

SOUTHSIDE The Chronicle

DELIVERING COMMUNITY NEWS ACROSS CANBERRA AND QUEANBEYAN

Volume 18 No. 12

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2013

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EASTER ACTIVITIES
WHAT TO DO ON YOUR
LONG WEEKEND

>> PAGES 2-3



URBAN FARMING
COLLECTIVE AIMS FOR
CITY GROWTH

>> PAGE 17

Campus is born to educate

By Meredith Clisby

DESIGNS have been completed for a new \$14.5 million education and support facility for teenage parents at Canberra College in Phillip.

This will become the new home of the successful CC Cares program, which has given hundreds of teenage mothers the chance to complete their education.

The award-winning program has been operating at Canberra College's former campus at Stirling since 2005.

The move to the Phillip campus will open up the opportunity for students to participate in traditional academic schooling as well as the vocational programs already available.

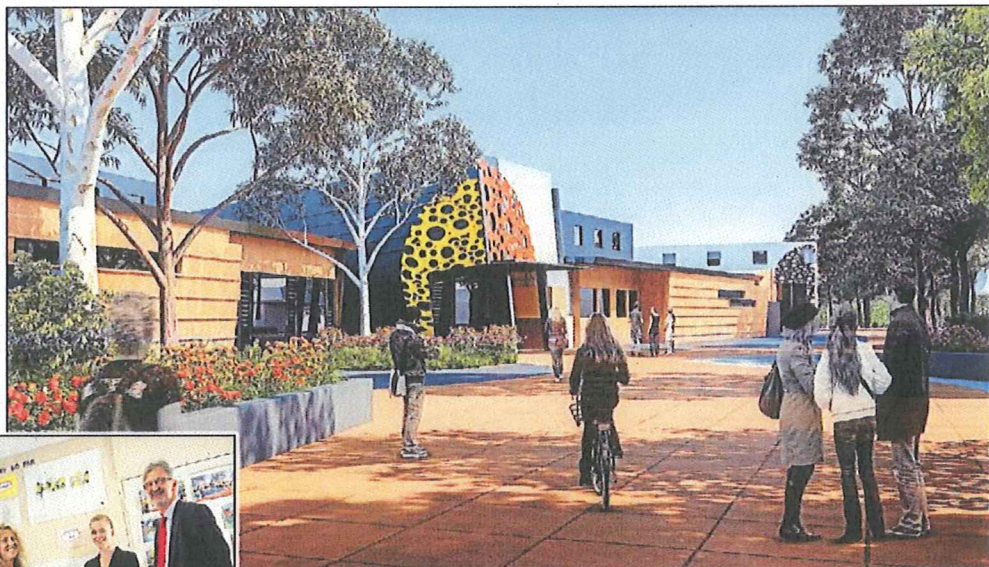
CC Cares deputy-principal Jan Marshall said staff were looking forward to the young people being co-located with the main campus, which would offer different curriculum and just the inclusion into the college as a whole would be a benefit.

"The philosophy of the program and the flexible learning environment will be maintained but our students, if they chose to, will be able to access mainstream courses and classes and just by design they reflect a different sort of package," she said.

The ACT government made an election commitment in 2012 to invest almost \$15 million into a new purpose-built facility over the next four years.

The complex will include learning spaces for students, a hospitality studio, an adjunct childcare centre and a range of parental and medical services.

Architectural design consultant May-Russell Architects was appointed



Artist impression of the new CC Cares facility. (Left) Canberra College CC Cares deputy principal Jan Marshall, former student Stevie-Lea Pedemont and Canberra College principal John Stenhouse are pleased with the new \$15m facility to be built at the Phillip campus. Picture: Elesa Lee

to prepare the facility designs in 2012 and has now completed the preliminary sketch plans.

CC Cares will be physically independent from the existing college buildings but will be integrated within the school community through technology facilities and the recently completed performance arts centre.

Canberra College principal John Stenhouse said it was likely the first educational facility in the world to be built specifically for young parents.

He said the students would be able to mix and match what they wanted to study and have the opportunity to be

involved in campus life. Former CC Cares student Stevie-Lea Pedemont was just a teenager when she gave birth to her now four-year-old daughter Charlie.

Through the support of the program she obtained her Year 12 certificate and is now in her third year of an architectural degree at the University

of Canberra. She said while the program had helped her to decide what she wanted to do with her life after school, she said the new facility would be just fantastic in the different opportunities it would give future students.

Continued Page 10

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THE CHRONICLE, Tuesday, March 26 2013 - 10



Hughes Primary School students take part in Harmony Day celebrations.

Picture: Elesa Lee

Young parents find an educational niche

Continued from Page 1

"I just love the fact that if the student wants to they can go into the mainstream classes as well and be able to merge with the other students, I would have loved that with my experience but I'm definitely happy with what I got out of it," Ms Pedemont said.

"I didn't even think it was possible to get my year 12 because I had my daughter when I was in high school, but CC Cares has helped me become more confident, I've met a lot of other young parents which has helped me socially and with my parenting."

ACT Education and Training Minister Joy Burch said each year enrolments continued to grow for the program which was the first and only of its kind in the country.

"The CC Cares program has offered education and support services for pregnant teenagers and young parents in the ACT since 2005, and I look forward to delivering this wonderful new facility for this program that has cared for so many young parents in the ACT," she said.

The facility is due to be completed in 2014.

Tuggeranong Community Council

By President Nick Tsoulias

THE Tuggeranong Community Council guest speakers for next Tuesday include owners of Isabella Gardens, Lend Lease to present Tuggeranong's newest retirement village, currently under construction and located on the corner of Drumston and Elleston Streets, Isabella Plains.

Our second guest speaker will be ACT Environment to discuss South Tuggeranong's new Emergency Services base, planned for Calwell/Condor.

Comments are welcomed for the Land and Development Agency SOUTHQUAY Greenway residential project. Residents of Tuggeranong can visit www.actpla.act.gov.au and click "have your say" tab. Then search for Greenway. SOUTHQUAY is the first stages for new residential for Tuggeranong and is part of the Tuggeranong Master plan, which the council supports.

The TCC meeting begins 7.30pm Tuesday, April 2, Southern Cross Club Tuggeranong. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Day of harmonious culture

By Meredith Clisby

STUDENTS from Hughes Primary School displayed traditional cultural clothing in a fashion parade as part of their Harmony Day extravaganza last Wednesday.

The parade, which involved children in all year levels, was the opening of a special assembly where students performed cultural dances and

other community groups carried out traditional music. This included performances from local embassies.

Earlier in the day the children participated in a rotation of activities including Nigerian dancing, origami making, hand painting and South Korean drumming.

There was also an elaborate feast which fed about 600 people.

Principal Kate Smith said Harmony Day was always a big occasion for the school as it was one of the most multicultural in the territory. The school is the home of the Southside Primary Introductory English Centre where children are taught English after they have just arrived in Australia.

The students then go to other schools in Canberra or stay on at Hughes. There are 43

different languages spoken by the students of Hughes Primary School.

Harmony Day organiser for the school Kerry Snell said the school community had enjoyed being part of the celebrations.

"It was just a wonderful opportunity to have our students who have come another country share their culture," she said.

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