

# OUR CANBERRA

Belconnen edition

October 2017



## BELCONNEN BIKEWAY ON ITS WAY

Provide  
feedback on the  
design and route  
next year

A new bikeway is coming to Belconnen. It will upgrade cycle paths in and around the town centre, including linking educational institutions to the east, and the former busway to the west.

When complete, the new bikeway will provide a safe and convenient path for pedestrians and cyclists.

A preliminary design for the bikeway will be completed by mid-2018. There will be an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the design and route next year.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- > UC Hospital courtyard complete
- > English skills for new Canberra kids
- > New bus timetable starts 7 October

## LAKESIDE & LOCAL SHOP UPGRADES COMPLETE



Upgrades are now complete at the Spence shopping centre. These include a new shade sail at the playground with landscaping, new seats, a picnic table, bike racks, improved ramps and new disabled parking spaces.

The old brick toilet at Diddams Close at Lake Ginninderra has been removed and replaced with two new wheelchair compliant unisex toilets.

Meanwhile, tiles have been replaced along the Emu Bank foreshore for a smoother lakeside walk.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

Canberrans come from all walks of life and from across the world. We are a diverse and progressive city and that's why the ACT Government has committed to making Canberra even more inclusive. We are backing up this commitment with practical legislation and support. Canberra is a community that ensures those facing social, health and economic challenges do not fall behind. We will continue to look out for vulnerable Canberrans.





## A NEW PUBLIC HOLIDAY FOR CANBERRANS

The ACT will celebrate its first Reconciliation Day in May 2018.

The public holiday will replace September's Family and Community Day. It will take place on the first Monday on or after 27 May each year, the anniversary of the 1967 referendum and the first day of National Reconciliation Week.



## RENEW YOUR DRIVER LICENCE ONLINE

You can now renew your driver licence online if you've had your licence photograph taken in the last five years.

You will automatically be issued with a valid month-long temporary licence that you can download while a new licence is posted to you.

To renew online, go to [act.gov.au/accessCBR](http://act.gov.au/accessCBR)

## START SOMETHING GREAT IN CBR

Did you know that Canberra is Australia's per capita capital of innovation and entrepreneurship?

Canberra's Innovation Connect Grants are one of the most successful government grants programs for start-ups. Since 2008 over 190 Canberra businesses have received matched-funding support of over \$5 million. Local success stories include Skoolbo, Reposit Power, SmartWard, SignOnSite and Enabled Employment. For more information visit [business.act.gov.au](http://business.act.gov.au)

To find out what Olympia from local start-up Go Terra did with her \$30,000 Innovation Connect Grant go to [youtube.com/user/actgovernment](https://www.youtube.com/user/actgovernment)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON YOUR SAY?

A number of consultations are currently open for Canberrans to have their say. You can:

- > help inform a citizens' jury of everyday Canberrans who will consider priorities for our CTP insurance scheme.
- > help choose the name for Canberra's newest public park at Lake Burley Griffin's West Basin.

For more information or to sign up for email alerts visit [yoursay.act.gov.au](http://yoursay.act.gov.au)



## CANBERRA PUBLIC TRANSPORT AREAS NOW SMOKE-FREE

Canberrans can now breathe a little easier with all ACT public transport areas now smoke-free. This includes smoking or vaping within five metres of bus and train stations, light rail transport hubs and taxi ranks.

This change will protect people from exposure to second hand smoke and reduce the exposure of children and young people to seeing people smoke.

For more information search 'smoke free' at [health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)



## NEW BUS TIMETABLE STARTS 7 OCTOBER

A new bus timetable starts in Canberra on Saturday 7 October.

Key changes include:

- > New Black Rapid service between Gungahlin and Belconnen direct (Route 250)
- > Free travel on the Green and Black Rapid for two months
- > New Green Rapid service between the City to Woden via South Canberra (Route 6)
- > Extension of the Weston Line (Route 182) into Denman Prospect on weekdays

Minor changes have also been made to dedicated school services. ACT schools will receive advice on any changes that affect them.

For more information on other changes to the timetable visit [transport.act.gov.au](http://transport.act.gov.au) or call Transport Canberra on 13 17 10.

## 100 YEARS OF THE CORK OAK FOREST 12 NOVEMBER

The Cork Oak Forest at the National Arboretum is turning 100 and everyone is invited to help celebrate.

On Sunday 12 November come along to the free mediterranean-themed fun day. It will include demonstrations of cork stripping, music, food, guided walks and family activities.

For more information visit [nationalarboretum.act.gov.au](http://nationalarboretum.act.gov.au)



## STRONGER TOGETHER THIS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 8-14 OCTOBER

One in every five Australians experience mental ill-health each year, so it's an issue that directly or indirectly touches most Canberrans.

Throughout Mental Health Week and the month of October, there'll be a series of events hosted by organisations around Canberra to raise mental health awareness, promote wellbeing and provide support.

For more information visit [mentalhealthweekact.org/calendar](http://mentalhealthweekact.org/calendar)



Students learning at Charnwood-Dunlop Primary School

## ENGLISH SKILLS FOR NEW CANBERRA KIDS

Students who are new to Australia can access introductory English classes at selected ACT public schools.

Students spend two terms working on their language and social skills and learning about the culture of Australian schools, before moving into mainstream classes.

There are currently more than 270 children from Canberra's migrant, refugee and diplomat families getting a head start in language and culture at one of Canberra's six Introductory English Centres.

For more information visit [education.act.gov.au](http://education.act.gov.au)

## UC HOSPITAL'S REHABILITATION COURTYARD



A courtyard at the new University of Canberra Public Hospital will provide a new treatment setting to help rehabilitate people after injury.

The new courtyard is now complete and incorporates varying heights, surfaces and textures. This offers patients a realistic setting for rehabilitation. It also has a motionless car for people wishing to practice transferring into and out of a car as part of their rehabilitation.


The hospital will be Canberra's first purpose-built rehabilitation hospital and remains on track for completion in 2018.



# iii CANBERRA NARA CANDLE FESTIVAL

28 OCTOBER  
NARA PEACE PARK  
LENNOX GARDENS

Enjoy the spectacular visual of 2,000 shimmering candles as we celebrate the 24th year of the sister city relationship between Canberra and Nara. Discover Japanese culture, music and try your hand at calligraphy, lantern making, origami, ikebana and kite flying.


 For more information visit [events.act.gov.au/nara](http://events.act.gov.au/nara)

## Nominate for the 2018 Canberra Citizen of the Year.

Nominate at  
[act.gov.au/cbrcitizen](http://act.gov.au/cbrcitizen)  
Nominations close  
15 December 2017

## RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP COMES TO CANBERRA

Canberra will play host to three Rugby League World Cup 2017 matches this spring. France take on Lebanon on Sunday 29 October, our Aussie side tackles France on Friday 3 November and Fiji play Italy on Friday 10 November.

 For more information and tickets visit [RLWC2017.com](http://RLWC2017.com)

## DOGS' DAY OUT RETURNS TO FLORIADE

14 OCTOBER  
COMMONWEALTH PARK

Enjoy four-legged fun with your pup at Floriade. There will be lots of activities and demonstrations throughout the day. Pose with your pup in the free photo booth, chow down on delicious delicacies at the Pooch Café, or soak up some sunshine as you explore Floriade together.

 For more information visit [floriadeaustralia.com/dogs-day-out](http://floriadeaustralia.com/dogs-day-out)




## SPRING OUT IN AUSTRALIA'S MOST LGBTIQ-FRIENDLY CITY

28 OCTOBER-26 NOVEMBER

Canberra is proud to be Australia's most LGBTIQ-friendly city and we're painting the city rainbow to show it!

SpringOUT kicks off with Fair Day at the Gorman Arts Centre on October 28, featuring performers and a huge range of stalls, where you'll be able to pick up rainbow CBR stickers and pins, among so much more.

 Find the full SpringOUT program at [springout.com.au](http://springout.com.au)



For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit [act.gov.au/ourcanberra](http://act.gov.au/ourcanberra) or follow us on social media.

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