Yarralumla Resident's Association

Presidents Report -2024/25

Annual General Meeting -23 September 2025

1 YRA and our community

Our Floriade Gardens are at the local Yarralumla shops again (for the 5th year). This year, the gardens have been redesigned and look more beautiful than ever. Big challenges – keeping the flowers watered, the weeds away and now that the nets are off keeping the birds off too!

Floriade Fiesta at the Shops. Saturday (13/9/25) -10.00am to 2pm. What a fantastic day and the weather co-operated - "on the house coffee", home baked cakes and live music for the adults, plus face painting, clay painting and other engaging activities for the kids- all against a backdrop of Yarralumla's own Floriade Gardens.

Yarralumla Does Christmas. Well even though Yarralumla experienced one of its wettest December days last year, we still enjoyed ourselves immensely indoors at the Yarralumla Uniting Church in Denman Street. There was live music, lots of kid's activities, take away pizza and much much more to enjoy. The weather does not stop us in Yarralumla celebrating or meeting our neighbours and friends in the festive season.

YRA Tree Group- meets every Tuesday at 9 am. Our very own Tree Group has been going for 7 years now. We remove woody weeds, blackberry, undergrowth and low and fallen branches from our parks and green spaces. This is the real reason Yarralumla's parks look so great. This last year- primarily working along Denman Street. Always coffee, biscuits and occasionally homemade desserts afterwards. Yarralumla's own gardeners – much appreciated by our community!

Red Bows. December is Yarralumla's resident's time to decorate our trees with Red Bows. The YRA website has all the details how to purchase, make and even tie your own red bow.

Yarralumla's Heritage and History. The YRA assisted the National Trust of Australia ACT in the development of content to produce an updated version of the "Self-Guided heritage Tour of Yarralumla ". This National Trust brochure is now available. With an ACT heritage grant, the YRA developed content and installed two Canberra Tracks signs, one commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Hotel Canberra (now the Hyatt Hotel of Canberra) and another at the Yarralumla Primary School. The Grant also enabled the provision of additional information on the historical overview of Yarralumla on the YRA website.

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

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.

Yarralumla Uniting Church. The YRA maintain ongoing relations with James Ellis from Yarralumla Uniting Church. The YRA Tree Group has recently been clearing undergrowth around the Church to reduce fire risks.

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. Or better still join the YRA Committee. The YRA Committee provides lots of opportunities to assist our community after all the YRA is your community organisation.

2 Planning and Development

ACT Government "Environmental Impact Statement" (EIS) for the tram to Woden. 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 coming decades.

A few months ago, the ACT Government issued its EIS for the tram to Woden. This EIS consultancy cost the ACT Government around $88m to produce. There are major implications for Yarralumla residents. These include a large and imposing traction power station in the Gunn Street Park (this is the subject of a separate E Petition), considerable traffic/access implications at Hopetoun and Novar Streets (where they join Adelaide Avenue) and long-term construction disruption on or near Adelaide Avenue. Ignoring building a Mint Interchange, reducing traffic lanes on Adelaide Avenue and taking away the Roundabout at Woden, will also have long term implications.

A Traction Power Station for the Tram slated for Yarralumla. The ACT Government has proposed to build a traction power station for the tram - at the corner of Gunn and Guilfoyle Streets in Yarralumla. This is in the middle of a residential area on designated Urban Open Space (public park). This area has mature eucalypt trees, nesting hollows, visited by the Gang Gang cockatoo and the endangered Superb Parrot and is next to a storm water culvert to the lake. This is of considerable concern, given the construction activities, noise and vibrations, heavy traffic, and longevity of the construction period of 5 years plus (from 2028 to 2033).

ACT Government Planning. The ACT Governments new planning legislation has enabled developments that largely ignore community/neighbours' concerns. 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. The Brickworks development started a few months ago. The YRA maintains a watching brief to ensure that individual developments within this area remain consistent with the plan for the Brickworks. Your YRA Committee has met several times with DOMA. Opening Brickworks Way access, rather than construction traffic using Denman Street has been a priority.

Former CSIRO Forestry site. The variance to National Capital Plan has enabled the site to be used for around 380 dwellings, a hotel, and an aged care facility. Since these plans were approved, the developer has, just recently, put the whole 11-hectare site up for sale.

Minimbah Court. During the last year the ACT Government issued a development application for some 37 units on this site. The site remains derelict with nothing happening yet, as it has for the past 5 plus years.

BLOC Redevelopment. The owners of the BLOC site (at the Yarralumla Shops) have submitted a DA to turn the site into a 5-storey mixed commercial /residential complex. The YRA and the Yarralumla Community put in 65 objections to this redevelopment, which closed in March 2025. Nothing has been heard since.

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 last year proposed 1300 high rise apartments for this less than 20 Hectares of land. 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.

New Pedestrian Crossings. Finally (after years of lobbying by the YRA), the ACT Government is constructing pedestrian crossings across both the on and off ramps from Hopetoun Circuit at Adelaide Avenue. A footpath to connect these new pedestrian crossings, in front of the Saudi Arabian Embassy, is unfortunately not part of these works. The YRA has an E Petition out now to complete this missing footpath. We have also been successful in getting 2 new pedestrian crossings on Alexandrina Drive (where the bike path crosses). We continue to lobby for a pedestrian crossing where the bike path crosses at Weston Park.

Traffic Management. Traffic management continues to be an is an ongoing issue in Yarralumla**.** Our streets were not designed for the traffic volumes being experienced. New developments will only further add to this problem.

YMCA. The YMCA Aquatic Recreation Centre remains largely empty. The derelict YMCA Auxiliary Hall has been handed back to the ACT Government, who are seeking community input as to potential future use of the site.

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. Unfortunately, while blue/green algae severely restrict use of Yarralumla Bay, this has been given a low priority by the ACT Government.

YRA Submissions. Your YRA continues to make submissions on behalf of our residents. This year your YRA made a comprehensive submission into the proposed BLOC Development at the Yarralumla shops. The YRA also provides input and participates in ISCCC submissions.

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

ACT Election – 19 October 2024. Yarralumla is in the Murrumbidgee Electorate. The ISCCC organised an election forum with candidates at the Yarralumla Primary School at 7 pm on 24 September 2024. While 4 of the 5 MLA's were returned, we have a new Independent MLA in Fiona Carrick. Fiona has sponsored our 2 E Petitions and is very active in our local community.

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.

4 Your YRA Committee

This year its "Farewell" to Jan Tankiang, Michael Gardiner and Carolyn Fitzwarren.

I will also be standing down after 3 years as President. Alan Froud will also be relinquishing the Vice President role. Both Alan and I have offered to stay on the YRA Committee. The YRA needs new committee members to enable not only renewal but to undertake all those tasks our community appreciates. There are 3 vacancies going forward. If you can, please support the YRA by nominating for the new committee.

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 family and to enjoy our wide-open spaces and of course nearby Lake Burley Griffin.

Your support makes it all worthwhile.

Thanks everyone.

Peter Pharaoh

President

23 September 2025