

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
YARRALUMLA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
AGM 8 September 2016

Welcome to the YRA's 28th annual general meeting. We are a strong group and had 163 financial members at the end of June 30, 2016, which equates to about 15% of the households in Yarralumla.

Some of the YRA's key activities and achievements in the past year can be summarized as follows:

1. Public Meetings

August 2015: Presentation on the vision for an Artisan Hub at the brickworks

December 2015: Meeting to confirm the YRA proposed parameters for the brickworks.

Mach 2016: Meeting to present the Brickworks Community Panel objectives.

2. Submissions and letters of support

- A submission on the exposure draft of the National Capital Plan (July 2015)
- A submission on draft amendment 86 to the National Capital Plan (November 2015)
- A letter of support for the Molonglo Catchment Group's successful application for an ACT Environment Grant of \$23,000 to do work on Caring for Ngunnawal Pathways, which will be predominantly used to enhance the biodiversity value of Stirling Park in Yarralumla.
- A submission concerning DV346 Solar Access. We were pleased with the government decision to only apply the amendment to blocks in subdivisions approved after July 2013.

3. Community Events

- The Yarralumla Picnic at Weston Park on March 6.
- A Party at the Shops was originally planned, but this was postponed due to the lack of ACT government sponsorship and the prospect of sponsorship in 2017.
- We are pleased to announce plans for a Christmas event to be held on December 17 in Weston Park, which is to be produced by one of our members Belynda Buck. Tentatively called Yarralumla Does Christmas with plans for a picnic and concert from 5pm.

4. 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.

5. Yarralumla Primary School

Last year, the YRA commenced an annual award to encourage and recognize community mindedness of students at the Yarralumla Primary School. We congratulate Alyssa Poretti and Isabella Buchanan, the inaugural recipients.

We are also looking at other ways to work with the school and you will note from our most recent newsletter that we are encouraging residents to volunteer directly with the school.

6. Canberra Brickworks Precinct

The 2 short-listed proponents have been announced and the Community Panel will next meet on September 21 to discuss the tender, which is scheduled to commence in October. Five YRA committee members have been involved in the process to date and we all agree that this has been a productive approach. While there are still no guarantees concerning the ultimate outcome, the process has forced the government and the developers to give serious consideration to the objectives and parameters formulated by the community.

7. Other Development Matters

Other matters that have been a focus of the committee during the past 12 months include the ongoing breach by the YMCA of its lease clause and a number of stalled housing projects such as the one on the corner of Bentham Street and Hutchins Street. These matters are currently being discussed with the ACT Government and the NCA.

Canberra Girls Grammar also met with the YRA to consult on their plans for a new rowing shed.

8. Other Matters

Dogs in Weston Park, Orana Bay and the surface of the car park in front of the Yarralumla Dog Park are all ongoing issues. The YRA has met with government representatives to seek resolution and the matters are still outstanding.

9. Inner South Canberra Community Council

The YRA is a member group and 2 of our committee members represent the YRA at monthly meetings. Apart from providing the YRA with some financial support, the ISCCC also arranges forums of interest to our members such as the forthcoming Meet the ACT Candidates Forum on September 27. The ISCCC has also been supportive on the Brickworks Community Panel.

10. Communications

We maintain a website, a noticeboard at the shops, periodic newsletters to members, a twitter account with 500 followers, and distribute newsletters to all residents three or four times a year. We have also produced a brochure to promote the YRA and solicit new members. Our most recent newsletter and the brochure used our new logo. We have also moved away from yellow paper to cut costs.

11. Committee

For most of the year we had a committee of 13 and I would like to thank all of them for the hard work and dedication throughout the year. Each and every committee member contributes to the running of the YRA in their own way, but I would like to make particular mention of the committee members who have represented the YRA on the Community Panel.

Three of our committee members will not be standing for re-election this year.

Former YRA President Marea Fatseas is running as an independent candidate in the forthcoming ACT elections. We wish Marea all the very best for the election, but also hope that she might rejoin the committee if unsuccessful this time around.

Alissa Page has managed our Twitter Account and was actively involved in the organization of our March picnic. We are fortunate that Alissa has agreed to continue managing the Twitter feed. Jannet Harris unfortunately stepped down due to health reasons and we wish her the very best.

Many members have had a turn at being on the committee during the past 28 years and some of you remain actively involved in various ways including delivering our newsletters. I would like to extend particular thanks to Denise Page for maintaining the YRA noticeboard and the members of the brickworks subcommittee.

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

David Harvey
YRA President