

Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc.

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NEWSLETTER Vol 33 April 2015

What's making news

Re-development of Stuart Flats and Gowrie Court

The ACT Government is planning to re-develop Stuart Flats and Gowrie Court as part of a program to generate sufficient income to revitalise the ACT's public housing portfolio.

Extensive public consultation was organised by the government. This included a drop-in session in July 2014 to look at some options for each site, a public briefing in August, opportunities to provide comments on the Time-to-Talk web site and a Design Workshop in October, where there was an opportunity to generate models of possible scenarios at each site. In addition the GNCA and the ISCCC held meetings with government officials responsible for the re-developments.

We commend the government for embarking on this extensive consultation process. It was very valuable for the community to hear what was being proposed. Furthermore, the government planners acted positively to comments by the local residents and a new set of plans has now unveiled. The figures below indicate what is currently planned.

We were pleased to see that most of the public open space between Light Street and Evans Crescent is being preserved and incorporated into the Stuart Flats plan and that most of the Gowrie Court site will now be developed as town houses. We had argued for both these outcomes.

The next stage of the process will be for the government to draft Variations to the Territory Plan to change the zoning of the areas and develop Precinct Codes to detail what planning constraints will be applied to each of the sites, following their sale to private developers.

At that stage there will be an opportunity to comment on issues such as the height of the buildings, parking facilities and solar access. It is a long process, but hopefully it will be worth the effort and we will finish up with good quality developments.



Indicative concept plan for Stuart Flats. Heights of buildings range from two to six stories. See our website for details.



Indicative Concept Plan for Gowrie Court; two story townhouses and two 6 story towers.

No consultation on proposal for Canberra Services Club and MOCCA land swaps

We were surprised by recent reports in the Canberra Times that the government was proposing to move the Manuka Occasional Child Care Centre Association (MOCCA) to accommodate the Canberra Services Club (CSC), which was burned down in April 2011.

Normally, when major changes affecting many Canberrans are proposed, public consultation is carried out. For example, with Stuart Flats and Gowrie Court.

In the case of MOCCA and the Canberra Services Club, while there may have been discussions with the CSC, we understand

that the first thing the parents of the children who attend Telopea Park School and MOCCA knew about the proposal was when it was reported in the media.

Even proposing that the 87-year-old tennis courts, which were formally transferred to the school in the 1970s and have been used by the school ever since, should be taken away and used to accommodate MOCCA beggars belief.

There are now a lot of very angry parents who feel they have been ignored by the government. In addition people who live and work in or near Manuka should have been consulted on what is planned.

One has to seriously question the ethics of a government that behaves in this way.



2 May 2015
M16 Artspace

The Annual Street Party hosted by M16 Artspace and the Griffith-Narrabundah Community Association will be held again in leafy Blaxland Crescent, Griffith, on Saturday 2 May from 12 00 noon to 3pm.

Fourteen artists will be exhibiting their work and giving public presentations on topics of artistic interest. Visitors will also have the opportunity to make offers for works on display. Children's art activities, with prizes, have also been organised.

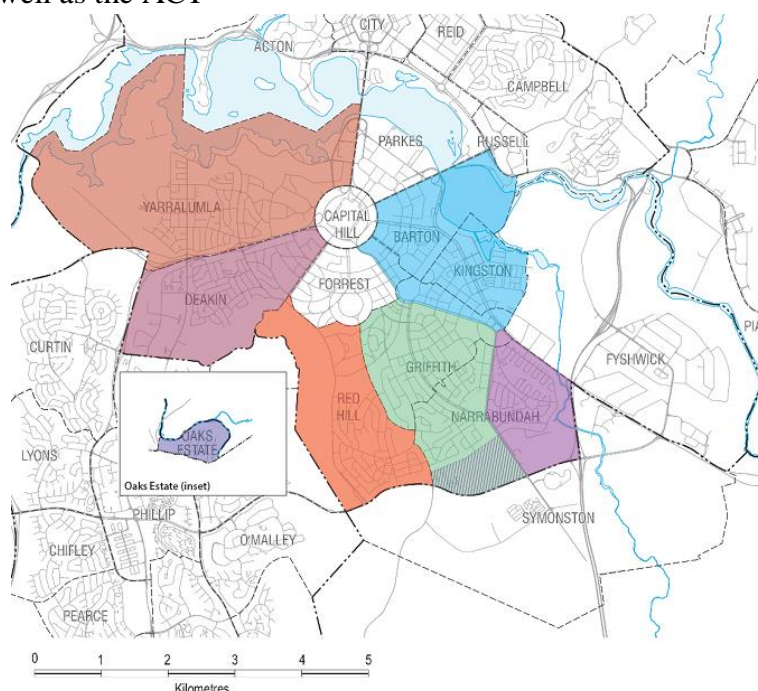
A sausage sizzle, Girl Guide cupcakes, a coffee stall with muffins and lamingtons, a range of arts and crafts and other goodies and displays are expected to contribute to the traditional “village fair” atmosphere of this popular event. Those browsing the stalls will be entertained by three top jazz ensembles from the ANU and Girls Grammar. A raffle with valuable wining and dining prizes at local restaurants is selling quickly and will be drawn during the afternoon.

The design for the new Blaxland Park will be on display as well as the ACT

government’s proposals to re-develop the Stuart Flats and Gowrie Court. Feedback on the park design and the re-developments will be welcome.

The Griffith Street Party has grown in size over the last few years, attracting residents from suburbs across Canberra and Queanbeyan, as well as Federal and ACT politicians. The organisers are confident that this year’s event will be as popular as ever.

So put the date in your diary, and be there!



Areas covered by the seven associations in the ISCCC. The shaded area surrounded by Red Hill, Griffith and Narrabundah is ‘managed’ jointly by GNCA and the Old Narrabundah Community Council.

The ISCCC

The GNCA participates in and supports the Inner South Canberra Community Council, which represents seven separate Community Associations in Canberra’s Inner South (of which GNCA is one). The map above shows the areas of responsibility for each of the Associations. The ISCCC has a seat at the government’s high level Planning Development Forum and represents GNCA on the Combined Community Councils of the ACT. It provides a voice to government for the whole of Canberra’s Inner South.

Blaxland Park

The signage promised by the government is now in place and the GNCA has signed an Agreement with Amanda Evans of AREA design consultants to design the park. Come and see the preliminary design at the Party on 2 May and the revised version at a special meeting in the Griffith Community Centre at 7: 30 pm on 18 May 2015.

A big thankyou to the sponsors during 2015. These include:

Aubergine: A local favourite in Canberra, well known for its consistently high levels of food and service; tel: 6260 8666 (<http://www.auberginerestaurant.com.au/>).

Café Societea: Not just the high tea specialist, come and have a coffee or lunch with Jeanette and Philip; tel: 04 1376 1758.

East Hotel & Apartments: 69 Canberra Av, Griffith. Studios, apartments and meeting facilities combined with a great location and excellent service; tel: 6295 6925. (www.easthotel.com.au).

Gryphons: A chic venue with a relaxed atmosphere, offering a quality dining experience for breakfast, lunch and dinner – or just a snack at any time; tel: 0419 618 679 (<http://gryphons.com.au>).

Harry Hartog, bookseller: Woden Plaza. <http://www.westfield.com.au/woden/stores/harry-hartog/54528>; tel: 6232 5832..

Rubicon: A cosy retreat for those who love good food and great wine; tel: 6295 9919 (<http://rubiconrestaurant.com/home>).

Shop-Rite: Provides all your grocery and liquor needs; tel: 6295 0781.

Your Discount Chemist, Griffith: Over 11,000 products online at www.yourdiscountchemist.com.au; tel: 6295 6725.

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

Membership Application: New Member () ; Renewal ()

Name:

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Full Address:

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

Email Address:

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

Donation: \$.....**Total amount:** \$.....(When using EFT, please add your name to the payment form. Bank: Westpac; BSB 032 722; Account 134058; Name: Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association.

Signature: **Date:**

Please send completed form to PO Box 4127 Manuka, 2603 or scan & send to info@gnca.org.au