

**Who we are:** The Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc. was incorporated as an association in November 2000 and now has nearly 1000 members. The objects and purposes of the Association are "to protect the amenity and interests of the Griffith and Narrabundah communities, particularly in relation to the preservation of community facilities and open space".

## Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday, 13 December**  
**6.30 pm to 8.00 pm**  
at the  
**Brumbies Rugby Club**  
**Austin Street, Griffith**

**Please attend the AGM to get the latest update on current key issues and express your views on future directions for our Association.**

### Agenda

1. President's Report
2. Treasurer's Report, including Statement of Accounts
3. Secretary's Report, including Annual Report
4. Key issues affecting our community, and future directions
5. Election of Committee
6. Other Business

**Please consider joining the Committee.** Nominations can be sent to our PO Box or you can phone the Secretary prior to the AGM. (See Letterhead for contact details.)

## Griffith Library to close despite strong opposition

As this newsletter goes to print, it appears that the library will close on 1 December despite very strong and widespread community opposition.

On Saturday, 18 November, our Association joined with the recently organised Save Our Griffith Library Group in a large public rally in front of the library attended by nearly 1000 people. The Minister for Territory and Municipal Services John Hargreaves spoke and fielded questions, but he was adamant that there would be no community consultation and the library will close on 1 December, no matter how strongly the community is opposed to the closure.

Since the rally, we have sought a meeting with the Chief Minister, without success, to request a deferral of three months to allow consultation and to demonstrate that:

- closure of the Griffith Library, which is located next to two Group Centres (Manuka and Kingston), will leave the Inner South as the only area in Canberra without library service;
- the costing and utilisation figures used by government to justify the closure are incorrect; and
- the Griffith Library is unique and highly valued by many Canberrans because it is user friendly and easily accessible, especially for children and the aged. (Please see more over.)

## "Fine Dining in Griffith" Raffle

**3 first prize-winners receive a dinner for two at one of these local restaurants!**

### RUBICON

Innovative Australian cuisine, highly awarded wine list. Intimate and award winning restaurant.  
Lunch & Dinner: Tue - Sat. 6A Barker Street, Griffith 6295 9919

### ELEMENT

A dining delight, with all the right elements of great food, great atmosphere and great service.  
Lunch: Tue - Fri, Dinner: Tue - Sat. 2/4 Barker Street, Griffith 6295 6915

### AUBERGINE

A refined and award-winning experience. Fully Licensed, plus BYO bottled wine.  
Lunch: Mon - Fri, Dinner 7 days. 18 Barker St Griffith 6260 8666

**Buy your tickets at the Annual General Meeting or call for your book of tickets today!**

For tickets, contact: Jonathan Mandl on 6295 8141 or Trish Bootes on 6295 9663

## Library Closure Continued

If the library does close, we will attempt to hold government ministers to their commitments. Both the Chief Minister and Minister Hargreaves have publicly stated that the buildings that house the library will continue to be used for community uses and will not be sold off for housing.

For years our Association has been urging the government to enhance those buildings for utilisation as a mixed-use Community Centre similar to the Community Centres in Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin.

**THIS SPACE IS RESERVED FOR MORE ON THE LIBRARY, IF NEEDED.**

## Open Spaces near Griffith Shops formally recognised

Five years of lobbying by our Association have come to fruition in the form of legal recognition of the open spaces near the Griffith Shops as "Urban Open Space Land". Finally most of the open spaces located around the shops and the area between the former O'Connell Centre and the library buildings have been formally recognised and protected, via Variation No. 165 to the *Territory Plan*.

Unfortunately, we were not successful in having all of the area immediately behind the shops designated as open space, and part of that area is now under threat of development (see following article about Throsby Park).

## Many thanks to David Palmer

We on the committee and many, many members mourn the recent death of David Palmer, who died suddenly preparing for a Sunday morning bicycle ride with friends. David was a driving force in the establishment of the association in 2000, and he and his contributions will never be forgotten. He helped inspire and guide the founding of the Association, skilfully led our start-up meeting and was a tireless worker during the sausage-sizzle fund raising events in the early days. Our most sincere sympathies go out to his wife, Rae, and his children. David is greatly missed.

## Other Key Issues

Although much has been accomplished since the inception of the Association, there are still issues that require resolution:

- **The future of the former O'Connell Centre**

For some time now the O'Connell Centre buildings (on Stuart Street near the Griffith Shops) have been vacant. The Minister for Planning Simon Corbell recently told office holders of our Association that the site would soon be used for a high care nursing home facility.

We have been unable to get any further information, and are awaiting some sort of public announcement. It is hoped that any new facility will be limited to the footprint of the existing building so as not to cut into the adjacent Urban Open Space; that the height will be limited to two stories, and that the significant mature trees on the borders of the site will be retained.

- **The future of Throsby Park**

You may have noticed the new signs behind the Griffith Shops about land that is planned for future development. The map below shows exactly what land is involved. It is partly the land that is currently the unsealed car park, plus a portion of the undeveloped land closer to the playground. The playground area itself is not involved.

Our Association has made numerous written submissions to the government opposing the use of this land for anything other than community use, and opposing the destruction of the significant mature trees. We will continue to do so.

**THIS SPACE IS RESERVED FOR A MAP SHOWING THE LAND THAT IS INVOLVED.**

Part of Block 34 – Community Facility Land  
Part of Block 33 – Restricted Access Recreation Land

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### Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc., PO Box 4127, Manuka ACT 2603 Membership Application / Renewal Form 2006 - 2007

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name: ..... Membership Fee / Donation: \$.....  
Full Address: ..... \$5 to become financial member  
..... Post Code: ..... Phone: .....  
Signature: ..... Date: ..... email Address: