

Gungahlin Community Council

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GUNSMOKE

Newsletter - Edition 140 March 2016

**FROM THE
POLLIES**

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Mulligans Musings

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Gungahlin Community Council

Next public meeting/AGM: Wednesday 13th April 6:30 - Gungahlin Library

BIG

Broadband in Gungahlin

by Peter Elford GCC Vice President.

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NBN in Gungahlin Region

For most Gungahlin residents the NBN has become part of everyday life, with almost all suburbs now cutover to the NBN for all Internet and phone services. In fact just one suburb, and a portion of one other, are yet to have the NBN turned on. For Nicholls residents the wait is almost over, with nbn advising that works are on schedule to meet a “ready for service” date in June, 2016.

For the enclave of residences in Casey Stage 1, the timeline is a little less clear, with the NBN three-year rollout plan simply indicating that construction will commence in the second half of 2017. As the three-year plan gets updated, it's expected that this date will be further refined. But overall it remains a wonderful success story for Gungahlin, a region where just five years ago the availability and quality of broadband was abysmal.

So how do you use your NBN service? For many I am sure they are enjoying the explosion in video streaming services such as STAN, NetFlix, QuickFlix and Foxtel Go, but for me it's been the ability to “time-shift” my work day that's made the biggest difference. With all the roads in and out of Gungahlin congested and under construction at the moment, I spend the first hour of my working day at home, working on answering the first round of emails, updating documents, doing online reading/research, or even doing some early

meetings using video conferencing. I then head into the office, but of course I'm not doing battle with everyone else commuting between 7:45-8:45, but have a pretty quick run straight into the office. For me this can be the difference between 20 minutes on the road, or more than 40 minutes, and I suspect this is the case for most Gungahlin residents.

Of course, your employer needs to be able to accommodate these sort of flexible working arrangements and parking may be a challenge for some locations, but I suspect your organisation will appreciate their employees arriving unstressed and digitally-primed for the day! Both the federal and ACT public services are exploring flexible working options, so I would encourage you to at least explore what might be possible.

The GCC would really like to hear from Gungahlin residents if the NBN has made a difference to how they work or relax. Perhaps it was the reason you moved to Gungahlin as part of an “e-Change”? Or maybe it's allowed you to adjust your work-life balance or launch that business-from-home you had always dreamed about? It may even enabled you to study online to develop new skills or knowledge? Drop us a note at info@gcc.asn.au if you have a story or snippet to share, or have a suggestion on how Gungahlin might further drive it's unique position Australia's NBN landscape.



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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.

President: Peter Elford- president@gcc.asn.au

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Ian Ruecroft - secretary@gcc.asn.au

Treasurer: David Pollard

Web Admin: Jeremy Watson - Jeremy@alexanderwatson.com.au

GCC Committee: Kevin Cox, Prasad Tipirneni, Henley Samuel, John Phippen, Jacob Vadakkedathu



From the President

Peter Elford

Welcome back to Gunsmoke! The Celebrate Gungahlin Festival is on again this year and there is much to celebrate and much to learn about, so SAVE THE DATE (Saturday, April 2nd). This is an exciting year, given everything that is happening right now, what's planned and of course there's the ACT election in October.

In fact, it's almost impossible to summarise everything that's going on in Gungahlin at the moment, and the rate of development is likely to be even greater in the coming two to three years. The challenge for the GCC is to facilitate the interaction between residents and businesses in Gungahlin and the ACT government, particularly to ensure the needs and priorities of the Gungahlin community are being met.

For example, the GCC played an active role in facilitating the engagement between the Franklin community and the Public Housing Renewal Task Force, regarding a proposal to build public housing adjacent to the Franklin Early Childhood Centre. This was ultimately resolved by the Chief Minister announcing that the Taskforce consider an alternative site within Franklin.

The situation with road and transport infrastructure is another case in point. Clearly the roads into and within Gungahlin are grossly inadequate for the population at the moment, a fact that the GCC has been making to the Minister for Planning and others for several years. The morning commute along any of the major arterial roads (Horse Park Drive, Gundaroo Drive, Gungahlin Drive) is a frustrating crawl, and within Gungahlin itself the congestion along Gundaroo Drive and around the town centre is bad even on the weekends.

The good news of course is that all three of these roads are being upgraded, and based on community feedback, the upgrades are being done in parallel to get them done as soon as possible! ACT Roads provided an update on all these projects and more at the February, 2016 meeting and assuming all goes to plan, all construction will be complete by the end of 2016. It's definitely worth checking out the slides that both ACT Roads and the Economic Development Directorate presented on the GCC website (under Meeting Minutes).

In addition, construction of the Light Rail will commence shortly, which will have a transformative impact on the Gungahlin Town Centre, and on the



route from the town centre to Civic (and hopefully Russell). Consultations are also underway regarding the redevelopment of the Gungahlin Bus Interchange in Gungahlin Place which will feed passengers to/from the light rail from outer Gungahlin and the government has announced a design study process to coordinate the further development of the town centre.

There can be no better sign of confidence in a community than business investment, and the opening of one of Australia's largest Bunnings stores and the expansion of the Marketplace are proof of that. The Marketplace upgrade will open in stages, with the new underground carpark opening in June, 2015 and the expanded shopping areas to be complete by October/November (details and images in the December, 2015 GCC meeting minutes). The Centrall Towers residential project has also been approved which will bring high-rise living to Gungahlin, but hopefully not before Gundaroo Drive has been duplicated. The GCC looks forward to the commencement of the mixed-used building including the cinema complex across from the Post Office now that contracts have been signed. Smaller local businesses are also keen to get part of the Gungahlin action, with announcements of new venues from the owners of Hopscotch and the George Harcourt Inn.

Development also continues apace in the suburbs with the Casey and Amaroo group centres forging ahead, and entire new suburbs popping up in front of our eyes. The civil works in Moncrief are done and houses are sprouting up there, to be followed this year by Throsby to the North East and Taylor to the North West. The GCC continues to make the point that although these housing developments are welcomed, road and related infrastructure should be expanded ahead of the demand, rather than at the point of severe congestion.

Bring your questions and comments to our public meetings (6:30pm on second Wednesday of every month at the Gungahlin Library), our FaceBook page ([facebook.com/gungahlin](https://www.facebook.com/gungahlin)) or see you at the Celebrate Gungahlin Festival on April 2!



FROM THE POLLIES

Andrew Barr MLA
ACT Chief Minister

In early February, the ACT Government hosted a ‘Pop-Up Cabinet’ in the Gungahlin area. These events are an excellent way for every single ACT Minister to engage with local communities and see firsthand what those communities need.

In Gungahlin, it was an excellent opportunity to talk directly with local businesses about stage 1 of the light rail network which will connect the Gungahlin Town Centre and the City Centre. Having named the successful tenderer, construction will begin on the project in the coming months, and the pop up cabinet was a chance to answer questions on the impact of the construction phase.

Many of the businesses involved in the consultation were excited about the introduction of the light rail line. Its ability to attract more people to the town centre is something many local businesses can capitalise on. Gungahlin business owners were keen to discuss how the light rail network and the plans for changes to the bus interchange will impact on the town centre. I’m confident that with this constructive feedback, we can deliver a more vibrant town centre that is more accessible and more pedestrian friendly.

Government Ministers held a planning forum to discuss the future development of the region. The Government is aware of the congestion issues at peak times, and it was great to turn the first sod at the Gundaroo Drive duplication during our time in Gungahlin. The duplication of Gundaroo Drive, upgrades to Gungahlin Drive near Mitchell, upgrades to the Barton Highway roundabout near Crace and improvements to Horse Park Drive will ease some of this pressure.

Ministers also visited a number of great government service outlets in the Gungahlin region. A tour of the ACT Government’s health centre in the Gungahlin town centre, the Child and Family Centre and Amaroo School were all a fantastic opportunity to witness service facilities that are supporting Gungahlin locals in the health and education sectors. One of our priorities is to make sure every Canberra has access to great health and education services – visiting these outlets assured me that Gungahlin residents are in very safe hands.

The Gungahlin region is quickly evolving into a wonderful environment for Canberra families, and the government remains committed to providing residents with the services and infrastructure it needs now and in the future. I look forward to further contributing to this development in the future.



FROM THE POLLIES

Shane Rattenbury MLA
Greens Member for Molonglo
Minister Education

Gungahlin is growing, and growing fast. Indeed, it is considered one of the fastest growing suburban areas in Australia.

In my new role as Education Minister, one of the first issues to cross my desk was that schools in Gungahlin are filling fast and that the Government needs to respond. Many of you will know that is true as you’ve seen the evidence with your own eyes. In the next decade the projections show we will need to build new schools and expanded existing ones.

While that’s an exciting prospect for Gungahlin, it is also requires a long term and strategic response.

In February, I met with concerned parents from Gungahlin schools and discussed the issues in more detail. Parents raised concerns about the increasing numbers of school students and school capacity in the Gungahlin region.

Parents at Franklin Early Childhood School, which caters for students from Kindergarten to Year 2, have also contacted me wanting to know where they are going to send their children in Year 3 if the surrounding schools are full. Some have suggested that we make the Franklin School extend beyond Year 2 as a way of responding.

However, Early Childhood Schools are an important option to have in our school system, offering a different learning environment that is well-suited to some students. Extending Franklin beyond Year2 will remove that educational option for parents in Gungahlin in the future. However, the Government is keeping open the possibility of expanding Franklin so that the school can cater for more children in the K-2 range in the future, and students moving into year 3 are guaranteed a place at Harrison or Palmerston, the other two area schools.

A new school is planned for North Gungahlin in Taylor, and we are also investigating the possibilities of extending other schools in Gungahlin, as well as utilising extra teaching spaces in locations where the sites cannot expand any further. In the case of Gungahlin College we have offered a flexible program so that students can attend at different times of the day, increasing the College’s capacity.

I can understand the concerns of parents who can see local schools in their area filling fast, but be assured that this issue is being addressed and plans are being put in place. I will keep the community updated in the coming months as plans are further developed.



FROM THE POLLIES

Jeremy Hanson MLA
Leader of the Opposition

The ACT election year has arrived and in October Canberrans will have a choice about the priorities the local government pursues for the ACT. In many ways it's a crossroads as the Labor Party and the Greens continue to focus on pet projects, only listening to a select few, while the Canberra Liberals will stand up for all of Canberra and the core priorities people expect a local government to focus on.

The priorities the Canberra Liberals will focus on will be the core business of what local government should be. Andrew Barr and his Labor/Green government have forgotten about them.

They include:

- **Fixing the health system** – Canberra's health system needs significant focus and investment. Under ACT Labor, we've gone from the best performing health system in the country to the worst. I want the ACT to be the envy of the nation in health and under a Canberra Liberals government it will be a cornerstone focus.

- **Investing in our children's education** – In many ways we are a lucky community but there are too many children facing disadvantage and being left behind. Our frontline educators, our teachers, need more support as do children with disabilities. The picture of the cage in one of our primary schools demonstrated ACT Labor's mishandling of the education system.

- **Building the city** – Canberra has a unique bush feel but our outer suburbs have been spoiled in many places while growth where it needs to be, in

town centres, has stalled. We will reduce taxes like the Lease Variation Charge to stimulate growth and fix the land release regime. We will invest in new road infrastructure; including flyovers and road duplications as well as improving the bus network to allow better access for more Canberrans.

- **Growing the economy** – We will fix Canberra's restrictive and prohibitive tax and regulatory regime and encourage a culture of innovation and enterprise. I want Canberra to be the best place to run a small business and a place where people from interstate and overseas choose to do business. We will drive job creation and targeted support for key commercial sectors.

- **Leaving no-one behind** – In the Army leaving no-one behind was a value instilled in me and I intend to take the same approach as Chief Minister. We will make it easier to live in Canberra and give vulnerable people support when they need it. I believe we're the most inclusive society in the country and we will continue to be the envy of the nation.

Compare these priorities to those of the government which has lost touch. Already this year they've announced strange plans to; allow cyclists to remove helmets, allow drug users to test their illegal drugs, thereby giving dealers the stamp of approval, and, restrict police from pursuing drivers acting illegally.

These are the differences between the Canberra Liberals and the ACT Labor/Greens partnership. After 15 years in power they've become out of touch and there is no better example of that than the arrogance of pursuing light rail without an election mandate.

We will have many policies and announcements over the coming months, so I encourage everyone to stay tuned.

Bottom line through, the Canberra Liberals will govern for all of Canberra. Andrew Barr will only govern for the favoured few.

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Communities@Work

CELEBRATE GUNGAGHLIN

festival 2 APRIL 2016

Gungahlin Town Park 8.30am-3.00pm

"The Little Rocky Hill" where cultures meet



Gungahlin is a vibrant community



Gungahlin is colourful



Gungahlin is a growing community

Champion supporters

Communities@Work



Kids Activities - Live Entertainment - Food Stalls - Market Stalls



666 ABC will be broadcasting live from Celebrate Gungahlin from 8.30am



Meet Michael Salmon the creator of Alexander Bunyip and join in his fun cartooning sessions at 10.30am and 12.30pm



Gungahlin is developing



Gungahlin takes pride in its diversity



Gungahlin is rich in culture

Hope to see you there!
For more information visit
celebrategungahlin.org.au

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666 ABC
 Canberra

Celebrate Gungahlin Committee Members: Communities@Work, Gungahlin Community Council, Gungahlin College, JM Publishing, The Marketplace Gungahlin and My Gungahlin

Speak Up Gungahlin

Brigitte Mann

In 1994 people started to move into Nicholls and make this suburb their home. At that time the suburb was a large construction site surrounded by paddocks. Gungahlin Pond looked great with its little islands and lots of water but not a single residence nearby. Gungahlin Lakes Club was not even a thought in the minds of those who were thinking about living there and Palmerston was still fighting to get shops.

Eventually some very enthusiastic residents decided to build a golf club and it was such a success Ainslie Club decided to get involved and so was born Gungahlin Lakes Club.

It is now 2016 and look, more suburbs have been developed and Gungahlin district has grown faster than local government can keep up. Our district has grown at an amazing rate. Palmerston has had shops for years and we now have Gungahlin well a truly established with shops and businesses as well as government offices. Alas still no cinema but we do have a swimming pool and sports centre so eventually everything will come to this very large district.

Unfortunately the government services to keep community spaces well maintained appears to have gone backwards since 1994. We appear to only have 4 to 6 mowers and an occasional slasher. In 1994 the grass was cut every 2 to 3 weeks, now we are lucky if it is done every 4 to 6 weeks. We have just as many snakes now as then, alas we just can't see them anymore because of the long grass.

If we want things to improve we need to let the ACT Government know we are not happy. Get on to Fix My Street, <https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/forms/fixmystreet/> available through the Canberra Connect web site and let them know you are not happy. If you have something to report, that is the place to let them know. It is up to us, the residents, to advise government when things need to improve.

If you want bins back in our public places, ask for them. If shrubs are dead or dying who will replace or remove them if nothing is said. Of course there are also those shrubs and trees intruding on cycle paths and foot paths that are a hazard if not trimmed, someone needs to say something to fix it. Of course then there are the shared paths that need repair, that won't get done unless someone reports it. If you would like a new footpath or a new linking footpath then tell FixMyStreet. If there is rubbish lying around, then let them know where and they will come and clean it up. It is important to advise exactly where it is by including an approximate address in the request, not just a map reference, after all we don't want excuses for not getting the job done.

If you remain silent service will continue to deteriorate.

This is not about complaining, it is about advising what we expect from our government. If we don't tell them through the channel they have provided, how will they know what we want? If it needs fixing they need to know, after all, this is our home and it is up to us to keep it looking great and keeping it safe for everyone.





Investing in Canberra

Senator Zed Seselja

As a father I always appreciate the opportunity to see the great work of our local schools. I recently visited one of those great schools, Mother Teresa Primary School in Harrison with the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull. We were very pleased to be able to announce two new and exciting educational programs for young children starting their school journey.

The new early maths and science education programs will be delivered through The Smith Family “Let’s Count” program and Froebel Australia’s “Little Scientist” program and are part of the Government’s National Innovation and Science Agenda.

“Let’s Count” is designed to teach mathematics to children aged three to five. It supports early year educators and parents to develop math skills in children through experiencing numbers in their lives in a variety of ways. By developing young children’s ability to see patterns, understand measurement, and counting through a variety of learning methods, we are able to provide them with a head start on developing more advanced mathematical skills later in life.

While “Little Scientist” has been designed to help foster children’s curiosity in science, technology,

engineering and mathematics through experiments which are fun and playful. This program is designed to help drive interest in areas with critical skill shortages in the long term.

Both programs provide children with a new way of engaging with science and maths subjects giving them the building blocks for a stronger education in these areas. Together with schools, community organisations and family the programs will reach 350,000 young people across the country.

In addition, the Government has also launched an exciting new guide for more than 250 entrepreneurial and digital technology programmes for all students. The workshops, competitions and activities, from early childhood to high school, are offered by a range of government and non-government organisations, businesses, universities and other agencies.

We know that over coming decades, some traditional occupations will fall away. But many new, now non-existent jobs will emerge. We owe it to our children to teach them the skills they need not just to survive but to thrive in our transitioning economy. That means a cultural shift to embracing innovation.

As we begin to see these great opportunities emerge we should all work together to prepare, encourage and motivate the youth of today to be the innovators of tomorrow.



The photo has been cleared for use in Gunsmoke by Mother Teresa School.

Timetable Innovation

Gungahlin College

Gungahlin College took its first students in 2011. It is a Senior Secondary College, comprising year 11 and year 12 students, with a year 10 STEM class, for gifted and talented year 10 students who access year 11 curriculum while completing their Year 10 Certificate.

Since it was opened the college has adapted its timetable 3 times to accommodate the growing Gungahlin population. All students residing in a suburb of Gungahlin, are eligible for a place at Gungahlin College.

The college opened with 308 students and 5 years later in 2016 the college has 1055 students. It reached its capacity of 950 students in 2014. It was not possible to add additional buildings (portable classrooms) to the site. Gai Beecher the principal thought of another way. She increased the utilisation of the existing facilities by extending the school day. She developed a timetable to accommodate the growing student population. In semester 2 of 2014 the college successfully trialed the idea of offering classes on a Wednesday night running until 8pm

In 2015 the new school timetable was introduced. This has continued into 2016. Classes run from 8.30 to 4.30 Monday to Friday with classes on a Wednesday night until 8pm. The flexible timetable has increased the capacity to 1280.

The Gungahlin College is the learning hub of the Gungahlin Town Centre. The school library is a joint use facility with Gungahlin Public Library and CIT is also located in this building. On a Wednesday evening, the library is open until 8pm and CIT until 9pm. The precinct is abuzz with people on a Wednesday night, visiting CIT or the library, so it was the ideal opportunity to be running classes.



Gungahlin

College is a state of the art \$74 million dollar facility and running classes outside normal hours increases the use of these expensive facilities. It has proven to have beneficial learning outcomes.

Currently there are around 300 student who attend classes on a Wednesday night. The response from teachers and students has exceeded all expectations. Teachers who opt to run classes on a Wednesday night, have a more flexible timetable on other days of the week.

Students have embraced the timetable, as they have the opportunity to build their own timetable around their lifestyle. Some students prefer to learn early in the mornings, other prefer to learn in the afternoon and night timeslots.

There are over 75 courses offered at Gungahlin College. With a large student population, classes are run on multiple lines. Students select 5 courses of study and the lines which best suits their individual needs.

The benefits of the College being located in the heart of the Gungahlin Town Centre, means many College students have built their timetable around their part time work options, in local retail, hospitality or leisure centre.

There are a number of students undertaking Australian School Based Apprenticeships (ASBAs). These students can organise their timetables, including a Wednesday night class so they can have one day off a week for their on the job training, without it impacting on their other courses of study.

For the future, it is envisaged that more classes will be offered on a Wednesday night and potentially on other nights, as the student demand increases at Gungahlin College.

To find out more visit their website
www.gungahlincollege.act.edu.au/



Discover our Natural Treasures Heritage Festival April 2016

Conservation Council ACT Region

Discover our natural treasures at this year's Heritage Festival! The Conservation Council is going bush to find the beautiful and the strange at some of our newest reserves and to uncover new sides to some old favourites. Be one of the few to have truly explored Kama and Kinlyside or rekindle your passion for Mulligan's Flat and Red Hill. Visit www.conservationcouncil.org.au/events or ph (02) 6229 3200 to find out more about these unique events and reserve your place today!

Discover Kama, 5 April 7:30am, Kama Nature Reserve, ages 8 and up

Get up with the birds and explore one of Canberra's newest reserves with local experts from Friends of Grasslands and the Canberra Ornithologists Group.

Tell Your Story, 9 April 10:00am, Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve, all ages

A great morning of storytelling and sausage sizzling in unbeatable surrounds.

Sneak Peek at Kinlyside, 14 April 10:00am, Kinlyside Nature Reserve, ages 8 and up

Don't miss this rare opportunity as we unlock a unique combination of working farm and conservation area.

Red Hill Heritage Walk, 17 April 10:00am, Red Hill Nature Reserve, ages 8 and up

Joins us as we showcase the natural and cultural history of this urban gem.



Mulligans Musings

Jason Cummings

There is a great deal of activity in and around Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary. The Sanctuary is expanding, with an extension of the predator-proof fence along the edge of the new suburb of Throsby then through the Gorooyaroo Nature Reserve. This adds an additional 770 hectares to the existing 480 hectare feral-free area – providing new and expanded habitats for threatened native animals – and more space for community engagement in the Sanctuary. If you would like further information or would like to discuss the expansion project, please contact me (Jason) at <http://bettongs.org> or at <http://mulligansflat.org.au/>

The Gungahlin community is supporting the Sanctuary. When we put out a call for volunteers to help migrating turtles bypass the fence we were overwhelmed with more than 180 expressions of interest. We now have a dedicated 'turtle patrol' team of volunteers who are rostered to align their physical exercise with helping turtles. It's a great little example of partnership with the community, over the Spring-Summer period our volunteers have helped move more than 240 turtles.

Eastern Quolls have grabbed everyone's attention. Extinct from the region for more than 100 years,

they are now the subject of a research partnership lead by the Australian National University and the ACT Government - guiding their reintroduction into the Sanctuary. Eastern Quolls are a stunning little animal; amazing that we missed them for so long. These quolls are small animals, we don't expect them to eat bettongs! They will typically eat insects, small lizards, mice and occasionally fruits. Despite our best efforts to keep them in the Sanctuary, we anticipate some of these wily critters might escape – if you see one please call Access Canberra and one of our team will be out to recover the animal to the Sanctuary.

Our community outreach program continues to grow, with Twilight Tours of the Sanctuary now offered every Friday. We have also launched an education program where one of our ecologists can bring an Eastern Bettong into school classrooms to inspire the next generation of Sanctuary guardians!



Crace Community Association

David Pollard
President, Crace Community Association

Gungahlin is a very young region, and Crace is the baby of the family – for now. With the next few suburbs taking shape including Throsby, Moncreif and Jacka, it won't be long until middle-child syndrome kicks in.

The Crace Community Association was established with the support of CIC Australia (which led the consortium that built Crace) and is now operating on a 100% volunteer basis. We have a wonderful team dedicated to fostering the local community spirit, and a community that makes that task an easy and enjoyable one. Our community is focused on Crace, though we know people visit from all over to enjoy our shops, parks, walking tracks, and hopefully our people.

Only 8 short months after formally incorporating last year, we held our largest event to date – Christmas in the Park. Open to all of Gungahlin – indeed all of Canberra – we celebrated with food, market stalls, amusement rides, a visit from the fire department, Mrs Santa, and concluded with Christmas carols. All of this was run by the community, for the community. It was a very proud moment for our team.

We've established ourselves with a strong committee steering the association while volunteers can focus on fun events, community advocacy, charity fundraising, running social groups and more. This year we hope to repeat some of our very successful events from last year including Easter, Halloween and Christmas. Our trivia nights were also a success, and we all had fun at a wine and cheese tasting evening. It doesn't matter if you live in Crace or not, if you see us doing something that interests you, please join in!

When we first started, we had an aim to cater more to the social side of our community. It very quickly



became apparent that once we had a united voice, people wanted to use that voice to talk issues important to them. As a community, we have provided submissions to ACCC and the ACT government, we have representation on the Gungahlin Community Council and the Gungahlin Capital Metro community reference group, and we collaborate with other community groups across Gungahlin, Canberra, and even groups with common interests in Sydney! We also have our own annual wellbeing survey, which has now gone Canberra-wide. Find out more about it at <http://www.cracecommunity.com.au/#!/crace-study/i1nap>

A question I've heard repeated at our events is "why doesn't my suburb do something like this?" Crace was lucky that we had a lot of the preparation done for us by the land developers, but it's not out of reach for any suburb. I've spoken with interested groups from Amaroo, Bonner, Casey, Forde, Giralang and Yerrabi Pond, and they all have keen people ready to get the ball rolling.

While a community group is achievable for any suburb, it does need people. If you are interested in seeing something social or community focused happen in your suburb, seek out like-minded people and give it a go! It might be turning a temporary carpark into a permanent one (great job, Forde), rallying around a long overdue shopping centre (eyes on you, Casey), or revitalising an older shopping centre (stay strong, Giralang).

Here's to a great 2016 to our entire Gungahlin community!

www.facebook.com/CraceACT
www.CraceCommunity.com.au



Have your say about your suburb, what you want and what life's like where you live!

It only takes about 15 minutes. Visit here to have your say: http://canberrahealth.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bgEJYovdLc7sPdZ. Everyone over 18 can do it, including people living or working in the same place. You can also send it to friends, family and colleagues anywhere in Canberra and our local region.

About the survey:

The national *Urban Wellbeing Survey* is back for its second year. This year, it is focusing on people living in Canberra and the surrounding region with a special emphasis on certain areas, including Gungahlin. *Anonymous* results (you can't be identified in the survey) will be fed back to your local regional council. Your local community association, if you have one, will also get your suburb's results. So this is your chance to have your say.

Tell us about your suburb, how your local community is going, how the year's been for you and what you'd like to see more or less of in Canberra. Last year, many Canberrans were enjoying where they lived but many also told us that they were unhappy about the lack of maintenance of parks and open spaces. You may have noticed that this has improved since then – or not! Let us know!

The survey is conducted by the University of Canberra and the Heart Foundation. Your participation is completely confidential, anonymous and voluntary.

Multi-storey car parking facility at Gungahlin

Jacob Vadakkedathu

Gungahlin is the fastest growing area in the ACT and is one of Australia's most significant areas of urban growth. It has impressive facilities including excellent playgrounds and parks. However, Gungahlin needs more public facilities and a multi-storey car park is one of the most important.

In light of the growing population in the Gungahlin region, a multi-storey car park has become a need for the Town Centre. The Town Centre does not have enough car parking to meet its growing needs. Many Gungahlin residents use their private vehicles to go to work. Having a multi-storey car parking facility would encourage more people to park their private vehicles at Gungahlin and use public transport.

Due to insufficient car parking facilities at the Gungahlin town centre, many people in the Gungahlin suburbs are forced to use their cars instead of catching buses. Many people park their cars in parking places designed for customers at the shopping malls in Gungahlin. As a result, some people who come to the Gungahlin town centre are unable to find parking to conduct their shopping because people use the shopping parking spaces for all day parking. This causes inconvenience to shoppers and also results in businesses losing trade as customers choose to go to other town centres. A multi-storey car park would not only allow people to switch to buses thus easing the traffic on roads but would also free up parking for shoppers at Gungahlin.



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Smart transport that connects us to a better future

Emma Thomas, Director-General of Capital Metro Agency (and Director-General of Transport Canberra from 1 July)

Canberra is changing and our city is faced with a number of challenges – some old, some new, some global in nature, and others unique to our city. As one of the great planned cities of the world, we are home to nearly 400,000 people, and are heading towards 500,000 in 2030 and 600,000 people in 2050.

Canberra also has one of the highest car dependency rates in the country, and congestion is only going to get worse. It's no surprise therefore that 23 per cent of our greenhouse gas emissions are due to car use, well above the national average.

Transport is an important challenge for all cities and Canberra is no different. Our travel patterns are changing as our city becomes more dynamic, there's more to do, new places to experience and we're changing what we do throughout the day.

Urban life is also changing as our population and suburbs grow. We are now known as a 'smart city' boasting the country's best educated workforce, high labour productivity, modern infrastructure, low business costs and a culture of innovation.

It's important in a growing city we do provide better access to transport and give people as many choices as possible to move around. A strong public transport system supports how we move, live and how our city grows.

From 1 July 2016, the new Transport Canberra Agency will oversee the next phase of Canberra's public transport journey, bringing together the Capital Metro Agency, ACTION buses and the Territory and Municipal Services public transport group.

Transport Canberra will be responsible for integrating buses with the new light rail, ensuring a single ticketing system, a central contact for information and coordinated timetabling

As part of this integrated public transport plan, the ACT Government recently announced the chosen consortium, Canberra Metro, to construct and operate the first stage of Canberra's light rail, with construction beginning mid-2016.

Light rail integrated with buses will help plan for Canberra's growth, getting more people out of their cars and onto public transport, which in turn will help reduce congestion and enhance Canberra's liveability.

Stage 1 of our light rail project will run through six precincts from Gungahlin to the City, each having their own unique identity and characteristics.

The 12-kilometre route will service Canberra's central shopping and business precinct, the city centre, and key locations along Flemington Road which has the potential to develop into a vibrant urban boulevard, servicing an area of rapid medium and high density growth.

The route will start in one of Canberra's fastest growing region, Gungahlin. The rapid growth in Gungahlin

accounts for almost half (40.7 per cent) of the ACT's total population growth.

It will also travel along Canberra's main gateway – Northbourne Avenue, which is the busiest transport corridor used by residents and visitors alike. Access to light rail along this corridor means buses that travel along this route can be redistributed and better utilised in other areas of Canberra to better support communities and outer suburbs. These buses will also be integrated with light rail to provide a more seamless journey.

The main interchange at Dickson on Northbourne Avenue is a strategic node along the light rail corridor and integral to the success of the light rail project. Dickson has become a multicultural, progressive hub with a diversity of services and amenities. This vibrant urban centre is already undergoing revitalisation and renewal, with increasing investment and residential developments well underway.

The terminus of the light rail route ends at the heart of the City between the Sydney and Melbourne buildings. We have seen from other cities that urban renewal begins at light rail corridors and expands to the rest of the city.

With the right combination of regenerating and redeveloping land along the light rail corridor, these areas will become more valuable to the community, boosting trade and investment, local business and land ownership.

In October last year, the ACT Government released its Light Rail Network Plan for public consultation which identified potential future stages of a light rail network across Canberra.

The Plan outlines six possible stages connecting places like the airport, south Canberra and Parliamentary Triangle, which lays the framework for an efficient and integrated public transport system to support Canberra as it continues to grow.

An integrated system along these busy corridors will change the way Canberrans use public transport forever. Stage 1 will provide the backbone to what will be Transport Canberra's world class, fully integrated, public transport system with buses supporting light rail and light rail supporting buses.

Canberra is ready to express itself as a city in new ways with stronger transport, revitalised public spaces, and better connected communities, which means we can make the most of our active lifestyles and unlock the potential of our city.

ACT Seniors Week 2016

Seniors Week is an opportunity for Canberrans of all ages to join together and celebrate the valuable contributions of older people.

Seniors Week 2016, proudly sponsored by the ACT Government and Beyond Bank, will celebrate with over 300 programmed events throughout the Territory.

Many older people assist their families with caring responsibilities whilst being actively involved in their communities through volunteering and passing on their knowledge and experience to others. Seniors Week provides an opportunity to bring the community together, through events and activities, to celebrate the contributions seniors make.

Seniors Week aims to:

- improve community attitudes towards older people and ageing
- facilitate community participation and activity by older people, including those from Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- enhance community connections and inter-generational relationships.

The Senior Seniors Week Expo will be a key event on Thursday 17 March. The venue at Thoroughbred Park, Lyneham will feature over 200 exhibitors, a jam packed program and a key performance by Keith Potger AO, founding member of The Seekers.

And..... the band of the Royal Military College will play on at Vikings Erindale on Wednesday 16

March for one big concert only. The concert will also include an appearance by the Australian Rugby Choir.

The 2016 Positive Ageing awards, supported by the Belconnen Labor Club, will recognise those with outstanding service provision, advocacy and affirmative commitment in improving the lives of older Canberrans. It is an opportunity to publicly recognise the inspirational work and important roles individuals and organisations provide in making a positive difference to older people through innovative and creative services. The gala cocktail evening and awards presentation will be at the Belconnen Labor Club on Friday 18 March from 6.30pm.

For more information on these events please check our website www.cotaact.org.au

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