TUGGERANONG
COMMUNITY COUNCIL
VALLEY VOICE

Tuggeranong Community Council Newsletter Issue 20: October 2012

Election winners and losers

L to R: Mick Gentleman (ACT Labor), Zed Seselja and Andrew Wall (Canberra Liberals) and Amanda Bresnan (ACT Greens)

The big winners in the seat of Brindabella at the recent ACT election were Canberra Liberals Leader, Zed Seselja, Liberals newcomer Andrew Wall and Labor's Mick Gentleman.

Mr Seselja successfully moved from Molonglo to his home seat of Brindabella attracting a popular vote, which appears to have assisted the Liberals to gain a third member in Mr Wall. Mr Wall is a 28-year-old small businessman and a newcomer to politics having joined the Liberal Party four years ago.

Labor's Mick Gentleman has been re-elected to the Legislative Assembly filling the position vacated with the retirement of the long serving and colourful, John Hargreaves.

Mr Gentleman last served in the Assembly from 2004 to 2008 and credits himself with the successful introduction of the Gross Feed-in Tariff during that period. Meanwhile former Community Services Minister, Joy Burch was easily re-elected.

At the time of writing the loser at the polls appears to be Greens member, Amanda Bresnan. She is a victim of the overall swing away from the Greens that has also seen defeats for her party colleagues, Caroline Le Couteur and Meredith Hunter.

Ms Bresnan said she also lost votes through the personal popularity of Canberra Liberals Leader, Zed Seselja and the Canberra Liberals "Triple Rates" campaign, which also targeted the Greens.

Despite her loss she says she is looking forward to a break from politics, spending time with her husband and possibly working overseas for a while.

Tuggeranong Community Council President, Nick Tsoulias, congratulated all members elected to the seat of Brindabella.

"I congratulate Joy Burch and Brendan Smyth on being re-elected to Brindabella and I especially welcome new members in Zed Seselja, Andrew Wall and Mick Gentleman. I am looking forward to working with them in the future," he said.

However, he warned the Council will also hold them accountable to the many promises that were made to Brindabella voters during the election campaign.

Mr Tsoulias said he was sorry to see Ms Bresnan lose her seat

"She was a tireless worker for Brindabella. Amanda would be seen at most Council and community events mixing with constituents," he said.

"She regularly attended Council meetings where she provided updates and reports on the happenings in the Legislative Assembly," Mr Tsoulias added.

"I hope she will continue to have an interest in the Council," he concluded.

Darryl Johnston
TCC Secretary

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What they promised

The following is a list of many of the election promises made to Brindabella voters by the major political parties.

Australian Labor

- Private sector partnership to develop the stage one light rail network.
- Twenty additional buses and services across the top ten routes.
- More Rapid services.
- New bus shelters.
- Six fare free days to try out ACTION.
- Bulk billing GP Clinic in Chisholm.
- $15m to improve hospital outpatient services.
- An additional 500 nurses, doctors and allied health professionals.
- $600,000 to establish a water play area at the Lakeside Leisure Centre.
- A new emergency services centre at Calwell.
- $4m to employ additional firefighters.
- $250m Health Infrastructure Program.
- $6.8m for road safety operations team, additional police vehicles and alcohol ignition vehicle locking system.
- $11m in local shopping centre upgrades.
- $80m to meet elective surgery waiting lists.
- $26m to upgrade sporting ovals and facilities, including Kambah and Greenway ovals.
- $3m for new premises for the Tuggeranong Introductory English Centre.
- $19.2m for stage 2 of the duplication of Ashley Drive.

LIBERAL

- Provide more car parking spaces in Tuggeranong.
- Upgrade roads including duplication of Athllon Drive.
- Provide an urgent care clinic in Tuggeranong.
- Introduction of a green waste bin.
- Cutting car registration instalment penalties.
- Re-establish the Office of the Ageing.
- Introduction of a shuttle bus service to feed into the Rapid bus lines.
- Establish a land bank for aged care accommodation.
- Undertake a seniors transport study
- Overhaul planning in the ACT.
- Increased funding for non-government schools in Tuggeranong.
- Build a swimming pool in Lanyon.
- Increase penalties for assaults on care, protection and emergency service workers.

THE GREENS

- Support for High Speed Rail and Light Rail.
- Support for measures to make wood heaters cleaner and more efficient.

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Bresnan departs proud of achievements

Outgoing Greens member for Brindabella Amanda Bresnan says she is leaving with a proud record. (Photo citynews.com)

It is with sadness that I leave the ACT Legislative Assembly in not retaining my seat in the 2012 election.

It has been a huge honour to represent the electorate of Brindabella and be an elected representative of the community. It is an experience many years ago I never thought I would have had, and one in which I have learnt much. It has certainly made me a stronger person and taught me much about myself.

"I am very proud of what I and the Greens achieved over the last 4 years, which has made a difference to the community."

While I have lost my seat, I am very happy to have had a strong personal vote and have received many, many emails, phone calls and messages from people and community organisations – it does make me feel like my work over the last 4 years has helped people.

I am very proud of what I and the Greens achieved over the last 4 years, which has made a difference to the community. I had legislation pass the Assembly on fast food labelling – with the growing impact of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and other diet and lifestyle related diseases on the health system, food and diet is an area where tough decisions will have to be made.

I had legislation pass to establish an official visitor for people with a disability who live in group homes and to reform the way the official visitor scheme works, both which had been sought for years. I also had legislation pass to establish a fairer system of repaying fines for people who are vulnerable and disadvantaged, something the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) campaigned on. The ACT was the only state or territory not to have such a scheme and now it does.

An issue I worked on over the 4 years and which the TCC and other organisations have been concerned about, is wood smoke and the impact this has on people's health.

I released draft legislation and a discussion paper which focused on improving the emissions standard and efficiency of wood heaters, something the Australian Home Heating Association (AHHA) themselves have recognised as an area where action is required. In fact, I had discussions with the AHHA after my draft legislation was released. While we had different views about what level of standards to pursue, I believe the discussion was very productive and positive and we agreed to continue talking about legislation, which the AHHA actually viewed in general as a positive move. Improving efficiency of wood heaters also makes them cheaper and more effective to run.

"While I will no longer be your political representative, I will take a keen interest in the work of the TCC."

We need to remember in this whole debate that wood smoke has a real impact on people with respiratory and heart disease, and is something the Asthma Foundation has called for action on and asked voters in the election to consider the impact wood smoke has on people's health.

The campaign run by the AHHA during the election was very disappointing, not just because I had talked to them in good faith, but also because it completely misrepresented the Greens proposals. The Greens have never called for wood heaters to be banned and have sought at all times to discuss matters with the industry.

We have also been overwhelmed by the number of emails and phone calls from people who suffer negative health impacts from wood smoke, and had to listen to them and the groups that advocate on their behalf. It was very unfortunate that it was turned into a political issue and that sensible a discussion didn't occur.

I would like to thank everyone involved with the TCC for welcoming me to your meetings and working with you on various issues over the past 4 years. While I will no longer be your political representative, I will take a keen interest in the work of the TCC. I wish the TCC and its members all the very best.

Amanda Bresnan
Former ACT Greens Member for Brindabella

Lake gets some overdue TLC

Piles of rubbish collected from Lake Tuggeranong by TLC volunteers.

On Sunday 21 October, volunteer members of the Tuggeranong Lake *and Catchment* Carers (TLC) met at Lake Tuggeranong to begin a spring cleanup.

The TLC aims to look at ways to ensure a master plan is developed to manage the catchment with a view to reducing the problems that cause blue green algae outbreaks and lead to lake closures, reduce rubbish around the lake and raise community awareness.

Volunteers collected 40 to 50 bags of rubbish from around the lake. They commented that there was a significant reduction in the number of plastic bags collected with only 2 bags of plastic rubbish compared to the 6 bags that have been collected on previous occasions.

Special thanks to Lindell McConnell, who liaised with Cleanup Australia to get necessary supplies. She also organised and ran the BBQ,

Thanks also goes to Southern ACT Catchment Group's (SACTCG) Waterwatch coordinator, Martin Lind, for help throughout the day. Once again the community spirit came to the fore with volunteers saying they are looking forward to future events to help support Lake Tuggeranong.

The next activity planned by the TLC is to begin planting around the lake on 25 November. If you are interested and want to be involved please ring the SACTCG on 6296 6400.

Glenys Patulny
TLC Co ordinator (SACTCG)

From page 2.

- Increase mental health funding by $35m.
- $1.5m for housing for people experiencing mental illness.
- $1.9m over four years for dental hygienists.
- A feasibility study into a second hospice and a second birth centre for the ACT.
- Introduce a mobile primary health clinic.
- Expand breakfast clubs.
- Fair pension indexation for ACT public servants.
- $127,000 for 10 interpreter scholarships.
- $500,000 for a cultural understanding grants program.
- $100,000 for an ACT level Multicultural Advisory Council.
- $600,000 for a financial counselling service in the ACT.
- $4m for a Canberra Urban tree forest program.
- $386,000 for urban drinking water fountains.
- $10m to protect Canberra's nature reserves.
- A Library for Lanyon.
- $2.8m to build better, greener and engage with the community on planning matters.
- Incentives to increase local and regional food production.
- $28m to community sport and recreation facilities.
- $2.4m to develop a micro-credits program and measures to protect small business.

News in Brief

TCC Meeting 6 November

Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead (MOTH) will address the next meeting of the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC). They will outline the historical significance of the homestead and the work being undertaken on nearby Tuggeranong Creek. The TCC meeting will also be briefed on a traffic study being undertaken in the Tuggeranong Valley. The TCC will meet on Tuesday, 6 November 2012. The meeting will commence at 7.30pm in the upstairs formal dining room at the Southern Cross Club at Greenway. New members and guests are welcome.

55plus News

We are pleased to announce that a number of new activities have commenced at the Tuggeranong Seniors Centre.

A weekly CoreFit 55Plus class began on 19th October. This class aims to improve cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength and flexibility while having fun.

Beginning on 1 November, a weekly Coffee, Chat and Craft activity aims to give folk a chance to work on their chosen craft in pleasant surroundings, or just meet and chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

Also commencing in November, a talented instructor is available to help you participate in International Circle Dancing, another good way to keep fit.

Anyone who is interested in any of these activities can email the Club at 55plusclub@gmail.com, or call into the Tuggeranong Seniors Centre in Greenway for further details.

New members are always welcome.

Maggie Watts
55 Plus Club
Publicity Officer

Nov **6:** TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club

7: Calwell/Lanyon Probus Club Meeting.10am Lanyon Vikings Club. Contact 0403 072 813

16 to 18: Canberra Country Music Festival, Hall Grounds

17: St Francis of Assisi Primary School Calwell Fete

23 Nov to 2 Dec: Tuggeranong Festival

Dec **1:** Tuggeranong Festival Family Day. Tuggeranong Town Park

4: TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club

5: Calwell/Lanyon Probus Club Meeting.10am Lanyon Vikings Club. Contact 0403 072 813

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Valley Voice

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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.
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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.