

OUR CANBERRA

CENTRAL EDITION

AUGUST 2016



IMPROVING SCHOOLS IN CENTRAL CANBERRA



Central Canberra's 10,870 school students are supported by 831 teachers at some of the best public schools in Australia. The 2016-17 ACT Budget includes \$41.5 million to continue to improve facilities and administration for schools across the ACT.

A few of the local improvements include:

- > A new food technology facility at Alfred Deakin High School
- > Upgrades to science facilities at Dickson College

- > A Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics technology upgrade at Campbell High
- > Upgrades at CIT Reid

Teachers in the region will also have access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics scholarships to ensure they're equipped with the right skills to meet the demands of our growing digital economy.

 For more information visit education.act.gov.au



IN THIS ISSUE:

- > International flights close to take off
- > Hospital waiting times improve
- > Parliamentary Triangle a priority for light rail stage two

FIRST STAGE OF LIGHT RAIL UNDERWAY



Construction has started on the first stage of the light rail network. The route will be constructed in stages and will be completed in late 2018.

The ACT Government estimates the cost for light rail will be approximately \$710 million and makes up less than one percent of the ACT budget. A capital contribution of \$375m will be made towards the project from 2018/19, funded from the sale of assets such as ACTTAB, ageing public housing office accommodation. The Australian Government has contributed \$67 million toward the project.

 For more information visit transport.act.gov.au



DID YOU KNOW THAT ACT ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES HAVE CHANGED?

Electorate boundaries have changed for the October 2016 ACT Legislative Assembly election. For the first time the ACT will be divided into five electorates each returning five members. Make sure you know which electorate you are in.

 For more information visit elections.act.gov.au



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





CANBERRA'S LIGHT RAIL NETWORK PLAN



Canberrans have provided their preferences for the next stage of light rail.

Following consultation in late 2015, Canberrans identified the Woden, Parliamentary Triangle, Airport and Belconnen corridors as their highest priorities for the next stages of the light rail network.

These corridors take advantage of key landmarks, cultural institutions, education services and increased tourism from international flights.

Work is being undertaken to provide a detailed analysis of these preferred corridors, before further announcements on the next steps in developing a city-wide light rail network.

 For more information visit transport.act.gov.au



HOSPITAL WAITING TIMES IMPROVE FOR ELECTIVE SURGERY AND EMERGENCY



Canberrans are being seen faster in Canberra Hospital's emergency department.

Between March and June 2016, the average waiting time improved by 14% and the average treatment time dropped by 34 minutes when

compared to the same time period last year.

Overall, the average waiting time has reduced to 57 minutes compared to 66 minutes in the same period in 2015.

A blitz across the ACT Health system targeting long wait

elective surgeries has exceeded its target of 1,000 additional surgeries in 2015-16. The blitz has significantly reduced the number of people waiting too long for surgery with an improvement of almost 70% in just seven months.



ACT SCHOOLS GET THE 'FULL GONSKI'



You've probably heard of the 2011 Gonski Review of schools funding and you might be wondering what it means for your school.

A key principle behind Gonski is that schools are funded on the basis of students' needs. In Canberra there's been an increase in funding for schools.

ACT's public schools are implementing a new needs-based funding model called the Student Resource Allocation Program. This program recognises that all students have different needs and therefore require different types of support to thrive in our school system.

 For more information visit education.act.gov.au

OUR CANBERRA CENTRAL EDITION

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS CLOSE TO TAKE OFF

Canberrans are now better connected to the rest of the world with direct flights from Canberra to Singapore and Wellington. New Zealand starting next month.

The new route dubbed the 'capital express', will offer four services a week to both cities on a Boeing 777-200.

In addition to international flights, travellers can now access Uber services from Canberra Airport. The service will provide more choice in travel options and reduce waiting times for transport in peak periods.

 For more information visit canberraairport.com.au



NEW LEARN TO RIDE CENTRE TO HELP KEEP CANBERRA KIDS ACTIVE AND SAFE



Two new learn to ride centres will provide Canberra's young cyclists with a safe place to practise riding skills.

The new facilities near the car park off MacDermott Place at Lake Ginninderra and at Greenway Park at Lake Tuggeranong will have the look and feel of a real road environment, and provide a practical facility for parents, schools and community groups to train children learning to ride a bicycle.

The designs will include everything you'd expect to see in Canberra's suburbs, including footpaths, roundabouts, pedestrian crossings, line markings and road signs. The centres will open in early 2017 and will be free to use.

NEW ERA FOR CONNECTING KEY LOCAL SERVICES FOR CANBERRA

A new era of integrated transport has begun in the ACT with the establishment of Transport Canberra. Transport Canberra brings together all of Canberra's public transport services including buses, light rail and active travel under one umbrella.

The agency is currently working to progress the introduction of a new integrated ticketing system for buses and light rail which will provide a seamless travel experience for customers.


Transport Canberra is part of the new Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate which will manage and deliver the essential services Canberrans rely on each day, including public libraries, recycling and waste services and road management..

 For more information visit tccs.act.gov.au



YOUR WEEKDAY BUS TIMETABLE CHANGES MONDAY 29 AUGUST 2016

Your new weekday bus timetable starts Monday 29 August. Changes include the new Weston Line – an all day service linking Woden, Cooleman Court and the City, the introduction of services into Coombs, improved services for the North Weston Park & Ride, a new direct service for residents of Crace to the City and Parliamentary Triangle and new direct peak services to the City, Woden and Tuggeranong for residents in Florey and Latham.

 To find out more visit transport.act.gov.au or call 13 17 10.

WORKS UNDERWAY ON NORTHBOURNE AVENUE PATH UPGRADE

Work is now underway on stage 1 of the Northbourne Avenue verge refurbishment project that will improve safety and ease of travel for pedestrians and cyclists.

The paths on a 1.5 kilometre section of Northbourne Avenue between Haig Park and Barry Drive/Cooyong Street will be widened from 1.2 metres to 2.5 metres.

The works will be finished in late 2016.



VEHICLE INSPECTIONS MOVING TO HUME

Vehicle inspections will move from Dickson to Hume from February 2017.

Moving the Vehicle Inspection Station to Hume will deliver convenience for those needing the service, with Canberrans able to book and pay for inspections online. The new station will also accommodate a broader range of vehicles to be inspected, ensuring greater compliance with standards and improved safety for all motorists.

The new state-of-the-art facility will be located off Couranga Crescent in Hume.

 For more information visit act.gov.au/accessCBR



VISITOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

A number of upgrades at the National Arboretum are now complete, improving the experience for the thousands of people who visit each year.

Upgrades include:

- > new toilet facilities at the Pod Playground, including unisex wheelchair accessible toilets with nappy changing facilities
- > fully enclosing the covered outdoor learning area with glass doors
- > a facelift for the event terrace with more trees along the roads and walkways, and new seating and lighting.

 For more information visit nationalarboretum.act.gov.au



NORTHSIDE HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION IS ON TRACK



Work is progressing well on the University of Canberra Public Hospital. The worksite crane, named Galu, Ngunnawal for crane (bird), is supporting the next construction phase which will see a frame structure rising up from the concrete slab.

The new hospital is already giving back to the community, with UC students and graduates participating in the Brookfield Multiplex cadetship program. The new sub-acute hospital will provide rehabilitation and mental health services, as well as targeted services for older Canberrans.



MORE FUN OUT OF THE SUN FOR CANBERRA'S KIDS

Families and children across Canberra will soon enjoy a better experience at their local park or playground with upgrades announced across the city.

Upgrades at 30 high-use playgrounds around Canberra will have a particular focus on providing new shade sails to protect children from the elements, new play equipment, and more pleasant rest areas for parents and carers at all times of the day, particularly during the warmer summer months.

 For more information visit act.gov.au/our-canberra



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