Yarralumla Residents Association President's Speech Notes AGM 2026

The YRA is heading towards its 40th birthday and many members of the community have served on the Committee. There have been 19 presidents since the YRA was established in 1988 and over 120 individual committee members.

The current committee collectively represents nearly a century of service to the community. YRA membership is one of the largest for a residents' organisation being 17 % of the suburb's households.

The YRA has regular community events and also ensures residents have a respected voice in government deliberations and decisions that shape Yarralumla.

Of those renominating our 4 longest serving have clocked up a collective 64 years on the committee. The Committee meets around 8 times a year and works flexibly to fit in with members busy lives and family commitments.

2025-26 in Review-Community Events

1. Floriade Fiesta 13 September 2025 and 12 September 2026.
2. Yarralumla Does Christmas – 1 December 2025 and scheduled for 5 December 2026.
3. Canberra Marathon Festival 11-12 April 2026 – Volunteers on drinks stations provides funding to YRA.
4. Canberra Times Fun Run 2 November 2025 (and November 26 in 2006) Volunteers on drinks stations provides funding to YRA'
5. Clean up Australia Day Sunday 1 March 2026.
6. Tree Group – weekly activities.
7. Red Bows – since 2019.
8. 18 E-newsletters to members and 3 hardcopy letters to all in suburb.

2025-25 2025-26 in Review-Development Matters

1. Proposed redevelopment of BLOC Offices at 6 Bentham Street Yarralumla (DA 202443505). YRA Submission on 7 January 2026 on amended DA and a total number of public submissions 95. The previous YRA submission was on 10 March 2025 and there were 65 public submissions.
2. Forestry Place (Australian Forestry School Precinct Banks Street) - Section 119 Block 7). There was a briefing for the Community on the development in May 2026. Since then there has been clearing dead trees and mulching (free mulch for YRA Floriade Beds and an application lodged to demolish non heritage buildings.
3. 33 Hutchins Street and 39 Bentham Street Section 64 Block 19 Yarralumla DA202036734. The first DA was in 2007 and the recent DA lapsed on 9 September

2026. That is19 Years no redevelopment. YRA wrote to Minister and Chief Planner on the matter.

4. The Canberra Brickworks Development .Works commenced mid 2025– Wools, Schomburgk, Upper Bentham Street and Lane Poole Place significant issues with noise, dust, flooding and Bentham Street roadworks.
5. Minimbah Court - DA 202443246 Block 3 Section 59 Yarralumla 2 Schlich Street. The Building was vacated in 2020; the time from the ACAT Application to Decision was 5 months. Works finally commenced in March 2026 with demolition July 2026. Hence 6 years since it was vacated but ACAT took just 5 months.
6. YMCA Auxiliary Hall site Hall Block 3 Section 53 Yarralumla.- Community view sought y Government in November2025, Squatters December—February and site made secure. Successful Budget bid for funds to demolish June 2026.
7. Traction Power Station (TPS) –Public consultation on its proposed location in Yarralumla occurred 7 July to 5 September 2025. Following intense lobbying by YRA location was officially moved from Gunn and Guilfoyle Streets 4 May 2026.
8. Missing Middle Reforms to Territory Plan came into effect on 1 July 2026.
9. North Curtin Residential Area – YRA Submission 13 May 2206.
10. Light Rail Stage 2B EIS and Business Case released. Submissions on Draft EIS had closed 5 September 2025.
11. Draft Southern Gateway Planning & Design Framework July 2026 - YRA Submission 20 August 2026.

ACT Government Inquiries

1. Inquiry into the Provision of Municipal Services in the ACT. YRA lodged submission in February 2026 and appeared at Inquiry.
2. Inquiry into Financial Management and Government Procurement Legislative Compliance – YRA Submission lodged on 10 May 2026 and appeared at inquiry.

Representation

1. ISCCC (Inner South Community Council) YRA has 2 positions on Committee.
2. CRG (Community Reference Group) Infrastructure Canberra. YRA is a member of the Light Rail Community Reference Group.

General Advice on Community Issues

1. Cedar Removal in Banks Street and Reuse – August 2026.
2. Upper Bentham Street Road works – July 2026.
3. Thefts Kings' Birthday Weekend 8 June, Forestry Place and Bailey Place July 2026.
4. House fire Schomburgk Street 11 July 2026.
5. Novar Street Road Closure for resurfacing 16 March 2026.

YRA Committee

I would like to thank the 2025-26 Committee for their sterling contribution and farewell three members including our former President Peter Pharaoh. Their roles have been many and varied as follows:

YRA Committee 2025-26		No Years	Activities
President	Diana Wright	18	Lots of things including Submissions
Vice President	Anne Charlton-Bien	18	Event Organiser; Permit & Grant Applications; Website Manager, Hardcopy Newsletter Publisher & Suburb Delivery; Floriade Gardener and Cake Baker
Treasurer	David Johnstone	14	Financial Accountability-expenditure, payments& grant acquittals Membership d'lists and Renewals
Committee Member	Margaret Pentony	14	Red Bow Fairy 2019 -2025 Floriade Fiesta Flower Fairy 2025 & 2026 (mulch, weeding, watering planting, netting)
Public Officer	Peter Pharaoh	10	3 years as President, Tree Group Instigator and Manager
Committee Member	Chris Windsor	7	Event Support Organiser and Marquee Manager, Floriade Flower bed maintenance
Secretary	Ingrid Mitchell	6	Minutes, Room Bookings, Marathon & Fun Run Drinks Station Organiser, & Clean up Australia Day Manager
Assistant Secretary	Alan Froud	4	Heritage Grants & Sponsorship Fund Raiser
Assistant Treasurer	Tony Condon	2	Financial Administration Oversight
Committee Member	Darryl Kite	2	ISCCC Member; Light Rail Reference Group Member; Traction Power Station Lobby Group
Committee Member	Robert Herrick	1	ISCCC Member; Light Rail Reference Group Member; Traction Power Station Lobby Group; & YRA Submission Contributor
Committee Member	Nancy Mills	1	Public Briefing Attendance & Community Events Support
Committee Member	Sascha Colley	1	Community Events Support

In closing would like to say big thankyou to our sponsors for their generosity in particular the businesses at the Yarralumla Shops.

Thank you all for coming tonight and for your support.

Diana Wright
President
Yarralumla Residents Association
20 October 2026