



# APRIL NEWSLETTER

## NEXT MEETING

ISCCC Public Meeting  
Tuesday 9 May 2017, 7pm  
Eastlake Football Club  
3 Oxley St, Griffith ACT 2603

### **ACT ASSEMBLY Select Committee on an Independent Integrity Commission in the ACT.**

*Are you concerned with the way ACT government decisions are being made? How do we protect government decision making from undue influence?*

Shane Rattenbury MLA, committee chair, will discuss the inquiry for the information of, and to assist, interested residents in making/preparing submissions to the Inquiry.

Mr Tony Harris, former NSW Auditor-General, will present his views and answer questions.

### **Asbestos Response Taskforce**

With 600 residences now demolished, the sales phase is ramping up. 255 remediated blocks went to public sale in March. The taskforce will provide an update and answer your questions on the public sale process and information about what activity will be occurring in the Inner South.

The meeting will also hear reports on matters of current interest to Inner South Canberra from each local residents' group and our local Members of Parliament.

**For further information please visit [www.isccc.org.au](http://www.isccc.org.au) or phone Gary Kent, Chair, ISCCC on 0419 854 211**

## A Message From The Chair



Welcome to the first edition of the Inner South Canberra Community Council newsletter.

The ISCCC was founded in 2010 to represent the interests of the Inner South and is the peak group for our eight local residents' groups. We have recently finalised its key priorities for the coming year, and these are available on our website at [www.isccc.org.au](http://www.isccc.org.au). They include contributing to ACT Government and Assembly planning reviews, and consultation on the proposed Civic to Woden Light Rail route, Kingston Arts Precinct and

the strategy to achieve zero emissions.

We will continue to defend the historic Manuka Oval precinct which, you will recall, was under threat last year from a massive residential and commercial development. This battle is still not over. We are still waiting on the ACT Government to honour its election commitment to develop a master plan for this area, in consultation with a representative community panel.

Most recently, the National Capital Authority has proposed an increase in building heights on Canberra Avenue near the Oval and Manuka shops. We have opposed this because it could result in loss of sunlight in Franklin Street and encourage further inappropriate development around the Oval.

The ISCCC is also monitoring the impact of the Government's decision to demolish the Red Hill, Gowrie Court and Stuart Flats public housing complexes. At our public meeting on 21 March government representatives discussed these important issues with the local community.

We would welcome your views on these or any other matters affecting you as residents of the inner south.

Regards,  
Gary Kent

## Does the ACT need an Integrity Commission?

The major political parties promised during the 2016 ACT election campaign to set up an integrity or anti-corruption commission. The Legislative Assembly is holding an inquiry into what kind of commission should be established.

The Inquiry's discussion paper is at: [goo.gl/FALVjV](http://goo.gl/FALVjV)

Public submissions are due by cob 19 May 2017. Forward your submission to the Committee Secretary, Select Committee on Independent Integrity Commission to: [committees@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:committees@parliament.act.gov.au) or GPO Box 1020, CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601.

# General News



## Value of trees in our suburbs

Canberrans value our 'bush capital' highly, so healthy trees in and around our city are vital. Besides creating a beautiful environment, trees provide shade in summer, reduce pollution, provide habitat for animals and plants, and contribute economic benefits such as increased property values. The presence of trees also encourages people to walk for both exercise and transport and, according to the Heart Foundation (2013), is associated with reduced incidence of heart attack and type 2 diabetes.

The ACT Government's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2016), and earlier ANU research have found consistently higher temperatures in new outer Canberra suburbs with low tree cover compared to leafy inner suburbs. This confirms international studies that link temperature variation to urban design and foliage (<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/trees-releaf-me--no-canopy-means-hotter-suburbs-20140115-30vka.html>).

Mature trees in our neighbourhoods also increase home values significantly. Perth-based research found that a broad-leafed tree located on a street verge in front of a home increases the median property price by about \$16,889. A Brisbane City Council study found "leafy streets, with 50 per cent or more tree cover, added up to \$29,000 (5.4 per cent) above the median house sale price" ([goo.gl/PpQxXT](http://goo.gl/PpQxXT)).

We cannot take these benefits for granted. We need to protect and keep healthy our urban trees to ensure they continue to provide these services. A great way to help protect them is to avoid parking cars over the trees' root zone, as this compacts the soil and can damage the roots.

If you are curious about the species of tree planted in your street, go to: [goo.gl/Q9G1ba](http://goo.gl/Q9G1ba). Find out more about ACT Government policies and regulations on trees at: [goo.gl/sj9S0d](http://goo.gl/sj9S0d).

Marea Fatseas  
Deputy Chair, ISCCC

## New Media Centre Proposed For Manuka Oval

The ACT Government plans to build a new, permanent Media Centre at Manuka Oval. Its function will be to house media representatives and broadcasting equipment (particularly television) for the one cricket test match and four AFL football matches held at the Oval every year. The new structure is to be completed before the Test Match against Sri Lanka, to be held in November 2018. It is expected to cost \$9.9m.

The Government has held two consultation sessions, on 2 March and 23 March, with interested local community and sporting groups. The ISCCC was represented at these meetings, as were the three of its constituent residents' groups adjacent to the Oval, the Forrest Residents' Group, the Griffith Narrabundah Community Association, and the Kingston Barton Residents' Group.

The Government has advised that International Cricket Council standards require that the media and broadcast facility include: a print press room with 75 seated desk positions; a print press breakout area; a press catering area; a press conference facility with room for 50 seated journalists and 10-15 broadcast cameras; two TV broadcast studios; a TV broadcast compound and storage rooms; a TV broadcast breakout area; a camera deck behind the bowler's arm at a minimum height of 15m; six radio boxes each with seating for six people; a scorers' box; and a photographers' room. The ICC correspondence in which these requirements were spelt out has not been released by the Government.

To accommodate all this, the project's architect, Populous, proposes a building 19.1m high with a total floor area of 1,412m<sup>2</sup> spread over four levels. The upper two levels would be wider than the ground level, cantilevered out over the spectator seating below. There is to be a large terrace on the fourth floor on the Canberra Av side of the building. As this quite large building will only be used for broadcasting a few times a year, it is proposed that when not in use as a media Centre the building will be used as a Function Centre (Weddings, 21st etc).

While media facilities are usually located at the north end of the pitch, the proposed building would loom over the Caretaker's Cottage, so it is proposed to locate it at the southern end, across Canberra Av from Manuka. With an appropriate choice of building materials and colours the building should blend in amongst the trees.

John Edquist

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# Member Group News

## Notes on Heritage

A city's identity is in large part embodied in its heritage, both tangible and intangible. Our National Capital has a short but rich heritage which is not confined to the Parliamentary Triangle.

Our older suburbs are highly valued by the community, and, the heritage protected precincts in these older suburbs are well worth exploring. These precincts have legislative protection through entry on the ACT Heritage Register. However, the requirements of the Register are not translating into the real world. Recent planning decisions, development applications, and ACAT appeal processes have highlighted the disconnect between the ACT Heritage Act and the Planning & Development Act.

A review of the protection afforded to these precincts is long overdue. The loss of heritage diminishes the story of our community and our city, and is ultimately a loss to the nation. We must lobby our government representatives to commit to this review now. Finally, download one of the many brochures from the National Trust ACT website and take a stroll through part of our fascinating history.

Anne Forrest

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## Kingston Barton Residents Group

On 16 March 2017, the KBRG convened a public meeting to consider the next stage of the development of the long promised Arts Precinct at the Kingston Foreshore development. The new Precinct has always been the major carrot offered to the Canberra community for its support for this major property development at the Foreshore. Almost 100 residents attended the meeting to hear representatives from the LDA and Cultural Canberra describe plans for the next stage. Participants raised several of the community's past and present concerns about decisions on this project and two motions were unanimously passed as follows:

- Consistent with its election promise to improve community engagement, the meeting expects the government to ensure the community continues to be significantly involved in the planning and implementation of the Kingston Arts Precinct as has been the case with the Yarralumla Brickworks.
  - The meeting strongly supports the preservation of ALL heritage listed buildings in the Kingston Arts Precinct, including the 1948 Switch Room, and expects the precinct to incorporate them in a way that celebrates the heritage of the precinct.
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## Red Hill Residents Group

The Development Application (DA) for the Red Hill Flats Estate Development Plan (EDP) was released on 27 March 2017, with submissions closing on 26 April. The DA followed feedback from three public consultation sessions at Red Hill School during 2016. Before this, considerable work went into convincing the government to reduce the development from an outrageous 550-600 units to a maximum 252 dwellings.

This remains a substantial development with significant ramifications for Red Hill and Inner South Canberra. Ongoing issues in the DA included excessive on-street parking, traffic generation, traffic management, tree removal, and building height restrictions. Submissions have been made by the Red Hill Action Group (RHAG) (which was formed specifically in relation to the development), the Red Hill Residents Group (RHRG) and the ISCCC.

If you would like further information, please contact:

- Stuart Rogers (RHAG) on [noredhillhighrise@outlook.com](mailto:noredhillhighrise@outlook.com), Mobile: 0413 335 554; or
- Melissa Bennett (RHRG) [redhillresidentsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:redhillresidentsgroup@gmail.com)

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# Member Group News

## Forrest Residents Group

A meeting of Forrest residents, held on Monday 13 February 2017, formally established the Forrest Residents Group (FRG) and elected people to specific positions on an Executive Committee to represent the group over the next twelve months. The FRG is the last of the suburban residents' groups to be established in the Inner South.

Since its establishment, the Executive Committee has met several times in order to articulate its objectives, develop a schedule of meetings and to set up working groups on issues of concern to Forrest residents. Working groups are now established

to consider environmental issues (including trees and green spaces) and development planning issues (including on sites such as the old Italo-Australia Club and the State Circle/Canberra Avenue site recently sold at auction).

A heritage project on Forrest, looking at Forrest's old families and the history of original houses in the suburb is also underway.

More details can be found on our website [www.forrestresidents.org](http://www.forrestresidents.org). We may be contacted at: [mail@forrestresidents.org.au](mailto:mail@forrestresidents.org.au)

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## Deakin Residents Association

Following combined lobbying by DRA and lessees, bollards have been erected in front of parking bays at the Deakin shops to protect the footpath and shopfronts from vehicle entry.

We have met with Canberra Girls Grammar School on their proposal to have exclusive daytime use of LaTrobe Park Oval in return for a facilities upgrade.

Mr Andrew Smith, Chief Planner for the National Capital Authority spoke, at our 2016 Annual General Meeting. DRA has had ongoing discussions with ACT government on the need for pedestrian crossings and a 40 kph speed limit on Hopetoun Ct through Deakin Shops.

Deakin residential streets are filling with commuter parking, from both west Deakin offices and medical facilities, and in the east from students at the Girls Grammar School. Parking area at Deakin shops is being used as a destination for all day park-and-ride.

We are preparing for ACT Government consultations on the Civic-Woden tram route, and will be focussing on issues such as possible routes through Deakin and visual impact, including possibility of overhead wires in a previously wire free suburb.

Developers are flouting restrictions on plot ratios and shading of neighbours.

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## Griffith Narrabundah Community Association

The GNCA 2017 Annual Raffle was drawn on the afternoon of 25 March outside the organic vegetable shop at Griffith Shops. The ten lucky winners have now collected their certificates entitling them to food and drink at Griffith.

The GNCA is working on a submission in response to the NCA's Draft DCP on the Manuka Circle Precinct, raising maximum heights along Canberra Av from 18m to 22 m.

Efforts are continuing to get more trees planted in Blaxland Park, and to protect trees and verges throughout Griffith and Narrabundah from damage by builders.

The Minister for Regulatory Services, Gordon Ramsay, MLA, has advised that it is Government policy to seek to modify DA's so that non-compliant structures (provided they are structurally sound) become compliant, confirming that Access Canberra's reluctance to take any action in relation to significant breaches of the DA at a building site in Landsborough St was deliberate. This policy change has in effect covertly eliminated all ACT planning rules. One might have expected so significant a change would have deserved some public discussion.

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# Member Group News

## Oaks Estate Progress Association

In December 2016 the \$230,000 Oaks Estate River Walk opened, an outcome of a 2014 OEPA disaster resilience seminar. The Walk cost \$230,000 and was funded by the ACT Government and is a positive sign of greater interest in Oaks Estate by the Government.

With the support of our local Federal Member Gai Brodtmann MP, the OEPA has been awarded two \$20,000 grants under the federal government's Stronger Communities Program. The OEPA leveraged this contribution to attract support from the ACT Government, the ISCCC, residents and industry. With a contribution of over \$10,000 from the OEPA's own resources, this innovative funding alliance achieved a package of \$250,000 of

improvements to public infrastructure and residential amenity. Works include the public toilet opened by Ms Brodtmann in March 2017, a Community Orchard and petanque court, two suburb gateway signs and community notice blackboards, new or extended pedestrian pavements, heritage hydrant restoration, clearing of eyesores. Suburb-wide beautification works have also been made possible, including garden beds, tree plantings, murals and bollards, and clearing of local eyesores.

29 townhouses will shortly come up for sale, increasing the population of Oaks Estate by 35% - something these improvements will support.

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## Yarralumla Residents Association

The announcement of the preferred tenderer to develop the Canberra Brickworks triggers further community consultation. YRA committee members have been active participants on the Brickworks Community Panel since 2015. Apart from developing the set of objectives incorporated into the tender requirements, the Community Panel has highlighted community concerns, values and recommendations to the preferred tenderer and ACT government. The next steps should be faster if the preferred tenderer and the ACT government have listened. Broader community engagement will commence later in 2017. Our focus will be to ensure the Estate Development Plan is acceptable and produces the best possible outcome, not only for existing Yarralumla residents, but for new residents and the broader Canberra community.

Traffic and parking have been issues for many years; traffic volumes throughout Yarralumla far exceed the capacity of existing street designs, with many vehicles only using Yarralumla to get to Deakin and beyond. YRA committee members have been meeting with government representatives and undertaking our own analysis to seek possible solutions.

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## Old Narrabundah Community Council Inc

At the recent Public Meeting hosted by ISCCC on Public Housing ONCC Inc put forward two motions that were passed unanimously. The first motion calls for a moratorium on any further Housing ACT developments in Old Narrabundah until there is a Social Impact Assessment completed on the already high concentration of public housing in this area. The second motion calls for a Review into the process by which the Land Development Agency authorised the release of two blocks of land to Housing ACT without community consultation. ONCC Inc is currently following up the processes for both of these motions to progress them on behalf of the community.

Another successful Narrabundah Festival was held at the local shops on Saturday 25th March. Thanks to the volunteers and all those who supported the festival. We appreciate the time the Local and Federal Members gave to their constituents as well as the support from local businesses and community organisations who donated goods or held a stall.

ONCC Inc meets second Monday of each month in the Tennis Hut, Kootara Cres at 7pm, all welcome.

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# ABOUT ISCCC

The Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC) was formed in 2010 to provide a unified and strong voice for the residents of Inner South Canberra.



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## OUR OBJECTIVES

- To protect & enhance the amenity and environmental community well-being of Inner South Canberra residents and the broader community;
- To promote and represent Inner South Canberra residents in respect of the above;
- To promote communication and coordination among residents and local community groups;
- To contribute to the planning of Inner South Canberra, consistent with the above objectives; and
- To assist in ensuring all groups, especially the more vulnerable, are adequately represented.

*We are formally recognised by the ACT Government as the peak community representative body in Inner South Canberra representing the interests of the local residents and their communities.*

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## MEMBER GROUPS

**Old Narrabundah  
Community Council**  
[www.narrabundah.org.au](http://www.narrabundah.org.au)  
[narrabundah@tpg.com.au](mailto:narrabundah@tpg.com.au)

**Kingston Barton  
Residents Group Inc.**  
[www.kingstonandbarton.net](http://www.kingstonandbarton.net)  
[kingstonandbarton@gmail.com](mailto:kingstonandbarton@gmail.com)

**Griffith Narrabundah  
Community Association**  
[www.gnca.org.au](http://www.gnca.org.au)  
[info@gnca.org.au](mailto:info@gnca.org.au)

**Oaks Estate Progress  
Association**  
[www.oaksestateact.org](http://www.oaksestateact.org)  
[oepa@hotmail.com.au](mailto:oepa@hotmail.com.au)

**Yarralumla Residents  
Association Inc.**  
[www.yarralumlaresidents.org.au](http://www.yarralumlaresidents.org.au)  
[info@yarralumlaresidents.org.au](mailto:info@yarralumlaresidents.org.au)

**Forrest Residents Group**  
[www.forrestresidents.org](http://www.forrestresidents.org)  
[mail@forrestresidents.org.au](mailto:mail@forrestresidents.org.au)

**Deakin Residents Association**  
[www.deakinresidents.asn.au](http://www.deakinresidents.asn.au)  
[secretary@deakinresidents.asn.au](mailto:secretary@deakinresidents.asn.au)

**Red Hill Residents Group**  
[redhillresidentsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:redhillresidentsgroup@gmail.com)

You can find out more about the ISCCC from our website [www.isccc.org.au](http://www.isccc.org.au) or write to us at [info@isccc.org.au](mailto:info@isccc.org.au) or, PO Box 3310, Manuka ACT 2603.