# Our CBR



#### Belconnen

MAY 2022
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## New local businesses supporting jobs in Belconnen



Capital Press Gallery owner Ben McDonald looks forward to welcoming returning office staff in Belconnen.



#### Message from the Chief Minister

After a very challenging few years, Canberra's economic recovery continues to build momentum.

Recent economic data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics has highlighted the strength of our recovery.

The number of businesses has grown by more than 5,000, since 2016. We now have more than 30,000 businesses in the Territory.

Almost 23,000 additional jobs have been created, increasing the total labour market to more than 230,000. As a result, the ACT has low unemployment and one of the strongest jobs markets in the country.

Our objective is to continue this growth and move towards 250,000 jobs in our economy by the end of 2025.

**Andrew Barr** 





Our COVER STORY



## Coffee house welcomes economic recovery

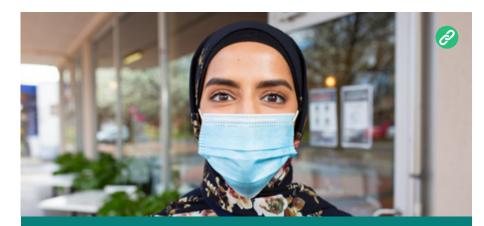
It's been a challenging period for Capital Press Gallery owner Ben McDonald since opening his casual bar, kitchen and coffee house just weeks before last August's COVID-19 lockdown.

As Canberra's economic recovery continues, he believes it's important for everyone to support the local community bounce back from COVID-19.

"We have eight staff members and I feel a huge responsibility for keeping their livelihoods going, and want to bring more local staff on when we can," Ben said.

"It's good to see life returning to normal and I encourage everyone to get out and support small businesses for the vital role they play in our community."

Head online to discover more new hospitality businesses opening across Canberra.



### Stay well this winter

With the 2022 flu season expected to be severe, it's more important than ever to get your annual flu vaccination.

Flu shots are recommended for everyone aged over six months and should be booked as soon as possible with your GP, pharmacist or other healthcare provider.

You can get your flu and COVID-19 vaccinations at the same appointment.

You can also make COVID Smart choices to stop the spread of flu and COVID-19 this winter. This includes staying at home if you have symptoms, practising good hand hygiene and wearing a mask in crowded places.





### Long COVID clinic now open

A new clinic at University of Canberra Hospital is helping people recover from long COVID-19.

Canberra Health Services Allied Health Director Todd Kaye said the clinic provides tailored rehabilitation services to help patients return to their pre-COVID activities.

"Our multidisciplinary team of health professionals is here to help you recover from COVID-19," Mr Kaye said.

Talk to your GP about the clinic and to get a referral.

### Have your say on **ACT Disability Strategy**

You are invited to contribute to the new ACT Disability Strategy. We want to hear from the 80,000 Canberrans who identify as having a disability, carers, families and the whole community so we can make our city even more inclusive. Head online to have your say.



Disability Reference Group Chair Renée Heaton.

### School road safety upgrades completed

It's now safer to walk, ride or scoot to schools in Higgins and Kaleen due to recently completed road safety upgrades. These include:

- a new children's crossing on Starke Street near Kingsford Smith School in Higgins
- improvements to the existing footpaths and children's crossing outside St Michael's Catholic Primary School in Kaleen
- a new footpath connection between Maribyrnong Avenue and Kaleen Primary.

A new footpath connection to Canopus Crescent near Giralang Primary is also due for completion soon.



#### UC students team up with local school

University of Canberra landscape architecture students are partnering with Kingsford Smith School to co-design and transform one of the school's courtyards.

Kingsford Smith School students will share their ideas to help create a new courtyard that is vibrant, innovative and fun.

The project is part of the ACT Government's Living Infrastructure Plan and will help researchers better understand how school design impacts student wellbeing.





### Hawker softball fields get new lights

Three fields at the Hawker softball fields have now been upgraded with LED lights as part of sportsgrounds lighting upgrades across Canberra.

The improvements support our local sports teams to train and play through winter.



#### **Acknowledgement of Country**



The ACT Government acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and contribution to the life of this city and region.





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### Celebrate Reconciliation Day

The 5th annual Reconciliation Day in Canberra will be celebrated on 30 May with a family-friendly event at the National Arboretum.

The free event will reflect this year's theme – Be Brave, Make Change – and help foster a deeper understanding of our national story and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

This is an opportunity for Canberrans to explore how we can all contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

Head online to view the program of activities.



### **SMS alerts** for car rego and licence renewals

SMS reminders are now available to renew your driver's licence and car registration.

Reminders will be sent two days before the due date and will help you to never miss an important payment.

Head online to **act.gov.au/updateyourrego** to register or update your mobile number.





### What's on in May

5\_7 Aunty Donna - The Magical May Dead Cat Tour

Canberra Theatre Centre

6 May NRL: Raiders v Bulldogs GIO Stadium

7–8 Fox Superflow Sealed by
May Stan's: Bicycle Racing
East Stromlo

Until Canberra International
8 May Music Festival
Multiple Locations

11 May- Inspirations from the Gardens
5 June Australian National
Botanic Gardens

13 May Brumbies v Crusaders
GIO Stadium

18–19
May
Reason – Canberra
Symphony Orchestra
Llewellyn Hall, ANU
School of Music

19 May- Collide + Divide Craft ACT

21 May Brumbies v Blues GIO Stadium

28 May Urzila Carlson: It's Personal Canberra Theatre Centre

29 May NRL: Raiders v Eels GIO Stadium

**30 May** Reconciliation Day celebration National Aboretum

For more events and details, visit events.canberra.com.au



### Volunteer Week: a time to give back

Canberrans are encouraged to explore ways to give back to the community this National Volunteer Week (16-22 May).

There are many opportunities to help make our city a more supportive and inclusive place, whether it's volunteering through sports, arts, wildlife rescue or wellbeing initiatives. The week is also a time to thank the Canberrans who volunteer for our community, such as 2022 Citizen of the Year Mohammed Ali (pictured).

Head online to read Mohammed's story and find volunteering opportunities near you.









