



TUGGERANONG
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VALLEY VOICE

Tuggeranong Community Council Newsletter

Issue 12: February 2012

Tralee, last place for houses - Minister



L to R: Dug Holmes, Darryl Johnston, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Hon. Anthony Albanese, Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann MP and Colin Petrie.

"Tralee is the last place I would consider a residential development," the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, stated at a recent meeting with a delegation from the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC).

"I am on the record stating my opposition to building homes at Tralee and I am happy to go on the record again," Mr. Albanese told the delegation.

Mr. Albanese met the delegation in his Parliament House offices. It was led by TCC President, Darryl Johnston and included TCC Planning Committee Chairman, Dug Holmes and Planning Committee member, Colin Petrie.

The meeting was organised by the Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann, who also attended along with Mr. Albanese's senior staff and officers from his Department.

Mr. Johnston said the TCC believed a residential development at Tralee would eventually lead to flight paths for Canberra Airport being relocated over Tuggeranong and other areas of Canberra and Queanbeyan that do not already experience aircraft noise.

"Tralee is the last place I would consider for residential development."

He highlighted departmental advice and government reports going back to 2002 that recommended against residential development at Tralee and warnings over aircraft noise.

Mr. Johnston said in 2002 Air Services Australia wrote to the Queanbeyan City Council warning that aircraft noise "is likely to become a major issue for future residents if Tralee goes ahead."

"In 2006 [The Independent Review Panel into Queanbeyan Land Release](#) said residential use of land affected by aircraft noise should be avoided and that Tralee should not be considered for residential development. The Federal Government's own [Aviation White Paper](#) released in December 2009 says there are a range of activities that are likely to be incompatible with long-term operations of an airport. These included long term residential development," he quoted.

Mr. Albanese said he recognised and agreed with all the issues and concerns raised.

"I know all about aircraft noise..."

"Tralee is the 'last place' I would consider for residential development," he said.

"I know all about aircraft noise, I live directly under the flight path to Sydney Airport. In respect to aircraft noise, I will be releasing a report soon and asking for community input about noise levels and their impact."

"I also recognise that Canberra Airport is the only airport between Brisbane and Melbourne that does not have a curfew," Mr. Albanese said.

"I have made my position clear to the NSW Planning Minister, Brad Hazzard, as recently as this month. But the final decision rests with him. I can only hope that he will make the right decision on Tralee," he said.

"I have also spoken to the ACT Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher, about this issue and we both agree that the best option for Tralee is that it be developed as an extension to the Hume Industrial Estate," he added.

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Lake cleanup campaign



The Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) is organising a clean up around Lake Tuggeranong as part of the annual Clean Up Australia Campaign.

TCC President, Darryl Johnston, said the current state of Lake Tuggeranong has been highlighted as a priority issue for the Council in 2012. Mr. Johnston said we now have an opportunity to do something about it and draw public attention to the state of the Lake.

"We will make a start on Sunday, 4 March during Clean Up Australia day," he said.

Mr. Johnston said he has registered the TCC Team and Lake Tuggeranong as a Clean Up site. People can register to be part of the Team and a Clean Up Australia volunteer by visiting; <http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/Tuggeranong+Lake>

"I also extend an invitation to other community organisations and groups in the Tuggeranong Valley to join us on the day. The plan is to meet at the Tuggeranong Community Centre in Cowlshaw Street Tuggeranong at 9.30am and split into two groups each making their way around the lake and meeting at the drop off point at the Tuggeranong Sea Scout hall," he said.

"The Sea Scouts will be doing their own clean up in the Lake. There, we will join the Sea Scouts for a sausage sizzle as they raise funds to get a contingent to the next Scout Jamboree," Mr. Johnston said.

Volunteers are advised to wear sturdy enclosed footwear, strong protective gloves, a hat, sunglasses or other eye protection, sun screen and bring antiseptic hand wash and a full water bottle on the day. Rubbish bags will be supplied. For more information visit www.tuggcc.com

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Mr. Johnston agreed saying that the TCC believed industrial development at Tralee would help generate employment and was the best solution to the present impasse.

He said he also understood that Canberra Airport had offered to fund the infrastructure required to attract new industry to the area.

"It would also go hand-in-hand with the ACT Government's plans for an employment corridor from Symonston to Hume," he said.

"However," Mr. Johnston said, "it would require upgraded roads to handle any increase in traffic volume."

In a letter to the TCC, dated 25 November 2011, the Director General of NSW Planning and Infrastructure, Sam Haddad, said Mr. Hazzard has indicated he will make a decision on Tralee in early 2012.

Mr. Haddad said both he and the Minister have noted Tuggeranong Community Council's opposition to the Tralee proposal and concerns over aviation policy and the potential for land use conflict. He said he also noted the TCC had met with officers from the Department's Southern Region Planning Team.

"On the Minister's behalf I seek to assure you that all relevant issues of environmental concern will inform the Minister's decision," Mr. Haddad said.

Meanwhile the TCC has written to the NSW Premier, Barry O'Farrell, questioning how his Planning Minister can possibly allow South Tralee to proceed given his statements suggesting Canberra could become Sydney's second airport.

Mr. O'Farrell was quoted in the media as saying the best way of dealing with the increasing pressure on Sydney Airport is to build a second airport in Canberra and link the two cities by high speed rail.

The 'Second Sydney Airport' tag has been rejected by the ACT Government and the Canberra Airport itself, but both believe Canberra can play a role in easing the pressure on Sydney if both cities were serviced by high speed rail.

In its letter to the Premier the TCC says, "given your comments in the media on Canberra's future role in supporting Sydney Airport, the TCC now looks forward to an announcement soon from your Planning Minister rejecting proposals to build homes at South Tralee."



Apology to TCC

ALP Member for Brindabella, John Hargreaves, has apologised to the Tuggeranong Community Council following his comments in the Legislative Assembly on 15 February in which he described the Council as a geriatric mob and a self help group.

In a statement to the Assembly, Mr. Hargreaves said, "Last Wednesday evening I was subjected to the usual barrage of catcalls from those opposite during a debate on Tuggeranong. Foolishly, Mr. Speaker, I rose to their bait and returned fire, and I apologise to the Assembly for doing so. In returning fire I made comments about the Tuggeranong Community Council which caused offence to the Council. I have spoken to Mr. Johnston, the President of the Council, and written to him. In that conversation and letter I extended my apology for that offence and I neglected to extend that apology to the wider Council and I'd like to publicly do so now."

In his letter Mr. Hargreaves congratulated Mr. Johnston, on his Presidency.

"I am now aware that the Council has indeed broadened its focus and attention onto a greater range of community issues than was the case in the past. I look forward to seeing the continuation of the reforms you have initiated well into the future," Mr Hargreaves said.

"The information you gave me has shown that the Council is a very different organisation to that of the past and for this, you and your Committee should take pride. My perspective of the Council has changed since my conversation with you," Mr Hargreaves added.

Mr Johnston said the letter and Mr Hargreaves's apology will be tabled in full at the next TCC meeting on Tuesday, 6 March where they will be considered by all members.

He said he had also received a telephone call from the Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher, in which she apologised to him and the TCC. It was followed by a letter in which she said the ACT Government did not share the views expressed earlier in the Assembly by Mr Hargreaves.

"I value both your personal commitment and the Council's active role in the Tuggeranong Valley and on matters of interest across the ACT. We have developed a strong relationship over the past few years and I know that you also work well with other MLAs as well as the local Federal Member," Ms Gallagher said.

What they said about the TCC

The following ACT Legislative Assembly Hansard extracts are from debate by MLAs over comments made by John Hargreaves about the TCC.

Katy Gallagher (Chief Minister): "The views expressed by Mr Hargreaves were views he made as an individual. They are not views supported by the government. I meet regularly with Darryl Johnston. I think I have got a meeting coming up with him in another 10 days time. We value the input and advice that he and his team at the Tuggeranong Community Council provide on a range of matters, whether it be about planning in Tuggeranong or something else. I think one of the recent discussions we had was around air quality in Tuggeranong. We will continue those very good relationships with the Tuggeranong Community Council."

Zed Seselja (Leader of the Opposition): "Just briefly, I would like to counter Mr Hargreaves's attack on the Tuggeranong Community Council. I think the Tuggeranong Community Council does an outstanding job..... The Canberra Liberals have great respect for the work that the Tuggeranong Community Council does and for the Tuggeranong community as a whole."

Brendan Smyth (Lib Brindabella): "The Community Council has changed over the last three years, and I would like to compliment Darryl Johnston on the way that he has handled the Community Council in the last three years. They have actually changed their Constitution. They have actually worked harder to get into the community."

Joy Burch (ALP Brindabella): "I take this opportunity, Madam Assistant Speaker, to reiterate my support for the Tuggeranong Community Council and, indeed, other community organisations that I meet with regularly. The government works closely and meets regularly with the Tuggeranong Community Council and with all community organisations. As the President of the Tuggeranong Community Council, Darryl Johnston, would attest, the Chief Minister and I meet regularly with him to discuss a range of issues important to the Tuggeranong community, and it has always been made abundantly clear to the Tuggeranong Community Council that my door is always open for them, and they often exercise this invitation. We do not necessarily have to agree with everything they say or they do not have to agree with everything we say. Most people do not expect that."

Amanda Bresnan (Greens Brindabella): "Indeed, the very fact that the Chief Minister does meet regularly with

the Tuggeranong Community Council does show that those views are not shared. And I think it is worth pointing that out. I do agree with Mr Smyth. I will note that, particularly under Darryl Johnston as chair of the Tuggeranong Community Council, they have brought a very strong level of professionalism to what they do."

Brendan Smyth (Lib Brindabella) "It is a community group charged through their own charter with standing up for their community and representing their views. It is a community group that the government accept does that job well because they fund them to assist them to do that job. It is a community group made up of younger people, older people, retired people, working people, people representing environmental interests, people representing business interests, people representing various areas in the electorate—whether it be south-east Tuggeranong or whether it be Kambah people—people with an interest in the amenity of their city, people with an interest in furthering their part of the city, people who volunteer."

Amanda Bresnan (Greens Brindabella): "The TCC have always been very respectful of people's views at any of the meetings I have been to. They have also been very respectful to all the MLAs that have attended, and that is with Darryl Johnston as president. As I said—and I said this in the censure debate, too—he has instituted some excellent processes for the council. They have a very strong constitution and also respectful meeting procedures. That is an excellent thing that has been instituted. All members of the Tuggeranong Community Council should be congratulated on this, because they are changes that all members have been a part of and have instituted."

Joy Burch (ALP Brindabella): "I will continue to attend the Tuggeranong Community Council to support the good people of Tuggeranong. I am also very pleased to support Darryl Johnston in any activity that he puts forward to us."

John Hargreaves (ALP Brindabella) "I have spoken to Mr. Johnston, the President of the Council, and written to him. In that conversation and letter I extended my apology for that offence and I neglected to extend that apology to the wider Council and I'd like to publicly do so now."

Source: ACT Legislative Assembly Hansard.

Farewell to Tuggeranong's top cop



TCC President, Darryl Johnston, presents Sgt Rod Anderson with a parting gift on behalf of the Council.

The Tuggeranong Community Council has paid tribute to Officer in Charge (OIC) of Tuggeranong Police Station, Sergeant Rod Anderson.

After 2 and-a-half years in the position, Sergeant Anderson has been promoted to the position of Officer-in-Charge, Traffic Operations, Emergency Management and Planning.

His new responsibilities will include among others, the Collision Investigation and Reconstruction Team, the newly formed Road Safety Operations Team that incorporates the RAPID and Roadside Random Drug Testing Teams, Emergency Management, which involves liaison with other emergency services, government and non-government agencies and planning for major events and official tours.

After reporting on local police activities in Tuggeranong for the final time on 7 February, TCC President, Darryl Johnston, presented Sergeant Anderson with a gift and paid tribute to his long support for the TCC.

"Sergeant Anderson has provided the TCC with detailed reports on police activities in the Valley and has made himself available to meet with me face to face on a number of occasions."

"He also provided advice to TCC members during discussion and introduced demonstrations of police equipment and

tools. Sergeant Anderson has been of great service to the TCC and the Tuggeranong Community. We are sorry to see him go," Mr. Johnston said.

Sergeant Anderson said it had been a pleasure to serve the Tuggeranong community and the TCC.

"The most memorable part of being OIC at Tuggeranong was the opportunity to see the dedication and professionalism of our members when performing their duties. I was continually proud of their achievements and humbled by the level of commitment and motivation they showed towards protecting the community," he said.

"Likewise, the interactions I had with the community, in forums like the TCC, added to the satisfaction I felt for the role. I appreciated the opportunity to speak to the members each month and I learnt a number of lessons from those meetings. They are an important part of our community's representation, which is why the attendance of a number of MLAs at each meeting is impressive."

"The TCC is held in high regard and this is reflected in the MLAs and ACT Policing's representation at meetings and in general," Sergeant Anderson said.

Before departing Sergeant Anderson introduced the new Officer in Charge of Tuggeranong Police Station, Sergeant Daryl Neit.

Festival secures centenary funding



Town Centre Park Entrance

ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher today announced that the Tuggeranong Community Festival is among the latest initiatives to benefit from the ACT Government's Centenary Community Initiatives Fund.

With just one year to go until Canberra's 100th birthday the Festival joins nine other exciting activities that have now been supported through the Fund.

"The ACT Government is offering a total of \$1 million to community-driven projects that showcase both what is new and what is already special about our nation's capital," the Chief Minister said.

"The Tuggeranong Community Festival has been granted \$16,693 from the Centenary Community Initiatives Fund towards the Footsteps to Follow project, which will recognise the contribution of 100 Tuggeranong residents, community groups, associations and businesses," the Chief Minister added.

"Members of the community will have the opportunity to nominate worthy recipients who will be recognised with a commemorative plaque in Tuggeranong Town Park, while a time capsule will also be buried on site," she said.

"I am pleased we are able to offer even more organisations the opportunity and support to mark this important milestone in our history, and I urge any other interested individuals, community, arts, sporting or cultural groups and clubs to consider applying for support to stage their Centenary activities," the Chief Minister concluded.

To date, the Centenary's community fund has received a total of 39 applications for a wide range of projects. The fund remains open until 30 June 2012 or until all available monies have been committed.

Source: Media Release

Roadside drug testing boosted

Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Simon Corbell, has announced the number of officers trained to conduct roadside drug testing would be increased to enable a multipronged approach to roadside operations.

Mr. Corbell said that the new team would provide the community with multi-skilled police officers specifically trained to target and remove high risk takers from our roads.

"The new team combines the RAPID (Recognition and Analysis of Plates Identified) and the six-month-old Random Roadside Drug Testing (RRDT) team - increasing the number of officers able and trained to conduct random roadside drug testing from two to nine," he said.

Since ACT Policing began operating random roadside drug testing in May 2011, more than 300 drug tests have been conducted with ten returning positive roadside tests. Of the ten, two have been charged and convicted.

"The initial months focused on establishing robust governance, training and developing operational requirements, including the purchase of drug kits and other equipment," Mr. Corbell said.

"The Road Safety Operations team is now in place to expand our road safety efforts. The public can expect to see the team out and about, setting up roadside operations targeting drink driving, drug driving and unregistered/unlicensed drivers - a multipronged approach to improving road safety," he said.

"In 2011 we recorded the lowest road toll - single digits - in more than 50 years. To date, we haven't recorded a road death in the ACT in almost 12 months. That's a significant achievement," he said.

"Random roadside drug testing is a key strategy in the ACT Government's road safety approach and like drink driving is about removing impaired drivers from our roads - drivers that pose the highest risk," Mr. Corbell concluded.

Source: Media Release

Note: The Tuggeranong Community Council successfully campaigned for the introduction of Random Roadside Drug Testing in 2009 and 2010.

Lanyon feedback

ACT Minister for Arts and Member for Brindabella, Joy Burch, is seeking public input into greater use of the Lanyon Heritage Precinct for new community based activities.

Ms Burch said the historic homestead and stunning grounds were an important part of Canberra's history, and the ACT Government was keen to hear the community's views on how it could be better utilised.

"Lanyon is a popular place with locals and visitors to Canberra who are looking to immerse themselves into our region's heritage, and I encourage anyone with ideas about what other activities the Precinct could host to have their say in this consultation process," Ms Burch said.

"The Lanyon Christmas Carols, Australia Day Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt are popular annual events. The grounds and gardens are also well used for family and social events such as picnics and celebrations including marriages, birthday and anniversary gatherings," she said.

Ms Burch said the Lanyon precinct also included significant Aboriginal sites and European heritage dating back to the 1840s.

"Following the ACT Heritage Council's endorsement of a Conservation Management Plan for the site in 2011, I am keen to move ahead to explore options for further community use of this precious heritage precinct and the opportunities it has on offer," Ms Burch said.

A public workshop will be held between 2-4pm Saturday 10 March at Lanyon to discuss ideas and opportunities for future community activities amongst the grounds and available venues.

Information about the consultation will be provided at the next Tuggeranong Community Council meeting from 7:30pm, Tuesday 6 March 2012 upstairs at the Southern Cross Club, Tuggeranong.

For more information visit www.museumsandgalleries.act.gov.au/lanyonconsult or phone Duncan Marshall on 6287 1027.

Written submissions can be made until Friday 23 March 2012.

Source: Media Release

TCC Top Issues Survey

The Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) has launched an online survey to identify issues that concern Valley residents.

The survey results will help form the Council's agenda for 2012 and provide a focus on those issues the TCC will highlight during the ACT Election Campaign.

All ACT Community Councils are in the process of drawing up lists of issues of concern in their respective communities. [The TCC's 2012 Top Issues Survey](#) is part of that Combined Community Council process.

The issues listed in the survey are those nominated by TCC members at a recent meeting. Residents are asked to rank each issue in order of importance and to nominate any other issues they consider important to them.

A wide range of issues have been highlighted in the survey including a shortage of disabled parking, infrequent bus services, vandalism, graffiti, law and order, protection of our heritage, pollution, housing and medical services. The Survey is available by [clicking here](#) or visiting: www.tuggcc.com

99 and counting

Monday, 12 March is Canberra's 99th birthday and the milestone heralds just one year until the Centenary of Canberra.

As the countdown to the big 100 continues, planning is underway for a year of memorable celebrations to mark the anniversary.

Creative Director, Robyn Archer AO is leading the team preparing a year-long program that will include some new and exciting programs, as well as showcase the very best of what goes on in Canberra every year – there will be something for everyone.

Canberra's place as a lively and innovative 21st century city will be showcased during 2013. The Centenary of Canberra team invites you to re-visit and re-imagine your national capital and 2013 will be the perfect opportunity.

A glimpse of the 2013 program will be launched on 12 March 2012, visit www.canberra100.com.au for more information.

Greens launch Budget wish-list for Tuggeranong



Greens Member for Brindabella,
Amanda Bresnan

The ACT Greens have made bids to the Government's 2012-13 Budget, calling for significant new investment into transport improvements for Tuggeranong.

The initiatives would mean more frequent and faster buses, a better walking and cycling environment, and an easing of driving and parking congestion.

ACT Greens Transport spokesperson and Member for Brindabella, Amanda Bresnan, said it was unacceptable that Tuggeranong had missed out on transport improvements.

"Tuggeranong is currently home to almost 90,000 residents, which is over a quarter of the ACT population," Ms Bresnan said.

"Yet in the ACT Government's most recent expansion of the ACTION bus network – "Network 2012" – no new services had been included for Tuggeranong," said Ms Bresnan.

"When the public transport services and active transport infrastructure isn't there, people have few choices when it comes to transport," she said.

"The Government should be providing alternative transport options, as there are many people in Tuggeranong who would like to take public transport or walk and cycle more."

"A good public transport system is also about serving those people who don't have a car, such as older residents, people who are unable to drive and young people".

"Sustainable transport makes economic sense - it pays off by improving mobility and equity, and decreasing congestion and pollution.

"These are some of the longer term challenges we face in Canberra," Ms Bresnan added.

The ACT Greens' transport bids call for approximately \$10m of investment and include:

- Expanded ACTION bus services into Tuggeranong, with a focus on linking residents quickly to the Erindale Group Centre, where there is proposed to be a new bus station and new Blue Rapid services.

The new services should provide 15-30 minute frequency through suburbs such as Monash and Isabella Plains, Gowrie, Chisholm and Richardson, Fadden, MacArthur and Gilmore.

- "Park and Ride" space for the Erindale Centre, to allow commuters to park for free and catch a bus for the remainder of their journey.
- New peak hour express services from Tuggeranong to link residents to the City and Parliamentary Triangle – taking advantage of the most common commuting pattern in Canberra (travelling from Tuggeranong to work at Barton/Parkes).

The services would use the soon-to-be constructed "Park and Ride" at Calwell, allowing residents in the vicinity to park for free at the site and catch an express bus.

- Upgraded pedestrian and cycling access around the Erindale Centre to support walkers and cyclists.

The upgrades will also improve the amenity of the Centre and the efficacy of the public transport system.

- Construction of a dedicated pedestrian/cycle path along Erindale Drive linking Erindale to Tuggeranong Town Centre.

This will allow residents along this corridor to travel by foot and bike to the Group Centres.

Source: Media Release

Scooter survey



The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and a number of community organisations have combined in a national survey onto the use and safety of mobility scooters.

Commissioner with the ACCC, Sarah Court said the number of people injured in accidents associated with mobility scooters was increasing.

"That is why the ACCC is working with a range of stakeholders, including the NRMA, to look more closely at the issue," she said.

"The aim of the survey is to provide more information about how people are buying and using mobility scooters and what training they also receive. Motorised mobility scooters are increasingly being used by older people to help maintain their independence and provide physical, social and health benefits."

Ms Court said CHOICE, EnableNSW and Vision Australia are also supporting the national survey.

"The results will help us to better understand safety issues surrounding mobility scooters and their users and target any future work in this important area," she said.

NRMA Director, Coral Taylor said the coalition of organisations involved in the survey are all committed to gaining a comprehensive understanding of how people use mobility scooters in order to make them safer.

"Safe mobility for all road users is an important issue for our NRMA Members," Ms Taylor said.

"The NRMA has called for people to participate in the mobility scooter survey through its member magazine, Open Road, which generated great interest among older members."

The survey closes 5 April 2012. For further information visit: <http://www.mynrma.com.au/motoring/education/driving-alternatives.htm>

Source: PS News and Media Releases

East Greenway traffic debated



The residents of East Greenway community met recently to consider a report on the completion of a traffic survey of Mortimer Lewis Drive.

The meeting was held on 16 February at the Tuggeranong Library Community Room and chaired East Greenway Residents Group convenor, Beverley Flint.

It was attended by Roads ACT Director, Tony Gill and ACTION Bus representative, Steven Corbett.

The audience included representatives of Lake Tuggeranong Sea Scouts, the Tuggeranong Community Council and local MLAs Amanda Bresnan and Brendan Smyth. Apologies were received from Gai Brodtmann and Zed Seselja.

The traffic survey of Mortimer Lewis Drive was conducted in late 2011 and the results were presented to the meeting by Mr. Gill. He outlined plans for a footpath on the northern side of Mortimer Lewis Drive.

Mrs. Flint said residents have raised many complaints over the years about the lack of footpaths in their suburb, with residents of all ages having to walk on the road in all weather conditions, risking their safety and security.

Attendees advised Tony Gill of a number of road design faults and drainage problems including flooding in Bibb Place. They also highlighted a "blind curve" at a section of Mortimer Lewis Drive creating serious driveway exit safety problems. Speeding and "hooning" were also common in Mortimer Lewis Drive, according to some residents.

Mrs. Flint said residents also pointed to the need for a "No Through Road" sign for De Little Circuit, a "One Way" sign for John Young Crescent and "No Right Turn" sign for the southern end of Mortimer Lewis Drive onto the Tuggeranong Parkway. "A footpath for De Little Circuit and John Young Crescent was also raised and discussed," she said.

Other issues highlighted during the meeting included the urgent need for improved lighting for the lake foreshore areas and redesign of the lake foreshore pedestrian/cycle path.

Mr. Corbett addressed issues concerning bus services. Residents expressed dissatisfaction of the current timetable, which they said did not adequately serve East Greenway. They also highlighted the inconvenient locations of bus stops and the lack of footpaths leading to them.

Mrs. Flint said there is no bus service within the suburb of East Greenway so all residents must walk to the highway for public transport.

"Residents are encouraged to use more public transport by the ACT Government therefore a reliable and frequent bus service is needed to serve East Greenway residents."

Brindabella MLAs Brendan Smyth and Amanda Bresnan have offered to write to Australia Post to secure a public letter box in the suburb.

Lib bid to protect police

Leader of the Opposition, Zed Seselja will introduce legislation designed to protect police from assault in the line of duty.

Mr Seselja released an exposure draft of his Crimes (Offences Against Police) Amendment Bill last year that outlined the proposed changes.

"I talked about the importance of backing up our police officers, who are asked to take risks on our behalf to protect the community," he said.

"However, we see headline after headline of assaults on police, and repeated reluctance on behalf of ACT Labor to respond," he added.

"This year, I will bring the legislation to the Assembly that will make that protection a reality."

"It's a reasonable change, it is a needed change and I call on my colleagues to protect our police in the same way they protect our community," he concluded.

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Pedestrians, the forgotten road users



Canberra's drivers generally give way to other vehicles when they are supposed to, and to pedestrians at marked pedestrian crossings. But they generally ignore the rules that require them to give way to pedestrians at other locations.

It's time for our Attorney-General, Simon Corbell to require the ACT Police to book all drivers who fail to give way to pedestrians.

My father once told me a story about a boy who walked past a house. Not long after, the boy walked past it again. When he walked past for the third time, a woman asked him what he was doing. "I'm running away from home," the boy said, "but I'm not allowed to cross the road."

The fact is, you can't walk very far in Canberra without using a road. As a road user you are subject to the road rules. But as a pedestrian you're unlikely to be treated as a genuine road user.

Take for example the road rules that require drivers to give way to pedestrians. 98% of people who do the Road Ready test answer correctly that a turning driver must give way to pedestrians if there is danger of collision. But most drivers forget this rule once they get their licenses. A Canberra Pedestrian Forum survey found that only 40% of drivers remember it.

If you step in front of a car that is turning right, the driver will probably toot at you

because they are already half-way through the intersection. They didn't allow for the possibility of giving way to a pedestrian, and now if they stop for you they risk having other cars collide with them.

"Most pedestrians have been bullied into giving way to drivers who should actually give way to them."

If you step in front of car that is turning left, the driver is probably watching to their right for approaching vehicles, and won't even see you. One explanation for the poor observance of the rules that require drivers to give way to pedestrians is that, like many of Australia's 350-plus road rules, they are rarely enforced.

As a result, most pedestrians have been bullied into giving way to drivers who should actually give way to them.

Some would-be pedestrians simply avoid the issue by driving instead. It may be less convenient and it causes more congestion and pollution, but other drivers will give way to them if they are in a car.

For those who don't drive, the added danger of crossing the road means reduced access to schools, shops and services.

Recently acting Attorney-General Joy Burch confirmed that drivers must give way to pedestrians in general – not only

when turning at intersections. This means that any driver who fails to give way to a pedestrian is guilty of an offence.

In 2010 there were 47 pedestrian collisions in the ACT, and an unknown number of cases where pedestrians managed to avoid drivers who failed to give way to them. Ten of these people were admitted to hospital, and another 31 received medical treatment.

Based on Ms Burch's advice, you might expect that the ACT Police issued more than 47 traffic infringement notices for failing to give way to pedestrians. They actually issued only 33.

Drivers who fail to give way to pedestrians are highly unlikely to be booked, provided the pedestrians either jump out of the way or are not injured seriously enough to need medical treatment.

Part of the explanation for the failure of the ACT Police to enforce these rules can be found in their Purchase Agreement with the ACT Government. The only road rules specifically identified in this agreement relate to speeding, wearing seat belts, drink-driving and using mobile phones.

The agreement includes a target for road deaths. But turning drivers aren't usually going fast enough to kill pedestrians. Enforcing the pedestrian rules will have little impact on the target for road deaths.

The agreement also includes a target for road injuries. But while pedestrians remain intimidated into giving way to drivers, they are unlikely to be injured. Enforcing the pedestrian rules might encourage more people to walk.

More people walking might mean more pedestrians being injured - especially if they start expecting drivers to obey the road rules. On this score, too, the Police have little incentive to make drivers give way to pedestrians.

If you want drivers to give way to you when you cross the road, your direct options is to report them to the police when they fail to give way. Your other option is to ask Attorney-General, Simon Corbell to include pedestrian-friendly performance criteria in the ACT Policing Purchase Agreement.

Leon Arundell,
Convenor, [Canberra Pedestrian Forum](#).

South campaign gets big house launch

Federal Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann has launched the "South Side Rocks" campaign.

This follows her speech in the House of Representatives where she lauded the benefits of living in Canberra's south.

It was in response to a similar speech by her northern Canberra colleague and Member for Fraser, Andrew Leigh.

"Something needs to be settled right here, right now," Ms Brodtmann told Federal Parliament.

"Today the south side is striking back against scurrilous claims made last week by the member for Fraser," Ms Brodtmann said.

"Never before have I been so overwhelmed by a pitch for living north of the lake. His admission that just 14 members of the Labor Caucus call the northside home really says it all," she said.

"The southside landslide proves that members love it in the south. MPs have voted with their feet, and their staff as well."

"However, there are tens of thousands of other people who choose to live in the Canberra electorate and, with that in mind, I am launching the 'South Side Rocks' campaign—an initiative to open your mind to the benefits of life in the south, via tales from the locals themselves," Ms Brodtmann said.

"Asking MPs why they live where they do can be pretty predictable stuff, but if you talk to the people of Canberra you will really get to know why the south side rocks."

So I urge all southsiders to write to me. Tell me why you choose to live in the southern suburbs and where you like to go.

"Southside residents: take a stand. We cannot let those in the north delude themselves into thinking they have got it better than we do."

"I urge all members living on the south to stay vigilant. Do not be sucked in by the member for Fraser's voodoo. Stay south and prosper," she concluded.

Source: Hansard

55plus kicks off in style



55Plus Club members enjoy the surrounds of their new premises.

The members of the Tuggeranong 55 Plus Club have moved into their new premises on the banks of Lake Tuggeranong and all accounts are that they are thrilled with the new building.

The building was officially opened on 18 November by Member for Brindabella and Minister for Ageing, Ms Joy Burch. The activities program commenced in

January with the first Social Sunday, on 29 January.

According to organisers it was a huge success attracting 65 members and visitors enjoying a tasty Australia Day themed afternoon tea provided by the hard-working Social Committee.

The new premises have also proved popular with other community groups which have already booked the large "Parkview Room" and the smaller "Waterview Room" for their activities.

55Plus Club Publicity Officer, Maggie Watts said with new activities and a growing membership, we foresee a bright future for this active seniors group.

If you are interested in joining 55+ Club, please contact 55plus.comms@work@gmail.com or call Communities @Work on 6293 6500, or visit Communities @Work at Cowlshaw Street, Greenway.



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Charity bin mess meeting

Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher has described as successful a meeting with charity organisations to address illegal dumping around charity bins. She said the meeting has produced a range of ideas on how to deal with the problem.

Ms Gallagher said while charity bins provide a convenient way for people to donate clothing, footwear and blankets to people in need, the increase in illegal dumping outside these bins has become a serious waste problem and an eyesore.

She said the problem has been made worse by people dumping large and bulky items like televisions, computers and broken and unusable furniture, which the charity outlets do not need or want.

The meeting, held on 25 January, involved representatives from the broader charity sector, particularly those who have permits to locate bins.

There are currently 239 charity bins located across the ACT; a condition of all permits is to keep sites clean.

"The meeting was a good opportunity for all involved in the placement and approval of charity bins to discuss options for dealing with this problem," the Chief Minister said.

Some of the ideas put forward included:

- Providing more information to the public about the items charities need,
- Identifying problem locations,
- Rationalising and regionalising charity bins,
- A bulky waste pick up service,
- Free day at the tip,
- Monitoring of bins - such as increased surveillance,
- Improved public awareness of illegal dumping,
- Naming and shaming,
- Dob in a dumper,
- Better ways of sharing the costs of managing charity donations.

"All these ideas will now be looked at in more detail with Territory and Municipal Services staff to work with each of the charities over the next month before reconvening another meeting in March," the Chief Minister said.

"I appreciated the opportunity to discuss these issues with the charity organisations, and look forward to working with them as we develop solutions to overcome the current problems," the Chief Minister said.

Source: Media Release

News in Brief

Hyperdome launches buy local campaign

The Tuggeranong Hyperdome is encouraging Valley residents to support local businesses with its 'buy local campaign'.

The Hyperdome has launched a 'Local Knowledge Pocket Guide' to shopping in Tuggeranong complete with information on local retailers, special offers, community news and events.

Copies of the Local Knowledge Guide are available from the Hyperdome Customer Service Desk. For more information visit: <http://www.hyperdome.com.au/event.aspx?ID=26134>

Mugga Lane expands

The ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) has received an application for a scoping document for an Environmental Impact Statement into further expansion of the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre.

This will be the fifth stage of landfill since the Resource Management Centre commenced operations.


The proposed expansion would involve both an area within the Centre and an area of adjacent rural land.

Cost of living statement

Shadow Treasurer and Member for Brindabella, Brendan Smyth, will introduce a Bill into the Assembly requiring the ACT Government to include a cost of living statement in the annual ACT Budget.

Mr Smyth said Canberrans need to be aware, not only of the decisions which are contained in the annual Budget, but of the implications of those decisions on individuals and families and their costs of living.

"It is important that governments are as open and accountable to their electorate as possible, and the provision of an analysis of the cost of living effects of the annual Budget will provide even greater transparency of each government's decisions on fiscal policy," Mr Smyth said.



cruise through summer

Governor Generals Cruise:
Exclusive tour includes guided walk through Government House gardens.
Thursday 9am-11.30am
(Commences 2nd February 2012)
Adults \$23 Members/Seniors \$18, Children (U12) \$13

Sunday Lunch & Thursday Night Dinner Cruise:
Indulge in a sumptuous three course meal, ever-changing views and a relaxing ambience. Sunday lunch 12 midday-2.30pm, Thursday dinner 7pm-10pm
Adults \$70, Members/Seniors \$60, Children (U12) \$25

1 hour Sight Seeing Cruise
Includes commentary, tea and coffee.
Adults \$15, Members/Seniors/Pensioners \$12
Children U12 \$9, Family (2 Adults & 2 Children U12) \$40

For all cruise schedules and bookings call 02 6273 1784
For details visit cscoc.com.au Bookings are essential.

Southern Cross Club Yacht Club
www.cscoc.com.au

Inaccurate images anger residents

Can residents affected by big development proposals rely on developers' photo montages?

The Sydney Morning Herald recently reported that was not the case for one residents' group in Sydney's inner west after inaccuracies were found in a series of digital photo montages which made a proposed development appear much smaller than it would if built.

The developer was sent back to the drawing board by the Department of Planning to redo the images that were publicly exhibited for the project after questions were raised over their accuracy.

[The No Lewisham Towers Residents' Action Group](#) claims the original images for the proposed development were so misleading that the corrected ones should go on public exhibition before the Planning Assessment Commission makes its determination next week.

The Sydney Morning Herald reports the developer wants to build 430 apartments in seven buildings of up to 10 storeys on a former industrial site.

The issue of artist's impressions of proposed buildings has been controversial before, with the City of Sydney and developer Lend Lease clashing over the accuracy of digital images of Barangaroo in late 2010.

"Photo montages are the clearest way for non-experts to understand what is being proposed," Tamara Winikoff, the chairwoman of the Lewisham residents' group, said.

"In representing the development at about half its real size, the developer may be trying to damp down an adverse response from the community to something that is completely out of scale and out of sympathy with what surrounds it."

The Sydney Morning Herald said the developer could not be reached for comment.

SMH 21 Feb 2012



- Mar** 4: [Clean-up Australia](#). Cleanup site: Lake Tuggeranong. 9.30am Tuggeranong Community Centre.
- 6: TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club.
- 11: Lions Club, Tuggeranong Homestead Markets.
- 28: 2012 LungNet Education Day 9.45am Southern Cross Club Woden. Ph 1800 645301.
- 31: [Earth Hour](#).
- Apr** 3: TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club.
- 8: Lions Club, Tuggeranong Homestead Markets.
- May** 1: TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club.
- 13: Lions Club, Tuggeranong Homestead Markets.
- Jun** 5: TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club.
- 10: Lions Club, Tuggeranong Homestead Markets.
- 30: Applications close for the [Community Centenary Initiatives Fund](#)
- Jul** 3: TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club.
- 8: Lions Club, Tuggeranong Homestead Markets.

Valley Voice



Tuggeranong Community Council's newsletter, *Valley Voice* is designed to inform Valley residents of issues that impact on them and to act as a vehicle for other community groups and organisations to communicate with residents.

Valley Voice is produced on a regular basis and is circulated amongst TCC members and friends. If you wish to receive copies of *Valley Voice* in the future please email info@tuggcc.com.

Meanwhile, if you have articles or images you wish to contribute to *Valley Voice* please email them to info@tuggcc.com by the 20th of each month.

Please feel free to pass *Valley Voice* on to those who you think may be interested in its contents.

Valley Voice is published by the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC). Material in this publication comes from a variety of community and government based sources and therefore does not necessarily reflect the views of the TCC.

Material submitted to the TCC for inclusion in *Valley Voice* may be subject to editorial changes. Material that includes dates, times and contact details is correct at the time of publishing. Therefore, the TCC cannot be held responsible if it is not informed of any changes to that information prior to publication.

Tuggeranong Community Council.
E: info@tuggcc.com
W: www.tuggcc.com

Tuggeranong Community Council Inc. (TCC) is an incorporated, voluntary, not for profit, non political, community based association operating within the Tuggeranong district of the Australian Capital Territory.

TCC is formally recognised as the peak community representative body in Tuggeranong promoting the goals and aspirations of local residents and other community groups and organisations within the Tuggeranong Valley. TCC receives partial funding from the ACT Government.

Tuggeranong Community Council acknowledges its supporters.



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