Christmas in the heart of Canberra will be bigger and better this year with 12 days of festivities.

An outdoor movie night, backyard cricket in Glebe Park, a long table dinner and a Family Fun Day form part of a program of events from 13 December to Christmas Eve.

City Walk, Garema Place and Petrie Plaza will be dressed for the season, with street art, decorations, lighting, a Christmas forest and entertainment to get Canberrans into the holiday spirit.

**WHAT’S ON**

> **Christmas Carols, 8 December.** An evening of magical Christmas fun in the Lanyon gardens.

> **New Year’s Eve in the City, 31 December.** Ring in the New Year with family-friendly celebrations and fireworks at 9pm and midnight.


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**BULK BILLING COMING to MOLONGLO**

More bulk billing services will soon be available in the growing Molonglo Valley with the National Health Co-op receiving a grant to establish a new GP clinic.

The funding will help build and fit-out an 11 room clinic in Coombs. It will have space for up to 10 bulk billing GPs, as well bulk billing psychologists, dieticians, nurses and other allied health care providers.

This will provide locals with better healthcare where and when you need it.


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**MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR**

A dry winter has left Canberra with a significantly increased risk of bushfires this summer.

Our hardworking Emergency Services are reminding all Canberrans to prepare their home and discuss action plans with family, friends and neighbours. Trimming trees, mowing grass and removing flammable materials are simple tasks that can prepare your home for the summer.

This edition of *Our Canberra* has more information on how to be Bushfire Ready.

More on the ACT Emergency Services website at [esa.act.gov.au](http://esa.act.gov.au)

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

For consultations in Canberra visit [yoursay.act.gov.au](http://yoursay.act.gov.au)
**CRICKET BIG BASH**

Canberra’s best and biggest summer of cricket is here.

Manuka Oval will host four more matches this summer including Canberra’s inaugural cricket Test Match from 1 to 5 February 2019, when Australia takes on Sri Lanka. If the Big Bash is more your style, head to Manuka Oval on 21 December and 9 February.


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**HOLIDAY SERVICES**

Most Access Canberra Service and Specialised Centres will close from 4pm on Monday 24 December 2018 until Wednesday 2 January 2019.

If you need to check opening hours, pay your car or trailer rego, renew your driver’s licence or do more than 300 other transactions with the ACT Government, just go online.

More information on access to services during the holidays relating to crisis accommodation, dogs and animal care, waste collections and emergencies can be found online too.


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**ONE TICKET ONE FARE ONE NETWORK**

Commuters will be able to use their MyWay cards on buses and light rail.

The new and expanded network will feature a convenient, efficient and fully integrated MyWay ticketing system where passengers can transfer seamlessly from light rail to buses under the same rules that currently apply to bus users.


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**HELPING WOMEN GIVE TRADES a GO**

More support is now being offered to help Women in Canberra interested in traditional trades to give it a go.

New grants are now available for projects across Canberra that support an increase in the promotion and take up of women in male-dominated trades, as well as projects that help to retain women in trades.

If you think your project or business is eligible, contact a Skills Canberra Manager by emailing skills@act.gov.au. Applications close 20 December.
THANK YOU SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to more than 140 volunteers who have mentored Canberra kids across 42 ACT public schools in 2018, through the School Volunteer Program.

Monica Pflaum volunteers at Curtin Primary School because she loves reading with children. “This gives me the opportunity to take pleasure from watching their love of reading and feel satisfaction in contributing to their learning,” she said.

We will celebrate all Canberra volunteers on International Volunteer Day on 5 December.

A FRESH TAKE on WODEN TOWN CENTRE

The Woden Town Square will be rejuvenated through the #WodenExperiment in early 2019. Ideas came from locals and include new landscaping, furniture, art and non-traditional play elements for six months, with some installed permanently.

Keep an eye out for the pre-experiment event in the square this month and the launch early next year.

BINS on CHRISTMAS DAY TUESDAY

Tuesday bin collections scheduled for Christmas Day will be brought forward to Saturday 22 December.

Accidents and illnesses can also happen over the holidays. Make sure you know where to go for help.

Walk-in Centres in Belconnen, Gungahlin and Tuggeranong provide free treatment of minor injuries and illness. They’re open 7.30am to 10pm every day, including Christmas and New Year’s Day and you don’t need an appointment.

GET STREETWISE

A group of senior Canberrans have learned how to create their own street art in Woden.

Under the guidance of local artists Ben Reeve and Dai Cameron, the talented group used their new found skills to rejuvenate a site at the Woden Bus Interchange.

The project has refreshed the area, discouraged graffiti tagging and delivered a more welcoming space for the whole community. This initiative was possible through the ACT Government-supported Streetwise program.
FOUR SIMPLE STEPS TO CREATING YOUR BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN

1. DISCUSS
With your household what you will do in a bushfire.

2. PREPARE
A plan and your home for bushfire.

3. KNOW
The bushfire alert levels.

4. KEEP
Information, numbers, websites, and the App.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR RISK?
Where you live is one of the things that determines if both you and your home are at risk of bushfire, and what kind of fire you might experience. Think about the area you live in:

**BUSH**
If you live in an area that’s close to or surrounded by bush, you’re at risk. Bushfires can be hot, intense and throw burning embers towards your home.

**GRASSLANDS**
If you live in an area where grasslands meet built up areas or homes, you’re at risk. Grass fires can start easily and spread quickly.

**PADDOCKS**
If you live on the outskirts of the city or near paddocks you’re at risk. Fires can spread quickly over great distances.

**ON A HILL**
If you live at the top of a hill, you’re at risk. Fires travel uphill faster. For every 10 degrees of slope, the fire can double in speed.

THE TOP 5 ACTIONS TO MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER

1. TRIM
Trim overhanging trees and shrubs. This can stop the fire spreading to your home.

2. MOW
Mow grass and remove the cuttings. Have a cleared area around your home.

3. REMOVE
Remove material that can burn (e.g. door mats, wood piles, leaves, paint, furniture).

4. CLEAR
To prevent embers setting alight clear and remove debris and leaves from gutters.

5. PREPARE
A sturdy hose or hoses that will reach all around your home. Have a reliable source of water.

KEEP KEY INFORMATION

In an emergency call: **Triple Zero (000)**. For information on bushfires call Access Canberra: **13 22 81**

For Fire Danger Ratings visit the ACT Emergency Services website: **esa.act.gov.au**

Install the smartphone ‘Fires Near Me’ App

Local radio, local ABC/emergency broadcaster frequency, TV and news websites.

Stay up to date at: **facebook.com/ACTESA** and **twitter.com/ACTESA** and **esa.act.gov.au**

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.