

May 2023

Our CBR

Belconnen

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Free Meals in Schools pilot underway



Find out more inside

Message from the Chief Minister

The ACT Government has launched a pilot program offering meals to students at five schools across the city.

Gilmore Primary School, Richardson Primary School, Narrabundah Early

Childhood School, Gold Creek School (high school campus) and Melba Copland Secondary School senior campus (years 10-12) will take part in the program to support students in government schools.

Andrew Barr



Read more online.

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Milestone for Big Canberra Battery project

The ACT Government is future-proofing Canberra's energy supply by expanding its renewable energy storage.

The government has partnered with Eku Energy to deliver the next stage of the Big Canberra Battery – a large-scale battery storage facility to be built in Williamsdale.

The 250MW battery energy storage system will provide enough renewable energy to power one-third of Canberra for two hours during a network outage.

The Big Canberra Battery project will help the ACT grow its sustainability industry and provide more employment opportunities for Canberrans.

Construction is expected to begin in late 2024.



Early Pregnancy Unit now open

Patients experiencing complications in early pregnancy now have better access to health services with a dedicated three-bed inpatient unit open at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.

The Early Pregnancy Service supports patients experiencing early pregnancy complications and loss. Until now, no dedicated facility has existed to provide this type of care in a private, healing space.

Clinicians, consumers and carers contributed to the design of the unit, which is staffed by a multidisciplinary team of health professionals.

A new 15-bed Antenatal and Gynaecology Unit has also opened, adjacent to the Early Pregnancy Service, with both units part of the \$50 million Centenary Hospital for Women and Children expansion.

Strengthening renters' rights

Changes to tenancy laws are now in place, creating more secure housing and a fairer system for Canberra's renters. There are four key changes:

- An end to 'no-cause' evictions
- A minimum standard for ceiling insulation
- Preventing landlords or agents from requesting rent bids
- Supporting tenants to grow food and to compost.

Find more online.



Read more online.

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Free Meals in Schools pilot for Melba Copland

Melba Copland Secondary School is one of five ACT public schools taking part in an 18-month Meals in Schools pilot program.

As part of the pilot, all students in years 10 to 12 at the school will have access to breakfast and lunch up to three days a week.

The program will begin later this year and will be delivered in collaboration with the school community.



Upgrades for Charnwood and Kippax shops

Work will soon get underway to improve Charnwood shops, including:

- planting new trees
- installing new paving
- adding new seating options and locations
- replacing the existing pergola with a better-located shade sail
- installing safer crossing points throughout the carpark, plus new accessible parking bays.

Work will also begin soon on enhancing the streetscape along Hardwick Crescent in Kippax, including adding more space for outdoor dining, new plantings and improved lighting.

Playground improvements for Aranda and Kaleen

The final designs for playground improvements in Aranda have been released, with procurement underway to appoint a construction partner.

The Kaleen community will soon be invited to have their say on the preliminary design for improvements to the Wakool Circuit playground.

To learn more about these projects or stay up to date with other playground upgrades across the city, visit builtforcbr.act.gov.au



Acknowledgement of Country



The ACT Government acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and contribution to the life of this city and region.



Accessibility
Ph 13 22 81



Ph 131 450



Arm yourself against the flu

Influenza is serious and can cause severe illness, or sometimes even death. It circulates in our community more during the winter months, so getting your annual flu vaccination now is the best way to protect yourself and your family. You can get your flu vaccine at a GP and at some pharmacies.

Government-funded flu vaccines are available for children aged six months to under five years, as well as anyone pregnant, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with certain medical conditions, and those aged 65 years and older (a consultation fee may apply).

Find out more at health.act.gov.au/flu

Reconciliation Day at the Arboretum

The sixth annual Reconciliation Day event will be held on Monday 29 May at the National Arboretum, between 10am and 3pm.

Reconciliation Day is a time for Canberrans to come together to learn about our shared history, cultures and achievements, and to explore ways to contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

This year's family-friendly program will feature a range of displays, live entertainment and activities.



What's on in May

Until 14 May **Broads at Belco**
Belconnen Arts Centre

1-7 May **Canberra Tree Week**
Australian National Botanic Gardens

14 May **Super Sunday for Mother's Day**
Old Bus Depot Markets

19-28 May **The Trials**
Canberra Theatre Centre

20-21 May **Canberra Gemcraft and Mineral Show**
Exhibition Park

20-21 May **Canberra Wool Expo**
Old Bus Depot Markets

21 May **Canberra MS Walk, Run + Roll**
Rond Terrace, Parkes

30 May-4 June **Kitty Flanagan Live**
Canberra Theatre Centre

Canberrans can also cheer on the Raiders, Brumbies and Giants at GIO Stadium and Manuka Oval this month.



For more events and details, visit events.canberra.com.au



Have you seen the Light Rail Stage 2A plans?

Light Rail Stage 2A will connect the city to Commonwealth Park and deliver three new stops. As part of the planning approval process, a Works Approval and Development Application are now open for public consultation and will close soon.

For more information including links for submissions, go to **YourSay Conversations**, or scan the QR code above.