

YARRALUMLA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 18 September 2010

2.30p.m. Uniting Church Hall, Denman Street, Yarralumla

WELCOME

Dorothy Jauncey welcomed attendees, advised that she would be chairing the meeting as the President Robyn Cooper was overseas.

APOLOGIES

Shane Rattenbury, Jeremy Hanson, Andrew Barr, Katy Gallagher, Gai Brodtman (Member for Canberra), Robyn Cooper, Caroline Fitzwarryne, Robin Brown, Rae and Gerry Jacobson, Mary Mond, Susan Sutton, Edwin Bien

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2009 AGM

Motion: "That the minutes of the AGM of 19 September 2009 are approved"

Moved: Graham Wright

Seconded: Greg Cornwell

Accepted

THANKS

Dorothy thanked Paul Ratcliffe for his supervision of the YRA website. Paul was also thanked for organising Yarralumla's contribution to Clean Up Australia day. A thank you was also extended to the owner of First Choice Dry Cleaners for the many years YRA's notice board was hung in their window. A further thank you was expressed to the owner of the Yarralumla Newsagency where the board now hangs.

REPORTS

General

Denise Page read the Presidents Report in her absence overseas (Appendix A) on the activities of the YRA during the year.

Treasurer

Les Landau presented a written audited Treasurer's report (attached Appendix B) Current bank balance as at 30 June 2010 is \$. Membership was approximately 130, up from 100 last year

Motion: "That the audited financial report for 2009/2010 be approved"

Moved: Les Landau

Seconded: Steve Thomas and John Sutton

Accepted

A vote of thanks was given to Les Landau for his work as Treasurer.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Motion: "That Fraser Argue be appointed Auditor for the 2010/2011 financial year" (attached Appendix C). Special thanks to Fraser who again audited the accounts

Accepted

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nominations have been received from existing members; **Les Landau, Robyn Cooper, Anne Charlton-Bien, Peter Abbott, Denise Page**

New nominations have already been received from Yarralumla residents **Robin Brown** for President; **Marea Fatseas** and **Caroline Fitzwarryne** for committee.

Further nominations were sought from the floor. A nomination from **Diana Wright**, was seconded by Greg Cornwall. **Janie Gillespie** also later nominated

All nominations were accepted and the nominees were all appointed to the committee of the Yarralumla Residents Association.

Anne Charlton-Bien presented Dorothy Jauncey, who is stepping down from the committee, with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for the many years she has given to the YRA.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dorothy Jauncey introduced the Guest Speakers who are all representatives from our Molonglo electorate in the present ACT Assembly, Simon Corbell (Labor), Zed Seselja (Liberals) and Caroline Le Couteur (ACT Greens). Each guest will speak for a short time on their vision for “green infrastructure” as is relevant to Canberra residents, after which questions will be invited from the floor. (Appendix D)

Dorothy Jauncey closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming and invited everyone to join the committee and partake in afternoon tea.

A vote of thanks was given to Dorothy for her excellent chairing.

APPENDIX A

The following is a summary of the President's report as presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Yarralumla Residents Association on 18 September 2010. It outlines the main issues with which the YRA committee has been involved over the past year.

1. The replacement of ageing trees

The guardianship of the green infrastructure that forms the character of Canberra, and is integral to the history of Yarralumla, will be a key issue over the next decade. The YRA committee would like to acknowledge the consultative manner in which both the NCA—the National Capital Authority, and TAMS—Territory and Municipal Services, have acted in relation to tree management around our suburb.

On 10 March, the Chief Executive of the NCA, Mr Gary Rake, led a tree walk around the Dunrossil Drive area to talk about the state of the ageing trees there, and to discuss NCA plans to incrementally replace them as needed. Then on 18 July, Ms Fleur Flanery of TAMS, and Mr Geoff Butler, an independent arborist, conducted a most interesting 'walk and talk' in Weston Park to look at some of the older trees there scheduled for removal. The group of residents who braved the cold and foggy Sunday morning, appreciated the input from Fleur and Geoff, and now have a better understanding of the causes and signs of trees dying, and the reasons for removal. Committee members continue to be in frequent contact with TAMS about tree questions from residents as they arise.

2. Community consultations with the NCA

Over the past year, several members of the YRA have participated in the two Canberra-wide community consultations re wider issues across the ACT. It is very pleasing that the NCA is making every effort to connect with residents in a strategic manner about the future of our city.

3. The Y Sailing Club

Building activity there in July caused the YRA committee to contact ACT Planning Authority (ACTPLA). A stop work notice was subsequently put on the building as a result of our complaint. An interior refurbishment plan was later approved by ACTPLA for both floors of the building, and we are also advised that the exterior refurbishment was approved by the NCA in May of this year.

Nevertheless, there is some local concern that the upstairs area, when building is completed, may be used for office space for the YMCA administration staff. However, the present 9b lease on that Block only allows up to 10% office space. The YRA committee is keeping in close touch with ACTPLA about this, as we have concerns about the implications for the Recreation Hub area with any possible future application for a change of lease.

4. Other local issues

The 'new-look' YRA newsletters over the past year try to list community activities and events, as well as keep residents up to date with the issues as listed in this report. The participation of the YRA in this year's Clean Up Australia on 7 March was most successful, and we thank all the residents who participated.

5. Inner South Community Council

On 7 July a large meeting of residents of the inner south endorsed the formation of a Inner South Community Council. YRA committee representatives worked alongside other

residents' associations and individuals from Griffith, Deakin, Red Hill, Symonston, Narrabundah to develop the Constitution.

Each residents' association is assured of two places on management, and then take the lead on matters pertaining to their own suburb. They can also reserve the right to approach the Council for support with issues of more local importance. The council also must defer to the views of local residents' associations on any matter affecting that particular local suburb. For instance, the Council will support the views of Yarralumla residents as a priority, with regards to decisions about the Canberra Brickworks and its environs.

At its first meeting, the Inner South Community Council committed to the development of a strategic plan for the Inner South This focuses on protecting green open spaces and the bush capital concept. Council also committed to retaining, preserving, and enhancing the public open spaces of the Inner South, and to pursuing the issue of proposed changes to concessional leases.

6. The Canberra Brickworks and Environs Project

In early April of this year, the YRA was approached to participate in a consultation process for the ACT government's Brickworks Project and accepted two positions on the Brickworks Reference Group. The planning strategy undertaken has been run by the Land and Development Agency (LDA). So far their consultations have included:

- a community survey
- 3 community newsletters (not always delivered to every household in Yarralumla as promised)
- 3 reference group meetings
- 3 community conversation meetings, 19 May, 30 June and 17 August

Key findings from the community meetings attended by people across Canberra are that three major positions are supported by over 60% of attendees:

- that green open spaces remain
- that the Brickworks itself be preserved
- that traffic congestion not be increased

These views are consistent with the view of the Yarralumla residents as put forward at a meeting held by the YRA on 3 August.

However, there remain many issues that need to be resolved regarding the ACT government's handling of the project. Just some of these include

- community request for separation of the heritage preservation of the Brickworks, as against plans for building development
- community request for a slowing down of the process to investigate other sources of funding for heritage preservation
- apparent disregard for the historical basis for the green barrier to the north and west of Yarralumla (designed by Burley Griffin as a protective boundary)
- apparent disregard for current zoning of the area under question
- concerns about traffic, also in light of the developments in Deakin and the new Molonglo suburbs; also concerns about congestion and the present parking difficulties at Yarralumla shops, a matter of real concern to some of our more elderly residents accessing the medical centre, pharmacy and so on.

These are only *some* of the key issues. However, the YRA will continue to strongly represent the view of our residents, and broaden the reach of our voice in partnership with the Inner South Community Council about the Brickworks project.

APPENDIX D
YRA AGM 18 SEPTEMBER 2010
SHORT SUMMARY OF GUEST SPEAKERS ADDRESS ON
“GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE” PERTAINING TO GREEN OPEN SPACE

ZED SESELJA

What do we value in Canberra? Other cities have better climate and are bigger. Canberra’s livability, ease of traffic movement, garden city concept needs preserving. Government’s challenge of changing city, maintenance, ageing population with aged moving into apartments and aged care and smaller blocks. Parks and green spaces become even more important. How to approach this. Need for right development in right places, ie main town centres and group centres should meet need for apartments without impinging on green open spaces. Stormwater harvesting and water infrastructure to maintain green spaces. All need to be funded, but can be done. Mr Seselja questioned some development in inner Canberra and opposes developments like the new Hopetoun Circuit, Deakin complex as size out of character. Developers have quoted Wollongong or other cities to him as good models. His answer is he doesn’t want to live in Wollongong or anywhere else. It is important for government to make good policy decisions.

SIMON CORBELL

The brickworks has been debated for 12 years with no outcome. Canberra is a city of growth with new challenges. Labor’s platform is to manage better and protect the garden concept, i.e. restrict infill to areas in centres, audit open space and identify areas to be protected. Said he is proud of Hill Corner, Yarralumla, where pocket park was recognized and saved from development. Labor has a strong record of addressing issues, clean air, physical environment, hot summer trees. How to address challenges? Answer, increases in density close to public transport, services and shops, close to green spaces. Need to blend old/new but also higher densities.

Moving forward, brickworks and development, a difficult nut to crack. The 4 options – heritage value of industrial site; improvement in value regardless of what happens; feedback of options from community; other opportunities government interested. Process of consultation, want people to agree. Manage population growth and garden city.

CAROLINE LE COUTEUR

Largely agrees with colleagues and particularly the bush capital concept. Grew up here. Climate change – scientists predict 2% temperature rise next few years. Committed to 40% green house gas reduction. Green infrastructure important but need to adapt climate change. Peak oil – petrol and private car, change good for people. Health – fattest nation in world, need change and demographic change. Parents moved to Page as old age residents from Yarralumla. Keeping green open space, Canberra will get cleaner. Population - enquiry into population carrying capacity of ACT, Burley Griffin didn’t plan for our population. As we get denser important for green open public space, spaces that don’t need maintenance. Not all highrise and trees important. Buildings – good energy efficient homes, better design. Transport – better bus system, facilities, maintain walking and cycling paths. Generating energy – solar panels. Brickworks – important and should be preserved, financial need, government intending it to be cost neutral. Heritage – government responsibility and should not be contingent on what happens next to it. Geographically related but not cost related.

QUESTIONS ASKED

- Water quality of Lake Burley Griffin and need for closure each summer.
- Why the need for a large increase in population?
- Concern about the loss of heritage buildings.
- Why are the brickworks and infill automatically linked?
- Why isn't government putting money to brickworks conservation, why do residents of Yarralumla have to pay for it by doubling suburb?
- What has happened to the Yarralumla Neighbourhood Plan and why isn't it being adhered to?
- LDA proposal on Option 4 doubles the suburb population within a small area with no concrete changes to infrastructure
- How much guidance does government give to LDA?.
- How can you justify so many commercial buildings with high vacancy rate?
- Vacant block Novar St near shops. What is timeframe for a rebuild?
- Government is immoral in tying brickworks to infill – should be treated separately
- After 3 public consultations where 60% of attendees (rising to 80% at third meeting) requested conservation of brickworks, preservation of open green space and no further traffic through Yarralumla why has the LDA consultants come up with Options which contradict public consultation? No one is listening so is public consultation by the government through LDA just an exercise in going through the motions and a waste of taxpayers money?