Green bins are coming to Gungahlin

Wish someone would help take your garden waste away? Green waste bin services for residents have been brought forward to 1 April.

Take advantage of this convenient service for a one-off $50 fee, or free for eligible concession card holders.

Green bins will be collected fortnightly and can be used for grass clippings, weeds, prunings, flowers and small branches.

- For more information and to register visit act.gov.au/greenbins or call 13 22 81

Register now for collections starting 1 April.

New school for the new year

Students enrolled at the brand new Margaret Hendry School in Taylor have met their principal and teachers before the start of term one.

A range of events have been held at the new school for parents, students and staff in the lead up to the first day on 4 February.

Visits to future students at nearby schools have also helped staff to learn more about each child’s interests and to connect to their new school community.

- More at margarethendryschool.act.edu.au

Message from the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr

Happy New Year to every Canberran. 2019 is going to be another huge one for our city, as we continue to make our community even better.

From opening more great local schools, to delivering better healthcare where and when you need it, and investing in an integrated transport network to keep Canberra connected – we are hitting the ground running in 2019.

I’m particularly pleased we will complete the city-wide rollout of green bins in the coming months, by bringing forward the rollout in Gungahlin into early 2019, along with Woden, the Molonglo Valley, the inner north and the inner south.
Be a **backyard lifeguard**

Every year children under five drown in backyard pools – accidents we can help prevent.

As a community we are all responsible for safety around pools and together we can reduce the risk of children drowning in swimming pools in the ACT. Keep our kids safe this summer and be a backyard lifeguard with these summer safety tips:

- close supervision of children in and around the pool
- knowing CPR, which can save lives and, if performed early, help reduce serious or long-term injuries
- checking that pool barriers meet current safety standards.

> More at act.gov.au/backyardlifeguard

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Join a **volunteer emergency service** in 2019

Canberra volunteers are a key part of the ACT’s emergency services, providing frontline response to bushfires, storms and floods.

Volunteer positions include rural firefighters, State Emergency Service members, community education practitioners and community fire unit members.

> More on volunteering at esa.act.gov.au/join-the-esa

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One year of **Chromebooks**

It’s been a year since the roll-out of Chromebooks across Canberra public secondary schools and more devices will be provided this year.

Students starting year seven in 2019, along with new students to the ACT public education system in years eight to 12, will receive their Chromebook in term one.

Chromebooks are used as a teaching and learning tool to help develop the capacity of students to analyse information, solve problems and communicate in an increasingly digital world.

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**Your health options**

Do you know how to get the most appropriate medical care for your symptoms?

Canberra has a range of convenient and accessible health services that don’t involve a trip to a hospital emergency department - there’s more than one front door to our health system.

Many of our local health services are free and available after hours, so make sure you choose the best care for your symptoms next time you need help.

> More at act.gov.au/yourhealthoptions
Gungahlin's schools will have more places for students thanks to the delivery of new and expanded schools.

Since 2017 more than 700 places were added across the region. Further funding has provided an additional 450 student places across Franklin Early Childhood School, Gold Creek School and Neville Bonner Primary School for this school year.

This is in addition to the 176 preschool and 600 primary school places at the new Margaret Hendry School in Taylor.

More at education.act.gov.au

Gungahlin's most popular baby names 2018

The most popular baby names of 2018 have been released and, while William and Amelia are the reigning names across Canberra, Gungahlin parents had different ideas on what to name their bubs.

Oliver was the most popular boys' name across the Gungahlin region, while Olivia shared the honours with Amelia.

Birth registration is now available online at act.gov.au/birthregistration

New & improved playgrounds

Kids and families across Canberra will soon benefit from new and improved playgrounds across our city.

New Nature Play spaces will be installed, older playgrounds will be refreshed and play space reviews will be carried out in several suburbs.

Playgrounds in Nicholls, Forde, Crace, Throsby and Palmerston will receive new amenities such as seating or shade.

More at yoursay.act.gov.au/bettersuburbs

Future growth in Gungahlin's Town Centre will be shaped through a new planning strategy.

With Gungahlin's population expected to grow from 75,000 to 106,000 over the next decade, the Planning Refresh Snapshot recommendations are in line with population growth.

Revised building heights, proposals for public spaces and active travel improvements are included.

More at planning.act.gov.au
Starting school in 2019?

Here are some tips for a safe and stress-free first day of school for your child.

- Talk to your child about what to expect and who to ask for help.
- Label all your child’s belongings.
- Consider the school route, likely road crossings and reinforce road safety.
- Apply sunscreen before leaving for school.

- Clarify after school pickup arrangements or who is collecting them.
If your child is starting kindergarten in an ACT Public School in 2019, make sure you get your copy of ‘Starting School: A Guide for Families’.
- To get your copy go to education.act.gov.au

Grab ’n Go lunchbox

If you’re looking for easy prep ideas for your kid’s lunchbox, download a Grab ’n Go school lunchbox shopping list from the ‘Parents’ section at act.gov.au/freshtastes

Our favourite festival is back

The National Multicultural Festival is back for its 23rd year. Join us in Civic for this musical and culinary celebration of Canberra’s diversity.

This year’s headline acts are the iconic Christine Anu, chef Mark Oliver and up and coming star Isaiah Firebrace.

Leave the car at home

Late Night Rapid bus services will operate during the festival and have teamed up with Uber to get you home safely.
Services on both the Blue 300 and 200 Red Rapids to and from the City are running every 20 minutes. Connect with Uber until 3am to receive a discount.
- More at multiculturalfestival.com.au

Australia Day

There’s a lot going on across Canberra this Australia Day.

Support our Australian of the Year Awards local nominees on 25 January.
Then on 26 January enjoy the National Flag Raising and Citizenship Ceremony, children’s activities, and an evening concert with a fireworks finale.
You can celebrate the public holiday on 28 January at Lanyon with a walking tour and live music near the lawns.
- More at events.act.gov.au/australia-day

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.