

# OUR CANBERRA

BELCONNEN EDITION

MAY 2016



## A SMOOTHER & FASTER TRIP BETWEEN NORTH & SOUTH

It now takes  
seven minutes to  
travel between the  
Federal Highway and Fairbairn  
Avenue

The Majura Parkway – an 11.5 kilometre dual carriageway connecting the Federal Highway in the north to the Monaro Highway in the south – is now officially complete and fully open to the travelling public.

It now takes just seven minutes to travel from the Federal Highway to Fairbairn Avenue via the Majura Parkway, compared

to 20 minutes previously via the old Majura Road. One of the project's key features, the Molonglo River Bridge, has been renamed the Malcolm Fraser Bridge.

**The \$288 million project, which commenced in early-2013, was jointly funded by the Australian and ACT Governments and is the single largest road infrastructure investment ever made in the ACT.**

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- > Road resurfacing program complete in Belconnen
- > Discover ACT Public Schools
- > Turn over a new leaf this autumn



### NEW OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE FOR BELCONNEN HIGH

Belconnen High School is now home to a new, flexible outdoor learning space – a welcoming new environment for students to be challenged and engaged.

Students are using the space for classes and during free time for exercise and study breaks.

The space is part of stage one in a two-stage refurbishment of the school, which will include the creation and conversion of indoor learning spaces and landscape improvements.



For more information visit [det.act.gov.au](http://det.act.gov.au)



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

As one of the world's most liveable cities, a top-ten destination for inward investment and a magnet for high achieving students, Canberra is already thriving and open to changes, to talent, to business, to diversity and to innovation.

The ACT Government is working to ensure that, as Canberra continues to grow and develop, we build on this unique Canberra advantage to retain what makes our city special.

The ACT Government's aim for the future is urban renewal and economic diversification to deliver a compact and competitive city that continues to be an inclusive and welcoming society, open to diverse talents and determined to help everyone reach their full potential.



For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit [act.gov.au/ourcanberra](http://act.gov.au/ourcanberra) or follow us on social media.







# LEADING THE NATION WITH DIGITAL BACKPACKS



Canberra school students are benefiting from a new learning platform that offers anytime, anywhere access to Google Apps for education, Microsoft Office 365, e-books and audio books.

This new learning platform is cloud-based and delivered through our learn anywhere 'Digital Backpack' program. It supports students in partnership with their parents, to develop the skills needed for their future success in the workforce and as digital citizens.

The program promotes a 'Bring Your Own Device' environment at schools as well as personalised learning for each student, including measures to assist with access to devices for those that require it.

Currently, 31,000 students across 77 schools have adopted the service, which is the fastest digital schools education network in the country.

 For more information visit [det.act.gov.au](http://det.act.gov.au)



# WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR **COMPULSORY** THIRD-PARTY INSURANCE?



**Did you know?** CTP insurance only covers injuries you cause to other people, not damage you cause to cars or property.

Test your knowledge with the CTP quiz  
at [act.gov.au/ctp](http://act.gov.au/ctp) until Sunday 15 May

# NEW CRYOGENIC STORE TO PRESERVE STEM CELLS AND RESEARCH SAMPLES



Canberra Hospital has a new \$900,000 Cryogenic Store, complete with improved security measures, new modern equipment and increased storage capacity.


The new Cryogenic Store will ensure Canberra Hospital has the capacity to meet the increasing demand for the storage of stem cells and research samples well into the future.

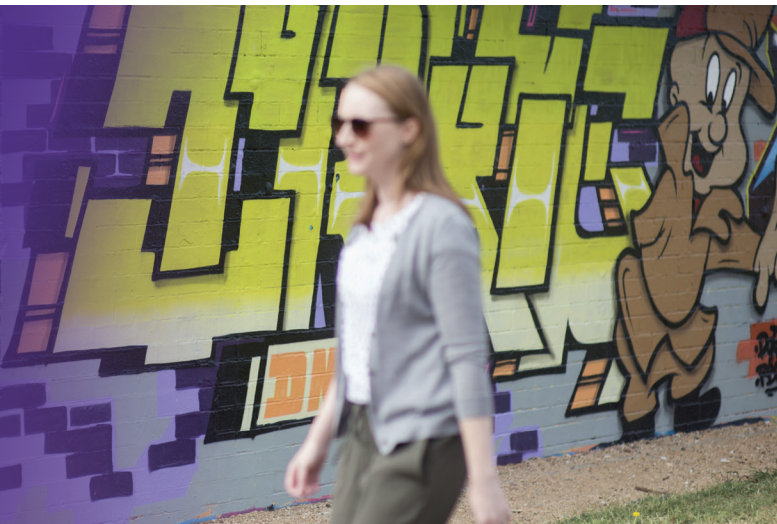
The Store is an important health facility. Preserved stem cells, frozen in liquid nitrogen at ultra cool temperatures are used in procedures such as bone marrow transplants, which can help to save the lives of people living with blood cancers.

# MANAGING CANBERRA'S GRAFFITI & STREET ART

A graffiti coordinator is now on hand to help manage the Territory's local graffiti and street art.

The graffiti coordinator will work closely with artists, businesses, contractors and the general community to remove illegal graffiti and identify suitable legal graffiti practice walls and mural sites. Legal graffiti sites provide an opportunity for graffiti artists to improve their skills without engaging in antisocial or criminal activity by illegally painting on public and private assets.

 For more information visit [tams.act.gov.au](http://tams.act.gov.au)






## MATTRESSES CAN NOW BE RECYCLED IN THE ACT



Canberra now has a mattress recycling facility open at the Hume Sheds on John Cory Circuit in Hume from 7.30 am to 3.30 pm Monday to Friday.

You can drop your old mattress off during these hours or arrange a collection service on 6260 1046. Residents will not have to be present at the time of pick up. Fees and charges apply. Recycled materials from the mattresses make carpet underlay and steel.

 Visit [tams.act.gov.au](https://tams.act.gov.au) for more information.



## A 1,000,000 m<sup>2</sup> ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAM COMPLETE

Roads ACT would like to thank motorists for their cooperation and patience during the extensive 2015-16 road resurfacing program.

The resealing program is an important part of the maintenance of Canberra's roads. It protects and extends the life of a road while also improving its safety. Roads ACT works to sweep and re-open roads to motorists during peak hours after work has taken place.

This is the first time in history a resurfacing program of one million square metres has been delivered in the ACT, with more than 300,000 square metres of road resurfaced in the Belconnen region including William Hovell Drive, Ginninderra Drive, Maribyrnong Avenue, Belconnen Way, Kerrigan Street and Copland Drive.

## 2017 ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN FOR CANBERRA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"If you don't understand something our teachers are always there to help you."

Ryan D'Costa, Melba Copland College

Visit [det.act.gov.au](https://det.act.gov.au) for details on open nights in your area.



## FREE SUPPORT AT CHILD & FAMILY CENTRES

Child and Family Centres in Gungahlin, Tuggeranong and West Belconnen are a one-stop-shop for family support during a child's early years.

The free, expert advice covers areas including childhood anxiety, building parent-child relationships, programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and much more.

 For more information contact 6205 2904 or visit [communityservices.act.gov.au](https://communityservices.act.gov.au)



## CAR SHARING TRIAL IN THE ACT

A car sharing trial has commenced in the ACT, giving residents access to a network of 20 fuel-efficient cars and hybrid vehicles.

The trial is being run by two car sharing companies, GoGet and Popcar, who have established programs across Australia. The program will contribute to fewer cars on the road, with less pollution and congestion.

 Residents can find cars near them via a mobile app and online booking systems available at [goget.com.au](https://goget.com.au) or [popcar.com.au](https://popcar.com.au)





# WINTER

## IS ON ITS WAY

### FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE NOW

The flu season is here again so it's time to roll up your sleeve for your seasonal influenza vaccine.

Influenza causes significant illness in the Canberra community every winter. Some groups are more at risk of serious complications from influenza than others, including people aged 65 years and over, pregnant women, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over. **If you fall into any of these groups, don't delay in getting your free vaccination.**

The seasonal influenza vaccine is available from GPs and corporate medical services. For the first time this flu season, adult patients without a prescription can also have the influenza vaccine administered by a pharmacist for a fee at their local pharmacy in Canberra.

 For more information visit [health.act.gov.au/our-services/immunisation](http://health.act.gov.au/our-services/immunisation)



**Leaves and grass are a major cause of poor water quality when they're swept into drains.**

They break down in our storm water system, releasing nutrients that can cause algal blooms and bad odours. Too many nutrients can also harm the animals and plants that depend on waterways.



### TURN OVER A NEW LEAF THIS AUTUMN

This autumn, please think of our waterways when raking your leaves.

Street sweepers will do extra sweeps in leafy suburbs this autumn, but won't be able to catch everything. Residents are urged to help by keeping their leaves away from the gutters.

Composting leaves is a great solution or you can take your leaves for free to the green waste centres at Corkhill Bros at Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre or West Belconnen's Canberra Sand and Gravel.

 For information on water quality initiatives visit [environment.act.gov.au](http://environment.act.gov.au)

### LET YOUR LOVE GROW LANDCARE FOR SINGLES: TREE PLANTING EVENT

Landcare for Singles is seeking enthusiastic, passionate, single Canberrans (of any age) who are looking for a fun and easy way to meet new people while doing something positive for the local environment.

The planting will take place on Sunday 22 May near Bredbo on the Monaro Highway South of Canberra. Participants can drive their own vehicle or take advantage of a free bus. Details and maps will be provided on RSVP.

 Register your interest at [actlandcare@act.gov.au](mailto:actlandcare@act.gov.au)



### NEW LAWS TO BETTER PROTECT ANIMALS

**Changes to the Animal Welfare Act 1992 have been introduced to better protect the welfare, safety and health of animals in the ACT.**

The new laws target animal neglect and cruelty offences and recognise that education about the care of animals is essential in reducing and preventing animals being placed at risk of harm.

 To view the changes visit [legislation.act.gov.au](http://legislation.act.gov.au)



The ACT Government is a proud supporter of the **2016 Mother's Day Classic** on **Sunday 8 May**.

Register now at

[mothersdayclassic.com.au](http://mothersdayclassic.com.au)



For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit [act.gov.au/ourcanberra](http://act.gov.au/ourcanberra) or follow us on social media.

