MINUTES

Downer Community Association committee meeting

7 pm Monday 2 February 2025

1. Acknowledgement of Country (Chair Robyn Rennie)- 7.05pm

2. Attendance and apologies

Attendance: Committee- Bea Brickhill, Robyn Rennie, Amit Barkay, Jacqui Pinkava, Jane Teasey.
Observers- Aniko Carey, Ilka Carter (resident).
Apologies: Leon Arundell, Miles Boak (via phone), Ramya Victor

3. Appointment of DCA representative for NCCC.

DCA representative on the committee of the North Canberra Community Council.
No committee member volunteered. Agreed that Leon, as NCCC Secretary, can report back on happenings relevant to DCA.

4. Acceptance of minutes of previous committee meeting 1 December 2025

Jacqui Pinkava corrected the Continuous Record of Action Item list re the Goodwin pathway connection to the Centre. There is no commitment by Goodwin to make a pathway, despite public statement to the contrary. The connection will be the responsibility of the ACT Government.

5. Action Items arising from previous meetings

See list attached.

6. Correspondence report (Jacqui Pinkava)

Issues arising from corro received. Full list provided to committee members:

- Access from Goodwin to DCC

Corro (2 Dec 2025) between DCA and Erik Boddeus, Executive Manager of Retirement Living… Noting statement made by him in the Canberra Weekly 20 November 2025 "…the recent installation of the first ramp and pathway connecting the site directly to the Downer shops…" He replied that the land is the responsibility of the ACT Government and suggested DCA contact "Fix My Street"

ACTION: Amit to enter yet another request on "Fix My Street" for a connecting pathway and drainage improvement in carpark.

- "Daffodil field" and Manteena landscaping

15 Dec 2025- from Michael Grace, Goodwin Project Manager Manteena. Wanting to know DCA plans for the strip between Goodwin and Centre. Replied pointing outing out Goodwin public statement re path connection. 21 Dec- Amit Barkay responded that the area is to be left as is for next Floriade display.

ACTION: Amit to buy weed-mat to cover area. When time is right, remove mat, add fresh soil and allow daffodil bulbs to grow.

- Ventia- NBN Fibre to the Premises upgrade. Request to present at a DCA meeting?

15 January- Ventia, a communication company approved by the NBN to upgrade the communication network in Canberra wrote offering to present at a community meeting.

ACTION: Jacqui to invite Ventia to have a stall on 28 February 9am-1pm at the Cyclonats festival event. Also send email to DCA members with link to NBN website about the upgrade with mention of the 28 Feb opportunity if Ventia agree.

7. Treasurer's report (Miles Boak)- via telephone

The Income and Expenditure report from 1 July 2025- 31 January 2026 was provided to all committee members and tabled at the meeting. Expenses for January totalled $8,350 and income $4,890. The overall bank balance is around $108,000.

Miles noted that we had additional expenses this month- rates and utilities, wages and superannuation (carry-over from December as wages were not paid), and $440 for the installation of a new induction stove. Replacement stove provided by ACT Property.

ACTION: Amy to inform SpacetoCo about the induction topped stove and that hirers will need to bring induction compatible cookware if they wish to use the stove.

8. Centre Management Report (Amy Barthet)

Amy noted that December and January have been very busy with showing prospective users the venue. This has resulted in a number of new people hiring rooms. There have been a couple of clashes with bookings with legacy users to be rectified by clearer communication with legacy users. With new users, DCC are now charging for storage space and codes for the key boxes have been changed.

As a result of a particular booking, DCA need to develop guidelines to determine the philosophical/political underpinning of the hirer to determine how they meet with the soon to be enacted Commonwealth laws.

ACTION: Amy to discuss this with SpacetoCo the bookings agent, to see if they have something in place. Amit to discuss with ACT Property to see if they have a position given they own most of the community venues. Robyn to explore the issue? A statement to be added to our Venue Hire Agreement to be prepared for the March meeting.

9. Five Year Lease- Robyn Rennie

Robyn, Miles and Amit will be attending an online information session on Tuesday 10 February at 9.30am. This is not expected to result in signing of any lease.

ACTION: Robyn to report back at March meeting on lease. If a 5 year lease is granted, then installation of solar panels can be included as an agenda item.

10. North Canberra Community Council report

The next NCCC meeting will be a committee meeting at 7 pm on Wednesday 16 February. Any member of the Council or the public may attend Committee meetings as an observer.

11. Inner North District Plan- submissions due 14 Feb (Miles Boak)

Miles was reminded about this. Miles also mentioned that he had spoken to the ACT Heritage people (Isabel ? who looks after Canberra Tracks) regarding applying for a heritage grant for an interpretive sign that notes the school but emphasises the CSIR history.

12. DCA event for Cyclonats 28 February (Amit Barkay)

Amit has organised a "Bicycle, Bring and Buy (or swap)" event at the Downer Square as part of this bicycling festival on Saturday 28 February 9am-1pm. Amit would like to have a band perform and requests DCA approval to provide funding for this. Committee agreed to this. Amit has yet to get SEEChange electric bike folk and Crankies bicycle repair shop on board.

ACTION: Amit to report back at March meeting and submit an invoice for band costs.

13. ACT Budget Consultation 2026-27

Budget consultation peak-body roundtables will be held in mid-late February 2026. There is no fixed deadline for making written submissions. However, the Government requires sufficient time to adequately review and consider all submissions in accordance with the 2026-27 Budget delivery schedule.
More information is at https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/act-2026-27-budget-consultation-process
Noted. No action taken.

14. Clean up Australia Day – Sunday 1 March

For longevity and tradition, Miles agreed to register. Aniko Carey volunteered to help out at registration. Aniko noted that Peter Carey can put up signs around the suburb promoting the event. Miles has banners and other materials.

ACTION: Miles to register. Peter Carey to put out signs. Jacqui to send a number of emails to DCA members promoting the event. Leon to promote on Facebook. **Jacqui to collect rubbish Sunday afternoon after she gets back from the coast!**

15. Aquatic Strategy

Minister Berry is seeking feedback on priorities that should be included in the scope of the strategy. Please provide feedback to SportandRecreation@act.gov.au by Friday 13 February.
Does the DCA support the NCCC making an individual submission, and/or a joint submission as part of the Aquatic Coalition?
More information: https://www.act.gov.au/our-canberra/latest-news/2026/january/planning-for-future-pool-facilities-in-canberra

ACTION: Jacqui to email Ian Hubbard Chair of the NCCC to check if the NCCC are coordinating a response or are community associations in the north submitting separately.

16. Any Other Business

Ilka Carter, concerned resident and dog walker, raised the issue of the safety of the precinct road and car park nearest Gang Gang and the park. She has observed an increase in the number of vehicles and their speeds over time and fears for the safety of young children and dogs. She calls for 10km signs, speed humps and shared road markings to be installed. Tom

Emerson MLA to be approached to sponsor a petition. Jane Teasey suggested that her partner Greg Mulvaney is willing to set up the petition as he has had success in petitioning.

ACTION: In consultation with Greg, Robyn to approach Tom Emerson to sponsor the petition. Jacqui and Leon to promote through email and Facebook. Promotion also through Gang Gang patrons and Downer dogwalkers.

17. Meeting close- 8.35pm

Next Committee Meeting: 7 pm Monday 2 March 2026.

Robyn Rennie
Convenor

Date:

Jacqui Pinkava
Meeting minute-taker

Date:

CONTINUOUS RECORD OF ACTION ITEMS

Action	Meeting Date	Status
Committee: ask the government to include a baby change table in the new Downer public toilets. The single toilet at the new "destination" park in Watson is often out of order.	Dec 2025	Before toilet is built in 2027
Amit: buy weed mat to cover the Floriade plantings in the area separating the Centre from Goodwin and The Bradfield.	Dec 2025	
Amit: Inspection of the guttering/veranda	June 2025	Awaiting ACT gov to do something when they have the funds.
Miles, Amit & John to discuss insurance implications attending proposed grant guidelines.	June 2025	Ongoing. Insurance papers provided Nov 2025. Unlikely to go ahead with DCA grants program.
Miles- submit an application for the 2026 Heritage Grants for new interpretive signs.	Aug 2025	Before March 2026
Miles: draft letter to ACT Transport Minister, asking for a pedestrian crossing on Melba Street, near the former Downer Primary School crossing, between the bus stop near Brindabella Court and Barnardos premises on one side of Melba Street, and the bus stop near the new Goodwin retirement village, the Gang Gang Cafe and the Downer Community Centre on the other side.	Dec 2025	To be done.
Amit- install lockbox in West Room to house the projector and other valuable items	Oct and Nov 2025	Decided not required and too expensive.
Amy- advise tenants that Centre not available on w/e 31 Oct 2026- Gang Gang event	Nov 2025	Inform effected tenants of change of date.
Robyn- follow up lease renewal expected in December	Oct/Nov 2025	Info session 11 February 2026- outcome?
Jacqui- Follow up with Goodwin re pathway connection to the Centre.	Nov 2025	Stated it is ACT land so not responsible.
Amit- put in another Fix My Street request.	Feb 2026	
Amy/Amit- Venue Hire Agreement update to include wording to meet new Cwlth legislation – re hate speech etc. ie. Vet hirers	Feb 2026	Check with SpacetoCo, ACT Property…
Robyn/Jane- petition preparation for safer precinct roadway.	Feb 2026	Tom Emerson MLA to sponsor.
Miles- Clean up Oz registration and materials.	Feb 2026	