

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - YARRALUMLA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting 19 September 2017

The YRA started the same year as Floriade, so we will be 30 next year. We had 150 financial members at the end of June 2017 including household members and individual members. If we assume 2 members for each household, we had 256 members at the end of June 2017.

The YRA is represented by a committee of up to 13 members.

- We had a change in the committee following the last AGM. Former President Robyn Cooper stepped down in late 2016, but we were pleased to welcome Marea Fatseas back. I would like to thank Robyn for her contribution to the YRA over many years.
- The YRA is fortunate to have a very strong committee. Past President Marea Fatseas, our treasurer David Johnston, Paul Flanagan and myself have represented the YRA on the Brickworks Community Panel since it started in November 2015. Margaret Pentony was also an alternate member of the panel up until the most recent stage.
- Vice President Mike Lewis and our Public Officer Diana Wright have been willing and able to look at some other issues affecting Yarralumla that would have been overlooked otherwise.
- All committee members have contributed in their own way and I thank them all.
- It is important to remember that the YRA is a volunteer organisation and everyone contributes to the extent they are able. We unfortunately do not have the capacity to deal with all the issues, but we try our hardest.
- I would also like to point out that some of us have day jobs and active social lives. Our Vice President is currently in Iran, our Treasurer is in Europe, and our Secretary is in the US.
- All but one of the current committee will be standing for re-election this year and I thank Amit Munjal for his contribution during the past year.

Next, I would like to highlight some of the activities we undertook during the year ending June 2017.

1. Submissions and letters of support

- Letter of in principle support for the Yarralumla Play Station to build a maze (November 2016)
- Submission concerning the Canberra Grammar Girls Rowing Shed (December 2016)
- Representation on the DA at the Curtin Shops (Block 2, Section 62, January 2017)
- Submission on draft variation to the Territory Plan DV348 (Active Living Principles, Feb 2017)
- Submission on the draft heritage management plan for the CSIRO Yarralumla site (May 2017)
- Submission on Light Rail Stage 2 (June 2017)
- [Submission for the Inquiry into the planning, management and delivery of road maintenance in the ACT (July 2017)]

2. Community Events

- Yarralumla Does Christmas
What a fantastic event! I would like to extend my appreciation to Belynda Buck for producing and directing the concert, rehearsing the child performers, and coordinating the decorations with local preschools and primary schools. We couldn't have done it without Belynda. We were also fortunate to have the support of the Wesley and Yarralumla Uniting Church, the Heritage Nursery, the Yarralumla Primary School, the Yarralumla IGA, GGs Florists and a bevy of performers and back stage crew who donated their time and talents.
- We are still discussing plans for 2017 and unfortunately cannot confirm details yet.

3. Canberra Marathon

YRA members, assisted by volunteers from Canberra Grammar School and Canberra Girls Grammar School, once again ran the drink stations in Yarralumla. We will be seeking volunteers again for next April. This activity also generates almost \$2500 a year for the YRA bank account.

4. Yarralumla Primary School

The YRA continues to provide an annual award to encourage and recognize community mindedness of students. We have also donated \$250 to the 60th anniversary paver campaign. YRA committee members have represented the community at recent school events. We also arranged for joint meetings with the ACT government about traffic and parking and are currently working on a Stronger Communities Grant and will have an information stand at the fete.

5. Canberra Brickworks Precinct

Doma Group has been selected as the preferred tenderer, but the contracts have still not been signed. Doma are keen to present their plans to the community as soon as the contracts are signed. The Community Panel has been meeting almost monthly since November 2015 and meetings now take place in Doma's office. Community Panel meetings are to continue monthly throughout the construction phase that is estimated to last another 5 to 6 years.

6. Traffic and Parking Issues

We have been talking to TCCS about Dudley Street and the new brickworks access road, while using the opportunity to discuss broader issues affecting Yarralumla. We prepared a comprehensive analysis of the issues, which we presented to ACT government officials as well as to Kurrajong members Steve Doszpot and Elizabeth Lee. Shane Rattenbury is waiting for us to propose a date, and then we will approach the Chief Minister and Rachel Stephen-Smith for a meeting. We have walked the suburb with TCCS representatives, discussing issues including traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, speed limits, bollards at the shops, and parking solutions.

7. YMCA

We continue to monitor the breach of the Master Plan and have received verbal confirmation that the YMCA will move its headquarters out of Yarralumla Bay by the end of 2017.

8. CSIRO Yarralumla Site

This site near the corner of Bentham and Banks Street is Commonwealth Government land and leased until 2022. We are actively monitoring the site and possible uses.

9. Other development matters

Other matters of focus during the past 12 months include several stalled housing projects such as the one on the corner of Bentham Street and Hutchins Street. We have numerous meetings with ACT government officials and continue to monitor developments.

10. Inner South Canberra Community Council

The YRA is a member group and 2 of our committee members represent the YRA at bi-monthly meetings. Both the current Chair and Treasurer of the ISCCC are also on the YRA committee. The ISCCC arranges several interesting forums throughout the year and we encourage our members to attend. The ISCCC also makes submissions on broad issues that affect the residents of Inner South Canberra as well as providing supporting submissions when requested by one of the local resident groups.

11. Storage

We talked to various government entities about storage options due to our accumulation of sign boards, Christmas decorations and YRA archives sitting in garages across Yarralumla. We were fortunate that the Southern Cross Club in Woden has provided us with free storage.

12. Communications

- We maintain a website, a noticeboard at the shops, periodic newsletters to members, a twitter account with 571 followers, and distribute newsletters to all residents three or four times a year.
- We conducted a logo design competition during the year and redesigned our newsletters and produced a general brochure.
- Our first survey on the Light Rail Stage 2 was a success and we plan to use this tool to survey our members' views on more issues.
- I would particularly like to thank Alissa Page for managing our Twitter Account, Denise Page for updating the noticeboard, and Anne Charlton-Bien for working on our website upgrade and managing our newsletters.

I would also like to mention two matters that we are actively working on for the coming year.

13. Commonwealth Government Stronger Communities Grants

We have been looking at ways to use the YRA funds that would benefit the Yarralumla community and realized a couple of months ago that we could apply for a Stronger Community Grant to co-fund capital works projects in Yarralumla. Our applications have been endorsed by Federal MP Gai Brodtmann and we expect to receive confirmation in the next couple of weeks. Assuming we are successful, we will be co-funding almost \$17,000 worth of capital works projects. The projects are 2 new park benches, a drinking fountain at the shops and two defibrillators - one to be located at the school and one in Weston Park.

14. Tree Maintenance Volunteer Group

We are talking with the ACT government about establishing a YRA Tree Maintenance Volunteer Group. The first task of this group would be to cut the suckers off trees in public areas and on verges. We are working on an MOU with the government and our committee member Peter Pharaoh is going to lead the group. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet at the door.

The committee and I look forward to your continued support in the coming year.

David Harvey
YRA President