



TUGGERANONG  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

# VALLEY VOICE

## Media inquiry as WIN downgrades News



WIN TV Studios at Kingston ( Photo Canberra Times)

The Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) has launched an online petition calling on WIN TV management in Wollongong to reverse the decision to downgrade its Canberra and region news service.

The TCC campaign comes as the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) launches an investigation into local television content.

The TCC is encouraging all residents in the Canberra WIN TV viewing area to sign the petition and to circulate it to family and friends via email and online social media.

The petition calls on WIN TV management in Wollongong to reinstate its Canberra based produced and presented local news service and to assure loyal Canberra and regional WIN TV viewers their local news service will be retained.

The TCC and many other local community organisations and leaders believe the actions of WIN TV management will have a negative impact on local news gathering, news coverage and the overall quality of local news and information in the Canberra WIN TV viewing area.

***“I would urge  
WIN Network  
management to  
reconsider this  
decision.”***

The TCC is also concerned this may be the first step in WIN TV reducing the number of journalists it employs in Canberra altogether, and its decision will have a serious impact on the training and development of young future journalists and communications degree graduates.

In a letter to WIN TV management in Wollongong ACT Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher, said she strongly disagreed with the decision.

“I just can’t believe in taking the decision to broadcast from Wollongong, that the WIN News team in Canberra will be able to deliver the standard of news bulletins that have been broadcast from the Kingston studio.” Ms Gallagher said.

“The relationship between WIN staff and Canberra runs deeper than just the delivery of news. The anchors, in particular, get very involved in local community life and have been warmly embraced by local community organisations and the community in general,” she said.

“I would urge WIN Network management to reconsider this decision,” Ms Gallagher added.

Federal Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann, has added her voice to the campaign. In a letter to WIN TV management Ms Brodtmann said she was particularly concerned to learn that the decision had already resulted in job losses for some Canberra based production staff.

Ms Brodtmann said the national capital deserves a local commercial news service that is produced and presented here. She said Canberra has a proud history of producing quality journalists who go on to work nationally and internationally, and WIN has played an important role in nurturing this talent.

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# Tralee agreement

The Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) remains opposed to residential development at Tralee despite Canberra Airport and Village Building Company reaching an agreement over the development.

In a statement released after the agreement was announced by the two parties, the TCC said it will monitor the development closely and will vigorously oppose any attempts by the new residents of Tralee to relocate flight paths over Tuggeranong.

The TCC said it had received advice that an individual Tuggeranong resident or resident groups can take legal action if they find their lives, health and property values negatively impacted by the relocation of flight paths over the Valley in the future.

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# Community groups merge



L to R: Mick Gentleman MLA, Frank Vrins, TCC Treasurer, Lynne Harwood CEO Communities@Work and TCC President, Nick Tsoulias.

Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) President, Nick Tsoulias, and TCC Treasurer, Frank Vrins, were among guests at the recent official merger of Communities@Work (C@W) and the Gungahlin Regional Community Service.

C@W Chair of the Board, Archie Tsirimokos, said C@W merged with the Gungahlin Regional Community Service to expand the scope of its available resources and enhance the range and quality of community services available to the broader Canberra community. He said all Gungahlin Regional Community Service programs now sit proudly under the C@W banner.

“The residents of Tuggeranong, and the Canberra community generally, will benefit significantly from the merger as the resulting economies of scale will increase our capacity to manage cost pressures and deploy our collective resources more efficiently. In the end, this means better services for everyone,” Mr Tsirimokos said.

“The merger provides C@W with access to a broader range of resources and will provide us with more flexibility to respond to specific

community needs in the Tuggeranong region and elsewhere at any particular time,” explained Lynne Harwood, CEO of C@W.

“In addition, the merger will create opportunities for the development of complementary programs that provide a continuum of care for all clients and provide greater career pathways and opportunities for all staff. It will also augment our capacity to undertake research and develop innovative program models to address unmet community needs,” Ms Harwood added.

With over 35 years experience, C@W is a local organisation that understands local needs. With over 100 programs, 700 staff and 300 volunteers, the organisation already delivers services to more than 20,000 people annually.

In particular, C@W has a strong track record in:

- Providing quality and dependable child care and foster care services.
- Helping vulnerable and at-risk youth overcome challenges.
- Providing support to families and individuals experiencing hardship.
- Assisting the frail aged and people with disabilities to lead independent lives.
- Delivering nationally accredited training for children services staff.
- Managing community facilities and offering recreational and social activities.
- Providing a diverse range of rewarding employment and volunteering opportunities.

For more information, call 6293 6500 or visit [www.commsatwork.org](http://www.commsatwork.org).

## Tuggeranong Community Council acknowledges its supporters.

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# TCC takes Myna action



*The Indian Myna Bird is considered an invasive species and a threat to native birds and small mammals.*

The Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) is encouraging members to become Indian Myna Bird Trappers.

Following a presentation by the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group (CIMAG) at the last Council meeting, the TCC has offered to pay for the trap of each financial TCC member who signs up to become a Myna Bird Trapper to help reduce the population of the invasive pest in the Tuggeranong Valley.

CIMAG says the Indian Myna has been rated by the World Conservation Union as one of the world's 100 most invasive species. It has been rated an Extreme Threat in Australia and won the dubious distinction of receiving the Pest of Australia award in the Wild Watch Quest for Pests 2005. It beat the cane toad and feral cat to get this award!

A native of India with a natural range from the Middle East to Malaysia, the Indian Myna has now been introduced all over the world, rapidly adapting to new environments. It was deliberately introduced into Canberra in the 1960s and has spread widely throughout the Canberra region.

It has been calculated by the eminent ANU myna researcher, Dr Chris Tidemann, that there are around 250 Indian Mynas for every square kilometre in Canberra.

Noisy, territorially aggressive, and not afraid of humans, mynas hang out in flocks from 5 to 20, and can be very long-lived. They can raise two broods of young each year, and spend their nights in noisy communal roosts.

According to CIMAG these birds are seriously "bad news" for our native birds and other small animals. They are fiercely territorial and use their superior numbers to aggressively defend their territory. During the breeding season they take over tree hollows from native birds and small animals, such as sugar gliders, after harassing and evicting them. They build and defend several nests during the breeding season although they only use one nest — this excludes native hollow nesting birds and animals from those nesting sites. They kill chicks and destroy the eggs of native birds.

Add to all this, they hang around cafes and restaurants, walking all over tables in search of left-over food. It

isn't hard to see the potential public health risk they pose. They can also pose possible fire risks to buildings through making large scrappy nests under eaves and roof lines from sticks and any available rubbish they find.

CIMAG suggest the following to discourage the invader from your home:

- not leaving cat and dog food out in the backyard during the day for mynas to take,
- making public areas such as shopping centres, restaurants and cafes much less attractive to mynas by not leaving food around,
- planting more shrubs in gardens to reduce open areas that mynas prefer,
- avoid planting tall thin trees with dense foliage such as pencil pines which flocks of mynas use for roosting at night,
- check your roofs for any holes or entry points and block them to prevent entry by mynas, making sure at the same time that you haven't accidentally imprisoned a possum, bat or other native resident, and
- keeping stock feed in rural areas secured away from mynas.

CIMAG says a trapping program for Indian Mynas is an essential part of any strategy to control these pests. This is perfectly legal for exotic species but not for native species, and any trapping and euthanising should only be done in line with good animal welfare principles. Trapping has proven highly successful in Canberra: one member of the CIMAG trapped 665 in his backyard over six months.

CIMAG admits we probably won't ever get rid of Indian Mynas, but if we do not start to reduce and control their numbers we risk losing many of our native birds.

For more information visit: <http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au/> .

From page 1

“Moving the production of WIN news out of Canberra will mean less opportunity for our bright, young journalists and production crews. WIN is an important part of the Canberra community, and you have demonstrated the ability to produce an excellent local news bulletin,” Ms Brodtmann wrote.

Click on the link to add your name to the [Tuggeranong Community Council's petition](#) .

Meanwhile ACMA has launched an examination into local content on regional television stations and the operational effectiveness of section 43A of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

Section 43A applies to regional commercial television broadcasters in Regional Queensland, Regional Victoria, Tasmania and parts of Regional New South Wales.

Regional television stations are required to broadcast minimum amounts of material of local significance. The investigation will determine if regional Australians have adequate access to material of local significance on commercial television.

ACMA will survey regional Australians and undertake economic analysis as part of the investigation and consult with regional commercial television broadcasters.

Submissions are being sought from the public, with both individuals and organisations encouraged to comment on a range of issues, including the importance of local information in regional Australia.

Comments on the availability of local information across media platforms in regional Australia and particular issues faced by television broadcasters in providing local content in regional Australia will also be welcomed.

The ACMA consultation paper on the investigation can be accessed by visiting the [TCC website](#).

Source: TCC and PS News

## New medical centre opens



The new Chisholm medical centre

The West Belconnen Health Co-operative has opened its first GP medical clinic in Tuggeranong at Chisholm.

The Health Co-op is a new Canberra based non-profit community organisation owned by its members and run by professional medical and administrative staff.

It opened its first medical clinic at Charnwood in 2010 to meet a need in an area of 6 suburbs where there were no GPs. The health of many families was suffering because they could not find a GP when needed.

Now, the Co-op has proved highly attractive to the 23,000 Canberrans who have already become members of the Co-op to take advantage of its family friendly bulk billing GPs and convenient suburban locations.

So the Co-op was set up as an affordable GP medical service for Can-

berrans. Families pay \$70 per year to become Co-op members and thereafter all visits to your local GP are bulk billed, that is, you do not pay for each visit. Fees for singles are half this rate and substantially less for Healthcare card holders.

Recently the Co-op opened a new clinic at Chisholm, its 7<sup>th</sup> local GP clinic. By the end of the year the Co-op will have 22 doctors working at its centres, and is progressively adding other affordable medical and allied professionals, such as psychologists and dietitians, to the services provided. The Chisholm clinic will be progressively expanded to five GPs on staff.

The Health Co-op operates like any suburban GP but with some advantages. Co-op members can visit doctors at any of the centres, for instance, if your preferred doctor is on holidays.

Appointments can be made on-line or via the centralised contact number and some appointment slots for urgent GP appointments are always kept available.

As this is the first Co-op GP clinic outside Belconnen, we are now to become known as the National Health Co-op. Assistance from the ACT Government and the Bendigo Community Bank has been instrumental in enabling us to bring bulk billing doctors to Tuggeranong.



## Wood heater buyback program reignited



*Domestic wood smoke is the largest single source of air pollution in Canberra according to the ACT Government.*

The ACT Government has launched its annual wood heater buyback program.

The program is one of the most generous in Australia and offers up to \$800 to householders to dispose of their polluting wood heaters and transfer to easy and simple to operate gas heating.

The ACT Government warns smoke from wood heaters is the largest source of air pollution in Canberra and it is linked to a number of serious health conditions.

The program is part of the ACT Government's annual "Burn Right Tonight" campaign which includes advice not to use wood heaters during forecast weather inversions, when wood smoke is trapped under a layer of cold air and which is common in the Tuggeranong Valley.

The "Don't Burn Tonight" warnings are designed to encourage Canberra residents to use alternative heating on cold, still nights when smoke is unlikely to clear quickly. It is entirely voluntary and encourages people to act responsibly and runs from 1 June to 31 August every year.

When the weather conditions are such that a temperature inversion is likely to trap smoke residents are advised through the media not to use their wood heaters and, where possible, use alternative heating.

The ACT Government has also launched a cinema advertisement as part of its wood heater education campaign and this can be viewed through [YouTube](#).

The Wood Heater Buyback Program is conducted in association with ActewAGL. Under the program householders are offered subsidies when they replace your old wood heater with new mains supplied gas heating. For a ducted gas heater that can receive \$800 or \$600 for a flued gas heater. Since its introduction of the buyback program eight years ago more than 970 wood heaters have been removed.

The Act Government says wood heater owners have a responsibility to minimise air pollution and can face penalties under the [Environment Protection Act 1997](#).

For a copy of the Wood Heater Buyback Program application form visit: <http://www.tuggcc.com/category/announcements>.

## Isabella Gardens opens



*L to R: TCC President Nick Tsoulas, Prof David Daw, Pat Daw, TCC Treasurer, Frank Vrins and Lend Lease Development Manager, Steve Harding.*

The latest retirement living complex in the Tuggeranong Valley recently threw its doors open to future and potential residents.

Retired couple Professor David Daw and his wife Pat were among special guests after purchasing a property in the new complex.

"We can't wait to move in to our new home and take advantage of the lifestyle on offer. We've really enjoyed seeing first-hand the innovative design features and are really looking forward to moving in," Professor Daw said.

Launched in February by Lend Lease, Isabella Gardens has had an overwhelming response from the community resulting in the early release of stage two homes and was awarded the first Retirement Living Gold Livable Housing Australia Quality Mark.

The open day was also attended by Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) President, Nick Tsoulas and TCC Treasurer, Frank Vrins.



## 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.

# Nominations called for courageous women



Joy Burch MLA

Nominations open next month for new awards recognising the courage and contribution of Canberra women, Minister for Women and ALP Member for Brindabella, Joy Burch has announced.

"We have worked closely with the Ministerial Advisory Council on Women to develop the ACT Women's Awards as a replacement for the former International Women's Day Awards," Ms Burch said.

"With the advice of the advisory council, we are giving these awards a new name to underline their focus on Canberra and also extending the nomination process so that it stretches for three months," she said.

"The awards will still be presented on International Women's Day to reflect their heritage and will become

a focal point for celebrating women," Ms Burch added.

Nominations for the awards open on 1 August and will close on 20 December 2013. There will be three award categories:

- ACT Woman of the Year
- Young Woman of the Year (16-30 years old)
- Senior ACT Woman of the Year (50 years old and above).

Nominations will be able to be made online at [www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women) which will also contain information on the awards and eligibility.

Ms Burch made the announcement at a forum hosted by the Ministerial Advisory Council on Women to discuss the legacy of the 57th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 57) held in New York earlier this year.

Three women spoke at the forum about the significance:

- Penny Williams, Australia's Global Ambassador for Women and Girls,
- Rebecca Vassarotti, one of four delegates representing non-government organisations as part of Australia's delegation to CSW, 57 and
- Dr Helen Watchirs, ACT Human Rights and Discrimination Commissioner.

Source: Media Release

## ACT economy slumps: Smyth

ACT Shadow Treasurer and Liberal Member for Brindabella, Brendan Smyth, has expressed concern following the release of the SENSIS Business findings on the ACT.

Mr. Smyth said the Index noted:

- 24% decrease in business confidence compared to the previous quarter,
- 12% point fall in the sales indicator,
- 13% point fall in the profitability indicators,
- ACT SMEs facing problems with a lack of work or sales,
- ACT has one of the lowest confidence indicators,
- Businesses experiencing volatile conditions, with confidence levels fluctuating widely,
- Decrease in spending.

"This is an alarming result for the ACT economy. It shows the Federal Labor Government's leadership instability and chaos have had a negative impact on our city," Mr. Smyth said

"The matter is made worse by the ACT Government's failure to diversify our economy and its unaccountable programs that fail to address what ACT businesses need most," he said.

"The ACT Government has been running scare campaigns on the prospects of a Federal Coalition Government. However, the SENSIS findings show the negative impact from Federal Labor is hitting Canberra right now," Mr. Smyth concluded.

Source: Media Release



# News in brief

## TCC AGM

Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) members are reminded the Council's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Tuesday 3 September 2013.

All financial members are encouraged to attend and to nominate for positions on the new executive team. Members who have attended four or more meetings (including the general meeting held prior to the AGM) and are financial are eligible to vote and stand for executive positions.

Nomination forms are available on the [TCC Website](#) and must be lodged with the Returning Officer 10-days prior to the AGM.

## Next TCC Meeting

ACT Opposition Leader, Jeremy Hanson, will be guest speaker at the next Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) meeting.

The TCC will meet on Tuesday 6 August in the upstairs function room at the Southern Cross Club Greenway.

The meeting will commence at 7.30pm and members and guests are welcome. For more information visit: [www.tuggcc.com](http://www.tuggcc.com).

## Neighbourhood Watch

The community based crime prevention program, Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), is reforming in Wanniasa. This follows a community meeting organised by ACT Neighbourhood Watch and concerned residents.

The new Wanniasa NHW Committee is in the process of being formed and a newsletter inviting residents to participate in the program will be distributed in coming weeks. For more information contact NHW District Delegate, Kambah/Wanniasa, [Terrylea Reynolds](#).

## Petrol Station petition

Federal Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann, has launched a petition for a second petrol station in Weston Creek. Ms Brodtmann says Weston Creek residents know only too well the frustration of having only one petrol station servicing 23,000 people.

Ms Brodtmann is petitioning the ACT Government to designate land for a new petrol station at the intersection of Cotter Road and Kirkpatrick Street,

"Please join me in calling for a second petrol station to service Weston Creek and the growing Molonglo Valley," Ms Brodtmann asked.

Residents can sign the petition by visiting Ms Brodtmann's electorate office at 205 Anketell Street, Tuggeranong or by downloading the [petition](#) from her website.

Source: Media Release

## Grants to cut obesity

Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher, has announced the ACT Government has redirected the focus of the health grants program to projects that help reduce the incidence of obesity, particularly amongst the ACT's children.

"Obesity is a growing problem in our community and it's placing extra stress on our health system. The ACT Government is investing in programs to combat this problem and the refocused 'Healthy Canberra Grants' program will enable community groups to gain funding for obesity reduction projects," the Chief Minister said.

The new program focuses on tackling obesity and improving children's health, including improving eating habits through school canteens and food education. For full details on ACT Health's grants program go to [www.health.act.gov/hpgrants](http://www.health.act.gov/hpgrants).



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## Work resumes on Calwell Park and Ride

Work has resumed on the construction of a new park and ride facility in Calwell.

Major Capital Works Manager at Roads ACT, Ben McHugh, said work has resumed following the engagement of local contractor Deeble B&C.

Mr McHugh said the new facility will be a permanent park and ride car park, which will also be available to the public and Calwell Club visitors outside of working hours.

"Completion of this project has been delayed following the liquidation of the previous contractor," Mr McHugh said.

"The new park and ride site, which is located on the corner of Johnson Drive and Were Street in Calwell, is now due for completion in August 2013," he added.

"It will include approximately 60 parking spaces conveniently located near bus stops on Johnson Drive and Were Street," Mr McHugh said.



- Aug 1 to 31:** Canberra Fireside Festival. Visit: [www.firesidefestival.com.au](http://www.firesidefestival.com.au)
- Aug 6:** TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club
- Aug 7:** Opening of Afghanistan, the Australian Story. Australian War Memorial. Visit: [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)
- Aug 9:** Adults Surviving Child Abuse (ASCA) Workshop, Rydges Capital Hill. Visit: [www.asca.org.au/workshops](http://www.asca.org.au/workshops)
- Aug 10:** National Science Week, CSIRO Discovery Centre Acton. Visit: [www.csiro.au/discovery](http://www.csiro.au/discovery)
- Aug 16:** COTA Roundtable Discussion 1pm to 3pm Hughes Community Centre.
- Sept 3:** TCC Annual General Meeting 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club.

## 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.

Tuggeranong Community Council.  
E: [info@tuggcc.com](mailto:info@tuggcc.com)  
W: [www.tuggcc.com](http://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.*

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

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### AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

The **Bonython Neighbourhood Hall** is a contemporary community facility featuring modern decor and abundant natural light. The Hall has two function rooms with kitchen facilities and is ideal for dinners, dancing, aerobics, meetings (seating for up to 125 people) or other functions. Catering services available. Very competitive hire rates.

Phone **Communities@Work** on **6293 6500** to arrange for an inspection of the Hall or to discuss your booking needs.  
[www.commsatwork.org](http://www.commsatwork.org)