Downer Community Association Committee Meeting
DRAFT MINUTES
Monday 7 July 2025- 7pm

Present: Robyn Rennie (Chair), Leon Arundell (Secretary), Committee members Amit Barkay, Jacqui Pinkava, Jane Teasey,

Peter Carey, Aniko Carey, Sue Dyer, Steve Dyer, Narelle Slarke, Ramya Victor. Centre Manager Amy Barthet

Apologies: Peter Comisari (resigned), John Godwin, Miles Boak

Acknowledgement of traditional owners

Agenda Item 1: Minutes of Previous Meeting- 2 June

The minutes of the meeting were accepted.

Agenda Item 2: Action Items arising from previous meeting

See attached list of action items

Agenda Item 3: Correspondence- Jacqui

3 June to 4 July 2025. Issues for discussion highlighted- see Agenda Item 7.

Incoming:
10 June- Tom Emerson's Office- QoN- re toilets, parking and lease. Forwarded to committee members
Agenda item - Lease. Note toilets now listed in the ACT Budget.
12 June- Amit- saying he was going to follow up with ACT contacts re lease correspondence.
17 June- Samantha Cassidy, Carers ACT- cancelling booking. Issues with parking and heating. Forwarded to info@dca- Amy. Parking issue follow up. Also heating is not the best.
24 June- Siobhan Cosgrave, Barnardos- advised that they got a grant for their community garden. Thank you for our support letter. 9 July, garden working bee. DCA invited. Forwarded to committee.
26,30, 30, June, 1, 2, 3 July (and more)- Narelle Slarke- Goodwin tradie parking issues Edkin/ Fenner sts.- DCA cced in to corro with Goodwin and Manteena.
Agenda item- Parking.
27 June- EPSDD- Heritage Registration- Public consultation re partial cancellation of heritage trees- Agenda item 7. Forwarded to committee.
1 July- John Goodwin- **Bradfield heritage trees** email. Also private emails from Robyn Sirr on same matter. New w**ords on website- see attachment.**
3 July- Robyn Sirr- Public consultation on Bradfield tree – provided detailed background and current situation. Sent to all DCA committee to private mailboxes. 6 July- Robyn Sirr, request to put a poster about the tree consultation on the DCA noticeboards- sent to members of the committee.

Outgoing:
30 June to Michael Grace, Manteena- making him aware that Goodwin tradie parking is an issue in other streets eg. around Barnardos.
30 June- to DCA members regarding the Heritage Commission – Heritage Trees opportunity to comment on Partial Cancellation of tees on former CSIR site.-

Agenda item 4: Treasurer's Report

Amit provided an on-line visual update on the Centre's financial position. Total bank balance slightly reduced from previous month, due to payments such as annual insurance.

Agenda item 5: Centre Report- Amit/Amy

Amy has informed all new clients of the new room hire rates. Legacy clients will maintain current rates until the end of the 2025/6 financial year.

Rate rises are necessitated by the increase in the rate charged by Spacetoco, the online bookings provider. It was agreed that DCA should continue to use this service as Amy and the clients are very happy with the ease and efficiency of this service.

Amy reported that one client had cancelled a booking, due primarily to inadequate parking close enough for group members with limited mobility and the heating not adequate for older clients.

On Amy's recommendation, Amit agreed to seek quotes for painting of the walls in the small meeting room. This room has become very popular for smaller groups.

Action: Amit to seek quotes for painting of walls in small meeting room.

Agenda item 6: NCCC Report- Leon

Leon did not attend the June NCCC meeting.
The NCCC committee may now appoint a new chair, as the Chair who was elected at the last AGM (and whom the committee has not been able to contact) has now failed to attend three consecutive committee meetings.

Agenda Item 7- new issues, or issues arising from correspondence

a. **Floriade working bee report.** Amit reported that more than 6,000 plants were planted. There was limited participation due to the weather. $600 spent on materials such as soil. Concern with plants being stolen and bulbs uprooted in the new planting area.

ACTION: Amit to approach Gang Gang cafe re: a Floriade event on behalf of the DCA. If in agreement, DCA to apply for a Floriade event grant.

b. **Centre Lease-** Justice and Community (JAC) Directorate are apparently the sub-leasees of the Centre.

ACTION- Amit to contact the JAC as suggested in his 12 June email.

c. **Parking issues**-

Issue 1. Centre booking cancellation: One group cancelled its booking due to the difficulty of finding enough parking close enough to the centre of the group's members, many of whom have limited mobility.

Issue 2. Tradies blocking suburban streets.
Narelle (resident) explained the safety issues that arise from parking on both sides of narrow two-way streets, where that allows room for only one lane of through traffic. This is especially a problem where developments employ significant numbers of tradesmen without adequate parking arrangements, and at T intersections (like the intersection of Edkins and Cowan Streets), where vision is limited and turning vehicles risk head-on collisions.

ACTION: Amit/Robyn to write to the appropriate Government Agency.

d. Heritage Council Partial Cancellation Bradfield St Trees – public consultation 27 June to 24 July

It was agreed that the DCA put in a **submission to the public consultation**. Much discussion on the actual wording/views to be expressed. Generally, the submission should note that while there are differing views in the community, it is vital that Downer's garden suburb and tree cover should be maintained, enhanced and cared for both heritage and environmental reason and a balance between the two the goal of both developers and the ACT government.

ACTION: Robyn to draft some words and run it past the committee before 24 July.

Website update-Sue Dyer agreed to send Robyn and Jacqui a draft summary of the history of the heritage trees, documentation and reference materials for loading onto the DCA website to provide background for anyone wishing to put in a submission by 24 July

RECORD OF ACTION ITEMS

Action	Meeting Date	Status
Amit to follow up on the inspection of the guttering/veranda	June 2025	Completed awaiting ACT gov to do something.
DCA to write to the Minister for City and ACT Government Services (Ms Cheyne) to request progress on maintenance and on the lease.	June 2025	Sorted verbally
Miles, Amit & John to discuss insurance implications attending proposed grant guidelines.	June 2025	ongoing
Amy to notify clients of the new room hire costs.	May 2025	Completed June 2025
Sue Dyer agreed to send a draft summary of the documentation and reference materials for loading onto the DCA website to provide background for preparing a submission by 24 July	July 2025	completed July 14th
Amit to seek quotes for painting of the walls in the East Room.	July 2025	Quotes received
Amit to approach Gang Gang cafe regarding a possible grant application for a Floriade event.	July 2025	Café said no. NFA
Amit and Robyn to write to the appropriate ACT Government agency about parking issues	July 2025	Completed 19 July