

OUR CANBERRA

GUNGAHLIN EDITION

MARCH 2016



LIGHT RAIL OPERATING EARLY 2019



A world class light rail is coming, with stage one delivering 12km of light rail track, 13 stops, 14 light rail vehicles, a depot and 20 years of operation and maintenance.

The construction consortium has been chosen, with the first stage of the project to be completed by late 2018. Operations will begin in early 2019 - earlier than previously estimated. Light rail will operate from as early as 6 am, up to 1 am with services every 6 minutes during peak times and will integrate with buses and other forms of transport.

The project is expected to bring public and private investment to Canberra, deliver opportunities for new businesses and support more jobs. A possible extension to Russell is being discussed with the Federal Government.

 For more information visit capitalmetro.act.gov.au

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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS COME TO CANBERRA

Canberrans will soon have more travel choices and be better connected to the rest of the world with Singapore Airlines announcing direct flights from Canberra to Singapore and Wellington, NZ.



The new route dubbed the 'capital express', will offer four services a week to both cities on a Boeing 777-200.

The start of direct international flights will create significant positive economic and social impacts for Canberra and the region in terms of trade, investment, higher education and tourism.

First flights take off in mid September.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

It's been a busy start to the year, with some of the world's biggest companies giving our city a major vote of confidence. International flights are finally a reality with Singapore Airlines announcing it will fly direct from Canberra to Singapore and Canberra to Wellington.

Also in transport, we've announced the international consortium that will build the first stage of Canberra's light rail network. The companies involved are some of the world's best and they'll get the job done faster and at a lower cost than originally anticipated.

Infrastructure investment is not limited to transport and it was great to recently turn the sod to start construction on the new University of Canberra Public Hospital.



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



"HAVE YOUR SAY"

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE FOR CANBERRA

Climate change is likely to mean more heatwaves and extreme weather in our region.

That means we need to improve how we manage our water resources and reduce the effects of heat, prepare our emergency responses, help Canberrans reduce their electricity costs, protect native species and urban forests, and support and encourage private enterprise to take action.

The ACT Government has released its new 'Climate Change Adaptation Strategy' and you are invited to have your say.

i For more information visit haveyoursay.planning.act.gov.au



CONSTRUCTION STARTS ON NEW PUBLIC HOSPITAL



Construction has started on Canberra's newest public hospital – the University of Canberra Public Hospital set to open in 2018.

Over the coming years, the project will provide construction jobs, improve economic activity in Canberra's north, and help the University of Canberra attract new students and researchers.

The first sod was turned last month, officially beginning the construction phase of the project.

i For more information about Canberra's newest public hospital visit act.gov.au/ourcanberra



NEW FITNESS STATION FOR GUNGAHLIN

Gungahlin's Yerrabi Pond District Park is getting new fitness equipment in 2016.

Construction starts later this month and will include a sit up bench, seated rower, leg press, chest press, leg raise and dip bars.

The new fitness station adds to the ACT Government's network of fitness equipment across 20 Canberra suburbs.

i For information visit act.gov.au/outdoorfitness



GUNGAHLIN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Community Health Centres offer a variety of services to help Canberra families look after their health and wellbeing.



In Gungahlin, your local centre is on the corner of Ernest Cavanagh Street and Fussell Lane and is open from 8 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday (except public holidays).

The centre provides physiotherapy, podiatry, nutrition, maternal and child health, youth dental, diabetes and orthoptist services, women's health care services, pathology, wound care and mental health care and alcohol and drug services.

i For more information visit health.act.gov.au or call 6207 9977.

CANBERRA STUDENTS ARE CONNECTED

Canberra's public schools are now some of the best connected in the world.

25,200 of our local students at most Canberra public schools have registered with the Google Apps for Education platform, making a real difference to the way they learn.

Teachers, parents and students can use Google Apps to communicate, collaborate and explore on real-world platforms.

i Contact your school to learn more about Google Apps for Education.



DOG-FRIENDLY CANBERRA GETS EVEN BETTER

You and your pooch can now enjoy even more of our Canberra, together.

You can now exercise your dog off-leash at all sportsgrounds when they're not being used for sport. In Gungahlin that includes Hall showground and Amaroo district playing fields. Dogs can also be off-leash at man-made wetland areas such as Flemington Road ponds. All major parks, including Yerrabi Pond and Black Mountain Peninsula, are now dog on-leash.

i For more information visit act.gov.au/ourcanberra



REMEMBER THIS

- > Keep your dog on-leash on a path or cycleway
- > Ensure your dog isn't harassing other dogs, people or wildlife
- > Keep your dog 10m away from playgrounds and barbecues
- > Always clean up after your dog
- > Enclosed ovals remain dog prohibited.

NEW TEACHERS JOIN THE TEAM

"I work with some really exceptional teachers. I'm like a sponge right now and they are more than willing to share what they know with me."

Farleigh Jay-Daniel, teacher at Harrison School

Farleigh is one of 350 new teachers and staff who have joined one of Canberra's 87 public schools this year.

i For more on Farleigh and other new teachers visit act.gov.au/ourcanberra



GUNGAHLIN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Local road works are continuing across Gungahlin. Work is underway on Gungahlin Drive, Horse Park Drive and at the Barton Highway/Gundaroo Drive/William Slim Drive intersection. Drop-in information sessions are being held on 17-18 March for interested residents.

i For more information visit act.gov.au/ourcanberra



HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANBERRA



LIGHTS! CANBERRA! ACTION!

11 MARCH FROM 7 pm

Kick back and enjoy an evening of free outdoor cinema at the 13th annual Lights! Canberra! Action!

The festival, which is part of Enlighten 2016, sees local film makers write, shoot and produce a 7-minute Canberra-centric film along the theme of 'Chance'.

Screening starts at Old Parliament House at 8 pm. Entertainment from 7 pm.



SYMPHONY IN THE PARK MEETS BABE

13 MARCH FROM 6.30 pm

The Australian family classic 'Babe' will light up the silver screen at Stage 88 this Canberra Day eve, accompanied by the renowned Canberra Symphony Orchestra.

Enjoy this free cinematic experience with a picnic and be thoroughly entertained.



UP UP & AWAY

12-20 MARCH

Canberra's annual Balloon Spectacular returns for its 30th year.

More than 30 giant hot air balloons from across the globe will take to our skies again this month. This year, look out for the Owlbert Einstein balloon and another inspired by the Disney movie Up.

Balloons inflate on the Lawns of Old Parliament House from 6.15 am, they launch from 6.30-7 am (weather permitting) and breakfast is available until 10 am.



CELEBRATE CANBERRA DAY IN COMMONWEALTH PARK

14 MARCH FROM 2 pm

There will be an exciting program of live music and entertainment, amusement park rides, food and festival style activities for the whole family.

Local bands and big name acts will take centre stage at this year's celebrations.

 For more information on any of these events call **Access Canberra** on 13 22 81 or visit events.act.gov.au, act.gov.au/ourcanberra, balloonspectacular.com.au or enlightencanberra.com

On 14 March visit
act.gov.au/ourcanberra
to meet our new

2016 CANBERRA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Citizen of the Year 2015, Sue Salthouse



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