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Yarralumla Residents' Association Annual General Meeting 10.09.06 —held YMCA Sailing Club

President's Report

This was given by Mac West; see separate attachment

Treasurer's Report

Mike Roarty presented the report. Major expenses incurred during the year are fees for the YRA Website, printing costs (pamphlets), hire of the Sailing Club for the AGM. The treasurer suggested that a membership drive was necessary, as subscriptions collected at AGM are not covering costs. Bank balance: \$450.

Election of Officers

The following 9 members were nominated, seconded and voted in:

Debbie Argue	Susan Banks	Mary Bennett
Jan Carey	Janet Harris	Dorothy Jauncey
Les Landau	Catherine Madden	Lynn Russell

Mac West and Mike Roarty are not standing for renomination.

Office bearers will be chosen by the new committee at its first meeting.

Invited speaker re the Yarralumla Bay Recreation Hub

Hamish Sinclair from the NCA spoke about the National Capital Authority's plans for the Yarralumla Bay. He outlined NCA plans for West Basin and encouraged members to visit the plans and make submissions prior to closing date of 6 October. Such submissions will contribute to a draft concept plan.

In the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

- * The 'Griffin Legacy' principles include the idea that the community should be able to interact with the lake in different ways at different places in the city.
- * Yarralumla was built with Novar street as an avenue aligned with Black Mountain, initially as an urban node, but since has developed as a more informal recreation area.
- * Tree plantings should remain.
- * NCA is developing guidelines for the existing and possibly expanded uses of the Yarralumla Bay area (Weston Park to the Yarralumla Bay beach).
- * Plan for recreational hub is envisaged to be for the next 30 years
- * The lake is for all Canberra Residents; ferry connections may be involved, rowing clubs have asked for an expanded facility for regattas.
- * Water quality issues need to be addressed (possible installation of 'smart ponds')
- * Present road is very close to the lake; lake edge has ugly, inappropriate crash barriers; lake frontage needs to be improved; cycleway should be realigned.
- * Sensitive landscaping of car parking areas will be necessary
- * Yarralumla will NOT become like Kingston foreshores; lease purposes for the area are for tourism and recreation.
- * Tourist accommodation, licensed clubs currently prohibited; restaurant/s allowable.
- * There should be easy waterfront access, but many concerns about motorised boats
- * The lake, surrounding open spaces, and parkland are currently the subject of a Heritage study, which must be taken into consideration.
- * Infrastructure development may be necessary on National Land; the ACT Government must resolve works on Territory land based on whether there is

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sufficient capacity; otherwise the developer may be required to provide the infrastructure.

* Will this process lead to the alienation of public land? No - the land will remain as leasehold land and as such will belong to the Commonwealth Government.

Other issues

Yarralumla Primary School

Deb Foskey, ACT Greens, spoke about the announcement, earlier in the year, of school closures. Present ACT government plan is for YPS to cater for K-Year 3 only. Concerns were raised re students having to 'move' schools at Year 4, that school closures do not offer financial savings envisaged, and that the value of the site for residential development could lead to the school being closed.

Heritage Cottages in Hutchins Street

The development application (DA) proposed for the intersection of Bentham and Hutchins Streets was discussed. It was suggested that concerns about the multi-unit nature of the development may not be grounds for opposing the development as it is within the 'Core Area' as defined in the Yarralumla Neighbourhood Plan. Concern was expressed by several members that heritage values were not being protected, and that development notices were not displayed for the requisite time. The designer of the DA noted that the development was in accordance with necessary rules and was in line with a ruling of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Recruitment drive

It was suggested that the YRA should have a recruitment drive—perhaps a stand at the shops on a few weekends each year.

Infrastructure in the suburb

It was suggested that the YRA should campaign to have infrastructure improved. Meeting was advised that the Access City Hotline on 6257 3077 can be contacted re footpaths, public lighting, etc.

Thanks

A vote of thanks was recorded to Mac West as outgoing President, and to Margaret Wace for providing the afternoon's refreshments.

Susan Banks
Interim Convenor

Yarralumla Residents' Association—Annual General Meeting 10.9.06 President's Report: Mac West

I believe that the role the YRA to be a conduit for information, and this should work both ways.

Firstly—although not very frequently—things come in from the grass roots level; these are, typically, quite specifically focused and related to people's particular concerns. For example, concerns about the development of Stirling Ridge as the new site for the Lodge, about the units down the road or the house next door, about practical issues like footpaths, street lighting and so on, or about water-skiing on the lake.

All of these are valid concerns, and we should do our best to try and find out what we can, and shed some light on the issues that are involved. Wherever possible, people should be aware of their rights and know how to go about expressing their views. They should also appreciate that their concerns will not necessarily be heeded!

Sometimes, it is such particular issues that bring people into the YRA and on to the Committee—for example things like Heritage redevelopment in Schlich Street, redevelopment proposals in Hill Corner, or—in my case—the destruction of the character of the suburb have all helped to fire people up. Getting involved is a good way to find out about the issues (including those which differ from your own, of course, and it's important to see things in their broader context) and at least feel like you're able to do something instead of just sitting back and feeling cranky about things you don't like. And it's a good way of getting in touch with other people who may well feel exactly the same.

The second way the conduit works is from the top down, and it's this way—rather than from the bottom up—that we tend to receive most information. For example, the issue that started off earlier this year concerning the possible redevelopment of the Embassy Motel site in Deakin has more recently expanded to include the former Solander Galleries site and the flats at the bottom of Hampton Circuit. The broader context involves a review of height provisions governing the main approach avenues into the city—they set what is permitted and even encouraged in these areas, many of which are in our neighbourhood.

Similarly, ACTPLA's Review of the ACT Planning System may seem a bit of a nebulous topic, but it's absolutely what you should be concerned with if you have strong feelings about the nature of local development. If it's permitted within the planning guidelines, then what basis do you have for objecting to something? If they are thinking of changing the planning guidelines, therefore, you should be very interested in what they are proposing.

So, you could make a submission: it doesn't have to be big or all-encompassing, even if the scope of the whole review is. Sort out what's relevant to you. You might find when you are more informed that by understanding the context better your first impressions become modified and that you're willing to see the positives of something that to you feared was wholly bad. This might be a good attitude to adopt, because there's many other influences acting on the Government and its Departments and Agencies and sometimes it feels that even the worthiest public submission can end up having no effect. If nothing else, at least you had your say and made your point!

An issue that has concerned us in the past year has involved the access—or rather, lack of access—of the people living in the inner southern suburbs to representation via a Community Council. Every other part of the city has such a body, and in its absence all of the various residents' associations attempt to provide part of the service but in a much more piecemeal way. In our correspondence with the different government agencies it is clear that they would be happy to have such a body in existence to liaise and work through, it's just that the government is not going to establish it. That seems to be up to the community, and typically to a few energetic and enterprising people that want to band together to do something for the public good. Funds are available, so if anyone out there needs a worthwhile and challenging opportunity do get in touch with the Committee and they'll point you on.

As for myself, I've had an enjoyable and interesting few years of involvement with the Committee of the Yarralumla Residents' Association and I'd commend the experience to anyone. My main regret is the small progress made in updating the website, and I aim to put some personal time into this matter in the coming year, with the spare time I will have on my hands after resigning as President. I'd like to thank Paul Ratcliffe for the work he has put in to maintaining the site, and I hope we can build something that's a better resource for residents over the next 12 months.