Minutes
Downer Community Association committee meeting
7 pm Monday 1 June 2026

Acknowledgement of Country (Chair Robyn Rennie)

Attendance and apologies

Attendance: Chair -Robyn Rennie, Secretary- Leon Arundell, Public Officer and Communications-Jacqui Pinkava, Centre Manager- Amit Barkay, Committee member Jane Teasey, Ruth Smith (Goodwin Downer resident), Amy Barthet-Centre Co-ordinator.
Apologies: Miles Boak, Bea Brickhill. Absent- Rayma Victor.

Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting 4 May 2026

The minutes were accepted, subject to amendment.

Action Items arising from previous meetings

- Petition on safety measures on roadway within precinct.
    - On May 29 Robyn asked Kurrajong MLA Thomas Emerson if he would be prepared to sponsor the petition so that it could be lodged as an e-petition. Awaiting a response.
- Floriade- report back on preparations. Request for help on the days.
    - Planting is scheduled for Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June
- DCA "grant" for Centre clients offering community enhancing activities
    - Robyn to draft guidelines.
    - Amy agreed to follow up with possible clients who requested "rent assistance".
- Meeting with Goodwin Village Downer contact
    - Robyn met with the Manager – Riddi Shah and with the Lifestyle Co-ordinator- Margi Patel. Contact details provided.

Correspondence report (Jacqui Pinkava)

Incoming-
6 May- John Brookes- office of Rachel Stephen-Smith- re pump track operation and maintenance. Gave contact details for Sam Hussey-Smith and Dominic Ransom-Cooper, people involved in its set-up. Cc Robyn.
11 May- Floriade Community- acknowledged receipt of Letter of Agreement which confirms our participation in 2026 Floriade. Also gave new collection dates- 9-11 June.
12 May- $760 quote from Your Best Garden (recommended by Aniko Carey) for Floriade garden bed preparation.
11, 14 May- Manette (ex-Downer resident)- Braddon Bowling Club petition to stop hotel development on old Bowling land. Wants advice/support from DCA. Also- would like us to circulate their E-Petition. Robyn prefers not to circulate theirs as we will have ours.

18 May- cc from Amit confirming that updated Insurance Certificate has been sent for Floriade participation- covers volunteers on the day(s).
20 May- TCCS Community Engagement announcing toilet pop-up on 23 May.
23 May- Sue Dyer- her thoughts on what features the new toilet must have.
25 May- John Godwin- confirming that notice about bulb planting has been circulated at The Bradfield and wanting an update on the toilet pop-up.
25 May- auto message via website- wanting to hire space for event using blow torches.
26 May- Gaffer Designs- a solution for auto messages with email Centre to go to info@dca.asn.au not to downerassociation@gmail...
26 May- David Glavonjic (resident)- noting a broken link on website. Fixed.
26 May- Christine Butterfield- noting that she spoke to Jason Hunter (toilet project manager) about the need for a path to connect Goodwin to the Centre. He suggested "putting a bit of concrete down"?? not hopeful.
Three auto messages requesting to become members.

Treasurer's report

In the absence of the Treasurer, Amit confirmed that our bank balance is approximately $112,000.
Income for the month of May was $4,610 from venue hire and expenditure approx. $2,950.
In the Treasurer's extended absence, all invoices to be sent to property@dca.asn.au.

Centre Management Report (Amy Barthet)

For safety reasons, declined a request for an activity that involved the use of blowtorches.
There is an issue with casual users leaving heaters running overnight. Amit is working to address this issue by restoring the system for remote heater operation.
One of the centre's keys was left in the room, but is now no longer in the room. Amy following up with all hirers. If not found, the hirer is responsible for cost of key replacement.
The hinges on an external gate were readjusted so that it would close properly.
The committee approved the purchase of a larger capacity 'stick' vacuum cleaner to the value of $1,000.

North Canberra Community Council report (Leon Arundell)

The May meeting featured guest presentations from NBNCo and Ventia (Coming NBN upgrades in north Canberra), and StreetBeat.
NBN and its partner Ventia aim to upgrade 97,000 ACT premises from NBN fibre to the node to fibre to the premises technology. The project is expected to be completed by 2030.
The upgrade will have three phases: survey (4-8 months), construction (up to 14 months), and after-construction.
Ventia is partnering with NBNCo for the north Canberra rollout. They recommended that people register contact details with Ventia so that they can be informed about progress without needing to rely on letterbox drops. People can register at this link.
StreetBeat is making Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) publicly available 24/7 across the ACT and gathering information for the best placement within each community.

Street Beat plans to deploy 124 public accessible AEDs across Canberra suburbs, with 77 additional units funded through philanthropy (e.g. the AED outside Dickson's Capital Chemist).

General discussion covered following topics:

- the impacts of the 2023 changes to planning legislation
- the continuing issue of development applications being approved despite not meeting planning requirements
- the need to protect and preserve community land and environmentally significant spaces
- agreement to invite the planning minister and other MLAs to discuss planning issues at our July general meeting.

DCA Website update

The new website seems to be working well with occasional fixes/enhancements required. It has successfully forwarded several applications for new memberships which suggests people are visiting the website.

Other Business

1. Chair's report
   • Email sent to Tom Emerson MLA re Petition
   • Visit with Goodwin Downer manager and lifestyle coordinator.
   Provided them with photos of the Downer Community Centre notice board showing activities, and created and sent a poster for them to display.
   Some residents would be interested in the history of Downer, which is documented in the Downer@50 book. They may be interested a talk about the history.
   • Tradies DA version 2 - sent email to Dickson Resident's Group to indicate our support and submitted DCA's support of all of the Dickson group comment and concerns on the Govt's website and requested to receive updates on the progress of the Tradies DA.
   • Attended the toilet info session.
2. Report back on toilet pop-up session and our wants/needs sent to Jason Hunter, Project Manager, City and Environment Directorate. Committee provided with diagrams of proposed "wee" toilet.
3. A resident wishes to install a seat in the Fenton St park, with a memorial plaque to a resident who enjoyed the park. **The committee agreed** to refer the person to the Majura Men's Shed with the cost to be borne by them.

Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Next Committee Meeting: 7 pm Monday 6 July 2026.