

# Woden Valley Community Council Inc.

The logo for Woden Valley Community Council Inc. features a stylized green graphic of a building or bridge structure with a curved line extending to the right, positioned above the text.

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## **Annual General Meeting 2011-2012**

**7 November 2012**

### **Chair's Report**

2011-2012 was another busy year for WVCC, in which we have reflected and represented community views on a wide range of issues.

Once again, the committee worked very hard – despite our small numbers we kept up a high work-rate.

### **Our meetings**

Our monthly meetings featured a wide range of presenters and issues. We hosted:

- Sheila Hughes, President of the ACT Chapter of the Institute of Architects on 'What kind of suburbs do we want in Canberra and how can that be achieved'
- Chris Purdon from Purdon Associates and Liz Porritt, CEO of the National Capital Private Hospital on concept plans to expand the hospital
- ESDD presentations on the draft Planning Strategy and the draft Transport for Canberra Policy
- Dr Paul Tranter on 'The Child-Friendly City'
- Grant Carey-Ide from ACT Health on energy sustainability at the Canberra Hospital
- Nick Georgalis (Geocon Constructors) and Alastair MacCallum (AMC Design and Management) on the refit of Julianna House
- A forum on Woden Valley's need for a Community Centre
- Krishan Aggarwal (developer) and David Pfaff (architect) on the Mandir Ashram proposal to increase the capacity of the residential aged care facility in Farrer (now called the Pines)

- Two pre-election forums, one for Brindabella candidates, the other for Molonglo candidates.

It was interesting to see Andrew Wall, one of the best-prepared and most personable of the Brindabella candidates, win a seat in the October 2012 election.

- Jenny Stewart organised and chaired - for the Combined Community Councils and PlanWise ACT - a forum on planning issues held in the Legislative Assembly reception room in September.
- Rod Baxter (LDA) and George Arena (Westfield) presented plans for the redevelopment of the Woden Bus Interchange.

In addition, our meetings featured regular reports on Transport issues (Henry Hatch and Chris Erett); Cycling and Walking (Martin Miller).

WVCC was saddened to see that Caroline le Couteur, Greens MLA for Molonglo and planning spokesperson, lost her seat in the October ACT election. Caroline has been a good friend to WVCC and assiduous attender, not only of WVCC public meetings but also Weston Creek and the inner south. We hope she will continue to use her formidable knowledge of planning issues for the community's benefit.

### **Achievements**

- WVCC representatives Chris Erett, Jenny Stewart and Henry Hatch attended several meetings with the LDA's Rod Baxter to discuss the redevelopment of the Woden Bus Interchange. While welcoming the consultative opportunity, WVCC has expressed its concern that the redevelopment is contingent upon commercial plans of Westfield.
- WVCC took part in an initial meeting with ESDD on ESDD's Sport and Recreation Facilities study in October 2012; it was pleasing that a revamped master planning exercise is underway. WVCC has been urging that this should happen for some time – we have made it very clear to ESDD that the new master plan should have legislative force.
- Improved communication with architects and developers, at least some of whom are now taking the opportunity to consult with WVCC before plans have sharpened into an actual development application, rather than after.
- Initiation of regular meetings with the Chief Minister. The first of these took place in February 2012 – we hope they will continue!

### **Representations and submissions**

During the year, the Council

- Testified to the Legislative Assembly's planning committee inquiry into DV 306
- Made a comprehensive budget submission (for the 2012-13 Budget) based on WVCC priorities
- Made a Submission on the Mawson Stormwater Proposal
- Made a Submission on the Hellenic Club's car-park re-development
- Made a Submission on the Woden 9 development application, pointing out many deficiencies in the proposal. WVCC's concerns appear to have been vindicated with the withdrawal of the plan for further revision.
- Made a Submission on the Review of the ACT Self-Government Act 1988 (Cwlth)
- Made a Submission on the Draft Planning Strategy
- Made a Submission on the reconsideration of ACTPLA's refusal of Mandir Ashram's proposal to increase the capacity of the residential aged care facility

All submissions were posted to the WVCC website.

### **Thanks**

My thanks go to the excellent committee Shirley Lithgow, Mike Reddy, Henry Hatch, Chris Erett, Martin Miller, Bill O'Brien and to Lance Williamson, our website developer. I would particularly like to thank Shirley Lithgow, who is stepping down as Secretary, for her wonderful work.

### **The coming year ...**

ESDD has recently announced plans for a master planning exercise incorporating Woden Town Centre, Athllon Drive corridor and Mawson Group Centre. WVCC looks forward to taking part in this exercise. But with only a very small active committee, we can only do so much! We desperately need new blood on the committee – this will have to be one of our priorities for 2013.

Dr Jenny Stewart

Chair

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