

GunSmoke

Gungahlin Smokesignals

Issue 121

March–April 2011

**GUNGAHLIN
COLLEGE
FIRST DAY
EXCLUSIVE!**

GUNGAHLIN COLLEGE

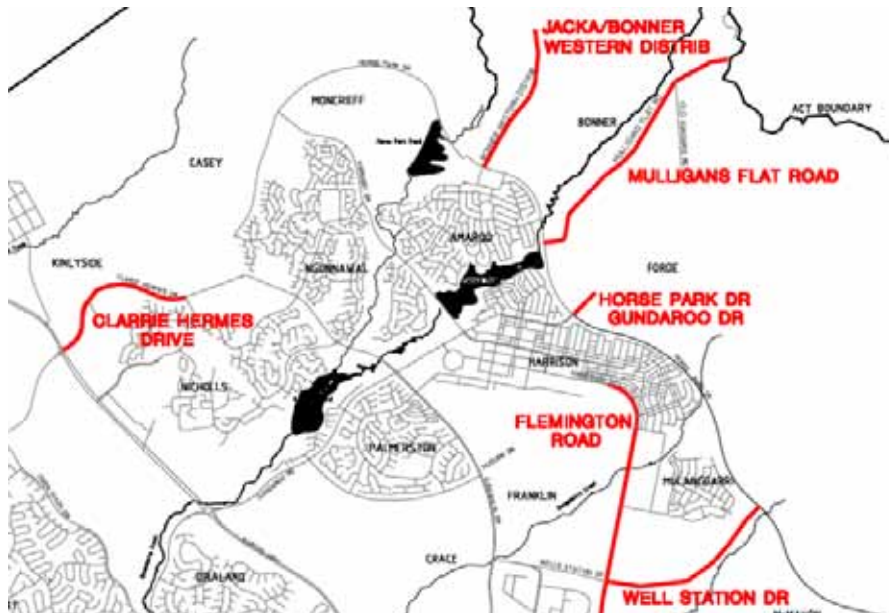
- > **GUNSMOKE GOING DIGITAL**
SUBSCRIBE NOW SO YOU DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!
- > **GUNGAHLIN AQUATIC CENTRE**
BACKFLIPS ON 50 METRE POOL PROMISE?
- > **THIRD HOSPITAL FOR GUNGAHLIN?**
YOU CAN HELP OUR CAMPAIGN
- > **BROADBAND UPDATE**

Roadworks update

Projected completion dates:

Clarrie Hermes Drive Extension June 2012		Mulligans Flat Road Stage 1 June 2012
Gungahlin Drv Extension Stage 2 October 2011		Well Station Drive Extension July 2012
Bonner Western Distributor February 2011		Bonner Western Distributor March 2011
Horse Park Drive – Gundaroo Drive July 2011		

As for 4 lanes on Gundaroo Drv, the Horse Park Drv missing link, the Nudurr Rd extension and the Flemington Rd missing link—who knows? We're pursuing them for you!



Development updates

Block 1 Section 118

Flemington Road Harrison

We lodged an objection to a number of design aspects of this apartment development application.

It was approved, but they are being forced to delete four 2-bedroom units, associated garages and parking, with that space going instead to increasing communal open space from 260 to 890 square metres. They required some changes to parking design and landscaping forced too. A bit of a win.

Gungahlin Mosque

Land and Property Services have ignored our request for the mosque to be located 100 metres further west, closer to the other churches on Valley Ave (one built so far).

They said: "Placing the mosque in this position creates a church zone here three places of worship sit in a row rather than intermingled with mixed use residential and commercial uses as intended."

We argued that 100m would make a big difference for protecting the development potential of the business park.

The Raiders have one.
The Brumbies have one.
And the Aussie Cricket team have one.



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Gungahlin GunSmoke Smokesignals

GunSmoke is published bi-monthly, usually in each even-numbered month:
February, April, June,
August, October & December

Deadline for submission of articles is 15th of each preceding odd-numbered month

Disclaimer:

GunSmoke is produced to allow residents to keep in touch with their local community. It enables people to express views on a range of topics that do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editor, or members of the Gungahlin Community Council Inc.



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Welcome to Gungahlin Smokesignals Issue 121...

Important changes for GCC and GunSmoke

Over the past few months, we at the Gungahlin Community Council have been re-evaluating our activities.

The committee has decided we need to spend less time on administration and more time on our core roles of community engagement and lobbying. To achieve this we are making some key changes.



GunSmoke going online

Producing our bi-monthly newsletter GunSmoke has become a major exercise for our volunteers. Every issue now costs around \$8500 to produce and distribute. We are proud that, over 120 issues, our little publication has become well known and highly valued in the Gungahlin community. And we've been incredibly grateful for those businesses, community groups and other organisations that have been regular advertisers with us.

But we haven't been getting enough advertisers to break even for some time now. This has been made harder by the Canberra Times (perhaps understandably) targeting our growing community by starting the Gungahlin News—which many people continue to think is produced by GCC! Although neither the Gungahlin News nor the Chronicle cover all of Gungahlin, we still lost key advertisers to them. When competing against paid Canberra Times advertising staff, it was unreasonable to expect our volunteers to work so hard pursuing new advertisers.

Without adequate support from Gungahlin businesses, we have to cease producing GunSmoke as a print newsletter distributed to every home and business.

The good news though is that we will continue producing GunSmoke regularly—maybe even more often if required—but as a predominantly online newsletter. It's critical that we can get our complete and unedited messages on important Gungahlin issues out to our community. We'll still get a limited print run for distribution through key locations like shopping centres. But for most people, GunSmoke will be digital from the next edition onwards. With this reduced print costing under \$2000 per issue, we should be able to cover costs from our annual government grants.

So if you want to receive GunSmoke from now on, you'll need subscribe.

Go now to our website at gcc.asn.au and click on the "Subscribe" box.



Palmerston Community Centre

When GCC secured the management rights to the Palmerston Community Centre, it was to ensure there was some 'competition' between the few venues for hire in Gungahlin. But the new Library is about to open including several rooms for hire, the Forde Community Centre is open, and others are coming (but more are needed!). So the original premise for us managing a community centre is no longer valid. We subcontracted the day-to-day bookings of the centre to the Gungahlin Regional Community Service a little while back. But now we'll be handing over the entire centre to GRCS. To all our regular hirers, we thank you for how you've worked with us through some difficult times with volunteer shortages, and for always looking after the centre.



These changes recognise the changing nature of the Gungahlin Community. What was appropriate with a smaller population in a greenfields area is less appropriate now with a population of 43,000.

They've been hard decisions for us. But we realised that these two tasks alone have involved an incredible amount of work for us, have been key contributors to volunteer burn-out, and have had a major impact on our ability to perform our key role.

But we don't want to lose you, so please jump online and subscribe to GunSmoke Online now!

Gungahlin Community Council upcoming meetings

Second Wednesday monthly except January

7.30–9.30 pm Palmerston Community Centre

> 9 March

> 13 April

*Public Open Day
Saturday 2 April*

GUNGAHLIN COLLEGE



The Town Square, theatre and College entrance

GCC's Alan Kerlin caught up with a very proud and excited Principal Gai Beecher on the day Gungahlin College opened its doors to its first students—around 300 Grade 11s.
Alan Kerlin: *So the moment's here. How do you feel?*

Gai Beecher: It's very exciting. Seven months of planning on my part; from the department's perspective it's been several years. So everyone's very excited.

AK: *What's on the cards for the first day?*

GB: We start with a school assembly, and then the students will be put in their Connect Classes, which are their pastoral care groups and they'll have a tour of the college. Then we're having a whole college photo out in the park. That's going to start the traditions for Gungahlin College where day one each year we'll take a photo of everyone in the student population and staff. Then it's into a mini timetable where students will meet the teachers for each of their classes, a barbeque

lunch, then through to the end of the day.

AK: *This'll be the first use of the Town Square. Do you have plans for using the Town Square over time?*

GB: Definitely—with that outdoor stage! This week we've got a whole week of activities, including *Gungahlin's Got Talent* with students performing on the outdoor stage.

AK: *Gungahlin businesses are going to be very happy to see some daytime trade from the students and the teachers. Are students going to be allowed off campus during the day?*

GB: Yes, Gungahlin College will operate as an adult learning environment, so students will be able to go off campus during non-timetabled lessons. As long as they're back in time for their next class!

AK: *Do you know when the library will be open?*

GB: They're saying in March. But in the College we have four Resource Nodes, which are like mini-libraries.

Nope. Zero metres.
Gungahlin has a new town centre.



Day One photo in the new Town Square



The pond catches all stormwater for later irrigation



Open plan lecture and teaching spaces



The theatre seats 450 and is available for public use



Masterchefs eat your hearts out!



One of the woodwork classrooms



Vaughan Hughes, Keiran Hughes and Harrison Thiele were there early and keen to go

GCC there from the start

GCC has been heavily involved with the Gungahlin College over several years, going right back to the original lobbying to have a college built in Gungahlin's town centre. More recently, GCC has played a key role in the design work for the entire college and oval precinct.

Through the early concept planning, we ensured the design included a true town square, and that this park addressed the town heart as an integral part of the town, rather than being simply an entry area for the college.

Through our participation in the College Design Working Group, GCC's Janet McKinney, Alan Kerlin and Kevin Cox pursued an agenda of passive solar design for the campus buildings, and a strong environmental ethos in the curriculum. We also fought off a push by the ACT Government to set aside around one fifth of the overall site to be sold off for commercial uses, and thereby protected the space needed for the aquatic centre to include a 50 metre pool.

Alan Kerlin was also on the selection panel for the Principal.

Using ACTION for longer commutes

by Alan Kerlin

Stepping down as GCC president has meant I've been able to ditch the car as my main mode for the daily commute to my day job in Civic. Instead, I'm usually on the bicycle, taking the bicycle down Well Station Track and various backstreets, thus avoiding the worrying Northbourne Avenue "cycle lanes". It's been great for the fitness!

A 10-pass ACTION bus ticket covers those (rare) days I can't cycle. At \$25.20 for 10, each bus ride is just \$2.52, so that's my kind of price. I think it should be free, but that's another story.

A recent week working in Woden was an ideal chance to test out the ACT's public transport service beyond the usual commute.

The first day I took the car so I had a baseline for comparison. The roadworks on the GDE (when will we start calling it just Gungahlin Drive I wonder?) meant complete logjam before you even get to the Barton Highway overpass, and further crawls around the Ginninderra Drive and Belconnen Way crossings. Still, even with that, the drive wasn't bad at about 40 minutes—close to the time it takes to drive into Civic. Then there was the scramble to

find \$7.00 in loose change for the parking meter at Woden. (Surely in this day and age, a meter that can recognise cards and notes isn't too much to ask for Mr Stanhope?) Toss in the queue at the meter and the walk to the workplace, about 45 minutes door to door, using the car.

Next day—bus from Harrison to Woden via Civic (because every bus route seemingly has to go via the Civic!). I journalled the trip on the GCC Facebook page: [facebook.com/gungahlin](https://www.facebook.com/gungahlin):

8.05 am: strip valuable bits off bicycle and treddly three minutes to the Red Rapid stop on Flemington Road. Bike chained to the rack. No seats or shelter at the new bus stop—unfortunately typical for newer areas!

8.08: first bus arrives but is already chocko—pass. Second bus is less than two minutes later—why are they that close? It's one of the crummy old heaps and isn't the express service but it will do. Standing room only though. Using the Flemington Road bus lane, it rips straight past the usual morning logjam of cars backed up from EPIC through Mitchell.

8:18: past Dickson and seats are now

available. Catches up to other bus and is now in a conga line of three buses. Watching a video podcast from NASA on the smartphone—another great feature of bussing it: time to watch, read, listen or study.

8.36: arrive Civic. Reasonable time down Northbourne. But how quick would it be with a tidal bus lane down the middle of the trees?? Short walk across interchange but just miss one Woden bus. However the next one is only another minute away. Connection is on the same \$2.52 ticket—no extra cost. Better bus, but must have been a global shortage on seat padding when this one was built! Facebook, check emails, then back to the podcasts.

8.52: arrive at Woden. One minute walk to office, and time to grab a caffeine hit.

So, 48 minutes door to door and no scrabbling for shrapnel for the parking meter, versus 45 minutes by car. \$2.52 by two, versus \$7.00 plus fuel plus car costs. (Not much longer to Tuggeranong either, if your commute takes you that far.)

Even better: the return trip was just 30 minutes door to door. Confirmed over similar trips for the rest of the week. Plenty of the buses are newer and quite comfortable. The drivers could be a bit smoother on the accelerator and brakes though—especially when they have people standing.

Summary: you'd need a compelling reason to drive wouldn't you? I'm sold.

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Rev. Mark Faulkner. 62425001
www.gungahlinuniting.org

NBN UPDATE

National Broadband Network

Peter Elford, GCC Vice President gets an update on the National Broadband Network's plans for the Gungahlin pilot roll-out with Darren Rudd of NBN Co

Peter Elford: What's been happening since the presentation by NBN Co to GCC in October 2010, because things have been very quiet?

Darren Rudd: The ACCC decision in December last year (to increase the number of Points of Interconnect for service providers from 14 to 120) resulted in lots of redesign work for the national network. Although this is all part of the NBN 'backend' and won't have any impact on what residents see, it does mean we need to take some time to get things right. NBN Co remains committed to rolling out the second release sites (which includes Gungahlin). In the past months we have been working very closely with the ACT Broadband Taskforce in the background in preparation for the next phases of the project. I'm now looking forward to working closely with the GCC and the local community to raise the understanding of what it is we'll be bringing to town, when that will take place and how we will build and connect the NBN in Gungahlin.

PE: So when will things start happening?

DR: NBN Co is working closely with both GCC and the ACT Government regarding the Gungahlin rollout and preparing a series of stakeholder meetings. The next key date would be the awarding of contracts for

the construction companies that will be undertaking the work. This is a national process that should hopefully begin in the next couple of months. We will make the specific rollout plans available after that, as part of an active community engagement and communication plan. There will probably be visible signs of work in Gungahlin streets before mid-year to audit the current network infrastructure and commence work on the street-level detailed design. In the interim, we'll work with GCC to design a series of awareness and education workshops to be run over the coming months.

PE: How will the NBN be physically rolled out in Gungahlin?

DR: Most of the NBN infrastructure follows the powerlines, either above ground on poles or underground, using existing telecommunications conduit if it is available. In Gungahlin, which has underground power, the fibre for the NBN will be underground. When we have a definitive agreement with Telstra, we'll be using as much of their existing infrastructure as possible.

PE: What happens after the first 3000 homes are connected?

DR: Once construction has started in Gungahlin, NBN Co intends to continue construction in subsequent stages of the build until all of Gungahlin has been connected to the NBN.

PE: How will the first 3000 homes be selected for connection?

DR: The first 3000 homes connected will be selected on the basis of what is the most

efficient and cost effective engineering solution consistent with NBN Co's construction principles and policies and minimisation of environmental impact.

PE: How does the Opt-In Process work?

DR: Prior to the NBN rollout starting in Gungahlin, all premises owners will be given the choice to sign up for an NBN connection. There are no costs involved in consenting to a standard installation of an NBN connection during the initial roll-out. You are simply giving NBN Co permission to lay a thin piece of fibre from the street to your premises. You are not committing to use the NBN or pay any money.

PE: So how does the fibre connect to devices in the home like a PC?

DR: Once the fibre reaches a premise, such as a home, it terminates in a Network Terminating Unit. This is the standard connection interface to the NBN and does not require any major changes to a home's inside wiring or equipment. You can then plug-in your existing computer, phone, set-top box, modem, router or other device.

PE: If you just want to connect a standard phone, will that cost any more?

DR: If all you want to use the NBN connection for is a phone line, you can use built-in phone adaptors and have a simple phone contract with a retailer.

The GCC will continue to work with NBN Co to keep the Gungahlin community informed on progress, but it's clear that things are underway and the end of Gungahlin's broadband woes are in sight.



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MultiMedia Children's Program

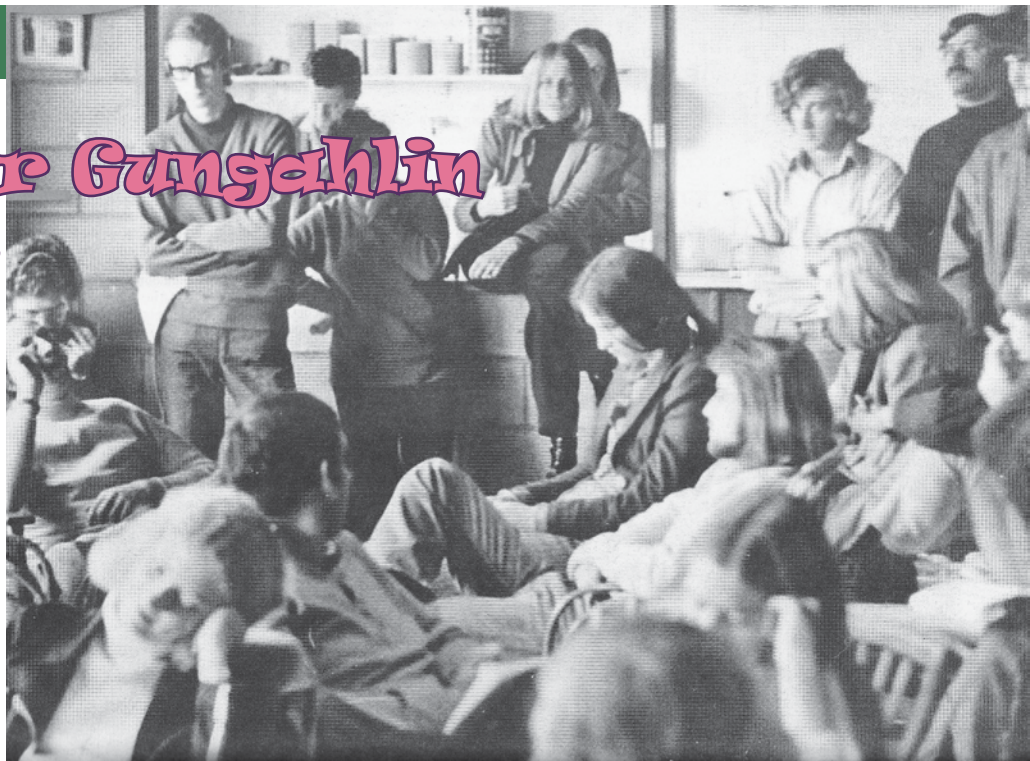
Planning for Gungahlin in the 1970s

by Ed Wensing FPIA*

In 1973, 33 young people between the ages of 16 and 25 years were selected by the former National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) to participate in a search conference that became known as 'The Gungahlin Think In' to plan Gungahlin, Canberra's fourth new town. I was one of those participants and was so inspired by the event that I made town planning my career. I remember working hard and well into the night for the five days the group was together. For several weeks after, many of us met at my parents' place in Braddon to finalise our report.

What was it like, what ideas did we come up with, and have any of our ideas come to fruition?

Five key points emerged. We wanted a high degree of social interaction through a well-designed layout of the town and public facilities and institutions; a diversity of lifestyles through a range of housing types and densities; high levels of community participation; a high level of respect for the environment and minimal use of natural resource; and for planners to not be afraid to implement change in society, particularly



as the continuation of the status quo might be more intolerable than realisation of new designs. The most remarkable outcome was our concern about pollution and natural resource use, and we wanted Gungahlin to use less energy and make better use of our natural resources.

What can we see on the ground in Gungahlin today that was suggested by the Gungahlin Think In participants? Two things stand out for me. The first is the design of the new College, CIT and public library. This new integrated facility is an example of the kind of innovation in public institutions that the participants foresaw. And I am confident it will be a success. The second is the higher density housing, especially around the town centre and along the major arterial roads. But we still have a long way to go in achieving the kind of densities the participants wanted to see.

However, I am very disappointed with the street layout (NOT the street signs, as reported in the Canberra Times on 15 January! A sub-editor's error). Most of the

Canberra's residential areas are designed on a road hierarchy with each street in the hierarchy being designed for a certain number of dwellings according to its width and length.

What we are seeing is a significant departure from those earlier standards in streets like Burdekin Avenue in Amaroo, where the streets are too long and too narrow for the traffic they carry. This is not good planning or urban design. Furthermore, far too many dwellings are very poorly oriented and designed for our temperate climate, making for very inefficient buildings and adding to unnecessary energy consumption.

As a participant of the Gungahlin Think In and as a planner with over 30 years experience, I know we can and should be doing better, especially when it comes to energy efficiency and natural resource use.

**Ed is an Associate Director in the Canberra office of SGS Economics and Planning and is a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia.*

Photo: National Capital Authority

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We would like to thank our general practice patients and wish them all the best.



50m pool backflip?

by Alan Kerlin

Prior to the 2008 election, Jon Stanhope and Andrew Barr made a clear and unambiguous promise to the people of Gungahlin, as is still available on this media release from 4 August 2008:

www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=7202

"Gungahlin residents to benefit from new 50m pool complex."

Labor Member for Molonglo and Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation, Andrew Barr today announced a re-elected Stanhope Government will build a pool and indoor leisure centre for the Gungahlin community.

Mr Barr said the Government is currently investigating the scope of the centre which will include a 50 metre pool, a 25 metre pool, at least 1 court space, for example a netball court and associated amenities such as a café and gymnasium."

Interestingly, the next day they criticised the ACT Liberals' ability to deliver on their counter promise, and reiterated the ALP promise in even more definite language:

"Yesterday Chief Minister Jon Stanhope and Mr Barr announced a re-elected Stanhope Government will build an indoor recreational facility in Gungahlin that will include a 50 metre pool, a 25 metre pool, at least 1 court space, for example a

netball court, and associated amenities such as a café and gymnasium."

"...will build...will include..." Not a lot of room for confusion is there?

GCC has been growing increasingly concerned over the last eight months about the apparent back-peddalling by ACT Sports Minister Andrew Barr on this issue.

We acknowledge that 50m pools cost a bit to operate, but so do all community facilities. To base this decision on the ability of a centre to turn a profit is to totally lose sight of the government's role in delivering equitable community services across the ACT, as all local governments strive to do.

It's not as if we ever say that libraries should have to turn a profit to be considered—why should it be so for pools? In fact, it could be argued that the previous exercises with outsourcing management of Canberra's pool centres have not been particularly glowing examples.

We need your support on this. Please email stanhope@act.gov.au and barr@act.gov.au and tell them why there should be no backflips over Gungahlin's aquatic centre!

3rd hospital ...Gungahlin's future in the balance

Calvary Hospital management are fighting hard against our campaign for a third hospital to be built in the Gungahlin.

We need the Gungahlin community to fight back, and let the ACT Health Minister Katy Gallagher know that you support this idea and that it would cement Gungahlin's future as a functioning employment base.

We've got suitable land immediately east of Kate Crace Drive. And there would be plenty of land to include respite accommodation, specialist day hospital services, and much more.

Centrally to what will be a population of 100,000 people, and just six minutes from Dickson or 12 minutes from Belconnen.

In a recent discussion with Katy Gallagher, she said she had asked the Health planners to update their population projects, and they realised that *"if we only have two hospitals, we face them both being construction sites for the foreseeable future, and that is not an appealing prospect."* We concur...

This is a watershed decision for Gungahlin—it would define the town centre. And it will be good for all Canberrans in the reduced road costs if more of us can work near our homes.

So now it is over to Gungahlin residents and business operators. We urgently need you to write to the government and your local MLAs and get behind the idea. Just substitute each MLA's surname into the email: surname@act.gov.au

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Being pregnant does not mean you need to find a new home for your cat. I regularly see distraught expectant mothers who have been told that their cat poses a health risk to their unborn baby and they should consider re-homing their feline friend. The usual reason for this misplaced concern is a disease called toxoplasmosis.

Toxoplasmosis is a parasite that some cats can carry and may cause development problems in unborn children. While it is true that a woman who acquires toxoplasmosis can transmit the infection to her unborn baby, it is important to understand the ways that toxoplasmosis is contracted before making a decision on your cat's future.

Humans can get toxoplasmosis in one of three ways: by eating under-cooked meat

YOUR CAT AND YOUR PREGNANCY

by Dr Matthew Almond
Small Friends Veterinary Hospital



that may contain Toxoplasma tissue cysts; by ingestion of infective spores from cat faeces or soil; or the third and least common way is transplacental infection, which occurs when a mother is infected while pregnant.

Cats are unlikely to infect their owners for a number of reasons. Firstly, only cats who hunt and eat their prey, or who eat raw meat can acquire the toxoplasmosis infection. After infection, a cat will only produce infective spores in their faeces for about two weeks and after this time they acquire immunity and can usually not be re-infected.

Secondly, spores in faeces require at least 24 hours to become infective, which means if a litter tray is changed daily, exposure to infective spores is unlikely. Thirdly, infection can only occur if a cat owner makes contact with contaminated faeces in the litter box or while gardening, and then touches her mouth before washing her hands.

Therefore expectant mothers can rest assured that by implementing general hygiene practices, contracting toxoplasmosis from your cat is very rare.

Here are some general recommendations for pregnant cat owners:

- Wear gloves when working in the garden.
- Keep your cat indoors away from wildlife.
- When preparing your meals, wash all veges before cooking or eating, cook meat thoroughly before eating, and wash your hands, utensils and cooking surfaces after contact with uncooked meat.
- Avoid feeding raw meat to your cat. Stick with a commercially-produced cat food.
- Change the litter tray daily. If possible have someone else do it, or wear gloves and wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.
- Cover outdoor sand pits when not in use (otherwise Kitty might use it as a toilet).

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9 Carstairs Circuit, Amaroo ACT 2914

small : adjective. Comparatively speaking ... of limited size
- we care for small animals - dogs (of all sizes), cats, birds, mice, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, rats & more ...
- ours is a small personalised practice - though big in expertise and facilities
- we have intimate knowledge of our clients and their "small friends" so your friend won't get lost in the crowd

friends : noun. Attached to another by feelings of affection or personal regard.
- we know animals are family members and we understand this relationship
- we become friends with our clients and their animals
- our practice is a friendly practice in every sense of the word ... our staff are good friends and this provides a happy, friendly environment for our clients and their animals



Northside Community Service together with CHC Affordable Housing is delighted to be opening the Gungaderra Homestead Community Centre for the local residents of Gungahlin in the coming weeks.

Located in Sapling Street Harrison, this restored old homestead will be open to the public shortly and will provide a number of different sized meeting rooms for hire, community development activities delivered by Northside Community Staff and other local community organisations, a Community Garden and a Men's Shed.

Northside is keen to hear from you about the types of activities you would like to see happening at the Gungaderra Homestead and invite you to participate in the focus groups that will be taking place in the coming weeks.

If you would like to participate in the focus groups please contact Wendy Prowse on 6163 0436 or wendy.prowse@northside.asn.au.



Join us on Facebook for the latest news fast

GCC's Facebook supporter base continues to grow with almost 400 people now on board, including a number of ACT MLAs and media people.

You can join at:

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

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What's going on with the ACT Government?

Some of the things coming out of different agencies in the ACT Government really do leave us wondering what's going on in there?

Here are a few recent examples:

A major Flemington Road bus stop gets a shelter shed for bicycles, while there is not a single shelter for people on the entire road! And this is on a bus route where buses are frequently packed out to the front door.

The Chief Minister proudly announces completion of a \$1.8 million Bus Lane on Flemington Road at Mitchell. Except that there is no new bus lane...

The bus lane has been there for four years.

There is a new intersection though. Absurdly, the wonderful Flemington Road duplication ends just a few hundred metres from this new intersection, leaving a bottleneck that's now the bane of commuters' daily lives.

And while the duplication included a spacious corridor down the centre to allow for future bus lanes or light rail, this new intersection has made no such matching provision, meaning it will need to be ripped up again!

The popular heritage-listed Well Station Track, initially proclaimed by the Land Development Agency as part of a \$1.3 million fitness trail, remains overgrown and dangerously eroded. Despite GCC raising the problem with senior staff of the LDA, Roads ACT and Land and Property Services over eight months.

Meanwhile, the basics are forgotten too. This Harrison footpath is used by many school children every day, but is overgrown by grass and thistles. There are many more similar sites across Gungahlin.



What's going on?

