

Plenty to discuss in 2011

By Darryl Johnston

President

THE Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) will kick off 2011 with its first meeting for the new year considering plans for a new Aldi Supermarket on vacant land behind the Chisholm shopping centre.

Information regarding the Aldi proposal, including a site map, can be found on the TCC website at www.tuggcc.com. It also includes links to the ACT Government's Land Development Agency (LDA).

The LDA is seeking public comment on the proposals. The TCC encourages Tuggeranong residents, especially those living in Chisholm, Gilmore, Fadden, Macarthur and surrounding suburbs, to familiarise themselves with these plans and to provide feedback to the LDA.

The TCC will be focusing on a number of major issues over the next year. Many will fall into the planning and development category. These include the Tuggeranong/Erindale Master Plan, the Eastern Broad Acre Study, Tralee, the Southern Cemetery, Hume Data Centre, the development of land opposite Bunnings at Tuggeranong and other planning and development matters as they arise.

These are issues that impact on all Tuggeranong residents one way or another and it is important that as a community we all participate in the planning/consultation processes. Apathy on our part could lead to decisions we may regret in the future. Meanwhile, the TCC will endeavour to keep

the community informed on each of these issues.

In 2011, I hope to turn the TCC's attention to other matters that face our community, among those, public transport. I, and others in Canberra, believe we must start planning and building a future mass public transport system that is fast, reliable, safe, clean and affordable, a system that links our bus network with rail and that serves most corners of our city. We need only look to cities like Perth, Adelaide, Singapore, Seattle and Dublin as examples of communities that have planned for the future and have integrated bus and rail transport networks that are heavily utilised by the public. Hobart and Queensland's Gold Coast are considering introducing similar systems.

As Canberra grows, I am concerned that if we rely on buses alone for public transport our city will come to a grinding halt as they compete with trucks, cars and bicycles for space on our roads. I believe that as the national capital, we should be leading the way in building an integrated mass public transport system that is attractive to commuters and that includes rail. This is all food for thought in 2011.

The next meeting of the Tuggeranong Community Council will be held on Tuesday, February 1 commencing at 7.30pm in the upstairs meeting room of the Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club. Representatives of the Land Development Agency will be our guest speakers for the evening.