Minutes

Downer Community Association committee meeting

7 pm Monday 1 December 2025

1. Acknowledgement of Country (Interim Chair Robyn Rennie)

2. Attendance and apologies

Attendance: Jacqui Pinkava, Leon Arundell, Robyn Rennie, Amit Barkay, Miles Boak, Jane Teasey, Bea Brickhill, Ramya Victor, Amy Barthet

3. Appointment of office-bearers

The Council appointed the following office -bearers:

Convenor: Robyn Rennie

Treasurer: Miles Boak

Secretary: Leon Arundell

Public Officer: Jacqui Pinkava

DCA representative on the committee of the North Canberra Community Council. Vacant.

4. Acceptance of minutes of previous committee meeting 3 November

The meeting accepted the draft minutes of the 3 November 2025 committee meeting.

5. Action Items arising from previous meetings

See list attached below

6. Correspondence report (Jacqui Pinkava)

Jacqui presented a correspondence report for the period 2-30 November.

7. Treasurer's report (Miles Boak)

Miles provided a financial report. There was a small deficit in November, due to the cost of food for the BBQ before our annual general meeting.

8. Centre Management Report (Amy Barthet)

Amy reported that:

- Gang Gang Cafe has received a government grant of $50,000 for its music festival scheduled for October 2026.
- Gang Gang wants to expand its community market to cope with wet weather situations, ie. have stall on the veranda.
    - The committee agreed, provided that the market does not restrict access to and from the Downer centre – especially fire exits.
- One long term tenant a church group, wishes to hire a room until 12.01 am on New Year's Eve.

- The committee agreed, subject to abiding by noise restrictions from 10 pm.

9. North Canberra Community Council report (Leon Arundell)

- Leon did not provide a report. His subsequent report is attached.

10. Other Business

10.1. insurance implications relating to proposed grant guidelines

- Interpretation suggests DCA coverage is only within the curtilage of the Downer Square and DCA building. This suggests that DCA grant recipients would not be covered for activities elsewhere in Downer unless they were part of an ACT Gov initiative such as Adopt-a-Park.

10.2. Any other business

- The committee agreed to ask the government to include a baby change table in the new Downer public toilets. We noted that the single toilet at the new "destination" park in Watson is often out of order.
- Lease: the committee asked Amit to follow up with the ACT Government on its commitment to offer a new 5 year lease in 2025.
- Amit reported a quote for solar panels and a battery (without which little of the solar electricity would be used within the Centre). This project will require heritage approval, and is on hold pending renewal of our lease.
- The committee agreed that Amit should buy some weed mat to cover the Floriade plantings in the area separating the Centre from Goodwin and The Bradfield.
- Miles agreed to draft a letter to the 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.

11. Meeting close

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Next Committee Meeting- Monday 2 February 2026.

Robyn Rennie	Leon Arundell
Convenor	Secretary
Date:	Date:

CONTINUOUS RECORD OF ACTION ITEMS

Action	Meeting Date	Status
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
Miles- submit an application for the 2026 Heritage Grants for new interpretive signs.	Aug 2025	
Amy- oven replacement	Oct 2025	Waiting for ACT Property- delayed.
Miles- get quote from Sign World for interpretive sign for Old Downer Primary	Nov 2025	Completed
Amit- install lockbox in West Room to house the projector and other valuable items	Oct and Nov 2025	
Amit- removal of screen doors	Nov 2025	Completed
Amy- advise tenants that Centre not available on 17-18 Oct 2026- Gang Gang event	Nov 2025	
Amit/Robyn- follow up lease renewal expected in December	Oct/Nov 2025	December 2025
New Committee to decide on installing solar panels and battery should a 5 year lease be in place	Nov 2025	To be on agenda for Feb 2026 committee meeting
Jacqui- Follow up with Goodwin re pathway connection to the Centre.	Nov 2025	Goodwin's commitment was confirmed at the November 2025 committee meeting

Attachment: NCCC report to DCA for November 2025

The North Canberra Community Council held its Annual General Meeting on 19 November 2025

The first keynote speaker was ACT Greens leader Shane Rattenbury

Shane discussed the Greens' focus on public and affordable housing
He highlighted the Greens' record on community consultation, and discussed land banking

The second keynote speaker was Gene McGlynn, president of the Dixon Residence Group
He presented concerns about consultation for development proposals;

Deputy Chair Joachim Zeil discussed the Thoroughbred Park Precinct draft plan amendment, the Missing Middle Housing Reform inquiry

The committee for 2025-6 is:
Chair: Ian Hubbard
Deputy Chair: Claire Miles
Secretary: Leon Arundell
Treasurer: Bruce Smith
Media coordinator: Marcus Hipkins
Public officer: Jochen Zeil
Residents' Association committee representatives:

Ainslie – Ian Hubbard and Marcus Hipkins
Braddon – Ernestine Kirsch
Campbell – Claire Miles
Dickson – To be advised
Downer – To be advised
Hackett – Bruce Smith
Lyneham –Jayne Roberts and Trevor Vickers
O'Connor - Stephen Goodwin
Reid – Marianne Albury-Colless
Turner – to be advised
Watson – Petra Lean