

# Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc.

PO Box 4127 Manuka A.C.T. 2603 Contact Secretary on 6295 8742

Volume 20

## NEWSLETTER

11 December 2007

**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, 19 December 2007

6.00 pm to 8.00 pm

at the

Italo-Australian Club

78 Franklin St, Forrest

**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.)

### Key Issues for 2008 and beyond

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

#### • The future of the former O'Connell Centre - proposed nursing home facility

On March 12 this year the Government announced that it had offered the former O'Connell Centre site to the Baptist Community Services for a nursing home. The proposed development will involve the demolition of the existing buildings and construction of a new 160 bed residential aged care facility facing Stuart Street.

The redevelopment of the O'Connell Centre site as a nursing home is consistent with the Griffith Neighbourhood Plan and the Association has always made it clear that it strongly supports the use of the land for this sort of community facility.

In June the Association was contacted by the architects engaged by the aged care provider and we were invited to provide any initial comments and concerns that we considered should be taken into account as part of the site analysis and initial concept design work. In our response, we emphasised several points that we thought important, namely that:

- the redevelopment be constrained as far as possible to the footprint of the existing building and associated parking areas so that it doesn't impinge on the Open Space area
- the height be kept to two storeys
- significant trees be protected

- adequate parking be provided on site so that it doesn't spill over into neighbouring streets
- proper consideration be given to traffic flows
- the façade be in harmony with the streetscape in Stuart Street and Blaxland Crescent and vistas preserved.

We have been given an undertaking that the Association will be given the opportunity to view draft plans when they are ready and invited to comment. It now seems unlikely that this will happen before February 2008.

• **The continuing need for adequate Library facilities for residents of the Inner South**

A year ago the much loved and highly valued public Library located in Griffith was closed by the ACT Government despite the strong objections expressed by thousands of the Library's users. The Association fought very hard to persuade the Government to keep the Library open but was unsuccessful.

A group of volunteers has done a wonderful job in establishing and running a small, part-time library in Goyder Street Narrabundah but this cannot fully take the place of a properly resourced and publicly run library that caters for the full spectrum of community needs.

We are aware that many former users of the Griffith Library find it inconvenient and sometimes impossible to use either of the alternatives nominated by the Government—Woden and Civic. The difficulties were compounded by the lengthy closure of the Civic Library following the February floods. Sadly, difficulty of access probably means that library usage has declined in our community.

The case for the provision of a proper library in the Inner South remains, in our view, overwhelming, especially given the Government's plans for further residential development in the area and the impact this will have on population growth and the demand for community services. The Association intends to make further representations to Ministers arguing that it is now timely to reconsider the matter, particularly in view of the improved ACT budgetary situation.

• **The future of Throsby Park**

Throsby Park has from time to time come under threat from proposed development and the Association will need to continue to be vigilant in ensuring that there is no inappropriate development and that the areas zoned as urban open space are not compromised.

Studio MAP recently moved out of its former premises in the old Works Depot. The site is currently vacant and its future use is uncertain. We understand that Territory and Municipal Services are considering possible community uses, including as a meeting room.

• **Maintenance of Urban Open Spaces**

It is pleasing to see that, in response to our requests, action has been taken to place timber bollards around the Open Space area on Section 78 (adjacent to the Griffith Shops) to prevent unauthorised vehicular access. In our view, however, this should be considered as very much a first step. Much more needs to be done by the Government than has been done in the past to maintain and upgrade our urban open spaces so that they can be properly used and enjoyed by the community.

*THANK YOU once again to the continuing support of both RUBICON and ELEMENT Restaurants in the Association's 2006/7 'Fine Dining in Griffith' annual fundraising Raffle. With this generous support, and that of our Community in purchasing tickets, our Association continues to serve and inform the community.*

We are keen to have your views and any contribution that you feel you can make on these and other matters of community concern. Please come to the Annual General Meeting if you can. If you are unable to come, you may have views that you wish to convey by letter to the Secretary of the Association.

**Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc., PO Box 4127, Manuka ACT 2603  
Membership Application / Renewal Form 2007 - 2008**

**PLEASE PRINT**

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