

GUNGAHLIN SMOKE SIGNALS

GUNSMOKE

Newsletter - Edition 142 September 2016

**THE WILD THINGS OF
MULLIGANS FLAT**

**2016 Australian Capital Territory
Assembly Election**

Tour de Gungahlin #2

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Tour de Gungahlin #2

Peter Elford

Not one, but two (2), rides for you to consider in this edition. The first is another suburban ride around bike paths that take in our region's other "lake", Gungahlin Pond, and the other is a more challenging excursion into Mulligan's Flat.

The Gungahlin Pond ride can be started anywhere along the map of course, but the Gungahlin Lakes Club makes a great starting point. Head South along the path parallel to Gundaroo Drive, then turn right along a short footpath at Ibis Street which takes you onto the bike around the Southern side of the lake, up and over the dam wall, and along the Northern shore back towards Gungahlin Drive. Use the underpass to go under Lexcen and Kelleway Avenues and turn right along the gently climbing path all the way to the Northern edge of Ngunnawal. Cross over Horse Park Drive to the bike path on the other side of the road ... unless you are feeling like a bit of a thrill. Hidden in the trees just to the right of the bike path (as you head South) is a windy gravel path which is an exciting alternative to the bike path. You can swing by the Casey shops for a coffee, or follow your tracks back under the underpasses and keep going along the Gungahlin Drive bike path, over the bridge and back around to the Gungahlin Lakes Club. It's a total of over 12km and should take less

than an hour.

The Mulligans Flat ride starts from the Mulligans Flat car park off Amy Ackman St in Forde. The track is very clearly marked because the outward portion is part of the ACT Centenary Trail (Google it!) and is on unsealed gravel roads. You won't need a full-blown mountain bike, but a standard road/racing bike is not a good option. The first hill is pretty steep, but not very long and if it's too much, just jump off your bike and push. You'll be rewarded with a great downhill ride to the Mulligans Flat "inner sanctuary" fence and have to pass through a self-closing gate. This protects the Quolls inside so make sure it closes. Follow the well-made gravel road past the ranger station, and up the slowly climbing hill to catch some wonderful views of the Northern ACT. With luck, you might see an Echidna, Wallaby or Kangaroo. The track heads East down the hill to the turnaround point which is the gate between the Mulligans Flat and Gorooyaroo reserves; there's a nice log to sit on here. The inward return trip follows the fence for a while along the Old Coach Road, and then along a rougher dirt Grassy and Dam tracks that provide a less steep option compared to going back the way you came. This joins up with the Old Coad Road, and then the Main Mulligans Trail and returns you back to the car park for a total of about 9km.



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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.

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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

The Federal election saw the return of Andrew Leigh as the member for the Federal seat of Fenner (formerly called Fraser) which includes the Gungahlin region, and the re-election of Senators Katy Gallagher and Zed Seslja. Perhaps the most excitement outcome for Gungahlin was the announcement by Zed that he had won a commitment (if elected) to transfer a federal government agency to Gungahlin. This is terrific news, as it will grow and strengthen the existing community with greater demand for small businesses and facilities particularly during regular business hours, and the GCC looks forward to working with Zed on facilitating this relocation.

But with the Feds all done, it's all eyes on the ACT Election on October 15. This is an important election because it's the first time the residents of the ACT will be electing five members in each of five electorates. It's also the first time all of Gungahlin will be in a new electorate (along with a few suburbs from Belconnen), called Yerrabi, and the GCC is expecting that candidates will be campaigning on issues relevant to Gungahlin.

Most topical of these is the Light Rail project which more than 76% of respondents indicated their support for in the GCC Have Your Say survey (2014). With transport issues the top concern for most Gungahlin residents, balancing up the relative merits of each candidate's and party's road policies will clearly be top of mind. In addition to the material provided by the parties, the GCC would encourage residents to consult other non-political resources (eg. pro-Light Rail - <http://www.actlightrail.info/>, anti-Light Rail <http://www.canthetram.org/>) as well as to look at all transport options, and party/candidate policies as a whole, rather than letting the ACT election becoming a yes/no vote for Light Rail. Gungahlin is a great community, and residents do care about more than just roads and transport, with access to health services, the need for more school places and improved and integrated planning often being raised with the GCC.

Your chance to raise these issues, and more, directly with the people you will be voting for is the **GCC MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM** on Wednesday 14th September, 6:30-8:30pm at the St John Paul II College Theatre, 1021 Gungahlin Dr, Nicholls. Note that this replaces our normal public meeting, and is not in the Library because it's being prepared for use as a polling venue!

Whilst all the politics is playing out, development continues! The expansion of Gungahlin Drive along Mitchell has been completed, and has made a significant difference to Southbound commuters in the morning. Duplication work continues for Horse Park Drive stage 1 (alongside Throsby), with stage 2 to follow immediately afterwards (East to Barton Highway and West to Mulligans Flat Road). The Barton Highway roundabout is expected to be complete by late 2016. Residents will also have noticed that development of the suburb of Taylor has started, and this will include upgrades to intersections along Horse Park Drive.

Plans and designs for new developments continue to be presented at the GCC public meetings, and this is an ideal opportunity to learn about and get engaged early in the planning, design and consultation processes. At the August meeting, details of the soon-to-be-complete expansion of the Marketplace which will include a new K-Mart store and 25 other stores was provided, as well as an update on the cinema complex to be operated by Hoyts, due to start construction in early-2017. The cinemas will be part of a larger building which will include a number of entertainment and leisure outlets, and both underground and ground-level parking.

The meeting also included a proposal from POD Projects for two residential towers of 18 and 14 stories on a site just behind the approved and under-construction Infinity Towers (20 and 22 stories) along Gundaroo Drive. The entire section bounded by Gundaroo Drive, Anthony Rolfe Drive and Gozard Street was (and is) zoned for a business/office park but clearly will be further transformed by this new proposal. If you have an opinion on this proposal, have a look at the slides presented on our website (under Meeting Minutes), and let us know what you think. You might also like to Google "Gungahlin town centre precinct code".

Despite a long campaign from the GCC to have consistent broadband service across Gungahlin, nbnco, the company building the National Broadband Network (NBN), have advised the GCC that Casey Stage 1 will have their NBN services provided using Fibre-to-the-Node (FTTN) technology, consistent with the current Federal Government's policy. This means that the houses in Casey Stage 1 will be the only ones in Gungahlin that do not have Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH), now that the Fibre NBN rollout has been completed in Nicholls.

2016 Australian Capital Territory Assembly Election

Scott Lang

On Saturday 15 October 2016, an Election for the Australian Capital Territory Assembly will be held and managed by the ACT Electoral Commission (also known as ACTEC or Elections ACT). Both electoral enrolment and voting is compulsory for all Australian citizens, with limited exceptions. If you don't vote, fines may be applied.

The Elections ACT website

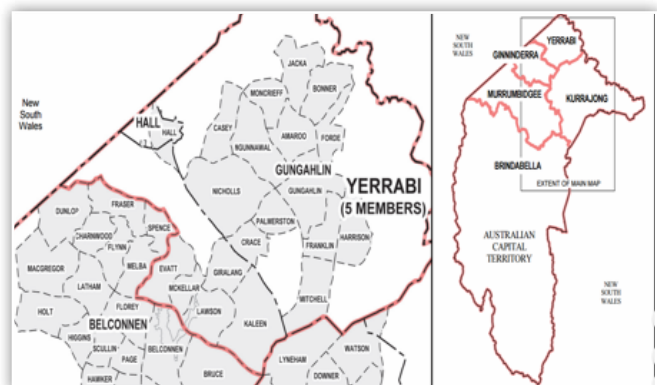
(<http://www.elections.act.gov.au/home>)

- Assists you to enrol online before the cut-off of 8pm on 16 September 2016
- Provides voting information in other languages (bottom of page)
- Allows you to check which electorate you are in at: http://www.elections.act.gov.au/electoral_boundaries/which_electorate_am_i_in
- Provides for postal vote applications: <http://www.aec.gov.au/election/pva/>
- Polling places can be found here: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1KzHF0EvXWIBNGoEmgTAqx51-ZG8>
- Pre-poll voting centres for the ACT Legislative Assembly election will open on 27 September 2016, and the nearest place will be at Conference Room 1 at the Gungahlin Library in Hibberson Street. More details can be found here: http://www.elections.act.gov.au/elections_and_voting/2016_legislative_assembly_election/2016-pre-poll-voting

ACT Representative Assembly Electorates

Recent changes to the size of the Assembly mean that the ACT is now split into 5 electorates of roughly equal populations, with 5 members for each electorate – making a total of 25 seats. 13 seats will be needed for a majority government to take power. Gungahlin residents are in the electorate of Yerrabi (see map below) which covers all of Gungahlin, Hall and the Belconnen suburbs of Evatt, Giralang, Kaleen, McKellar and Lawson.

This election is the first time the Gungahlin area has had politicians directly representing its suburbs. As such, this is a chance to really ensure that the next ACT Government listens to, and acts upon, our concerns. If you attend GCC meetings and support our activities in large numbers, then the politicians will understand they need to engage with our community. Please also think carefully about which political candidates you would like to have representing the Gungahlin region for the next four years.



Voting in the 2016 Australian Capital Territory Assembly Election

To vote for the Assembly, you will receive a ballot paper with all of the different candidates standing for election in Yerrabi. To ensure you cast a valid vote number ALL of the boxes next to the candidates in the order of your preference. Do not put ticks or crosses in the boxes, and don't list the same number twice. If you make a mistake, that's OK, just ask the ACTEC staff for another ballot paper.

The Hare-Clark electoral system in brief	
Step 1	Count the first preference votes for each candidate.
Step 2	Calculate the quota: $\frac{\text{total number of formal votes}}{\text{number of vacancies} + 1} + 1$
Step 3	Any candidate with votes equal to or greater than the quota is declared elected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If all vacancies have been filled, the election is completed. • If all vacancies have not been filled, does any candidate have more votes than the quota? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If yes then go to step 4. • If no then go to step 5.
Step 4	Distribute the successful candidate's surplus votes to continuing candidates according to the further preferences shown on the ballot papers by those voters. (A 'continuing candidate' is one neither elected nor excluded.) Calculate each continuing candidate's new total votes, then go back to step 3.
Step 5	If there are more continuing candidates than there are vacancies remaining unfilled, exclude the candidate with the fewest votes and distribute this candidate's votes to continuing candidates according to the further preferences shown by those voters. Calculate each continuing candidate's new total votes then go back to step 3. Or, if the number of continuing candidates is equal to the number of vacancies remaining, all of those candidates are declared elected and the election is completed.

How the ACT election is run and counted

Voting in the ACT Assembly uses a proportional representation single transferable vote method known as the Hare-Clark system, as outlined in the graphic above. In short, once the total number of formal votes is known, then all candidates who have a quota (at this election, roughly 1/6th, or 16.67% of the votes) will be elected.

Graphic sourced from http://www.elections.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/831471/Hare-Clark.pdf
 Accessed 5:54pm 18 August 2016

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Liberal Solutions for a growing region

The Canberra Liberals want to make Gungahlin and all of Canberra an even better place to live. Unfortunately, the ACT Labor Government's poor planning and wrong priorities have meant that infrastructure and Government services in Gungahlin are not as good as they should be.

Residents of Gungahlin are sick of infrastructure being delivered years after blocks of land are sold and people have moved in. For many years, the Government sold land in Gungahlin for billions of dollars yet they seem incapable or unwilling to invest in the basic services. Their track record with the GDE, Horse Park Drive and Gundaroo Drive is evidence of all this.

It seems that only when there is an election around the corner is the ACT Government starting to talk about fixing some of their mistakes. The reality is, they've had 15 years to deliver appropriate infrastructure for Gungahlin and it still has not happened.

Given the rates, fees, taxes and charges

that everyone pays, it's reasonable to expect that basic infrastructure and services will be delivered.

The Canberra Liberals' plan for Yerrabi and the rest of Canberra includes:

- Duplicating Horse Park Drive
- Duplicating Gundaroo Drive up from the Barton Highway
- Constructing a flyover at the Barton Highway roundabout
- \$60 million for improvements to school infrastructure
- \$17.5 million for additional support for students with disabilities
- Restoring funding to the Police
- Eight Rapid bus routes
- A massive expansion at the Canberra Hospital



ACT Labor's plan to introduce trams to Flemington Road, the Federal Highway and Northbourne Avenue would cause traffic chaos during construction and add to congestion once operational. This is in part because Labor's plan includes more than six new sets of traffic lights along the route.

In fact, the Government's own Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment found that building light rail will lead to a 'higher level of congestion' in the morning peak and 'significant congestion' in the afternoon peak (Environmental Impact Statement, page 255).

Whilst some people like the concept of a tram, the reality in Gungahlin is that only 15% of Gungahlin's population will be within walking distance of a stop. This means that the other 85% will have to depend on another mode of transport. Of course, even if people do live within walking distance of a proposed tram stop, the need to drop kids at school or childcare, or go appointments during the day, make the tram impractical for most people. That's particularly so for an area with so many young families, like Gungahlin.

ACT Labor's short-sighted plan to add nine sets of traffic lights to the Barton Highway roundabout is another example of the Government treating a major problem with a second-rate solution. This roundabout is the most dangerous intersection in Canberra yet the Labor Government refuses to construct a flyover. The Canberra Liberals will build the long-term infrastructure that Canberrans really need.

Rather than spend \$1.78 billion a tram that will be slower than buses, we think that public money is so much better invested in health, education, better roads and buses, and other urban and community services.

Under ACT Labor, rates bills have increased by as much as 70% in Gungahlin over last four years. What additional services are we getting for our money? As rates go up and up, it seems that services are getting worse and worse. Whether it is the state of the grass-mowing programs, the quality of road resurfacing, or the management of our local shops, Canberra deserves better. The Canberra Liberals will stop the unfair rates increases and return the focus of Government to the things that really matter.

The Canberra Liberals have a great team

in Yerrabi: Alistair Coe, Amanda Lynch, James Milligan, Justin States and Jacob Vadakkedathu. Each candidate is busy connecting with residents on their doorsteps, at community meetings and through visiting local businesses and shopping centres.

The Canberra Liberals are looking forward to announcing even more policies that will improve infrastructure and service delivery for Gungahlin and across Canberra.



Alistair COE



James MILLIGAN



Amanda LYNCH



Justin STATES



Jacob VADAKKEDATHU

Building a Better Yerrabi

Your Yerrabi Labor Team who will deliver Stage 1 of light rail from Gungahlin to the City, better buses, the duplication of Horse Park Drive, Gungahlin's first free nurse led walk-in health centre and the \$20 million expansion of Gungahlin schools is:

- Meegan Fitzharris MLA
- Jayson Hinder MLA
- Deepak-Raj Gupta
- Suzanne Orr
- Michael Pettersson

Gungahlin is a fantastic place to live and ACT Labor is committed to supporting the community we love and making it even better.

Gungahlin is one of the fastest growing regions in the ACT and our Labor team knows that we need to plan for this growth.

We will make further announcements in the coming weeks, and we are delivering for Yerrabi.

Health

Labor has a long and proud history delivering health care to Canberrans where and when they need it. We will build a new nurse-led Walk-in Centre in Gungahlin if re-elected in October. Labor understands that Canberrans need to be healthy and that the future of health care is delivered in our community, but if you need to be in hospital you need world-class, accessible services. This year ACT Labor is investing a record \$1.6 billion in health, with a new hospital in Belconnen, more doctors, nurses and community health services. We will release our full health policy in coming weeks.

Schools

Labor is investing in better schools for Yerrabi, including \$20 million for better schools for Gungahlin, including the expansion of Harrison School, Neville Bonner Primary School and Palmerston Preschool for the start of the 2017 school year; and the expansion

of facilities at Amaroo School. We are also investing in a more contemporary learning space for Maribyrnong Primary. We are building a new school in the new suburb of Taylor, to open in 2019. And we are making it easier and safer for more kids to ride and walk to school.

Roads

We've worked with the community and the Gungahlin Community Council to identify priority roadworks. We have upgraded Gungahlin Drive, making it easier for commuters, particularly during peak hours. Labor has also committed to the full duplication of Horse Park Drive, with \$57 million to upgrade the road between the Federal Highway and Mulligans Flat Road. This work will get underway soon and people will see huge improvements to Horse Park Drive once this is complete. We have also invested \$31.2 million for stage one of the duplication of Gundaroo Drive, \$4.5 million to extend Ernest Cavanagh Street and \$14.1m to extend The Valley Avenue, a major upgrade to the Barton Highway/Gundaroo Drive/William Slim Drive roundabout. This work is nearly complete and will greatly improve the safety of this major intersection.

Transport

Labor is committed to improving public transport, no matter where you live. We have introduced better bus services for residents in Crace and extended the free Flexible Bus service to Gungahlin. This service is specifically designed for seniors and people with a disability to help you get to local community services such as the doctor or shops.

We are building light rail from Gungahlin to the City. Work is underway and light rail will transform our city, providing more public transport options to take cars off our roads and ease congestion. Many people are

buying their first homes in Gungahlin on the light rail route, because they want to live near fixed public transport infrastructure. Light rail is also very affordable. It is 1% of the ACT Budget - for every \$1 we spend on light rail, we spend \$33 on health and \$24 on education.

Gungahlin Town Centre

Labor will also improve the Gungahlin Town Centre, including making Hibberson Street more people-friendly. We will upgrade the Yerrabi Pond playground to improve this much-loved local play space. We are proud to support local businesses in our Town Centre, and make it even easier for people to shop, catch up with friends and go to work. We recently opened the first ACT Government office block in the Town Centre, injecting 700 jobs into Gungahlin.

The Labor team are dedicated locals who all live in the Yerrabi electorate. Meegan Fitzharris, a local Minister, and Jayson Hinder are currently Members of the Legislative Assembly (and both former members of the GCC Executive) and are joined by Deepak-Raj Gupta, Suzanne Orr and Michael Pettersson. They are all passionate about Gungahlin and want to ensure the region they love gets even better.

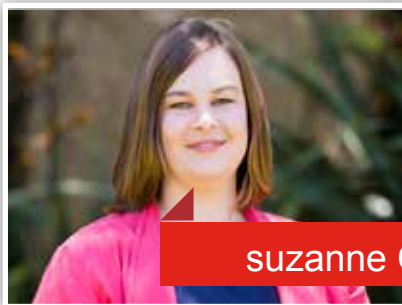
The Labor team is proud to have worked closely with the Gungahlin Community Council to ensure key priorities of the community are addressed, explained and delivered. We will have more announcements for Gungahlin in the lead up to the election. Thanks to the GCC executive for their great work advocating for the community.



Meegan FITZHARRIS



Jayson HINDER



suzanne ORR



deepak-Raj GUPTA



Michael PETERSSON

Greens for Yerrabi: Community First

As a born and bred Canberran, I have a strong connection to the community and the environment we live in. I was brought up by Dutch migrant parents who taught me to value, appreciate and take advantage of the opportunities that this wonderful city provides. I am always mindful that we live on the land that has been treasured by its traditional owners for thousands of years before us.

Like many of us, I have experienced adversity, exclusion and discrimination. This has made me strong and resilient. It has led me to be outspoken about injustices experienced by members of the community. I have spent many years fighting to improve the lives of Canberrans through better services and support, including as Chair of the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Women and as a member of the ACT Law Reform Advisory Council. As a Greens representative in the Assembly, I will speak on behalf of the people of Gungahlin and fight to make Canberra a better place.

Since I was preselected, I have been out and about talking to people in Yerrabi about what matters to them. It's already been an immense privilege to hear from a diverse range of people and with a diversity of views from across the electorate and there are some common issues.

Nearly everyone has talked about roads and transport, and to that end it has been a great opportunity to talk about the Greens vision of an integrated transport system right across Canberra. We want to provide people with a range of options, including the light rail, an improved bus network and better ways to incorporate active transport linkages.

Urban planners from around the world agree that good public transport is integral to the future liveability of our cities, and ACT Greens MLAs have long campaigned for better public transport in Canberra and the growing Gungahlin region. Good public transport also reduces social isolation for people living in outer suburbs and connects people better to employment and social activities, something the Greens know is crucial to the quality of life. I'm really pleased that construction has



Veronica WENSING

started on the first stage of Canberra's light rail network – a direct result of the Parliamentary Agreement the Greens signed in 2012. Light rail will reduce growing congestion on our roads, and provide an accessible and convenient pollution-free transport option for people in Gungahlin and the Northbourne Corridor.

The Greens will always put the community first - not only in regards to public transport, but on health, education, social justice, and housing and homelessness services. It's the stories we hear, and the ideas suggested by the community that inform the solutions.

Common Ground is just one of those solutions. Common Ground was a key Greens win under the Labor-Greens Parliamentary Agreement from 2012 and become one of Canberra's most important homelessness projects. It offers long-term, affordable accommodation and support to some of Canberra's most vulnerable people. It's close to Gungahlin's town centre, it provides permanent housing as well as health, education and employment support for formerly homeless people to achieve a stable lifestyle. The Greens will be releasing other policies in this election that focus on improving housing affordability for people disadvantaged in the housing market, because we understand that having stable, affordable accommodation is something we should want for everyone in our city.

I believe that each of us, regardless of our race, abilities, cultural background, religious beliefs, sexuality or gender have the right to live full lives and participate in everything Canberra has to offer. It is our very diversity that contributes to our vibrant and healthy community. Each of us has a right to voice our opinions and I am committed to listening to people - and putting them at the centre of the work of the Greens.

David Pollard

Independent for Yerrabi



Community matters

This is the third article I have written for this newsletter in three editions, each with a different hat on. First, I wrote about the Crace Community Association. We had formed suburban connections and were seeing the potential of what we had. Next, I wrote about developing a support network of community associations across Gungahlin, working with residents of Forde, Bonner and Casey, while also keeping in mind groups in Giralang, Amaroo, and developing groups in Moncrieff and Lawson.

Finally, I've decided to take the next step and contest the ACT Election on behalf of all our local communities, so here I am.

I've seen what empowered communities can do. From suburban communities, to schools, sporting groups, and beyond. Together we can do great things.

I was born and raised in Kaleen, went to primary school there before moving on to Daramalan College and finally University of Canberra. I've worked in Kaleen and Belconnen for much of my career. I have family in Gungahlin, Palmerston, Amaroo, Crace, Kaleen, McKellar and Franklin. I've played team sports locally, and my family spends time in local parks. My children attend school in Gungahlin. I live my life in Yerrabi, and I am passionate about seeing the best version of it that we can achieve.

I believe that our political system needs to be re-energised. We need a strong, independent, community minded cross-bench.

I'm running as an Independent candidate for Yerrabi because I want our community to be the best it can be. I want our children growing up happy, and knowing they are safe. I want the environment to be in good shape for them to enjoy. I want public infrastructure to work for us, not the other way around.

You can read more about my policy positions on my website, though a few samples may entice you to come and have a look:

- I'd like to see dedicated office space for our politicians in the electorate.
- Community consultation has proven to be ineffective. We need to work together to figure the best way to collaborate between the government and the public.
- Greater transparency makes everything better, for everyone.
- Education is of vital importance.
- Better choices for work/life balance and flexibility in the workplace have been shown to increase productivity and personal wellbeing.



John Haydon
Sustainable Australia

Established in 2010, Sustainable Australia is a federally registered party. In 2016 we registered Sustainable Australia (ACT) for the ACT Legislative Assembly election.

We are a party from the political centre, and aim to secure an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable Australia and ACT.

In the ACT, we are campaigning on a number of key issues, as follows:

- Save Canberra from overdevelopment
- Lower rates
- Protect our trees

But we don't just focus on overdevelopment, rates and trees! We have released a range of ACT-specific policies including Economy & Jobs, Energy, Environment, Gambling, Housing, Planning, Public Service, Rates and Community Councils. All of our policies can be found at our website, below.

Sustainable Australia (ACT) is aiming to contest all five ACT electorates. We have so far endorsed candidates in Kurrajong and Ginninderra, including:

- John Haydon, Kurrajong lead candidate
- Martin Tye, Ginninderra lead candidate

At time of print we are interviewing and finalising our candidates for other electorates, including Yerrabi.

Full details on our candidates and policies can be found at our website:

www.VoteSustainable.org.au/act

John Haydon, President
Sustainable Australia (ACT)



Andrew Dewson
Independent

As a local resident of Yerrabi, I am keen to advocate and provide a real voice to my community. I believe that a strong government is one that has a diverse range of voices keen to discuss issues affecting residents no matter how small.

If elected, I will provide a voice to the people of Yerrabi, in the Assembly. If there are provisions in place to allow me to have a local office in Yerrabi, I would be delighted to open up an office in my neighborhood.

So far in this campaign, I have announced a number of policies. I am keen to help locals access green waste bins, focus on housing affordability and a focus on morning public transport services. I am also very interested in making sure that any future roads being built around new suburbs are built appropriately and won't need duplicating within 12 months of being built!

I believe that our roads have become a nightmare and the current government is too focused on revenue raising then building decent infrastructure for the residents of Yerrabi and the ACT as a whole.

My policies and issues:

- Green waste bins right across the ACT
- A Building and Consumer Ombudsman
- Access to affordable land for first home buyers
- All new roads built around new suburbs to be fully duplicated
- An immediate review into our roads to look into the lack of future planning
- Additional bus services on morning peak hour traffic
- Cheaper bus fares to promote public transport usage
- Job creation in the Gungahlin area to help reduce the morning mass exodus
- Appropriate roads and parking around large complexes
- Appropriate parking around the city during Light Rail construction
- Scrapping of the late night parking fees in the city centre (5.30 – 10.30)

As a local I am concerned that if we do not have an independent voice in the Assembly, we will continue to have the same old politicians with the same old agendas in the ACT.

It's time for change and I hope that I can count on local support to begin this process.

Mulligans Musings – Spring 2016

Jason Cummings

Spring signals the awakening of our woodlands. This Spring is particularly exciting, we anticipate new baby Eastern Quolls leaving their dens, after the introduction of their parents to the Sanctuary in Autumn. This month we will also release another batch of Bush Stone-curlew (11 new birds) – the remaining birds from previous introductions have been showing up in Forde, and successfully raising their own little one (well, only one so far...). If you see any curlews outside the Sanctuary please report it through our website.

Our schools program has also been growing, both incursions with our Ambassador Bettongs (see image), and traditional excursions to Mulligans Flat. We have recently helped inspire and educate eager students from schools in the greater Gungahlin area, including Gold Creek, Neville Bonner and St John Paul College.

More than 130 people completed the survey giving us advice and sharing their aspirations on the future of the Sanctuary, including its expansion along the edge of Throsby. Construction of the predator proof fence for the expansion is planned to commence in December 2016.

Our small team will be taking up residence at the Forde Community Centre in early September. While we will continue to operate the Community Hall like it has been in the past, our intention is to run community open days from the centre, and develop some small-scale interpretive spaces so you can visit and learn all about goings-on in the Sanctuary. Drop by and say hello.

The Friends of Mulligans Flat are running their Spring bird walk on Sunday the 11th of September and their Spring Work Party on Sunday the 9th October - check the website for further details.

Please note that the Sanctuary is closed for public access on Monday to Thursday nights for our pest control activities. All scheduled Sanctuary activities are now booked through www.mulligansflat.org.au, as are bookings for the Forde Community Centre hall. See you in the Sanctuary...

Jason Cummings

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





SOLDIER ON

HELPING OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS

Loss of income, mental health issues, difficulties transferring to the civilian work force and lengthy rehabilitation can put undue stress and pressure on wounded Australians and their families.

Thousands will feel the effects of their service, and these families need our support to stay united. Soldier On provides this support across the country through physical drop-in centres, family weekends, partner getaways, psychological support, education and employment programs and much more.



You can be part of this – donate to Soldier On to help our wounded warriors and their families.



SOLDIERON.ORG.AU

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THE WILD THINGS OF MULLIGANS FLAT

By Sam Nerrie

The icy winds sweeping in from the Alps and the drenching rain have kept Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary in a winter torpor for the last few months.

The fleeting patches of warmer weather have signalled that spring is coming and several species plants have acknowledged this with buds and flowers. The wattles are ablaze with golden yellow flowers whose luminescence light up the bush against a backdrop of creamy brittle gums. The wallaby grass remains in its rusty winter colours waiting for the frosts to disappear. August has seen the flowers of the Urn Heath appearing as well as the carnivorous sundews. With the arrival of spring and the plentiful water that has fallen in Mulligans Flat there will be a enormous growth of plants there this year and the wildflowers will be a photographers delight.

The Swamp and Red-necked Wallabies have been stoic inhabitants all through the winter as have many birds. The male and female Scarlet Robins and their cohort of Buff-rumped Thornbills have been a regular sight at Mulligans Flat all through winter. The birds are a challenge to photograph however the Swamp Wallabies are often very obliging. Each wallaby has slightly different colours and markings, something a photo will show up more than the eye.

I often wander through this mini wild landscape with Jill Duncan, another keen photographer, photographing the quirky, the special and the delightful moments. Although the bush appears tranquil at first glance, there is a feast of activity going on under the façade of creams, browns, greys and greens and walking through the bush often provides an unexpected snapshot of the daily life of our wildlife such as a Sacred Kingfisher feeding her chicks in a hole in a tree, an Orb-weaving Spider feeding on a butterfly or a Sugar Glider feeding on sap or gliding from tree to tree. Watching the changes over the seasons has

inspired me to start a Facebook site called the 'Wild Things of Mulligans Flat' in order to document the creatures, the flowers and the changing landscapes of the Mulligans Flat Woodlands Sanctuary.

Sam has been a landscape, commercial and macro photographer for over seven years now and she has won many international awards for her landscapes including silvers at both the International Loupe Awards and at the International Creative Asia Photography Awards, and finalist in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year (run by the National History Museum in London). Sam points out, "Photography, whether you have a smart phone or SLR, is about finding the best light, understanding good composition and looking for those special moments".

Sam also states, "The opportunities that Mulligans Flat provides for photography are extensive; the landscapes, the trees, the flowers and the animals all make for ideal subjects for the budding or experienced photographer".

Sam is running photography courses in the school holidays and on weekends at Mulligans Flat and on the Sapphire Coast for those who want to improve on their photography skills and learn how to take fabulous photos. There will be separate courses specially tailored for adults or for teenagers who are studying photography or just have an interest in this field. The courses teach you how to find and use the best light that will give your photos that special wow factor as well as showing you how to improve composition and be more creative with the use of colours. Capturing a scene or animal in a way that is appealing and distinctive is also part of the learning process in these courses. Quite often the eye sees the subject in a different way to the camera and it takes experience and knowledge to learn how to compensate for this differential. These courses provide an enjoyable day out and a challenging photographic exploration of a fascinating landscape for anyone who wants to improve their photography skills.

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