**Minutes**
**Downer Community Association committee meeting**
7 pm Monday 6 April 2026

## 1. Acknowledgement of Country (Chair Robyn Rennie)

## 2. Attendance and apologies

Attendance: Robyn Rennie, Amit Barkay, Leon Arundell (secretary), Jacqui Pinkava, Ilka Carter (resident)

Apologies: Miles Boak, Bea Brickhill, Jane Teasey, Ramya Victor.

## 3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting- 2 March 2026

The draft minutes were accepted, subject to correction of minor typos identified by Jacqui.

## 4. Action Items arising from previous meetings

See list attached below

## 5. Correspondence report (Jacqui Pinkava)

2 March to 3 April 2026

Incoming:

5 March- Miles Boak- forwarded auto reply from Min Steel re request for Melba pedestrian crossing.

11 March- auto reply from Vanessa Kerton Ventia- saying that this email address is no longer associated with Ventia and will not be actioned.

14 March- Miles- Goodwin supportive of letter on Melba pedestrian crossing and provided contact details for the Downer Village Manager- Riddi Shah. Noting to that residents are moving in right now.

30 March- Rob Miller resident)- alerting us to the possible end to COTA's IT session for oldies at the Dickson Library and opportunity to spread the word about DCA and surrounds to the new Goodwin residents.

2 April- Sue Dyer- forwarding email- inviting review and provide feedback on the draft Terms of Reference for the new ACT Aquatic Strategy.

Outgoing:

7 March- me forward to DCA list- info from Watson Cmty Assoc re their community day on 29 March

10 March- forwarded to DCA list- info from The Traddies re their Make March Purple Day also on 29 March- support for Epilepsy Assoc.

## 6. Treasurer's report (Miles Boak)

The committee noted the income and expenditure report that Miles circulated prior to the meeting. No issues were identified.

## 7. Centre Management Report (Amy Barthet)

Amy noted that revenue from increased bookings is covering the cost of using SpaceToCo to provide our booking system.

We have acquired a combination lock box for the key to the electrical switchboard, to allow access to the switchboard when electrical problems occur.

## 8. Update on 5 year lease (Robyn)

Robyn reported that the ACT Government now expects to provide a new lease by the end of the financial year.

## 9. Budget submission

**We agreed** to a draft Budget submission that Leon circulated with the agenda. The submission asks for the allocation of sufficient funding to provide Downer one standard public toilet, one toilet with baby change facilities, and directions to the nearest available toilet in case the Downer toilets are unavailable.

## 10. North Canberra Community Council (Leon)

**Report of general meeting 18 March**

Dr Laura Rayner gave a presentation on the draft ACT Nature Conservation Strategy. She discussed the value of stewardship, volunteers, and the value of a "whole of landscape" approach. The meeting discussed issues including the impacts of urban growth and a warming, drying climate. There were mixed views about the benefits of offsets.

The Chair reported that the Environment, Planning and Transport Forum had discussed the nature conservation strategy, a plan to analyse the impacts of the new planning process, and a proposal to streamline low-risk planning changes.

Leon provided **Resident association reports** to the committee.

We **agreed** *that Leon Arundell will represent the DCA on the committee of the North Canberra Community Council*.

## 11. Proposed Territory Plan Amendment to allow Brindabella Christian College to build a car park on the Lyneham Neighbourhood Oval

The committee noted a message, circulated by the Lyneham Community Association, about a proposed Territory Plan Amendment to allow Brindabella Christian College to build a car park on the Lyneham Neighbourhood Oval.

## 12. Other Business

### 12.1 Website Update

Amit and Jacqui are continuing to liaise with Lance Williamson on the development of a new website. Some committee members expressed a preference for retaining our current URL of downercommunityassociation.org. Amit to make contact with Gaffer Designs regarding domain change etc in readiness for going live.

### 12.2 Goodwin Downer Update and contact with Village Manager

Robyn agreed to contact the Goodwin Village manager to liaise about our common interests.

### 12.3 Internet provider

Amit reported that Vodafone offers internet access that will meet our needs, at a lower cost than our current provider IiNet.

**Next Committee Meeting:** 7 pm Monday 4 May 2026.

## CONTINUOUS RECORD OF ACTION ITEMS

| Completed action | Meeting Date |
|---|---|
| **Robyn** to report back at March meeting on lease | Feb 2026 |
| **Committee:** provide feedback to Miles on his draft letter to ACT Transport Minister, asking for a pedestrian crossing on Melba Street | Dec 2025 |
| **Committee:** ask the government to include a baby change table in the new Downer public toilets. | Dec 2025 |
| **Amit:** buy weed mat to cover the Floriade plantings in the area separating the Centre from Goodwin and The Bradfield (no longer needed). | Dec 2025 |
| **Amit**: Arrange inspection of the leaking guttering/veranda | June 2025 |
| **Jacqui**: invite Vanessa Kerton from Ventia to present, on installing NBN Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) access in Downer, from 7 to 7.30 pm at the committee meeting on May 4, and invite DCA members to attend the presentation. Ms Kerton can no longer be contacted through Ventia. | March 2026 |

| Pending action | Meeting Date | Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Robyn, Jacqui, Leon:** Petition on safety of the precinct road and car park nearest Gang Gang and the park**.** 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 dog walkers. | Feb 2026 | Awaiting draft petition wording from Greg. |
| **Miles-** submit an application for the 2026 Heritage Grants for new interpretive signs. | Aug 2025 | To be done by April |
| **Amit-** Re new Website. Contact Lance Williamson from Gaffer Designs to organise domain change in readiness for going live. | April 2026 | To be done by May meeting |
| **Robyn-** To make contact with Goodwin Downer Village Manager to introduce DCA. | April 2026 | To be done by May meeting |
| **Amit-** Vodafone offers internet access that will meet our needs, at a lower cost than our current provider IiNet. | April 2026 | To report back with cost comparisons |