

# Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc.

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## ELECTION 2008 NEWSLETTER

October 2008

### 18 October is Election Day

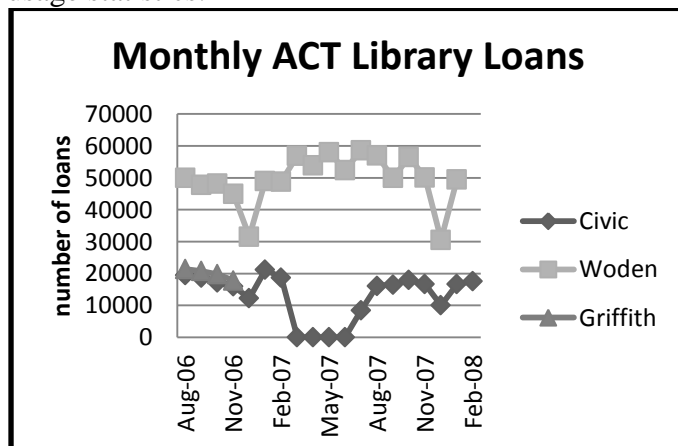
Make sure your vote counts on Election Day, because whoever we elect on that day will be governing the ACT until 2012. The Association has identified six important issues and has asked all the parties standing in the Molonglo Electorate for their positions on these issues. Their responses are contained on the next two pages.

Six key issues:

1. **A Library for South Canberra**
2. **A Community Centre for South Canberra**
3. **Planning, including residential development in our area**
4. **Re-development of O'Connell Education Centre**
5. **Health Care within South Canberra**
6. **Open Space Areas**

### A Library for South Canberra

The Association believes that the closure of the Griffith Library in November 2006 was one of the worst decisions made by the present government. The argument made that users of Griffith Library could easily be able to use the Libraries in Civic and Woden has not been borne out by the library usage statistics.



The chart above shows that after the Griffith Library closed there was no substantive increase in the loans at Woden or Civic, except at Woden, when the Civic Library was closed because of hail

damage. Essentially a large group of Canberra citizens have stopped borrowing books. The Association has sent several letters to Minister Hargreaves on this issue but he has not acknowledged the obvious implications of loans data. The government has refused to provide any funding to the Goyder Street Library and has attacked the professional integrity of the volunteers who work at that library. The GNCA is committed to lobbying the government for a new library in South Canberra, which with its 25,000 population is disadvantaged as far as library facilities are concerned. In the meantime we are pressing for a reading room to be included in the new Neighbourhood Hall planned for Griffith – see below.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mark this for your diary!

The Association will be holding its Annual General Meeting

Time 6.30pm Thursday 20 November 2008

Place Italo-Australian Club, 78 Franklin St., Forrest

### Neighbourhood Hall for Griffith

Some of you may have seen a sign between the Griffith Shop and the O'Connell Centre indicating that as the site for a Griffith Neighbourhood Hall. How did this come about? In the Budget the ACT Government allocated money for the building of neighbourhood halls in some suburbs and the refurbishment of some existing halls. Given the lack of meeting places in Griffith and Narrabundah the Association welcomed the proposal and some of the Committee have met with the Minister's office and officers of the Department of Community Services, which is funding the project.

We have proposed that a hall in Griffith should contain **a general meeting room, a carpeted meeting room, a kitchen, toilets and a staffed reading room containing newspapers, magazines and computers for internet access.** We offered to hold a public meeting to gauge

community wishes about what should go in such a hall and offered three dates in September for such a meeting. Disappointingly, the Department has not taken up our offer.

So, if you want to have your say on what such a hall should have in it and how it should operate, send us your comments by letter or email.

### **Community Centre for South Canberra**

The Association believes South Canberra needs more than a neighbourhood hall. In May 2008 the Association made a submission to the Chief Minister for the building of a Community Centre in South Canberra. You can read the submission on our website. In summary we are proposing that it be located geographically near the centre of South Canberra and be close to transport routes. Logically, this means it would have to be close to either Kingston or Manuka.

The submission proposes that the Centre should contain:

- Sound-proof meeting rooms able to hold 150 persons
- Aged and disability support facilities
- Childcare facilities
- A public library
- A government shopfront office for payment of accounts and handling licensing and registration

The only response we received from the Chief Minister was a letter on 16 June 2008 pointing out that the government planned to build a neighbourhood hall in Griffith

### **Re-development of O’Connell Education Centre**

For some time now, the O’Connell Centre site (on the corner of Stuart Street and Blaxland Crescent) has been earmarked for redevelopment to provide aged care accommodation. The GNCA is broadly supportive of such plans. The Association recognises the growth in demand for residential facilities, the Canberra-wide shortage of aged care

accommodation and the importance of maintaining a diverse community in our suburbs. GNCA understands that the ACT Government has entered into an agreement with Baptist Community Services to build and operate an aged care facility on the O’Connell Centre site. In June 2007 local residents and GNCA were invited to comment on the proposed development by an architect engaged by Baptist Community Services. At that time GNCA indicated its view that:-

- The redevelopment should be constrained as far as possible to the footprint of the existing building and associated parking areas.
- The height of the new building should be in keeping with the surrounding area.
- Significant trees on and around the site should be protected.
- Adequate parking needs to be provided on site.
- Due consideration needs to be given to traffic flows.
- The façade of the building should relate well to the streetscape in both Stuart Street and Blaxland Crescent and vistas should be preserved.

After several months, it now appears that a new firm of architects, Sydney-based Stanton Dahl, has been commissioned to prepare plans for the site. GNCA is encouraging them to involve the local community in their work.

As a further sign of progress, GNCA has also been contacted by Manidis Roberts, an environmental design/consultancy firm, which is undertaking a fresh wave of community consultation on the proposed development. GNCA will meet with Manidis Roberts but is also encouraging them to conduct a wider-ranging program of community consultations. GNCA will continue to monitor this issue closely and will seek to ensure that all local residents are able to make their views known as planning for this important development proceeds.

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## **Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc., PO Box 4127, Manuka ACT 2603 Membership Application/Renewal Form 2008 – 2009**

**PLEASE PRINT**

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

<p><b>How do the parties rate on our community issues?</b></p>	<p><b>Australian Labor Party</b></p>
<p><b>Issues, Questions and Responses</b></p>	
<p><b>1 A Library for South Canberra<sup>1</sup></b>  Since the closure of the library in Griffith in 2006 South Canberra (with a population of over 25 000) has been poorly served by library facilities. The Civic and Woden Libraries are just too difficult to access.  If elected, will your party support:  (a) The re-opening of the Griffith Library or  (b) Provide a new library in South Canberra?  (c) And if so when?</p>	<p>No  The new Civic Library provides a great service to Canberrans. The ACT Labor Government has also invested in the refurbishment of other community libraries, including the one at Woden.</p>
<p><b>2 Community Centre for South Canberra</b>  South Canberra is poorly served by community services. The situation has been made worse by the closure of the library in Griffith and the withdrawal of plans to construct a special purpose library.  If elected, will your party undertake to build:  (a) A community centre for South Canberra (and not just a meeting hall as is currently proposed),  (b) And if so when?</p>	<p>We will establish a neighbourhood hall at Griffith, in addition to two other Government-owned community facilities in South Canberra – Causeway Hall at Kingston and Southside Community Centre at Narrabundah.</p>
<p><b>3 Planning</b>  Planning procedures and regulations are crucial in the development of Canberra.  If elected, what changes will your party make to the regulations covering developments in Suburban and Residential Core (A10) Areas? and  Will you vote <b>for or against</b> any legislation or measure which might be introduced that:  (a) Expands the Residential Core Areas (A10 zoning) for (a) Griffith and/or (b) Narrabundah,  (b) Eases the current controls on dual-occupancy development within Suburban Areas, and  (c) Permits unit titling of dual occupancy developments within Suburban Areas.</p>	<p>The ACT Labor Government has no plans to change the RZ2 provisions in any areas in the ACT.</p>
<p><b>4 Re-development of O’Connell Education Centre</b>  (i) What plans does your party have for the use of the building which formerly housed the Griffith Primary School and Griffith Library?  The Government has offered the former O’Connell Centre site to Baptist Community Services for the development of an aged care facility. This is strongly supported by the GNCA but it is important that the development is consistent with good planning principles.  If elected, will your party require that the lease conditions ensure that:  (ii) the development not impinge on the adjoining urban open space  (iii) the height of the building not exceed two stories  (iv) the provision of off-street parking is adequate?</p>	<p>ACT Labor is committed ensuring that this and any other proposed developments are assessed in accordance with the relevant planning controls as laid out in the Territory Plan.</p>
<p><b>5 Health Care within South Canberra</b>  GPs form the front line of our health service. At present there is a chronic shortage of GPs in South Canberra and out-of-hours GP services may be under threat.  If elected, what plans does your party have to improve the availability of GP medical services in South Canberra?</p>	<p>Will spend \$12M over 4 years to increase the number of GPs in our suburbs. (see Health Policy on GNCA website).  Including funds for: GP scholarships; GP teaching payments; attracting staff &amp; providing new services to GP practices; Locum Services for Aged Care Facilities; providing rotation of junior MDs through GP clinics.</p>

<sup>1</sup> South Canberra is the area defined by ABS and ACTPLA for planning purposes (see [http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/tools\\_resources/planning\\_data](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/tools_resources/planning_data)).

## 6 Open Space Areas in South Canberra

Public open spaces in urban areas contribute hugely to the quality of life in the region, but some of these are currently poorly maintained.

(a) If elected, what plans does your party have to maintain and upgrade the public open spaces in South Canberra?

There are few areas in the Inner South that are suitable for off-leash dog exercise. Fenced dog parks are currently being established in other parts of Canberra.

(b) What plans do you have for improved dog exercise facilities in the Inner South?

Commitment to improve and maintain all of Canberra's open spaces. We have invested heavily in planting new trees, maintaining our parks, playgrounds and community spaces, as well as creating new areas of open space. We would also explore the needs for off-leash dog areas and other improvements to local parks.

<b>Liberal Democratic Party</b>	<b>Canberra Liberals</b>	<b>Pangallo Independents</b>	<b>The Greens</b>	<b>Community Alliance</b>
<p>No commitment to library. Would like to close all ACT libraries down.</p>	<p>An immediate commitment to restore a library service for the inner south. Full details on <a href="http://www.canberraliberals.org.au">www.canberraliberals.org.au</a>. This will be an immediate priority of a Seselja Government.</p>	<p>Re-opening of Griffith Library immediately, if technically possible. Install library in new community centre for South Canberra</p>	<p>The Greens believe the inner south deserves and needs a library, particularly in light of the expansion of population caused by densification and Kingston foreshore development. We are committed to providing a new library in the inner south as soon as possible. We do not have a fixed view on the location, and would like to engage with the community and relevant experts to determine the most appropriate location.</p>	<p>Immediate re-opening of the Griffith Library and the provision of a new and improved library with additional community facilities to meet needs.</p>

<p>No support for this.</p>	<p>Are aware of the need for a Community Centre and will re evaluate the requirements should we gain government on October 18.</p>	<p>Yes, in consultation with local community. Planning process to start ASAP.</p>	<p>A South Canberra Library could also host community activities.</p> <p>These kinds of social resources were always a part of the neighbourhood plan.</p> <p>The ACT Greens would move to give neighbourhood plans more status in the planning system and reinstitute the neighbourhood planning process.</p> <p>We would also support the establishment/resourcing of a South Canberra Community Council.</p>	<p>Supports a Community Centre for South Canberra (and not just a meeting hall as currently proposed). Immediately.</p>
<p>Let market forces determine development .</p>	<p>Will establish a separate CEO and Chief Planner for ACPLA. Now both roles are delivered by one person. This is unacceptable and explains in some way why there is some breakdown in engaging with the community on important developments in our suburbs.</p>	<p>A10 areas should not expand. No easing of dual occupancy development in Suburban areas. No unit titling of dual occupancy developments in Suburban areas.</p>	<p>Strengthen sustainability requirements for medium and higher density development in and around group and town centres.</p> <p>The Greens do not support the expansion of core areas in local areas, but rather more careful and responsive management of development, taking into account the impact of increased density on nearby existing neighbourhoods.</p> <p>We do not support easing current controls on dual occupancy, nor would we support unit titling of dual occupancy</p>	<p>Against expanding the A10 in G&amp;N. Will adopt an area by area approach on dual occupancy developments, but will not support them in G&amp;N. Will adopt a case by case approach on Unit Titling of dual occupancies, but will not support them where the local community is opposed. Against permitting Unit Titling of dual occupancy developments in G&amp;N.</p>

			developments in Suburban Areas.	
Let market forces determine development	The development earmarked for the O'Connell Centre is consistent with good planning. Sensitive and sensible development is paramount within the whole of the ACT. If former site of the Griffith Library prove to be a suitable location for a reintroduced library service, this location will be considered.	Supports old library site for community use. Supports development of 'aged care facility' at old O'Connell Centre. The response to 4 (i)-(iii) is Yes, Yes & Yes.	We understand that this site has been allocated for the development of aged care housing.  In that context, the key issues that concern Greens in regard to supported accommodation are the levels of support, equity of access, adequate open space, and suburban amenity for residents and neighbours.	The Griffith Library be maintained for community use, and combined with expanded community facilities. Supports the development of the former O'Connell Centre Site in accord community priorities and with the lease conditions that ensure: It does not impinge on the adjoining open space; The height of the building not exceed two stories; Adequate off-street parking..
No comment	Incentives to attract 60 GP's from interstate to address the shortage of Doctors across the ACT; Assistance for young GP's to enter private practice in the ACT; Guaranteed internship places for ANU Medical School graduates.	Recognises the problems with attracting GPs to Canberra and will do whatever is possible to attract GPs to Canberra	ACT Greens Health Policy is to establish community directed healthcare centres which include allied health professionals, and nurse practitioners and salaried GP's to provide timely primary healthcare and lift some of the pressure on GPs.  Work with health consumers, the Divisions of General Practice, et al to look at effective ways to support GP services across the ACT, including the inner South.	Supports incentives to establish Bulk Billing medical services in all areas.
No comment	No response on this question.	Essential that we maintain our public open spaces and not reduce them. Conduct a comprehensive review	We have an Active Transport Plan that incorporated maintenance and	Will support the retention and maintenance of Public Open Space and Community Facility Land to address area specific community priorities and needs.

		<p>into dog exercise areas in South Canberra with a view to ensuring that there are enough areas available.</p>	<p>upgrading of footpaths and improved street lighting (including at bus stops).</p> <p>Our plans for open space across the ACT includes storm water harvesting to keep our ovals green and our trees alive, continued public access to public spaces, and an ongoing commitment to our urban forest for both amenity and microclimate preservation.</p>	<p>Will oppose the reduction of Community Facility Land (e.g. the fencing of community ovals for the exclusive use of sporting clubs), and will support improvements (e.g. fencing some areas for dog exercising).</p>
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