

# OUR CANBERRA

Central Canberra edition



December 2016

## LIGHT RAIL STAGE TWO CONNECTS THE CITY TO THE SOUTH



Get the latest information on stage one of Canberra's light rail by visiting the new information stop located at the former Canberra and Region Visitors Centre open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Thanks to community feedback earlier this year, Canberrans have selected Woden to the city as their preferred route for stage two of a city-wide light rail network.

Light rail between the city and Woden will travel through some of our most iconic areas, including the Parliamentary zone, Lake Burley Griffin and State Circle. It will also create a public transport 'spine' for the city, connecting employment hubs, community services and commuters between Canberra's north and south.

Scoping and design of the second stage is now underway. Almost 210,000

Canberrans will live, work or study within one kilometre of stage two by 2041.

Construction of stage one light rail from Gungahlin to Civic is also taking place. The work includes open trenching and under-boring works in Mitchell and Gungahlin along the route.

**i** For more information on the light rail project visit [transport.act.gov.au](http://transport.act.gov.au)

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## A NEW BOARDWALK FOR WEST BASIN

Canberrans will soon be able to enjoy Lake Burley Griffin's West Basin even more with a renewed waterfront now under construction.

The new 150m-long and 8m-wide boardwalk will start at the southern headland of West Basin, adjacent to Commonwealth Avenue Bridge and will be positioned just above the water level.

The boardwalk is expected to be ready by mid-2017.

**i** For more information visit [citytolake.com.au](http://citytolake.com.au)



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

When the first flight from Singapore landed on a wet Canberra day a couple of months ago, our city changed for the better. We became a globally connected city.

Our young and vibrant city is growing up. We have reached 400,000 people and are growing at more than 5000 people a year. The ACT Government is investing in new city shaping infrastructure while making sure we keep the Canberra we love. Whether it be the new light rail, better healthcare and mental health services or investments in the future of education, Canberra is set for its next exciting phase.

It's been a big year in the ACT and as 2016 draws to a close, I'd like to wish all Canberrans a very Merry Christmas and may 2017 be a happy and prosperous New Year.



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





# OUR CANBERRA

## NEW SECURE MENTAL HEALTH UNIT 'DHULWA' OPENS



Dhulwa, the secure mental health unit in Symonston officially commenced operations in November.

Dhulwa is the first unit of its type in our region and has capacity for 25 residents. This includes 10 acute care beds and 15 rehabilitation beds, as well as 24-hour clinical support.

Dhulwa is a Ngunnawal term meaning 'honey suckle', a native plant with healing properties.

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



## SCHOOL UPGRADES ACROSS CANBERRA



Primary schools, high schools and colleges across Canberra will be getting some major upgrades and improvements over the next four years.

An infrastructure upgrade program will provide new classrooms and upgrade existing classrooms, refurbish toilets, new gardens, upgrades to equipment and heating and cooling systems.

## NOMINATE FOR CANBERRA CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

This award recognises and celebrates the community's most outstanding contributors. To nominate, go to [act.gov.au/cbrcitizen](http://act.gov.au/cbrcitizen)

Nominations close 31 January 2017. The winner will be announced in March 2017.

*2016 Canberra Citizen of the Year, Narelle Hargreaves, OAM*



## IMPORTANT HOLIDAY PERIOD CONTACT INFORMATION



### ACTION holiday bus timetable

The festive season bus timetable runs 19 December to 6 January 2017 inclusive. There will be a special Christmas Day timetable where travel is free on the day.

Look out for new trial Peak Express services between Gungahlin and Tuggeranong offering three non-stop morning and evening services between the two centres.

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



### Health services

Cuts, sprains and grazes can be treated at walk-in centres in Belconnen and Tuggeranong. They're free and open 7.30 am to 10 pm every day, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



### Crisis accommodation

Anyone experiencing domestic violence during the holiday period can contact the Domestic Violence Crisis Service on 6280 0900 (24-hour service).



### Priority housing

If you are seeking priority housing, please contact Housing ACT on 133 427.



### Bushfire information

Call 000 in an emergency and stay tuned to [esa.act.gov.au](http://esa.act.gov.au) for alert and updates.



### Reporting child abuse & neglect

Notify Child and Youth Protection Services. Phone: 1300 556 729  
Email: [childprotection@act.gov.au](mailto:childprotection@act.gov.au)

For information on holiday period operating hours for ACT Libraries, Domestic Animal Services, Yarralumla Nursery and Waste Management Services visit [act.gov.au/our-canberra](http://act.gov.au/our-canberra)



## Central Canberra edition

### IMPROVING THE OAKS ESTATE RIVER CORRIDOR HERITAGE WALK

Upgrades include new seating and picnic settings, and new signage telling visitors more about the environmental and historical significance of the river corridor.

The heritage trail passes by the junction of the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers, Gillespie Park and the original Queanbeyan Railway Bridge.

Improvements  
to the heritage  
walk along the  
river corridor at  
Oaks Estate are  
underway.



### TRACKING CANBERRA: CENTRAL HERITAGE TRACK



Discover Canberra's tracks with a new app that uses augmented reality technology to bring the tracks to life.

An old dairy, ruins from homesteads, unmarked cemeteries and Aboriginal artefacts are just some of the 80 different sites you can learn about on a self-drive heritage tour of Canberra.

**i** Visit [canberratracks.act.gov.au](http://canberratracks.act.gov.au) to download the app and learn about tracks in other regions of Canberra.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ACT AUSTRALIANS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to the four ACT Australian of the Year recipients, ACT Australian of the Year Alan Tongue, ACT Senior Australian of the Year Dick Telford, ACT Young Australian of the Year Heidi Prowse, and ACT Local Hero Stasia Dabrowski.

You can learn more about these remarkable Canberrans and their contribution to our community at [australianoftheyear.org.au](http://australianoftheyear.org.au). They will represent Canberra on the national stage on 25 January 2017.



### EASIER ACCESS TO MAJURA PARK

Getting to Majura Park will soon be easier for Canberra commuters.

By mid-2017, a new link road will connect the business precinct to Majura Parkway and help ease peak time pressure off Fairbairn Avenue. Meddhung Road will be connected to Majura Parkway and there'll be an access road into IKEA off Majura Road.



## PARK SMARTER IN MANUKA

Parking in Manuka will be no trouble during the busy Christmas shopping period with the 'ParkCBR' Smartphone app.

The app gives shoppers up-to-date information on parking available around the busy precinct. Search 'ParkCBR' in Google Play or the App Store to download the app.

Find out more at [cmd.act.gov.au/smartparking/home](http://cmd.act.gov.au/smartparking/home) **i**





# CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY

Christmas in the City is back in 2016 and as well as the giant Christmas tree on City Walk, the Christmas Food Markets will be on in Civic Square.

Featuring a number of delicious culinary themed nights, as well as live music, Christmas in the City runs from 16 to 24 December.

 For more information visit [inthecitycanberra.com.au](http://inthecitycanberra.com.au)

## LONG-TERM CANBERRANS SHAPING OUR CITY

The Canberra Gold Awards recognise the unique contribution made by individuals and groups who have lived or operated in the ACT for 50 years or more. Nominate a family member, colleague, friend, or group who has helped to shape our city.


Nominations close in early February with the awards to be presented in March as part of Canberra Day celebrations.

 Nominations can be made online at [act.gov.au/CBRgold](http://act.gov.au/CBRgold)

## FIREWORKS & FREE ENTERTAINMENT FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE IN THE CITY

Canberra is set to ring in 2017 in style with a fantastic line-up of free entertainment and state-of-the-art fireworks this New Year's Eve.

Kick start your evening with music from the Brass Knuckle Brass Band. Potbelleez will also heat up the stage, performing energetic sets which will get your body moving. Nostalgia and Heuristic will feature, making sure there's no stop to the celebrations. Fireworks displays will light Canberra skies at 9pm and midnight, with best viewing from Civic Square.

 For more information visit [events.act.gov.au](http://events.act.gov.au) or phone Access Canberra on 13 22 81.

Civic Square hosts an all ages concert line-up while Garema Place brings in the new year with bass beats and high-energy dancing.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN AT THE ARBORETUM & TIDBINBILLA NATURE RESERVE

There are plenty of free activities at the National Arboretum during these summer school holidays.

Let the kids have fun in Pod Playground or fly a kite in the amphitheatre. The Arboretum grounds will be open until 8.30pm every night in summer.

 Visit [nationalarboretum.act.gov.au](http://nationalarboretum.act.gov.au)

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve has lots of activities for the whole family.

Discover the natural wonders of the sanctuary daily with a volunteer guide, feed the pelicans, spot an elusive platypus or maybe just go for a walk through the koala enclosure to see the latest addition – 'Ghanbi'.

 Visit [tidbinbilla.act.gov.au](http://tidbinbilla.act.gov.au)



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