



TUGGERANONG
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VALLEY VOICE

Tuggeranong Community Council Newsletter

May 2013

Federal Budget benefits or blues?



Prime Minister, Julia Gillard and the Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann, talking with students during a visit last year to St Mary MacKillop College, Isabella Plains.

Federal Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann, has welcomed the 2013-14 Federal Budget saying it will provide real benefits to Canberrans.

However, ACT Opposition Leader, Jeremy Hanson, warns Canberrans will pay the price for what he describes as 'Labor's economic vandalism.'

Ms Brodtmann says the Budget is one of which she is proud.

"It will make a real difference to the lives of many Canberrans," she said.

"The savings measures outlined by Federal Labor map a path back to surplus by 2016-17, while significant investment has been made in important areas like education reform and the National Disability Insurance Scheme," Ms Brodtmann said.

She said Canberrans will also benefit from some targeted investments in our community.

"Federal Labor will invest \$5 million in 2014-15 towards the development of a dedicated service for children in the Emergency Department of the Canberra Hospital," she added.

"This will help streamline and better coordinate paediatric emergency and inpatient services for around 15,000 Canberra children each year. The ACT Government will contribute the remaining establishment costs and fund the recurrent resourcing requirements," Ms Brodtmann said.

"To ease traffic congestion that regularly plagues the Tuggeranong Parkway at peak-times, Federal Labor will invest \$300,000 to implement ramp metering

on the Tuggeranong Parkway / Cotter Road interchange. The ramp metering will control the timing of traffic entering the Tuggeranong Parkway using traffic signals located at controlled entry ramps," she stated.

"The project is expected to reduce the occurrence of traffic jams in the northbound lanes of the Tuggeranong Parkway during morning peak traffic, which will be a welcome relief for the many south-side commuters who rely on this road," Ms Brodtmann said.

"Canberra will also share in over \$690 million in additions and amendments to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and \$29.6 million for support in the dispensing of chemotherapy medicines. \$96.7 million will be made available to increase the number of Commonwealth Support Places in sub-bachelor and post-graduate level studies," she concluded.

"Canberrans will pay the price for Labor's economic vandalism"

However, Mr. Hanson said attacks on public service, superannuation, reductions on family tax payments, scrapping the baby bonus, introducing paid parking in the parliamentary zone, ongoing efficiency dividends, potential wage squeezes, reductions in office space, and university cuts are all going to affect the lives of Canberrans and damage the city's economy.

"Canberrans will pay the price for Labor's economic vandalism and would be within their rights to ask their local Labor representatives why they should trust Labor given the repeated assertions about budget surpluses and security of public service jobs," Mr. Hanson said.

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TCC addresses Senators on Tuggeranong air pollution

The Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) was among groups to give evidence before a government committee inquiring into air quality and public health.

TCC Secretary, Darryl Johnston and TCC member, Rusty Woodward gave evidence before the Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiry into the impact of air quality on public health. The Armidale Air Quality Group and the Australian Home Heating Association were among others to give evidence.

Mr Johnston told Senators the major source of air pollution in Canberra in winter was from the burning of wood for domestic heating.

“Government statistics show only two-point-three per cent of Canberra households burn wood for heating yet they are responsible for 71 per cent of our particle pollution. This is compared to just 10-point-1 per cent from vehicles,” he said.

“This is supported by the ACT Government which says, *‘smoke from domestic wood heaters is the largest source of air pollution in Canberra.’* It goes on to warn, *‘wood smoke pollution is an environmental issue and is linked to a number of serious health conditions,’* he quoted to Senators.

Ms Woodward, who suffers from a lung condition, told the inquiry she was imprisoned in her home in winter because of neighbourhood wood smoke pollution.

“During the summer months I am able to manage my condition and participate in both social and volunteering activities.” she told the hearing.

“Winter presents a whole new scenario once people start their wood fires,” she said.

“Even using my oxygen, this affects my breathing to a debilitating level, which restricts my ability to perform simple tasks such as washing up, bed making,

cooking and cleaning,” Ms Woodward recounted.

“I order my groceries on line, I have a hairdresser visit my house and only watch my grandsons play soccer from the car.”

Ms Woodward told senators her life is virtually on hold during the wood fire season.

“For someone like me who believes in staying involved, it’s frustrating to be incapacitated by something which could be better controlled,” she said.

Mr Johnston said the TCC did not want to ban wood heaters or let people freeze in winter.

“For some people wood heaters are their only form of heating,” he told Senators.

“The TCC supports the introduction of tough new emissions and efficiency standards for new wood heaters,” he said.

“The new standards need to be based on public health, set independent of the wood heating industry and coupled with a program to encourage householders to give up their old polluting and non-compliant wood heaters,” he added.

“We believe this will lead to the introduction of new cleaner and more efficient wood heaters. People who want to continue to heat their home with wood can with heaters that use less fuel, are cheaper to run and are better for our health and the environment,” Mr Johnston said.

“We have introduced regulations to make our vehicles cleaner and more efficient to reduce air pollution in our cities and to protect public health, why can’t we do the same with wood heaters,” he asked Senators.

The Senate Committee is continuing to take evidence and is due to report on its findings by 26 June 2013.

Tuggeranong Community Council acknowledges its supporters.

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From page 1

"More than 1,200 public service jobs are going next year, with more to come," he said.

"This is on the back of efficiency dividends that have been cutting deep into the public service and almost 3,000 jobs that were lost in the six months leading up to December last year."

"The full extent of job cuts still remains unclear," Mr. Hanson added.

"Our city prospers when the national economy is strong and in surplus, and people trust their government. Despite the spin from Wayne Swan the grim reality is that Labor has not delivered a surplus for 23 years," he said.

"This is a bad budget for Canberra, Mr Hanson said

"Labor's \$19billion budget deficit and public service job cuts, expose the full effect of their mismanagement of our economy and expose all the broken promises," concluded Mr. Hanson.



ACT Opposition Leader, Jeremy Hanson

Paid parking slammed

ACT Liberal Senator, Gary Humphries has slammed plans to extend paid parking to the Parliamentary Triangle. This follows the Federal Budget announcement that paid parking will be introduced from July 2014.

Senator Humphries agrees the Parliamentary Triangle lacked many services and facilities, unlike Civic and other Town Centres. He also said family and other commitments meant many workers in the Parliamentary Triangle do not have to use their cars.

"For them this decision simply means an additional cut to their standard of living," he said.

Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann has successfully called for an inquiry into the decision and the level of amenities provided in the Parliamentary Triangle.

"People working in the triangle deserve access to the same services and facilities offered in other business districts around Canberra, such as Tuggeranong and Woden, particularly if they are to pay for parking," Ms Brodtmann added.

ACT Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher has supported the introduction of paid parking but believes monies collected should go into ACT Government coffers.

Paid parking is expected to cost workers \$11 a day for long term parking or more than \$2600 a year. The Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories will conduct the enquiry, which is due to report by 27 June.

Calwell master plan motion



Liberal Member for Brindabella, Andrew Wall

The future of the Calwell Group Centre and Tuggeranong Homestead has been assured, according to Liberal Member for Brindabella, Andrew Wall MLA.

Mr Wall says the area has been placed on the list for up coming master planning. This follows the adoption of a motion he introduced into the Legislative Assembly.

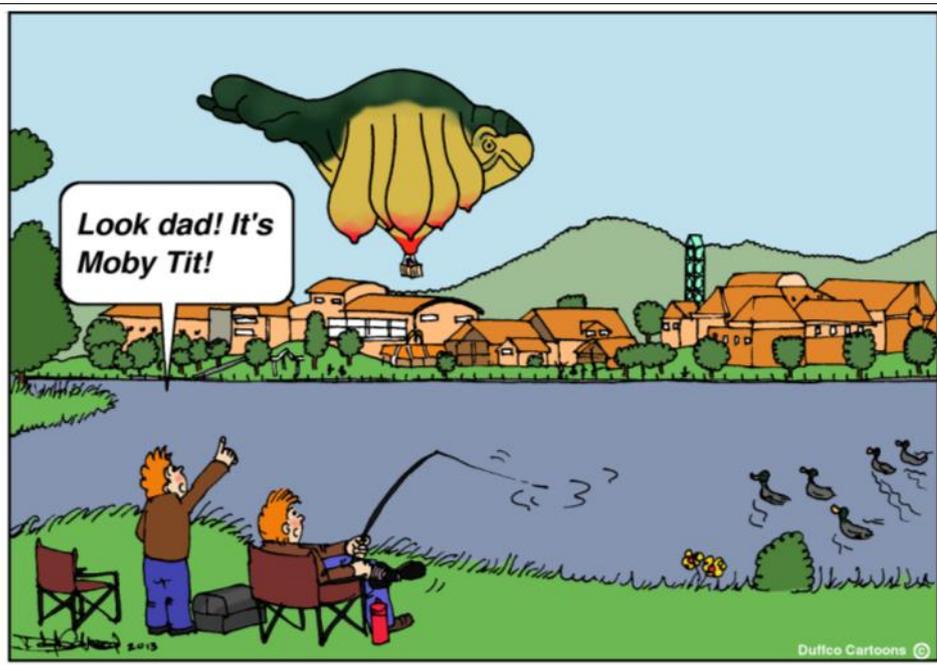
"As a result of years of campaigning and lobbying from the Canberra Liberals, we finally have the Calwell master plan on the list," said Mr Wall.

"The ACT Labor Government has continually neglected to recognise the need for a strategic plan for Calwell but I welcome their support for this motion," he said.

"I look forward to seeing this master plan being developed as a priority and delivered to the Assembly," he added.

"Local business owners and residents should have confidence their views will be included into how the precinct will be developed and the Tuggeranong Homestead's heritage values preserved into the future," Mr Wall said.

Source: Media Release



Concern over Southquay landscaping plans



TLC spokesman, Glenys Patulny on the shores of Lake Tuggeranong.
Image: Canberra Times

Water conservationists have expressed concerns over landscaping plans at the planned Southquay development at Greenway.

The Tuggeranong Lake Carers Group (TLC) is concerned deciduous trees will be planted at the new development on the shores of Lake Tuggeranong.

TLC spokesperson, Glenys Patulny is concerned deciduous trees will add to the Lake's blue-green algae problem.

"Lake Tuggeranong has major blue green algal outbreaks every summer forcing its closure," Ms Patulny said.

"Deciduous tree leaves add to the nutrient load on the Lake as they lose all their leaves over a short period compared to evergreens which shed all year round," she said.

"Lots of oxygen gets taken up in their breakdown leading to poor water quality and contributing to conditions like blue-green algae," she added.

Ms Patulny said the TLC did not want any more pressure on the Lake.

To that end the TLC is putting forward a motion for consideration at the next Tuggeranong Community Council meeting.

The motion calls for the planting of appropriate native species on the foreshores of all lakes and ponds in the Tuggeranong Valley.

Violence on the rise: Seselja

Shadow Attorney-General Zed Seselja has raised his concern about the increase of violent assaults in our community.

The Criminal Justice Statistical Profile for the March quarter has reported an increase in the number of assaults causing grievous bodily harm from 4 to 10 from December last year.

"Whilst there have been improvements in some areas there are still significant areas of concern that need to be addressed," Mr Seselja said.

"I am particularly concerned about the rise of violent offences in our community," he said.

"In recent months we have seen some very public assaults where victims have needed hospitalisation, including an alleged stabbing at the Belconnen bus interchange and a serious assault at Erindale McDonald's," he added.

"Both incidents occurred in front of other members of the community, causing very distressing memories for them to now deal with."

"These sorts of incidents have no place in our city and we should be doing all we can to prevent them."

"The ACT Government needs to outline what strategies they will put in place to reduce the number of violent assaults," Mr Seselja concluded.

Source: Media Release

More parking for Erindale

The ACT Government will examine options for additional parking at Erindale Shopping Centre. The move following the successful adoption of a motion put forward by Liberal Member for Brindabella, Zed Seselja MLA.

Mr Seselja said the motion called for the provision of more parking surrounding the Erindale Group Centre, particularly around the Capital Edge Community Church. He said the motion was supported unanimously as all parties recognised the entire Erindale Group Centre has been placed under significant parking pressures for some time now.

"Erindale Group Centre business owners and the Capital Edge Community Church have raised their concerns about the lack of parking numerous times with the Government, however their concerns have been continually ignored," Mr Seselja said.

"The Capital Edge Community Church even expressed a desire to utilise the unleased territory land adjacent to their facility for parking, however, until this motion, there had been no action from the Government," Mr Seselja added

Source Media Release

Next TCC Meeting

The ACT Director of ABC News, John Mulhall, will be guest speaker at the next Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) meeting.

Mr Mulhall has a long and outstanding media career having worked in television in Wollongong and Sydney as a reporter, producer and news director.

He will address TCC members on the role of ABC radio and television in Canberra and local news coverage.

The next TCC meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 June. It will commence at 7.30pm and will be held in the upstairs function room at the Southern Cross Club Greenway. Members and guests are welcome to attend. Visit; www.tuggcc.com.



Fall in youth detention rates



Minister for Children and Young People and Member for Brindabella, Joy Burch

Recent initiatives have helped achieve a significant reduction in youth detention rates in the ACT over the past two years, according to Minister for Children and Young People and member for Brindabella, Joy Burch MLA.

Ms Burch was commenting after releasing population data from the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.

She said the figures show since 2011 the average population at Bimberi has fallen by almost 20 per cent.

"Our data shows that since the implementation of youth justice initiatives implemented to divert young people away from detention, the average Bimberi population declined to 21.8 in 2012, and this year is trending below 18," Ms Burch added.

Ms Burch said this trend is in large part due to two programs. She sighted the After-Hours Bail Support Service and the Bendora Transition Unit at Bimberi.

"These programs were funded in the 2011-12 ACT Budget as part of significant youth justice reforms that focused

on early intervention and diversion from detention," she said.

"The After Hours Bail Support Service operates each evening and into the early hours of the morning. Its aim is to reduce the likelihood of young people being placed on remand for a short period until the necessary arrangements can be made to grant them bail," she added.

Ms Burch said since it commenced in October 2011 it has helped divert 53 young people from custody.

"This also significantly reduces the number of short remand episodes at Bimberi, which in 2009/10 accounted for almost half of all remand episodes," Ms Burch added.

"The Bendora Transition Unit, which commenced operating in August 2011, assists in preparing young people who are returning to the community from Bimberi," she said.

"Since opening, 15 youths have transitioned from Bimberi into the community via the unit, with encouraging results," she said.

"Last year, twice the number of young people than in 2011 were given community leave to participate in work or recreation activities," Ms Burch stated.

"This better prepares them to return to the community as a result of the work undertaken in Bendora Transition Unit," Ms Burch said.

"Early indications are that this work is decreasing the rate of reoffending."

"We will continue to monitor the progress of those who go through the Unit to assess its success in reducing recidivism," Ms Burch concluded.

Source: Media Release

TCC membership fees now due

Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC) members are reminded that 2013/14 membership fees are due on 1 July.

Membership fees are set at \$5 single and \$7 couple and allows people to vote on matters of importance to the Tuggeranong community. They can be paid at the next TCC meeting or via the internet using the following banking details.

BSB 032636
Acc No 22-9560
With reference to the payee's name.

Those who no longer want to continue their membership of the TCC are advised to email the TCC Treasurer on treasurer@tuggcc.com.

Public service petition

More than 800 signatures have been collected on a petition calling for the retention of public service jobs in the Tuggeranong Town Centre.

The petition has been organised by the Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC), Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann and is supported by the Tuggeranong Hyperdome Shopping Centre and Communities@Work.

The petition is in response to an announcement by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Department it is looking for new space for its national office, as part of a plan to consolidate more than 2700 staff into one or two buildings. The TCC is concerned the relocation of Departmental staff will have a serious impact on local businesses.

Ms Brodtmann has promised to present the petition to Parliament shortly.



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 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.

News in brief

Osteoarthritis takes toll

New figures released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) show osteoarthritis is putting more people in hospital and leading to a rise in joint replacements.

Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis in Australia with about 1.8 million Australians (8 per cent of the population) having osteoarthritis compared with 443,000 having rheumatoid arthritis.

Human Services to boost call centres

The Department of Human Services is to beef up its call centres and review its ageing IT system, under measures announced in the 2013-14 Budget.

Funding of \$30 million is to be provided to the Department to ensure it can provide better services to Australians who call Centrelink for advice, along with \$102.2 million over five years to support the upgrade of the child support IT system.

Minister for Human Services, Senator Jan McLucas said the funding would allow additional staff to be employed to act as a "surge capability" in call centres. "The Department received over 44 million Centrelink-related calls in 2011-12, that's around 160,000 calls per day," Senator McLucas said.

Fix My Street goes mobile

Canberrans can now more easily contact the ACT Government via their smart phones and upload location data and photos to the popular 'Fix My Street' service, thanks to a new mobile interface for the Canberra Connect website.

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Shane Rattenbury said the new mobile friendly interface will make accessing information and payment services and reporting issues easy while on the go.

"By enhancing mobile access to the Canberra Connect website and Fix My Street service, people will be able to provide online feedback to the government and immediately report neighbourhood issues such as a pothole or broken footpath as they find them," he said.

Huge ACT deficit still on the cards



Shadow Treasurer and Member for Brindabella, Brendan Smyth

The March Quarter 2013 Consolidated Financial Reports show that the ACT Budget is still on track for a \$362 million deficit this financial year, according to Shadow Treasurer and Member for Brindabella, Brendan Smyth.

Mr Smyth said the combined efforts of the Gillard-Swan Federal Labor Government and the ACT's Gallagher-Barr La-

bor Government have contributed to keeping the ACT Budget on track for a near record deficit.

"The report shows the actions of the Federal Government, through its reduction in public service numbers and the early calling of the Federal election, has had a real negative impact on the ACT, with the ACT Labor Government on track for a near record deficit," he said.

At the same time our superannuation liability has increased to a record \$7.765 billion, making up 67% of our total liabilities. Net Debt has also deteriorated by \$593 million since June 2012, due to additional borrowings undertaken by the Government," Mr Smyth added.

"This comes at a time when taxes continue to fall short. The Government's Lease Variation Charge brought in \$7.5 million less than originally budgeted. It is time Andrew Barr told the people of the ACT how he's going to dig the budget and the economy out of the hole that he, and Federal Labor, have created for the ACT," Mr Smyth concluded.

Source: Media Release

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Women bear twice the domestic load

New data analysis released by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) has shown Australian women spend around twice as much time on childcare and household work as men.

The AIFS' fact sheet, *Families Working Together - Getting The Balance Right* was released to coincide with National Families Week.

It reveals mothers with children under five years old spend around 41 hours a week on childcare and 32 hours on household work, while fathers spend about 17 hours on childcare and 15 hours on household tasks.

Director of AIFS, Alan Hayes said the factsheet also showed mothers stepped up their involvement in paid work as their kids got older, from 14 hours a week to 25 hours a week on average when the youngest was aged 5-14 years.

"Despite working more in paid employment, women continued to spend much the same time on household tasks as they had when their children were younger, spending an average of 29 hours a week on household work. Men's responsibilities remained much the same as their children got older," Professor Hayes said.

Source: PS News



- June 4:** TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club
- June 9:** Tuggeranong Homestead Markets
- June 21:** Canberra Truffle Festival www.trufflefestival.com.au
- July 2:** TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club
- July 14:** Tuggeranong Homestead Markets
- Aug 1 to 31:** Canberra Fireside Festival. Visit: www.firesidefestival.com.au
- Aug 6:** TCC General Meeting, 7.30pm Tuggeranong Southern Cross Club
- Aug 10:** National Science Week, CSIRO Discovery Centre Acton. Visit: www.csiro.au/discovery

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.

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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