

Notice of Annual General Meeting

O'Connell Education Centre Hall

6.30pm to 8.30pm, Tuesday 21 May 2002

Update since Oct 2001

Will the ACT Labor Government keep its pre-election promise not to develop Section 78, Griffith?

At a meeting on 20 March 2002 with Simon Corbell MLA, Minister for Planning, the G/NCAG sought confirmation that the pre-election promise given by the ACT Labor Party not to develop Section 78 still stood. The Minister gave us an assurance that Section 78 Griffith would remain Community Facility Land. The Minister provided the following statement:

The Department of Education and Community Services is scheduled to vacate the Griffith site by March 2003 at which time the surplus property will be transferred to the Department of Urban Services.

The Government has made clear statements in regard to the immediate future of Section 78 Griffith.

- *The site is being removed from the Government's Land Release Program;*
- *Work by the Planning and Land Management (PALM) on the finalisation of the development control plan for the former proposal has ceased;*
- *PALM is undertaking a Community Facility Needs Assessment for South Canberra. Following the outcomes of this assessment alternative appropriate uses for the O'Connell Education Centre buildings may be considered;*
- *The remainder of the site will be considered in the context of a future Neighbourhood Plan. In particular, the area considered to be open space will be included in the broader review of the Canberra Open Space Network; and*
- *Canberra Urban Parks and Places is proceeding with stage 1 of the local centre refurbishment.*
- *The Griffith Library will stay in this location.*

WE STILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT

While for the most part the Minister's statement is positive, it does raise several issues of concern. It only addresses the "immediate future". We were also told at our meeting with the Minister that the Blue Gum School has expressed an interest in the OEC site. The Minister has told the Blue Gum School that he is not able to make any commitment in relation to the use of the OEC site by Blue Gum.

This issue is a hot one and requires immediate action. What are your thoughts on appropriate future uses for the OEC? PLEASE ATTEND THE AGM and read the

What Now ??????????and Watch This Space !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

sections on the following page.

Annual General Meeting

Future of G/NCAG

Help set the future directions of the group by attending.

Proposed Agenda

1. President's Report
2. Treasurer's report
3. Membership Report
4. Special Resolutions
5. Future Directions
6. Election of Office Bearers
7. Drawing of Raffle
8. Other Business

Minister Corbell has been invited to address the meeting on the future of Section 78 and to answer questions.

Item 4 of the Agenda, Special Resolutions

• **Name change of the Association**

The Committee believes that the proposed new name "Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association" will better reflect a broader focus for the group as a community association.

• **Simplified Constitution/Rules**

We have been operating under the Model Rules for Associations. These rules are unnecessarily complex for a community organization. The simplified Constitution/Rules as proposed by the Committee will still meet all the legal requirements for Associations but without the onerous burden of excessive paperwork.

The **Special Resolutions** that the Committee will be proposing are:

- a.) **that the name of the Association be changed to the Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association.**
- b.) **that the Association ceases to use the Model Rules and adopts simplified Constitution/Rules of Association as proposed by the Committee.**

Copies of the proposed Constitution/Rules of Association are available prior to the AGM from the V.P. or Secretary.

Item 5 of the Agenda, Future Directions

In our Start Up Meeting held on 2 November 2000, we set the following goals:

1. *The retention of our community facilities for now and the future.*
2. *The preservation of our community open space.*
3. *The retention of our library service.*
4. *Opposition to any development that is inconsistent with our other goals, including that which would involve varying the Territory Plan in order to re-zone the land.*

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Annual General Meeting (Continued)

Having largely achieved our initial goals, we propose that the group concentrate on the "Goals and Purposes of the Association" that are stated in our group's original "Application to Incorporate as an Association":

To protect and promote the amenity and interests of the Griffith/Narrabundah communities, particularly in relation to the preservation of Community Facilities and Open Space".

Do you have any ideas, issues or actions our group should focus on in the future? Please contact us in advance of the AGM and/or attend the AGM and share your views.

Item 6 of the Agenda, Election of Office Bearers

The Committee encourages you to send nominations in advance of the AGM to the Secretary.

Item 7 of the Agenda, Drawing of Raffle

We have been selling raffle tickets in an original cartoon kindly donated by Geoff Pryor to raise much-needed funds. Tickets will be available at the AGM and are priced very reasonably at: 1 ticket for \$2 or 3 tickets for \$5.

Please support the group and buy as many tickets as possible.

Item 8 of the Agenda, Other Business

All members will have the opportunity to raise issues of concern to them.

• **Membership Fees are now due**

The success of the group has relied heavily on your financial support. Membership fees have been by contribution only and it is intended to retain this fee structure. We propose having Financial and Non-Financial Members. The benefits of Financial Membership will be eligibility to vote, and to obtain regular newsletters.

The Committee is proposing that the minimum membership fee for Financial Members would be \$5. Donations in excess of this minimum fee will be gratefully received. Membership fees can be paid at the AGM or in advance. Please make cheques payable to the Griffith/Narrabundah Community Action Group and send them to our postal address.

What Now????????????

The Committee wishes to thank all its loyal members for their support and hard work over the past 18 months. However, there is still work to be done and a number of important issues relating to Section 78 require resolution.

• **O'Connell Education Centre (OEC)**

Unfortunately, according to Minister Corbell, the plans to move the O'Connell Education Centre are too far advanced to be stopped. He has advised us that the OEC will be vacated by March 2003. The future of the site is uncertain and appears to be dependent on the outcomes of the current **Community Facility Needs Assessment Study**. We must get involved in this Study and continue to act to ensure that any replacement facility will be of benefit to our community.

• **Griffith Library**

The ACT Government has promised to retain the Griffith Library on Section 78. The Library is a Department of Urban Services responsibility and its value to the community has been accepted by the ACT Government. We must ensure that the Library meets the ongoing needs of our community.

• **Rezoning of the Open Space**

The old school playing fields are currently zoned "Community Facility Land" under the Territory Plan. The community values this area highly and regards it as open space. To ensure an adequate level of maintenance and to give the area long-term protection, we need to take action now to have it rezoned as "Urban Open Space Land" under the Territory Plan.

• **Throsby Park**

We will continue our efforts to preserve Throsby Park as Urban Open Space. However, we are concerned that maintenance of the area is not adequate, particularly garbage management. We will continue working on this important issue.

• **Griffith Shops Upgrade Project**

Although very welcome, the project does not provide a permanent solution to the parking or garbage problems at the Griffith Shops. Action is still required on these problems.

• **Studio Map**

Studio Map is located in the old City Parks Depot behind the Griffith shops. It currently provides art classes to more than 60 children and teenagers a week and private classes to adults. Unfortunately, its future in this location is still uncertain.

Watch this Space!!!!!!!!!!

Several issues of concern or interest to the community are on the horizon. Do you want the Griffith/Narrabundah Community Association to act on any of these issues?

• **Dual Occupancy Development**

The ACT Government has imposed an interim limit on dual occupancy development to 5% of any Section. This amounts to 1 dual occupancy development per 20 blocks. The long-term limits to dual occupancy development will be decided in the Neighbourhood Planning Process.

• **Neighbourhood Planning Process**

As part of the ACT Government's Planning Policy, all members of the community will have the opportunity to be involved in planning the future of their neighbourhood. When planning in our neighbourhood commences it will be vital for all of us to become involved to ensure that the qualities we love about our area are protected.

• **Manuka Oval Redevelopment**

The Bureau of Sport and Recreation has commissioned a draft Master Plan for future development of the Manuka Oval that would increase its capacity to approx. 30,000 and add apartments, commercial uses and a hotel. Do you consider this appropriate? We are trying to obtain additional information.

• **Community Events**

Any ideas for future events? One suggestion put to us is a **Neighbourhood History Walk** hosted by local residents.

Contributions for the next Newsletter

If you have any suggestions for the next Newsletter, please bring your ideas to the AGM or contact any Committee Member. We are also considering making it possible to obtain advertising in the Newsletter at very reasonable rates.

Visit Our New Website

www.savethegreen.org.au

Our new website is up and running. Unfortunately we have not had the resources to regularly update the web site but it is definitely on the list of actions. **Any volunteers?**

Griffith/ Narrabundah Community Action Group Committee Members

President: Margaret Fanning at 6295 0997, **Vice President:** Trish Bootes at 6295 9663, **Secretary:** Iain Mcinnis at 6295 8610, **Treasurer:** Frank Mestrov at 6295 1152 or **Committee Member:** David Palmer at 6295 9759.

Postal Address: The Secretary, Griffith/Narrabundah Community Action Group, PO Box 4127, Manuka, ACT, 2603