

Town centres under discussion

By Darryl Johnston

President

THE future direction of the Tuggeranong and Erindale Town Centre will be considered at the next meeting of the Tuggeranong Community Council to be held on Tuesday, December 7.

The meeting will hear details of the Tuggeranong and Erindale town centre master plans from representatives of the ACT Planning and Land Authority. The TCC considers the master plans as blueprints for the future development and growth of both town centres. It also believes community input is an important part of developing the master plans for the town centres and we invite residents concerned about the future of Erindale and Tuggeranong to attend this important meeting.

Last weekend's Tuggeranong Festival was a major success. Most people may not be aware that it is the longest running community festival in the ACT. I attended the Leonid Short Film Awards at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre organised as part of the festival. I was impressed by the breadth of talent among our young independent film makers. Later, I joined the street party. TCC members participated in the festival celebrations manning an information booth during family day activities in the town centre park. We handed out information flyers and other give-aways and discussed issues of concern with festival goers. There is

no doubt this year's event was much larger than previous festivals with the number of stalls and the crowd exceeding my expectations. I congratulate Michael Lindfield and his team for the amount of work that had gone into planning such a successful event and I look forward to the TCC participating in next year's festival.

I recently joined the Canberra Lung Life Support Group during the Annual World COPD Day walk around Lake Burley Griffin. The Canberra Lung Life Support Group offers advice, assistance and support to the many people in Canberra who suffer from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and other degenerative lung conditions. As I walked along the lake shores it was hard imagine what it would be like not being able to breathe properly and to rely on an oxygen bottle for the rest of your life. The fact is that many Canberrans are forced to live this way. Even the change of seasons has a serious impact on their health. Winter woodsmoke or spring pollen can choke their lungs and lead to hospitalisation. The Lung Life Support Group says "When you can't breathe, nothing else matters."

Before I close I wish TCC members and the community a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. The TCC's final meeting for 2010 will be held on Tuesday December 7, at 7.30pm upstairs of the Southern Cross Club Tuggeranong. New members are always welcome.