

*Your local voice*



[www.wccc.com.au](http://www.wccc.com.au)  
[info@wccc.com.au](mailto:info@wccc.com.au)

PO Box 3701  
Weston Creek ACT  
2611  
Telephone (02) 6288  
8975

## **Minutes of the General Meeting Wednesday, 25 June 2008, 7.45pm**

### **1. Opening of Meeting**

Tim Dalton opened the meeting at 7.55, and welcomed all participants.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from: Bob Sutherland, Barbara Campbell, Richard Mulcahy, Jacqui Burke.

### **3. Minutes**

Minutes of the previous meeting, which had been circulated with the agenda, were accepted as presented.

### **4. Presentation about the Brain Gym**

John Stenhouse, principal of Canberra College, spoke about the Brain Gym, which operates at two campuses, Phillip and Stirling. The Brain Gym provides community education courses (mainly at night, but also a few during the day at the Stirling campus), including topics such as fitness, photography, computing, car maintenance, cooking, languages, and dance. People of all ages are welcome. The Brain Gym programs are run by the Canberra College P&C, and receive NO funding from the Department of Education (school funds may not be used for community education). There is a part-time manager at each campus to deal with day-to-day administration of the programs.

The Canberra College has about 820 students at its Phillip campus, and about 100 at Stirling. In earlier days, 2001-2003, the Brain Gym used to attract up to 1500 students, but in first term this year, there were only 150 students at Phillip, so the Woden Brain Gym has been reduced to two nights per week, although with the same number of classes. The Stirling campus operates four nights per week and just about breaks even, but is under pressure because the building is being taken over bit by bit by the Department of Education.

The outlook for the Brain Gym is not very promising—utility costs are high (electricity has been costing about \$14,000 per year), and competition for the recreation dollar is fierce. Advertising costs have risen, and with declining enrolments, the Brain Gym has not been able to advertise through letterbox drops as they used to.

Mr Stenhouse encouraged WCCC members to find out what courses are being offered, and to

sign up if they are interested.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer John Burke told the meeting that WCCC has \$4806 in one account, and \$275 in its other account. WCCC will apply for a new grant from the ACT government after 1 July.

## **6. President's Report on Recent Activities**

Tim reported to the meeting about recent meetings he has attended.

- Following a meeting with Planning Minister Andrew Barr and Neil Savery, head of ACTPLA, WCCC expects to hear by Friday, 27 June, the final outcomes of the Minister's and ACTPLA's decisions relating to development in North Weston and southern Molonglo Valley. The decisions will be put up on the WCCC website when they become available. Philip Lemon of the Bahai community said he had been told that ACTPLA had agreed that five blocks of land above the Sikh Temple site that had been designated for residential housing would not now be made available for housing but would remain as open space, as the Sikh and Bahai communities had requested. (See minutes of previous general meeting, 4 June 2008).
- Tim had a meeting with Katy Gallagher to inform the minister about the WCCC submission to have a new community centre built at Cooleman Court.
- A meeting was held with Vicki Dunne, who is a member of the ACT Assembly's Standing Committee on Planning and Development, chaired by Mr Mick Gentleman.
- Tim attended the monthly Community Planning Forum held by ACTPLA, which WCCC is required to attend. He reported that an amount of \$300,000 has been allocated for a community park in Weston (at the oval below the former Weston school).

An audience member said that noise from the skateboard area has not been too bad in recent weeks, but that in summer the noise carries a long way. If there is to be a new community park, local residents would expect to be consulted about what facilities would be installed.

## **7. Report on Community Consultations on School Sites by GHD Consultants**

Eddie Irvine said he had attended the consultation meeting on 23 June, but had been puzzled as to why the meeting was advertised very late, with letter box drop being made on Sunday evening, just before the meeting on Monday evening. He noted that the meeting had been carefully stage-managed.

The focus of the consultation was limited to the area of land between the former Weston school buildings and the oval below, since the ACT Government had decided that the school buildings were to be retained as a "community hub", and the school hall would be kept for a community hall. Nearly all of the people at the consultation had held the view that the land should be kept as open space for recreation purposes, perhaps to be developed as a garden with BBQ facilities, a playground for children, and other similar facilities.

GHD representative, Mr Viv Straw, said that the WCCC would be included as part of the stakeholder consultations to be held later. Some suggestions were made for how the remaining buildings could be used, and WCCC has asked if our representatives could be given a tour of the buildings so we would know more about what spaces are available and what the physical condition of the buildings is.

One member of the audience said that at the consultation, a representative of the Territory and Municipal Services Department (TAMS) had said that there would be a third community consultation on the options for a community park at the oval and school site.

## **8. Clean-up request from Holder resident**

Rosemary Drabsch reported that she had received a phone call from a resident of Holder, concerned about the untidiness of a small area of land between the end of MacLachlan St, Holder, and Streeton Drive. In particular, some tree branches poked out over a path and could be dangerous. Rosemary has contacted municipal services, who gave it a job number, but said it might take a week or two to get the work done. [Later: At a WCCC committee meeting on 2 July, Rosemary reported that the work had been done, the area was now tidy and the dangerous branches had been cut back.] Tim Dalton said WCCC is happy to hear about such problems and will pass on information about work that needs to be done to the relevant part of the ACT Government.

## **9. Cycle Paths**

ACTPLA has proposed to put a cycle way from Adelaide Avenue along the Cotter Road, but the plan has it going through the roundabout at the intersection of Cotter Road and Lady Denman Drive. WCCC has asked Bob Sutherland and Jeff Carl (former WCCC presidents) for comments, as it is better for cycle paths to avoid roundabouts.

## **10. Volunteers Needed for WCCC Committee**

Tim Dalton announced that he will step down as president in July, due to family and work pressures. He asked for WCCC members to volunteer to join the committee, as we do not have enough people for all the work that has come up this year.

## **11. Future Meetings - Meet the Candidates**

Tim said that WCCC would ask candidates who are standing for election in October to speak at WCCC meetings in August and September. Three candidates were present at the meeting tonight, and introduced themselves: Gary Kent (Liberal), Shane Rattenbury (Greens), and Mike Hettinger (ALP).

## **12. Storm-water Recycling**

Eddie reported that he and Noel had attended a meeting with representatives from CSIRO about recycling storm-water flows, the idea being to trap water, allow it to settle, then recycle it. Noel displayed a map which showed where such ponds might be located: in Weston below the oval; in Waramanga between the primary and high schools; in Holder along Streeton Drive between Mulley St and Dixon Dve; and in the buffer zone between Dixon Dve and Cotter Rd at the end of Hyndes Cres. The CSIRO project is being funded by the Department of Sport and Recreation and the primary purpose of the ponds is to provide water for irrigating nearby sports grounds, the Weston aboretum, etc. Pond sites are indicative only and no final decision has yet been made. The purpose of CSIRO's workshop was to evaluate the set of criteria that they planned to use further down the track. CSIRO has asked Noel to do on-site evaluations of several sites and report back to them. Noel said that it could be several months before Sport and Recreation make a public announcement.

## **13. Rivett School**

Tim reported that the Noah's Ark Toy Library will remain at Rivett School, which is to be refurbished. The Shepherd School for the hearing-impaired will be located in the former pre-school.

The GHD consultation on Rivett will be held on 14 July at the Canberra Church of Christ, on the corner of Namatjira and Parkinson Streets.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm