

# GUNSMOKE

Edition 129 November 2013

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**GCC NEW  
MEMBERS**

***BIG***

*Broadband In Gungahlin*

**GCC HIGH PRIORITY ITEMS  
FOR ACT BUDGET 2014-2015**

**BUSH ON THE  
BOUNDARY**

**JM**  
PUBLISHING

# GCC new members

## Gillian Yeend

### Committee Member



Gillian is a Committee Member and the Director of Yeend and Associates –

Family Lawyers, the first specialist Family Law firm located in Gungahlin.

Gillian has worked exclusively in Family Law since 2001 in Sydney, Newcastle and Canberra. She moved to Canberra in 2006 and built in the Gungahlin area.

Gillian is committed to improving access to legal services, therapeutic supports for families and community based programs.

Gillian also volunteers at the ACT Women's Legal Service and is a member of the ACT Law Society Professional Complaints Committee.

## Tony Ozanne

### Secretary



Tony moved to Canberra, Gungahlin in 2009. The general feel of the community

and easy access to most facilities was one of the great appeals of the location. Clearly as the secret gets out, more and more people are making the same decision which is clearly adding some opportunities to the area, which is why Tony decided to get involved

with the GCC this year. He feels it is important to give back and engage with the community instead of being a bystander without a voice.

Tony's career started at the KFC while doing HSC and Uni. After study, Tony stayed with Yum Restaurants International (KFC/ PH parent company) employed in numerous roles around Australia, and internationally in the Middle East, (Dubai) overseeing 12 countries across the region from Pakistan to Morocco. In 2010 Tony quit the corporate world and now is a Business Coach in Gungahlin and a published Author.

## Meegan Fitzharris

### Committee Member



Meegan Fitzharris is a Committee member, joining the committee this year after

attending GCC meetings regularly for the past 3 years.

Meegan has lived in Gungahlin with her family since 2007 and loves it. She has worked for the Commonwealth Government and in the private sector and currently works for the ACT Government.

Meegan was also a candidate in the 2012 ACT election, wanting to represent Gungahlin residents in the local Assembly. Unfortunately, Gungahlin residents remain unrepresented in the Assembly, despite a number of locals running. Meegan hopes that

one day a Gungahlin local will be represented.

She is very keen to make sure Gungahlin's infrastructure and community spirit keep up with its growth.

## James Milligan

### Committee Member



James Milligan is a successful Gungahlin based, small business manager who

is fighting for small business and improved services across the Gungahlin region.

James understands how people can work together to build stronger local communities for themselves and future generations; how important a proper work/life balance is to people living in Gungahlin region; and how important it is for these communities to have access to healthy and positive lifestyle opportunities. This led James to run as the federal candidate for the seat of Fraser in 2010 and then in 2012 ran as a candidate for the seat of molonglo in the ACT Territory election.

James is keen to work towards improving local services, infrastructure, and employment opportunities in the Gungahlin region, and believes the Gungahlin Community Council is in a great position to campaign on the issues important to Gungahlin residents.



GunSmoke is available online, and printed copies are available through key shopping centres. To subscribe to the online edition visit [www.gcc.asn.au](http://www.gcc.asn.au) and click on the "Sign Up For Our Newsletter" button at the bottom of the page. To advertise your business or organisation in GunSmoke, please visit our website.

#### Disclaimer:

GunSmoke is published to allow residents to keep in touch with their local community. The views expressed in GunSmoke do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editor, or members of the Gungahlin Community Council Inc.

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#### GCC Committee:

James Milligan, Meegan Fitzharris, Michael Norfor, Gillian Yeend



# From the President

Ewan Brown

## New GCC Committee for 2013-2014.

Despite having no formal nominations for the committee of GCC by the close off date before the AGM it was a relief and a real positive that a full committee of 10 was eventually elected to conduct the activities of the council during the next year. It was a relief since the GCC had performed exceptionally well in the previous year and expected to maintain that momentum.

Five members opted to continue and five new members joined.

### Continuing members are:

- Ewan Brown - President
- Peter Elford - Vice President
- Dave Bockett - Web Administrator
- Kevin Cox - who took on the role as Public Officer.
- Michael Norfor continued as spokesperson for Planning and Development.

### New Committee members are:

- Tony Ozanne elected as Secretary (local business operator)
- Brad Kane elected as Treasurer
- Gillian Yeend (local business operator)
- Meegan Fitzharris (local candidate in recent ACT Assembly elections)
- James Milligan (local candidate in recent ACT Assembly elections).

Again we have a committee comprised totally of workers; securing some retired candidates remains elusive. But the breadth of experience and interests is impressive and we look forward to the year ahead with GCC operating as a dynamic committee.

The committee opted to retain the Gungahlin library as our meeting venue and to convene Executive meetings immediately before the public Council meetings – to be held February to November

inclusive. There will be no public meetings held in January and December in 2014.

Greater emphasis will be placed on developing relationships with community groups to gain feedback on local issues. In particular GCC intends to work closely with Communities@Work to organise a Gungahlin Community Festival in 2014 and to revamp the Gungahlin Community Development Forum involving many local groups, organisations and schools.

GCC has flagged the need to conduct a new survey of local residents to determine whether opinions about the size and nature of the Town Centre have changed since the last survey in 2008 which indicated a preference for an urban village atmosphere. A report following the 2008 survey stated:

“The variation to the Territory Plan will enable the transport network to be improved to discourage through traffic and to encourage pedestrians, cyclists and bus routes along Hibberson Street.

“Cars will be encouraged away from this busy main street by the establishment of a ring route road system which surrounds the town centre.”

“Other planning changes for the Gungahlin town centre will assist the long-term vision of a lively centre for retail, commercial and entertainment uses, while maintaining the ‘urban village’ character.”

GCC is seeking a review of whatever so called ‘Master Plan’ exists to ensure that the future Town Centre reflects the needs of the growing large population base in Gungahlin – more employment, more entertainment, more services, more facilities and more amenities. GCC will develop a scorecard to ‘tick-off’ the reasons why the local residents DO NOT have to leave the district to get what they want.

Some are underway – the Leisure Centre, the Oval and the Office Block with a Shopfront (just

continued >

commenced). We hope the announcement about the cinema is imminent. Some people may even look forward to another hardware/garden centre (Bunnings) plus anticipated expansions to the Raiders Club and the Woolworths site.

Hopefully a new survey will reveal a far broader range of services and commercial entities that residents require in our Town Centre. Building heights should be another matter – why is it necessary to restrict buildings to 4 storeys in and

around the Town Centre? Perhaps up to 10 would provide the critical mass needed to make the Town Centre more dynamic.

Last time 160 responses to the public consultation were received. The last Census revealed a population of over 47,000, with growth predicted to exceed 60,000 once the new suburbs come on stream. We achieved the best take-up rate for the NBN so the survey aim should exceed 2500 to provide a far more accurate picture of what is needed in Gungahlin.

## GCC 13 November Meeting - 7.30pm - Gungahlin Library

### ➤ Capital Metro Project update by Emma Thomas

Ms Thomas comes to the Capital Metro Project from a position as Deputy Chief Executive, Public Transport, in South Australia. She has extensive experience in helping to deliver large road and rail projects, including involvement with the Gold Coast Rapid Transit Project. Ms Thomas was also previously the South Australian Rail Commissioner, and the Deputy Chief Executive of the Department of Main Roads and Transport in Queensland. She led \$5 billion worth of procurement, contracts and construction work in Queensland, including major road programs around post-flood recovery.

### ➤ NBN update

### ➤ Community stall update

### ➤ Gungahlin office block commencement

### ➤ Roads update

# GUNSMOKE

## Newsletter



### *Considering advertising your business in Gunsmoke*

GCC is a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation established to provide a voice for Gungahlin residents and workers. The region covers the area bordered by the Federal and Barton Highways to the NSW border.

This newsletter offers advertisers direct marketing to a variety of business groups, organisations and the community in general. Whether your target market is community groups, local or national business or just the general consumer chances are this magazine could end up in the hands or coffee tables of your target market. Gunsmoke is distributed electronically to homes and businesses in the Gungahlin region. A print run of 3000 copies will enable newsletters to be available in local shopping centres.

Gunsmoke is available for download on the GCC website [www.gcc.asn.au/gunsmoke-issues](http://www.gcc.asn.au/gunsmoke-issues).

Gunsmoke provides an excellent opportunity to advertise your business or organisation directly to the local target market.

For more information please contact the Gungahlin Community Council via email to [president@gcc.asn.au](mailto:president@gcc.asn.au)



## FROM THE POLLIES

**Jeremy Hanson MLA**  
Leader of the opposition

I'm proud to say our commitment to the ever growing Gungahlin continues to be strong and continues to grow.

During the Legislative Assembly sitting weeks in October, the Canberra Liberals went in to bat for Gungahlin drivers.

The Hinder and Hibberson Street intersection in the Town Centre has become a notorious accident hotspot with nearly 70 reported crashes in the past seven years. Giulia Jones has been a long time advocate of better traffic management at the intersection and she made her views well known to the Government in the Assembly.

We will continue the pressure on the Government to make this intersection safer and more convenient for the citizens of Gungahlin.

Giulia has also been proactive in getting Minister Simon Corbell to revisit the ongoing issue of incomplete dwellings, particularly on Diamond Street in Amaroo. People deserve to live in a safe and properly presented urban environment and we will continue to work to get the problems resolved.

We understand the needs of an expanding Gungahlin. The Canberra Liberals stood against ACT Government planning changes which have now made it more expensive and prohibitive to complete home extensions in the area.

We're also in favour of duplicating several critical roads connecting Gungahlin with the rest of Canberra, as well as advocating for a new shopfront.

It's only after the relentless campaigning from the Canberra Liberals that Gungahlin will get a 50m pool and leisure centre. It's only fair that an area with a fast increasing population has access to these facilities and the Government finally saw the light.

It's exciting to be involved in the future of an area which is growing and changing rapidly by the day. The Canberra Liberals are proud of our continuing commitment to Gungahlin.



## FROM THE POLLIES

**Simon Corbell MLA**  
ACT Labor Party

The Government has made a commitment to delivering light rail and this year we are researching, preparing and planning to ensure we make high quality, value for money decisions. We plan to start construction in 2016 and for the first stage of the light rail network to be operational by 2018.

The ACT Government sees the Capital Metro Project as an important way of delivering its commitment to create a sustainable city. By investing in light rail, we will create new urban development, new employment opportunities and attract investment into the City.

Importantly, Capital Metro will help tackle the increasing congestion that Gungahlin residents face getting into the City. Analysis shows that currently peak period delays on Northbourne Avenue are estimated at 16 minutes from Gungahlin to the City. Put another way this equates to a morning peak journey time of 26 minutes southbound. By 2031 without Capital Metro, Gungahlin residents will face travel times in the morning peak of almost an hour to get to the City.

We are currently seeking your views through the 'Light Rail Integration Study' which will assess how light rail will be integrated with Canberra's overall transport network. Your views will help us make sure the first stage of Capital Metro is effectively designed to meet the needs of the community and will make public transport attractive and easy to use.

I encourage you to complete the online survey under the 'Light Rail Integration Study' heading at [www.capitalmetro.act.gov.au](http://www.capitalmetro.act.gov.au)

I hope that everyone, especially Gungahlin residents as the first recipients of the Capital Metro, participate in the survey to ensure we all contribute to the development of Capital Metro for our nation's capital.





Photo: Craig Starr talking to the neighbours. Open Day at Gold Creek Station (Kathy Eyles)

# BUSH ON THE BOUNDARY

## Ways of living Near Rural Land

Last month Gunsmoke published a short piece about Bush on the Boundary (BoB) Groups. BoB is an exciting collaboration between developers, government agencies, scientists, farmers, environment and community groups, which has achieved wins for nature and new urban communities in the north of Canberra.

BoB provides a forum for information exchange for stakeholders in the urban development process and BoB groups are now operating in Gungahlin, Molonglo and North Watson, where new suburbs are being developed close to areas of nature conservation significance and in some cases rural properties.

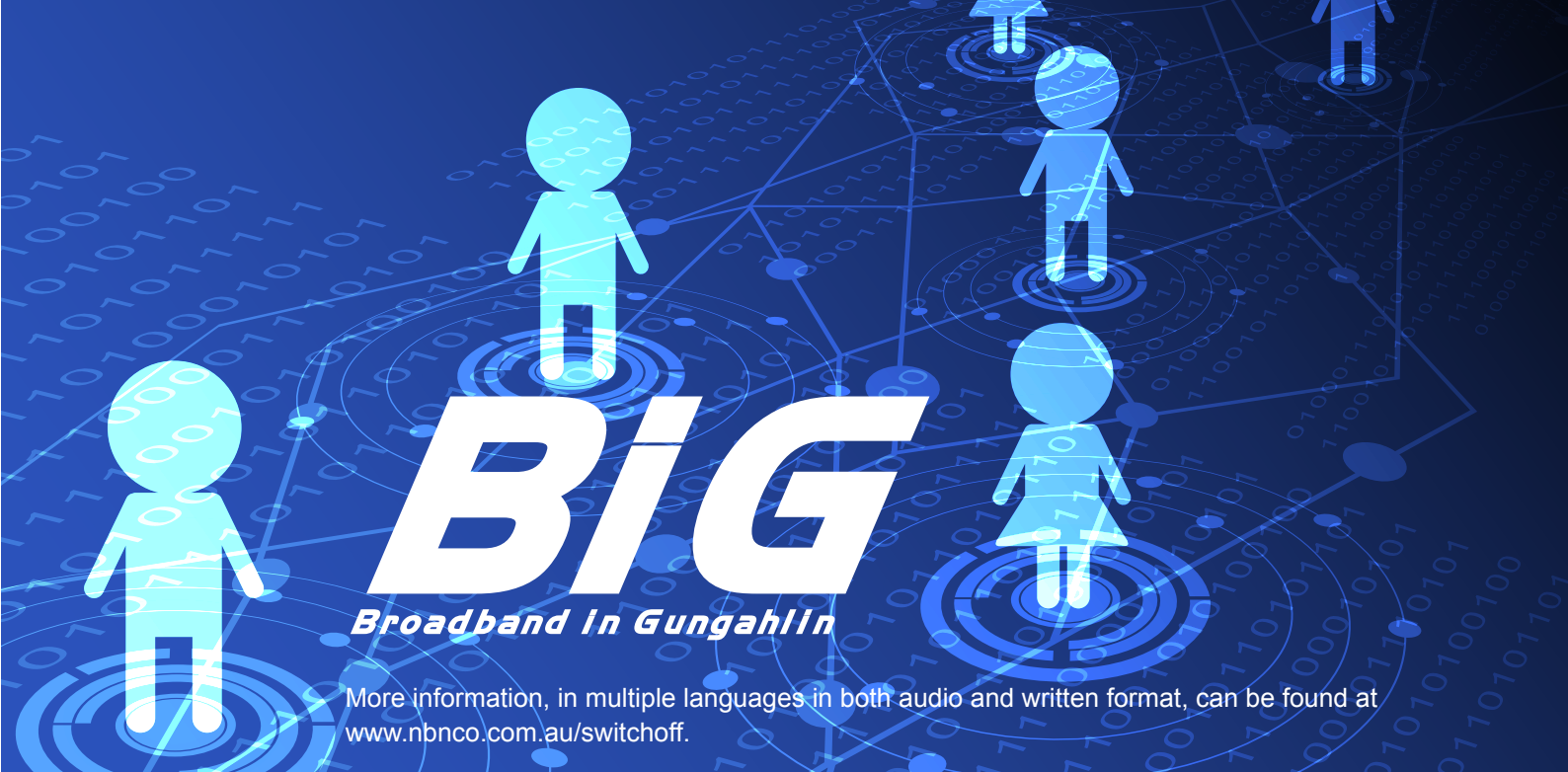
In this article, we take a closer look at a successful collaboration through the Gungahlin BoB involving land developers, rural lessees and the catchment group.

There are number of new Gungahlin suburbs that have been developed adjacent to working farms. New urban residents are often not aware of these ongoing rural land uses and their potential to impact on day-to-day farming activities.

The Gungahlin BoB was the catalyst for production of an educational flyer for new residents, Living near Rural Land. The flyer gives residents strategies to respect nearby farming properties including asking them to control domestic dogs.

Living near Rural Land was produced by BoB participants including, the Ginninderra Catchment Group, rural lessees and Lend Lease, the developer of Springbank Rise in the new suburb of Casey. It is provided to new residents in welcome materials and will be able to be distributed at other locations in Canberra where residential suburbs adjoin farming properties. Get your copy at: <http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au/sites/default/files/files/rural%20lands%20brochure.pdf>

The Starr Family, lessee of Gold Creek Station, have also held open days for the Casey residents to introduce their urban neighbours to life on a working farm. Residents enjoy a shearing demonstration and wonderful BBQ lunch while also learning that small thoughtless acts can cause problems for farmers. A tuna tin discarded over the fence for example caused significant injury to a sheep's foot. Open days help to raise awareness about farm management and engender respect and appreciation for rural enterprises and their many contributions to our region.



More information, in multiple languages in both audio and written format, can be found at [www.nbnco.com.au/switchoff](http://www.nbnco.com.au/switchoff).

## Governments might come and go, but Gungahlin will always have fibre-to-the-home broadband. by Peter Elford GCC Vice President.

Nicholls has missed out so far, and it's still not possible to get an NBN service in a block of flats. Nevertheless, demand for NBN services in Gungahlin has been spectacular with 43% of possible connections activated in the area.

There continue to be some connection delays associated with the high demand, and some bad experiences with where and how NBN equipment is installed inside houses, but these seem to be balanced by an at least equal number of good installation experiences and robust, error free operation. The GCC strongly encourages all residents to inform themselves of the options and processes associated with getting an NBN connection by speaking with one or more Internet Service Providers, reviewing Gunsmoke #126 or contacting the ACT Digital Hub (<http://www.library.act.gov.au/ACTDigitalHub>).

The new minister for Communications, Malcom Turnbull MP, has initiated three reviews into the NBN and NBNco, and as a result there is considerable confusion regarding "what's next" for the NBN. Speaking in late September

the minister did indicate that areas where fibre rollouts had already commenced would continue to be rolled out, but on updated maps published just this week on the NBNco website most of the areas in Canberra that previously had been

shown as "commenced", including Nicholls, now have no activity. This is extremely frustrating and GCC will continue to lobby for high quality, reliable and affordable broadband for all Gungahlin residents. More positively, he also indicated that a key priority for the NBN would be to connect up "multi-dwelling units" (MDU's) that have already been passed by fibre (which is essentially anything that's not a single house, eg. blocks of flats), which are common throughout Gungahlin. To date, residents in MDU's have not been able to get NBN services.

The sale of TransACT's (now iiNet's) fibre network in Gungahlin has also been delayed, in part because the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) review is ongoing. In suburbs under construction such as Casey, where iiNet is contracted to provide fibre services, construction continues, further extending the fibre footprint in Gungahlin.

**All residents need to be aware that 18 months after NBN services become available in an area, the old copper wire network will be switched off. Every house should have already received written notification of the switch-off from their current telephone company advising what options they have for moving their phone and/or broadband services onto the NBN.**

# GCC High Priority Items for ACT Budget 2014-2015

In view of the anticipated substantial growth of Gungahlin over coming years with the settlement of new suburbs including Casey, Kenny, Bonner, Throsby and Moncrief there is a need for significant planning consultation on the provision and timely development of facilities for the area to accommodate the requirements of a population likely to exceed 60,000 residents. Transport egress and ingress issues will be of critical importance and the current approach for 'catch-up' or remedial developments will not offer satisfactory solutions in the short-to-medium term.

## CRITICAL ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

GCC wants to become involved in a review/development of a new Master Plan for the Town Centre to reflect the needs of the rapidly growing population in the area. A previous Plan (2008), following a small community response, sought to retain a 'quiet village' type atmosphere for the Town Centre. Significant population growth and the strong likelihood of Light Rail terminating in Gungahlin now strongly suggest that a review should be undertaken to ascertain current community attitudes.

GCC proposes that another community survey/consultation process be undertaken to seek input from residents, visitors and workers. More facilities and amenities have been or are being provided in the region thus contributing to residents' expectations that even more development would be beneficial to avoid having to travel out of the region.

Focus needs to be placed on significant diverse commercial development to provide more employment and shopping opportunities for Gungahlin residents.

## ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

Electoral boundaries need to be reconfigured to reflect needs of Gungahlin residents and the continuing rapid growth. The current Electorate footprint, a combination of most of Gungahlin with significant areas of the Inner South and Weston Creek, does not reflect the interests of Gungahlin residents as a bloc. A preference is for an electorate which specifically represents the Gungahlin region involving a discrete critical mass of population with a common set of needs and interests.

## ROADS and TRANSPORT

Transport continues to be a major issue of concern for the Gungahlin Community. No sooner is an upgrade of a key route achieved than residents have to endure remedial action and additional disruptions to feeder roads to be able to cope with a rapidly expanding population. GCC contends that these facilities should be provided in advance of or in concert with 'known' development procedures. Residents would certainly appreciate the staggering of scheduling of road works so that traffic disruptions are minimised.

Gungahlin Drive (Southbound) users are faced with regular delays due to traffic light scheduling at Sandford Street in Mitchell plus ongoing road system developments on various exit routes to Civic or the Inner South.

Gungahlin residents rely heavily on road access in and out of the region because there are too few employment opportunities, services, entertainment and leisure facilities in the area.

The ACT Government has announced plans to duplicate Gundaroo Drive between the Barton Highway and Mirrabai Drive and has conducted community consultation and scoping studies. This project now requires Budget funding in 2014-2015 to bring it to completion. **(TOP PRIORITY)**

Allocate priority to the section between Gungahlin Drive and Mirrabai Drive (before the Valley Way extension is completed) – Bus stopping areas contribute to regular vehicle accidents due to single lane traffic. Increased by-pass traffic will exacerbate existing problems.

Correct bend in alignment of southbound RH lane at junction with Gungahlin Drive to cater for volume of traffic turning right into Gungahlin Drive and to reduce current bottleneck. Increased usage of Gungahlin shopping precinct results in large vehicle build-ups with South-bound traffic. Problems occur closer to Service Station section due to lack of pull-off areas (on both sides) for Action buses.

Current plans feature the installation of traffic lights at the Barton Highway intersection rather than the more expensive solution of a flyover. This should provide adequate traffic equalisation measures to substantially reduce vehicle back-ups both into and out of Gungahlin at peak times. Noise reduction barriers have been identified as critical items of construction along residential areas between Crace and Gundaroo Drive. There is also a need to provide updates on the proposed Nurdur Drive extension to Gungahlin Drive.



Construct effective traffic by-pass routes around the Gungahlin Town Centre to divert the increasing traffic flow from Flemington Road (East – West) and from Bonner and Casey (West – East). This means significant focus on proposed by-pass routes such as Valley Way and Anthony Rolfe Avenue.

Remedy paucity of parking at Phyllis Ashton Circuit and Strayleaf Crescent Gungahlin for patrons of commercial facilities. A solution has been developed and funding is required to complete the project. **(TOP PRIORITY)**

Fix the prominent accident spot at the intersection of Hinder and Hibberson Streets in the Town Centre. **(TOP PRIORITY)**

The installation of Stop signs, combined with the 40 km zone, will not relieve the situation. Vehicles approaching the intersection along Hinder Street are already doing less than 40kmh, and stop before proceeding into or across Hibberson. There is a continually increasing amount of traffic along Hibberson Street through the intersection. Due to this traffic, very heavy after-school movements or during weekend shopping hours, drivers on Hinder Street who wish to proceed straight ahead or to make a right turn are continually being forced to take risks.

The result is inevitably more accidents, particularly given the lack of confidence of many drivers in this dangerous situation. By the time that drivers using Hinder Street reach the front of the queue, they are so frustrated that they take even greater chances. The reasons for the Hinder Street queues are numerous:

- a. the tightness of the intersection, with the stopping areas far too close to traffic on all sides, contributing to very poor sight lines. The presence of pedestrian crossings would at least provide some setback to provide vehicles with more room and sighting capacity;
- b. current Action Bus stop improvements plus large buses blocking the view of waiting motorists;
- c. the lack of a slip lane on both sides, which prevents traffic turning left/right from doing so with a degree of safety because it is held up by vehicles seeking to turn right/left or go straight ahead;
- d. increasing traffic commensurate with two busy medical practices, a Post Office and two pathology practices.
- e. increasing traffic from northern areas of Gungahlin seeking to cross Hibberson Street;
- f. the exacerbation of this situation by the continual feeding in of traffic emerging from the Coles' underground car park and the Liquor store

car park, with more traffic to come from the proposed cinema, club, office block and mosque etc.

Accordingly the intersection needs a major planning upgrade because remedial measures to suit the current level of traffic will be insufficient when the next phase of development of the Town Centre takes place. Regardless of whether traffic from the East is diverted around the Town Centre along The Valley Way or Anthony Rolfe Avenue the expected volume of vehicular traffic in this section of the Town Centre will increase significantly as new developments are completed. Most car parking facilities will be located on the southern side of the Centre.

The time is right to significantly enlarge this intersection to include slip lanes and better visibility while there is no development on the eastern side. Further delays will incur additional costs as the cinema development may commence soon. **(TOP PRIORITY)**

## OTHER PRIORITY ISSUES

Urgent need for facilities to cater for the region's youth, particularly after day time facilities are closed.

Need for secure storage facilities for service organisations (Rotary, Lions) and community groups (Scouts, Guides) to store equipment in a safe local environment.

Need for more classroom type facilities in the region to cater for after-hours teaching/instruction programs.

GCC retains a preference for a full service hospital to be located in Gungahlin (in the longer term) recognising the needs of Gungahlin, nearby and regional residents.

## IMPROVED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES REQUIRED

Improved access to lake shores (Yerrabi Pond, Gungahlin Pond etc.) for recreational purposes.

It is accepted that these water bodies were initially constructed as water quality measures but over time they become established parts of the community landscape with expectations of broader use. Currently there is a paucity of access points to local water bodies and virtually no picnic facilities.

Parking associated with lakeshore/waterbody access throughout district needs to be substantially increased.

Provide tennis courts in district.

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



## Care&Share Assists The 'Hidden' Disadvantaged

While it is widely perceived that most people in the Canberra region enjoy a relatively high standard of living, there is a 'hidden' sector of our society comprised of people experiencing significant hardship. More than 30,000 people in the ACT rely on food relief services from welfare agencies and charities<sup>1</sup>. In addition, over the five years to 2011, the rate of homelessness in the ACT jumped by 70 per cent and is now the second highest in the nation behind the Northern Territory<sup>2</sup>.

Charities are reporting a growing trend of calls for help from the 'working poor' - people who have jobs, but are struggling to manage because of the increasing costs of housing, food, health, utilities and transport. This has dramatically increased the demand for community services provided by charitable organisations in the region.



### Communities@Work's Care&Share Program

In response to this demand, Communities@Work established its Care@Share program in Tuggeranong in May 2012 and in Gungahlin later that year. Care&Share provides food and essential services to individuals and families in the community who are experiencing hardship.

It is significant to note that Care&Share is helping not just the homeless and unemployed, but a broad cross-section of the community including young families, vulnerable youth and the aged.

With over 35 years of experience, Communities@Work is a local organisation which understands local needs. It is the most diverse provider of

community services in the Canberra region, delivering over 100 programs across 40 locations to more than 20,000 people annually.

Communities@Work's values and aspirations demonstrate a commitment to building a resilient and socially inclusive community that cares for the well-being of all. Communities@Work values the inherent dignity of everyone and believes that access to basic food, clothing and support services should be made available to all, regardless of their circumstances.

### What Makes Care&Share So Special?

The Care&Share program supports those in need to make life-changing choices in respect of nutrition, budgeting and household practices, with the view to helping them build a sense of dignity, hope and empowerment.

Key components of the program are directed more towards giving people a 'hand-up', rather than a 'hand out'. This philosophy is instrumental in helping those in need break free of welfare dependency and establish a sound basis for enhancing their long-term economic and social well-being. The key elements of the Care&Share program are outlined below.

1. End Hunger Report 2012, Food Bank Australia  
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census Data



## Food Pantry



Care&Share provides a pantry of healthy food and essential items in which clients can 'shop' either free of charge or for a nominal fee in a safe, secure and dignified environment.

Shelves are re-stocked on a daily basis with fresh fruit, vegetables and bread received from regular deliveries from Communities@Work's food rescue charity, the Yellow Van, and donations of food from local supermarkets. The pantry also carries toiletries and personal hygiene items to help clients maintain a level of dignity.

In addition, food deliveries are also received from Foodbank NSW, a community supported not-for-profit organisation, which collects excess food and re-distributes it to people in need through welfare agencies. Community clubs, schools and commercial organisations also support the program by conducting 'can-drives' or other fundraising activities.

On any given day, the pantry currently assists up to 70 clients and distributes over 900 food and essential items.

Care&Share currently has **1,164 members** and in 2012-13 there were **6,500 client visits** to its pantry.

Gungahlin Care&Share has **270 members** and receives over **300 client visits** each month.

### What our clients say

“ We have never eaten as well as we have since joining Care&Share. My children were lucky to eat vegetables once a week and now I'm able to offer them 5 nights a week. ”

“ The staff and volunteers at Care&Share cared for me when I was low. Thanks to Care&Share I am now able to pay my phone and electricity bills on time – something I have not been able to do for years. ”

“ I have never needed a hand-out in my life, but since my husband died I am unable to make ends meet. I was so embarrassed to use Care&Share for the first time but from the first moment I met Heidi and her team I felt relaxed and comfortable. I visit Care&Share now once a week and catch up with my new friends (the volunteers) and I have met some friends while shopping too. ”



Gungahlin Community Council

The Gungahlin Community Council is an organisation operated by volunteers (elected by the community) to provide a conduit between the residents & businesses in Gungahlin & the ACT Government. Its activities are supported by a small annual grant from the ACT Government.

The objective of the Council: To preserve and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of Gungahlin and the Gungahlin Community.

Membership of the Council is open to any person at least 16 years of age and one of:

- (a) lives in the Gungahlin district;
- (b) owns property in the Gungahlin district;
- (c) works in the Gungahlin district;
- (d) conducts a business in the Gungahlin district; or
- (e) has been duly appointed to represent a social organisation or interest group servicing the Gungahlin district.

So if you fit into any of the above categories you can participate in GCC activities including attending monthly meetings, joining Facebook, going on the email list for Gunsmoke (newsletter) updates & participating in surveys that we may conduct from time to time.

If you are keen you can advise your interest in joining the Committee.

GCC is not a local government. If you have enquiries relating to government issues, we may be able to help you. However, the main contact for ACT Government enquiries is Canberra Connect phone 13 22 81 or at [canberraconnect.act.gov.au](http://canberraconnect.act.gov.au).