MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

As Canberra grows, we’re strengthening our public health system and care in our hospitals. This month our new University of Canberra Hospital opens and will care for patients recovering from surgery, illness or injury, or experiencing mental illness. Construction of the Gungahlin Walk-In Centre is progressing and upgrades to Calvary Public Hospital’s Emergency Department will start soon. ACT Health is currently recruiting for all types of health professionals and we’d like you to help. Visit health.act.gov.au/employment to find out more.

Belconnen town centre is set to undergo an upgrade of its foot and cycle paths. These upgrades will provide better path and cycle connections between the town centre, Lake Ginninderra foreshore and the region’s sport and study institutions. This builds on design work already underway on the Belconnen Bikeway. These works will also provide better links to and from the town centre, Bruce, Macquarie, Page and Florey. Upgrades will begin early 2019 and continue for the next two years.

RENEWING BELCONNEN TOWN CENTRE

In this issue:
> More educators for a growing city
> Improved sportsground in Higgins

REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OPENING

Canberra’s new dedicated rehabilitation hospital is opening this month in Belconnen. The University of Canberra Hospital will care for patients over 18 recovering from surgery, illness or injury, or experiencing mental illness.

This is an ACT Health service for public patients, but it will not have an emergency department. If you need emergency care call 000, or go to your nearest emergency department at Calvary Public Hospital in Bruce or Canberra Hospital in Garran.

For more information visit health.act.gov.au/uch

For more stories and information from across Canberra visit act.gov.au/our-canberra or follow us on social media.

For information on community consultations in Canberra visit yoursay.act.gov.au
MORE EDUCATORS FOR A GROWING CITY

Public schools across Canberra will welcome 66 new teachers and support staff over four years starting from the 2019 school year.

Schools will also receive more support for students with a disability and have access to a new teacher mentor program.

More than 1,300 extra students are set to join the ACT public education system next year.

LEAVE FIREWOOD ON THE GROUND

Collecting firewood and cutting down trees in our reserves and public areas is illegal.

Fallen timber provides safe shelter for native animals to hide from predators and seek refuge from the cold.

Instead of taking it from the bush, firewood can be purchased from a number of legal vendors in the ACT.

For more information visit environment.act.gov.au

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SAFE TRAVEL

Heading to the snow

Snow has started falling across the mountains around the bush capital.

Access roads into the mountains are unsealed and are at times unsuitable for 2WD vehicles.

Stay up-to-date on road conditions by visiting tccs.act.gov.au, or drop into the Namadgi or Tidbinbilla Visitor Centres for the latest advice.

BELCONNEN ROAD UPGRADES

Belconnen intersections are getting some important safety improvements.

Traffic lights will be installed at the intersections of Ginninderra Drive and Tillyard Drive, Tillyard Drive and Lhotsky Street, and Kuringa Drive and Owen Dixon Drive.

Construction works on Tillyard Drive will begin this financial year. Design work will also soon begin on the planned duplication of William Slim Drive from Ginninderra Drive to the Barton Highway.

HELP ROUGH SLEEPERS in CANBERRA

The 2016 Census showed more than 50 people in the ACT are sleeping rough on the streets every night.

Help rough sleepers by supporting homelessness charities, buying the Big Issue magazine or contacting support services like ‘OneLink’ and ‘Street to Home’.

For more information visit act.gov.au and search ‘rough sleeping’.

IMPROVED SPORTSGROUND in HIGGINS

Higgins Neighbourhood Oval will be revived to offer more sporting fields in West Belconnen.

The oval will receive an improved surface, irrigation system and lighting.

Work will begin in the first half of 2019.

USE WALK-IN CENTRES THIS WINTER

Visit the Belconnen Walk-In Centre for free, one-off treatment of minor injury or illness this winter.

Walk-In Centres are open every day between 7.30am and 10pm, no appointment is necessary.

If you need emergency care, call 000, or go directly to Calvary Public Hospital Emergency Department.

The Belconnen Walk-In Centre is located at 56 Lathlain Street, Belconnen.

For more information visit walkincentre.act.gov.au
WARM TREES
at the
NATIONAL ARBORETUM

The National Arboretum is brightening up winter with a colourful knitted installation. Warm Trees is the combined effort of hundreds of knitters from Australia and overseas.

For more information on events at the Arboretum visit nationalarboretum.act.gov.au

INTERNATIONAL TEST CRICKET IN CANBERRA

Tickets are now on sale for Canberra’s first International Test match between Australia and Sri Lanka at Manuka Oval in February.

For more information visit cricket.com.au/tickets

‘WINTERVENTION’ in THE CITY

Break out your beanies, gloves and winter coats and head to the city to enjoy some mid-winter fun. ‘Wintervention’ is on now in the city, offering a range of family-friendly activities. There’s ice skating, a circus performance at the La Petite Grand Theatre tent, carnival rides and you can warm your belly at the World Curry Festival from 13-15 July.

LOCATION: Garema Place, City Walk and Civic Square

For more information visit act.gov.au/cityrenewal

NOMINATE AN AUSTRALIAN of the YEAR

Play your part by giving our nation’s best the recognition they deserve. If you know a remarkable Canberran, nominate them for an Australian of the Year Award, before 31 July 2018.

Nominate at australianoftheyear.org.au

Pictured above: Suzanne Tunks, 2018 ACT Local Hero

Photograph: J Mohr

Produced by: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate. For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit act.gov.au/our-canberra or follow us on social media.