

## NEW SERVICE STATION, SHOPS AND MORE COMING SOON



2016 will deliver a range of services for residents of the Molonglo Valley and nearby Weston Creek including a new service station. Here's what's coming:

### Service station

The 7,000 square metre service station site on the corner of Kirkpatrick Street and Cotter Road is easily accessible from the Tuggeranong Parkway.

### A new school

Principal Kate MacMahon will welcome preschool and primary students to Molonglo Valley's first school in

January, the Charles Weston School on Madgwick Street, Coombs.

### Community hub

Also in Madgwick Street, plans for the Coombs community hub are underway. The 9,000 square metre site has provision for a medical centre, gym, child care centre, community centre and basement car parking.

### Local shops

The Coombs shops on the corner of Fred Daly Avenue and John Gorton Drive are expected to open by winter next year. The developer plans a 1,000 square metre supermarket and 1,500 square metres of retail space.

## FUTURE PLANS RELEASED FOR WODEN SHOPPING HUBS

Master plans for two of Woden's most popular shopping hubs have been released following community feedback.

### Woden Town Centre master plan

The Woden master plan recommends new residential development, better access for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users, improved connections into the town centre and the reserving of rapid transport routes.

### Mawson Group Centre master plan

The Mawson master plan recommends ways to enhance the centre as a social and transport hub. It encourages a mix of land uses and transport services to increase centre activity while retaining the central courtyards.

 To see the master plans visit [www.act.gov.au/wodenandmawson](http://www.act.gov.au/wodenandmawson)



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

I'm sure Canberrans are looking forward to a bit of down-time with family and friends this summer.

There'll be lots to do in town for Canberrans of all ages in the coming weeks.

In the lead up to Christmas, the CBD will be buzzing with night markets, family concerts, Santa Claus, a great range of children's activities

and our bid to set a world record for the most Christmas lights.

We'll see in 2016 with two New Year's Eve fireworks displays (at 9pm and midnight) and live music.

Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Andrew



### CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY

Celebrate the 2015 festive season in the city with lights, entertainment and an exciting world record attempt.

The SIDS and Kids ACT Christmas Lights in the City will open on Friday 27 November with a family concert and an attempt to break the GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title for the most lights on an artificial Christmas tree.

This year's event will also feature a 70-metre tunnel of lights along City Walk. Entry is by gold coin donation,

with proceeds going towards SIDS and Kids ACT.

The month-long celebration will also include night markets, family concerts, camels, furry and feathered friends, art and music, Santa Claus and a great range of children's activities.

This event – delivered by Sids and Kids ACT and Canberra CBD Limited – is proudly supported by the ACT Government.

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

### FIREWORKS AND FREE ENTERTAINMENT FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

Canberra is set to welcome in 2016 with a fantastic line-up of free entertainment including fireworks, an all-ages concert and a high-energy dance party.

Live music lovers can head to Civic Square from 7pm to enjoy sets by Melbourne indie pop group Saskwatch, and top local bands Los Chavos and The Advocates. Bass in the Place will get Garema Place crowds grooving from 9pm with a dance party headlined by DJ Tigerlily.

Two state-of-the-art pyrotechnics displays will light up the sky at 9pm and midnight, with best viewing from Civic Square.

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



### NEW ACT LAW COURTS ONE STEP CLOSER

Canberra is getting new Law Courts that will meet the territory's needs for the next 50 years and create 350 jobs during construction.

The new four storey building will front Vernon Circle joining the existing Magistrates and refurbished Supreme Court buildings. There will be an increase from the current 17 court rooms to capacity for 22.

This project is the ACT's first Public Private Partnership (PPP) with construction expected to start in 2016.

 To watch a flythrough of the new ACT Law Courts visit [www.youtube.com/actgovernment](http://www.youtube.com/actgovernment)

 Or for more information visit [apps.treasury.act.gov.au](http://apps.treasury.act.gov.au)



Artist's impression - City Hill exterior view





## KEEPING CANBERRA FAMILIES TOGETHER

From January 2016, UnitingCare NSW/ACT will be providing new services for Canberra's vulnerable under the ACT Government's program for children in care, called 'A Step Up for Our Kids'.

The new services will focus on keeping families together through practical guidance and support. An example of one of the new services is long-term, hands-on parenting training to help families stay together, thrive and have better lives.

UnitingCare NSW/ACT will also deliver services that meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families through its 'Jannimili' team.

 For more information visit [www.act.gov.au/CBRstepsup](http://www.act.gov.au/CBRstepsup)



## SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

A new 'Child Development Service' kicks off next year in the ACT supporting families with concerns about their child's development. This may include concerns with speech and language, movement, hand skills, self care, social or emotional development.

The new service will provide assessment and referral for children 0-6 years, as well as children up to 8 years with complex needs and who have not had a previous diagnosis. An autism assessment is also available for children aged to 12 years.

Some initial therapy sessions for children who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme will also be provided.

 For more information visit [www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/childdevelopmentservice)

## TRANSPORT CANBERRA ONE TICKET, ONE FARE, ONE NETWORK

To manage congestion and make it easy to get around as our population grows, our city is getting itself ready for the future. From mid next year, light rail and the bus network will be run by a new single ACT Government agency called Transport Canberra.

The role of this agency will be to integrate buses with light rail, ensure a single ticketing system

and coordinated timetabling, and a central contact for information. Transport Canberra will also keep the buses in public hands.

Changes have already started on our buses. Look out for free Wi-Fi soon, and there'll be more bike racks on more buses in 2016.

 The establishment of the new agency is part of the ACT Government's Public Transport Improvement Plan. To find out more visit [www.transport.act.gov.au](http://www.transport.act.gov.au)



**DID YOU KNOW?** More than a million bus kilometres will be freed up and redistributed when the first stage of light rail begins running.

## SYRIAN AND IRAQI REFUGEES WELCOMED IN CANBERRA

The ACT Government is supporting the humanitarian settlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in our community, with an intake of 250 people as an initial commitment before the end of the year.

The Migrant and Refugee Settlement Service (MARSS) is the official channel for offers of support such as accommodation, goods or services. MARSS is also calling for volunteers in

Canberra. Volunteers play an important role in helping refugees to adjust and learn more about their new home.

 For more information on how to volunteer, take action or get involved visit [www.marss.org.au](http://www.marss.org.au)

Or to make a donation contact MARSS directly via email at: [MARSS@marss.org.au](mailto:MARSS@marss.org.au) or phone (02) 6248 8577.



# SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN

With the warm weather upon us, why not consider exploring a range of family-friendly camping locations and swimming hot spots around Canberra.

Just a short drive away, campers can enjoy nature in the popular Cotter campground set on the banks of the Cotter River.

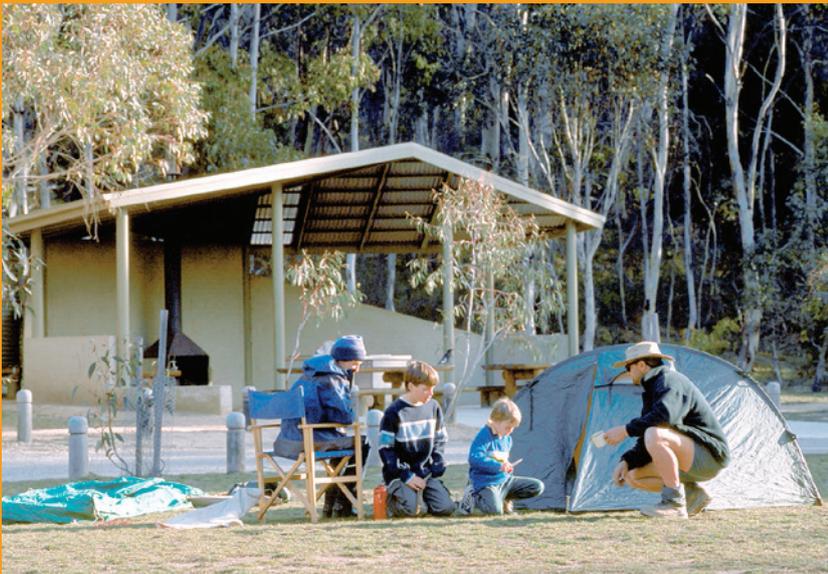
For a more remote experience, visit Orroral or Honeysuckle campgrounds in Namadgi National Park.

Or save yourself a drive to the coast and visit one of our local natural swimming hot spots for a dip this summer.

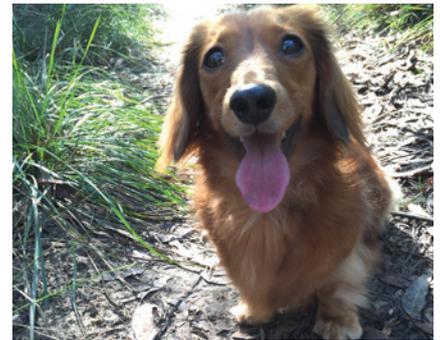
Some of our region's best swim spots include Pine Island, Angle Crossing, Casuarina Sands, Kambah Pool, Cotter Bend and Tharwa Sandwash.

Uriarra Crossing is also a great place to take your dog for a swim.

**i** For more information or to book a campground visit [www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au) or call Access Canberra on 13 22 81.



## MAKE SURE YOUR BEST MATE CAN MAKE IT HOME



A microchip and registration tag is the best way to ensure your dog can always be identified if they get lost – in fact it's a requirement by law.

If you find a lost dog these summer holidays, here are a few tips to help get them home:

- If the dog is wearing a collar and registration tag, call Access Canberra on **13 22 81** for help to contact the owner
- Check the lost pets list at [www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au) for a match
- Take the dog to a vet clinic where the microchip can be read
- Take the dog to the Domestic Animal Services (DAS) Shelter on Mugga Lane.

**i** For more information on how to microchip and register your dog visit [www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au)

## “HAVE YOUR SAY”

### MAKING CURTIN GROUP CENTRE EVEN BETTER

We are making plans for a better Curtin Group Centre and we need your input.

A new draft master plan based on community ideas gathered earlier in the year is now available for your feedback.

The draft plan outlines the intention to retain the centre's popular design,

such as the sunny central courtyard and the village character, while improving parking, connections to public transport, connections to surrounding suburbs, and encouraging more after-hours activity.

**i** To see the draft master plan and have your say visit [www.timetotalk.act.gov.au](http://www.timetotalk.act.gov.au)

