

GUNG AHLIN SMOKE SIGNALS

GUNSMOKE

Newsletter - Edition 144 March 2017

The High Rise Eating the
Gungahlin Town Centre

People Driven
Community Development

Gold Creek School

Have your say on the
Gungahlin Town Centre

Celebrate Gungahlin

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latest Gunsmoke



Photo by Adrian Manning

What's Happening at Mulligans Flat?

By Elsie Percival

Echidna Monitoring

Every year our echidnas are doing better, free from the threats of predators. To keep an eye on their numbers in the sanctuary, Mulligans Flat ecologists – Emily Belton and Kate Garrock – undertake Echidna monitoring with dedicated volunteers.

On Monday the 13th and Thursday 16th of February, volunteers, ecologists, the Green Army, and even an ABC News crew, swept through the sanctuary in search of the spiny monotremes. Each echidna was fitted carefully with coloured straws as a means of identification.



Mulligans Flat Sanctuary Ecologist, Kate Garrock, with a tagged Echidna. Photo by Craig Allen from ABC Canberra.

Fence Construction

Good news for our unique wildlife is that Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary will expand into Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve behind the new suburb of Throsby. This means there will be more space for local biodiversity to thrive free from foxes and cats. In order to extend the special conditions that are possible in Mulligans Flat, we also need to extend the predator-proof fence. The construction of the extended fence will begin soon. This process marks the beginning of very exciting changes for Mulligans Flat and the Gungahlin Community.



The current fence at Mulligans Flat that enables native critters to thrive free from the threat of foxes and cats. Photo by Adrian Manning.

Photo of the month

There are many keen-eyed photographers that spend hours absorbing the beauty of Mulligans Flat, and snapping pictures of special moments. One of our favourite pics from this month comes from Raw Shorty, who captured a rare sighting of a Bettong out during the day. Bettongs normally sleep during the day in nests they build in grass tussocks, and spend the evening foraging for underground native truffles and fungi. We don't know what this nocturnal character was up to in the sunshine, but it is always a special moment to cross paths with the beautiful marsupials.



Eastern Bettong by Raw Shorty.



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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: Henley Samuel

Secretary: Andrew Braddock - 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

It's nearly that time of year again – it's time to Celebrate Gungahlin! Last year's festival was fantastic, and with the continuing support of Communities@Work, Bendigo Bank, Morgans Group, the Land Development Agency, the GCC and numerous other sponsors, this year's event will be bigger and better. SO SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, 29 APRIL and make sure you get down to Gungahlin Library to enjoy everything that Gungahlin has to offer.

The GCC's campaign to raise the awareness of the intensity and scale of residential high-rise on the western edge of the town centre continues into 2017. The community response to the issues raised in Gunsmoke 143 has been wide spread, including responses from individuals through FaceBook and public meetings, the print and radio media, and from businesses such as child care centres that have concerns about the impact these developments will have on their viability.

Consequently, this issue includes an update on both the problem itself (yet another high rise development has been proposed in the area, and the development application has been lodged for another), and a response from the ACT government's Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) who have initiated a refresh of the Gungahlin Town Centre Planning framework. The refresh will particularly address:

- Building Height and Character
- Upgrading and Enhancement of Public Spaces
- Active Travel and Road Transport

Visit <http://yoursay.act.gov.au> and complete the survey by 6 April 2017. As Curtin residents showed recently with their successful rejection of a 6-story development in their group shopping centre, if residents have an opinion, and they voice it, it can and will make a difference.

The duplication and remediation of the roads in and out of Gungahlin continues, with the traffic lights on the Barton Highway/Gundaroo Drive roundabout now in operation.

Although work continues on some of the approaches to the new roundabout, the feedback from residents that have negotiated the roundabout is mostly one of pleasant surprise, despite some early scepticism. Certainly signalisation of a roundabout is something new for Canberra residents, but by driving sensibly (the speed limit is currently 60 km/h), paying attention to the signs (the right lane must turn right!), and paying attention to the lights (yes, it is possible to get stopped on the roundabout) most drivers should find the arrangement no different than any large intersection. The accident rate is down and traffic seems to flow much better.

Every single work day, radio traffic reports highlight the congestion on Horse Park Drive, and traffic continues to be a major source of frustration for everyone in Gungahlin. This is also causing internal feeder roads to backup in the morning, such as Gungahlin Drive and Mirrabai Drive to the West of Gundaroo Drive, as well as Shoalhaven Drive and Clarrie Hermes Drive. Until congestion is relieved by the duplication of Horse Park Drive and Gundaroo Drive late in 2017, and ultimately the construction of the Light Rail, this will be a trying year for Gungahlin residents.

On the bright side, the ring road systems to the east of the town centre has almost been completed, with the Manning Clark extension opening in mid-February. Work will now commence to deliver services to the undeveloped blocks in this area for future sale.

The Amaroo group centre opened on February 8, incorporating a Coles supermarket, Wok It Up, Guru coffee, and more. The Casey group centre continues to add new shops, and further tenants are opening up in the Bunnings building in the town centre. Blocks are being sold in the new suburb of Taylor and construction on the light rail from the Gungahlin town centre to Civic is forging ahead (look out for consultation events in the coming weeks). It's a great time to be in Gungahlin!

SEE-Change in Gungahlin

By Liam Lilley

What we want to be, and where we want to go as a society isn't a part of our current social discourse. We need a shared vision of a regenerative, equitable, and desirable Canberra, a Canberra that focuses on quality of life for all, solidarity, and ecocentrism. But how will we get there?

SEE-Change is a Canberra based sustainability organisation aiming to transform Canberra into an equitable and regenerative community, living on less than one planet's worth of resources. The SEE in SEE-Change stands for Society, Environment, Economy, and they launch and support various projects in these areas. The societal aspect focuses on building strong communities, resilient neighbourhoods, and participatory democracy. Environmental projects focus on conservation, education, and reducing our ecological footprint. Whilst the economic aspect works towards equality and minimal impact through community financing, cooperatives, ecological economics, and strong local economies. Each SEE-Change activity aims to inspire, inform and support the community to take actions to reduce their ecological footprint and enhance the well-being of all Canberrans now and into the future.

The stratagem for achieving these goals revolves around citizen led change. When we are faced with wicked problems such as climate change and economic inequality we tend to feel quite helpless and overwhelmed as individuals, resulting in a feeling of hopelessness which can eventually lead to withdrawal. Research and experience shows that people tend to be more cooperative, empathetic and caring when focused on intrinsic values; and when these values are similar in nature they become easier to pursue simultaneously as groups or communities than they are individually. So when

a group of individuals come together to form a community to tackle problems together things appear less hopeless, change begins to appear attainable.

Opportunities are provided for the community to come together to incubate an intrinsic values-based set of solutions through SEE-Change's local groups. The local groups promote an inclusive, non-hierarchical approach, with a focus on practical activities. Support is provided for projects and volunteers, and opportunities to collaborate with other like-minded organisations are readily available. Local groups offer a chance for like-minded individuals to come together in a social setting to take make positive change in our community.

“

Each SEE-Change activity aims to inspire, inform and support the community to take actions to reduce their ecological footprint and enhance the well-being of all Canberrans now and into the future.

”

SEE-Change has four local groups based around Canberra, having recently re-launched their Gungahlin Group, which comprises of a dozen or so Gungahlin residents focusing on community and sustainability ventures in their local area. The Gungahlin local group is currently undertaking the Transition Streets program, which aims to build local community, whilst at the same time lowering household and individual ecological footprints. Local groups are also located in Belconnen, the Inner South, and Woden.

More specific actions and groups are also run and supported through SEE-Change. Current and past projects include: Parliament of Youth on Sustainability – which brings together Canberra’s school children in a parliamentary type environment to discuss and propose sustainability policies for Canberra; Sustainable House Tours – which showcase a range of sustainable houses around Canberra to offer ideas and inspiration; Jerrabomberra Wetlands Group – who meet twice a month for conservation and education projects; and Transition Streets – a project aimed at forming resilient, sustainable, and friendly local neighbourhoods. SEE-Change has also been actively involved in helping to launch various local ventures, including: SolarShare- a community renewables project; CAPaD – The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy; and Canberra City Farm – a local group promoting local food production in an economically and environmentally responsible manner.

Specific groups also exist, which aim to fill any voids not touched by Canberra’s varied environmental organisations.

These groups currently comprise of a community financing group, an ecological economics group, a Canberra cooperatives group, and an alternative measures of progress group.

SEE-Change’s next project will be a community based venture which will collectively tell a story of Canberra’s future history. This future history will build a roadmap for our town towards a desirable and regenerative future.

The Canberra SEE-Change website is see-change.org.au and the email contact is office@see-change.org.au



see-change.org.au

The Residential Towers Story: The High Rise Eating the Gungahlin Town Centre

By Peter Elford

In “The Gungahlin Residential Towers Story” (Gunsmoke 143, December 2016) the GCC raised the following concerns about the transformation of the block of land bounded by Gundaroo Drive, Gozzard Street and Anthony Rolfe Avenue into a “mini-suburb” of high-rise mixed-use residential towers:

- Each development application is assessed individually, without it seems the overall impact being considered, particularly with regard to traffic and parking,
- The trend makes a mockery of the Gungahlin Town Centre precinct code, which specifies the rules and criteria for development in the town centre,
- There has been no provision for open space to accommodate this density of residents,
- Pedestrian and cycle access to the town centre has not been addressed,

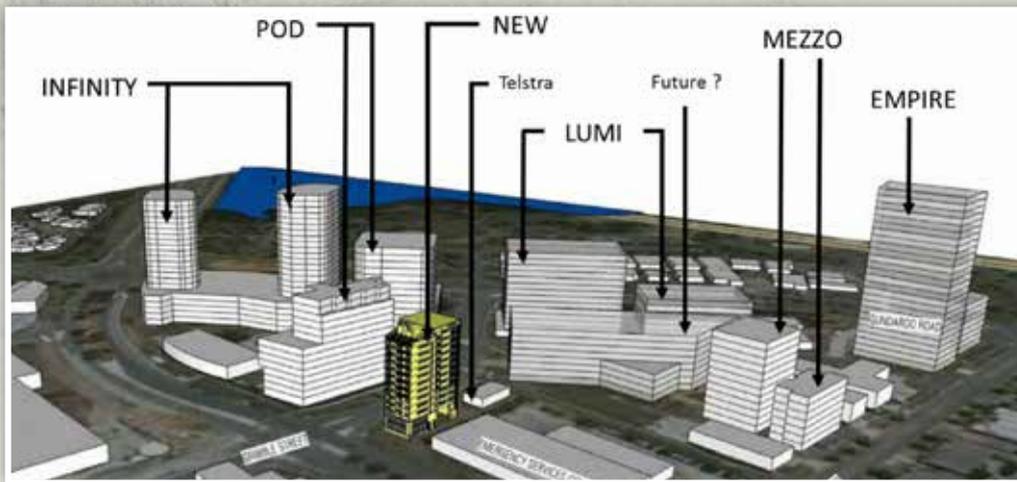
- Changes (such as light rail) have not been factored into the Gungahlin Town Centre master plan or precinct code, and
- In the GCC’s 2014 Have Your Say survey, in response to the question “What should be the maximum height of buildings in the Gungahlin Town Centre? “, more than 80% of residents indicated it should be 10 stories or less.

Since December, a number of things have progressed.

A proposal has been announced for another tower – a 13 storey mixed-use residential development on the corner of Anthony Role Avenue and Gozzard Street, adjacent to the emergency services centre. It’s worth noting that this proposal, like most of the others, suggests that the “residential density and



Approved (blue), Application Lodged (green) and Proposed (purple) mixed-use residential towers



Perspective as presented at GCC public meeting, December 2016 by proponents of the NEW project.

building height [is] appropriate to the Town Centre context and in keeping with surrounding existing and proposed developments”.

details should still be available from <http://www.planning.act.gov.au> (development application 201630980).

This brings the number of projects in this area to 6, involving a total of 13 towers of 7 stories or more – potentially 2,500 residents and nearly 2,000 cars.

Perhaps most importantly, the GCC have approached the ACT government’s Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) with our concerns. They have acknowledged our concerns, and the rapidly moving situation highlighted by the development above. They have proposed an immediate refresh of the planning framework as outlined in the following article and the GCC encourages all residents to get engaged in this process.

In addition, the proponents of the “Lumi” proposal, adjacent to “Infinity Towers” along Gundaroo Drive have lodged their development application. By the time of publication, the opportunity for providing public comment (or “representation”) will have closed visit, but

Subsequent to the approval of Infinity Towers, several other proposals and development applications have been received for other blocks within the “office park”. These are summarised in the table below:

					
Approved	Approved	Application Pending	Application Lodged	Proposed	Proposed
21, 20, 14 Stories	12, 7 Stories	18, 14 Stories	14, 7 Stories	26, 26, 8 Stories	13 Stories
426 Units	126 Units	181 Units	145 Units	~300 Units	42 Units
570 Cars	196 Cars	300 Cars	204 Cars	600 Cars	Zero Cars

Have Your Say On the Future of the Gungahlin Town Centre

By Alexandra Magee

Your views about the future of the Gungahlin Town Centre are needed to help shape the future town centre. The centre is a thriving place and is attracting new residents, business and investment and to achieve the best outcomes, this needs to be managed. The ACT Government is responding by taking a refresh of the Gungahlin Town Centre Planning framework.

Things we're aware of and would like to hear your views include:

Building Height & Character

With strong demand for residential living in the centre and major investment proposals emerging, what are your views on the style and height of future developments and how this will impact services and the character of the area?

Placemaking

As the centre and surrounding suburbs evolve, we want your views on public spaces and places so that they continue to meet community

needs and aspirations and generally make the centre a great place to be.

Active Travel & Road Support

The design of the centre and the surrounding neighbourhoods influence how enjoyable, convenient and safe it is to incorporate active travel into everyday life. The ACT Government is investing in projects to make streets easier and safer to cross, to reduce traffic risk to pedestrians, and to provide pedestrian and cycle routes that are convenient and safe.

The Gundaroo Drive duplication and future transport projects, such as light rail and completion of a 'ring road' around the centre, will increase transport capacity at the same time reducing the reliance on cars. There is an opportunity to identify where additional improvements can be made such as bus priority or where better cycling networks are required.

Have Your Say!

visit <http://yoursay.act.gov.au>

and complete the survey by 6 April 2017.

People Driven Community Development

By David Pollard, Gungahlin Community Council

Over the Christmas holidays, at least two Gungahlin suburban groups run by volunteer residents have organised significant events - the Forde Community Association, and the Crace Community Association.

They had market stalls, entertainment, amusement rides and attractions, food, face painting, performances by local schools, and more. Both afternoons were very well attended by people from those suburbs, and all over Gungahlin.

These events are often mistaken for professional productions, when they are simply the result of residents standing up and saying “we want a community here”. The groups are not well funded, but they have people who care, and that momentum inspires others to get involved.

Events like Christmas fetes are only possible when the community comes together.

Volunteers come out of the woodwork to help leading up to and on the day. Landcare groups helps with the next-day clean up. Some businesses provide their services for free, others donate items to use or vouchers to raffle away, and many are involved on the day (and throughout the year).

So far, Gungahlin has 3 significant resident’s groups, but more are on the way! If you want to see groups and events like this in your suburb, please let us know: communities@gcc.asn.au. We can help get you in touch with others in your area. The people involved with the existing groups are often willing to share their experiences, and are keen to see other groups succeed.

If you would like to get involved in one of these three existing groups, they are always glad to hear from you. We’ve heard reasonable interest from Casey (check out [facebook.com/Casey2913](https://www.facebook.com/Casey2913)), and a Franklin group has started too ([facebook.com/franklinconnect](https://www.facebook.com/franklinconnect)).



Crace Community Association:

www.cracecommunity.com.au

www.facebook.com/CraceACT



Bonner Community:

www.facebook.com/BonnerCommunity



Forde Community Association:

www.fordecentral.com

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/FordeCommunityAssocociation)

[FordeCommunityAssocociation](https://www.facebook.com/FordeCommunityAssocociation)

Gold Creek School

Gold Creek School realises the full potential of every child. Our rich and comprehensive programme promotes not only excellent academic results, but has a concentrated focus on the Arts, Sport, Outdoor Education and Community. With specialist teachers to support these programmes in both the Junior and Senior sections of the school, Gold Creek ensures that the development of the whole child is an essential component of education.

Our community fosters innovative learners who:

- strive for excellence
- celebrate their own and others' success
- embrace and demonstrate mutual respect of others
- promote inclusiveness, acceptance and understanding, and
- positively engage in citizenship.



Accredited by the International Baccalaureate to deliver the Primary and Middle Years Programme, Gold Creek School offers its students a truly international education. Our programmes aim to develop skills required of lifelong learners who will use their skills to make a difference to the world, locally or globally. The school aims to develop skills in research, self-management, communication, and develop their ability to think deeply and interact with others in a socially acceptable manner.

Embedded through the subject areas, these skills support students to become successful learners that are innovative and solutions focused.





Gold Creek School offers extensive support to its gifted and talented students. Its programmes are personalised and flexible to meet the specific needs of students. With highly qualified staff in this field, Gold Creek works closely with families to ensure a strong partnership that builds quality student outcomes. Through its extensive personalised pathways, including extension, enrichment, acceleration, specialised classes, Gold Creek School is able to find a pathway to meet the specific needs of its gifted and talented students.



From The Liberals

By Alistair Coe MLA

Member for Yerrabi

Leader of the Canberra Liberals

It has been a busy few months for the Canberra Liberals since last October's ACT Election. As we have always done, the Liberals will focus on the cost of living, practical solutions and holding the government to account.

The Canberra Liberals will be concentrating on the ever increasing cost of living in Canberra. Whether it is the cost of rent, rates, land prices, car registration or utility bills, Canberrans are paying a huge premium to live here. Given the increasing costs that we all pay, it is reasonable for residents to expect a high level of service for the maintenance of our suburbs, roads, health services and education. However, it seems that despite paying more and more, people are getting less and less.

The Assembly has held its first couple

of sitting weeks and among the range of issues raised by the Canberra Liberals, James Milligan has taken up the fight for a much needed new indoor sports facility for Gungahlin. We all know that a new indoor sports facility is badly needed in Gungahlin, and that was highlighted in a 2015 study into indoor sporting facilities across the ACT, which found a shortage in Gungahlin.

The Gungahlin to City light rail project featured prominently in the election campaign. This project is going to happen. The Canberra Liberals will work with the government to ensure that the project is delivered as efficiently as possible. We will also propose ideas about how to integrate the light rail line with bus services so that all residents of Gungahlin, including those beyond walking



distance to a tram stop, can have access to fast and frequent public transport.

Of course, one of the very important roles of the Opposition is to scrutinise government decisions and processes, and we will be vigilant in doing so. We will do what we can to ensure integrity in government. We will not tolerate misuse of public money, questionable property deals or important decisions made in secret.

James Milligan and I are honoured to be elected MLAs for Yerrabi and we look forward to working for you.

“Among the range of issues raised by the Canberra Liberals, James Milligan has taken up the fight for a much needed new indoor sports facility for Gungahlin.”

The Canberra Liberals will be a proactive Opposition that puts forward ideas and helps build our community. If you have any ideas, concerns or issues you would like to raise with us, please contact us via www.canberraliberals.org.au.

Sincerely,

Alistair Coe MLA



Canberra Liberals Shadow Portfolio Responsibilities

Alistair Coe, Leader

Treasurer
Economic Development
Transport

Nicole Lawder, Deputy Leader

Planning and Infrastructure
Heritage

Andrew Wall

Education and Training
Local Business and Tourism
Industrial Relations

Jeremy Hanson

Attorney-General
Veterans' Affairs

Giulia Jones

Police and Emergency Services
Corrections
Women

Vicki Dunne

Health
Arts

Steve Doszpot

Urban Services
ICT
Seniors

James Milligan

Indigenous Affairs
Sport and Recreation

Elizabeth Lee

Environment
Disability

Mark Parton

Gaming and Racing
Housing

Elizabeth Kikkert

Families, Youth & Community Services
Multicultural Affairs

From Labor: Delivering On Our Commitments

By Your Labor Yerrabi team

Since last October's election result, we've been talking to the people of Gungahlin and working hard to deliver on what we committed to in the campaign.

We've just ticked over the 100 days in government mark and the ACT Government is getting on with the job of delivering on the progressive, positive policies Canberrans voted for.

It was clear from the election that Canberrans support light rail, including both stage 1 from Gungahlin to Civic, and stage 2 onwards to Woden. So we have funded significant work on light rail stage 2 already.

As you'll have no doubt noticed, construction of light rail stage 1 is well underway along both Flemington Road and Northbourne Avenue and this important part of the integrated public transport network will be up and running next year.

Seniors and concession card holders now have free off peak travel on all buses, provided they use a MyWay card. This is an important initiative that many across Yerrabi have been calling for and we believe it will significantly impact the lives of many Canberrans.

In education, we've begun the process of providing new high tech



devices for every high school student; we've upgraded a number of schools and funded the Safe Schools program to all public high schools, including those in Gungahlin.

We've started work towards the new nurse-led walk-in health centres, set a start date for the first Canberrans to receive a green bin service, we've created the Office of LGBTIQ Affairs and we've started to implement our plan for world-class urban renewal and suburban development.

We've started work on a new carers' strategy; delivered a summer swimming pool safety awareness campaign; started work to establish an Office of Mental Health; funded a new Floriade Fringe festival and established Canberra's first NeuroMoves program, among many other achievements.

Canberrans voted for a progressive, positive and outward-looking city where everyone is welcome and where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Your ACT Labor Yerrabi team will continue to deliver.

“ We've just ticked over the 100 days in government mark and the ACT Government is getting on with the job of delivering on the progressive, positive policies Canberrans voted for. ”

**Yerrabi Ponds
clean-up &
barbecue**

Join us!

When:

2pm - 4pm
Saturday 18 March

Where:

Yerrabi Ponds
BBQs on Wunderlich St

Andrew Leigh MP



**Federal Member
for Fenner**

Communities@Work

CELEBRATE GUNGGAHLIN

festival Gungahlin Town Park
Saturday 29 April

10.00am to 3.00pm



Join Us



Kids Activities - Live Entertainment - Food Stalls - Market Stalls

www.celebrategungahlin.org.au

Champion Supporters



Communities@Work



Supporters

LUTON



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