

KINGSTON ARTS PRECINCT A STEP CLOSER



Artist's impression - Kingston Arts Precinct

A world-class hub of creative activity is coming to the Kingston Foreshore.

Land between the Canberra Glassworks and the stylish residential and commercial areas of Kingston Foreshore will be transformed into the Kingston Arts Precinct. It will be a place where artists, cultural organisations and creative businesses make, teach, exhibit, perform and sell their work, alongside the Old Bus

Depot markets and the Megalo Print Studio + Gallery.

The ACT Government is now inviting leading property developers around Australia and overseas to submit proposals by 10 December 2015, strong interest is expected. The preferred developer will be announced in mid-2016.

 Watch the Kingston Arts Precinct sales video www.lda.act.gov.au

GOOD PROGRESS ON EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT EXPANSION

Work on the new emergency department at Canberra Hospital is progressing well, with the first stage almost complete.

The new Emergency Medical Unit and the Mental Health Short Stay Unit will open later this year, and a new paediatric area will follow in January 2016. Other new areas will open progressively throughout 2016.

When complete, the expanded emergency department will have extra beds, three more ambulance bays and an extra 1,000 square metres of floor area.

 For more information visit www.health.act.gov.au



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

Since becoming Chief Minister of the ACT, I have been speaking to Canberrans about how we can improve services to their community.

The ACT Government is unique in Australia because it provides state level services such as health, education and public transport, and also municipal services such as mowing, cleaning and rubbish collection. We've been working hard to

deliver the services Canberrans need. In recent months we've regulated ridesharing, finalised plans for a new hospital at the University of Canberra and have reached an agreement with the Federal Government to continue providing 15 hours of preschool for Canberra's children.

I hope you will find this a useful update on the work going on in your community.

ARTS CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETE

Local artists and musicians have access to even better facilities with upgrades to the Ainslie and Gorman House Arts Centres now complete.

Upgrades at the Gorman Arts Centre – which is a hub for numerous artistic fields – include extensive landscaping works, upgrades to the main hall (previously the Bogong Theatre), new lighting and kitchen facilities, and upgrades to administration areas.

At the Ainslie Arts Centre – which is a specialist music centre – improvements include a new reception area, new office spaces, refurbishment of the performance hall including new sound, lighting and staging systems, and new tuition 'pods'.

The refurbishment works honour

the long and proud history that both centres have in Canberra, while also catering to the needs of local artists, arts organisations and the community.



Visit www.agac.com.au to see what's on offer.



ARE YOU CANBERRA BUSHFIRE READY?

The 2015-2016 bushfire season runs until 31 March 2016. Firefighters will be doorknocking in Ainslie and across many other bushfire prone areas across Canberra in the lead up to Christmas.

The ACT is facing a higher than average risk of bushfires this summer according to expert analysis.

Now is the time to get your home and family bushfire ready.



Visit www.esa.act.gov.au/bushfireready for tips on how to prepare. A few simple actions could make all the difference to surviving a bushfire.



VOICES IN THE FOREST

Enjoy performances by world-renowned sopranos, including Australia's own Cheryl Barker AO and Mexico's Diego Torre, at this year's Voices in the Forest at the National Arboretum Canberra.

The ticketed event will be held from 5.30pm to 9.30pm on Saturday 21 November 2015.



For more information visit www.voicesintheforest.com.au



or follow Voices in the Forest on Facebook



FIFTEEN HOURS A WEEK OF FREE PUBLIC PRE-SCHOOL IN 2016

Public pre-schools will continue to offer 15 hours per week of free pre-school in 2016.

The ACT is one of few jurisdictions in Australia to offer free public pre-school for 15 hours per week to all four-year-old children in the year before they start formal schooling.

Enrolments are now open for 2016.



For information about the wide range of pre-school and support services available in the ACT, as well as tips on how to get involved in your child's pre-school education, visit www.preschoolmatters.act.gov.au



LEARN ABOUT LIGHT RAIL @ WATSON'S PARTY AT THE SHOPS

Come along to Watson's Party at the Shops on 5 November from 3pm to 6pm. The Capital Metro team will be there to answer any questions you might have about light rail. There will also be dancing, music and a plant swap.

If you want to contribute or learn more about light rail there are a number of other activities coming up that you can get involved in.

Ongoing 'Business Reference Group' meetings discuss progress and key issues concerning the local community and businesses, and there's also a two-day conference later this year for future leaders discussing liveability as a key challenge for cities today.

The latest on Canberra's light rail is that bid proposals are in and are currently being assessed.

The successful consortium to build and operate the light rail will be announced in early 2016.

 For further information on light rail, visit www.capitalmetro.act.gov.au

 or follow the Parties at the Shops Facebook page for appearances across Canberra.



CBRFREE WI-FI

GOES LIVE IN DICKSON AND MANUKA

Dickson and Manuka are going CBRfree. By the end of this month, you'll be able to access 250 megabytes per day, totalling 7.5 gigabytes of data per month as part of Canberra's free public outdoor Wi-Fi called CBRfree.

When rollout is complete, CBRfree will be one of Australia's largest free outdoor

public Wi-Fi networks.

It's already available in Civic East and Civic West, with installation in the Belconnen Town Centre also going live this month. Installation at other town centres and commercial precincts across Canberra will be done in 2016.



For more information visit www.digitalcanberra.com.au

“ 7.5 gigabytes provides enough data each month to make around 1,500 Facebook posts or download around 525 songs.”



LET'S SUPPORT ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK ON WOW DAY

Show your support for our ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES) volunteers by dusting off your best orange outfit on Wednesday 18 November 2015.

The annual Wear Orange To Work (WOW) Day is an opportunity for all Canberrans to say thank you for the selfless dedication our ACTSES volunteers provide during storms,

floods and other emergencies.

WOW Day is one of several activities as part of ACTSES Week 14-20 November.

You can participate in WOW Day by wearing orange, or dressing up workplaces and cars in orange.



Share photos of your WOW Day efforts on social media using #WOWDay as a hash tag.





MORE TRANSPORT OPTIONS FOR CANBERRA

Canberrans now have access to more transport options with ridesharing businesses such as Uber now operating legally.

Ridesharing is a service that uses smartphone apps to connect drivers who use their own cars, with passengers who want to get around. Every driver will have to have police and driving history checks and their car will have to have a safety check.

Ridesharing trips can only be booked through an app or over the phone. Canberra is the first city in Australia, and the first capital city in the world, to make ridesharing legal. As part of making ridesharing legal, the ACT Government has also reduced costs for taxi drivers.

i For more information on the taxi reforms, please visit www.act.gov.au/taxi-industry-reforms



TWO YEAR TRIAL TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY

A two-year trial of new road safety laws has started in the ACT to improve safety for cyclists and other road users.

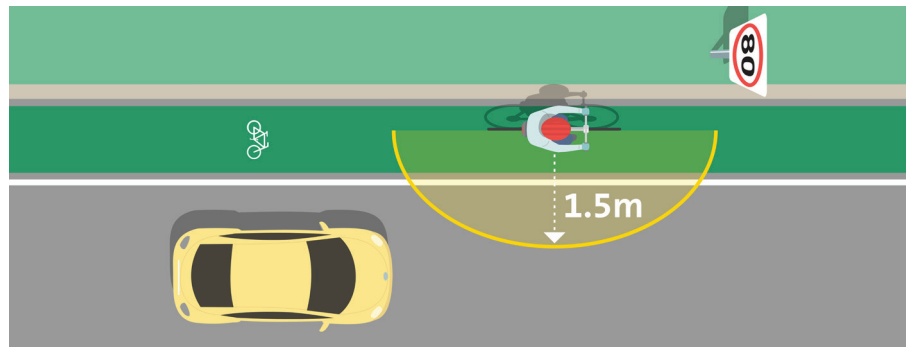
Motorists must now provide a minimum distance of one metre when overtaking a cyclist in speed zones at or below 60km/h and 1.5 metres in

speed zones above 60km/h.

This metre matters because it provides a practical measure for drivers when overtaking cyclists, and will help reduce collisions between cars and bike riders, by changing driving behaviour.

Motorists who fail to comply with the rule may be issued a \$215 fine and accrue two demerit points.

i For more information on the new rules for motorists and cyclists, and how to follow these new rules effectively, visit www.tams.act.gov.au/road-safety

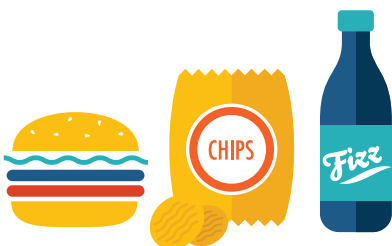


“HAVE YOUR SAY”

ON FOOD AND DRINK MARKETING IN CANBERRA

We'd like to hear from Canberrans including local businesses and industry on ideas to better promote healthy food and drinks in the ACT, and on how we can reduce the unhealthy items we eat and drink.

i Visit www.timetotalk.act.gov.au for details on how to have your say.



GET OUT THIS SUMMER ON THE CENTENARY TRAIL

Enjoy Canberra's great outdoors by exploring the Centenary Trail this summer. It's a 145 kilometre off-road self-guided walk and cycle loop trail where you'll discover some of Canberra's most spectacular sights, scenery and hidden treasures.

Get your pedometers working hard by trying one or more of the seven sections. You can even take the dog on some sections.

i Need some inspiration before your trek? Watch the trail video at www.tams.act.gov.au



For service, payments and enquiries visit www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au or call 13 22 81.
For incident and emergency information visit www.esa.act.gov.au

