

Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc.

PO Box 4127 Manuka ACT 2603

Contact Secretary on 6295 9663

Volume 17

NEWSLETTER

4 December 2004

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 2004

Thursday, 16 December
6.30pm to 8.00pm
at the
Brumbies Social 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. We need new people to freshen up our approach and share the load. Nominations can be sent to our PO Box or you can phone the Secretary prior to the AGM. (See Letterhead for contact details.)

Our recent achievements

• Neighbourhood Planning

The Neighbourhood Plans for Griffith and Narrabundah are now complete. Although our pleas for no higher density housing areas (A10 Core Residential Areas) in our suburbs were largely ignored, we did make considerable efforts to prevent further expansion of these areas and to protect the character of most of the older residential areas. The Griffith Neighbourhood Plan contains many references to the protection of the existing character and streetscape that the community values so highly.

We were also successful in preventing further commercial development behind the Griffith shops into Throsby Park. Attempts by the planners to dramatically expand the commercial area of the Griffith shops into Throsby Park were thwarted. The area behind the shops will be retained as "Community Facility Land".

• Draft Variation No.165 - Open Space Network Project, July 2004

Our Association made considerable progress over the past year to ensure that our central Open Spaces on Section 78 Griffith are protected for future generations of residents. Section 78 is the area that the old Infants and Primary Schools occupied, including their playing fields. The ACT Government recognised the importance of our open areas by including Section 78 in the Open Space Network Project Draft Variation.

• Community Facilities

Our Association has made numerous representations to Government to have the old O'Connell Centre and the Griffith Library sites protected as Community Facilities. (More over)

"Fine Dining in Griffith" Raffle

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

AUBERGINE

A refined and award-winning experience. Received 1 Chefs Hat in the *Sydney Morning Herald Good Food in 2003* also the prestigious Tucker Seabrook Wine Awards. Fully Licensed, plus BYO bottled wine.

Lunch: Mon - Fri, Dinner 7 days. 18 Barker St Griffith 6260 8666

ELEMENT

A new dining delight - combining all the right elements of great food, great atmosphere and great service.

Andy Cruickshank and Chef Nengah Suradnya, formerly of The Tryst, Manuka have created Element.

Fully licensed and BYO. Lunch: Tue - Fri, Dinner: Tue - Sat. Shop 2/4 Barker Street, Griffith 6295 6915

RUBICON

Innovative Australian cuisine, highly awarded wine list. Intimate and award winning restaurant.

Recent Finalist - 2004 Award for Excellence - R&C ACT - BEST MODERN AUSTRALIAN FORMAL RESTAURANT.

Lunch & Dinner: Tue - Sat. 6A Barker Street, Griffith 6295 9919

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

**Please join our Association
or
Renew your membership now!**

Suggested membership fee is \$5 per annum.
Donations over this amount are very welcome.

See below for Membership Application/Renewal Form

Our association continues to need your support. Most of the Association's expenditures are in producing, printing and distributing the Newsletter. Please send your donations ASAP as there will not be any follow-up reminder.

Key community issues

Although much ground has been made since the inception of the Association, there are still local issues that require resolution.

• O'Connell Education Centre – Nursing Home and/or Aged Person's Units?

The Department of Education vacated the O'Connell Education Centre buildings in April 2004. The current temporary occupant is ACT Property, a branch of the Department of Urban Services. The ACT Government has made the decision that the site will be sold for Aged Persons Accommodation that may include **Supportive Housing** (see definitions). We have suggested that if the site is to be used for aged care, then it would be appropriate that the highest need for a nursing home should be met before the site is used for independent living units.

It is also the view of our Association that if it eventuates that the site is not suitable for a nursing home (perhaps with a small number of aged person's independent living units to give financial support to the Nursing Home), then it should be retained as a "Community Facility" site and the community should be further consulted on other appropriate community uses for the site. The "Community Facility" land use policy in the *Territory Plan* allows for a wide range of land uses including:

- Business agency (not for profit),
- Child Care Centre,
- Community Activity Centre,
- Community Theatre,
- Cultural Facility,
- Educational Establishment,
- Health Facility, Hospital,
- Indoor Recreation Facility,
- Office (not for profit),
- Outdoor Recreation Facility,
- Parkland,
- Place of Worship, Religious Associated Use,
- Public Agency (not for profit),
- Residential Care Accommodation (see definitions),
- Supportive Housing (see definitions).

Definitions (from the *Territory Plan*):

Residential Care Accommodation means the use of land by an agency or organisation that exists for the purposes of providing accommodation and services such as the provision of meals; domestic services and personal care for persons requiring support. Although services must be delivered on site, management and preparation may be carried out on site or elsewhere. **Common Terminology:** nursing home, hospice, special care establishment, special care hostel, supported dwelling, special dwelling, convalescent home, retirement complex.

Supportive Housing means the use of land for residential accommodation for persons in need of support, which is managed by a Territory approved organisation that provides a range of support services such as counselling, domestic assistance and personal care for residents as required. Although such services must be able to be delivered on site, management and preparation may be carried out on site or elsewhere. Housing may be provided in the form of self contained dwellings. **Common Terminology:** aged persons units, community housing, older persons units, rooming house, university college.

• Griffith Library – Will it be kept?

The Griffith Neighbourhood Plan has established that the current Griffith Library site is to be retained as a community facility but is not specific as to what this may include. The Neighbourhood Plan also suggests that the Library may move to a new site closer to the shops.

Our Association has suggested that the Library buildings should be used for a mixed-use Community Centre which includes the Griffith Library. We fear that if the Library moves, then we may lose it altogether.

• A10 "Residential Core Areas" – Will this higher density housing damage the character of our older suburbs?

This remains a contentious issue. Despite overwhelming community opposition to more A10 areas in our suburbs, the ACT Government is still adamant that it will happen. Do you support our Association going forward with nominating the older parts of our suburbs to the Heritage Register to protect them from A10?

• Throsby Park – Will the ACT Government retain all of the open space and especially the playground and the many mature trees?

Only part of Throsby Park is currently zoned as "Urban Open Space Land" under the *Territory Plan*. The remainder is zoned as "Restricted Access Recreation Land" (the site of the old tennis courts) and "Community Facility Land" (the site of the playground and the large trees near the car park).

• **New Issues?** - Are there other issues that you think require attention? Please attend the AGM to discuss them. Your input is very important.

Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association Inc., PO Box 4127, Manuka ACT 2603
Membership Application / Renewal Form 2004 - 2005

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Membership Fee / Donation: \$.....

Full Address: (Amount Enclosed)

..... Post Code: Phone:

Signature: Date: email Address: