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.

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

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

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.

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

New Tech for Learning in 2018

Next year Canberra’s secondary public school students will start receiving laptops at the beginnings 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.

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.

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

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.

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

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 talk with your child’s teachers about when it’s time to leave.
- Make sure your child knows the after school pickup arrangements or who is collecting them.

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

SHOW-TIME FOR THE CBD

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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

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

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

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.

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