

# OUR CANBERRA

Belconnen edition



ACT  
Government

December 2018



## HAPPY CBR CHRISTMAS

12 days  
of festival fun  
in the heart  
of CBR

Christmas in the heart of Canberra will be bigger and better this year with 12 days of festivities.

A week of free outdoor movies in Glebe Park, backyard cricket, 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 Lights Tours, 18 December.

A fun filled evening enjoying sights of the Christmas lights around Canberra's Northern suburbs.

#### > New Year's Eve in the City,

**31 December.** Ring in the new year with family-friendly celebrations and fireworks at 9pm and midnight.


 More on Christmas events at [cityrenewalCBR.com.au](http://cityrenewalCBR.com.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](http://esa.act.gov.au)



**Be Bushfire  
Ready**

> See page four

## BELCONNEN'S HEALTHY WATERWAYS



Construction is underway on three new ACT Healthy Waterway projects in Belconnen.

Two wetlands in Melba and Evatt and the restoration of a creek in Florey are due for completion by February.

The three projects combined will remove more than 50,000 kilograms of nitrogen, phosphorous and suspended sediment destined for Ginninderra Creek every year.

 More at [act.gov.au/H20K](http://act.gov.au/H20K)



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

**YOURsay**

For consultations in Canberra visit [yoursay.act.gov.au](http://yoursay.act.gov.au)



# OUR CANBERRA

## CRICKET BIG BASH



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.

**i** More at [manukaoval.com.au/events](http://manukaoval.com.au/events)



## 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.

**i** More at [act.gov.au/accessCBR](http://act.gov.au/accessCBR)



## ONE TICKET ONE FARE ONE NETWORK



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.

**i** More at [transport.act.gov.au](http://transport.act.gov.au)



## HELPING WOMEN



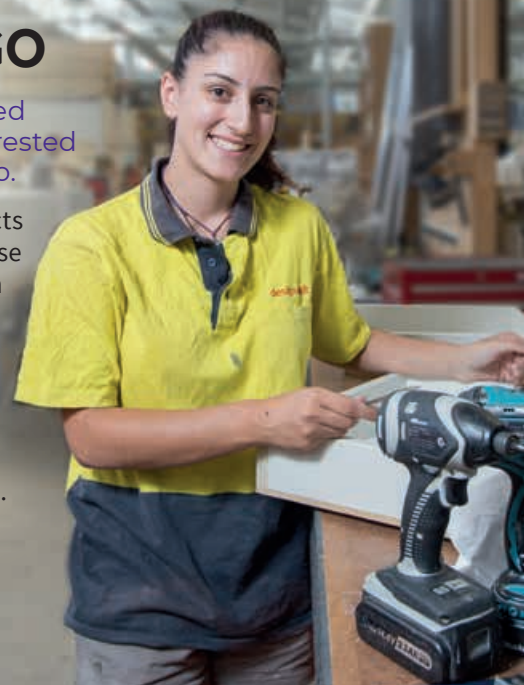
### GIVE TRADES a GO

More support is now being offered to help Women in Canberra interested in traditional trades to give it a go.

New grants are now available for projects across Canberra that support an increase in the promotion and take up of women in male-dominated trades, as well as projects that help to retain women in trades.

If you think your project or business is eligible, contact a Skills Canberra Manager by emailing [skills@act.gov.au](mailto:skills@act.gov.au).

Applications close 20 December.





# CANBERRA KIDS' 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 Mt Painter.
- > Make leaf boats and float them in a stream, pond or at Lake Ginninderra.
- > Create a nature journal for summer to record all the great things you find in our environment.
- > Make a nature craft decoration to hang from the Christmas tree.



More fun ideas at [natureplaycbr.org.au](http://natureplaycbr.org.au)



# THANK YOU SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS



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

Dr John Rogers volunteers at Melba Copland Secondary School. "I enjoy watching students tackle the problems we set them and trying to answer the really difficult questions they often ask – the harder the better," he said.

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

*Pictured is Dr John Rogers at Melba Copland Secondary School*



# NEW LOOK for BELCONNEN HIGH



Students and teachers at Belconnen High are already benefitting from this year's modernisation upgrades.

The school now features a new look main building and administration area, classrooms, technology areas, outdoor spaces as well as a new roof.

The main refurbishment works are expected to be complete in time for the commencement of the 2019 school year.



# HO HO OH NO



Accidents and illnesses can also happen over the holidays. Make sure you know where to go for help.

Walk-in Centres in Belconnen, Gungahlin and Tuggeranong provide free treatment of minor injuries and illness.

They're open 7.30am until 10pm every day, including Christmas and New Year's Day and you don't need an appointment.



More at [health.act.gov.au/walk-in-centre](http://health.act.gov.au/walk-in-centre)



# 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](http://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**



For Fire Danger Ratings visit the ACT Emergency Services website: **[esa.act.gov.au](http://esa.act.gov.au)**



Install the smartphone '**Fires Near Me**' App



Local radio, local ABC/emergency broadcaster frequency, TV and news websites.



Stay up to date at: **[facebook.com/ACTESA](https://facebook.com/ACTESA)** and **[twitter.com/ACTESA](https://twitter.com/ACTESA)** and **[esa.act.gov.au](http://esa.act.gov.au)**

*Do not rely on just one source!*



Produced by: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.  
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**YOURSAY**

