

OUR CANBERRA

Belconnen edition



ACT
Government

Jan /Feb 2017

NEW EQUIPMENT TO SWING, SLIDE & CLIMB IN BELCO



For more information on upgrades to parks and playgrounds across Canberra, visit act.gov.au/ourcanberra

New equipment is on the way for play spaces at Boswell Crescent, Florey and Jacobs Street, Evatt.

Get ready for a double swing set, spinning platform and play unit for the younger kids, as well as a new seesaw at Evatt.

Construction starts soon and will be completed around mid-year. Four new shade sails will also be installed mid 2017 at play spaces in Florey, Holt, Kaleen and Spence.

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A SAFER TILLYARD DRIVE

The Belconnen community will soon be invited to provide feedback about the possible options to slow down traffic along Tillyard Drive and surrounding streets.

Analysis of speed, volume and crash data, as well as community feedback from consultation in 2016, has been used to develop options to calm traffic and improve traffic conditions.



To find out more visit yoursay.act.gov.au. Updates on the outcomes of Stage 1 consultation will be available on this site in February 2017.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

Happy New Year to all and I hope you had a fantastic holiday season.

As 2017 kicks off, a new year means new opportunities for all Canberrans and a chance to apply new ideas to our city. The Government is back at work delivering on significant projects to keep our Canberra the world's liveable city.

We're getting the design of stage 2 of light rail from Civic to Woden underway, starting the rollout of green bins across Canberra and working on securing electronic devices for all Canberra's secondary public school students. We're also working on designs for new nurse-led walk-in health centres and opening an Office of Mental Health to help all Canberrans access healthcare when they need it. It will be a big year for our city.



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



BECOME A BACKYARD LIFEGUARD

Home swimming pools are the most common place for injury and drowning for children under five in the ACT.

To help keep our children safe, arm yourself with the skills and knowledge to save young lives.

- > Closely supervise kids in and around the pool.
- > Check that your pool barriers meet current safety standards.
- > Know CPR.

Watch out for the iconic red and yellow surf life saving visuals to help you become a backyard lifeguard.

i Find out more at act.gov.au/backyardlifeguard



NEW TECH FOR LEARNING IN 2018



Next year Canberra's secondary public school students will start receiving laptops at the beginning of years 7 and 11 to help with their studies.

This game-changing new technology program will roll-out progressively from 2018 ensuring students have the resources needed to learn and succeed.

This includes greater access to the 'Learn Anywhere' program that offers students digital services such as Google Apps for Education, Microsoft Office 365, e-books and audio books.

i For more on 'Learn Anywhere' visit education.act.gov.au



Term one for all Canberra public schools starts 30 January for new students and 31 January for continuing students.



CANBERRA HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT EXPANDS

The expansion of the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department (ED) is now complete.

This expansion has increased the capacity of the ED by more than a third, offering more space and a dedicated paediatric treatment and waiting area. It gives staff a more modern work environment, and there will be 54 more doctors, nurses and other staff working in the new ED over the next four years to help meet the health care needs of our growing community.

The new ED also includes an expanded Emergency Medicine Unit, additional acute and sub acute treatment spaces, new resuscitation bays, a Mental Health Short Stay Unit, and space to accommodate up to seven ambulances at any time.



WORK PROGRESSES ON UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA PUBLIC HOSPITAL

The University of Canberra Public Hospital is a purpose-built, state-of-the-art rehabilitation hospital and is set to open in mid-2018.

At the end of 2016, the concrete structure was completed after nine months of construction work. This phase of the project saw around 175,000 hours of labour, 13,500m³ of concrete and 880 tonnes of reinforcing steel.

i For more information on UCPH visit health.act.gov.au

NEW LIFE FOR AN ANCIENT TREE

Four hundred years after it started life as a tiny seedling, a huge yellow box gum tree has been relocated from Nicholls to the soon to be declared Molonglo River reserve, near Coombs.

The tree was deemed unsafe in the suburbs but is perfect for an ongoing restoration project along the Molonglo River, where it will provide valuable habitat for local wildlife.



OPAL CARDS FOR CANBERRA'S SENIORS



ACT seniors are now able to get a Gold Senior/Pensioner NSW Opal card that does not expire.

A new process automatically validates eligibility for concessional travel and removes the 60 day expiry.

i To apply you can go online to opal.com.au or call 13 67 25.



YEAR 7 VACCINATIONS

ACT Health offers year 7 students free vaccinations at school through the National Immunisation Program.

The three vaccines are:

- > Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine
- > Human Papillomavirus vaccine (3 doses)
- > Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine.

Parents are reminded to read and sign the vaccine consent card and return it to the school. Only students whose parents have given consent will be immunised at school.

i For more information on immunisation visit health.act.gov.au

A MESSAGE FROM ANDY MISON NEW PRINCIPAL AT HAWKER COLLEGE

“We are in a privileged position. We have high quality staff and students, all with a commitment to learning and the wellbeing of the entire school community.

It's our task to build this community of learning to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future together.”



TIPS FOR STARTING SCHOOL

Starting school can be a little daunting for kids, but teachers and the school are there to help. Here are some tips for a successful and enjoyable first day at school:

- > Talk to your child about their first day, what to expect and who they can ask for help.
- > Begin the day with a nutritious breakfast and pack a healthy lunch.
- > Arrive at school with plenty of time to settle in and take cues from teachers about when it's time to leave.
- > Make sure your child knows the after school pickup arrangements or who is collecting them.

i For more helpful information on starting school visit education.act.gov.au

17-19 FEBRUARY

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AT THE MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

This year's festival will be held in Canberra's city centre. You won't want to miss the action-packed program, including Kate Ceberano who is back for another year. There'll be over 300 stalls of fabulous international cuisine and entry is free.

 Visit multiculturalfestival.com.au for more information.



CANBERRA'S CARNIVOROUS QUOLLS ARE BREEDING

The first eastern quolls to be born in the ACT in over 80 years are thriving at Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary at Gungahlin.

Over a dozen Eastern Quolls were reintroduced in March 2016 from Tasmania and Victoria as part of a program in partnership with ANU and many other agencies. The quolls had disappeared due to clearing, grazing and introduced predators.

The birth of the baby quolls indicates their parents have settled quickly into their new Mulligans Flat home.


See the baby quolls and other reintroduced species at mulligansflat.org.au

SHOW-TIME FOR THE CBD



Visitors to the CBD will get a small taste of the ActewAGL Royal Canberra Show next month when the Canberra City Carnival takes place in Petrie Plaza.


The event will feature some ActewAGL Royal Canberra Show favourites like sideshows, show bags and some classic carnival food.

 If you attend Canberra City Carnival, let us know what you think afterwards at yoursay.act.gov.au

CELEBRATE ALL THINGS AUSSIE THIS AUSTRALIA DAY



There's something for everyone this Australia Day, including a BBQ breakfast, kids entertainment, the national flag raising and citizenship ceremony at Rond Terrace and an evening concert. Top off your day at the evening concert and fireworks by Lake Burley Griffin.

 For more information visit events.act.gov.au




ENLIGHTEN ILLUMINATES CANBERRA

3-12 MARCH

See Canberra in a new light during Enlighten. Many of the city's national attractions open their doors after-hours to host an array of exclusive events and surprising experiences.

The whole family can enjoy free and ticketed events and captivating architectural projections.

 For more information visit enlightencanberra.com.au



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