

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.





> See page four

December 2018

KAMBAH to be TRANSFORMED



More improvements are coming to Kambah Village public areas in 2019.

Final sketch plans implement some of the recommendations made in the Kambah Group Centre Master Plan, which include upgrades to the playground and public areas.

The upgrades will complement the proposed major private redevelopment of the shops and extension to Woolworths.



More at yoursay.act.gov.au



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 at the ACT Emergency Services website at **esa.act.gov.au**











OURCANBERRA



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.



More at manukaoval.com.au/events



ONE TICKET **G**

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.



More at transport.act.gov.au



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.



More at act.gov.au/accessCBR





MORE BULK BILLING in TUGGERANONG

More bulk billing services will soon be available in Tuggeranong with the Interchange General Practice and Isabella Plains Medical Centre receiving funding under the Bulk Billing General Practices Grant fund.

Interchange General Practice will use its grant to establish a new practice with a focus on bulk billed primary health care services for vulnerable people in Tuggeranong.

The Isabella Plains Medical Centre grant will help upgrade its premises to provide more bulk billing service, as well as improving access for clients with a disability.

More at health.act.gov.au



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

Lesley Parr volunteers at Richardson Primary School. "I love helping children as you never know what is happening in their lives and a little bit of help might be just what they need," she said.

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

> Pictured is Lesley Parr at Richardson Primary School.





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

More at tcccs.act.gov.au/recyclingand-waste



Walk-in Centres in Tuggeranong, Belconnen and Gungahlin 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.





SUMMER CHECKLIST

Nature Play CBR has a whole list of great activities to get families outside while learning, playing and connecting with nature. Some fun ideas include:

> Discover the world at dusk. Head out for a walk with your family to Mount Taylor Nature Reserve.

- > Make leaf boats and float them in a stream, pond or Lake Tuggeranong.
- > Make a nature craft decoration to hang from the Christmas tree.
- > Create a nature journal for summer to record all the great things you find in our environment.
- More fun ideas at natureplaycbr.org.au





CANBERRA BE BUSHFIRE READY



Canberra can expect a long hot summer ahead with an increased risk of bushfires. Right now is the time to prepare your home and discuss an action plan with your family. A written Bushfire Survival Plan saves lives and means decisions have been made ahead of any possible bushfire threat. **Download a plan today at esa.act.gov.au**

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.



PADDOCKS

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



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.



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**



Do not rely on just one source!

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









