

THE EASTLAKER

Issue 6/June 2019

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A free, bimonthly paper serving the inner south east Canberra suburbs of Barton, Forrest, Fyshwick, Griffith, Kingston, Manuka, Narrabundah, Red Hill

Conservator finds in favour of Manuka tree/ District News 3

Eastlake community group reports/ Community News 6

Winter activities at Canberra Glassworks/ Art+Design 13

Heritage listing for Red Hill Campsite/ History Notes 15

Access Canberra is too busy, carers don't care, District News 4

Courage in speaking truth to power/ Views & Letters 9

Achievements, challenges at Wetlands/ Environment 14

Dragon boat racing gaining popularity/ Sports Reports 16

Part of a comprehensive program of events to celebrate ACT Reconciliation Day on Monday 27 May

Muggera dance for Reconciliation



The Muggera dance group's performance at the National Museum of Australia was part of a comprehensive program of events to celebrate ACT Reconciliation Day on Monday 27 May. It also included a morning smoking ceremony at Reconciliation Place, Parkes, and dance and voice performances and displays at Glebe Park

Gosse St residents want co-operation

Planners thumb their nose at Transport Canberra and City Services' waste proposals

Transforming Fyshwick into waste dump



This Regulated Tree may be destroyed to accommodate building works

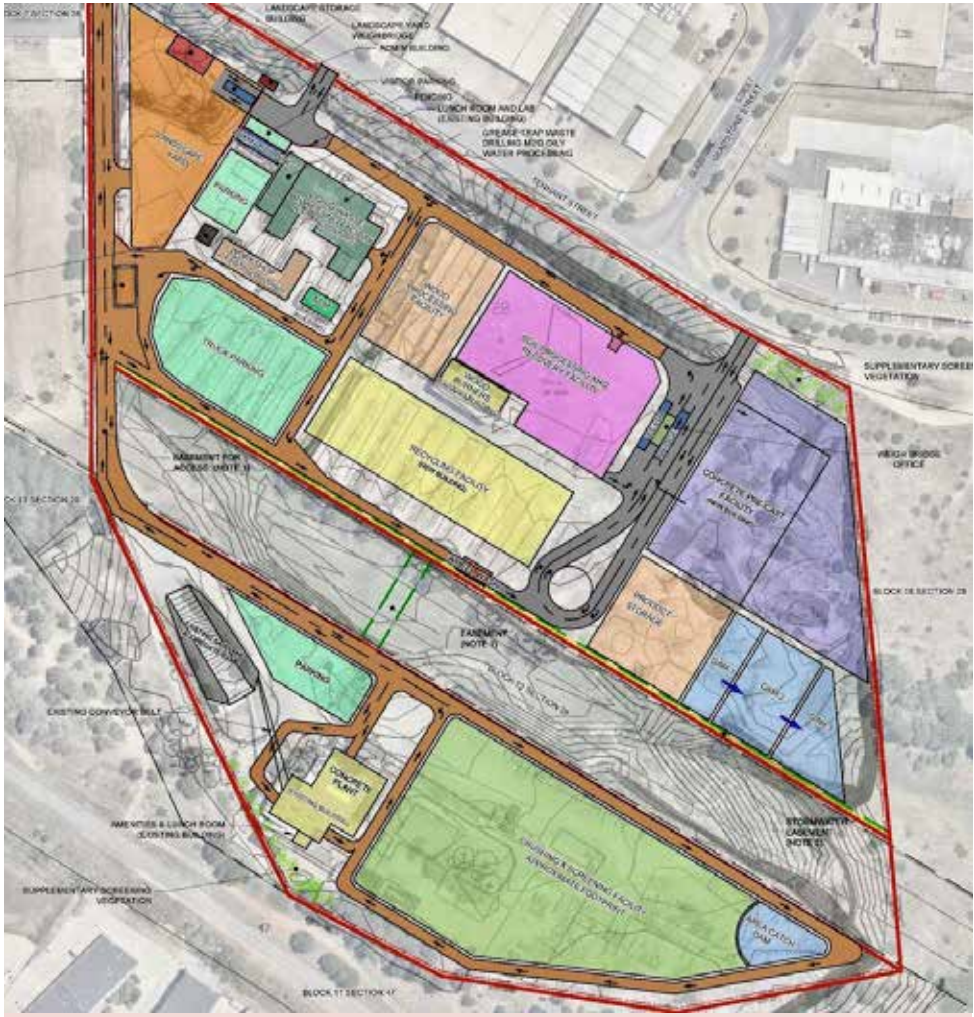
By Barbara Moore

There is an Australia wide waste recycling and stockpiling crisis as India has joined China in banning the importation of plastics and contaminated waste. On 10 May 2019 Australia was one of more than 180 countries signing an amendment to the Basel Agreement with a deal aimed at restricting shipments of hard-to-recycle plastic waste to poorer countries.

What are the implications for the ACT? More stockpiling is to be expected with recycling prices plummeting resulting in increased waste to landfill and increased fire hazard. Yet, ACT Planning, without waiting for the final outcome of the Waste Feasibility Roadmap for waste management in the ACT and without waiting for the ACT Policy on Waste to Energy, is forging ahead with development assessment of two major waste facilities proposed for Fyshwick.

The first project for a massive Materials Recovery Facility on Ipswich Street will introduce a Canberra waste train to be loaded on the track next to Harvey Norman's. The terminal site involves the gift of one hectare of the main Sydney to Canberra public rail corridor from the ACT Government to the developer. This company, Capital Recycling Solutions, having been thwarted by community in its bid for Australia's first waste to energy incinerator at the location, is now after the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) intended for our new green bins. The FOGO or whatever other waste received with minimal recycling by CRS will then be dumped into Woodlawn landfill. The related scrap metal company, ARS, adjacent, has experienced 8 toxic fires since 2014. The cumulative impact of fires at three adjacent waste facilities apparently is of no concern to ACT Planning.

The second proposal comes from Hi Quality Group, a NSW company involved in quarries, waste management and logistics. A reconnaissance of the NSW EPA website reveals that Hi Qual has been fined for non-compliance and licence breaches including accepting asbestos waste and failing to institute adequate dust management. Breaches at two different facilities have resulted in potential harm to the environment, including water and air quality. The company's site on Tennant St Fyshwick slopes towards the Molonglo River. The company has also been fined for exceeding the authorised amount of waste they are lawfully permitted to keep and stockpiling waste. Additionally, there have been multiple incidents at the company's Minda landfill at Windellama near Goulburn, the most probable destination for residual waste from the Tennant St processing. Breaches include failure to apply appropriate cover to waste onsite, the alleged unlawful disposal of waste tyres and not paying waste levies and the stockpiling of wood waste.



Site layout for the proposed recycling plant in Tennant Street, Fyshwick

» C2 ACTPLA, which is meant to take account of government policies, is proceeding with its assessments of both major waste proposals, notwithstanding TCCS identification of the Hume Waste Precinct, conveniently located south east of the ACT landfill, close to the transfer station, recycling collection and green waste processing; and notwithstanding the 1.3million tonnes of waste per annum to be trucked into Fyshwick and trucked or railed out of Fyshwick.

In contrast to Hume, Fyshwick is a suburb regenerating into a major employment base, services hub and retail centre for Central Canberra. Consequently, siting major waste facilities in a location which obliges high volumes of heavy vehicle traffic to transit through the heart of Fyshwick unnecessarily introduces significant health, safety and air quality impacts with resultant business and employment downturn.

Neither proposal is explicit in regard to where the 1.3million tonnes of waste is to be sourced or how the processing will benefit Fyshwick or ACT ratepayers. No alternative sites have been considered.

» C1 will serve, and makes no statement about its identity, size or association with Kingston, and there has been no consultation with the 'community' about the application. Consideration of this application should stop immediately and not resume until the community has been consulted and these issues addressed.

- The application discloses the 'community hall' will include a modern and well-equipped function centre incorporating a 300m2 function space and a meeting/ conference room. These facilities raise the prospect that the hall will be hired out for functions, over weekends and at night, with consequent noise and inconvenience for residents. The implications of a large commercially-operated function centre directly adjacent to a residential area have not been addressed in the application.
- Destruction of the regulated gum (T2) must not be approved. Last year (ACTPLA) approved the destruction of the line of five beautiful mature gums on the eastern end of Gosse Street, over the objection of the Conservator. That was a disgraceful outcome and now we find that a further regulated Tree, T2, is to be destroyed, for no reason

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ACT Government’s Conservator of Flora and Fauna rebuts ACTPLA's advice

Conservator finds in favour of tree

By Richard Johnston
The ACT Government’s Conservator of Flora and Fauna, Mr Ian Walker, has refused an application to cancel registration on the ACT Tree Register of a splendid London Plane tree located on the old Manuka Post Office site.

The tree was registered in 2012 and the site is subject to development approval for a large hotel project by Liangis Investments Pty Ltd, which was conditional on the registration of the tree being cancelled by the Conservator.

In the reasons for his decision, made on the last day permitted for a decision under the Tree Protection Act 2005, Mr Walker referred to a wide range of material he considered including:

- Advice from the ACT Chief Planner that, in his view, retention of the tree would significantly compromise the broader strategic planning objectives of the Territory Plan, would be inconsistent with the Manuka Circle Precinct Development Control Plan (DCP) and there was no realistic design alternative for the site that would allow the tree to be retained.
- Submissions from ‘people with planning experience’ in particular, that there are a number of strategic directions in the Territory Plan and rules in the DCP that support a conclusion that registration of the tree should not be cancelled.
- Advice from the National Capital Design Review Panel (NCDRP) that the tree makes a positive contribution to the Franklin Street streetscape and the broader landscape setting of the area and its recommendation that the developer’s design team explore and demonstrate comprehensive design options for the whole of section 96, including the Capitol Cinema which the developer also owns and plans to redevelop.
- Mr Walker formed the opinion that the community views and the view of the Design Review Panel point to compelling reasons for refusing the proposal to cancel the registration of the tree. “In my view, those compelling reasons rebut the advice of ACTPLA,” he said.

He went on to make a number of other pertinent comments including:

- ACTPLA had advised there were no alternative designs that would allow for retention of the tree but had not provided a basis for this conclusion
- Contrary to the view expressed by ACTPLA, trees in urban settings have been found to encourage retail development and spend. Maintaining/creating an environment that includes nature/trees increases peoples use of these areas, provides improved sense of wellbeing and greater social connection and subsequently patronage.
- He had not been provided with any



Tree before the ‘drilling’ incident/ die back of some limbs after the ‘drilling’/ the drill site



information to indicate the viability of an alternative design that includes a setback on the Franklin Street side that would allow the tree to be retained.

- There appeared to have been no assessment of the economic and social values provided by the tree, noting that large mature trees provide 75% more environmental benefits than smaller trees.
- Tree canopy coverage is one of the most effective and cheapest ways of safeguarding cities against global warming, and
- Trees increase the value of a property by up to 12%.

Mr Walker noted and accepted the advice of the Tree Advisory Panel that the tree is approximately 40 to 50 years old, provides landscape and aesthetic value recognised by the community, is in excellent condition, is the largest plane tree in the vicinity, forms an important landscape link with the street plantings, is highly attractive and of considerable landscape value.

He also noted that on 8 January 2018 he was notified by the Tree Protection Unit that the tree may have been tampered with or poisoned. While investigation revealed drill

holes in the trunk of the tree, testing for poisoning was inconclusive. “In my view, even if (the tree) has been poisoned, the fact that it remains in a healthy condition is evidence of its overall health,” he said

“I am of the view that, based on the advice of the Tree Advisory Panel and the community response, [the tree] contributes significantly to the surrounding landscape based on its overall form, structure, vigour and aesthetic values and represents an outstanding example of the species, including age, size or habit. Accordingly, I am of the view that [the tree] meets the criteria for registration in relation to landscape and aesthetic value, and so the registration should not be cancelled,” Mr Walker concluded.

A spokesman for Liangis Investments blasted the decision (Canberra Times 22 May 2019) and said that the tree is a “weed.” He rejected completely the views of the Conservator, the Tree Advisory Panel, the NCDRP and other ‘people with planning experience’ and said the future of the development on the block was now “up in the air.”

NCA lukewarm towards hotel

By John Mitchell
The National Capital Authority’s Design Review Panel (DRP) has been lukewarm in its submission on the European style hotel proposed for the Capitol Theatre site in Manuka.

The Panel was consulted because the development is within 200m of Canberra Avenue which is defined as a Main Avenue in the National Capital Plan. However, as it was delivered late it was not used in the assessment of the project, even though there was ample time for ACTPLA consider it.

The NCA noted it would like to see the proponent’s response to the points raised in the DRP advice and how these have been incorporated into the DA proposal. “We would particularly like to have a better understanding of the architectural design quality in terms of the rationale behind the architectural response and how the proposal responds to its context. We would also appreciate a greater understanding of exterior materials and finishes in terms of their quality, resolution, and contextual reference to the established character of the area.

The Panel said that, without a more comprehensive design for the whole site, it is difficult to assess the Stage 1 proposal. A number of issues are listed in the DRP report. The NCA added that, given the

“[Does not meet] the aspirations for high quality architectural response in this prominent location.”

limitations of not seeing the whole section proposal, the Stage 1 proposal on its own may not meet all requirements for the DCP.

The NCA continued, “The Panel does not support the proposal in its current form as it is not considered to meet key provisions set out in the Manuka Circle Development Control Plan or the aspirations for high quality architectural response in this prominent location. The Panel request that the design team prepare a revised scheme that demonstrates the long term development of the entire Section 96 Griffith and that considers retention of the Registered tree.”

Regrettably the proponent ignored this advice and submitted the DA for the same scheme. In its Notice of Decision (10.10.18) ACTPLA declined to make the proponent amend the scheme with respect to the Panel’s advice. It did refer to advice received from the NCA on 4.7.18 but noted that the timeframe for providing advice expired on 26.6.18. It said the NCA provided “commentary in relation to a number of aspects” but did not say what these were. The only change to the proposal it required in response to the NCA’s advice was a minor reduction to the overall building height to comply with the DCP.



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Making an ass of heritage legislation



Garage the only reminder of Barton heritage house after Mr Fluffy demolition

By John Mitchell

Barton resident Nick Swain is alarmed that the ACT Heritage Council has assumed the right to decide when mandatory requirements will be applied in development approvals.

Nick cited a recent application for a development in the Barton heritage precinct which the Council has deemed not to affect the heritage significance of the place. He said, "The proposal is clearly in breach of mandatory requirements for the precinct including that • Two-storey development shall not be approved except where the original dwelling was of two storey design. Where existing two-storey additions were not a part of the original dwelling, further two-storey additions shall not be approved • Garage doors visible to the street shall be of a single car width • Not less than 40% of the area of a residential block shall be retained as planting area • Site coverage of built development.. on a residential block.. with an area less than or equal to 1600m2 shall not exceed 27.5% of the area of the block, »P5

No permits or certifications have been provided for any of these 'rectifications'

Access too busy, building's carers don't care

By John Mitchell

It's a contraption Heath Robinson would have admired. A ground floor waste in a commercial tenancy in the Dockside development at Kingston was leaking and trade waste (sewage) was dripping onto cars parked in the basement below.

A tradesman was called, and he had the answer. Scabble out the concrete around the waste, find the leaking pipe joint or flashing collar and repair it? No, that's too expensive. Instead he formed up a steel tray and fixed it to the ceiling of the basement, below the dribbling waste pipe, and then connected the tray by pipe to an open stormwater drain at the perimeter of the basement floor and wall. The goo then makes its way along the drain to an open pit where it mixes with stormwater and, when the pit is full, a pump lifts it up to Lake Burley Griffin.

Doesn't seem right you say? What about the public media campaigns and the simple message 'only rain down the stormwater drains' stencilled on our footpaths.

This writer didn't think so either, so I reported it to Dockside's body corporate manager, Civium Strata. Their manager replied that it was up to the individual owners and tenants to deal with these things.

Then, another pool of stinking waste appeared on the floor elsewhere in the basement. It was overflowing from another tray installed some time ago. That one had been connected to a nearby sewer line by a small bore pipe. It didn't attract any attention until the waste congealed in the pipe backed up and overflowed from the tray.

This time I phoned Access Canberra. A plumbing inspector arrived and said it seemed odd but, if I wanted anything done I would have to make a Controlled Activity Complaint which I did, listing the two tray installations and several other leaks which had not yet been 'attended to'.

In due course a Building Inspector and a Senior Manager arrived on site. After I explained the situation, the Senior Manager got down to business. "I'm a very senior manager and the Government pays me a lot of money, so you're wasting my time and the Government's money in calling me here." He went on to observe that buildings move and this may have caused a pipe joint to crack. I thought, "If the building moved enough to crack a pipe joint, it would have been evacuated by now," but I held my tongue.

The Building Inspector was more forthcoming and afterwards emailed, thanking me for the meeting, asking what actions the body corporate had taken to rectify the issues (the answer is none) and saying he was seeking advice from Access plumbing inspectors.

Two months later he wrote that the plumbing is not faulty, but there may be a wet seal problem and noted that, if the trays are plumbed into the sewer system, they may need a permit but, if they flow onto the floor,



Defective floor trap/ sewage pools in ceiling tray/ tray connected to perimeter stormwater drain/ sewage and stormwater pumped to lake/ Dockside cars with and without sewage protection

they don't.

A month on another email saying that both premises had identified the problem, and once they were fixed the trays would be removed.

Three months later, a further update. No permit applications yet, so no inspections. For my information, the Water and Sewerage Act 2000 has no warranties for plumbing works so no grounds for the plumber to return. If the plumbing hasn't been inspected, and there are issues, the plumber may be required to fix the work.

Five months on one of the premises had been fixed; it was only a defective floor seal, not the plumbing. The plumbing to the second premise had been repaired and the drip tray removed, but there had been no inspection. Access was "satisfied that no further action is needed in relation to the complaint."

Two months later I emailed the inspector, reminding him that the newly installed plumbing in the second tenancy was now leaking and a new tray had been installed. He replied the leaks, "may not be a plumbing

issue but rather a water proofing issue."

The same day the inspector wrote that the original plumbing for the premises had been approved in 2014. "The plumbing works have been rectified and are not believed to be the cause of the leaks.. If there has been any additional work/alterations.. [the body corporate] should ensure the works haven't damaged part of the building.. The body corporate or lessee should take the necessary steps to ensure the commercial tenancy is maintained and performs as required."

A year later a further five trays have been installed to deal with sewage leaks- three connected to stormwater and two discharging to the floor- and according to a response to an FOI request, no permit or certifications have been provided for any of these 'rectifications.' And they won't be provided, because none of these solutions- connecting sewage to a stormwater system or moving sewage through an open drain- such as the trays- or discharging it on the floor, is permissible under the ACT or any other State Plumbing Code, whether it be for a cup full or a tanker full of waste.

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Walk through Barton’s rich and varied past

By John Mitchell
It was back to the future for the around 50 ramblers who gathered in Telopea Park on 28 April to journey back in time to the very beginnings of the national capital. Organised as one of the ACT Heritage Festival events, Kingston Barton Residents Group member Nancy Waites took interested Canberrans on an historical stroll, meandering from the 1880s through to today.

Starting in Telopea Park, the group heard about the early white settlers to the area - George and Eliza Rottenerry- who made their home beside ‘Black Creek’ in the 1880s naming their homestead ‘Riverview.’ But Walter Burley Griffin’s plan for the new capital of Australia planned for a ‘pathway’ to cruise through their farmland, and in 1928, the parkland, which became known as Telopea Park, was created.

At the same time, a village of homes was rapidly being constructed along side the park. In 1927 the Federal Capital Commission had engaged architects to design houses for the 1100 people whose job was to establish Canberra as the capital, and by the mid-1903s, there were houses on all 65 blocks. These were the homes of the newspaper journalists, parliamentary officials and key public servants who were instrumental in setting up Canberra as the capital.

The group of heritage ramblers went on a tour of this neighbourhood to discover some of the inhabitants from this era. They started with the former home of Cleaver Hire Cars, which ferried all VIPs around Canberra and surrounds. Just a few houses down the street came ‘newspaper alley’ where **» P8**



Heritage walk leader Nancy Waites with the ramblers in Darling Street, Barton

P4» Making an ass of legislation
and • Verges shall be retained at their current widths and remain grassed.

“Prior to self-government in 1989 the National Capital Development Commission identified various suburban pockets of the established Canberra suburbs which contribute to the story of the national capital. After extensive community consultation and professional input, these areas, now known as ‘Garden City Precincts,’ were entered into the ACT Heritage Register which forms the basis for the current post self-government register.

“Each identified Garden City Precinct has a separate entry to the Heritage Register. This entry defines the boundaries of the particular precinct, provides some historical information, and proceeds to identify what characteristics are important to the heritage significance of the place. In order to retain and protect these characteristics the entry then proceeds to state what shall be retained. Accordingly, there are a number of clearly stated mandatory requirements.

“In addition, there are a number of identified features which are left to the

discretion of the Heritage Council. When a heritage listed home is being extended the owner is required to comply with the relevant mandatory requirements. There is no discretion. The word mandatory means compulsory, something that is required by law and must be done. You’d think that’s pretty clear!” Nick said

Nick continued, “The requirements are mandatory because the heritage professionals who drafted the heritage listings and the legislators who passed them into law judged them to be essential. For example, mandatory requirements for one inner south heritage precinct includes the following:

“The ACT Heritage Act 2004 requires Heritage Council advice to be exercised in accordance with applicable heritage guidelines. However, mandatory requirements become an issue when, as required by Section 61 (1) (a) of the Heritage Act, the ACT Heritage Council advises the ACT Planning & Land Authority (ACTPLA) that a development proposal, despite being in breach of one or more mandatory requirements, ‘does not diminish the

heritage significance of the place.’

“When a proposed development breaches mandatory requirements contained in the relevant register, how can the Heritage Council advise ACTPLA that that the proposal will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the precinct. How can such ‘advice’ be legal when the meaning of the word ‘mandatory’ is so clear? It is as if the Heritage Council can wave a magic wand over mandatory requirements and turn them into discretionary ones. Advice such as this, in effect, implies that mandatory requirements are no longer mandatory. So why bother having legal mandatory requirements in the first place? I doubt the law is such an ass that it intended mandatory requirements to be abandoned.

“The ACT Heritage Council and the Minister for Heritage need to provide the community with a clear legal explanation as to why mandatory requirements, as stated in the ACT Heritage Register, appear to no longer be ‘mandatory,’ Nick Swain concluded.

Cracker crackdown a fizzer

By John Mitchell
Telopea Park residents are disappointed that, despite assurances that the ACT Government would finally put an end to the unauthorised use of fireworks in the park during Greek Orthodox Easter celebrations, the show went on, unimpeded.

Responding to a query from Member for Kurrajong Elizabeth Lee five weeks before the event, Minister for Workplace Safety Rachel Stephen-Smith said, “Last year, ACT Policing monitored the Greek Orthodox Easter celebrations and activities in Telopea Park, and WorkSafe was on call in the event of any incidents. Unfortunately, even when the area is actively patrolled by ACT Policing, it has proven difficult to detect and prevent the unlawful use of fireworks, and it has not been possible to identify those responsible.

“I was disappointed to hear that, despite WorkSafe and ACT Policing’s efforts, fireworks were again used unlawfully in Telopea Park during Orthodox Easter in 2018. As a result, I asked WorkSafe ACT to

“..difficult to detect and prevent the unlawful use of fireworks, and to identify those responsible.”

increase its engagement with the community and to coordinate efforts with ACT Policing and other relevant agencies to attempt to prevent this disturbance in 2019 and to raise community awareness about the potential for explosions to be heard despite these prevention efforts.”

Minister Stephen-Smith continued, “WorkSafe officials have consulted with the Greek Orthodox Church in order to confirm that fireworks will not be used at the event by the Church. I am assured.. that the Church does not condone the use of fireworks or explosives in Telopea Park..

“Access Canberra has also proactively consulted the Kingston and Barton Residents Group and ACT Policing.. [and] also engaged with Domestic Animal Services regarding the potential impact of unexpected explosions on the wellbeing of pets in the local area..

“Additionally, police from Woden Police Station and Traffic Operations will conduct high visibility patrols in the area as operational priorities allow,” Minister Stephen-Smith concluded.

As in previous years, the crackers started going off at midnight. Access Canberra inspectors had taken up positions in the park earlier in the evening said they had no power to act. Several residents phoned the police and they were on the scene within minutes. They got out of their car and chatted together and then, when the show finished at 12.30, they left, without taking any action.

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Bi-monthly report from the Eastlake district resident and community groups

Kingston Barton Residents Group

This year's Heritage Festival was a fabulous event with so many things to see and do. The KBRG hosted our largest Barton heritage walk with over 40 people joining the tour to learn about our early history and share their stories.

To further celebrate our story the KBRG has submitted two heritage grants. The first is for a Street Art Project in Highgate Lane at the Kingston Shops (supported by building owners and local traders), and the second is a joint application with the Fire Brigade Historical Society of the ACT to celebrate the Forrest Fire Station's 80th birthday in November. We will find out in September if we are successful.

In the lead up to the Federal election we met with several local candidates and participated in the ISCCC 'Meet the candidates forum.' A broad range of topics were discussed including the interaction between the ACT Government and the National Capital Authority.

The April ISCCC forum 'Manuka to the Foreshore' asked the community what they value about our area, challenges and opportunities and what we'd like to see next. This information will be fed into the Manuka Oval Community Panel, which is still pending from 2016. It will also inform our response to the ACT Government's Planning Strategy that has identified East Lake, Kingston and Manuka as one of eight key areas to accommodate 90 per cent of planned urban infill. We hope their pending study has considered public transport, schooling, amenities, infrastructure and the importance of public spaces such as ovals and parks.

The KBRG continues to engage with the ACT Government on policy issues and meet with developers regarding approved and pending developments at the Kingston Foreshore and Kingston. We have also continue to support local residents with development application submissions.

Rebecca Scouller, KBRG Chair

P2 » Gosse St residents want cooperation other than to accommodate building works.

• The proposed development proposes a basement driveway, running from the existing entrance near the Gosse Street/ Telopea Park Road intersection and entering beneath the building via the existing parking area. This access driveway should be extended to provide access to the basement of the proposed nursing home, as we proposed last year when protesting against the St Basil's Nursing Home's plan to cut a new entrance for its basement, into the middle of Gosse Street.

Stephen said, "During the argument over the previous development application we pointed out that St Basil's Nursing Home would be paying for redevelopment of the Church's community hall. Therefore we suggest that this application has to

» C2



Historian Nick Swain speaking at the ISCCC forum 'Manuka to the Foreshore' KBRG is seeking a grant for a Street Art Project in Highgate Lane, Kingston

Red Hill Residents Group (RHRG)

Members from the Red Hill Precinct Development Association (specifically formed for the Red Hill Flats development) and the Red Hill Residents' Group met with developer Doma on 7 May 2019.

Doma was seeking feedback on two proposed amendments to the Red Hill Estate Development Plan (EDP) prior to lodging a DA. These were waste collection and vehicle movement around the site and a change to the datum ground levels.

Doma's DA moves basement entries » C3

» C1 be considered as an extension of the proposal for the nursing home development, and indeed as an expansion of it.

"This presents an opportunity to achieve a long-lasting legacy for the whole area from the redevelopment of the facilities for the area. To this end we urge St Nicholas church and planning authorities to work with the local community so that further redevelopment of the Church properties connects with and engages with the local community and minimises the deleterious impact of excessive development," Stephen concluded.

» C2 away from the one-way system surrounding Lady Nelson Place and places two entries on the much wider Discovery Street. This solution removes waste enclosures and waste removal vehicles from the front of the buildings facing the park, which should have a positive aesthetic and safety impact. It will result in additional traffic on Discovery and reduced traffic on Cygnet Crescent, as previously three apartment blocks would exit onto each street, but now 6 blocks would exit onto Discovery.

The second amendment is sought as, due to the steep fall of the site, Doma's design shows basements protruding between 1.6 and 1.8 metres above the ground in six places. The Territory Plan allows up to 1m before being considered an additional storey. They are asking for the ground level to be changed to enable the current design to be approved.

The community will have the opportunity to comment when the DA is released. It has also been noted on the website (theparksredhillcommunity.com.au) that some 'non-friable (bonded) asbestos' has been identified during the civil and landscaping work currently underway at the site. This is expected to cause significant delays to the process, but the actual time is unknown.

Melissa Bennett, RHRG President

Owners Corporation Network (ACT)

Since the last Eastlaker OCN has:

- Been working with the Government Consultative Group on Strata Reform which will address many issues experienced in mixed Residential and Commercial Complexes.
- Attended and contributed to the Assembly Inquiry into Building Quality
- Continued to help address Owners Corporation and individual owners concerns with Strata Management performance and in some instances breaches of licencing compliance.

For more information about OCN and how we can help please see OCN(ACT) at www.ocnact.org.au

Lake Burley Griffin Guardians (LBGG)

The exceptionally hot summer we have been experiencing is giving us a taste of summers to come and the need to keep the shores of Lake Burley Griffin full of shady trees and grassy areas.

Taking 2.8 ha of lake waters at West Basin, all of its beaches and wildlife habitat in order to fill the area with concreted board walks and tightly packed apartment blocks is abhorrent. Furthermore with the increasing apartment dwellers on Northbourne Avenue and the planned population boom promised from the Barracks complex, West Basin is needed more than ever as a green space for recreation.

Although West Basin is degraded with redundant ugly futsal courts, it has enormous potential as a significant urban recreation landscape beside our iconic lake. ACT politicians need to be fully aware that the Guardians and our supporters believe the green resource of West Basin should be protected for future generations.

Selling this critical public component of the Lake and lakeshore for apartments will rob Canberrans of this valuable resource forever. The lake and its landscape parkland desperately needs dedicated protection like our beaches and like Adelaide Park Lands.

The Guardians are liaising with political candidates for the forthcoming election to elucidate their attitude to protecting the Lake Burley Griffin landscape resource. Recently, the Guardians gave a presentation on West Basin to the ACT Labor Black Mountain sub-branch and on Sunday 17 March participated in an event at Manning Clarke House.

Juliet Ramsay/ LBRG Convenor

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Bi-monthly report from the Eastlake district resident and community groups

Griffith Narrabundah Community Assoc.

Re-development of the now vacant flats on the corner of Stuart Street and Captain Cook Crescent, and of those at Gowrie Court will begin over the next few months. The developers of both have briefed the GNCA committee on their proposals, in line with the ACT Government's consultation guidelines for large projects. Once they have organised public meetings, we will provide the information on the GNCA website and Facebook page.

The Conservator of Flora and Fauna on 15 May ruled that the London plane tree on Franklin Street in Manuka should not be de-registered. The Liangis family has indicated that development of the whole site will now be put on hold, but the GNCA hopes that a compromise architectural solution that is acceptable to the Liangis family can still be developed.

The GNCA is also very much aware of the difficulties faced by businesses in many Canberra shopping centres, including Manuka, which has begun to look depressingly run down. The ACT Government should honour its election promise to develop a Manuka Precinct Plan. However, given that a plan would inevitably take some time to develop, GNCA will press for early practical action to address the deterioration of the precinct. The GNCA wishes to take a more active role by cooperating with business owners in jointly pressuring the ACT Government to take remedial actions.

We sponsor two active groups engaged in improving park areas. The Friends of Blaxland Park (convenor Mac Howell: machowell@homemail.com.au) are commissioning a Strategic Plan for the development of the Park, thanks to generous financial support from Baptist Care. The Griffith Woodland Group (convenor Libby McCutchan: ianandlibby1@gmail.com) recently carried out a significant planting of native grasses. A rare urban remnant woodland, it is situated between La Perouse Street and Jansz Crescent. Volunteers are always welcome at both sites. It's a great way to meet friendly local residents!

A not-for-profit volunteer organisation, the Griffith Narrabundah Community Association (GNCA) deals with a large range of issues. Please visit our website at <http://www.gnca.org.au/> or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TheGNCA> for more information. A newsletter is also hand-delivered to over 2,000 households in our area twice a year.

The more members we have, the stronger our voice in the corridors of power. The cost is only about two cups of coffee a year (\$10). The GNCA website has been updated to make it easier to renew membership or to become a new member. Do it all online with our new Ticketbo system at <http://www.ticketbo.com.au/griffith-narrabundah-community-association/> »C2



Journalist Malcolm Farr facilitated the ISCCC's federal candidates forum/ Architect Elisabeth Judd presenting a proposal for a new health facility for Winnunga Nimmitjyah

Inner South Canberra Community Council

The ISCCC held successful public forums in April and May. About 60 inner south residents at the 9 April forum on Planning: Manuka to the Foreshore contributed their views on what they value about the area, and what they see as the opportunities and challenges. A follow-up strategy is being developed, focusing on key issues raised by participants. See the forum report at <https://www.isccc.org.au/isccc/wp-content/uploads/DetailedRecord-Public-Forum-9April-2019.pdf>.

About 180 people attended the ISCCC's Politics at the Pub: federal candidates forum on 5 May. Thirteen candidates gave a short 'pitch' and participated in a Q&A, facilitated by »C3

»C1 griffith-narrabundah-community-association-membership.html

The GNCA Committee elects a Committee of Management at its Annual General Meeting to administer the affairs of the Association. Members include Leo Dobes (President), Venessa Tripp (Vice-President), Deborah Price (Secretary) and Paul Russell (Treasurer).

Leo Dobes, GNCA President

»C2 excellent MC Malcolm Farr, Parliamentary Press Gallery political journalist, about their policies and views on a range of issues.

Join us for our public forum on 11 June to find out more about the areas identified for intense urban infill in the inner south, what Government investment is planned in city services to support such intense urban infill, and how the community will be engaged in this process. Speakers will include Minister for Urban Renewal Rachel Stephen-Smith, and senior officials from both the Planning Directorate and the Transport and City Services Directorate. The forum will be held at the Yarralumla Primary School Hall from 7-9pm on Tuesday 11 June 2019.

The ISCCC is gearing up also for community engagement on the ACT Government's major review of the legislation and Territory Plan that guide planning in the ACT. We will focus on this Review at a future ISCCC public forum. We will also aim to deliver a hardcopy newsletter to inner south households and provide a link to an online survey to help us gather feedback from a broad cross-section of residents.

To keep in touch with upcoming ISCCC events and activities, keep an eye on our website at www.isccc.org.au or Facebook page at @InnerSouthACT

Marea Fatseas, ISCCC Chair

Old Narrabundah Community Council

Narrabundah is one of the five lucky suburbs that is undergoing a Play Space Review under the Better Suburbs Play Space Program. The design group is made up of local residents from across the suburb and the Landscape Architects Harris Hobbs Landscapes are undertaking engagement activities to seek ideas from Narrabundah residents. If you wish to join the conversation and haven't yet had the opportunity please go to www.YourSay.act.gov.au and leave your comments. A community meeting will be held in July to endorse the final plans.

We also welcome the footpath and kerb upgrades to 6 identified locations in Narrabundah in the current round of spending under the Age Friendly Suburbs Program.

Residents of Old Narrabundah will be pleased to know about a bus service now operating directly to The Canberra Hospital and Woden. This service is quite restricted operating only Wednesday to Sunday and is called the AMC Shuttle-timetable available under Shuttle Services on the Transport Canberra website and may help some residents with access to health services in the Woden area.

The school bus service for Old Narrabundah children has been lost in the latest changes made by Transport Canberra but ONCC Inc will continue to fight for the reinstatement of this service.

"..welcome the footpath and kerb upgrades to six locations in Narrabundah.."

Winnunga Nimmitjyah Aboriginal Health Service have lodged a Development Application for a new health facility building on their existing site in Narrabundah. The proposal brings with it a new approach to consultation rooms and will help alleviate the overcrowding they currently experience.

The newly refurbished Boomanulla Oval was re-opened on Saturday 25 May with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body holding the Back to Boomanulla Family and Community Event. It was a beautiful late autumn day and it is great to see Boomanulla Oval active once again.

Keep your eyes open for the new 'pop-up' Skateboard track expected to appear on the asphalt surface of the old basketball court on Kootara Crescent very soon. Poster will be put up around the suburb to let everyone know when this is happening. This is an initiative of a local teenager who is keen on skateboarding.

John Keeley, ONCC Chair

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State of Canberra’s planning/ Lease may be withdrawn/ Building Quality Inquirydoesn’t notice

The parlous state of Canberra’s planning

The second of a four part series examining the parlous state of Canberra’s planning. The two principal authors are highly experienced in the ACT planning system, having previously worked for many years in the ACT Planning & Land Authority (ACTPLA) and its predecessors including NCDC. They are:

- Richard Johnston, former Senior Executive ACTPLA (until 2006)
- Mike Quirk, former Senior Strategic Planner ACTPLA (until 2016)

Part [2] Half baked legislation

Soon after self-government for the ACT, the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991 was produced. It was quite comprehensive and ran to some 273 pages! A new Territory Plan was also compiled from planning polices of the former National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) and some new material, but this document seems to have vanished from the ACT legislative history.

When an ACT Labor Government was re-elected in 2001 the new Planning Minister, Simon Corbell, decided that both the planning legislation and the Territory Plan should be comprehensively overhauled. He appointed a new chief planner who was an enthusiastic ‘change agent’ and brought in a team of outside legal ‘experts’. Unfortunately there seems to have been no instruction for the new legislation to be a model of clarity and brevity. The result was:

- Planning and Development Act 2007 [now 671 pages]
- Planning and Development Regulation [now 346 pages]

Both the Act and the Regulation have been republished more than 80 times over the last 10 years to include the hundreds of amendments that have been made to both documents. It is notable that Schedule 1 of the Regulation contains 109 pages of Exemptions from requiring Development Approval!

There is of course separate legislation on other matters relevant to planning and development, for instance;

- Tree Protection Act 2005 [102 pages plus the Tree Register and Disallowable Instruments]
- Heritage Act 2004 [156 pages, plus



The Territory Plan gives little guidance for ‘Designated Areas’ (like the Central National Area) and ‘Special Requirement Areas’ (like Telopea Park)

» C1 the Heritage Register]

There is substantial repetition between these acts (particularly Enforcement provisions) and very little cross-referencing.

But the big daddy is the current Territory Plan. Not including the overall maps (which you have to bring up from ACTMAPI) there are 2,400 pages of zoning provisions, codes, precinct maps, district maps, structure plans, concept plans, etc. There are 39 pages of Definitions. According to the 131 pages of ‘End notes’ there have been 59 (formal) Plan Variations and 290 ‘Technical’ Plan Variations since 2008. About half the total volume of the Territory Plan is taken up with 116 ‘Suburb Precinct Maps and Codes’. These vary widely in scope and complexity, from 1 page up to 52 pages. Despite all this material however there is no information on Heritage places in the Territory Plan, or Registered trees.

Sitting uneasily over the top of this mountain of ACT Government documents is the National Capital Plan, which purports to be the “strategy and blueprint giving effect to the Commonwealth’s interests

“..sheer volume and complexity of material.. suggest another wholesale review is required..”

and intentions for planning, designing and developing Canberra and the Territory.” In fact it is largely an aspirational document with very limited direct effect except for ‘Designated Areas’ (generally National Land, the Central National Area and the Inner Hills) and areas subject to ‘Special Requirements’ (the Main Avenues and Approach Routes, City Centre, Kingston Foreshore and Haig and Telopea Parks). Development in the latter areas is administered by the Territory planning authority “in compliance with” National Capital Authority approved Development Control Plans (if any). It is difficult to find a listing of such DCPs through the NCA’s website.

There is in practice very little connection between the National Capital Plan and the Territory Plan and there are significant differences in style, terminology and form of planning controls. There has been talk over the years about ‘integrating’ these Plans, but it has not happened.

» C3

» C2 This lack of integration of the two primary Plans and the sheer volume and complexity of material facing anyone trying to use the current system would suggest another wholesale review is required, except that history shows this would just make things worse! The suggestion by the current chief planner that all this stuff “could be reduced to one page” is disingenuous and misleading. There are however a few specific issues which should be dealt with, as follows:

1. It seems to be too easy for the planning authority to amend the Territory Plan through ‘Technical’ Plan Variations. All Variations should be subject to public consultation and review by the Legislative Assembly.

2. The Residential Zones material (section 3 of the Plan), which affects more Canberra than the other sections, is particularly voluminous and complex. There are various zoning provisions occupying 20 pages and then three separate codes (dealt with below) totalling 131 pages.

3. The ‘Residential Zones Development Code’ contains provisions about supportive housing, retirement villages, boarding houses, subdivision etc. but also, oddly, ‘secondary residences’ even though these can only be developed in association with single dwelling housing, which has its own code (see below). Secondary residences apparently do not have to comply with the Building Design, Parking and Site Access and Amenity (solar access, private open space and noise attenuation) controls required under the Single Dwelling Code.

4. The ‘Single Dwelling Housing Development Code,’ which should be the simplest, runs to 49 pages. The ‘Building envelope’ and building setback controls in particular extend over 15 pages plus 12 pages of diagrams, covering a range of different sized blocks approved at different dates, in what seems to be an absurd degree of over-elaboration of control.

5. Some controls, such as ‘Plot ratio’ have only mandatory Rules and no Criteria to allow consideration of alternative solutions. This type of control is crude, difficult to calculate and check and has been abandoned in other jurisdictions.

6. In the case of several other controls the Criteria are effectively meaningless, for instance “Buildings are consistent with the desired character.” This term is defined as, “the form of development in terms of

» C4

Old Post Office lease may be withdrawn

The Old Manuka Post Office site is in an unsightly condition. An old developer trick is to leave a site to further deteriorate until, they hope, the community will be driven to accept the loss of a significant public asset and a development outcome, which the National Capital Design Review Panel’s submission on the development noted, “fails to meet the aspirations for a high quality architectural response in this prominent location.” It may be that, to ensure the protection of this significant, registered tree and in view of the poor state of the site, its on-going disuse and the intransigence of the developer, the only solution is for the ACT Government to withdraw the lease over the block. Under the leasehold system this action should be available to the Government, subject to the payment of appropriate compensation.

By Richard Johnston

Building Quality Inquiry begins interviews

The ACT Assembly Inquiry Interviews have begun and the Owners Corporation Network (OCN) has been interviewed for their Submission. At the interview we congratulated the MLAs Suzanne Orr and Jeremy Hanson for its establishment. We suggested now our elected representatives can support the community to create equality with developers and without bureaucrats highlighting the difficulties for reform. We also highlighted the Shergold Weir Report on ‘Building Confidence’ in the apartment sales sector and the joint priorities to address asbestos in buildings with fires related to cladding on apartments. More recently, problems with providing Insurance for apartments in Canberra has surfaced because of the use of cladding. The promised ACT Government reporting and action is yet to be delivered. Shergold Weir’s report, commissioned by the States and Territories Building Ministers, recommends more detailed building plan documentation as part of the development and building approval process together with improved supervision by the originally engaged architects and engineers supporting more independent certifiers. The OCN is in strong agreement with these views and we expressed this to the Inquiry. During the most recent of these interviews the OCN heard strong criticism of the lack of or strength of compliance management by our regulator. OCN particularly refers to views expressed by a Kingston owners corporation chairperson who is well credentialed as an ex CEO of the Australian Building Codes Board. The OCN agreed with these views in the Interview. During answers to questions from the Assembly Members, OCN also suggested that if building confidence in apartments was not restored the Canberra Northbourne Avenue new tram corridor could see empty apartments as part of the landscape. Not the most attractive entry to the capital. Full transcripts from the Inquiry can be viewed on the ACT Assembly website at: <https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/standing-committees-current-assembly/standing-committee-on-economic-development-and-tourism/inquiry-into-building-quality-in-the-act> at In Committees /Transcripts 10th April, 1st May and 8th May under Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism.

Gary Petherbridge, OCN President

» C3 siting, building bulk and scale, and the nature of the resulting streetscape that is consistent with the relevant zone objectives, and any statement of desired character in a relevant precinct code.” Good luck in applying that!

By Richard Johnston

P5 » Walk through Barton’s varied past the houses of political reporters were clustered in a group.

The tour also included the salacious story of ‘Pine Lodge.’ This now-demolished, casino and alleged brothel was located on Brisbane Ave. Opposition to the noisy establishment led to the Barton Residents’ Association, which is now today’s Kingston Barton Residents Group.

Moving on to more educational topics, the group also learnt about the history of Telopea Park School. It was Canberra’s first school, opening in October 1923- before building started in Barton! Student numbers grew to 120 by year end and onwards to 500 students by 1926. Four years later it was home to the newly established institution ‘Canberra University College,’ which went onto become the Australian National University of today. In another first, the Australian and French governments agreed in 1983 to jointly establish a French-Australian school to operate out of Telopea Park. At that time, it was the only K-12 French language school in Australia.

On the final leg of the tour, ramblers heard about the fun history of Manuka Pool from Friends of Manuka Pool member, Rebecca Scouller. How many parties and frolics this beautiful art deco swimming space has hosted! And the fun continues on for those who enjoy its beautiful grassy setting and elegant form today.

This entertaining and informative tour showed us that the treasures of Barton lie not only in its beauty but its living history too.

Trading natural assets/ ‘Taking the Mickey’/ Speaking truth to power/ Hoping household doesn’t notice

Trading natural assets for short term gain

The last few months have seen the loss of three of the few remaining inner city grasslands areas which are identified Golden Sun Moth habitats, and further ACT Government contributions to the extinction of one of Australia’s most unique and fascinating, critically endangered species.

The present ACT Labor/Greens Government seems to be making a practice of sacrificing long term, natural and environmental assets for once off, short term financial gain. The sale, clearing and building of further apartment and commercial buildings, crushed up to the iconic City Hill and State Circle is the third recent proposal which will eradicate another entire population and active breeding site of this unique and completely vulnerable species.

The Golden Sun Moth has an extremely primitive and unusual life cycle as it spends most of its life underground and in the right conditions the mouthless moths emerge from the soil to seek a mate. The male moth has only a couple of days and a flight range of about 10 metres to find a golden winged flightless female and to mate and perpetuate its life cycle. We are fortunate in Canberra to be the caretakers of this critically endangered species.

By a signed international convention Australian Governments (Local, State and Commonwealth) have an obligation to ensure the protection and preservation of endangered species. How can a so called Labor/Greens government continue to be so cavalier about their environmental responsibilities? And if the Greens are willingly complicit in the destruction of habitat for an endangered species one could ask if they are truly Green.

Peter Moore, Kingston

‘Taking the Mickey’ out of ACT Planners

I have been reading the media reporting on the Building Quality Enquiry with interest. It has been obvious to many that the ‘education rather than enforcement’ principle used by the ACT Government, along with self-certification, doesn’t work, and that developers of apartments and single dwelling houses continue to ‘take the Mickey’ out of ACT Planners.

In May a stop work order was issued for a 68-home complex in Bruce that had no approvals. The ACT Construction Register Mr Ben Green acknowledged that, “It is an offence for a person to undertake building work without a development approval, if that type of building work requires approval and the person knows of that requirement,” yet reporting in the Canberra Times went on to imply that retrospective approval may be granted.

Therein lies the problem, the proposal was considered incompatible with the surrounding area however it may still be granted retrospective approval because the building has already begun! Why doesn’t the ACT Government enforce their decision and issue a fine? The era of building first and seeking approval later has to end.

The ACT Government must also stop accepting proposals that breach the conditions for a site, let alone accepting ongoing (in breach) submissions for the same site such as the rejected Molonglo Valley Projects. In this case there are two apartment proposals that have been rejected by the ACT Government yet the developers have again asked the ACT Government to take another look, just in case they didn’t realise how good it was in the first instance. This is despite one proposal wanting approval to increase from 40 to 123 apartments and the other from 107 to 244.

I look forward to the outcome of the enquiry, particularly regarding retrospective approvals. At present there is no time frame for seeking an amendment which means there was a local DA amend- >>C2



Dogs are prohibited from the Jerrabomberra Wetlands/ Shredding and fragmenting motor vehicles in the open air is considered hazardous in California

Courage in speaking truth to power

Those of us who have served as public servants in recent decades are familiar with regular calls by politicians (invariably those who happen to be on the Opposition benches at the time) for public servants ‘to take risks.’ Most of us are also familiar with reports of departmental heads developing a spurt of aspirational courage at their retirement function, urging those who remain to ‘provide frank and fearless advice’ to their Ministers.

It is much rarer to encounter an actual example of bureaucratic courage.

In April 2018, Liangis Investments Pty Ltd sought de-registration of a large, protected tree that is situated on property it leases on Franklin Street in Manuka. The proposal was in line with a recent amendment to the Tree Protection Act 2005 that allowed, for the first time, de-registration of a protected tree at the request of someone other than the person who had originally requested its registration.

In taking a decision whether to accede to the request for de-registration, Mr Ian Walker, Conservator of Flora and Fauna, was faced with a difficult decision. The legislative amendment been enacted only recently by the ACT Government, ostensibly with the Manuka tree in mind. And the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) and its Chief Planning Executive provided Mr Walker with advice supporting de-registration, in order to avoid “significantly compromis[ing] the broader strategic planning objectives of the Territory Plan.”

To Mr Walker’s credit, he sought not only community views, but, equally importantly, technical advice from various quarters, including structural engineers, the interim National Capital Design Review Panel, and the Tree Advisory Panel. Having marshalled the advice and evidence, he concluded that, on balance, there was no compelling >>C3

>>C1 ment that closed in June seeking 17 retrospective approvals from a DA approved by the ACT Government in 2016. I will be interested to read how this work was certified when unapproved; maybe the certification will be issued retrospectively as well!

Rebecca Scouller, Barton



>>C2 reason to de-register the tree.

As might be expected, there are differing opinions in the Canberra community about the preservation of the Franklin Street tree. But whatever the view held by any of us, we need to acknowledge not only the objective and reasoned analysis produced by Mr Walker, but his moral courage in speaking truth to power. It is an example of the kind of principled behaviour of which Senator (later American President) John F Kennedy wrote in his book Profiles in Courage, and it needs to be publicly acknowledged.

Finally, may I take the opportunity to restate my 22 May suggestion on ABC radio that a compromise architectural solution could be to preserve the tree and create a ‘Liangis Place’ around it to commemorate the contribution of the family to Canberra and the Manuka precinct. The Griffith Narrabundah Community Association (GNCA) has never expressed opposition to development of the Franklin Street site, and continues to believe that a collaborative approach would provide a win-win for all parties. The GNCA would be more than happy to explore the possibility further with the Liangis family.

Leo Dobes, Griffith

Spending and hoping the household doesn’t notice

One of the main features of the Barr Government budgets– those brought down since 2015, and one repeated in the Budget for 2019-20- is the Chief Minister’s reliance on debt and on asset sales to smooth his financial and political path.

Debt is not always bad. But using debt as a substitute for politically difficult decisions is an easy trap for politicians. The same can be said about asset sales. There are a limited number of assets that can be sold, and politicians are easily tempted to sell the household furniture to pay for daily basics, hoping that the household doesn’t notice.

The chief minister is certainly an avid borrower. In 2015, Andrew Barr inherited a government that had no net debt and around \$400 million ‘in the bank,’ so to speak. The 2019-20 Budget brought down on 4 June for the Territory shows that in the four intervening years the Barr Governments spent that inheritance and borrowed a further estimated \$2.2 billion as at 30 June this year. The >>C4

Dog friendly East Basin walking track needed

For some time now, I have thought that we should have a walking path encompassing the East Basin of Lake Burley Griffin.

Currently, if this is your preferred walk, and should you also have a dog walking with you, then the route is over Kings Avenue Bridge, down by Claire Holland Hospice, off to Dairy Flat Bridge, skirt around the Jerrabomberra wetlands via Fyshwick, a stroll down Ipswich Street, then along Canberra Avenue from Fyshwick to the markets and then back home to Kingston!

I fully acknowledge that there may well be an incompatibility between the Wetlands and dogs. However, is there not an opportunity to create a walking/cycling track around the East Basin that would allow access for walkers/cyclists/joggers to circumnavigate the East Basin of the Lake? Not only would it allow quicker access to Russell etc for workers, but provide an alternative for those of us living in the Eastlake catchment area to walk around the Lake.

Taking a wider view, with a walking/jogging track created around the East Basin, there would be an opportunity to promote a Canberra Marathon/Triathlon around the whole of the Lake.

This may well entail fences to prevent dogs entering the Wetlands area, or even boardwalks suspended above the Lake (as now in the Central Basin below Commonwealth Avenue Bridge). It would also necessitate at least two bridges above several water courses in the East Basin of the Lake.

Mark Smith, Kingston

Fyshwick waste proposals need Health Inquiry

We really need a Health Inquiry Panel to determine the cumulative environmental, social and economic impact of the five major waste facilities now proposed for Fyshwick and currently under assessment by ACTPLA.

It is envisaged that 1.3million tonnes of waste per year will be trucked in and out of Fyshwick from the Monaro Highway. The identified B-Double route is Newcastle Street and we may well see additional heavy vehicles every few minutes throughout the day. Hopefully the waste to feed recycling will not emanate from the Sydney Metropolitan area as the unpopular Fyshwick Waste to Energy incinerator had intended in 2017.

Presently, the plans include a massive 7250m2 Materials Recovery shed for Ipswich Street; an enhanced Lithgow Street Metal Recovery from shredding and fragmenting motor vehicles in the open air, which in California is considered hazardous producing toxic heavy metal dust; a waste transfer rail terminal dependent on this government providing free a hectare of public rail corridor across from Harvey Norman; and finally, on Tennant Street, a super multi-resource recovery waste facility provided by a Sydney company which the NSW EPA website indicates has received fines for stockpiling, accepting too much waste, accepting the wrong waste and not paying waste levies on time.

What happened to the Government’s policy for major waste facilities to be located at the Hume Waste Precinct and Mugga Lane?

Eric Christie, Kingston

>>C3 total \$2.6 billion of dissaving was racked up at the average rate of \$650 million a year- \$12.5 million a week. And Barr’s succumbing to easy temptation continues into 2019-20. The Budget has the government borrowing a further \$532 million over the next twelve months, at the more frugal average rate of \$1.5 million a day.

Of course, the out years show some repentance. Although net borrowings will be higher in 2020-21, Mr Barr projects an end to net borrowing by 2022-23, if he is still with us.

Tony Harris, Narrabundah

Classic Greek songs at High Court



Springtide & Friends ‘giving new life to classic Greek songs’ at a High Court concert on 10 March

Skyfire Fireworks display



The Skyfire fireworks display on 16 March, seen from the Kingston Foreshore

Narrabundah Community Festival



Two booksellers and the Telopea School band at the annual Old Narrabundah Community Council Festival, held opposite the Narrabundah shops on 16 March

Canberra architects launch books



Rosemary Willett launched her first book, ‘The National Capital in the national interest,’ at Paper-chain and Roger Pegrum introduced his latest, ‘A very great city one day’ at the National Library

Great Easter Egg Trail at MoAD




Parents and children flocked to the MoAD on Easter Sunday for the Great Easter Egg Trail. They followed clues to solve a riddle and, at the end, were rewarded with some of the 20,000 Easter eggs

Australian Running Festival volunteers




Volunteers Nancy Waites, Liz Swain, Sarah Cowdery, Dave de Silva, Clare Camilleri and Grant Battersby handed out medals at the Australian Running Festival held on 14 April

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International Print Prize@Megalo



Part of the crowd at the opening of Megalo Gallery's International Print Prize exhibition on 15 March

Brodburger celebrates 10th birthday



Brodburger celebrated the 10th anniversary of the opening of their café at the Canberra Glassworks by providing free entertainment and hamburgers to all comers

Connect and Participate Expo



Inner South Canberra Community Council Chair Marea Fatseas with an inner south resident and the Canberra Dance Theatre performing



Open Day at Forrest Fire Station



Once firefighters, and now custodians of the Forrest Fire Station, guided visitors at the Open Day, held during the ACT Heritage Festival

Anzac Day at Manuka Services Club



The penny being spun and bets being laid at the Two-Up game held at the Manuka Services Club on Anzac Day



Classic Boats at Commonwealth Jetty



These four classic timber boats stopped at Commonwealth Jetty, Parkes on their way to Kingston Foreshore as part of the ACT Heritage Festival activities

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Issue 6/June 2019

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Always writing and practising, trying to be a better player

Exciting cast of poets from NSW, Victoria, ACT and USA

Busker born to make music



Terry Harris busking outside the Kingston Newsagency and as painted by a good friend



By John Mitchell

At 23, while serving in the Air Force and living in Richmond, guitarist/singer/song-writer Terry Harris decided he wanted to make music for a living, and to do it all his life.

So he left the Air Force and moved to Sydney and did gigs with whatever band, or whatever people he could. I joined a band called Hot Ice as lead guitarist and moved to Wollongong. "We won the Wollongong Musicians Award for the most popular live act and the band became a really big thing.

Winter performance around Eastlake

Don't let the Winter keep you at home—there's a lot to see and do in Canberra.

A Chorus of Women presents The People's Passion at the Centre for Christianity and Culture in Barton on 28 and 30 June. This builds on their 2018 performance with new content and a focus on contemporary people's movements. www.chorusofwomen.org

Chamber music fans are well served in Canberra. The Australian Haydn Ensemble presents Beethoven Four on 8 August and Delirious Love on 25 September, both in the Albert Hall. <https://www.australianhaydn.com.au/>

For heavenly singing do not miss the Choir of King's College Cambridge brought to you by Musica Viva in the Llewellyn Hall on 25 July. <https://musicaviva.com.au/>

And for more wonderful locally grown music of all kinds keep an eye on the websites of the National Capital Orchestra <https://nationalcapitalorchestra.org.au/>, Canberra Sinfonia <http://canberrasinfonia.com/> and Canberra Youth Orchestra <https://musicforcanberra.org.au> - their next performance is on Saturday 29 June 2019, 7.30pm in the Llewellyn Hall: Carmina Burana featuring the Canberra Choral Society

Material provided by Barbie Robinson and Richard Scherer of Living Arts Canberra, a not for profit Canberra region online arts and community destination with website, podcasts and internet radio stream. Find radio interviews and information about many of the events and exhibitions below at www.livingartscanberra.com.au



Too big for me. I found it scary, so I left the band," Terry said.

He continued, "I moved on to playing in support bands with most of the major pub-rock groups during the 19XXs. Midnight Oil, Cold Chisel, Aussie Crawl, INXS, Mondo Rock. You name them."

Ten years later he relocated to Canberra and set about gigging and busking in Manuka, outside Woolies in Flinders Way. He also busked in Ainslie, Civic and Dickson working from 8 to 12 hours each day.

Twenty years ago Terry moved to Kingston and busked outside shops in Giles Street. He continued to play each day and found Kingston very friendly. "It still is," he said.

"Busking provided most of my income and, with a bit on the side from guitar lessons, for many years it was enough to bring up three kids," Terry said.

Neil Young, Bruce Springsteen and Stevie Ray Vaughan have had a very strong influence on his work, but he enjoys a wide spectrum of popular music. He writes and composes his own songs and has self-published recordings over a long period. He has just completed making his ninth CD.

True to his early promise, Terry is still living his life for music. "I am always writing songs and practising, trying to be a better guitar player. I'll keep playing until arthritis takes my hands, or I have a heart attack," he quipped.

He still does regular gigs, with friends and acquaintances playing bass guitar and drums in support.

Terry lives with his mate Jasper, a kelpie cross ARF dog and they both enjoy their Mount Ainslie walks. He also has two ginger cats. They both answer to the name Meggsy, but don't join the boys on their walks.

He performs outside the Superbarn supermarket in Giles Street, Kingston, from 9am-12 noon each Saturday and it's well worth taking a break from your shopping round to stop and enjoy his music.

Terry keeps a selection of his own CDs on hand for sale for \$15 each. He doesn't have an Eftpos facility, but there's an ATM only a few metres from where he performs.

» C4 Braidwood

The reading is held in the Fellows' Bar at the ANU's University House (1 Balmain Crescent, Acton). Meals are available without bookings in the brasserie downstairs from 6 pm.

Parking is best from Garran Road and on Balmain Lane off Balmain Crescent.

Admission cost (\$10 for waged and \$5 for unwaged) is collected just before the reading starts at 7.30 p.m.

Bookings should be made at: gpage40@bigpond.net.au

Press Release

The Winter program for Poetry at University House has an exciting cast of poets from New South Wales, Victoria, the ACT and the United States. They are:

Wednesday 12 June
Marianne Boruch (US)/ Matt Hetherington (NSW)/ Penelope Layland (Cbr)

Wednesday 10 July
Andy Kissane (Syd)/ Lesley Lebkowicz/ Suzanne Edgar (Cbr)

Wednesday 14 August
Carol Jenkins (Syd)/ David Gilbey (NSW)/ PS Cottier (Cbr)

Wednesday 11 September
Jennifer Harrison (Melb)/ Paul Hetherington (Cbr)/ Nicola Bowery (NSW)

The ACT and near NSW poets participating include:

- Penelope Layland is a former journalist, speechwriter and communications specialist. Her book *Suburban Anatomy* was shortlisted for the Kenneth Slessor prize. Her most recent book, *Things I've Thought To Tell You Since I Saw You Last*, was published in 2018.

- Suzanne Edgar has a new collection, *Catching the Light*, appearing in 2019.

Previous works are *The Painted Lady* 2006/7), *The Love Procession* (2012) and *Still Life* (2012). John Beston, in *Antipodes*, has written that Edgar's work 'belongs with that of the outstanding woman poets of her lifetime in Australia: Wright, Dobson, Harwood.'

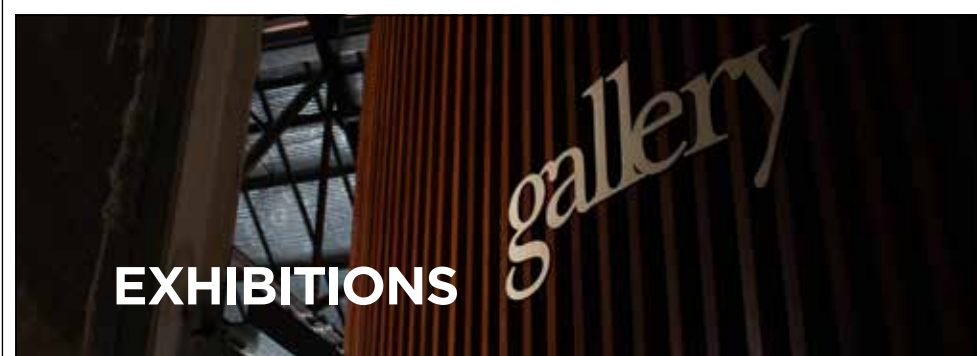
- PS Cottier has a PhD and a law degree, neither of which helps with the writing of poetry. She co-edited *The Stars Like Sand: Australian Speculative Poetry* and written three full length collections. Her poetry has been published in Canada, India, Japan, the UK and the USA, as well as in Australia. She often posts original poems at pscottier.com.



ACT and near NSW poets Suzanne Edgar, Nicola Bowery, PS Cottier, Paul Hetherington

- Paul Hetherington has recently published *Moonlight on Oleander: Prose Poems* (UWAP, 2018) and *Palace Of Memory: An Elegy* (RWP, 2019). He won the 2014 Western Australian Premier's Book Award (poetry) and was shortlisted for the 2017 Kenneth Slessor Prize. He heads the International Poetry Studies Institute (IPSI) at the University of Canberra.

- Nicola Bowery has a new collection, *Child in the Wings* with Walleah Press, and three previous collections, *Bloodwood*, *Goatfish* (Bunda Press) and *Married to This Ground* (Walleah Press). She lives near » C1



G.W BOT GLASS GLYPHS

G.W.BOT

23 May - 23 June

Gallery One

FRACTURED GALAXY

Giles Ryder

23 May - 23 June

Smokestack Gallery

Both exhibitions open 22 May, 6 pm

Maree Clarke

8 July - 25 August

Gallery One & Smokestack Gallery

Exhibition opens 7 July, 6 pm

11 Wentworth Ave, Kingston
T 02 6260 7005
canberraglassworks.com
Open Wed to Sun, 10am to 4pm



Series of workshops, activities and exhibitions that will ignite your creative fire

Winter activities at Canberra Glassworks

Winter exhibitions around Eastlake

Press Release
This winter Canberra Glassworks is offering an exciting program of workshops, activities and exhibitions.

Come and visit our professional artists' centre to see what is on. From exhibitions, residencies and talks by world-class artists, to live glassblowing in the Hotshot, to shopping at Gather, the Canberra Glassworks store, with its unique handcrafted glass products from some of Australia's leading glass artists, there is always something for everyone!

Every weekend, you can book our popular under one hour - one on one sessions with a highly skilled glassblowing teaching artist in the Hotshop. With our furnace never running below 1170 degrees Celsius -24/7, you are sure to be mesmerised by the beauty of working with molten glass and transforming it into your own paperweight, bird or vessel.

For those seeking a more in-depth workshop in glass, Canberra Glassworks provides lots of exciting possibilities with its inclusive, creative glass making workshops in glass blowing, engraving, casting, kiln forming, flameworking, beadmaking and more. You will learn from skilled and professional art practitioners who passionate about their craft and will provide you with a solid grounding within a variety of techniques that can be built on in further classes. Choose from a wide range of classes that suit beginners through to those keen to build on existing ability; just bring your enthusiasm and begin to explore the inherent beauty of glass.

In response to our current exhibition, kids from 8 years old and up can participate in A Garden of Glyphs- a 90 minutes workshop where partakers will explore Glass Glyphs with G.W. Bot. to listen as the artist tells the tales of the works making and the stories behind the glyphs. Get hands-on as you arrange

» C2



“..workshops in glass blowing, engraving, casting, kiln forming, flameworking, beadmaking..”

» C1 clear glass to design and create your own Glyphs Glass garden. The cost of this workshop is \$40 per person, all materials are provided. Save The Date for Canberra Glassworks Marbellous Open Day. On Saturday 3 August from 10 am to 4 pm Canberra Glassworks will keep its doors open to the community to celebrate glass and glass making. There will be activities offered for everyone including demonstrations in the Hotshop and the engine room, marbles activities, make your own workshops, talks and more. Canberra Glassworks will hold a series of events, in conjunction with Science

» C3

» C2 Week, from Thursday 15 August to Sunday 18 August which will address the topic, Destination Moon: How Glass took us there! These exciting events are aimed at audiences of all ages. With the Winter School Holidays approaching, Canberra Glassworks offers a series of stimulating workshops planned for kids ages from 5+ within a variety of different glass working techniques such as casting, etching, kilnforming and sandblasting. For further information please visit Canberra Glassworks Website or contact us on (02) 6260 7005.

Don't let the Winter keep you at home—there's a lot to see and do in Canberra. Pull on your coats, hats, boots and scarves and enjoy the season. Our boutique galleries have relatively quick turn-around times for exhibitions and we recommend that you keep checking their websites for new things to see.

- M16 Artspace www.m16artspace.com.au
- Beaver Galleries www.beavergalleries.com.au
- PhotoAccess www.photoaccess.org.au/
- ANCA Gallery in Dickson anca.net.au

National Gallery of Australia invites you three significant exhibitions.

Monet: Impression Sunrise, from 7 June to 1 September. This exhibition features world-famous paintings from the Musée Marmottan.

Contemporary Worlds from 21 June to 27 October. This is a showcase of contemporary art with twenty-six of the most exciting emerging and established artists from Bali's and Java's key artistic centres of Bandung, Yogyakarta and Jakarta.

Until 25 August - Maori Markings: Ta Moko – early important Maori sculptures and nineteenth century prints, paintings and photographs exploring the unique Maori cultural art form of marking the skin. <https://nga.gov.au/>

Visitors to the Parliamentary Triangle cultural institutions should note that the National Portrait Gallery is closed until late August for renovations.

Living Arts Canberra is a not for profit Canberra region online arts and community destination with website, podcasts and internet radio stream. Find radio interviews and information about many of the events and exhibitions below at www.livingartscanberra.com.au

Barbie Robinson and Richard Scherer



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See our website for multiple class dates and information.

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Every Saturday at 11 am. Bookings essential.

A GARDEN OF GLYPHS

Be inspired by Canberra Glassworks current exhibition G.W.Bot Glass Glyphs, explore the gallery, draw and then create your own glass Glyph garden.

10.30 am, Sunday 8 June

\$40pp*

WINTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

CASTING SNOWFLAKES

This workshop will teach you how to turn your own clay relief design into a small cast glass snowflake.

10.30 am, Wednesday 10 July
10.30 am, Wednesday 17 July

\$95pp*
2 Hour workshop

WINTER LANDSCAPE LANTERNS

Design your own winter landscape lantern. With the help of an experienced artist add your own etched designs onto the surface.

Wednesday 10 July
3 sessions to choose from. Please see our website for times.

\$60pp*
45 Minute workshop

WINTER HOLIDAY TILES

Arrange small pieces of glass to create and fuse your very own winter-themed tile.

25 minute sessions
5 sessions to choose from. Please see our website for times.

WINTER KILNFORMING IMMERSION

Do you have an interest in glass, colour and contemporary design? Work with world renown Glass Artist Kirstie Rea to complete 3 glass projects that will teach you all the basics of working in kiln formed glass.

10.30 am - 12.30 pm, Wednesday 10 - Friday 19 July

\$280pp*
3 Day workshop

*Please see our website for age limit and additional postage cost

Issue 6/June 2019

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Thanks to Michael Maconachie

By Grant Battersby and Liz Swain

Michael Maconachie was the first ACT ranger appointed with sole responsibility for the Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve (JWNR). He held this position for just over seven years from February 2012 until April 2019, making an enormous contribution to the improved management and public enjoyment of the natural and cultural resources of the Reserve.

Michael grew up in England and even during his school years volunteered at his local Wildlife Trust. He went on to study environmental science at university in Bradford, Yorkshire, England. He was particularly attracted to the course because it included a full year of work experience at England's largest rubbish dump near Basildon on the Thames estuary. Environmental work was being undertaken there because it was planned to establish a nature reserve once the tip had reached end of life.

Following university, Michael spent a year backpacking and fruit picking around mainland Australia and he particularly focused on visiting the national parks. On his return to England, he worked for a year in a warehouse packaging goods for shops before starting a post graduate course on a private nature reserve in Oxfordshire, again by the Thames. The reserve included conservation areas and a farm and it employed an ecologist, two teachers, two farmers and took on three trainees a year. The facility provided free school visits and was available for various events, including musical performances. While it was relatively small scale, it provided Michael with the opportunity to learn about all aspects of a conservation related business.

Michael next worked as a reserves officer at the Glamorgan Wildlife Trust in South Wales. This trust included a wide variety of types of reserves, from small house sized blocks to an old quarry, sea cliffs, ancient woodlands and even an abandoned canal. The trust relied heavily on volunteers.

Meanwhile, Michael had met his French partner, Isabelle, and after she completed her PhD in France, she was offered a 5-year research contract at the Australian National University. Michael decided to follow her to Australia in 1998 and they have been here together since, apart from occasional visits back home to Europe.

Initially Michael kept busy with bush walking and photography while he was waiting for his Australian residency and then his first job in Canberra was with City Services mowing grass and undertaking other maintenance activities. From June 2000, he was engaged for a one-year contract with the ACT Parks Service at Tidbinbilla and in 2001, he was appointed to a permanent ranger role, at the Cotter covering the Murrumbidgee River Corridor and northern Namadgi National Park.

More recently, Michael and Isabelle became keen to return to Europe to be closer to their families in France and England. They »P15

Managing the pressures on the environment will be the priority

Achievements, challenges at Wetlands



Ranger Michael Maconachie cleaning reeds from the wetlands/ a group of volunteers with Michael at one of the regular work sessions

By Grant Battersby and Liz Swain

In the early days of Canberra, the flood-plains between the Molonglo River and Jerrabomberra Creek were used for grazing, market gardening, and dairy farming, and, later, to dump rubbish and other waste. After Lake Burley Griffin filled in 1964 the waters backed up to create the current permanent water bodies.

During the construction of New Parliament House, thousands of cubic metres of excavated rock was dumped on the southern edges of Jerrabomberra Creek and then the JWNR was established in 1990, mainly at the urging of Canberra's bird watchers. Five bird hides were set up and the Lake Burley Griffin cycle path was built through the middle of the reserve.

Later, the ACT Woodlands and Wetlands Trust was established by the ACT government to provide management oversight for the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary and Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve which together protect over 600 hectares of the Australian Capital Territory's most significant landscapes on the edge of rapidly expanding suburbs.

In February 2012, Michael Maconachie

became the first senior ranger solely responsible for the JWNR and tasked to implement the ACT government's 2010 Management Plan for the Reserve. As the only ACT ranger permanently on site, his activities included oversight and actual work related to land management, community engagement, facilitating special projects made possible by an expanded budget and providing ongoing input into future development of the site, and sometimes involved working into the night and over weekends.

After his arrival, early tasks included removal of the fence in the middle of Kelly's Swamp and relocation of cattle to more remote areas of the reserve where they still keep the grass down. A walking track was built around the billabong and, in 2014, a board walk was established to provide a circuit walk around Kelly's Swamp. The bird hides were upgraded and possum boxes were set up nearby to encourage possums to move out of the bird hides! Bores were sunk around JWNR to provide a better understanding of the hydrology of the area to inform future planning for development of the site.

Ongoing activities have included the plant-

ing of new native plants and removal of weeds ranging from thistles and blackberries to large exotic trees. This has been undertaken by some ACT Parks staff, contract workers, Friends of JWNR and, for a period of time, the Green Army.

Visitor numbers in the Wetlands have increased significantly in recent times, particularly since the permanent engagement of Lori Gould as program manager by the Woodland and Wetlands Trust. Activities include school group tours, Young Rangers, community guided walks and community information sessions about wildlife or activities on the reserve.

Platypus, rakali (water rat), bird and frog surveys are now conducted each year, mainly by JWNR volunteers with some coordinators from other organisations such as the Canberra Ornithologists Group and Frogwatch.

The Wetlands also have become a focus for research into the Latham snipe. This project, managed by Lori, has enabled the satellite tracking of the annual migration of some Latham snipe between JWNR and Japan. This involved catching birds at dawn, attaching trackers to some of them and then monitoring them to ensure that the trackers were safely installed before they were released.

The Wetlands also has become involved in research into Eastern long-necked turtles. Some years ago, Michael noticed egg shells near small holes around the reserve and realised these were turtle nests that had been dug up by foxes. With advice from ANU researchers, he has developed a program to protect long-necked turtle egg nests from the ever present fox predators. This is normally a night job after heavy spring-time rain triggers the turtles to lay their eggs. The unpredictable timing and wide range of nesting sites are complicating factors. This project has helped raise the profile for turtle conservation which has become increasingly important because recent studies have shown that the population age profile is increasing due to the loss of over 95% of turtle eggs to foxes.

Michael also has supervised several projects to bring to the public the forgotten story of the Duntroon World War 1 trench warfare training school in what is now the Reserve. An ACT government heritage grant and research by the ANU Archaeology School and local historian Mark Butz have enabled the creation of displays to show the extent of this historical site.

Just as Michael is leaving two projects are nearing completing in the Reserve as part of the ACT government's 'Healthy Waterway' initiative. These will considerably alter visitors' experience of the Reserve, opening up new walking areas and showing the Reserve's contribution to biodiversity. One project will allow flood waters from Jerrabomberra Creek to restore seasonal flows to the old billabong. The other will use newly made filtration ponds on the old Causeway oval to improve the quality of the water flowing into Lake Burley Griffin and ultimately the Murrumbidgee River. »P15

Winter Jazz at The Lab

Winter 2019 program for live jazz at The Coffee Lab, ANU Kambri precinct

Tuesday 4 June
Ben Marston Trio: Tribute to Chet Baker (CBR)

Tuesday 2 July
Andrew Robson Trio + Sandy Evans (Syd)

Tuesday 6 August
Wayne Kelly / Hugh Barrett Trio (CBR/Syd)

Tuesday 3 September
Miroslav Bukovsky/ John Mackey Quintet (CBR/Syd)

Admission/ \$25/ \$15 concession/ \$10 ANU students Light and more substantial meals are available from 6pm. Music starts at 7.30 pm.
Please book early at gpage40@bigpond.net.au. Seating limited to 80.

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Representative of the broader network of campsites and pathways that local Aboriginal used

'Last campsite of the Ngunnawal' registered



Red Hill Campsite/ Matilda House and Violet Freeman at Hollywood Mission in Yass (c1952)/ Matilda House as Aboriginal elder/ volunteers combing the site for artefacts

P14 » Wetlands' Friends

have decided to take on a new challenge and have purchased a property near Perpignan in the Catalan part of southern France, not far from the Spanish border near where Isabelle grew up. Their two daughters, who are fluent in French, initially learnt from their mother and have been studying under the French program at Telopea Park School. Michael tells us that his French is 'improving'!

On their property, they plan to rent out two gîtes (holiday homes fully furnished and equipped for self-catering). Building has recently commenced on the site for this purpose and they hope to have their first guests by Christmas 2019. They also will undertake permaculture on the property. They plan to be self-sufficient and will sell any excess produce through their local village.

We thank Michael for his significant contribution to the development of JWNR to date, positioning JWNR well as an oasis of nature to be valued for its wildlife and plants, and as a place for community enjoyment. And we wish Michael, Isabelle and their daughters our very best wishes for their future endeavours.

P14 » Jerra Wetlands

Local indigenous rangers have been working with Michael for several years in a JWNR grass burning program which uses traditional techniques for fire management. This has been successful in creating suitable conditions for Latham's Snipe, growth of native reeds and sedges and open areas for turtle nesting.

So what of the future at JWNR? Michael expects that the ACT government's urban renewal program with the East Lake development (an extension eastwards of Kingston) and the Molonglo Group's development on the Fyshwick side of JWNR will see significantly more people living quite close to JWNR. And the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust will build a new visitors' centre in the next few years. There also will be an upgraded network of paths with an emphasis on 'access for all' (ie wheel-chair friendly).

A challenge of the future will be to manage the growing numbers of visitors while maintaining conservation values eg. consideration of the different needs of joggers and bird-watchers.

From www.redhillcamp.weebly.com

Red Hill Campsite, colloquially known as the 'last campsite of the Ngunnawal', is registered on the ACT Heritage Register for its association with the life of Ngunnawal-Ngambri Elder Aunty Matilda House. The Campsite is a small park at the intersection of Flinders Way, Hayes Crescent and Durville Crescent, Griffith.

Aboriginal people camped in the park in the late 1920s to 1940s and it remains as an important example of how Aboriginal people were able to continue to live and work in the ACT region during a time of transient employment opportunities. It is the only known place of its kind in the ACT.

Matilda House, her brother Arnold and grandparents Cissy and Lightning Williams worked nearby at the old Narrabundah Homestead and camped here in the 1940s.

Matilda recalls, "In my time, as a little girl, I came here with my grandparents who were doing domestic work for people around here, for the elite. We'd come with the horse and sulky from Yass. 'We'd camp here 'cause there's a creek running down there from the Grammar School. We'd take our horse Poppy down to the creek and she would have a drink and wander around."

"That's what people wanted in them days, somewhere where you could always have a drink of water. And of course the Molonglo River (now Lake Burley Griffin) wasn't far from here. In them days, there was an abundance of food on the Molonglo, shellfish, lots of fish, cod, crabs and ducks." Matilda said.

The park and surrounding suburb were built in the 1920s after Canberra was announced as Australia's capital. However, it is likely that Aboriginal people were camping along the nearby creekline a long time before European colonisation of the Limestone Plains.

The Red Hill Campsite must be seen in the context of the wider cultural landscape of Ngunnawal Country. It is representative of the broader network of campsites and pathways that local Aboriginal families used to live and work on their Country up until the present day. Rivers and creeks were important food sources across Australia and were often used as pathways by Indigenous people.

In 2015-17 the Red Hill Camp Community Archaeology Project, a student-led research project, sought to better understand the site and its context. It was undertaken as a collaboration between students at the Australian National University and Canberra's local Traditional Custodian groups.

Their website (www.redhillcamp.weebly.com/research) provides access to the research findings and publications. The project is supported by funding made available from the ACT Government through the ACT Heritage Grants Program.

Anyone recognise these servicewomen?



By John Mitchell

These four servicewomen were photographed outside the Lady Gowrie Services Club in Manuka in 1944.

Lady Gowrie, the Irish born wife of the Governor of South Australia, the 1st Earl of Gowrie, played an active role in the establishment of the Canberra Services Club, then known as the Canberra Services Welfare Association. The Association wanted to build a 'rest hut' for use by members of the forces.

She hosted a Garden Fair at Government House, Canberra which raised £3,500, a very considerable sum in those days, and also donated some of her personal belongings for a raffle.

The Lady Gowrie Services Club was opened on 13 March 1941, and she was the inaugural president until the couple returned to the United Kingdom in 1944. The Lady Gowrie Hall at the Canberra Services Club was formally dedicated in April 2009. The club burned down in 2011.

Lady Gowrie also organised various other concerts and fairs at Government House for the war effort. She made a radio broadcast to the women of Australia on New Year's Day 1941, calling for hope and courage.

If anyone knows who these ladies are, please email: intray@theeastlaker.com.au

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Dragon boat racing is gaining popularity in Canberra



Bows of dragon boats pulled up on the beach at Grevillea Park, Barton/ Crews competing in trials in the East Basin

By John Mitchell
Dragon boat racing was introduced to Canberra in 1990 by a few individuals keen to develop the sport and its culture. Since then it has become a successful sport in Canberra, with members aged 12 and over participating in local, interstate and international events.

Ten clubs (seven sports clubs and three school clubs) with over 600 members operate under the umbrella of Dragon Boat ACT (DBACT). “With 20 paddlers to a boat, it’s not the fittest or strongest team that succeeds on the water- it’s the team that works as a single force,” DBACT’s website notes.


DBACT organises and operates dragon boat regattas over a range of distances throughout the season, giving ACT clubs the opportunity to compete against other ACT clubs and interstate crews. The season culminates with the ACT State Championships, which are held over two days.

Details of the seven sports teams can be found at dbact.com.au. Canberra Griffins is the dragon boat club closest to the Eastlake area and the can be seen, and heard, training on the lake on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. You will find their details at www.canberragriffins.com.au.

Eastlake well represented

Easts teams short numbered

Press Release
The Eastlake Demons Australian Rules teams were well represented in both the Women’s North v South and the Men’s Canberra v Riverina games with 13 of our men and women taking to Football Park.

Annie Brearley, Caela Welsh, Catherine Brown, Dorothy Johnson, Georgia Winter, Hannah

Duncan, Annica Schoo and Julie Stabler all did outstandingly well representing the South, running away 6.9.45 to 1.3.9 winners against their northern counterparts. The club is proud of all our Women’s performances but a special mention must go to Catherine Brown who thanks to a dominant display in the back line was awarded best on ground!
Our Men were just impressive as they helped the Canberra side to a thrilling

By John Mitchell
Easts Rugby played Round 9 of the John Dent Cup competition in two of their teams, due to either injury or penalty.

» C2 12.16.88 to 10.7.67 win. In what a match of the highest quality Ben McGinness, Billy Clark, Alex Wilson, Liam Lupton and Perry Cole did themselves and their club proud.

The three grades of Easts teams each played the Queanbeyan Whites on their home ground at Griffith. The Colts were comprehensively beaten 0-33, the Seconds put up a respectable fight going down 24-52. Despite being down three players at one stage the Firsts continued to press their case, but finally fell short.
The Easts Womens team played Royals.



Catherine Brown was awarded best on ground in the North V South match/ Action from Women’s and Men’s team matches

Easts Colts and Easts Seconds were solid in defence and the Easts Womens team gained territory above and on the ground