

GUNGAHLIN SMOKE SIGNALS

GUNSMOKE

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PUBLISHING

Voting in the 2016 Federal Election

Kevin Cox and Scott Lang - Gungahlin Residents

On Saturday 2 July 2016, a Federal (national) Election will be held and managed by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). Only Australian citizens can vote, and both electoral enrolment and voting is compulsory.

There are limited exceptions to compulsory voting. Citizens living outside of Australia need not vote, and you or your carer can apply so that you need not vote.

It is estimated that approximately 1,100,446 eligible Australians are not enrolled to vote, and many of these people are aged between 18 and 24. Please assist people in your household and community to understand the value of voting: if you don't vote, you may be fined. Information in other languages can be found here: http://www.aec.gov.au/About_AEC/Translated_information/index.htm

You can visit the AEC website to:

- enrol online at <http://www.aec.gov.au/enrol/>. The one enrolment is for both Federal and ACT elections.
- check you are in the correct electorate at: <https://oevf.aec.gov.au/>
- or, if you cannot get to a polling booth on election day, to apply for a postal vote at: <http://www.aec.gov.au/election/pva/>

Federal Elections are in two parts; voting occurs for the House of Representatives and for the Senate.

House of Representatives

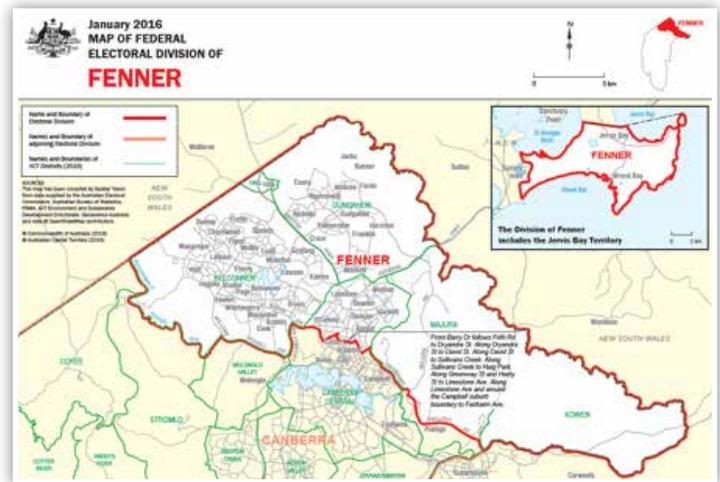
For the House of Representatives, Australia is split into 150 electorates of roughly equal populations. Gungahlin residents are in the electorate of Fenner (see map below) which covers all of Belconnen, Gungahlin and part of North Canberra, and a more detailed map exists here: <http://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/2014/act/final-report/files/fenner.pdf>

Voting in the House of Representatives is full preferential. This means if your candidate does not get elected your number 2 vote becomes a number 1 vote. This goes on until one candidate gets 50% of the votes. An example is shown here: http://www.aec.gov.au/Voting/counting/hor_count.htm

Please note that despite the media coverage focused upon the leaders of political parties, Australia does not have a presidential electoral system. A vote in Fenner elects a local representative who then represents the whole electorate in Parliament. However,

if enough representatives from the same party across Australia are elected, then that party controls the House of Representatives, and the leader of that party becomes (or remains) the Prime Minister.

To vote for the House of Representatives, you will receive a green ballot paper with candidates listed for the different parties. It is best to number all of the boxes next to the candidates in the order of your preference. Do not put ticks or crosses in the boxes. If you make a mistake, that's OK, just ask the AEC staff for another ballot paper.



The Senate

In the ACT, which has two Senators under the Constitution, Senate candidates are elected with a quota if they get one third plus one of the formal votes cast.

If no candidate has a quota then the electoral office distributes the votes of the candidate with the least number of votes. This means the number 2 vote to an unsuccessful candidate becomes a number 1. These votes are added to the candidates still in the count. This goes on until a candidate gets a quota.

On the white Senate Ballot Paper, you vote either ABOVE or BELOW the line. Both types of votes are valid. BUT, you must vote either above or below the line. DO NOT mix the two. When you vote above the line you vote for the different parties. When you vote below the line you vote for the individual candidates. Number the parties or the candidates in your order of preference. If above the line it is best to number all parties in your preference order. If below the line it is best to vote for 12 or more candidates in your preference order.



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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

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

Gungahlin Community Council meetings are held on the Second Wednesday in each month. Venue: Gungahlin Library. Time: 6:30



From the President

Peter Elford

Thanks to everyone that came along and spoke with the GCC during the Gungahlin Festival. It was a tremendous day and the overwhelming feedback we received was that life in Gungahlin is actually pretty good! Congratulations to all the organisations that contributed to the day and to Communities at Work for bringing the entire event together.

Many of the same organisations including the ACT Government, Communities@Work, Gungahlin College, My Gungahlin, ACT Libraries, Gungahlin Community Council, The Marketplace and Gungahlin Village are coming together to host the Gungahlin Movie Marathon over the weekend of June 17, 18, 19 at Gungahlin College. Tickets are just \$5 and are available from <http://www.la.act.gov.au/gungahlin/movies>, along with further details and the program.

Of course, not everything is perfect, and road upgrades did feature in some of the comments we received. The ACT government's announcement on May 1 to fund the duplication of Horse Park Drive from the Federal Highway through to Mulligans Flat Road in the upcoming ACT budget was therefore welcome news. The upgrades to Gungahlin Drive at the intersection with Sandford Street are due for completion in June and this should make a significant difference to the nightmare that is the commute out of Gungahlin most mornings.

On top of all this, Gungahlin received a huge boost later in the month with the ACT government signing the final contract to construct the Gungahlin to City Light Rail. This will be a defining project for Gungahlin, not only as a public transport service, but also as a catalyst and energiser for the town centre. Several development projects in the town centre are already highlighting the benefits of the upcoming Light Rail in their collateral.

Much of what makes Gungahlin a great place to live is the increasing range of retail outlets in the region. In the past month the group centre at Casey has opened, as have a range of additional stores in the Bunnings complex. And the new Young and Frisky Bar in Gungahlin Place brings some of the Braddon "vibe" to Gungahlin. At the GCC meeting in April, some details about the cinema complex were provided, and it was exciting to see the early design thinking, including an open air marketplace. Hoyts has been announced as the cinema operator and it is expected that construction of the four floor cinema



building, with retail on the ground floor, restaurants, retail and the cinemas on the second floor and commercial tenancies on the third and fourth levels, will commence in early 2017. Car parking will be in the basement level.

Gungahlin also has a lot of natural attractions, and in this issue we highlight some of the cycling tracks that wind around the suburbs.

The election of Canberra's local state government, the ACT Legislative Assembly, is held every three years on the third Saturday in October. This means everyone in the ACT will be going to the polls on October 15 this year. Before then we will also be voting in a Federal election on July 2, which means everyone in Gungahlin, like the rest of the ACT, is in for a politics-filled few months! Sorting the national issues from the local issues is sometimes challenging, but obviously critically important. The GCC will continue to identify local Gungahlin issues, and provide forums where the positions of the contestants in the ACT election can explain how they will address them.

This is the first ACT election with the newly defined five electorates, each of which will have five members. All the suburbs of Gungahlin are in the new electorate of Yerrabi, which also includes 5 suburbs from Belconnen and Hall. The GCC is expecting that these new boundaries will provide a greater level of local accountability, making every vote even more important.

Of course, voting is compulsory for everyone over the age of 18, so it's crucial that if you have just turned 18, recently changed your name or address (moved to Gungahlin perhaps!), or become an Australian citizen then you must register to vote – see the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website for details (www.aec.gov.au). If you register with the AEC you will also be enrolled for the ACT Legislative Assembly election.



FROM THE POLLIES

Jayson Hinder MLA
Labor Member for
Ginninderra

Future-proofing Transport and Business

As your MLA and member of the Territory Government, I'm focused on making sure that our transport systems are integrated and efficient and that we have roads which support Gungahlin's rapidly expanding population. An integrated transport approach is crucial.

Light rail is affordable and efficient. The project is funded using \$67 million in Federal Government funding. This keeps the cost to the ACT taxpayer as low as possible. Importantly, over the 20 years of the Public Private Partnership light rail will make up less than 1% of the ACT's budget expenditure. The territory will also not hand over a cent of taxpayer money until light rail is up and running.

Light rail isn't just about improving our current transport capacity, it is about building capacity for Canberra's future. Our city will reach a population of 500,000 by 2033, and Gungahlin will see the greatest increase. The project is driving greater population density along the route, and will avoid increased levels of commuter traffic.

The argument is not between light rail and buses, it's about integrating all transport in our plan. The returns on adding more buses are diminishing - they are often full or stuck in traffic. Light rail is an additional form of transport and will allow us to reallocate those freed up bus kilometres to deliver passengers to the corridors, with more frequent and improved public transport and amenity for all areas of Canberra.

Integrated transport means building better roads. The opening of Majura Bypass and the recent Horse Park Drive announcement are evidence of this. We're looking at all forms of transport, and I'm currently advocating for more incentives for people to commute using motorbikes as a means of further reducing congestion in the city and on our roads.

As someone with a three-decade history of running small businesses, I understand that better transport will improve business. The certainty that a fixed route provides for residents along the route will allow for higher population density and instant local customer bases for businesses.

I'm constantly out talking to residents about what my Government can do to improve our region. You'll see me at local shops most days. If you'd like to talk about transport or another local issue, I'm ready to listen. My job as your local MLA is to take your feedback and use it to improve delivery of services to our community.



FROM THE POLLIES

Shane Rattenbury MLA
Greens Member for Molonglo
Minister Education

Greens have the courage and vision to plan for the future

As I'm sure you will be aware, we're in full flight into the 2016 Federal Election Campaign. With two elections coming up, the Greens have been busy out in the community talking to Canberrans about what is important to you both locally and nationally.

I've been out in the suburbs with your local Greens Senate Candidate Christina Hobbs, talking to residents and hearing about your hopes and fears for the future. I've really enjoyed getting to know Christina and I think she is a really strong candidate for the Senate.

Christina was born and bred in Canberra. She has a background in finance and economics and is a smart, compassionate and thoughtful person. She has spent the last few years working overseas for the United Nations and has seen with her own eyes the desperation that people in Syria, Turkey and parts of Africa experience when they have been displaced from their homes due to war and famine.

Returning home to Canberra, Christina is passionate about building equality here as well. She will stand up for love and equality in the face of bigotry and fear, and for those people fleeing torture and war, looking for safety and community here in Australia.

She understands that meeting the challenges of climate change are central to how we plan for our future - as a city and as a community.

The Greens are passionate about Canberrans living in a smart, green city where people are connected to each other, and where the vulnerable are well supported.

The Greens are the only party who have had the courage and the vision to put light rail squarely on the election agenda for over a decade. We know that population growth in Gungahlin means that travelling in and out of the area on the roads is getting harder and harder. It's a very exciting time, with light rail underway, and for once, we are meeting our city's challenges head on.

So while the two major parties are busy arguing over inadequate climate targets and cruel and inhumane refugee policies, luckily Canberrans have another very real option when they head to the ballot box on Election Day on July 2nd.

Christina Hobbs is a person who will be strong in standing up for what matters to the Canberra community. She will stand against the conservative and short-sighted agenda of the Canberra Liberals, and will bring with her compassion and the strength to talk about what is right.

So if you see Christina out and about, please take the opportunity to have a chat to her and let her know what is important to you.



FROM THE POLLIES

Alistair Coe MLA
Deputy Leader of the
Opposition

We need infrastructure before suburbs are built.

I, like most residents of Gungahlin, am sick of the ACT Labor Government always playing catch-up with road infrastructure. Despite the Government receiving record revenue from land sales, very little is reinvested in infrastructure to keep pace with the growth.

The Canberra Liberals have committed to the duplication of Gundaroo Drive, all the way to the Barton Highway; a flyover at the Barton Highway roundabout; and the duplication of Horse Park Drive. Each of these pieces of infrastructure should have been duplicated years ago.

The Canberra Liberals have also released a comprehensive transport policy for all of Canberra. Rather than a light rail contract that will cost \$1.6 billion, including \$710 million for construction, we will support sensible investments that serve all of Gungahlin and all of Canberra.

The Canberra Liberals have announced a plan to operate eight rapid bus routes and a new parkway express. These bus services will bring a new level of public transport to Canberra. Not only will the buses be frequent, but they will also be fast by utilising existing and new bus priority infrastructure on major arterial roads. The new service will also be part of a seven day bus network, rather than the existing separate networks on Saturdays and Sundays. The plan also sees the delivery of new comfortable buses, late night bus services and improved express and

local services. Our plan is affordable and will deliver improved public transport services for all Canberrans.

Our plan will also see the introduction of 'Friday Free'. This initiative will mean that bus users will get free travel for the rest of the week after they have complete eight journeys. We have also committed to a trial of electric buses, a colour coded network, and investments in innovation and intelligent transport systems.

In contrast, the Government's signing of the light rail contract is disappointing. The total cost of the project includes a \$375 million capital payment and an average of \$64 million per year for 20 years. This is way too much to pay for a service that will be slow and will service very few Gungahlin residents. Unfortunately, 85% of Gungahlin's population do not live within walking distance of a proposed tram stop.

The Canberra Liberals are determined to give all residents of Canberra the infrastructure you deserve. For more information about our public transport plan, visit www.canberrastransportfuture.com.au.

JM Publishing is a boutique graphic design and publishing studio specialising in the provision of high quality services and excellence in design and publishing. We work closely with clients to ensure the maximum impact from the final product.

Celebrate Gungahlin Festival 2016 Promotes Community Cohesion

The 2016 Celebrate Gungahlin Festival delivered on its promise to be even bigger and better than the 2015 inaugural festival.

The festival organisers estimate that approximately 5,000 locals attended on the day. The festival, in its second year, provided something for everyone in a vibrant showcase of entertainment and engagement from over 75 local businesses and community organisations, up 56% on the number of stall holders in 2015.

People from all walks of life came together to celebrate the rich diversity and unique character of Gungahlin. The festival truly reflected Gungahlin as 'the little rocky hill where cultures meet'.

Those who attended were overwhelmingly positive about the day. Almost everyone surveyed thought the event was beneficial for the community and made them feel connected. A vast majority said they'd come back next year.

The festival would not have been possible without the generosity of a number of sponsors and supporters.

If you are interested in participating in next year's Celebrate Gungahlin Festival visit www.celebrategungahlin.org.au to submit your Expression of Interest for 2017.



"The Little Rocky Hill" where cultures meet



Visit www.celebrategungahlin.org.au



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CELEBRATE GUNGAHLIN festival



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From little things, big things grow

David Pollard - Gungahlin Community Council

In the previous edition of Gunsmoke, I relayed a question that has been asked of the Grace Community Association – why doesn't my suburb have an Association like Grace? In the months since that article, I'm still hearing that question, and more.

It started as a small number of queries between community associations. How did you overcome this or that issue? What is needed to establish a formal association? What type of roles are important to fill early? What common pitfalls should we keep an eye out for? We are struggling at the moment, what can we do differently?

Forming and running a community association isn't easy, but it has all been done before. There are guidelines if you know where to look, and there are experienced people who are willing to offer assistance.

The first question a new community group will face is the decision to incorporate, and the expense that decision brings, either way. Incorporation is when a group forms into a legal entity. It is important to protect the group and volunteers, but also adds an administrative layer. The association must then comply with legislation via the Office of Regulatory Services. It must have a committee, hold meetings and take minutes. It must have and abide by a constitution. It's not difficult, but it is a hurdle.

Once your group is a legal entity, it has rights and responsibilities. One of those responsibilities represents your next big hurdle – buying insurance.

Depending on what your association wants to do within the community, this can be in excess of \$1,000!

Not only is this a big stumbling block for a new community group, it is a common problem. In response, the executive committee of the Gungahlin Community Council has begun investigating how this can be addressed in a more unified way. If, for example, the council can arrange and fund insurance for any community association that commits to some level of representation at council meetings, this would strengthen both parties.

While each community group has to have its own identity, aims and expectations, many of the hurdles faced by community groups are common. To address this, various community focused groups including the Gungahlin Community Council, Forde Community Association, Grace Community Association, Communities@Work, interested volunteers from prospective Bonner and Casey community groups and with support from My Gungahlin, have started discussing a "Community Association Support Network". Through this network we can share our experience, questions, answers, suggestions, burdens and successes.

I've seen first hand what a unified community voice can do, and I believe it is worth the effort. By banding our handful of suburban community groups together, we all get stronger. We bring something unique to Gungahlin, and make it a better place to live.

Post your questions for the Yerrabi Candidates

Before the October ACT elections the Gungahlin Community Council will ask all Yerrabi Candidates a set of questions.

The GCC is asking the Gungahlin Community to supply the questions to ask.

You can supply upto 10 questions visiting this link. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GCC-Candidate-Questions> or you can send as many questions as you like by email to gunsmoke@gcc.asn.au or you can send the questions to Gunsmoke, 22 Yirawala St, Ngunnawal, ACT 2913. The GCC will collate the questions, put them to the candidates before the election, and publish the results.

The screenshot shows a survey form titled "Questions to Ask Candidates". The text on the form reads: "The Gungahlin Community Council will ask all Yerrabi Candidates in the October ACT elections a set of questions. The GCC wants the questions you would like us to ask. Please list your questions in order of importance. We will collate the questions, put them to the candidates before the election, and publish the results." Below this text is a numbered list from 1 to 10, with each number followed by a text input field for a question.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GCC-Candidate-Questions>

Investing in Canberra

Kevin Cox - Gungahlin Community Council

Infinity Towers is an apartment complex in the Gungahlin Town Centre. It is in the block bounded by Gribble St, Anthony Rolfe Drive and Gundaroo Road. The block was for a Business Park but the developers could not find an anchor tenant. Planning approval was sought and granted to change the land use to include residential.

Geocon, a local Canberra Company, are the developers. The Towers will dominate the Gungahlin skyline. The tallest tower is 70 meters and 22 stories. As a comparison the Wayfarer Apartments in Belconnen is 88 meters and 27 stories. The Acton Nishi is 17 stories.

There will be three towers with the first two completed by 2019. The two towers contain a total of 426 apartments. 50% of the apartments are 1 bedroom with sizes ranging from 52 to 69 square meters. 44% are 2 bedrooms with sizes from 71 to 97 square meters. The remaining apartments are larger with sizes from 123 to 155. All have balconies ranging in size from 8 to 34 square meters.

The total number of residents is likely to be around 700. In comparison this is 10% of population of Nicholls. The population density

of Nicholls is around 1,000 persons per square kilometer. The Towers including roads and nearby parks is 20,000 persons per square kilometer.

Having a higher density population means more services in walking distance. This, with access to Light Rail, will make the Towers an attractive option for many. The increase in density will bring more services to the Town Centre and so benefit all Gungahlin residents.

A distinguishing feature of the Towers is the level 6 sky garden set between the towers. This contains a 25 meter pool with gardens and pavilions for use by all the residents. Other attractions are the nearby Yerrabi Ponds and the views from all apartments.

The 426 apartments have a total of 570 parking spaces. There are four lifts in each tower with 2 for the lower floors and 2 for the higher floors. A standard body corporate will provide ongoing services and maintenance. The intention is for apartments to be owner occupied.

Infinity Towers will change the look of the Gungahlin Town Centre. It, with other planned, high density developments will change the feel of the Town Centre.



Woodbridge opens Hot Shots courts at Gungahlin schools

Two Tennis Australia partner schools in Gungahlin, Good Shepherd and Holy Spirit, have each received six new Tennis Hot Shots courts, courtesy of ANZ. The courts are an important first step in the development of tennis infrastructure for the Gungahlin region, with Tennis ACT identifying the need for a full sized community facility in the area as a priority.

Australian tennis great Todd Woodbridge was joined by Tennis ACT CEO Ross Triffitt, ANZ District Manager Nadine Maroney, ANZ District Executive Rachel Tram and representatives from both schools to officially open the courts on May 4.

As part of a Tennis Cares initiative at Australian Open 2015, ANZ raised \$50,000 to help local community programs in the Asia-Pacific region.

The money was used towards upgrading the two schools' existing facilities and installing modified courts. As Tennis Australia partners, both schools are committed to implementing tennis in their Health and PE curriculum with a total of 477 students from the schools currently registered to the ANZ Tennis Hot Shots program.

Todd Woodbridge said the new mini courts would give students the opportunity to play tennis on a regular basis, keeping them fit and active.

"The students of Good Shepherd and Holy Spirit will have lots of fun playing ANZ Tennis Hot Shots on these brand new state-of-the-art mini courts during their curriculum, at lunch time and before and after school," Woodbridge said.



"These smaller courts, complemented by smaller racquets and low compression tennis balls, give kids the opportunity to learn the fundamental skills and enjoy the sport from a young age.

"Providing the right-sized courts in schools and communities is the best way to encourage kids to pick up a racquet and have a go."

Tennis ACT is committed to working with the Gungahlin community to build on the success of the new courts. Tennis ACT CEO Ross Triffitt said: "With over 50,000 people in the Gungahlin region, and currently no tennis facilities, these courts are the first step in addressing the need for tennis infrastructure in this area. Tennis ACT recently conducted a Strategic Facility and Management Review which identified the need for the development of a district sized tennis facility in the Gungahlin region.

"The new courts are a great example of an important community project and illustrates how tennis is having a positive impact in the ACT. The huge number of students participating in tennis programming at the school highlights the popularity of the sport and will only increase the demand to develop full sized facilities in the Gungahlin community.

ANZ Tennis Hot Shots is one of Australia's most popular sport participation programs for the five to 12 year age group with a record 196,834 participants nationwide in 2014/2015, a 41 per cent increase on 2013/2014.



Canberra Nature App

Kevin Cox - Gungahlin Community Council

The ACT has a wonderful online Nature Map. There are over 1,000,000 photos showing sightings of plants and animals.

Canberra Nature Map is a partnership between nature lovers, nature experts and the ACT Government.

Aaron Clausen, a mountain biker started the project. By mistake he rode through a patch of critically endangered Canberra spider orchids and became entranced by their beauty and fragility.

You can become involved by downloading the Canberra Nature Map app to your iPhone or Android device. Then you photograph and report any interesting plant, frog, butterfly, bird, or animal.

To find out more visit <http://canberranaturemap.org>



Mulligans Musings – Winter 2016

Jason Cummings

As we enter the cooler months, rest-assured the bettongs continue to sleep snugly during the day, and come out to forage in the evenings. Recent population estimates have our local population, the only one on mainland Australia, at around 250 individuals. Certainly if you book one of our regular Twilight Tours you are sure to see them (and our policy is you can come-again for free if you don't). One benefit of taking a tour during Winter is that the bettongs and sugar gliders are extra hungry and easy to see, and the tour typically finishes by 7:30 pm.

Our turtle patrol volunteers are now in their winter hibernation period – over Spring and Summer more than 70 volunteers helped move nearly 250 turtles across our predator-proof fence. The patrol will fire-up again in Spring, so sign up if you are interested, the timetable is scheduled around people's availability to walk the Sanctuary fence.

As I flagged in the last Mulligans Report, we anticipated that some of our new Eastern Quolls might be too adventurous to keep in the Sanctuary. Sure-enough, we have relocated some from Sutton and from Forde-front-yards. If you see one let us know. Several pairs have settled nicely in the Sanctuary, and we have received several reports of sightings from the

public. Our 'fingers-crossed' anticipation is that these pairs of quolls will breed successfully and start us on the pathway to a successful population in the Sanctuary.

We are presently developing a concept plan for the expanded sanctuary area – the plan will bring together conservation, recreation, scientific and cultural values. The plan will shape public use of the Sanctuary for the next 5-10 years – if you would like further information on the concept plan please contact us for a briefing.

Finally, we have recently signed a partnership with our 'Sister Sanctuary' in Wellington – Zealandia. ZEALANDIA is a fully-fenced urban ecosanctuary located in the heart of Wellington, New Zealand. With a 500-year vision to restore a Wellington valley's forest and freshwater ecosystems as closely as possible to their pre-human state, the 225 hectare ecosanctuary is a groundbreaking conservation project that has reintroduced 18 species of native wildlife back into the area, 6 of which were previously absent from mainland New Zealand for over 100 years. [sound familiar!?!?]

If you are planning to head over to Wellington with the new direct flights, I encourage you to visit Zealandia, a similar sanctuary but several years ahead of where we are at with Mulligans Flat...

Visit www.mulligansflat.org.au for contact details and further information



FROM THE Fed's

Senator Zed Seselja
Senator for the ACT Liberal Candidate

For many Members of Parliament and Senators who travel to and from Canberra for sitting days and other business, they often see very little of Canberra except the airport and the Parliamentary Triangle. I often have to remind colleagues of all political persuasions that there's actually a whole city out there beyond the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin.

While Canberra residents play a vital role in the operations of the Australian Government, Canberra isn't just about what happens in the two chambers of Parliament. People raise their families here, their kids go to school here, there's young people at some of our nation's best universities here, and people work in all sorts of sectors and industries.

In my role as a Senator, I endeavour to represent all people from all areas of Canberra. We may not get the media attention in Canberra like Western Sydney or Adelaide, but we have our fair share of aspirational families looking to get ahead. We still want a strong economy, local jobs, good schools, and better roads.

And there's no better way to find out what Canberrans need than by living here. I live in Tuggeranong and while I take my kids to weekend sport, or drive into my Civic office, or visit my local shops, it's easy for me to understand how we can make things better.

With that in mind, I was very pleased to announce last month that my long-gestating plan to move my electorate office to Gungahlin has finally been approved. The new office will be where I will hold meetings, community events, and hear from local Canberrans about important issues and I'm really excited about the opportunity to spend more time in your local area.

The good news the papers are signed and building will be commencing soon, so there will be an electorate office in Gungahlin very soon.

I hope that having a Senator in your backyard will give you more of a chance to make your voice heard and to ensure your local issues are considered.

I look forward to seeing you drop by the new Senate electorate office once it's open later this year and it will be great to see Gungahlin have a strong local voice in the Parliament.



FROM THE Fed's

Robert Gunning
Liberal Candidate for Fenner

I am really pleased to have the opportunity to write in this issue of Gunsmoke and introduce myself as the Liberal candidate for the seat of Fenner.

I've lived in Canberra for over 40 years and I know that Canberra always does better when we're looking after small businesses, encouraging ideas, and growing the economy.

I started out working in Western Australia and graduating in Economics before I came to Canberra to join the public service. I was a senior public servant working mainly in policy areas in the Department of Finance and the Department of Transport.

After a productive and enjoyable public service career, I set up my own business with some friends and worked successfully in the private sector for over 20 years. For much of my time in the private sector I ran associations representing the trucking industry.

I've been lucky enough to be involved in Canberra's two great economic strengths: our expert public sector and our thriving small business culture.

While working in my own business, I was able to use both those elements of my experience through providing policy advice to a range of clients in the public and private sectors, including successfully negotiating on behalf of the major South Australian power company to acquire a key railway line from Leigh Creek to Whyalla.

I've always been actively involved in the local Canberra community including as President of the Parents and Citizens Association at Belconnen High School, and as a member of the Belconnen High School Board. I am currently on the Community Advisory Council of Calvary Belconnen.

I've seen at first-hand how tough things can get when governments don't look after Australians who are out there creating jobs and growth in a small business environment. I decided to run in this election because I believe it's vital there are some people who actually know how to build a small business in our parliament.

It is important that we have the opportunity to restore the federal budget to balance, create more jobs for those entering the workforce by encouraging small business, secure our borders and pursue realistic ambitious targets in supporting schools and hospitals.

I know that as a Liberal candidate, the job ahead of me is extremely challenging, but I hope to make Fenner marginal so our local concerns are not forgotten and we have the strong voice in the parliament we deserve.

I look forward to meeting you and hearing your thoughts while I'm out and about in the coming weeks.



FROM THE Fed's

Senator Katy Gallagher
Senator for the ACT Labor
Candidate

For me, the election offers a great opportunity to get out and campaign on Labor's positive, people-focused policies. We've spent the last three years engaging with communities and listening to ordinary families about what they want government to deliver. It hasn't mattered where I've been, whether talking to people on Hibberston Street in Gungahlin or in any other part of our city, the answer has always been the same.

People want their kids to receive the absolute best education possible. They want affordable access to their GP, properly funded hospitals and for Medicare to be protected. They want direct action climate change and they want a fair go — for multinationals to pay their fair share of tax, fair wages and conditions and a level playing field for young families who are trying to buy their first home.

Labor has listened. We understand that improving education is the key to opportunity and our future economic and social prosperity. That's why we will deliver the largest ever investment in schools in our history. A Shorten Labor Government will invest \$37.3 billion to ensure every child receives the support they deserve, with schools funded on the basis of need. For the ACT, that's \$25m in additional investment in our schools in 2017-18 alone.

We believe all Australians should be able to access healthcare when and where they need it. It's why we created Medicare and why we'll always protect it. Labor is committed to reversing the Liberals' latest GP Tax by stealth that forces doctors to hike fees and reduce bulk-billing. Our plan unfreezes the rebate doctors receive from Medicare so they're not forced to charge you more, and we'll restore the funding the Coalition government cut to hospitals in its unfair 2014 Budget.

With first home buyers making up just 1 out of 7 of all home purchases, we recognise that for most young families in Australia the dream of owning their own home is increasingly out of reach. That's why Labor is tackling unfair tax concessions. We'll help level the playing field for first home buyers competing with investors by limiting negative gearing to new properties from 1 July 2017, encouraging new supply and jobs.

This July 2 Labor will be offering a real alternative, one that puts people and families first.



FROM THE Fed's

Andrew Leigh MP
Labor Candidate for Fenner

Late last year, I was the guest of Harrison School's robotics class. I was impressed by the way the students had responded to the STEM programs their teachers are pioneering. In their white coats, the students showed me the small mobile robots they'd created, and what they could do. A great teacher, with a great program and great support, had given the students the confidence and knowledge to absorb new technological skills and then to experiment and to expand their knowledge. The teacher was there, overseeing what went on, but I felt that the kids were comfortably and productively in charge of the classroom.

Great teachers give our kids knowledge and know how, but just as importantly they give them confidence in their ability to learn, and to adapt that knowledge to new situations.

I think of Gungahlin as a place of innovation and enterprise, a community that is fierce about the future and the opportunities of its children. And somewhere that does new things first.

Gungahlin Public library was Canberra's first free NBN Hub, and the superfast broadband in the town centre is making it a magnet for IT and tech companies.

It's not just IT where Gungahlin shows its future-leaning character. There are also schools breaking new frontiers in moving to sustainable and efficient energy sources to power the learning day.

Amaroo School has been a trailblazer in this area, leading the region in renewable energy by installing a 600kW roof mounted solar panel system. It not only powers the school, it feeds back into the supply of renewable energy in the ACT.

When it's installed, the new solar panel system will place Amaroo School at the forefront of sustainability and energy efficiency, with the largest roof mounted system in the ACT and the largest system at an Australian school.

The school roof space will now be leased as part of a 20 year agreement that will financially benefit the future students of the school.

In Gungahlin, it seems like I always end up talking about the future. Whether it's the difficulties of young families trying to buy a home, the challenges of child care and job security or the school system we're providing for our kids. It brings home what's at stake in the decisions we make as political representatives at federal and territory level. We've got your future, your jobs, your family to consider in every decision we make. For me, when I look at the different paths we could take to meet these challenges, there are always two complimentary touchstones – opportunity and education. Australia has been a place of opportunity for everyone, and it must remain that way. Ensuring that all students have support to get a quality education is the key to ensuring that a child's abilities, not their postcode, will determine the chances they'll get in life.

Out and about in Gungahlin, I'm always pleased to get questions about Labor's schools policy. It confirms that fierce pride that people in the area have for their schools and schoolkids, and it gives me the chance to reassure them that my party will give all schools the funding they need to provide all their students with the best possible chances for the future.

Tour de Gungahlin Lake and Valley Loop

Peter Elford - Gungahlin Community Council

Gungahlin is fortunate to have been built in an era when bike paths and cycling are an integral part of suburban landscape design. As a result, many parts of Gungahlin's natural and created parks are easily accessible on a bicycle, often without having to cross many major roads thanks to the many underpasses that have been put in place. In this series of Gunsmoke articles I'll introduce some of my favourite parts of the Gungahlin cycling network, starting with an easy ride on the sealed path around Gungahlin's biggest lake (it's actually a pond) and along some of the valleys.

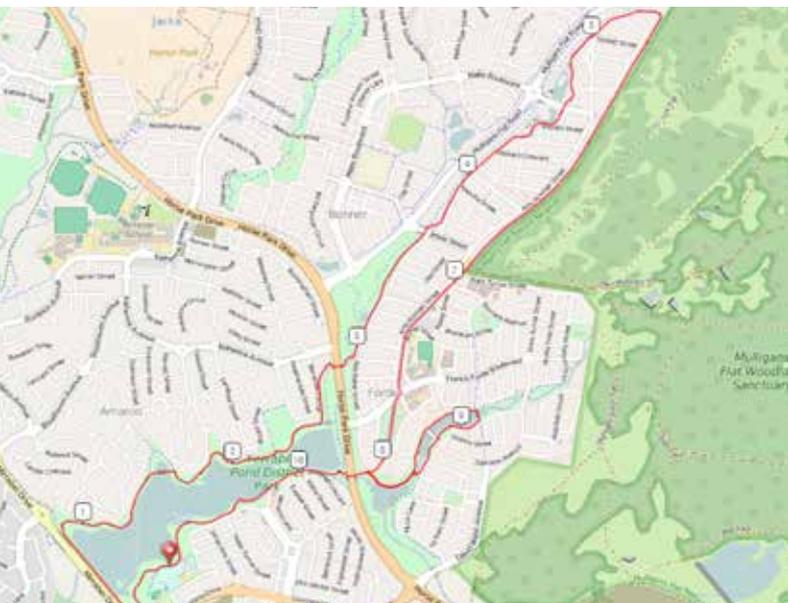
It's important to be aware that most of Canberra's bike paths are actually shared use paths which are restricted to non-motorised transport (with the exception of motorised wheelchairs and power assisted pedal cycles). Both pedestrians and cyclists must share the use of these paths. Please respect all users and be prepared to give way to cyclists and pedestrians as necessary. When cycling, warn of your approach by sounding your bell; if you are cycling or walking, keep to the left. Cyclists should pass pedestrians on the right. Cyclists should give way to pedestrians and other users at all times. If you are a pedestrian, keep a look out for cyclists and give them room to pass. Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

The first ride is around Yerrabi pond with a branch up the valley between Forde and Bonner, a total of just under 11km and pretty flat. Starting at the Yerrabi Park, headoff in a clockwise direction past the flying fox and



skate park along the dam wall, passing the flood gates for the pond. The path continues around the lake across a bridge and past some pelicans (they're just statues!) before coming to the first optional detour at another small playground – turn right here to take a (very) short cut back to the coffee shops at the Waterfront (Samekesh, Da Nunzio) and where you started (barely 3km). Otherwise continue on to the “end” of the lake, where you have the option of turning right to complete a full loop of Yerrabi Pond (3.9km), or turn left and head up to an underpass under Horse Park Drive that leads to the path that follows the waterway adjacent to Mulligans Flat Drive.

This path climbs gently up the valley past some delightful parks and water features all the way up to the Northern end of Forde, when it turns around and heads back downhill along the line of the Old Gundaroo Road. This is now part of the Canberra Centennial Trail which I will talk more about in a future article. Take a moment to enjoy the bush to your left as you head down the hill, and you might want to stop at the car park, shelter and water tap at the Mulligans Flat Nature reserve. Be careful crossing a couple of minor streets before making sure you use the lights to cross the road at the Forde shops, unless of course you stop for a coffee at Frankie's. When you get to the bottom of the hill at the end of the tree lined Old Gundaroo path, it's worth taking a turn to the left to do a lap of the Forde pond as shown on the map, before going under another Horse Park Drive underpass to return to the Yerrabi pond shoreline. Wind along edge back to the car park; if you move quickly you'll be done in half an hour, but even if you are taking it slowly, you should be done within an hour. And if it's your first time out in a while, you can always turn around and head home at any point.



\$5 TICKETS
 Tickets on Sale 1 June 2016 – 10am

GUNGAHLIN MOVIE MARATHON

17–19 JUNE 2016

Your indoor cinema experience in the heart of Gungahlin

Friday

12.30pm	The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel	PG
1.30pm	The Bucket List	M
4.00pm	Despicable Me	PG
4.30pm	Madagascar	PG
6.30pm	Crazy Stupid Love	M
7.30pm	Back to the Future	PG
9.15pm	Mad Max: Fury Road	MA ¹⁵⁺

Saturday

9.30am	Inside Out	PG
10.30am	Blackfish (documentary)	M
12.00pm	Dirty Dancing	M
2.45pm	The Princess Bride	PG
6.15pm	Chef	M
7.00pm	Silverlinings Playbook	M
9.15pm	Spy	MA ¹⁵⁺

Sunday

9.30am	Wall-E	G
10.30am	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005)	PG
12.30pm	3 Idiots (foreign)	M
4.00pm	Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens	M
7.30pm	The Shawshank Redemption	MA ¹⁵⁺

All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to not for profit groups that are working to benefit the gungahlin community.

For more information visit www.ida.act.gov.au/gungahlin/movies
 #Gungahlinmovies

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