DRAFT 1 Minutes
Downer Community Association Committee meeting
7 pm Monday 7 September 2026

1. Acknowledgement of Country (Chair Robyn Rennie)

2. Attendance and apologies

Attendance: Committee members Robyn Rennie (Chair), Miles Boak (Treasurer), Leon Arundell (Secretary), Amit Barkay (Centre Coordinator),
Others: Amy Barthet (Centre Manager), Aniko Carey, Peter Carey
Apologies: Jacqui Pinkava, Bea Brickhill, Jane Teasey

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting 3 August 2026

The minutes were accepted.

4. Action Items arising from previous meetings

See list of Action Items below

5. Centre Management Report (Amy Barthet)

Recruitment of new Centre Coordinator: We have had three very good applicants for the position. The committee agreed to notify Rosemary that her application had been successful.

The Majura Womens Group has painted the children's street library in the Downer Square.

We agreed to allow Amit to spend up to $500 on new batteries for the vacuum cleaner and lawnmower.

6. Correspondence report (Jacqui Pinkava)

See report below

7. Chair's report (Robyn Rennie)

The initial IT course sessions had 4 and 10 participants.

Stage 2 of the Garden City Cycle Route (Ainslie via Downer to North Watson) is scheduled for 2027.

Robyn noted that ACT Senator David Pocock will host a Town Hall meeting on 10 November at Gungahlin College.

8. Treasurer's report (Miles Boak)

Miles reported that our bank balance continues to grow.

Now that our lease has been renewed for five years, we can consider installing solar panels on the Centre. The cost is expected to be around $40,000.

9. North Canberra Community Council (NCCC) report (Leon Arundell)

The Dickson Residents Group is seeking support for next year's 100th anniversary celebrations, and has applied for a heritage grant. We agreed to contribute $700.

The NCCC held a Committee Meeting on 19 August.

The Chair urged member organisations to encourage their members to attend meetings. The Treasurer urged us to submit bids for funding to support the objectives of the NCCC's government grant.

Discussion included examples of Community Facility sites being re-zoned for development.

Kurrajong MLAs are being invited to present at the September General Meeting. meeting. Rebecca Vassarotti has accepted, but Thomas Emerson will not be available.

Light Up Lyneham had run from 3pm to 8 pm, with three stages for performers, and had been attended by 4,000 people including Senator for the ACT David Pocock, Member for Canberra Alicia Payne, and Members for Kurrajong Elizabeth Lee and Thomas Emerson.

Next meetings: General meeting 16 September; Committee meeting 21 October

10. Other Business

- We agreed to hold our AGM at 7 pm on November 30, preceded by a barbecue from 6 pm.
- We will ask Jacqui to circulate information about *Power Up* to members.
- Invitation to Power-Up Deliberative Democracy town-hall Sunday – 27th September from 1pm to 5pm – Common Ground Dickson Hall, hosted by Tim Hollo and Greens MLA for Kurrajong Rebecca Vassarotti
- We noted a proposal by Lucinda Griffith-Jones for a walking group for older residents in Ainslie. Other suburbs, including Downer, could benefit from similar walking groups. The Heart Foundation has walking groups in Watson and Lyneham, but not in Downer.
- We considered the privacy issues of drone operation in residential areas. We did not identify any avenues to address these issues.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Next Committee Meeting: 7 pm Monday 5 October.

Correspondence report 4-22 August 2026

6 Aug- John Godwin- confirming that he has sent email about E-petition to his list at The Bradfield. Asked if there were hard copies available at Gang Gang.

10 Aug- Denys Gardiner- noting that he is doing a talk at Goodwin. Asking if he should take copy of expression of interest job opportunity.
10 Aug- response from Margi Patel on E-Petition to say she will forward it.
10 Aug- Invitation to David Pocock town hall talk on "Density Well Done", on 3 September forwarded to Committee. Suzanne Pitson indicated she would try to be there.
10 Aug- Lance Williamson- lots of WordPress stats on website. Let me know if you want to see them.
17 Aug- Margi Patel- expressing interest in Goodwin running the Digital Literacy course. Forwarded to Lia Zhao.
17 Aug- Lia Zhao- copy of her thank you letter to people who attended her first session. Next session Sunday 31 Aug. 18 Aug- Margi replied to say id she gets 20 expressions of interest in literacy course she will get back to Lia.
17 Aug- Lia Zhao to Margi Patel- noting a few Goodwin residents attended. Will consider a Goodwin specific session in the future. Ask to get an idea of possible numbers.
18 Aug- Office of Rebecca Vassarotti- invite to a town hall meeting. Sent to Robyn and then to core committee.
21 Aug- TCCS- Community Engagement- Stage 2 of the Garden City Cycleway to Antil Street Watson. To commence in 2027. To be progressed in stages. visit the City Services website.

OUTGOING
5 Aug- to DCA member list- invite to Lia's Digital Literacy Course at Downer Centre. Also to Margi Patel at Goodwin Village.
9 Aug- to DCA list, Expression of interest called for Centre Coord position.

Misc-
6 online (via website) applications to become DCA members. Processed.

CONTINUOUS RECORD OF ACTION ITEMS

Completed action items

Completed action	Meeting
Robyn: Petition on safety of the precinct road nearest Gang Gang and the park**.** Robyn to find out who creates/loads the e-petition.	Feb 2026
Robyn- sent Aniko Carey the information sheet about the DCA to give to new Downer residents.	July 2026
Miles- 2026 Heritage Grants - new interpretive signs. No further action required.	Aug 2025
Amy- draft duty statement for Centre-Coordinator position.	July 2026
Amy- follow up with Majura Women's Group re decoration of renovated library	July 2026
Jacqui- Follow up with Lia Zhao on her offer to do a free digital literacy course.	May 2026
Amit- finalise the Downer Centre lease agreement. **Jacqui**- Grant program for worthwhile/ community enhancing activities loaded onto the DCA website. **Jacqui-** Submitted to NCCC request for reimbursement of $288 for a large weather-proof placard advertising the Floriade Planting community activity to be considered for their 2026/7 grant program. Also requested $600 additional funds for new Clean-up Downer placards.	July 2026 10 July 10 July
Jacqui and Leon- advertise for new Centre-Coordinator position via website, emails and Facebook.	August 2026

Pending action items

Pending action	Meeting	Status
Amit & Amy; Arrange for Rosemary to become familiar with Centre management procedures	Sep 2026	
Robyn- send thanks to Jim Dehlsen for library renovation	July 2026	.
Amit- Purchase a mop, and a new refrigerator up to the value of $1,000.	Aug 2026	Amit is looking for a suitable fridge
Amit- Purchase batteries for lawnmower and vacuum cleaner	Sep 2026	
Jacqui- E-Petition- Contact John Godwin at The Bradfield to send email with link despite issues. Contact Margi Patel at Goodwin Village to circulate the petition.	Aug 2026	