

# WESTON CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- Your Local Voice -

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## **Minutes Monthly Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> March 2003**

### **Welcome**

Mr Carl welcomed the guest speakers, the committee and residents to the meeting. Mr Carl advised that the main issues on the agenda were the future of *The Canberra College* site in Stirling and discussion of the reviews into the fire affected areas. Mr Carl invited additional items to be raised in other business.

Mr Carl introduced the first guest speakers Mr Barry Woolacott, Principal *The Canberra College* who would like to give an explanation of the issues surrounding the Stirling site and would take questions. Mr Carl introduced Phil Jones a lecturer at the Brain Gym who would also make a contribution to the discussion.

Mr Carl also welcomed from the ACT Legislative Assembly Greg Cornwell MLA, Jacqui Burke MLA and Roslyn Dundas MLA.

### **Apologies**

Joe Baker ACT Commissioner for the Environment, Gary Caitcheon.

### **The Canberra College**

Mr Woolacott indicated that he was here to involve residents in the process with regard to the decisions on the management of the Weston Campus of *The Canberra College*. The School Board had met on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March and a number of papers are available regarding the options. These were circulated at the February WCCC meeting and are available from the School website.

Mr Woolacott introduced John Stenhouse, Jan Marshall, Lyn Lyons, Lyn Mecer and Kim Morgan who were involved in the School and the Brain Gym. Mr Woolacott invited Mr Jones to provide details of the activities of the Brain Gym.

### **Mr Phil Jones Lecturer - The Brain Gym**

Mr Jones advised that the Brain Gym commenced in 1992 and is focussed on adult and community education in Weston Creek. The profits for the Brain Gym, currently standing at \$1/4 million have been provided for the day school to purchase classroom equipment and the 'Phillip College' bus. The Brain Gym is the largest provider of adult education - there were 6000 enrolments in the years 2000 through to 2002.

The numbers are declining considerably as the campus looks moribund and decaying. The enrolment analysis shows that only 1/3 are from Weston Creek. (Further details are available in Attachment A which is a precis of Mr Jones presentation).

Mr Jones indicated that a positive focus on the Brain Gym and providing it with support and advertising would reinvigorate the Brain Gym. A major reason for the success to date of the Brain Gym is daytime adult classes and providing evening classes on a demand basis.

### **Mr Barry Woolacott Principal *The Canberra College***

Mr Woolacott gave an overview of the activities at the Stirling site. There were three components; the Canberra College Association Inc - the Brain Gym; the new Centre for Teaching and Learning Technology called CTLT which will have 15 to 20 permanent staff and headed by Philip Arthur; and the Day College of *The Canberra College* which has 88 students who travel 3 times a week for IT classes. There is also a high school group of 30 students who use the campus - the Eclipse program (previously called the School without Walls). This compares with 880 students at the Phillip campus. Most Canberra College students come from Tuggeranong, Woden and Queanbeyan with only a small percentage from Weston Creek.

The process will involve consulting with the community through the first half of the year on what to do with the campus. Mr Woolacott advised that if any development were to be considered in the Weston Creek area post bush fires the Stirling site could cope with a day capacity of 500 to 600 with little building renovation.

Mr Carl asked if there were questions of Mr Woolacott.

### **Q&A**

- I have read that the Brain Gym is closing from what has been said that's not accurate? - there are no plans to close the Brain Gym
- What areas of the school are available? The eastern first floor area and the wing on the western side.
- What are the possible future leases? The future of the site is being considered before leases are contemplated.

- Could a U3A lease be considered because it is adult education? There are a number of possibilities but no confirmed approach at this time.
- Is there financial pressure to do some thing? - There is no financial pressure, the aim is to better utilise the facility that is there.
- Has the Brain Gym enrolments fallen? Yes from 2300 in 2001 to 1700 in 2002. The courses are run according to the demand in the market place.
- What space is under utilised - could organisations which missed out on the Grant Cameron Centre use school space? There is no vacant space, all is used at some stage but it could be used more often and more efficiently. There is probably no space for community organisations to have office space.
- Where would a community library go? The old library is to be used by the Centre for Teaching and Learning Technology. There is now a small library with reduced holdings; the previous larger library had 16,000-20,000 holdings. There could be some space on the ground floor west wing.
- The site is very run down when will it be fixed? The renovations are expected to start in June this year and be finished by the end of the year.
- Why is the Stirling site on the agenda? What's the issue? Why is it being discussed? The Stirling site came to the attention of the WCCC in mid 2002 when emails and calls were received because the campus looked abandoned, run down and no students appeared to be using it. The WCCC contacted Barry Woolacott who attended a meeting of the WCCC last year and this has progressed to the school board investigating options for the management of a twin campus arrangement.

Mr Carl thanked Mr Woolacott, Mr Stenhouse and staff of the School and the Brain Gym for attending. Mr Carl invited residents to make submissions to *The Canberra College School Board* if they had issues they wished to raise in the decision making process.

### **Community Education Facility**

Barbara Brinton, the WCCC nominee on the ACT Council of Adult & Community Education (ACE) reported back on recent meetings which she had attended and which had direct relevance to the previous discussion on the continued presence of an education facility at the Stirling site of *The Canberra College*.

The focus of adult education was 'Canberra as learning community' and the Stirling site could become the focus of a "learning precinct" where a range of learning and educational providers are collocated in the same education facility along with a public library to serve the needs of the local residents. Melton Campus in Melbourne was a good example of a learning precinct which had brought together a number of education providers.

ACE is the Advisory Council on Adult and Community Education and details are at attachment B.

Adult Learner Week will be September and grants are available for training and adult education. In addition grants for research qualify.

Another aim of ACE is work which is re-defining the concept of a library which would have an impact of the possible uses of the Stirling site. Barbara asked if there were issues which needed to be addressed.

### *Issues*

- It appears that when the ACT Government opens one library they close another.
- The WCCC, several years ago, made submissions for an electronic library in Weston Creek and in the ACT Budget this was given to Gungahlin.
- Can an electronic library hold a large amount of information in a small area such as the space available at the Stirling site?
- How is the CIT Digital Divide Library working?

Barbara indicated that she would approach Anne Rynes to come to a later WCCC meeting to talk on the needs and configuration of a library which would help with constructive debate on a possible public library in the Stirling site.

Mr Carl encouraged residents who had ideas on the use of the Stirling site of *The Canberra College* for adult education to send their suggestions to the WCCC email address. These could be used in responding to the review spoken of by Barry Woolacott.

### **Bushfire Reviews - crossovers and who is doing what?**

Jeff Carl indicated that there were currently 5 separate and independent reviews of the cause of the bushfires and possible options to respond to the variety of outcomes of the reviews. In respect of planning of the future of Canberra, and in particular the impact on Weston Creek, there were five scenarios;

- Leave it as it is;
- Cap the new 'greenfield' developments and focus on higher density;
- Develop Stromlo Forest and Boulder Creek (which are the largest areas);
- Develop Kowen, Tarlee and Goona.....???
- Outer Gungahlin

Mr Carl introduced Dorte Ekelund, Director Territory Planning Branch, PALM. Dorte advised that the future of the Stromlo Forest was significantly affected by the ACT Forests Business Plan which was due in late April which will impact on the non-urban areas to the north and west of Weston Creek. Issues of concern are the fire risk to suburbs and the potential changes in rural activities. There is some short-term work on the 'URBAN EDGE' which is focussing on the

western edge of Canberra to see if there is a need to readjust the land use, access, vegetation and buffer zones. This feeds information into the Stromlo Forest Review being undertaken by PALM. This is different to the review of "non-urban areas affected by bushfires" being undertaken by the Bushfire Recovery Taskforce. Some non-urban areas may be declared "fire-prone" districts. This was not expected for urban areas but may be an impact on rural residential areas.

Dorte advised that there was the **Canberra Spatial Plan** which takes a broad view of what we as a community expect from planning. It will take account of transport, population growth, employment location, land availability, retail and leisure activity, ecological constraints and environmental impact. It will be an equal partner, along with strategies for economic, social and environmental imperatives, in a broader strategic framework, to be known as The Canberra Plan.

The **Canberra Economic White Paper** explores the economic impacts of our planning system whilst also including any costs associated the social and environmental factors of having a dispersed city with a relatively low population density. The **Social Plan** will be looking at issues associated with social equity within our community including access to housing, public transport, education and health facilities.

The Spatial Plan is the plan which will be looking at Stromlo and Kowen Forests. The draft spatial plan is expected in September/October and the final by the end of the year. The issues already identified by the overwhelming response to the community consultation at Cooleman Court is the positive response Weston Creek residents have to their forests and their desire to reinvigorate the suburbs on the Canberra fringe.

Dorte introduced George Tomlins, the Director of the Strategic Group of the BushFire Recovery TaskForce Secretariat who were looking at the non-urban review of the bushfire affected areas. Mr Tomlins advised that Sandy Hollway the TaskForce Chair was also the Chair of the review of the impact of the bushfires on the non-urban areas of the Act.

Mr Tomlins advised that the terms of reference were announced when the Chief Minister Jon Stanhope MLA announced the enquiry. The area of interest covers a non-urban area of 160,000ha which was burnt out. There is an approximate boundary but this has not been specifically identified. The review will look at the future in 25 years - what are the social, environmental and economic needs and constraints on the ACT.

Mr Carl asked for questions from the audience indicating that all questions were important however if people had specific concerns they could either submit their own response to the enquires or email the WCCC to include their concerns in a general submission.

### ***Q&A***

- Was the forestry industry in the ACT commercially viable? - Yes marginally.
- What was the cost of re-seeding and could it be afforded? - Yes it was expensive but a large proportion was covered by insurance.

- North Duffy / Holder has a moratorium until next year, is this included in the study area? The boundaries of the Stromlo Forest Review are not fixed.
- Can the question be answered is it in or out? - The boundaries of the study will be affected by the responses from the public submissions.
- Will the current processes be used to look at the 10-year moratorium and at Narrabundah Hill behind Duffy? An early task of the Stromlo Forest Review will be to define boundaries.
- Since the fires the weather in Duffy has changed - the winds have increased. Yes it is known that Duffy is experiencing higher wind speeds as the protection from the westerly winds provided by the forest has gone.
- There is more wind damage in Duffy and the houses are being sandblasted by stronger winds.
- Will there be extensive consultation on the recreational uses of the Stromlo Forest as it is not just Weston Creek residents but residents from all over Canberra who use the forests? Yes the community consultation processes are encouraging all concerned residents to contribute to the survey. Copies of the survey are available at this meeting tonight.
- Is the ACT Tree Policy coming into effect to stop backyard clearing of large trees? There are a number of issues in respect to removing trees on leased or un-leased land.
- It was trees in the suburbs and backyards that caused the damage not the pine trees the suburbs trees should be removed.
- Eucalypts are designed for fire, but should they be allowed in suburbs. The report on Canberra "Your City Your Say" found that people wanted a bush capital, these views may have changed given the current circumstances. There are two pamphlets available to help residents - "how to build to reduce fire risk" and "Garden species and design for fire risk reduction".
- We had the fires, we have a lot of reviews and we had the documentary on the ABC, is it a forgone conclusion that there will be more houses? Constraints mapping has been undertaken as part of previous process which now has increased significance. The Canberra Spatial Plan has identified some areas which have the potential for urban development and the draft economic white paper has flagged the potential for more housing. The two main areas are the Kowen Forest and the Stromlo Forest however buffers are needed for water quality and transport routes.
- Who else controls the land? The National Capital Authority, the NCA, will need to be involved.
- Can agriculture be considered? - All options are on the table including some such as olives and wineries.

- What is the impact of developing Kowen Forest and the airport road? That level of detail has not yet been reached.
- Who makes the decisions? - The Territory Plan is a statutory plan and statutory changes need to go through the ACT Legislative Assembly.
- What about the outcomes of the NCA review? The outcomes of the NCA review are an issue for the Commonwealth.
- As a daily recreation user of the Narrabundah Hill behind Duffy can you please tell us the level of influence that ACT Treasury will have over the decisions? The outcome achieved will need to meet a range of objectives ranging from recreation /lifestyle/ health and economics. However the strong planning principle is that Hills & Ridges will remain.
- Can we get a flow of information back to the community about what is coming into the reviews? There is a need to write in by the end of April and the review staff will meet with interested groups, the draft will be out in mid July for comments.
- Its not surprising that once again the government undertakes community consultation in school holidays by the end of April - why not May (unanswered).

Mr Carl indicated that the WCCC would be making a submission to PALM on the Stromlo Forest Review as well as submission to the BushFire TaskForce on the "non-urban areas affected by bushfires". Mr Carl encouraged all residents to make submissions to both reviews. Mr Carl thanked Dorte Ekelund and George Tomlins.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Carl called for other business from members of the audience

### **Kerstin Weber Communities @ Work**

Kerstin advised the meeting that she worked for Communities @ Work a social service provider working in Tuggeranong and Weston Creek. . She was now based at the Bush Fire Recovery Centre in Lyons working with the Community Development Team. The team is assisting rebuilding the community as a gathering of people - the focus is on rebuilding people to be a suburb - to stay connected with the community.

The examples of the tasks include bringing together school kids who have been dislocated into rental accommodation who are no longer linked to their school friends - they are losing contact and networks of support and reassurance. Another example is providing seminars for parents with child psychologist Dr John Irvine. This is to provide them with support and confidence in preparation for the expected (or potential) physiological issues which may confront families, and especially children, as they gradually come to terms with the enormity of the impact that the bushfires have had on their lives.

An issue, which is also being dealt with, is the isolation of the elderly. A number of instances have been found where neighbours were helping the elderly. Where the people lost their house and have moved to rental accommodation the elderly have no support mechanisms for simple tasks as putting out the bin, cutting the grass, daily check on their well-being. How this issue is addressed is still of major concern so as to keep the elderly independent in their own home

Kerstin advised that if any residents either needed assistance or knew of residents who needed assistance please contact her at the Bushfire recovery Centre in Lyons.

### **New Creation Ministries**

Chris Young-Wright (???) from the New Creation Ministers addressed the meeting. Chris indicated that following a meeting of the WCCC Executive with John McNamara from the Church and architect Fred Kasperak the New Creation Ministries had submitted a Development Application (DA) to secure a piece of the forestry land on the corner of Streeon Drive and Cotter Road so as to relocate their Church from Dixon Drive Holder. The DA and a 'Direct Sale of Land' was submitted to Peter Johns of the Land and Property Group.

Chris indicated that Fred could not be at the meeting tonight but wished to express thanks for the WCCC support in their efforts to gain access to that block of land. Ms Pat McGinn, Deputy Chair, WCCC, interjected to state that there appears to be a significant misreading of the approach and statements of the WCCC. The Executive of the WCCC did not give support to the New Creation Ministries to gain access to the block. Ms McGinn indicated that John McNamara and Fred Kasperak were informed that there was another possibility in the offering for that particular block and that option had been discussed at numerous WCCC meetings. In addition taking a small piece of the large block would significantly and adversely impact on other possible uses of the site. The WCCC Executive at that particular meeting advised of a number of other blocks in Weston Creek that the New Creation Ministries could consider and needed to raise these with Peter Johns of the Land and Property Group.

Mr Young-Wright indicated that he had the impression that the WCCC fully supported the new site. Ms McGinn suggested that the conversations which were had were somewhat embellished and the correct tone and outcome were somewhat distorted. She also indicated that the WCCC would write to Peter Johns to clarify the WCCC position on the use of the Forestry land.

Philip Lemon of the Baha'i Association also raised objection to any consideration of the New Creation Ministries having access to land on the intersection. Mr Lemon indicated that he had been to numerous WCCC meetings and had discussed the traffic management problems. The traffic volume created by the New Creation Ministries was well known to be a hazard in Dixon Drive and the general knowledge in Weston Creek that their temporary use of the Stromlo High School Hall was also creating traffic problems with numerous complaints. He advised that until the traffic management study of the Hickey Place - Unwin St was agreed to by government, undertaken and road improvement put in place the Baha'i Association would object to any further release of land in the area to any organisation. Ms McGinn reinforced this approach advising the WCCC had in its 2003-2004 budget submission to Ted Quinlan requested a traffic management study of the area before Urban Services or PALM released any more land to any group.

Ms Jacqui Burke MLA also indicated that if there were concerns with the land there needed to be a proper process to ensure all issues were canvassed. She did indicate that she was aware of the work that the New Creation Ministries were undertaking in the community.

### **Rebuilding Effort post fire recovery.**

Mr Philip Lemon indicated that the main reason he had attended the meeting tonight was to ask the WCCC, as they were a member of the Bush Fire Recovery Group, to raise a concern on erosion. A significant number of blocks had now been cleared and the slope on some blocks in Duffy was greater than 15 degrees and the recent rain was washing the loose topsoil. He asked that the WCCC request that seed be planted to stabilise the dirt until rebuilding occurred. Mr Carl indicated that he would raise the issue at the next Community and Expert Reference Group meeting.

### **Stromlo Forest Review**

Mr Carl asked if there were any other actions the WCCC could take to assist residents understand and respond to the myriad of 5 enquires into the bushfires. A number in the audience indicated that it would very useful to have a meeting with PALM and Urban Service to focus on the Stromlo Forest Review so as to give residents the opportunity to ask detailed questions and allow public submissions to be put together.

Mr Carl advised that the WCCC would be willing to host a special meeting to facilitate PALM talking to residents. After general discussion it was agreed that the information night should be after the April school holidays and before the closing date for public submissions, (which was thought to be the end of May). Dorte Ekelund and George Tomlins both agreed that there needed to be more consultation with the community as the display at Coolamon Court had evoked a much higher reaction and involvement of the community than was previously considered would be the case.

[POST-MEETING note: The WCCC has agreed to host a PALM Information Night on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm at the Royals Football Club - all welcome].

Mr Carl called for any other business, as there was none forthcoming Mr Carl closed the meeting and thanked residents and guest speakers for their attendance.

Meeting closed 10.05pm

Next Meeting:  
Wednesday 23d April 2003

## ATTACHMENT A

*Note: Read document with "View – Page Layout" = ON to see tables & charts.*

### **Weston Creek Community Council - For Information**

*The accompanying text is a precis of a paper tabled at the March 2003 meeting of the WCCC. The paper has been prepared by Phil Jones, a lecturer with the Canberra College Brain Gym since 1992.*

*The report covers Brain Gym enrolments and student demographics, and relates to the period 2000 to 2003.*

## **The Brain Gym**

**Exercise for your mind**

Community Education Program

Phone: [02] 6205 6786

<http://www.canberrac.act.gov.au>

### **Preamble**

Adult & Community Education (ACE) has been a popular part of Australian society for over 50 years. ACE is a world-wide education sector that has traditionally responded to the life-long learning desires of the community and society we live in. Classes are non-confronting, friendly and create positive opportunities for people to learn. Educational institutions across Australia now make increasing efforts to encourage further community participation in ACE; it is widely regarded as an extremely worthwhile learning opportunity for people of all ages.

The Canberra College Brain Gym at Weston, (the old Stirling College campus) receives over 2000 enrolment applications per year, and confirms the need for Adult & Community Education in our region. The partnership between the Canberra College and the Brain Gym has proved to be universally beneficial, and needs to be fostered to ensure the continued survival of the Brain Gym. During its decade of operation, the Brain Gym's 'profits' have provided an estimated \$250,000 for the operations of year 11-12 students at the day college, providing a bus for students, photocopy machines, library resources and much more.

### **Establishment of the Brain Gym**

Classes commenced in 1992 with about 20 classes being offered. After 5 years of operation the Brain Gym had grown considerably with 150 classes being offered over four evenings and Saturday mornings. Enrolment numbers during the mid 90's regularly exceeded 800 adults each term. While the Brain Gym was incorporated by the Stirling College association, with the amalgamation of both Stirling and Phillip colleges to become the Canberra College operating from two campuses, the Brain Gym is now operated across both campuses.

### **Background & review process**

This report relates only to the operations of the Weston (Stirling College) Campus of the Brain Gym.

This assessment has been undertaken into the student demographics, enrolment patterns, catchment area, advertising performance, student re-enrolment levels etc,

This has permitted the assessment to determine:-

- the popularity of courses offered,
- which are the prominent suburbs from whence our students come,
- how far are students prepared to travel to come to us,
- how effective / popular are day-time classes and
- what is the proportion of successful enrolments to total applications.

**We are Canberra’s largest college offering Adult Community Education.**

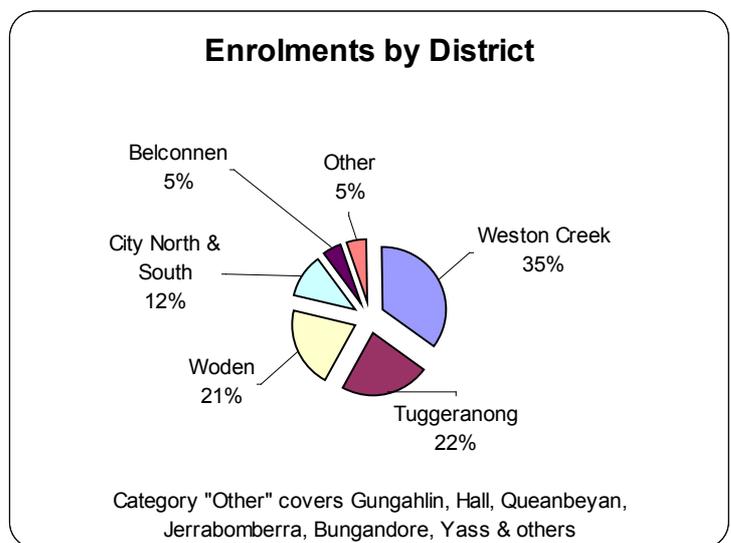
The Brain Gym is now in its 12th year with enrolments regularly *exceeding* 500 each of the four terms of the year. In years 2000, 2001 and 2002, the Brain Gym at Weston had a total of just over 6000 enrolments. The Brain Gym has a well-deserved reputation for excellence. In recent years the Brain Gym has expanded to offer both evening and day-time courses. Day courses have proved to be popular in several areas, particularly computing, with many students wishing to initiate training before returning to the workforce, and art & craft with students who are semi-retired exploring other activities they may have been unable to find time for during their working career. In years 2002-3 more day-time courses were planned to be offered as more classrooms become available, but have been put on hold due the proposed redevelopment of the building.

**Who are our students and where do they come from?**

The Brain Gym offers both recreational and professional training. Students range from teenagers through to retired people in their 70’s, although most students would be from mid 20’s to late 50’s.

It comes as some surprise to find that *only* one third of total enrolments come from the Weston Creek area. The largest suburbs in Weston Creek (Chapman, Weston, Rivett and Duffy) tend to dominate the enrolments, but all suburbs are well represented.

About 40% of our students come from Woden and Tuggeranong, while a surprising number comes from Belconnen, Gungahlin, Queanbeyan and Jerrabomberra. Although the Brain Gym doesn’t advertise itself as offering ‘distance education’ we do have a small number of students from Bungandore an and Yass.



**What are the popular courses & streams?**

As is the case with most ACE education, within the Brain Gym there is a strong representation of both the arts and combinations of vocational and/or professional courses. The most popular course streams (art & craft and computing) are offered with both day and evening classes.

The Brain Gym offers language training in both European and Asian languages including ESL, which is well supported by embassies and High Commissions across Canberra, as well as European and Asian cooking styles. The recreational dance courses range from traditional ballroom to the sensuous Latin-American, and also include health & fitness such as yoga and tai-chi and jazzercise. Computing courses encompass everything from introductory levels, office computing techniques through to small business accounting, while art & craft offers a number of watercolour painting, photography and pottery classes.

**How popular are day-time courses?**

Day-time courses have been offered for several years, and as day-college student numbers have declined following the population shift which is occurring across all of Canberra’s older districts, additional classrooms have become available for day-time use and an increasing number of day courses are being offered, with an commensurate take up rate as their existence becomes more widely known. Where identical classes are offered for both day and evening students, day-time enrolments are beginning to outnumber evening class numbers by **1.5:1** to **3:1**.

**Opportunities to increase Brain Gym enrolments**

Management of the Canberra College are well aware of population movement within the Weston Creek / Woden area, as evidenced by the declining numbers of teenage students. Additional to the population shift, Canberra is experiencing the dramatic alteration in the work-place, whereby large numbers of people in their 50’s are taking early-retirement, or being displaced, either through retrenchment or redundancy.

ACT Government figures<sup>1</sup> indicating projected population movements for Canberra are readily available (though difficult to interpret due to factual errors in some tables, and ambiguities throughout the accompanying text). They are broken down into districts, of which Weston Creek and north Tuggeranong are our main focus and thus can be used to provide the Brain Gym with a planning window for future growth.

These figures indicate that over this coming decade, Weston Creek & north Tuggeranong will have some 50,000 adults in residence. Half of these are in the pre & post retirement band - ie: they ‘will have time on their hands’.

This is something that the Brain Gym could capitalise upon with the targeting of new courses

From ACT Gov’t data			
Projected population, Weston Creek	21,950		
Projected population, north Tuggeranong		50,400	
Estimated working {ages 25 – 49}	7,700	16,500	24,200
Estimated pre-retirement {ages 50 – 64}	5,100	11,900	17,000
Estimated post retirement {ages >= 65}	3,950	4,100	8,050
Total, pre & post retirement age			25,050
Total, above & working age			49,250

<sup>1</sup> Population Forecasts for Canberra & Districts Yrs 20  
[www.act.gov.au/government/demography/htm/suburb](http://www.act.gov.au/government/demography/htm/suburb)

specifically aimed at clients in the mid 40's to late 60's bracket. I believe that the College/ Brain Gym could benefit from a series of surveys, seminars, workshops etc to get the views of this population.

Currently the Weston campus of the Brain Gym appears to achieve an enrolment of around one percent of the (Weston Creek / north Tuggeranong) total population eg: around 500 - 550 enrolments each term, or about one percent of the population without making a special effort. I believe that following such a review, it is not unreasonable to expect to double the current enrolments, especially if we target the pre & post retirement demographic group.

If we were to do so, a successful 'catch' *each term* of two percent could give us around 1000 enrolments.

### **Recommendations.**

- 1) that the ACT government, be urgently appraised of the status of the Brain Gym and its operations with the express purpose of keeping the college operating in full at the Weston campus.
- 2) that a review panel be created to survey the Weston Creek & north Tuggeranong business areas for potential activities that can increase the Brain Gym coverage & operations.
- 3) that the college undertake a series of community information sessions, seminars or workshops through the Weston Creek & north Tuggeranong areas, seeking information from residents regarding their desires for future Adult Community Education.

Produced by Phil Jones  
for the information of the Canberra College, Brain Gym @ Weston Campus.  
email:- philj@webone.com.au ph: 6288 5288

## ATTACHMENT B

An Information paper for Weston Creek Community Council from Barbara Brinton WCCC Representative on ACE

ACE is the Advisory Council on Adult and Community Education. Chair: Margaret Hamilton, Dean of the Centrelink Virtual College. ACE is a committee of the VETA (Vocational Education and Training) Board and the chair is the community representative on this board.

ACE Business Plan 2003 is being completed and has 3 goals, drawn from: Ministerial Declaration on Adult Community Education, from the Ministerial Council on Education Employment Training and Youth Affairs and the Curriculum Corporation August 2002. [www.curriculum.edu.au/mceetya](http://www.curriculum.edu.au/mceetya)

Goals 2003 are:

1. Expand and sustain innovative community based learning (eg Canberra as a Learning Community)\*
2. Raise understanding of the evolving role and increasing importance of adult community education (eg Adult Learners Week in September)\*\*
3. Improve quality of adult community education learning experiences and outcomes. (eg Grants for community projects). Other strategies include foster an expansion in community technology programs. Work with VETA to encourage an increase in apprenticeships, foster an expansion in adult literacy and numeracy ACE Grants for Adult and Community Programs Criteria and application information will be on TAE (Training and Education) website and in print media.

### \*Canberra: A Learning Community

Where industry, education, business and the community come together to encourage recognise and celebrate lifelong learning. It is a community that integrates economic, social and environmental development. Reference: Professor Philip Candy Chair, Ballarat: A learning City).

Adult Learning Australia (ALA) convened a working committee and meetings have commenced Canberra Learning Community Committee 2003.

Chair: Peter Kearns, Global Learning Services, member ACE Advisory Council  
Robin Ballantyne VETA and ACT Trades and Labour Council  
Susan Barr, Policy Group, Chief Minister's Department  
Sharon Carter Director of Training Communities at Work  
Dennis Coffey President ABL (Australian Business Limited,) ACT  
Selwyn Cornish Dean of Students ANU, ACT Board of Secondary School Studies (BSSS)  
Vaughan Croucher, Dean, Learning Services CIT  
Peter Cuzner EO Enterprise Education, Dept Education Youth and Family Services  
Tom Elliot Director Customer Services and Information 'Canberra Connect'  
Jill Faulkner Marketing Director Communities at work  
Helen O'Brien ACE

Barbara Pamphilon Head School of Professional and Community Education Uni Canberra  
Tony Robey Director Wizard Information Systems  
Rauny Worm, Director Community and Cultural Services Belconnen Community Services  
(cultural/arts/museums representatives to be announced)

More than a dozen communities in Australia have developed learning Community policies and strategies, the Victorian Government has a strategy and ANTA (Australian National Training Authority) funded 10 rural communities to pilot Learning Community projects promoted by ALA (Adult Learning Australia [www.ala.asn.au](http://www.ala.asn.au) Chair of ALA is Garry Traynor). Future reference: The ACT Government is preparing three Plans: Economic, Spatial and Social in discussion with the community.

Canberra a Learning community is likely to be discussed in the context of the Social Plan. One of the aims may be access for the entire community to technology eg the Internet and Internet training. Others may be partnerships, networks relevant to tonight's discussion about Stirling Campus; a 'Learning Precinct?' and to discussions about establishment of a Library.

Peter Kearns, Chair of 'Canberra Learning Community' has called a meeting of representatives from 10 libraries to discuss the defining of the role of the library within lifelong learning and welcomes input from the Weston Creek community.

ALA: Adult Learning Australia promotes and fosters the value of learning. It has a very varied membership, reflecting the extraordinary diversity of adult learning, which includes adult educators in universities, TAFEs, and community education providers; as well as community health and environment workers, librarians, individual tutors and trainers, volunteers and students. The association is a national body with members in all states and territories and a national office based in Canberra. It is funded by a grant from the Australian National Training Authority, membership dues, subscriptions and project revenue. National Office Postal address: PO Box 308, Jamison Centre ACT 2614 Street address: Cook Primary School, Templeton Street Cook ACT Email: [info@ala.asn.au](mailto:info@ala.asn.au) Phone: (02) 6251 7933 Fax: (02) 6251 7935

#### \*\*Adult Learners' Week September 1-7 2003

The theme is 'Understand your world'. An international festival of adult learning Celebrated since 1995 in Australia, Executive Director nationally: Francesca Beddie; there are state and territory co ordinators. Funded from ANTA Australian National Training Authority, ALA co ordinators. Strategies are on the ALA website: focus internationally on literacy and numeracy including IT literacy. Links with Australian Council of Adult Literacy (ACAL) [www.acal.edu.au](http://www.acal.edu.au) There are local and national awards. In Canberra these are presented at a dinner (tbc September 2 at CIT?). There will be numerous events that week.

Barbara Brinton