

OUR CANBERRA

Belconnen edition



ACT
Government

July 2017

BLACK RAPID LINKS BELCO TO GUNG AHLIN



You'll be able
to try this new
Rapid service
FREE for
two months.

A new frequent bus service is coming soon to Canberra's northside linking Belconnen and Gungahlin town centres.

The new Black Rapid will operate Monday to Friday, every 15 minutes or better. Best of all, you can try this new service for free during the first two months of operation.

This new service will get started in the coming months.

The ACT Government is expanding its high frequency Rapid bus network over the next four years with an additional seven Rapid services.



For more information visit
transport.act.gov.au

IN THIS ISSUE:

- > Students get ready for work
- > Age-friendly upgrades for Kaleen
- > Belco's new Park & Pedal sites

EXPANDING BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE

The Belconnen Arts Centre will be expanded to accommodate better facilities.

Stage two will include multi-use town hall/performance areas, improvements to workshop areas, new dance studios and an expanded exhibition space.

Funding was set aside in last month's ACT Budget to prepare the final design, followed by construction over the next three years.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

It was great to speak to commuters at Canberra Station recently about their experience with the current slow and unreliable rail service between Canberra and Sydney. I took the long four hour journey myself on the way to discuss possible solutions with the NSW Government, so we can try to get a better service with reduced travel time.

A faster train service will make the journey safer and less stressful for thousands of Canberrans, reduce the numbers of cars on the Hume Highway, improve productivity for business travel and enhance the lives of Canberrans and those in NSW towns along the route.

Together, we will lobby the Federal Government to upgrade the route as part of its national rail program to make the rail service more competitive with road. I'll keep you informed about how it goes.



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

YOURsay

For information on community consultations in Canberra, visit yoursay.act.gov.au



BETTER ACCESS TO TRAINING FOR ALL AGES

Canberrans of all ages now have more opportunity to up-skill or re-skill.

The limit on the number of funded Australian apprenticeships a person can access under the 'ACT Australian Apprenticeships program' has been removed. This means that Canberrans at different stages of life have more opportunities to enhance their job prospects or to seek a new career.



For more information, visit skills.act.gov.au

Photo: Elizabeth Suarez is a qualified chef. She is currently being trained in leadership and management, via a traineeship at the Food Service Department of The Canberra Hospital.

STUDENTS REAP BENEFITS OF LOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Research has found that engaging in musical activities helps children learn and enhances skills in other areas.

More than 2,300 students in ACT Public Schools are getting involved in the ACT Instrumental Music Program. These kids are learning social interaction and performance skills, and how to cooperate and strive for excellence.

For more information visit imp.act.edu.au



THE ORANGE SKY LAUNDRY TURNS ONE

A world-first free mobile laundry service for the homeless has now been operating in Canberra for a year.

Thanks to the dedication of many volunteers, Orange Sky Laundry provides people experiencing homelessness with the opportunity to clean their clothes as well as a friendly chat.

The ACT Government has committed \$50,000 to support the service.

To donate, volunteer or learn more go to orangeskylaundry.com.au

Photo: Volunteers Hilary Thomson and Neil Stafford operating the mobile laundry near the Canberra City Uniting Church Early Morning Centre.

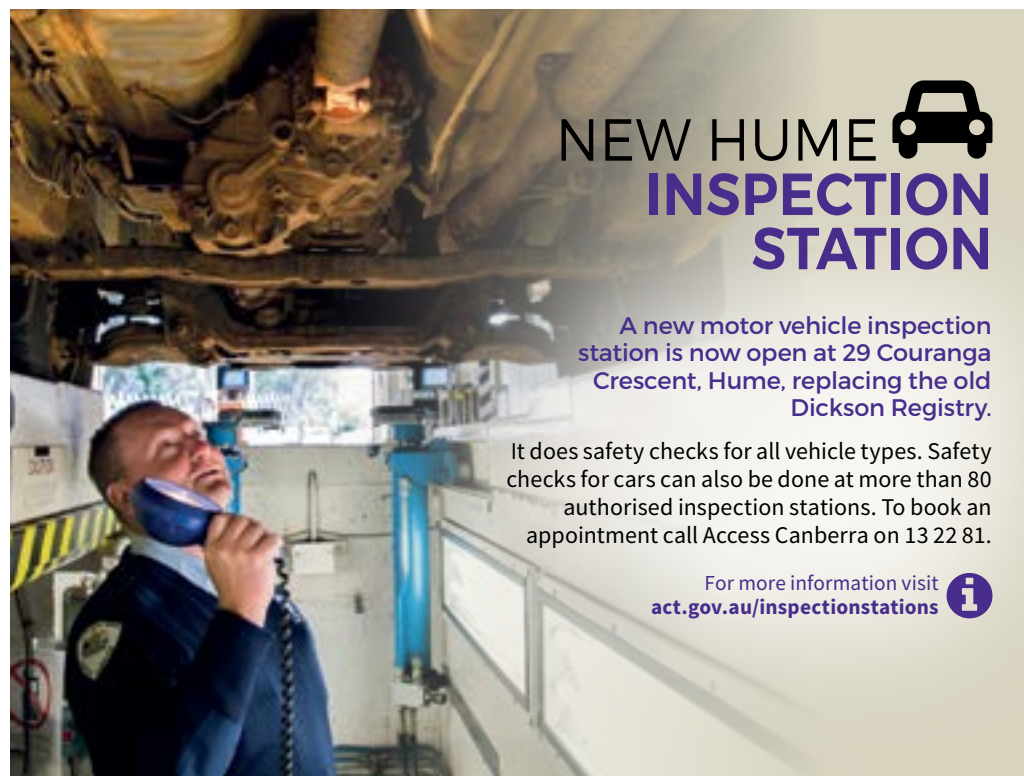


NEW HUME INSPECTION STATION

A new motor vehicle inspection station is now open at 29 Couranga Crescent, Hume, replacing the old Dickson Registry.

It does safety checks for all vehicle types. Safety checks for cars can also be done at more than 80 authorised inspection stations. To book an appointment call Access Canberra on 13 22 81.

For more information visit act.gov.au/inspectionstations



STUDENTS GET WORK READY AT SIX DEGREES CAFE

Canberra has a great new cafe that is preparing students with a disability for life after school.

Black Mountain School's 'Six Degrees' cafe develops students' practical skills so they are 'work ready' after graduating. The indoor-outdoor cafe offers delicious coffee and other products, with the friendliest service in town.

Opening hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9am to 2pm at Dryandra Street, O'Connor.



NEW PLAY SPACE PLANNED FOR GIRALANG

A new natural play space will be built in Giralang.

Natural play spaces provide opportunities for free play that is creative and imaginative, using primary elements from the landscape such as sand, logs and rocks. Funding was set aside for this project in last month's ACT Budget.

For more information visit natureplaycbr.org.au



BELCO'S NEW PARK & PEDAL SITES

Belconnen has some new Park & Pedal sites to help you get active and get around our capital. At a Park & Pedal you can park your car for free and pedal the rest of your journey.

The new Park & Pedal sites nearest you are at:

- > Palmerville Heritage Park, Evatt
- > Caswell Drive, Glenloch Interchange

Or if you work in the city, try the new Park & Pedal sites in Hackett. There's one at the Hackett shops and another at Kellaway Street. These sites offer good connections with major road networks and off-road paths to nearby town centres.

For more information visit transport.act.gov.au. Follow the 'Active Travel' links.

AGE-FRIENDLY UPGRADES FOR KALEEN

Upgrades to pathways, crossings and traffic islands have started in Kaleen.

These upgrades improve access to local shops for everyone, but especially older Canberrans who may have some mobility challenges, or those with disabilities.

Works in Kaleen include upgrading the:

- > path between the childcare centre and Kaleen Plaza along Georgina Crescent;
- > path between the shared path south of Rubicon Street and the car park in front of the Kaleen Community Hall;
- > existing crossing across Maribyrnong Avenue in front of Kaleen Plaza; and
- > paths and crossings at Gwydir Square.




CANBERRA STUDENTS

FEEL THE ANZAC SPIRIT

Two Canberra public school students have had the trip of a lifetime to the Western Front.

Sophie Holloway from Campbell High School and Liam Hollis from Canberra High School (pictured) were the recipients of the 2017 ACT Chief Minister's ANZAC Spirit Prize. The duo represented the ACT on a two week study tour with a battlefield tour specialist, visiting key battlefields and laying a wreath at Villers-Bretonneux during the dawn service on Anzac Day.


The students were selected for their creative exploration of the connection between France, Australia and the ANZAC Spirit. Entries for the ACT Chief Minister's ANZAC Spirit Prize 2018 will open in term three 2017.

 To make an enquiry email ANZACSpiritPrize@act.gov.au
Information will soon be available at education.act.gov.au



STAY SAFE ON YOUR SNOW TRIP

During winter, roads in our mountains are often closed due to bad weather and extreme conditions. Closing roads prevents accidents and damage. Canberrans are urged to respect road closures, obey signage and take extreme caution when driving.

 For more information on road conditions and access visit tccs.act.gov.au, or call Access Canberra on 13 22 81.



WEST BASIN'S NEW PUBLIC PROMENADE

A stunning public promenade that will make West Basin a more attractive and accessible destination for Canberrans and visitors is taking shape. Now underway is the first 150 metres of boardwalk and the creation of a new public park.


Stage two of the project starts in early 2018. It will include jetties and the next 500 metres of boardwalk, which will connect the future public promenade to the water's edge. This is part of a 50 metre wide public space along the entirety of the West Basin.



BURN RIGHT THIS WINTER

Smoke from wood heaters is the largest source of air pollution in Canberra. Here are some tips to stay warm and help Canberra improve its air quality:

- only use dry, well-seasoned, untreated wood
- store wood in a well-ventilated, covered space
- don't overfill your heater – use two or three small logs instead of one large log
- buy wood from an authorised firewood merchant
- or consider replacing your wood heater. You could be eligible for a rebate under the 'Wood Heater Replacement Program'. Email actsmart@act.gov.au for details.

 For more information and tips visit environment.act.gov.au



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YOURSAY

