School



VOICES IN THE FOREST

Enjoy performances by world-renowned sopranos, including Australia's own Cheryl Barker AO and Mexico's Diego Torre, at this year's Voices in the Forest at the National Arboretum.

The ticketed event will be held from 5.30pm to 9.30pm on Saturday 21 November 2015.



For more information visit www.voicesintheforest.com.au



or follow Voices in the Forest on Facebook



ARE YOU CANBERRA BUSHFIRE READY?

The 2015-2016 bushfire season runs until 31 March 2016.

The ACT is facing a higher than average risk of bushfires this summer according to expert analysis.

Now is the time to get your home and family bushfire ready.



Visit www.esa.act.gov.au/bushfireready for tips on how to prepare. A few simple actions could make all the difference to surviving a bushfire.



WODEN MAUSOLEUM EXTENSION OPENS

An extension to the Christ the Redeemer Mausoleum opened at Woden Cemetery last month.

Originally built in 2001, the two new wings of the mausoleum add an extra 272 crypts for burials and 92 personalised spaces to accommodate the ashes of loved ones.



For more information visit www.canberracemeteries.com.au

FIFTEEN HOURS A WEEK OF FREE PUBLIC PRE-SCHOOL IN 2016

Public pre-schools will continue to offer 15 hours per week of free pre-school in 2016.

The ACT is one of few jurisdictions in Australia to offer free public pre-school for 15 hours per week to all four-year-old children in the year before they start formal schooling.

Enrolments are now open for 2016.

i For information about the wide range of pre-school and support services available in the ACT, as well as tips about how to get involved in your child's pre-school education, visit www.preschoollmatters.act.gov.au



CBRFREE WI-FI LIVE IN MORE PLACES

By the end of this month, you'll be able to access 250 megabytes per day, totalling 7.5 gigabytes of data per month at more centres across Canberra as part of our free public outdoor Wi-Fi called CBRfree.

It's already available in Civic East and Civic West, with installation in the Dickson, Manuka and Belconnen centres

also going live this month. Installation at other town centres and commercial precincts including Woden, Weston Creek, Tuggeranong, Gungahlin, Bruce and Kingston will be done in 2016.

When rollout is complete, CBRfree will be one of Australia's largest free outdoor public Wi-Fi networks.

i For more information visit www.digitalcanberra.com.au

“ 7.5 gigabytes provides enough data each month to make around 1,500 Facebook posts or download around 525 songs.



LET'S SUPPORT ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK ON WOW DAY

Show your support for our ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES) volunteers by dusting off your best orange outfit on Wednesday 18 November 2015.

The annual Wear Orange To Work (WOW) Day is an opportunity for all Canberrans to say thank you for the selfless dedication our ACTSES volunteers provide during storms,

floods and other emergencies.

WOW Day is one of several activities as part of ACTSES Week 14-20 November.

You can participate in WOW Day by wearing orange, or dressing up workplaces and cars in orange.

 Share photos of your WOW Day efforts on social media using #WOWDay as a hash tag.





MORE TRANSPORT OPTIONS FOR CANBERRA

Canberrans now have access to more transport options with ridesharing businesses such as Uber now operating legally.

Ridesharing is a service that uses smartphone apps to connect drivers who use their own cars, with passengers who want to get around. Every driver will have to have police and driving history checks and their car will have to have a safety check.

Ridesharing trips can only be booked through an app or over the phone. Canberra is the first city in Australia, and the first capital city in the world, to make ridesharing legal. As part of making ridesharing legal, the ACT Government has also reduced costs for taxi drivers.

i For more information on the taxi reforms, please visit www.act.gov.au/taxi-industry-reforms

TWO YEAR TRIAL TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY

A two-year trial of new road safety laws has started in the ACT to improve safety for cyclists and other road users.

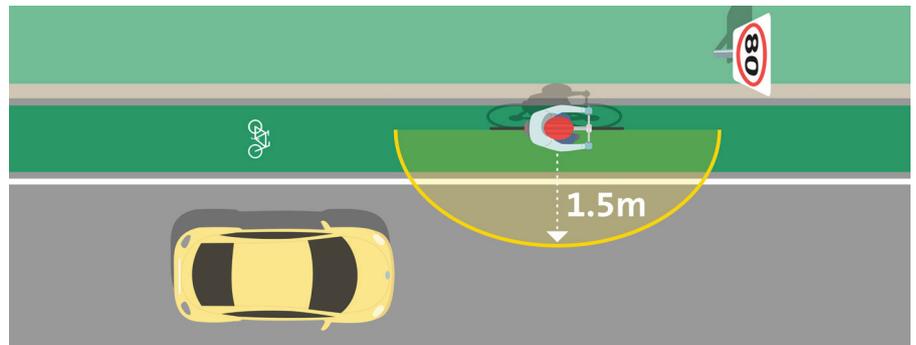
Motorists must now provide a minimum distance of one metre when overtaking a cyclist in speed zones at or below 60km/h and 1.5 metres in

speed zones above 60km/h.

This metre matters because it provides a practical measure for drivers when overtaking cyclists, and will help reduce collisions between cars and bike riders, by changing driving behaviour.

Motorists who fail to comply with the rule may be issued a \$215 fine and accrue two demerit points.

i For more information on the new rules for motorists and cyclists, and how to follow these new rules effectively, visit www.tams.act.gov.au/road-safety



GET OUT THIS SUMMER ON THE CENTENARY TRAIL

Enjoy Canberra's great outdoors by exploring the Centenary Trail this summer. It's a 145 kilometre off-road self-guided walk and cycle loop trail where you'll discover some of Canberra's most spectacular sights, scenery and hidden treasures.

Get your pedometers working hard by trying one or more of the seven trails. You can even take the dog on some sections.

i Need some inspiration before your trek? Watch the trail video at www.tams.act.gov.au



DID YOU KNOW?

FREE PLANTS FOR NEW HOMES

If you have purchased a new residential block of land in the ACT in the past two years, you are entitled to up to 20 free plants (to the value of \$220) from the Yarralumla Nursery.

i For more information visit www.tams.act.gov.au/city-services/yarralumla_nursery or call Yarralumla Nursery on (02) 6207 2446.



For service, payments and enquiries visit www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au or call 13 22 81.
For incident and emergency information visit www.esa.act.gov.au

