

# Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association

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Volume 16

## ELECTION ISSUES NEWSLETTER

8 October 2004

### Election is 16 October

Our Association, now with nearly 1000 members, has asked all 33 candidates in the Molonglo Electorate for their positions on several issues of importance to our community. Some of these issues, particularly those relating to Section 78 Griffith, have been around since prior to the last election in 2001. Section 78 includes the former Griffith Primary School (now housing the Griffith Library, the East Timorese Embassy, meeting rooms, government offices etc.); the former O'Connell Education Centre; the adjacent oval area; and Throsby Park (the area along Throsby Cr, behind the Griffith Shops, including a children's playground). **Please take a moment to review our summary of the candidates' positions (see chart on the page over).**

### How far we have come since the last election

Since the last election in 2001, our community has had a lot of successes, but we still have more things to accomplish:

#### Our successes:

**Saved Section 78 from residential development:** During 2001 and 2002, our Association was a key player in stopping the previous Liberal government's proposal to demolish the Griffith Library building and the O'Connell Centre, and to take a large amount of open space for 55 townhouses and some commercial development.

**Saved the Library etc.:** We have succeeded in retaining the former Griffith Primary School buildings and site on Blaxland Cr. for Community Facilities, including the Griffith Library, accommodation for community groups, community meeting rooms/activity spaces, and in the future possibly a senior citizen's activity and health centre. (See the Griffith Neighbourhood Plan.)

**Saved the O'Connell Centre site:** We have been successful in retaining the O'Connell Centre site for Community Facilities, and retaining the landscape-dominated open space on the corner of Stuart St. and Blaxland Cr. The government is proposing aged persons accommodation on this site in the future.

**Saved Open Spaces:** We have achieved formal recognition of the majority of open space in Section 78, including most of Throsby Park on Throsby Cr., as "Urban Open Space" land. We intervened to require the ACT Planning and Land Management Authority (ACTPLA) to honour the Labor's Party's written undertakings that the area behind the Griffith Shops near Throsby Park would not be re-zoned for commercial uses. It will remain "Community Facility" land.

**Resisted the attempt to divide and conquer on "A10" zoning:** We resisted ACTPLA's attempt to divide the

community on the issue of the locations of "A10 Residential Core Areas". Since August 2002 our Association has opposed all A10 zoning in "Areas of Territorial Significance" (including almost all of Griffith and large parts of Narrabundah). We steadfastly opposed ACTPLA's attempts to get residents to trade off one area of A10 for another. (See the Neighbourhood Plans for Griffith and Narrabundah to find out where the government has decided to force A10 zoning on us.)

### What we hope to accomplish:

**Let's keep fighting to protect our community from inappropriate development:** The Neighbourhood Plans show A10 areas on the corner of Captain Cook Cr. and Canberra Ave. near Manuka, in the sections to the West and South of the Griffith Shops and to the South of the Narrabundah shops, as well as a possible area along Canberra Avenue in Narrabundah. Even though the areas of A10 zoning have been significantly reduced from the original drafts of Variation No. 200 and the Neighbourhood Plans, ACTPLA is still forcing A10 zoning on us against the wishes of the vast majority of the community. In the near future our Association will be nominating all of the oldest areas of Griffith and Narrabundah to the ACT Heritage Places Register to try to give those areas the protections that they deserve.

**Let's work to protect Throsby Park and its mature trees:** The Griffith Neighbourhood Plan proposes "a possible community facility with medical suites and surface parking" in the area behind the Griffith Shops, taking part of Throsby Park near the playground with its mature trees. Even though most of Throsby Park is to be retained as "Urban Open Space", the proposal ignores the previous written promises from the National Capital Development Authority that the entire Throsby Park area would remain as park land.

**Let's ensure we continue to have the Griffith Library:** The Griffith Neighbourhood Plan proposes reserving a site for a possible new library immediately North of the Griffith shops. There are no funds for a new Griffith Library in the ACT Budget, nor any guarantees that it will be built, so we have to be vigilant to keep our library vital until a replacement library is fully functional.

### Final Neighbourhood Plans are out

The ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA) has released the Final Neighbourhood Plans for Griffith and Narrabundah. You can get copies from the ACTPLA shopfront at Dame Pattie Menzies House, 16 Challis Street, Dickson ACT or by calling them on 6207 1923. Or you can view the plans on ACTPLA's website at [www.actpla.act.gov.au/neighbourhood\\_plans/suburbs/index.htm](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/neighbourhood_plans/suburbs/index.htm). The plans are now final and no further consultation is to take place. They will serve as Master Plans for our suburbs.



## How do your Molonglo Electorate Candidates rate on our community issues?

Issues And Questions put to each Molonglo Candidate	If elected, will you vote to repeal <b>Residential Core Areas</b> (A10), and oppose any similar future proposal affecting	If elected, will you vote for	If elected, will you vote for the current Govts. Proposals to	If elected, will you vote to ensure the <b>existing community facilities/land</b> , including the former O'Connell Education Centre, the Griffith library building, and the playing fields and parkland areas on Section 78 Griffith, are retained for community uses (ie no residential or commercial uses) and recreation purposes only?	If elected, will you vote to ensure that the NCDC agreement, (reconfirmed in 1985), with the Griffith / Narrabundah community, which guaranteed to retain 2/3rds of <b>Throsby Park</b> as undeveloped parklands, is honoured in full by the ACT Government?	If elected, will you vote for the retention of a full <b>library</b> service in its current location in the former Griffith primary school on Section 78 Griffith?
	(a) Griffith  (b) Narrabundah?	(a) Unrestricted <b>dual occupancy development in Suburban Areas</b> ,  (b) no development, or  (c) limited development, with controls?	(a) formalise and zone as <b>Urban Open Space</b> the existing open space/playing fields on Section 78 Griffith, and  (b) require a 2/3rds majority of the Legislative Assembly to vary the permitted land use of a site which is zoned as Urban Open Space?			

Candidate Responses		(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(b)			
<b>ACT Demconrats</b> Fred Leftwich ) both Robert Rose ) candidates		Support removal of A10 zoning if not in keeping with suburb character		No	No	Yes, with appropriate controls	Yes	Proposal not possible	Yes	Yes, in principle	Yes
<b>Liberal Democratic Party</b> John Humphreys Melanie Sutcliffe		LDP supports A10 developments		Not able to answer			Not able to answer		Not able to answer	Not able to answer	Not able to answer
<b>Australian Labor Party</b> Andrew Barr ) Adina Cirson ) Simon Corbell ) all Katy Gallagher ) candidates Mike Hettinger ) Ted Quinlan ) Kim Sattler )		No	No (A10 now limited to around local and group centres, and major transport routes)	No	No	Yes, but with strict limits and design controls	Yes	ALP is Committed to Retaining and protecting Land zoned as Urban Open Space	Yes ( Note, community facility land use will allow for aged care facilities)	Yes (Griffith Neighbourhood Plan will protect Throsby Park)	Yes (As agreed in Neighbour- hood Plan)
<b>Liberal Party</b> Lucille Bailie ) Jacqui Burke ) Ron Forrester ) all David Kibbey )candidates Richard Mulcahy ) Gordon Scott ) Zed Seselja )		Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes, but with strict criteria set for developments eg on design & if unit titles are proposed.	Yes	No	The Liberal Party supports, with controls, redevelopment of O'Connell Centre for aged care, and retention of playing fields as open space.	Yes	Yes
<b>The ACT Greens</b> Amanda Bresnan ) all Deb Foskey ) candidates Charlie Pahlman )		No	No (In principle support V200)	No	No	Yes, with controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Free Range Canberra</b> Simone Gray Jo McKinley		No response received to any questions		--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Helen Cross Independents</b> Helen Cross ) both Renee Stramandinoli ) cand.		Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes, contols on size and height	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>ACT Equality Party</b> Nancy-Louise ) both McCullough )candidates Jonathon Reynolds)		Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes with controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Non-Party (Small Business) Group</b> John Farrell ) both Robert Fearn ) candidates		Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes for aged persons only, with strict controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Ungrouped</b> Tony Farrell Luke Garner Ken Helm Kurt Kennedy		Yes	Yes No responses Yes not sure ? Yes Yes	No	No	Yes -- -- -- No No Yes Yes No No	Yes -- -- -- Yes Yes Yes No	Yes -- -- -- No ? No	Yes -- -- -- Yes Yes	Yes -- -- -- Yes Yes	Yes -- -- -- Yes Yes

**Notes:** The order of Parties, Groups and Candidates is based on information provided by Elections ACT. Responses received as at 2:00pm 7/10/04. Candidates full responses can be provided on request to Frank Mestrov, 6295 1152. Authored and authorised by Frank Mestrov, 2 Hovell St, Griffith ACT 2603.