

OUR CANBERRA

Belconnen edition



ACT
Government

June 2017

LEARN TO RIDE OPENS THIS MONTH

There will be parking nearby at the Macdermott Place car park.

Young cyclists in Belconnen will soon be pedalling around a new learn to ride centre at Lake Ginninderra.

The centre is intended for children from preschool to year four. It provides a fun environment to learn all the basics from how to safely cross the road, through to independent and confident riding.

There is everything you would expect to see out in our suburbs including footpaths, roundabouts, pedestrian crossings, line markings and road signs.

The centre is expected to open later this month near the Macdermott Place car park in Belconnen. A similar learn to ride centre is now open at Greenway Park in Tuggeranong.

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UC PUBLIC HOSPITAL TAKES SHAPE

The University of Canberra Public Hospital, the ACT's third public hospital, is taking shape.

The design of this purpose-built, state-of-the-art rehabilitation hospital is inspired by Canberra's landscape and the site's natural surroundings.

The new hospital will offer dedicated services and support for people recovering from an injury, surgery or mental health condition. It is due to open in mid-2018.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

With work well underway on the first stage of our city-wide light rail network, we have asked Canberrans to help shape the route for stage two of the project – linking the City to Woden town centre.

Light rail to Woden involves crossing the lake and going through the Parliamentary Triangle and, by 2041, almost 90,000 people will live within one kilometre of stage 2. Have your say on exactly where the route goes, and where the stops are located.

Since we asked Canberrans their views in early May, we've had a huge amount of constructive feedback. There is still some time to have your say on stage 2. Visit yoursay.act.gov.au before this phase of consultation closes on Sunday 11 June.



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

YOURsay

For information on community consultations in Canberra, visit yoursay.act.gov.au

NEW AUTHORITY TO RENEW OUR CITY CENTRE



Canberra's new City Renewal Authority starts operating next month. It will focus on breathing new life into the city centre and Dickson.

The new authority will support development of public spaces and buildings around Northbourne Avenue and will create West Basin's new lakeside precinct. The authority will take the same successful precinct based approach as Brisbane's Southbank and Perth's Elizabeth Quay. It will have a board of directors and expertise in design, engineering, sustainability, community building and administration.

NEW AGENCY TO FOCUS ON OUR SUBURBS

Starting from 1 July is the new Suburban Land Agency, focusing on our suburbs. It will deliver greenfield residential estates, land releases and affordable housing, as well as urban renewal projects in town centres and suburbs.

MORE EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS FOR REFUGEES

More refugees and asylum seekers in the ACT now have access to training in areas of skills shortage.

The eligibility criteria for the Australian Apprenticeships and Skilled Capital programs have been expanded. It now includes refugees and asylum seekers on temporary and bridging visas. The changes provide more employment opportunities for our newest Canberrans.

i For more information visit skills.act.gov.au



21 year-old Jawad Haidari is a permanent humanitarian visa holder. Jawad is an apprentice at Simplicity Kitchens. You can read more about Jawad's story at act.gov.au/ourcanberra

THANKS BELCONNEN SES

ACT SES crews have responded to more than 2,500 calls for assistance since July 2016. We thank all our SES volunteers for the vital assistance they provide the community throughout the year.

"It is a privilege to be part of the Belconnen community and to have the opportunity to give something back."

Andy Britt, Belconnen Unit.

i For information on how you can prepare your home for winter storms visit esa.act.gov.au



UPGRADES AT SPENCE SHOPS

An upgrade is now underway at Spence shops. It includes a new community space for people to meet and mingle.

There will be path, pavement and ramp upgrades and new parking for people with disability. These access improvements will make it easier to move around the shops.

Improved features will also include new seats, picnic tables, bike racks and garden beds. The playground will also get some shade sails. Completion is expected soon.



SUBSCRIBE FOR LIGHT RAIL UPDATES

If you're interested in keeping up to date on Light Rail, make sure you sign up for the regular 'Construction Updates'. They cover a wide range of activities and provide a valuable snapshot of the progress.

i For more information or to subscribe visit transport.act.gov.au/light-rail-network

ACT BUDGET 6 JUNE 2017

On 6 June 2017 visit treasury.act.gov.au for details on the ACT Budget 2017/2018.

Also keep an eye out in your letterbox during June for more information on how this year's budget benefits your region.



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

All ACT students deserve access to a quality education so they can have a bright future. While the ACT is generally a high performing jurisdiction, there's more we can do.

We have started a conversation about what the future of education looks like and we need your help. We're seeking views from our children and young people, teachers, support staff and administration staff, parents, carers and families, as well as the broader community.

i To join this important conversation, go to yoursay.act.gov.au/futureofeducation

**YOUR
say**



MEN'S HEALTH WEEK: HEALTHY BODY – HEALTHY MIND

It is not always easy to stay on top of your physical and mental wellbeing. This year's Men's Health Week focuses on 'healthy body - healthy mind', exploring ways in which men and boys are keeping physically and emotionally healthy.

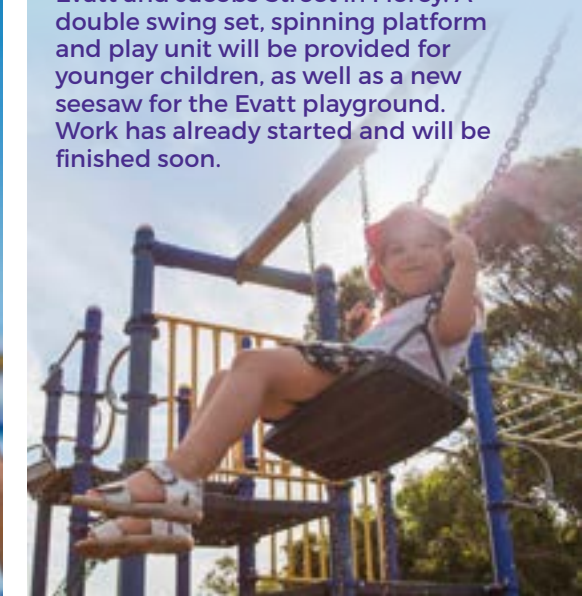
i For links to support services and tips visit act.gov.au/ourcanberra

For more information on Men's Health Week 12 - 18 June, visit menshealthweek.org.au



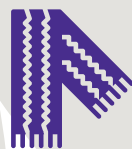
PLAYGROUND UPGRADES FOR EVATT & FLOREY

There is new equipment on the way for playgrounds at Boswell Crescent, Evatt and Jacobs Street in Florey. A double swing set, spinning platform and play unit will be provided for younger children, as well as a new seesaw for the Evatt playground. Work has already started and will be finished soon.





WARM TREES AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM



Come and see a huge installation of knitting and crochet on trees this July at the National Arboretum's Warm Trees event. This year the largest knitted flowers in the world will be on display.

Join us for a free 'knit in', enjoy a free guided Warm Trees walk or attend the origami workshops for children. Sponsored by Friends of the Arboretum and the Embassy of Japan, Warm Trees is a volunteer community project.

For more information visit nationalarboretum.act.gov.au



NOMINATE AN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Give our nation's best the recognition they deserve. Nominations are now open for the 2018 Australian of the Year Awards. Nominations close 6 August 2017.



For more information and to nominate visit australianoftheyear.org.au/nominate

WINTER WARMING TIPS AT ACTSMART WORKSHOPS



Winter is here along with cold feet and higher bills. Actsmart's free winter workshop series shows you how you can stay warm while minimising your energy bills.

The workshops include practical demonstrations on draught proofing your home, reducing the amount of escaping heat as well as tips on operating your heating systems. There are workshops on solar panels and battery storage too.

For more information visit actsmart.act.gov.au



CANBERRA'S PUBLIC HOUSING STORY

Public housing is an important part of Canberra's story and our community. Many Canberrans grew up in the familiar 'govies'.

Today, our public housing is targeted to those in particular need. It helps women and children leaving family violence, older people, many single parent households and people with limited financial means.

Public housing and its tenants helped shape our city and represent the wider Canberra community.



For more information about public housing visit economicdevelopment.act.gov.au



REGATTA POINT: NOT JUST FOR VISITORS

Canberra locals are encouraged to check out the new Canberra and Region Visitors Centre at Regatta Point.

The state-of-the-art centre presents visitor information in a different way, with interactive digital displays, a large-scale video wall and a dedicated kids' zone. It's also the perfect place to pick up event tickets, shop for local products or have a break after a lakeside walk.

The National Capital Exhibition and The Deck café provide even more reasons to drop by, with plenty of parking nearby.



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YOURSAY



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