

**Tuggeranong Community Council Inc**  
**General Meeting – 4 February 2010**  
**Draft Minutes**

**Present:**

See attendance record of 4 February 2010. Darryl welcomed our guest speaker Hamish Horne from ACT Cemeteries Authority, Jill Faulkner from Communities at Work and three new members since the December 2009 Meeting.

**Apologies:**

Amanda Bresnan MLA (expected late arrival), Dugald Holmes, Annette Ellis MP, Sue Penn-Tuurall, Joy Burch MLA.

**Approval of December 2009 Minutes:**

Accepted: Barry Blight                      Seconded: Bill Reid

**Matters Arising from December 2009 Meeting:**

No matters to report.

**President's Report (Mr Darryl Johnston):**

President, Darryl Johnston presented the following Report:

“Welcome to the first Council meeting for 2010. Before I outline the year ahead I would like to report back on the activities of the TCC Executive over the Christmas/New Year period.

As you would be aware from some of the publicity the TCC added its weight to arguments against plans for a new residential development at South Tralee in the form of a submission to Queanbeyan City Council. The initial submission was lodged on 21 December with a follow-up and a more detailed document on 5 January. The follow-up submission included the results of a community survey conducted by the Council through its website. The survey was taken over the busy Christmas/New Year period when Tuggeranong residents were focussed on family and festivities. As a result, the survey was small but the comments were loud and clear; *that Tuggeranong residents are opposed to the development of South Tralee because they believe it will lead to aircraft flying over the Valley.*

Copies of the TCC submission were sent to the Chief Minister and members of the ACT Legislative Assembly, ACT Federal Members and Senators, the NSW Premier, the NSW Minister for Planning, the Commonwealth Minister for Transport and the representatives for Queanbeyan in the NSW and Federal Parliaments. Thank you to those TCC Executive members and general members who worked on and contributed to the development of our submission, and to Jonathon Reynolds for getting our online survey up on the web, the results of which can still be viewed on line.

On 21 December Vice President, Col Petrie and I attended an ActewAGL briefing on the expansion of Cotter Dam and the construction of walking trails, picnic areas and a viewing platform. ActewAGL has offered to address the Council in the future on its work at Cotter Dam and the securing of a larger water supply for Canberra.

Also over the Christmas/New Year period the ACT Government asked for the input of the TCC and its members to a number of discussion papers, issues and policy proposals. These include topics such as the Government's Feed-in Tariff, the Draft Sustainable Energy Policy, also investigations into the Government's tree management practices and the renewal of Canberra's urban forest, and the new Southern Cemetery, the latter of which you will be hearing more about tonight. All the information relating to the consultations and how to participate can be found on the Council website, including an invitation for members of the TCC to participate in the consultation program on the Feed-in Tariff and Sustainable Energy Policy to be held on the 9 February at the Southern Cross Club, Woden.



- Increase in burglaries during January over the number in December 2009;
- Property damage reports decreased between January and December (a reduction of 17) – reason not apparent;
- Assault incidents remain static for both months with a slight increase in January;
- Reports of stolen motor vehicles and other offences were relatively static in December and January;
- 39 arrests by Police in the Tuggeranong Zone during December, with that same number (39) effected during January for offences ranging from breach of bail conditions and outstanding warrants through to offences such as assault, drug possession, theft, burglary and other property and traffic related offences;
- Police conducted 500 and 560 Suburban Policing Strategy patrols within the Tuggeranong patrol zone during December and January respectively.
- Police Traffic Operations members together with RTA vehicle Inspectors continued activities in the northern suburbs of Tuggeranong with the RAPID number plate identification system to target a range of offending drivers over the period December 2009 to now. This campaign is expected to continue until at least mid-February 2010, after which the RAPID team will turn their focus to other areas within the ACT.
- Home Security Reminder: During the hot summer months many residents are prompted to leave windows and doors open to allow homes to cool down overnight. Unfortunately, this provides greater scope for opportunistic offenders to enter premises and commit thefts and burglaries during both daylight and night-time. Householders are reminded to remain aware of appropriate security measures during this period.
- Fire Season: ACT Police officers have been tasked to remain vigilant during the summer period in relation to suspicious persons and activities particularly in more remote areas. The ACT Policing Rural Patrol based at Tuggeranong Station has been particularly active in this regard conducting regular patrols of rural ACT areas looking out for signs of bushfire and/or suspicious persons and vehicles. A new Fire Danger Rating system was released for the commencement of the bushfire season on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010. Further details relating to that rating system and bushfires in general can be obtained from the ACT Emergency Services Agency at [www.esa.act.gov.au](http://www.esa.act.gov.au) or through Canberra Connect on 132281.

### Questions from the floor:

The following issues were raised by members and briefly discussed:

- Query on how many more Police numbers required to cover the large local area involved.  
**Various strategies used to reduce rates of property (volume) crime by targeting continual offenders and issuing various basic crime prevention messages to the public. Staff levels are a matter for the Government, but generally quite satisfied with the level of resources at Tuggeranong Station at present.**
- More Police presence in Tuggeranong would be welcome and matter should be included in “wish list” to be presented at the forthcoming meeting with the Chief Minister – email request to be sent to the TCC address.
- Are any details available on the likely cause of the recent fire at Calwell Primary School?  
**Feedback from forensic team and investigators not yet received.**
- Reason for large number of house break-ins over holiday period queried.  
**Christmas presents on premises are a likely motivation – several suspects have been apprehended and offences in a particular area have virtually ceased.**
- Concern expressed over increased number of assaults.  
**Majority of offences relate to incidents at licensed premises or to domestic violence in homes.**
- Comment re unreasonable delay in Police attendance at recent Gowrie Supermarket holdup – more visibility needed. Neighbourhood Watch presence in Gowrie would be welcome.  
**Despatch protocol extends to ACT-wide and can often result in longer response times if officers attending from another Station or team. Neighbourhood Watch progressively expanding into various Tuggeranong suburbs and due to be established in March this year and residents will be suitably contacted. The Group continues to work closely with Tuggeranong Police and TCC.**

- Ongoing problem of “hoons” and burnouts – safety issues involved with recent incident in Knoke Avenue, Gordon.  
**Witness reports should be directed to Crime Stoppers and prompt action can often assist with matching reports of other similar incidents in area and patrols sent.**
- Resident parking in narrow Clem Hill Street, Gordon presents serious problems and safety hazard due to disregard of speed humps and children playing nearby. What can be done to resolve the situation?  
**Matter can be referred direct to Roads ACT (Tony Gill) for attention, with Traffic Operations also available to investigate by contacting Tuggeranong Police.**

**Guest Speaker: Mr Hamish Horne**

Darryl Johnston introduced our guest speaker, Mr Hamish Horne from ACT Cemeteries Authority to provide an update on the proposed new Southern Cemetery and the current community consultation process. By way of introduction, Darryl indicated that the TCC had previously supported the idea of a new Cemetery but had not yet established a formal policy position on the issue, and the following presentation should assist in this regard.

Hamish proceeded to deliver a PowerPoint presentation on the background and overview of the proposed development, which included the following points:

- Purpose of the development and options under consideration;
- Selection of proposed site – key criteria;
- Planning issues – suitability of Mugga Lane / Long Gully Road location;
- Extent of Consultation Program:
  - intensive discussion with stakeholders,
  - surveys, shopfront displays, presentations and Information Meetings,
  - Publications – Consultation Report and recent Discussion Paper;
- Outcomes to date:
  - majority of people understand need for facility,
  - majority support for options proposed with various elements,
  - site preference based on random surveys;
- Assessment work carried out:
  - site assessment, environmental assessment, business planning for crematorium option;
- Design Concept – artist’s impression (only) of likely layout of future development.

**Questions from the floor:**

Several concerns were expressed by attendees and the following issues were raised:

- Claim of majority being in favour of the proposed development was disputed, but was defended by Hamish on the basis of feedback received to date.
- Explanation sought regarding reference to “natural burial” option – quite popular in Europe and UK.
- Query if boundaries were to be fenced off due to proximity to residences and water tank – also concerns re wildlife corridors at proposed site. Relevant matters will be considered to comply with accepted standards and ecological requirements.
- High maintenance costs involved due to definite damage by kangaroo population.
- Likely siting of Crematorium subject to consideration due to proximity to Macarthur homes.
- Activities and fate of nearby Mugga Lane Tip yet to be determined / negotiated.
- Horse exercise area on top of Crematorium – small/low building planned. Also, traffic survey needed due to heavy road activity.
- Life of Cemetery estimated as 75 to 100 years.
- Further information on development plans is available on Canberra Cemeteries and TAMS websites.
- Another Community Information Meeting to be held on Thursday, 25 February at Southern Cross Club, Tuggeranong.
- Query whether other sites have been investigated and suggested for the proposed development. Yes, but the preferred site at Mugga Lane is considered the most suitable.
- Bulk distribution of information brochures recently carried out in several nearby suburbs, but apparently not received by any attendees at the Meeting.

- Tree planting project to be implemented to improve general appearance of the buildings.
- Query why crematoriums could not be conducted in Mitchell or Queanbeyan, but it is acknowledged that further options are needed in the long term.
- Life of Woden Cemetery queried – likely to be full within 10 years and no extensions intended.
- Time frame of construction and cost involved queried – approximately 3 years from commencement at estimated amount of \$6 to 8 million (to be funded by ACT Government).
- Investigations have determined the site as being most suitable on geotechnical basis.
- TCC was previously reported as being supportive, but not quite apparent at recent Meetings held.
- Current capacity of Mitchell Crematorium was queried and reported as being most adequate – main problem identified as inadequate Chapels being the major reason for delays being experienced.
- Dispute of earlier comment that Queanbeyan Cemetery not available for use.
- Mitchell Crematorium apparently operating at only 50% of capacity at its busiest time and suggestion that perhaps only Chapels were required without the necessity for another Crematorium.
- Consultation period currently underway and closes on 16 March 2010.

**Presentation on new TCC initiatives:**

Darryl Johnston introduced Ms Donna Smail to address members on the proposed TCC Draft Communications Strategy and Code of Conduct. A set of documents prepared by Donna was distributed outlining the 'Future Directions' plan and Donna also presented it as a PowerPoint display, which will also be made available on the TCC website.

The plan is intended as a tool for producing a strategic business plan to guide the direction and business of the Tuggeranong Community Council and its ongoing operation, and consists of the following key elements:

- Purpose / Strategic Focus / Marketing Strategies / Production and Delivery;
- Business Systems and Processes / Stakeholder Relationships and Alliances;
- Organisation and Management / Environment and Social Impacts;
- Risk Factors, including performance measures, targets and timelines;
- Compliance, including regulatory compliance audit essentials / Governance Issues;
- Finance, including financial statements, performance targets, investment requirements;
- Strategic Action Plan / Improve Planning – regular review and update;
- Executive Summary, including the key performance initiatives and targets.

The presentation was generally well received by members and various opinions and comments were put forward for consideration. The topic will be subject to further discussion and attention by the Executive Committee and a suitable model will be presented to members in due course.

**General and Other Business:**

Darryl provided further details on the suggestion put forward by Jan Petrie for a proposed common due date of 1 July for membership renewal and its implications. The change was unanimously agreed to by the members.

Eric reported on the circumstances involved with the enforced change of venue for our General Meetings due to planned renovations and various alternative options were discussed, including the parent Vikings Club at Erindale. It was also suggested that we consider rotating the venue to different clubs which may be beneficial in promoting membership from northern Tuggeranong suburbs. It was considered that stability of venue and date was essential and the general consensus (by formal Motion) was that relocation to the nearby Southern Cross Club was preferable, which would involve a change from Thursday to Tuesday evening. Formal agreement is yet to be confirmed with the Club management and members will be advised accordingly prior to the next Meeting.

Darryl also informed members of the intention to conduct an on-line survey through the TCC website for the introduction of Random Roadside Drug Testing across the ACT. Other Community Councils have expressed interest in becoming involved and it is intended to be an ACT-wide survey.

**Upcoming Events / Next meeting:**

- Multicultural Festival to take place in Civic this coming weekend;
- Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Nominations to close on 14 February;
- Multi Age Care Cinemas opening on 10 February;
- “Bringing the Back Office Forward” Conference on 25 February – Communities at Work initiative;
- Meeting to be held on 17 February at the National Press Club to discuss re-establishment of the ‘Old’ Canberra South Community Council;
- Chief Minister’s Department to run a Combined Community Councils Meeting on 20 February – TCC Executive invited to attend.

Greg Downing sought further details regarding the proposed on-line survey mentioned above under ‘Other Business’ and Darryl provided some background information on the issue, including reference to the recent study being conducted by University of Canberra. The matter was briefly discussed and local MLA, Brendan Smyth, provided some relevant additional information on the issue and the considerations involved. He indicated that the system is in operation in several jurisdictions around the world and the Liberal Party is strongly in support of the idea.

Greg called for a show of hands from members who supported the introduction of Random Roadside Drug Testing and a majority of members were clearly in favour of it. Properly framed questions will be prepared for the survey with the assistance of Professor Gabrielle Cooper (University of Canberra), and members were supportive of the initiative, including the offer of Neighbourhood Watch involvement.

The next TCC General Meeting is to be held in early March with date and venue to be advised in due course, and guest speaker to be confirmed. The meeting concluded at approximately 9.35pm and members were invited to stay on for the usual light refreshments and informal chat.