Downer Community Association committee meeting- 7 pm Monday 6 July 2026

Acknowledgement of Country (Chair Robyn Rennie)

Attendance

Robyn Rennie, Amit Barkay, Jacqui Pinkava, Jane Teasey, Aniko and Peter Carey
Apologies: Leon Arundell, Bea Brickhill, Miles Boak, Amy Barthet. Absent: Ramya Victor.

Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting 1 June 2026

Minutes accepted. Loaded on website.

Action Items arising from previous meetings

Robyn: Petition on safety of the precinct road and car park – support of MLA Tom Emerson. Robyn received a supportive email from MLA Emerson's staff. They suggested adding the need for better road connectivity to the Centre to the petition as well. **Committee decided to focus on the one issue- road safety within the Centre precinct.**

ACTION: **Robyn** to find out who creates/loads the e-petition on the ACT Government E-Petitions website- https://epetitions.parliament.act.gov.au/

Miles- Apply for a 2026 Heritage Grant for new interpretive signs.
Amit- purchase a larger capacity stick vacuum cleaner- **Done.**
Amit- Organise for large weatherproof placards to advertise the Floriade Planting. **Done**
Jacqui- send info about the Ventia NBNCo roll out of Fibre to the Home. **Done.**

Centre Management Report (Amy Barthet)

Amy provided an email report. Re: community library, mentioned that the Majura Women's Group to confirm if they will decorate the library next term. The kid's library door not latching has since been mysteriously fixed. Majura Women's Group have cleared their internal storage freeing up storage space for other hirers.
Amit added that a cake decorating group are new hirers and that all hirers have been advised of ongoing Test & Tag required on all electrical equipment brought into the Centre.

ACTION: **Amy** will prepare a duty statement for the Centre Co-ordinator position. This to be advertised on the website, Facebook and via email to DCA members.

Correspondence report 2 June- 3 July 2026 (Jacqui Pinkava)

2 June- Joanne Catasti – Manager Executive and Corporate Services- invite to Robyn to attend Goodwin Downer opening 29 June.

2 June- Margi Patel- Lifestyle Co-ord Goodwin. Saying that she would send email about the bulb planting to all the residents.

4 June- Forward from Amy- Downer Centre Licence Offer/Lease agreement.

4 June- Anne Spearman- Informing us of a possible library **upgrade** by the Men's Shed. Suggesting a community group may like to paint the kids library.

15 June- Anne Spearman clarifying that she had contacted Jim and confirmed that it was his initiative to fix the Downer Library.

2 July- Anne Stearman- latch on the kids library faulty.

9 June- Invoice from Sam from Your Best Garden for preparation of bulb planting plot. Also sent to Property. Paid.

11 June- Margi Patel Goodwin- a response to my follow up. No indication that an email was sent to residents about bulb planting. One person turned up from Goodwin for planting.

1 July- Bruce Smith Treasurer NCCC- invitation to submit funding proposals for 2026-7. Due 7 August.

Outgoing.

5 June- to DCA members- Tradies Winter clothing collection poster and reminder about bulb planting 13-14 June, and info about MyWay Card changes.

26 June- to DCA Members- Poster of NAIDOC Week activities being put on by The Tradies. Plus news update- thank you re bulb planting, upgrade of library, Downer Goodwin occupancy (later revised down), website update, toilet singular sometime in 2027.

28 June- DCA members- Roll-out of Fibre to the Home- link to NBNCo website and revised figure of 50% on Goodwin occupancy (courtesy of a resident). Alert on upcoming e-petition on traffic calming at Downer Centre/Gang Gang corner.

Chair's report- Robyn

Robyn reported on her attendance at the opening of Goodwin Village Downer on 29 June. Spoke to Tom Emerson MLA about the e-Petition. Offered to arrange with Denys Garden to do a presentation about the history of the Downer Centre for residents. Impressed by the catering provided by Hudson's Dickson.

Treasurer's report

Miles provided two reports. A summary statement of income and expenses for the year ended 30 June 2026 with a comparison to 2024-25 showing an increase of $15,163 in accumulated funds. A month-by-month income and expenditure report for the period 1 July 2025-30 June 2026.

North Canberra Community Council report (Leon Arundell)

The NCCC made a submission to the Inquiry into proposed rezoning of former Braddon Bowls Club site, and the Inquiry into Planning (Missing Middle Housing) Amendment Bill 2026

For future General Meetings, the committee agreed to invite the Planning Minister and other MLAs to participate in a panel discussion of consultation on planning issues, and to invite Icon Water and the strata tenants association to another meeting.

The committee deferred consideration of constitution changes to address the requirements of Sections 65B (*Dispute resolution*) and *Section 65C (Disciplinary action)* of the *Associations Incorporation Act*. Next meetings: General meeting 15 July; Committee meeting 19 August.

Business of this meeting

1. Call for funding bids from north residents/community associations- NCCC Treasurer Bruce Smith has asked for 2026-27 funding proposals by 7 August.

ACTION: **Jacqui-** to submit a bid to NCCC for $288.20 to cover the cost of the Floriade placard.

2. Leasing Agreement. Open until 5 July -**Amit**

Amit noted that the deadline has been extended. The following amendments were agreed: the air-condition system and the fire management is to be the responsibility of ACT Property, not the DCA. Notice-boards are permitted to remain as the DCA is the sole leasee of the premises. ACT Property acknowledged that the following items need to be fixed (at some stage)- mould under the pergola, leaking toilets, replace flooring in the East Room.

Decision: Committee agreed to accept the terms of the lease. **Amit** to advise the ACT Government of our agreement to the lease/license.

3. Guidelines on grants for community enhancing activities- **Robyn** (draft provided 2 June).

Noted that it is an extension to the previously approved grant guidelines, allowing for a greater range of activities such as educational and social activities. **Approved by the committee.**

ACTION: **Jacqui** arrange for grant guidelines to appear on the website. Follow up with Lia Zhao on Digital Literacy course offer.

4. Library- artwork/decoration of the kid's library. Note: painting/oiling of top library also required! Latch on kid's library mysteriously fixed.

ACTION: **Amy** to follow up with Majura Women's Group next term re the artwork. **Robyn**- to contact Jim Dehlsen to thank him for the refurbishment of the library.

5. Heritage Grants- Open 6 July close 14 August. **Miles-** not present, no action.

   Miles (9 July) forwarded email from ACT Heritage.

   "The 2026-27 Heritage Grants Program will not include funding for new Canberra Tracks signage."

   "…the City and Environment Directorate is consolidating the physical signage network where appropriate and transitioning to new heritage interpretation on digital platforms, including the new Canberra Tracks app."

6. Bulb Planting report back- **Jacqui**

Due to delay in bulbs being available, a bulb planting bee was held on 13-14 June. About 10 people turned up, some coming on both days to plant over 3,2000 bulbs in the verge area that separates The Bradfield apartments from the Centre carpark. Gang Gang café provided free beverages to participants. The following fortnight 1,200 annuals were planted by Amit, with the assistance of some young folk, in the Downer Square garden beds.

Other Business

- Aniko Carey (local real estate agent) suggested that the DCA information flyer provided to Goodwin would be very useful to give to new residents of Downer. **Robyn** agreed to provide Aniko with the document for her to edit as required.
- **Jacqui** to follow up with person who previously offered to do free IT training for older folk. Suggest that she approach Goodwin who may offer free room hire.

Next Committee Meeting: 7 pm Monday 3 August- Note: Jane Teasey is an apology.

Convenor:
Robyn Rennie
Approved: 3 August 2026

Ag Secretary:
Jacqui Pinkava