Yarralumla Resident's Association

Presidents Report -2023/24

Annual General Meeting -10 September 2024

1 YRA and our community

The Floriade Gardens are at the local Yarralumla shops and at the Novar St/ Hooker St Pocket Park. This year 1600 tulips and 1600 annuals. Big challenges – keeping these watered, weeded and once the nets are off keeping the birds away!

Floriade Fiesta at the Shops. Next Saturday (21/9/24) -10.30am to 1/30 pm - join us for a "on the house coffee" and live music for the adults plus face painting and bubble blowing and other engaging activities for the kids. You can purchase your red bows here too. Come along and talk to your neighbours and about Yarralumla.

YRA Tree Group- meets every Tuesday at 9 am. 236 work bees over 5 ½ years, to the end of August 2024. This is the real reason Yarralumla's parks looks so great. This last year- primarily working in the grasslands and around the school and the school oval. Always coffee, biscuits and occasionally homemade desserts afterwards. Yarralumla's own gardeners – much appreciated by our community!

Our Sixth YRA Park table and chairs with disability/ pram access was erected near the Greek Australia Pre-school at Hill Corner. The equipment was funded entirely by the YRA. Big thanks to the Hellenic Club who paid for the erection of the table and chairs and paid for the concrete base pro bono. These park benches have involved an enormous amount of work by some YRA Committee members and much consultation with ACT Government. For our community to now enjoy.

Red Bows. December is Yarralumla's resident's time to decorate our trees with Red Bows. Did you know that a YRA Committee member is the rather secretive Yarralumla Red Bow Fairy? At the YRA Floriade Fiesta stall at the shops on 21 September 2024 we will again sell red bows.

Yarralumla's Heritage and History. The YRA has been successful this year in being awarded an ACT heritage grant to undertake the history of Yarralumla and combine our 2 tracks brochures into one. YRA was also successful in the award of another grant to erect 2 signs commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Hyatt and a sign at the Yarralumla Primary School to enable students to access local history electronically.

Yarralumla Primary School. YRA members are active in the school reading program and assist with school garden/surroundings maintenance.

Bollards. Last year the YRA geolocated all damaged bollards in Yarralumla. These have since been addressed by the ACT Government installing new bollards.

Canberra Times Marathon and The Fun Run. Each year YRA volunteers participate in the local organisation of these activities and run the drink stalls around Yarralumla.

Clean up Australia. The YRA is always an active participant in Clean Up Australia. Always surprising what is found.

The Yarralumla Uniting Church. The YRA maintain ongoing relations with the Yarralumla Uniting Church.

Positive feedback. – We receive so much feedback about what the YRA are doing in the Yarralumla Community. If you have an idea and can assist to bring it to fruition, tell us. After all the YRA is your community organisation.

2 Planning and Development

ACT Government Planning Legislation. The ACT Government proposed new planning framework finally took effect last year. The ACT Government largely ignored community concerns and introduced their new planning system their way in any case. Unfortunately, our community is no longer really being consulted on a neighbourhood redevelopment. We are seeing complete tree removal and deep excavations on blocks as more the norm now.

The Brickworks. Last year in November 2023, the ACT Government issued several proposed Development Approvals for work to commence at the Brickworks. The Brickworks development has now effectively been given the green light. The Yarralumla Residents Association will maintain a watching brief to ensure that individual developments within this area remain consistent with the plan for the Brickworks.

Former CSIRO Forestry site. The National Capital Plan was varied last year by the National Capital Authority. This has enabled the site to be used for around 380 dwellings, a hotel, and an aged care facility. YRA has not heard from either the NCA or the developer since these changes were approved early this year.

Minimbah Court. This ACT Government Housing complex has been vacant for over 4 years (excluding the period that there was a squatter). ACT(Government) Housing still will not disclose proposed developments or timelines for the development. In a time of increased need for social housing and increased homelessness, leaving valuable social housing vacant is really a community disgrace.

BLOC Redevelopment. The owners of the BLOC site (at the Yarralumla Shops) have signified their intent to redevelop their site into a higher rise mixed commercial /residential complex.

The Vacant blocks near the shops. We understand a DA has been approved with conditions still to be met.

North Curtin Horse Paddocks Development. Minister Chris Steel has proposed 1300 high rise apartments for this less than 20 Hectares of land. Your YRA put in a submission (as did our neighbouring Curtin and Deakin Resident Associations). Interestingly these possibly 6/ 9 storey high-rise blocks would have a density greater than the Woden or Belconnen Town Centres (with none of those centre's facilities) and enable visible access to the Governor Generals Official Residence, The Parliament House and The Lodge, as well as several diplomatic Embassies. From a Yarralumla **pe**rspective, without the Mint Interchange, traffic which is already problematic (since the Molonglo Development), would be further adversely impacted.

Novar/Kent St Bridge works. The new traffic lights make the route somewhat more pleasant, safer, and quicker, particularly for school children travelling to/from the Yarralumla Primary School.

Traffic Management. Traffic management continues to be an is an ongoing issue in Yarralumla**.** The Hopetoun Circuit /Adelaide Avenue intersection is a particular problem for pedestrians (and school children) going between Deakin and Yarralumla, illegal U turns, and plain lack of connecting footpaths. Our streets were not designed for the traffic volumes being experienced. Your YRA has been actively seeking pedestrian crossings across both the on and off ramps at Adelaide Avenue and a footpath in front of the Saudi Arabian Embassy, from the ACT Government.

YMCA- The YMCA Aquatic Recreation Centre remains empty, and the YMCA Auxiliary Hall is all but derelict. The YRA has met with the YMCA CEO several times to ascertain intentions.

The Yarralumla Wetlands. Some 14 years ago, the National Capital Authority proposed the establishment of the Yarralumla Wetlands as the drains enter Lake Burley Griffin (near Alexandrina Drive in Yarralumla Bay). This would reduce runoff and lake algae contamination. The YRA has submitted a grant to the Commonwealth Government's Healthy Waterways Program to commence preliminary works to establish this wetland.

A Traction Power Station and Construction Compound for the Tram slated for Yarralumla. The YRA has ascertained that there are proposals for a traction power station and construction compound for the tram - at the corner of Gunn and Guilfoyle Streets in Yarralumla. This is in the middle of a residential area on Urban Open Spaces (public park). This area has mature eucalypt trees, nesting hollows and is next to a storm water culvert to the lake. This is of considerable concern, given the construction activities, noise, heavy traffic, parking for many construction workers, and longevity of the construction period of 7 years plus (from 2028 to 2033).

YRA Submissions. Your YRA continues to make submissions on behalf of our residents. This year your YRA made submissions into Federally -the NCA on the former CSIRO Forestry site and to the ACT Government on the Curtin Horse paddocks proposed redevelopment and on the Brickworks development.

ACT Election – 19 October 2024. We, as a community, need to ensure that the important issues for Yarralumla are on the politician's agenda. Yarralumla is in the Murrumbidgee Electorate. The ISCCC has organised an election forum with candidates at the Yarralumla Primary School at 7 pm on 24 September.

3 Consultations /Submissions

ISCCC The YRA is a member of the Inner South Canberra Community Council. This is, if you like, the peak resident's council for the Inner South of Canberra. The ISCCC also makes many submissions on behalf of Inner South Residents.

Federal Parliament. Yarralumla is surrounded on three sides by National Capital land and on the fourth side (Adelaide Ave) NCA has oversight too. We have over 40 embassies in Yarralumla. National issues in Yarralumla are as important as local issues. The Governor General also lives in Yarralumla.

NCA. The NCA and the YRA maintain regular consultation to ensure that significant National impact on Yarralumla is understood and fully communicated.

ACT MLA's. The YRA maintain as regular as possible contact with our Murrumbidgee MLA's. Thanks to those MLA's that have assisted our community so much.

Minister Steel and the Tram. The YRA participates in Minister Chris Steel's Light Rail (also known colloquially as the Tram) Consultative Forum. This enables the YRA to participate in a form of transport that may have implications for Yarralumla in next decades.

TCCS. Once again, the YRA maintains positive working relationships with several people in TCCS. This enables us to communicate easily with city service managers as required. During the Novar St bridge closure this was particularly useful.

4 Your YRA Committee

This year its "Farewell to Robert Cassel". Robert is passionate about planning. Thanks, Robert, for your contribution to the YRA.

I wish to also acknowledge the support from the dedicated members of YRA Committee who, month after month, enable our association to do and achieve so much for our Yarralumla Community.

Finally, a huge thanks to the many residents of Yarralumla who support the YRA. Yarralumla is a great community to live in, bring up the next generation and to enjoy our open spaces and nearby lake.

Your support makes it all worthwhile.

Thanks everyone.

Peter Pharaoh

President

10 September 2024