Introduction

The social history of the ACT is rich and varied especially in the provision of volunteer community based organisations. As well as sporting clubs, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides and service clubs there are also many non incorporated associations, clubs and societies. Some community organisations have had a history written[1]. Where this has occurred ACT government archives may add a different facet to the organisation's own records. Many groups were based in the Griffin Centre from the 1960s to 2005 and a list of some of these has been published.[2] Some records and archives are quite specific[3] and other sources may be tangential[4].

Questions you may want answered:
When did the organisation start?
Where did it meet?
What government grants did they receive?
Who were the office bearers?

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[1] Foskett, Alan *Cricket in Canberra – Queanbeyan and nearby 1920-1970.* Campbell, ACT: A. Foskett, 2001. Foskett, Alan *A Capital achievement: Ainslie – Canberra's premier Australian football club 1927-2007.* Ainslie, ACT: Ainslie Football Club, 2007. *A history of the Canberra Croquet Club Inc. 1928-98* compiled by Helen Blackall ... [et. al.]. Hughes, ACT: Molonglo Press, 2000.

[2] *The pearly Griffin: the story of the old Griffin Centre* edited by Lizz Murphy and Sarah St. Vincent Welch ; with images by SeventyEight Commercial Photography. Canberra : ACT Dept. of Disability, Housing and Community Services, 2006.

[3] National Capital Planning and Development Committee 35/3/2 *Braddon: ice skating rink*: National Capital Development Commission *Ninth annual report for the period 1 July 1965-30 June 1966* page 42 paragraph headed Community Groups mentions Parents and Citizens Associations, Progress Associations and the A.C.T. Progress and Welfare Council. National Capital Development Commission *Eighteenth annual report 1974-75* page 56 section headed Community Recreation discusses the formation of the ACT Sports Council, the first enclosed rectangular playing field at Hawker and the fenced areas for mini-bikes at Florey and Narrabundah.

[4] Tangential references are in the National Capital Development Commission *Third annual report for the year 1st July, 1959 to 30th June, 1960* centre map which indicates development sites such as scout hall site and club site. The National Capital Development Commission *Fourth annual report for the period 1st July, 1960 to 30th June, 1961* centre map includes pony club and club sites.

When did the organisation start?

For information about incorporated associations contact the ACT Office of Regulatory Services:
http://www.ors.act.gov.au/licensing/Assocns/associations.html

Where did it meet?

Incorporated associations are meant to lodge annual returns with the Office of Regulatory Services. On application these returns will be searched by officers of the Office of Regulatory Services for a fee:
http://www.ors.act.gov.au/licensing/Assocns/assn2.html
Records of buildings and sites of activities still exist.[5]

What government grants did they receive?

The financial relationship between an organisation and the government is also a source of historical information. However, according to the authorised records disposal schedules financial records are kept for 7 years. Files of unsuccessful grant applications are not kept by government agencies. For business reasons, once the grant has been acquitted, files are not generally kept regarding successful grants. Some files have serendipitously survived. For example:

87/1546   ARTS & RECREATION BRANCH, BICENTENNIAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE GRANT SCHEME, CANBERRA FESTIVAL INCORPORATED, CANBERRA FESTIVAL FAIR / PAGEANT

87/6599   COMMUNITY PROGRAMS BRANCH, CHILDRENS DAY CARE SERVICES, SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE INCORPORATED

88/7514   ACT ARTS BUREAU, FINANCE, 1989 ARTS GRANTS, COMMUNITY RADIO 2XX INCORPORATED 1989

88/11443   ACT PARKS & CONSERVATION DIVISION, CDF GRANTS - FESTIVALS, AUSTRALIA DAY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL INCORPORATED

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[5] National Capital Planning and Development Committee. 32/6/1 Soliders' Club (sec 2, block 1, City)