

# Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc.

## NEWSLETTER Vol 44 September-October 2020

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### Welcome to the COVID 19 Election 2020

COVID 19 is still with us. Its presence will be felt for at least another year, even if a successful vaccine is developed. However, nothing is going to stop the ACT's 2020 Election.

The GNCA has developed a list of actions for the next government, whoever is elected on 17 October. The complete list is on our website and we have provided a summary for this newsletter. Our website also provides the responses from the three main parties. We have summarised these here. Where we have not received comments from party offices, we have used the information provided by candidates for Kurrajong.

### What we would like from the next ACT government

#### ***A Quality of streetscape and the urban environment***

The new government must work hard to improve the trust between three main planning stakeholders: the community, the developers, and the government. We should all be working towards a better city. The current planning system is too complex and does not always deliver good outcomes. We need to maintain the Garden City landscape, particularly with respect to sustainability and climate change.

#### **Actions needed**

***The Territory Plan should be amended to provide certainty to residents:*** no more *ad hoc* spot rezoning like Mr Fluffy.

***ALP:*** Supported by ALP candidate but will be considered during the Review of the Territory Plan.

***Greens:*** Certainty is an important principle that should be reflected when making changes.

***Liberals:*** Policy to be released soon. System should provide transparency, accountability and enforcement.

***All the documentation should be easy for the layperson to understand.*** Each block differs in size, shape and location; and residents have different requirements and aspirations. Despite the complexity, the rules should be easy to use.

***ALP:*** Supported by ALP candidate but will be considered during the Review of the Territory Plan.

***Greens:*** This is an important principle that should be reflected when making changes.

***Liberals:*** Agree. The planning system should be accessible.

***All Criteria in the planning codes must be subservient to the Rules, which should be simplified and mandatory.*** The present situation, where subjective Criteria override quantitative Rules, lacks clarity and common sense. We need simple mandatory Rules for crucial parameters such as Building Heights, Number of Storeys, Solar Access, and Planting Areas. Criteria should just tell us what we want to achieve.

***ALP:*** Supported by ALP candidate but will be considered during the Review of the Territory Plan.

***Greens:*** This issue needs to be settled by consultation through the review.

***Liberals:*** Rules should be clear to avoid the risk of loopholes and inconsistency. Agree to consider.

***Legislation to achieve a 30% tree canopy cover and 30% permeable surfaces in urban areas by 2045 must be enacted.*** All major parties advocate planting about one million trees by 2045. Enabling legislation for leased land is essential to realise this goal.

***ALP:*** Supported by ALP candidate but will be considered during the Review of the Territory Plan.

***Greens:*** Will continue to push for planning system and legislation change to reflect these strategies in the next 4 years.

***Liberals:*** Commitment to plant 1 million trees in ten years. Agree to consider.

***The plot-ratio rule be supplemented by a mandatory 30% planting-area rule.*** The current mandatory plot-ratio rule is not working. Dwellings can comply with this rule even though the whole block is covered by impermeable areas and the established trees removed.

***ALP:*** Supported by ALP candidate but will be considered during the Review of the Territory Plan

***Greens:*** Strongly support planning changes to fix this problem and a 30% planting area could be an important part of the solution.

***Liberals:*** Agree to consider.

***Knock-down rebuild DA-exempt developments should be progressed through a standard Development Application.*** The situation regarding DA-exempt knock-down re-builds is totally unacceptable. Neighbours are having to go through FOI requests to obtain copies of the plans even though a knockdown re-build could affect the whole streetscape.

***ALP:*** Supported by ALP candidate but will be considered during the Review of the Territory Plan.

***Greens:*** Greens supported this change, but it was blocked by the ALP and the Liberals.

***Liberals:*** Planning policy will be released shortly. It should fit the character of individual suburbs.

## ***B The Future of Manuka (and Manuka to the lake)***

There is a need for holistic planning for Manuka, given pressures created by population growth and intensification and the *ad hoc* way major developments are being approved.

We need to revitalise Manuka – and ensure that it is not suffocated by traffic and parked cars.

***ALP:*** Unknown. Recognises Arts Complex needs to attract participants and visitors.

***Greens:*** Still support integrated master planning for the broader precinct.

***Liberals:*** Recognise the problems in Manuka. Inner South has been neglected. Need to upgrade shops.

## ***C Transport***

***Work on Light Rail segments 2A and 2B be suspended until a proper cost benefit analysis is completed and other options such as electric buses are considered.*** The planning for Light Rail was done in the ‘early 2010s’. The technologies have changed significantly since then and the whole system should be reviewed. Why should the government commit to an uncosted project?

***ALP:*** Commitment to Light Rail from Civic to Woden.

***Greens:*** Light rail to Woden was promised at the last election and it would be a breach of trust to shelve it now.

***Liberals:*** In principle support for Stage 2 Civic to Woden and for electric vehicles.

***We need a faster train between Canberra and Sydney,*** it does not have to be very fast, just be reliable and take three hours or less.

***ALP:*** Strongly supported by candidate and ALP

***Greens:*** Strongly supports this statement.

***Liberals:*** Largely up to the NSW Government. ACT liberals have no policy position.

## ***D Waste Disposal***

***The proposed transfer, processing, and disposal of waste facilities in Fyshwick should not be approved. The aim should be to encourage more re-cycling and reduce land fill.***

***ALP:*** Will not approve Capital Recycling Solutions proposal. Not sure about HiQuality application.

***Greens:*** There is a lack of adequate policy settings on how to best manage such proposals. The cumulative impact of current and proposed waste facilities in Fyshwick should be considered.

***Liberals:*** Supports the rejection of the CRS proposal. Wants a Fyshwick master plan because of recent changes in land use. Waste disposal policy must include the right technology in the right locations.

## ***E Clean Air***

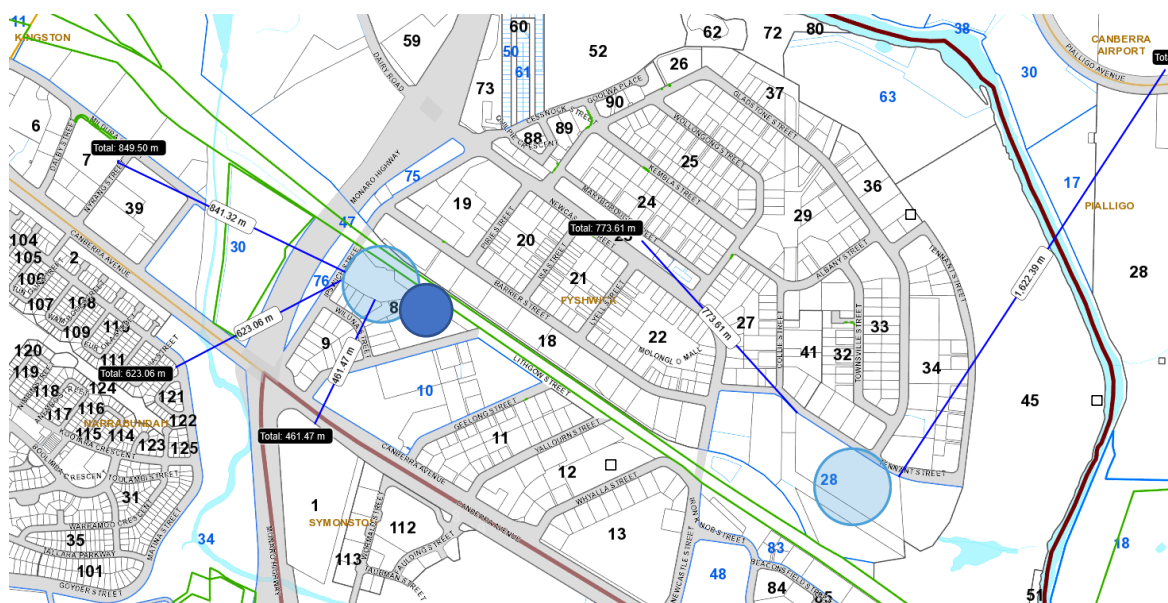
***We need to reduce the number of wood-burning heaters and install three new air-quality monitoring stations.*** Clean air is critical for a healthy living environment. There are only three continuously monitoring air quality stations in the ACT. We need more, particularly in Fyshwick.

***ALP:*** Candidate supports more monitoring stations. Official reply still pending.

***Greens:*** Have been pursuing efforts to reduce the air pollution derived from wood-burning heaters for many years. Including an increase in monitoring stations, particularly at Fyshwick.

***Liberals:*** Supports extra air quality stations. Aware of the wood burning issue and will think about it.

## Fyshwick, waste processing centre of ACT?



The circle on the left (number 8) locates the proposed Capital Recycling Solutions waste processing site. It was designed to receive up to 1,000,000 tonnes of materials a year. Strong community opposition stymied plans by the CRS company to incinerate waste at this site. ALP has stated it will not approve even the current proposal for recycling and waste transfer if re-elected.

The adjacent smaller circle indicates the Access Recycling site in Lithgow Street. This currently processes over 100,000 tonnes of scrap metal each year, and an expansion is proposed.

The circle on the right near Tennant Street is where the Hi Quality Group proposes to establish a 1,100,000 t/yr Integrated Resource Recovery facility. It would mostly handle waste streams that currently go to landfill and will have facilities for wood processing, concrete crushing, soil processing, and oil/grease and drilling mud processing. The residual waste will be sent to Tarago.

GNCA is concerned about the traffic impacts (2000 more vehicle trips each day), the air quality (the Civic air-monitoring station is too far away from Fyshwick to be used as a baseline station), the risks from flooding (from the four holding dams into the Molonglo River after very heavy rain) and fire from the wood piles. Fires are relatively common in recycling centres.

It is a mystery why these companies wish to locate in Fyshwick, rather than close to other recycling plants in Hume, or in NSW where much of the waste will be sourced. We recommend that until these concerns are addressed, waste recycling facilities should not be approved in a gentrifying area mainly focused on retail trading and very close to new housing developments and the Molonglo River and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands.

### Participating in the Inner South Canberra Community Council

The Inner South Canberra Community Council is a federation of seven separate Community Associations in Canberra's Inner South (of which GNCA is one). It is a member of the Combined Community Councils of the ACT and 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. Visit the website ([www.isccc.org.au](http://www.isccc.org.au)) for more details of its activities and plans for 2020.

### GNCA Celebrates it's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The GNCA was established on 2 November 2000 to fight the proposal to build apartments on what is now Blaxland Park. We have been trying to persuade governments to lift their games ever since!

## **GNCA supports four local Volunteer Park Groups**

Urban parklands provide some of the most valued features in our suburbs. The GNCA supports our local community and the ACT government to maintain these valued facilities in Griffith. In **Blaxland Park** the ACT Government has completed the network of paths shown in the Master Plan for the Park. These are already being well used and are promoting increased activity in the Park. We are now well placed to proceed with the next round of tree plantings. This will comprise 32 trees placed adjacent to the new paths, while leaving open space in the middle of the Park for a variety of recreation activities. The Government will provide the trees and arrange for the holes to be dug in the next couple of weeks. Our volunteers will then get together to plant trees. Contact Mac Howell ([info@gnca.org.au](mailto:info@gnca.org.au)) for more information.

The **Griffith Woodland** Group aims to protect and improve an urban space off La Perouse Street. This site contains a wealth of remnant native trees, shrubs and grasses. 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](mailto:griffithwoodland@gmail.com) for more information.

The **Griffith Park** Group has cleared the weeds and discarded bongs from the edges of Griffith Oval No1. It would like to thank the Community Corrections Work Unit, which has been helping tidy up the area surrounding the main oval by mowing, cutting back overgrowth around the creek beds and removing weeds from the waterways. The parkland is looking much better now - many thanks to the team and their supervisors for all their hard work.

The Group is now exploring options for planting more trees in Wells Gardens and Captain Cook Park. Contact Colin Walters ([info@gnca.org.au](mailto:info@gnca.org.au)) for more information.

**The Friends of Bass Gardens** (FoBG) volunteers' main priority is to deal with invasive weeds in **Bass Gardens Park** and increase the ground cover area of native plants. Progress with weed removal will enable improvements to mowing regimes to increase the area of the Conservation Zone, which has a greater density of native plants. The aim is to protect and improve native grassy ecosystem plants and the specific design of exotic trees. FoBG is also supported by the Friends of Grasslands. Contact Sue Ross ([sueross@grapevine.net.au](mailto:sueross@grapevine.net.au)) for more information.

## **Come to our AGM Wednesday 28 October 2019**

**The Crema Room, East Hotel, 69 Canberra Avenue, Griffith, 7.00pm**

**The AGM will be held under current COVID 19 rules with a maximum of 27 people present**

**7 00 pm, Keynote Speaker: Professor Mark Howden, who will speak on *The Impact of Climate Change on Canberra*.**

Professor Howden is Director of the Climate Change Institute at the Australian National University. He is an Honorary Professor at Melbourne University, a Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and a member of the Australian National Climate Science Advisory Committee. Mark has worked on climate variability, climate change, innovation and adoption issues for over 30 years in partnership with many industry, community and policy groups via both research and science-policy roles.

**7:35 pm Refreshments**

**7 45 pm, The GNCA 2020 AGM, including election of committee for 2021**

8 45 pm **Margaret Fanning:** Foundation President; GNCA is now 20 years old – the start of it all!

8.52 pm **David Denham:** some thoughts on the future and closing remarks.

**9.00 pm More Refreshments and go home.**