Welcome to the LDA Molonglo Valley Mingle newsletter! Register to receive electronic newsletters and event invitations online at www.lda.act.gov.au/molonglo/mingle

Hi everyone,

Happy New Year and welcome to Mingle 2016! Our aim is to bring locals together to build vibrant communities and promote communication, insight, activities and opportunities.

We’ve got 2 and a half years left of the Mingle program in Wright and Coombs and we encourage all residents to get involved. We look forward to working together in 2016.

LDA Mingle team xx

Clean up Australia Day  
6 March
Make a difference in the Molonglo Valley! Gather your family, friends and neighbours and get involved on Clean Up Australia Day. It’s easy to register as an individual or group, simply visit cleanupaustraliaday.org.au.
We’re looking for local champions to volunteer on the day. If this sounds like you please contact Mingle Community Development Officer Karen Jesson at karen.jesson@commsatwork.org or on 0405 154 874.

Neighbour Day BBQ and Easter Egg Hunt  
24 March, 5.30pm
Come together to celebrate Neighbour Day! There will be a fundraising sausage sizzle from 5:30pm and the Easter Egg hunt will begin at 6pm.
We’d love this to be a community led activity and we’re looking for volunteers to hide the eggs. If you’re part of a local charity or sporting group and are interested in putting on the sausage sizzle as a fundraising opportunity please contact Mingle Community Development Officer Karen Jesson at karen.jesson@commsatwork.org or on 0405 154 874 by Friday 26 February.

Workshops
Mingle Community Development Officer, Karen Jesson is eager to hear from residents regarding their ideas for Community workshops in 2016. If you have any suggestions please contact Karen Jesson at karen.jesson@commsatwork.org or on 0405 154 874.

There are more activities being planned in 2016 so visit www.facebook.com/MolongloValleyMingle, or the Molonglo Valley website for more details.
RESIDENTS ADVISORY GROUP
Are you keen to get more involved in your community?

The Residents Advisory Group is made up of residents from Wright and Coombs and is open to all residents of the Molonglo Valley. The group meets monthly over a cuppa.

We’d love to have more residents involved, if you’d like to know more please contact Mingle Community Development Officer Karen Jesson at karen.jesson@commsatwork.org or on 0405 154 874.

STROMLO FOREST PARK MASTER PLAN

The updated Stromlo Forest Park master plan was released for community consultation earlier this year. Keep your eye on www.stromloforestpark.com.au for updates.

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

A fitness circuit has been built with stations placed around the perimeter of Wright. To help make exercise easier we’re putting together a guide for residents on how to use the equipment. More information about this will be available soon.

We would also like to remind everyone that the fitness equipment is not a playground for children. For safety reasons and to ensure the long life of the equipment we ask that all parents make sure their children are informed and aware of the purpose of this equipment.

UNDERPASS AND CHARLES WESTON SCHOOL OPENS

Charles Weston School is now open. The school, named in honour of afforestation officer Thomas Charles George Weston, has welcomed it’s first group of students. It features learning spaces for preschool to year 6 students, a resource centre, school administration, canteen, out of hours school care facilities and outdoor learning and play areas. The school will also have specific facilities for music and environmental science.

The John Gorton Drive underpass connecting residents of Wright and Coombs by footpath was open in time for the beginning of the 2016 school year.

LANDSCAPING REBATE EXTENSION

The LDA would like to offer Buyers that have not applied for the Landscape Rebate and have a Certificate of Occupancy dated between 9 November 2015 and 25 January 2016, a two month extension to meet the Rebate requirements. This will be granted to the Buyer without the need for a formal application to the LDA.

The LDA encourages you to establish your front landscaping as early as possible. This not only contributes to the streetscape but also can reduce erosion on your block of land - An opportunity not to be missed!

Remember that you can also access the $220 plant scheme at Yarralumla Nursery. The ACT Government provides these plants to help you beautify your new home and your suburb. For more information please visit www.tams.act.gov.au/city-services/yarralumla_nursery/free_plant_issue_scheme

CALL FOR LOCAL MUSICIANS

We’re looking for local musicians interested in playing at local events and activities. If this sounds like you please contact Mingle Community Development Officer Karen Jesson at karen.jesson@commsatwork.org or on 0405 154 874.
DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- Molonglo Valley’s first Service Station site sold at Auction on 25 November 2015. Caltex has been confirmed as the service station operator and includes an Express Car Wash.

- More parks and open spaces have opened for you to enjoy in Coombs. See the map below to locate the newly opened Jogalong Track, Local Park, Uriarra Track and Town Park.

- Due to the hot weather there have been some planting delays, these will be finished over the coming months as the weather starts to cool down.

The Coombs shop site has recently received a stop work notice. The Environment and Planning Directorate are managing this process and as soon as we know more we will provide an update.

- A Development Application has been lodged for Section 17 Coombs. Plans include a Childcare, Medical Centre, Gym and Community Hall.

VERGE MAINTENANCE

Most of us would call it the ‘nature strip’ – the area in the front of your house located between the footpath and the road. Each household is responsible for the maintenance of their own verge, as an extension of your garden. A quick mow (while doing the rest of your lawn) will ensure your suburb is at its best all year round! If you want to take it one step further and enhance your verge with plants or landscaping, find out how to apply for TAMS approval at www.tams.act.gov.au/city-services/public_land_use#naturestrips
STREET NAMES – JOHN GORTON DRIVE

John Gorton Drive runs through the heart of the Molonglo Valley and acknowledges the contributions of Australia’s 19th Prime Minister between 10 January 1968 and 10 March 1971.

Before his term as Prime Minister John Gorton was a fighter-pilot with a distinguished war record; his craggy looks were partly the result of a crash when his aircraft was shot down in 1942, he survived three flying accidents during the Second World War.

John is the only Prime Minister to be sworn in while still a senator. He established the National Film and Television Training School and Australia Council for the Arts and as Minister for Education and Science, laid groundwork for government assistance to independent schools.

John was appointed a Member of Her Majesty’s Privy Council and in 1971 a Companion of Honour. He was knighted in 1977, and appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1988. John died in Sydney on 19 May 2002.

WELCOME PACK FEEDBACK

We’d love to know your thoughts on the Resident Welcome Pack, if you found the information useful and if you have any suggestions on what else could be included. Please send any feedback and suggestions to Mingle Community Development Officer Karen Jesson at karen.jesson@commsatwork.org or on 0405 154 874.

If you haven’t received your free Residents Welcome Pack (available to all Wright and Coombs residents) please contact Karen to arrange a time to collect.

STAY INFORMED

Like our Facebook page www.facebook.com/MolongloValleyMingle to keep informed about Mingle activities, events, and other updates.


In addition, a new Facebook page has been developed by members of the Molonglo Valley Residents Advisory Group. This site has been developed for residents by residents, to find out more visit www.facebook.com/MolongloValleyResidents.

LOCAL PROFILE – MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Hi my name is Tessa Dorman. I am a classroom teacher in Canberra. I enjoy anything to do with fitness and exercise, especially if it’s outdoors. I love cooking and baking in my spare time and definitely have a sweet tooth! I have joined the Residents Advisory Group to get to know people in the area and assist in organising events in the Molonglo Valley. I also hope to make strong connections with the Residents Advisory Group, Charles Weston Primary School Coombs and the community we live in.