NEW ANKETELL STREET
COMMUNITY COURTYARD

Work is almost finished on improvements to the courtyard on Anketell Street, opposite the Hyperdome.

The upgrades have opened up the area and made it safer, improved access to Lake Tuggeranong and provided a space for community activities such as local markets.

Additional funding was also set aside in last month's ACT Budget to deliver a second stage of upgrades.

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 ofCanberrans, reduce the numbers of cars on the Hume Highway, improve productivity for business travel and enhance the lives ofCanberrans 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.

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> Improvements at the skate park
> Age-friendly upgrades for Monash
> New garden for the senses

MORE UPGRADES FOR KAMBAH VILLAGE

As work on the courtyard upgrade continues at the Kambah Village, additional funding was set aside in last month's ACT Budget to deliver more improvements.

These will include new toilets, shade trees and seating areas. The playground will also be upgraded and a shade structure added, and the central courtyard spine extended to the south east side of the shops. Work is expected to start in early 2018.

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

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.

NEW GARDEN FOR THE SENSES

Students at Charles Conder Primary School are engaging their senses and enjoying a brand new sensory garden.

The fun new garden offers scents from native plants, sounds from the musical mobile, a path with textured surfaces such as cobble, grass and stepping stones and even a mist tunnel.

Work to upgrade Canberra public schools is continually taking place across the city. These upgrades ensure all students have access to quality learning facilities and a great education.

UPGRADES TO PATHWAYS, CROSSINGS AND TRAFFIC ISLANDS HAVE STARTED IN MONASH

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

These improvements provide better access to local shops for everyone, including people with disabilities, and older Canberrans who may have some mobility challenges.

Work in Monash include upgrading the:

> paths between Goodwin Village and Monash Shops along Cockcroft Avenue;
> path between Cockcroft Avenue and Cowdery Place; and
> pram crossings and refuge islands associated with these three paths.

For more information visit:
act.gov.au/inspectionstations

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.

For more information visit:
imp.act.edu.au

PLAYGROUND FACELIFT FOR GOWRIE

There will soon be more opportunities to swing, slide and climb at the Howell Place playground in Gowrie.

A new double swing set, rotating seesaw, train structure and play unit are being installed.

Maintenance work is also being done to the fencing at the playground on Jeffries Street in Gowrie. Work on these playgrounds has started and will be finished soon.

HALF PIPE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SKATE PARK

Skaters, BMX and other bike and scooter riders are getting some great new improvements at the Tuggeranong skate park.

Work has now started on upgrading the large half pipe with a new balustrade, platform, safety improvements and better drainage to prevent water pooling. The smaller half pipe will also have its ramp surface replaced and a new balustrade installed. Works will be finished soon.

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
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

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 tecs.act.gov.au, or call Access Canberra on 13 22 81.

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

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.