



TUGGERANONG  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

# VALLEY VOICE

## Authorities warned about Lake in 1978



Lake closure notices have become a regular feature around Lake Tuggeranong.

Authorities were warned more than 30-years ago that algal growth would be a problem for Lake Tuggeranong according to a report released by the Southern ACT Catchment Group.

The report, "Draft Lake Tuggeranong Water Quality Assessment and Management Implications" by Ian Lawrence, Senior Research Fellow, CRC eWater, says water modeling in 1978 for the proposed Lake Tuggeranong indicated that there would be a risk of nuisance algal growth in the Lake, due to its small size compared to its catchment area.

It says the Lake could not be enlarged because of planned urban development so it was decided to incorporate a series of water pollution control ponds and a wetland to reduce the flow of nutrients.

The result is that even during dry periods the annual inflow to the lake is twice its volume.

### ***"The dominance of Blue Green Algae is a concern."***

Lake Tuggeranong is 3km long and covers an area of 70ha. It has a volume of 2.6GL, a maximum depth of 17m at Tuggeranong Dam and an average depth of 3.4m. It has a catchment area of 6483ha with the majority of it (63%) being urbanised.

The report also says that apart from the Lake's smallness compared to its catchment, its other problems include the in-

flow of fine soil rich in iron and sodium dominant salts. This is suspended in the water making it appear muddy and feeds the organisms that grow into Blue Green Algae. The suspended solids also block sunlight from reaching the lower depths reducing the natural movement warm and cold water within the lake during the seasons.

As an inland lake it also experiences low wind conditions over summer and autumn. Wind is normally the major force driving waves and mixing in surface waters of lakes.

The report states that "the dominance of Blue Green Algae is a concern, in view of its potential to produce a toxicant causing skin irritation with body contact, liver damage if swallowed and pneumonia if inhaled."

"While periodically present in low numbers over the period 1990 to 2002, significantly higher numbers occurred in the Lake over the period 2003 to 2011, necessitating the closure of the Lake to recreational uses on 10 occasions."

The report recommends a number of management options aimed at improving water quality in Lake Tuggeranong.

These include:

- Restoration and expansion of the lake and pond aquatic plantings.
- Attempt to mix the surface layers of lake water. This will give the green algae better access to sunlight enabling them to dominate over the blue-greens.
- Flocculation or the use of commercially available compounds to treat algal hot spots.

*Continued on pages 3 and 4*

Authorities warned about Lake in 1978	1
Census: South stagnates	2
Lake Tuggeranong shock report	3/4
Festival plans well underway	4
Message to govt...."keep park"	5
Grants up for grabs	5
Head to Head - The ACT Budget, What does it mean for Tuggeranong	6/7
Push for cleaner wood heaters	7
Fast train plans unveiled	8
55Plus Club report	8
C@W opens "care&share"	9
News in Brief	9
Off Beat	10
Don't Forget	10

# Census: south stagnates



*The 2011 Census reports Tuggeranong's population failed to grow in 2011.*

Tuggeranong is the only district in the ACT to record no population growth and a small decline in residents according to the latest Census and other data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS says the 2011 census data shows the population of the ACT increased from just over 324,000 in 2006 to 357,220 in 2011. All districts in the ACT recorded an increase in population except Tuggeranong where there was no growth at all and a small drop in the number of residents from 87,119 in 2006 to 86,900 in 2011, a fall of 219.

The lack of growth in Tuggeranong's population is also reflected in data from the Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11 released earlier. It says the three northern statistical sub divisions (SSD) experienced the largest population growth during this period. The outer northern SSD of Gungahlin-Hall grew by 4,200 people, North Canberra SSD by 1,600 and Belconnen SSD by 1,100. However, the population of the southern SSD of Tuggeranong decreased by 1,100 people.

The largest population decreases occurred in Gordon (down 180 people), Calwell (140) and Banks (120), and Kalleen in the north (180). It says the population density of the ACT at June 2011 was 160 people per square kilometre (sq km), the highest of all states and territories. Palmerston had the highest popula-

tion density at June 2011 with 3,200 people per sq km followed by Braddon (3,000) and Ngunnawal (2,400).

In the 12 months to June 2011, the largest increases in population density within Canberra occurred in Forde (540 people per sq km), Franklin (up 510) and City (350). On the other hand, a number of areas recorded a decrease in population density in this period. The largest occurred in Banks, down 52 people per sq km, Gordon (41) and Isabella Plains (40). The Census figures also show Tuggeranong residents are getting older with an increase in the median age from 33 to 35. It also records an overall increase in Tuggeranong residents aged 55 and over and decreases in younger age groups.

TCC President, Darryl Johnston, said he was concerned by the statistics. He said not only are we getting older but there are less of us when compared to other districts in Canberra.

"We must remember that governments use census data for future planning and the provision or withdrawal of services," he said.

"If we are not growing and, in fact, our population is declining governments are less inclined to spend money on new infrastructure and services in Tuggeranong, and more inclined to remove existing services arguing there are less residents, therefore less demand," he said.

Mr Johnston said a declining population also has an impact on local businesses and the local economy.

"Less people means less money to spend in Tuggeranong leading to business closures and fewer jobs," he added.

Visit [www.abs.gov.au/census](http://www.abs.gov.au/census)



## Burn right tonight

Smoke from domestic wood heaters is the largest source of air pollution in Canberra. Woodsmoke pollution is an environmental issue and is linked to a number of serious health conditions.

Using your wood heater correctly, will improve our air quality, save you money and keep your home warm this winter.

For hints on reducing smoke pollution and saving money visit [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au) or call Canberra Connect 13 22 81.

### Tips for better burning:

- Burn dry, well-seasoned, untreated wood.
- Use plenty of kindling to start a hot fire quickly.
- Open the air control fully when starting your fire.
- Use smaller logs to maintain a vigorous fire.
- Don't let your heater smoulder overnight.



# Lake Tuggeranong's shock report



*An already sick Lake Tuggeranong has become a garbage dump.*

Like other members of the Tuggeranong community, the Southern ACT Catchment Group (SACTCG) has become concerned about the recent outbreaks of blue-green algae in Lake Tuggeranong. The bad smells and unappealing water colour created by the algae make spending time at the Lake less enjoyable for Tuggeranong residents, affecting walkers, picnickers, cyclists and joggers.

The toxins produced by this type of algae also present a risk to public health which has led to regular closing of the lake, affecting fishermen and community groups such as the Sea Scouts. Wildlife is also affected by these problems.

Lake Tuggeranong overflows into the Murrumbidgee River, so poor water quality in the lake system may have an impact on wildlife in the river, which is also sometimes used in Canberra's drinking water supply.

With new planned developments in Tuggeranong likely to place further pressure on the Lake, SACTCG feels that it is time for us to protect our lake and create a safer and more pleasant environment at the centre of our community.

A recent report conducted for the catchment group by Senior Research Fellow, CRC eWater, Ian Lawrence has revealed some of the causes behind the recent algal blooms and what action can be taken to address them.

SACTCG will be developing a plan to put some of these actions into practice and is looking for support and participation from the Tuggeranong community.

Lake Tuggeranong was originally designed as a 'settling pond' to trap soil and debris and improve the quality of water flowing from the Tuggeranong suburbs into the Murrumbidgee River. However, the extent of development in its catchment (the area which supplies it with water) means that it is now struggling to carry out this function.

Lake Tuggeranong is small in comparison to the size of its catchment; even during drought years the volume of water flowing into the lake in a year is twice what it can hold.

Because much of this supply comes from urban storm water drains, the quality of the water flowing into the lake is often poor, as anything which gets into a storm water drain will end up in the lake. The main problems for water quality in Lake Tuggeranong are soil and sediment runoff, and organic matter such as leaves and garden waste. Litter and dog faeces also pose a threat to water quality, wildlife and human health and safety.

Tuggeranong has fine soils which are easily washed away during rains, and this means that storm water is often full of fine sediment which results in water which is very turbid (cloudy). This leads to low light levels in the Lake which make it difficult for many aquatic plants to grow, but favour the growth of blue-green algae.

Organic waste such as grass clippings and soft deciduous leaves are also carried through the storm water system into the Lake where they rot, using up oxygen in the water and releasing nutrients

which fuel the growth of algae. After rain, large amounts of water flowing into the Lake churn up the water and increase both turbidity (cloudiness) and nutrient levels. When a rain event is followed by a calm period, blue-green algae can take advantage of these ideal conditions and form the 'blooms' which sometimes lead to the closure of the lake.

In his report, Ian Lawrence provides a number of possible approaches to improving the quality of water in Lake Tuggeranong. These include addressing the problem in the lake itself, such as using mixers like those that are being trialed in Lake Burley Griffin, and actions in the catchment to try and improve the quality of the water flowing into the lake. Measures within the lake itself will need to be put in place by the ACT Government, but the Tuggeranong community can play a significant part in catchment-based approaches.

The three most important changes needed to improve the quality of water in our storm drains and prevent conditions in the lake which lead to blooms of blue-green algae are:

- A reduction in the amount of organic matter and nutrients in storm water flowing into the lake.
- A reduction of erosion in the catchment to prevent soil being washed into the storm water system.
- Regulation of storm water flowing into the lake so the flow is more constant and there are fewer surges after rain.

*Continued on page 4*

*From page 1*

- Identify and stabilise sediment source areas.
- Modifications to the gross pollutant traps.
- Modifications to existing water pollution control ponds and the construction of new ponds.
- Divert some of the storm water flow to the Lake to recharge the ground water system.

To find out more about Ian Lawrence's report or would like to know about how to get involved in this issue, please contact the Southern ACT Catchment Group on 62966400, or [water-watch@sactcg.org.au](mailto:water-watch@sactcg.org.au)

# Lake Tuggeranong report..cont.



Half emerged shopping trolleys are a regular feature of Lake Tuggeranong.

From page 3

There are many ways in which we can work towards making these changes. Some of them involve people taking action in their daily lives; simple actions such as keeping fallen leaves and grass clippings away from storm water drains, and stabilising the soil around your house by making sure there is a good covering of vegetation will have a big impact if everyone is involved.

SACTCG is also keen to see more major changes made in the Tuggeranong area, which will help to improve water quality in the lake.

The group would like to develop a plan to remodel parts of the storm water system to make it more similar to the natural environment that existed in the area before the suburbs were built. If done correctly, this could result in a big improvement in water quality in Lake Tuggeranong as well as providing other benefits for residents, wildlife and the local environment.

Works which might form part of this plan include:

- Construction of weirs on some of the channels flowing into the Lake. This will slow down the flow of the water, allowing sediment and nutrients more time to settle out of the water before it reaches the Lake.
- Construction of ponds or wetlands on some storm water channels. As well as slowing the flow of water and trapping soil and organic matter, wetlands can help to prevent erosion, provide habitat for wildlife, and are also an attractive place for people to visit.
- Planting of native trees and waterside plants around the lake, which will compete with blue-green algae for light and nutrients.
- Planting of native species in eroded or unstable areas around the catchment to stabilise the soil and help regulate water flow.
- Use of storm water for irrigation in the local area to reduce direct flows into the lake.
- Work around the lake's gross pollution traps to remove build up of organic material and reduce nutrient levels.

SACTCG recognises that developing this plan and putting it into practice will take time, money and resources, and it won't be possible without the support and involvement of the local community. If members of the public are interested in finding out more about Ian Lawrence's report or would like to know about how to get involved in this issue, please contact the Southern ACT Catchment Group on 62966400, or [water-watch@sactcg.org.au](mailto:water-watch@sactcg.org.au).

## Festival plans well underway



The evening rock concert is one of the highlights of the annual Tuggeranong Festival.

Expressions of interest are now open for on stage performances and stallholders for this year's Tuggeranong Festival.

Festival President, Michael Lindfield, said with the Festival being only four months away priority has been given to developing what we consider to be a very impressive program, with a number of interesting elements.

"This year there will be around 10 main stage spots available for community groups to perform," Mr. Lindfield said.

"We are now accepting expressions of interest. Each time spot will be for 25 minutes maximum. Shorter spots could be available," he said.

Mr. Lindfield has invited local businesses, community groups, sports and leisure clubs, special interest groups and individuals who would like to be involved in the Tuggeranong Festival to attend planning meetings.

They will be held at 6.30pm at the Tuggeranong Public Library on:

- Tuesday 31 July;
- Tuesday 28 August
- Tuesday 25 September, and
- Tuesday 30 October.

Possible stallholders are advised to contact the Tuggeranong Festival on 6286 4747 for further details.

Media Release





## Message to govt....“keep park”



Chisholm resident, Wayne King, and supporters have collected almost 2,000 signatures to save Chisholm park from developers.

There was standing room only at a recent community forum for residents campaigning against plans to sell a large parcel of land in Chisholm that they have adopted as their neighbourhood park.

The forum was held at the Chisholm community centre and organised by the ACT Government after an huge outcry over the plans. Residents spokesman, Wayne King, said the clear message from the forum was that residents wanted the land retained and further developed as a community or neighbourhood park.

The land in question is on the corner of Deamer and Heagney Crescents in Chisholm. It has been earmarked for development, but nothing has ever eventuated because current and past residents have always fought to keep it as a park.

Mr King said over the years it has been known and accepted as a park, the Chis-

holm or Top Park, and many families and children have used it as a park.

“It is a wide, open and secure park for children,” he said.

The Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) has supported the residents in retaining and redeveloping the land as a neighbourhood park.

TCC President, Darryl Johnston, attended the forum. He said this battle over the park at Chisholm is just one of many to come as we struggle to find land to provide affordable housing.

“While the Council recognises this need we will work with the community and the government to ensure that any future developments are in keeping with their local surroundings and that areas of community value are preserved.” he said.

“That is why at the recent community forum I stressed to residents not to walk away if they are unsuccessful in their fight to keep their park.”

“They must stay at the negotiating table to have any input in the plans and designs of any development on that site that will include a park,” he said.

Meanwhile, plans for a four storey assisted housing development near the Chisholm Shops have been placed on hold.

This project will be further discussed at the next Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, 3 July.

## Grants up for grabs



ACT Minister for Community Services and member for Brindabella, Joy Burch, is encouraging community groups to apply for \$400,000 in Community Support and Infrastructure Grants to help them continue to deliver key services to ACT residents.

Ms Burch said the 2012-13 Community Support and Infrastructure Grants round was now open, and urged community groups to apply for funding to pay for important projects and equipment for their organisations.

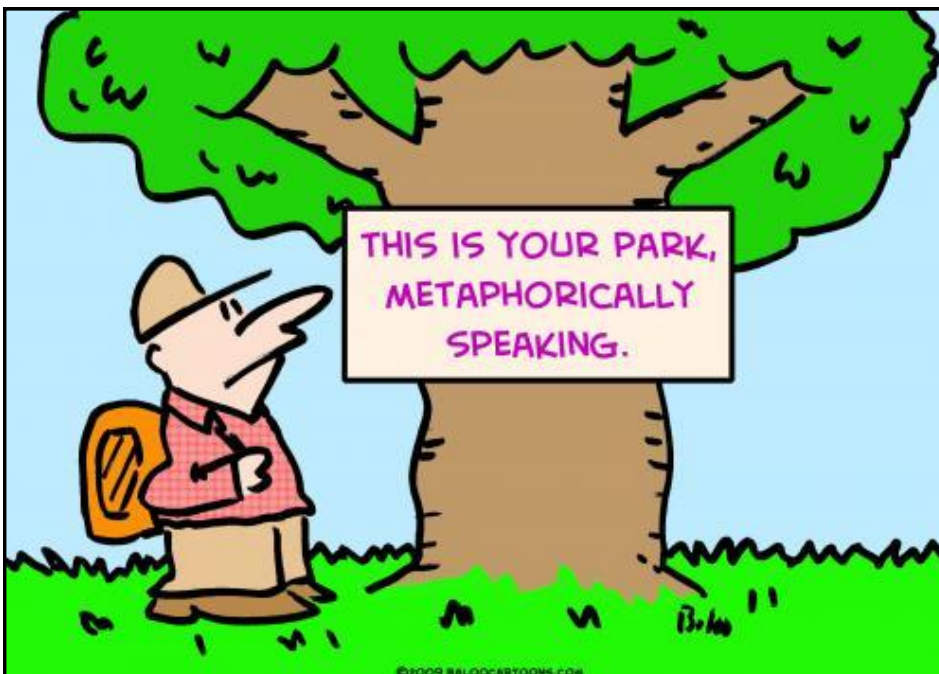
The Community Support and Infrastructure Grants program, administered by the Community Services Directorate, awards grants of between \$20,000 and \$25,000 to ensure that community groups remain viable, inclusive and have access to the technology, resources and support they need.

“The grants target three areas: community support and capacity projects, non-fixed infrastructure and equipment funding and capital works and fixed infrastructure funding to community owned facilities,” Ms Burch said.

“Through last year’s funding we were able to assist 28 community organisations to deliver key services to thousands of people across the city,” she said.

Links to application packages and further information can be found on the ACT Government’s Grants Portal at [www.grants.act.gov.au](http://www.grants.act.gov.au) or by phoning (02) 6205 3685. Eligible community groups have until Monday, 16 July 2012 to submit their applications.

Source: Media Release



# Head to Head - The ACT Budget, What does it mean for Tuggeranong?



By  
**ACT Treasurer Andrew Barr**

The 2012-13 ACT Budget has delivered record funding for frontline services for Tuggeranong residents and provides help for households living on low and middle incomes. The ACT Labor Government is supporting our economy and supporting jobs, which is vital given the Commonwealth is contracting its employment and spending.

The Budget provides record spending for health, education and infrastructure, and also boosts funding for municipal and community services. Among the projects funded in the Budget are:

- \$12.9 million for the upgrade of

- Taylor Primary School, \$5.7 million for stage 1 of the Ashley Drive upgrade,
- \$7.5 million for stage 2 of the Tuggeranong Health Centre,
- \$2 million for upgrades to the Tuggeranong Arts Centre,
- \$350,000 for design of an Erindale bus station,
- \$4 million for the restoration of sports grounds, including at Bonython, and
- \$600,000 for a multi-use indoor community facility and men's shed.
- The Government is also lightening the burden on low and middle income households. Through our five-year plan to reform the ACT's taxation system, we are making taxes fairer, simpler and more efficient:
- Insurance duties are being abolished. Every household with home insurance, contents insurance and motor vehicle insurance will see a reduction in the cost of their premiums, and insurance will be cheaper and more within the grasp of all households.
- Stamp duty is being abolished. This will make buying a home cheaper, with stamp duty rates having already fallen. A family buying a \$500,000 home now pays \$2,450 less in stamp duty than they would have paid last

- month, and over \$7,000 less in four years' time.
- We are also expanding the Home Buyer Concession Scheme. The income threshold rises to \$150,000 to make more people eligible.
- To help put downward pressure on rents, land tax will be reduced for landlords who rent out low and medium priced properties.
- Rates will become fairer. Charges will better reflect the value of land – those with greater capacity pay a little more, while those with less capacity pay considerably less. In total, 33,700 households occupied by low and middle income earners, or around 25% of all properties in Canberra, will receive a cut in their rates bill.
- We are giving vulnerable households a helping hand in the form of new targeted assistance measures and expanded concessions.

The Labor Government has laid out a detailed vision for reform that will ensure the continued growth of the ACT economy, and boosts the important frontline services our community deserves and expects.

If you would like more information, please visit [www.treasury.act.gov.au](http://www.treasury.act.gov.au), or contact my office, phone: 6205 0011 and email: [barr@act.gov.au](mailto:barr@act.gov.au)



By **ACT Shadow Treasurer  
Brendan Smyth**

This Budget represents the biggest rise to cost of living in Territory history. It's a major hit to Canberrans who are dealing with tripled water costs, doubled electric-

ity prices and doubled rates in many suburbs. Now, households will be forced to pay \$10,000 every year for the privilege of being governed by ACT Labor.

The Canberra Liberals successfully pushed for a cost of living statement in this year's Budget, and it isn't pretty reading.

Even using the Government's deliberately limited analysis, it shows households will be slugged an extra \$642 in government charges next year, bringing the average Canberrans' annual government bill to more than \$10,000.

ACT Labor is taxing Canberrans more than ever before, with record tax revenue of \$1.3 billion in 2012-13.

Yet this Government has handed down a deficit of \$318 million – one of the worst in the ACT's history. Canberrans have never paid more, and have never received less in return.

When ACT Labor's Budget 'tax reform' is examined closely, it reveals a number of hidden stings which will in fact disadvantage many Canberrans.

For example, the owner of an 'average' house with land could have their rates doubled or even tripled, and the Government's supposed commitment to cutting stamp duty will actually leave many first home buyers, who were previously eligible for concessions, worse off on the purchase of an average priced home.

Hypothetically, a family living in Tuggeranong would have to buy a brand new home in a north side greenfields development to receive any stamp duty concession.

Before the Budget, this same family would have been eligible for stamp duty concession on established homes.

*Continued on page 7*



# Push for cleaner wood heaters



The ACT Greens have proposed new laws to protect Canberrans from the harmful health and environmental impacts of wood smoke.

The Greens have released draft legislation that would introduce new emissions and efficiency standards for all new wood heaters installed in Canberra homes. Their discussion paper also proposes several options for the phasing out of older, polluting wood heaters. ACT Greens' health spokesperson and member for Brindabella, Amanda Bresnan, released the [exposure draft](#) and [discussion paper](#) and is requesting community comments on the proposal over the next two months.

"The ACT Greens proposals are about reducing pollution and its corresponding health and environmental problems, to ensure a clean and healthy future. The ACT's current approach to wood smoke pollution is inadequate, particularly from a health perspective. This is an area where the Government has failed to take necessary action," Ms Bresnan said.

"Wood smoke causes 70% of Canberra's harmful particle pollution, it increases pollution 3 times during the winter months, and causes Canberra's air to exceed the national advisory standards for particle matter pollution."

"Particulate matter pollution has serious impacts on human health. It particularly affects children, older people, and people with heart or breathing disorders."

Ms Bresnan said currently, the amount of emissions allowed from new wood heaters in the ACT is more than 4 times that allowed in leading jurisdictions and we do not have a minimum efficiency standard for wood heaters.

"It is time to update this out-of-date standard for the health of Canberrans," she said.

"Our discussion paper puts forward additional proposals about wood heaters for

community discussion, including expanding the wood heater buyback program, improving complaints and enforcement mechanisms, and conducting mobile air quality readings."

The ACT Greens' proposals have the support of health and community groups. For example, Nathalie Maconachie, Chief Executive, ACT Asthma Foundation said *"the Asthma Foundation strongly supports action to reduce particulate pollution from wood burning and to move towards stricter emissions standards to bring the ACT in line with leading jurisdictions. We call on all parties to take a cooperative approach to addressing this issue."*

"This legislation doesn't ban heaters, but it looks at ways to introduce better emission standards and phase out older polluting heaters so that residents in areas such as the Tuggeranong Valley have better protection," Ms Bresnan concluded.

Tuggeranong Community Council President, Darryl Johnston, said the TCC welcomes any new initiatives aimed at reducing air pollution in Tuggeranong. Mr Johnston said he has asked the Council's Environment Sub-committee to review the draft Bill and provide a response on behalf of the Council.

Source: Media Releases

## Head to Head - The ACT Budget, What does it mean for Tuggeranong?

From page 6

Further, the Budget started unravelling within the first 24 hours after its release.

First, Andrew Barr backed down on some of the new fees he imposed on large property transactions.

Then, Simon Corbell was forced to give concessions to small businesses and community organisations for the massive court fee increases introduced in this Budget.

It is quite clear that this Budget has been put together by the ACT Labor Government to achieve political aims in the October 2012 election.

It is full of 'smoke and mirrors' similar to the efforts of Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan in his 2012 Budget.

This Budget is very disappointing for all Canberrans and represents the cumulative effect of 11 years of economic mismanagement by ACT Labor.

Canberrans will pay greatly for this Government's incompetence with the biggest cost of living hit they have ever had to endure.

*it's about you. Always!*  
**Communities@Work**

**BONYTHON**  
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Phone **Communities@Work** on **6293 6500** to arrange for an inspection of the Hall or to discuss your booking needs.  
**www.commsatwork.org**

# Fast train plans unveiled



The future HSR station at Canberra Airport

Canberra Airport has unveiled plans for a \$140 million high speed rail (HSR) facility to be constructed adjacent to the new airport terminal.

“We have long been advocates of a high speed rail link between Canberra and Sydney, and that reality is getting closer with strong support from NSW Premier, Barry O’Farrell and the ongoing stalemate over where to build Sydney’s second airport,” Canberra Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron said.

“Canberra Airport is proud to present plans for a superb, multi-modal, transport facility to underline the high speed rail’s integration into Canberra Airport, in accordance with Premier O’Farrell’s vision,” he said.

“This terminal will provide a seamless interface for passengers arriving in Canberra by air ready for their 57 minute train trip to Sydney.”

“The facility will cost \$140 million (in 2012 dollars) and take two years to build,” Mr. Byron added.

He said Canberra Airport is committing to funding the HSR terminal project and will be in a position to consider a start date once the timetable for the HSR is confirmed.

Mr. Byron said Stage Two of the Commonwealth Government’s HSR study was due to be completed by the end of this year, including finalising recommendations for the route.

“We know that Sydney Airport and its surrounding transport infrastructure are already facing capacity

issues, and that the *Joint Study into Aviation Capacity for the Sydney Region* advised that passenger demand in the region (including Canberra and Newcastle) will increase from the 2010 level of 40 million to 58 million in 2020 and 88 million by 2035,” he said.

“We also know from Stage One of the HSR study that patronage demand for regional fast train services to and from Canberra will be 11 million in 2036, that the cost per trip between Canberra and Sydney will be around \$40 for non-business and \$95 for business.”

Mr. Byron said with the completion of this project, Canberra Airport would become a multi-modal hub for high speed rail, domestic and international airlines, regional and local buses and onsite car parking.

Source: Media Release

## 55Plus Club report

Following a meeting of the Combined Seniors Groups of the ACT with the ACT Office of Ageing, a draft Work Plan has been completed.

The Grand Party in the Park will go ahead on the 29<sup>th</sup> October from 11am-3pm. The event will be held at the Tuggeranong 55 Plus Club, with the purpose of promoting the Seniors Clubs of Canberra, lifting their profiles and hopefully attracting new members.

Our Club is also developing its own Action Plan to raise its profile in the local community.

A Web Site is being developed with the assistance of students from CIT and plans are in hand for an interactive PDF to be developed, enabling new and prospective members to renew or initiate their membership.

Meanwhile, talks are to be held with U3A to ascertain whether some courses could be held in our Clubrooms.

Maggie Watts, 55Plus Club

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# C@W opens “care&share”

Communities@Work has commenced a new *Care&Share* program which provides food and essential services to people in Tuggeranong experiencing hardship.

“The *Care&Share* program supports individuals and families in respect of nutrition, budgeting and household practices,” said Community Services Minister and Member for Brindabella, Joy Burch, when launching the program.

Ms Burch said this is the first service of its kind in the Tuggeranong Valley and she congratulated Communities@Work on its initiative to develop the program.

The program has established a ‘pantry’ of nutritious healthy food, hampers, and essential items such as toiletries.

Both perishable and non-perishable products are donated and purchased in bulk from various organisations to support the program.

Communities@Work CEO, Lyn Harwood said clients can ‘shop’ for their items either free of charge or for a nominal fee, in a safe, secure and dignified environment.

“Appointments are available for budgeting advice and the program will also provide cooking lessons, nutritional advice and access to social workers,” she said.

Donations of food products or financial support can be made by phoning Communities@Work on 6293 6500.

*Source: Media Release*



Managed by Communities@Work

Providing food & services to those experiencing hardship

Help us stock our shelves by donating food & toiletries

Call 6293 6500 or visit [commsatwork.org](http://commsatwork.org)

## News in Brief

### Canberra's costly housing

The 2011 Census data showing Canberra pay the highest rent and mortgages in the country is further evidence of a broken housing system, according to ACT Opposition Leader, Zed Seselja.

Mr Seselja said this represents an almost doubling of Canberra housing costs since 2006.

“The Census data shows that when it comes to both rents and mortgages, Canberra is the most expensive in the country, with the median weekly rent at \$380 and the median mortgage at \$2,167 per month,” Mr Seselja said.

### Tourism body snubs Canberra

ACT Shadow Tourism Minister and member for Brindabella, Brendan Smyth, has called on Tourism Australia to reconsider its decision to exclude Canberra from its latest international television advertisement.

“International tourism is an important part of the ACT economy, and it's only logical that our national role be acknowledged by our national tourism body. It is a wonderful place to live and a great place to visit, and should be stood up for and promoted by all political parties,” Mr Smyth said.

### TCC considers Chisholm housing complex

Plans for a 4 storey assisted housing complex at Chisholm will be discussed at the next meeting of the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC).

Representatives of the ACT Government will be in attendance to detail the plans and to hear residents' concerns.

It is proposed to build the housing complex on land behind the Chisholm Shopping Centre. However, residents have expressed concerns over its height and claim they have not been consulted.

The TCC meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3 July commencing at 7.30pm in the upstairs formal dining room of the Southern Cross Club at Greenway. Visit: [www.tuggcc.com](http://www.tuggcc.com)

# Off Beat

## F-bombers crash

If you are tired of overhearing people lobbing F-bombs and other curses across a public space then perhaps we should take a lesson from a town in Massachusetts USA where swearing in public is now an offence punishable by a \$20 on the spot fine.

The ordinance outlawing public swearing, approved by town residents recently, was the brainchild of Mimi DuPhily, a member of the town's beautification committee.

She pushed for the law after becoming upset over loud swearing by teenagers hanging around Middleborough, 50 miles south of Boston.

"We're not talking about just conversation but screaming it across the street," 63-year-old DuPhily, said.

"Dropping F-bombs and so on. It was the same group of kids. It was very irresponsible behaviour, and it was getting out of hand."

The ordinance does not specify which curses are banned, and police can decide whether to ticket offenders.

"It does not affect you if you are sitting at a cafe," said DuPhily. "It only affects you if you are verbally abusing someone across the street."

Legal analysts said the law could raise issues for the town under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Part of the Bill of Rights, the amendment prohibits the making of any law that abridges freedom of speech, among other things.

DuPhily said her support for the law, which passed 183-50 at the meeting, has made her an object of ridicule in the media.

"The talk radio is making hysterical fun of me. They're calling me the granny-nanny," she said. "People didn't know what to do. They felt uncomfortable walking down the street with their kids."

Source: West Australian



- Jun 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
- 31:** [Tuggeranong Festival](#) planning meeting, 6.30pm Tuggeranong Library
- Aug 7:** TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club
- 12:** Lions Club, Tuggeranong Homestead Markets
- 28:** [Tuggeranong Festival](#) planning meeting, 6.30pm Tuggeranong Library
- Sept 4:** TCC Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club
- 9:** Lions Club, Tuggeranong Homestead Markets
- 15:** [Floriade opens.](#)
- 25:** [Tuggeranong Festival](#) planning meeting, 6.30pm Tuggeranong Library
- Oct 2:** TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club
- 14:** 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](mailto:info@tuggcc.com).

Meanwhile, if you have articles or images you wish to contribute to *Valley Voice* please email them to [info@tuggcc.com](mailto: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.

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*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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