



NEWSLETTER Vol 47 April 2022

Hot Issues for 2022

1. Light Rail extension to Woden

The National Capital Authority has approved the ACT Government's plan to raise London Circuit by 6 metres and remove all the cloverleaf ramps, replacing them with more roads and traffic lights. We expect four years of traffic chaos, if we want to travel to Civic. The goal appears to be real estate densification at Capitol Hill to justify Light Rail Stage 2A and establish a platform for Light Rail to cross Lake Burley Griffin.

Unfortunately, trams use inflexible 19th century technology. They will take almost twice as long to travel from Woden to Civic than is provided by the current bus service and only be used by less than 2% of the population on a daily basis. Not a good investment for \$3 billion of taxpayers' money.

2. A new Territory Plan

The draft legislation for a new Territory Plan has been released for comment, and it is not good news for the residents of Canberra. Some of the issues of concern include:

- There is no explanation as to why we need a new plan and how the new plan will be improved and better than what we have now.
- Pre-Development Application Consultation for major projects has been withdrawn. This results in the community having less opportunities to comment on major planning proposals.
- Knockdown re-builds of single dwellings will still be approved by certifiers and no objections by neighbours will be allowed, even if the planning rules are breached.
- The new planning environment will be "outcome-focused". The government (ACTPLA) will decide whether a building or a development will perform well. The parameters used to evaluate the outcomes have not been specified. It seems that subjective assessments will be made and ACTPLA who will have complete control without a process to reconsider any decisions or public objection.
- Ministerial call-in powers have been abandoned, but a new category of Priority projects has been created, for major projects such as Light Rail. After the Minister decides a proposal is a Priority Project, the Chief Planner is all-powerful and can approve projects and override advice from the Conservator of Flora and Fauna. Merit review through ACAT will not be allowed. We consider that major projects should be thoroughly assessed and not pushed through without proper assessment or public comment.

3. Better parking and pedestrian crossings in Manuka

We are lobbying the ACT government to free up some rarely used taxi-parking spacings for short-term car parks. This should boost local businesses and improve customer access. Coming soon (we hope) will be pedestrian crossings at the entries and exits to the car park under Coles.

4. *Housing ACT needs to lift its game*

The Policy

The ACT Government is currently investing more than \$1 billion in the growth, renewal and realignment of public housing over 10 years from 2015 – 2025. To quote Minister Berry: “Public housing is a vehicle for better lives, social inclusion, participation and stronger communities.” This is a huge investment in public housing and the work is being led by Housing ACT (HACT) within the Community Services Directorate.

Implementing the policy-

What we would like from HACT	What we’ve got now
For such a large and important investment, HACT should engage with local communities about their plans.	After two refusals we have finally been offered an invitation to meet with HACT.
The salt and pepper approach around the location of public housing to be continued HACT stated that. <i>“It serves as a keystone for tenant choice, social inclusion and building stronger communities.”</i>	<i>That’s not happening!</i> In one street in Griffith there could be 70% of the dwellings/homes designated for public housing.
Proper maintenance of Community Housing.	<i>That’s not happening!</i> The local press has been full of unliveable, trashed dwellings.
Treat residents as valued people	Unsigned notices sent to residents advising they will be re-located, even if they have lived in that home for over 20 years. Like pawns on a chess board.
Supportive and adaptable houses situated near shops and public transport routes	39 HACT DAs lodged for Adaptable or Supportive Housing since the start of 2020. Why random distribution?
HACT Public housing blends with the neighbourhood.	HACT uses the Supportive Housing category to enable the maximum. number of dwellings to be squashed onto a block.
HACT Development Applications comply with the Territory Plan.	The three recent HACT DAs in the GNCA area failed to comply and had to be modified by HACT.
Development Applications that can be realised.	A recent DA in Griffith was surrendered by HACT for no apparent reason. Why was it submitted if it was flawed?
Good investments by Housing ACT? Cost-benefit option to sell the existing site and develop more homes elsewhere.	Inflexible financial management: develop the site rather than sell and build more client dwellings elsewhere.

What can be done?

It should not be difficult, for HACT to improve its performance. More attention to detail and proper engagement with the community, would easily and greatly assist.

5. *Rubbish bins (or lack of them) near bus stops in Manuka*

Two popular ACT bus stops on Captain Cook Crescent in Manuka don’t have any rubbish bins near them (the nearest bin for one is over 200m away). Unsurprisingly, they are frequently consumed by litter and rubbish. We are trying to persuade the ACT government to install two rubbish bins – *it’s not easy!*

6. Capitol Hotel plans finally approved



Stage 1 of Capitol Hotel on 6 April 2022, before the start of Stage 2.

Heidi Robinson, Presidential Member of the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, signed off an agreement on 11 February 2022 between the ACT Government and Liangis Investments Pty Ltd. This enables the completion of the Capitol Hotel in Manuka and brings to an end the legal process that started in May 2018, when the DA for Stage 1 was submitted. The DA for Stage 2 was submitted in December 2020. Both Stage 1 and Stage 2 went to ACAT. On each occasion, an agreement was eventually reached between ACTPLA and the Liangis interests.

We understand there will now be two main entrances to the hotel. One on Manuka Circle, the other on Franklin Street. Pleasingly, the five cinemas have been retained. There will be no additional public car parking on site, but parking is available under Coles and at Furneaux Street.

It's a pity the whole project was not submitted as one DA. After all, the final product will be one building. Let's hope Liangis Pty Ltd gets moving quickly to realise the plans.

7. The Manor House – ACT Government's Demonstrated Housing Project

A year on, and with over 900 local resident objections, ACT Government has still not made a decision on this four-unit, two storey development with nine car parks on the corner of Blaxland Cres and Frome Streets. To build this multi-dwelling home, there will have to be changes to the Territory Plan for just one block in a low-density RZ1 zone. Just like random re-zoning! Stay tuned for updates.

8. Better security at the Griffith Shops

After recent break-ins at the Griffith Shops, GNCA is lobbying the ACT government to install CCTV cameras and increase police patrols to improve security. Please be vigilant! Report suspicious activity anonymously to Crime Stoppers.

Eat, Drink and be Healthy in Manuka and Griffith

The theme for 2022 raffle was **Eat, Drink and be Healthy in Manuka and Griffith**. All money raised assists the GNCA to protect the amenity and interests of the Griffith and Narrabundah communities and promote community engagement, representation and advocacy. We also support three volunteer groups, to maintain local urban parks. Outstanding support was obtained from Griffith and Manuka businesses, whom we promote through our Website, Facebook, and Newsletters. Please support them.



Gail McAlpine, Robyn Craig, David Denham, and Paul Russell (the Maestro) selling raffle tickets in Manuka (left) Gary Kent draws another lucky winner with Louise Gaudry.

The 20 Griffith prizes winners from the 2022 GNCA raffle

Sponsors	Prize Winners	Suburb
Aubergine	Hayley Cooper	Griffith
Body Temple	Louise Gaudry	Griffith
Essence Salon and Spa	Mario Sanfranceco	Griffith
Fox Antiques	Joeseph Altin	Holder
Griffith Vietnamese 1	Alexandra Kirk	Narrabundah
Griffith Vietnamese 2	Gowrie Waterhouse	Narrabundah
Gryphons	Julian Robinson	Narrabundah
Macka's Newsagency	Amelia Mollett	Weston
Mountain Creek 1	Lindy Ingham	Coffs Harbour
Mountain Creek 2	Margaret Fanning	Griffith
No. 8 Thai on Griffith	Premala Walsh	Red Hill
Organic Energy	Helen Boyton	Katoomba
Pro Thai Massage	Marguerite Castello	Griffith
Shoprite	Dee Buchanan	Narrabundah
Studio Skye Hair & Makeup	Collette Barton	Narrabundah
Sweet Little Cafe	Michael Del Gigante	Kingston
The Hierophant 1	Elkie MacKenzie	Griffith
The Hierophant 2	Tui Davidson	Forrest
The Hierophant 2	Vicki Kinnane	Gordon
Your Discount Chemist	Julian Cook	Forrest

The 24 Manuka prize winners from the 2022 GNCA raffle

Sponsors	Prize Winners	Suburb
Abell's Kopi Thai	K'Trie Coster	Griffith
Antica Ricetta Italian	Hans Kolleth	Theodore
Baan Latsamy Thai	Rob Parnell	Narrabundah
Bambusa	Sue Falez	Rivett
Belluci's Cafe	Margie Dorman	Deakin
Canberra IQ -online	Hugh Forrest	Rivett
Caph's Restaurant & Bar	Joanne Lee	Lyneham
French Flair Cellar Door	John Gallagher	Hughes
Jewel of India	Stephanie Morison	Griffith
L'Orange Patisserie	Dennis Richardson	Griffith
Manuka Steak House	Rick Rand	Narrabundah
Manuka Vet Hospital	Keith Bradley	Fadden
My Cafe	Jeff Skewes	Kambah
On Flinders Cafe 1	Ryan Hawkins	Turner
On Flinders Cafe 2	Geoff Tooth	Narrabundah
Origin Turkish Kitchen 1	Peter Michael	MacGregor
Origin Turkish Kitchen 2	Maurice Haddad	Griffith
Paitissez Cafe 1-	Gaby Sheen	Narrabundah
Paitissez Cafe 2-	Steve Irwin	Red Hill
Paitissez Cafe 3-	Clark Gallagher	Griffith
Paperchain Bookstore	Frances Wild	Deakin
Public Bar Manuka	Bina Brown	Narrabundah
Thai Cornar	Andrew Davidson	Kaleen
Typica Manuka	Rosemary Digweed	Red Hill

Participating in the Inner South Canberra Community Council

The Inner South Canberra Community Council is a federation of eight Community Associations in Canberra's Inner South. These are: *Old Narrabundah Community Council, Griffith Narrabundah Community Association, Kingston Barton Residents Group, Forrest Residents Group, Oaks Estate Residents Association, Red Hill Residents Group, Deakin Residents Association, and Yarralumla Residents Association.*

ISCCC provides a representative voice to government for the whole of Canberra's Inner South. It has been very active on many issues affecting our area, particularly in stopping the proposals for waste processing facilities in Fyshwick, which the government banned after the last election. Visit the website (www.isccc.org.au) for more details of its activities.

Meet our Kurrajong Members of the Legislative Assembly

Andrew Barr ALP

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Rachel Stephen-Smith ALP

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Elizabeth Lee Liberal

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Rebecca Vassarotti Greens

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Shane Rattenbury Greens

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If Access Canberra is not working for you, try your local MLAs.

GNCA supports three local Volunteer Park Groups

Urban parklands provide some of the most valued features in our suburbs. The GNCA is supporting our local community to maintain these valued facilities.

Friends of Blaxland Park



Convenor of the Friends of Blaxland Park, Mac Howell, stands by a *E polyanthus* in March 2020 (L) and March 2022 (R) as he watches the Red Box grow.

Blaxland Park was gazetted in 2013 to commemorate the crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813 by Gregory Blaxland, William Lawson and William Wentworth. Some descendants of Blaxland live in Canberra.

Friends of Blaxland Park were formed in 2017 and we have planted more than 60 trees since then. These have been a mixture of native and exotic trees. They comprise seven varieties of eucalypts and four varieties of deciduous exotics.

The paths installed by the government have made a huge impact on the park and have made it much more accessible. Funds were obtained from the ACT government to start a small native garden (see the picture) and continual maintenance to keep the trees healthy.

The Friends meet periodically on Sunday mornings in the Park to look after the trees and to keep the place tidy. If you would like to join the Friends contact Mac Howell at machowell@homemail.com.au



Mac Howell with the base for the native garden

The Griffith Woodland Group



Some of the Griffith Woodlands Group and Leo's dog, celebrating new signage in the park

The Griffith Woodland Group aims to protect and improve an urban space off La Perouse Street. This site contains a wealth of native trees, shrubs and grasses, including Yellow Box gums, estimated to be at least 150 years old. It needs to be protected so that it can remain a valuable recreation area, habitat and food source for native fauna. Working Bees normally take place every 2nd Sunday of the month, from 9am to 10:30am - ending in tea and biscuits. Anyone is welcome to come along! Contact Libby McCutchan at griffithwoodland@gmail.com for more information.

Bass Gardens main features date back to the original designs in the 1930s. It was named after George Bass, navigator and surgeon and is now a heritage park hosting a wonderful range of native grasses and forbs. Grasses include Speargrass, Wallaby Grass, Kangaroo Grass and Redleg Grass. It is a habitat for the golden sun moth. It also provides an understorey for flowers like the Yellow Rush Lily, Goodenia and Blue Devil.

Our volunteer group is attacking invasive weeds and reviewing adaptive mowing regimes. The project aims to protect and recover native grassy ecosystem plants and is also supported by the Friends of Grasslands. Contact Sue Ross (sueross@grapevine.net.au) for more information.



GNCA

Griffith/Narrabundah
Community Association
www.gnca.org.au

2022 Membership Form

GNCA - Membership Application / **Renewal Form** (for 2022)

If you are not already a GNCA member, please consider becoming one. The more members we have, the greater our influence will be with ACT Government and in the wider community.

Membership Application: New Member () Member Renewal () Date

Name (s):

.....

Full Address:

.....

Phone:(h).....(m)

Email Address:

.....

Membership Fee: \$.....\$10 *per person* for Annual Financial Membership

Donation: \$.....Donations are appreciated. Total amount:

The GNCA has four (4) Membership payment methods. Your support is highly valued!

1. Online EFT payments to Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association, BSB 032 722; Account 134058 (**preferred option**) or
2. Pay by credit card at <https://www.ticketebo.com.au/gnca> (*the GNCA incurs a fee of around 10% using this method*) or
3. In Person at a Westpac Branch - please provide your *telephone number* to the teller, Westpac cannot process your name when paying in person.
4. Cheques addressed to the GNCA & posted to PO Box 4127, MANUKA ACT 2603.

When using methods 1 or 2 please ensure you add your NAME to the payment description. Otherwise we will not know who the payment is from!

Membership Renewals

Providing you have identified yourself via the payment description, we do not require a new Membership Renewal Form unless your contact details have changed.

Attention New Members: Welcome! Please ensure you scan the completed Membership Application Form and forward to info@gnca.org.au OR please mail the form to PO Box 4127, MANUKA ACT 2603. Enquiries or questions, please contact the Secretary at info@gnca.org.au.