

YARRALUMLA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 22nd September 2015 at 7pm

Yarralumla Primary School Assembly Hall, Loftus Street, Yarralumla

Welcome: Marea Fatseas, President

Attendance: The meeting was attended by 38 Yarralumla Residents Association members.

Members: Marea Fatseas, David Harvey, Anne Charlton-Bien, Janie Gillespie, Janet Harris, Margaret Pentony, Paul Flanagan, Ian Brown, Louis Dooley, Teffany Thiedeman, Caroline Fitzwarryne, Graham and Jick Wright, Kit Cooke, John Davidson, Paul Ratcliffe, Ben O'Bryan, Margaret and Greg Cornwell, Phil Perman, Robyn and Greg Tegart, Ingrid Mitchell, Brian Polden, Peter Lundy and Margaret Bremner, Robert Twin, Landon Carter, Joanna Zubrzycki, Rod Page, Steve Doszpot, Sarah McBurney, Rita and Tony Crawford, Rita Powning, Gary Kent, Mark Durham, Don Anderson, (Catherine Sykes – Woolls St)

Apologies: Robin Brown, Edwin Bien, Lesley and Tony Condor, Robyn Cooper, Theodore Hooy, Anthony and Gillian Hill, David Johnstone, Mike Lewis, Matthew Long, Peter and Janet McGhie, Alissa Page, Kathleen Wilkinson, Diana Wright, Chris Windsor, Andrew Yallop

Minutes of 2014 AGM: These had been posted on the website and copies were available at the meeting. Graham Wright moved the motion that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Paul Flanagan. The motion was carried.

President's Annual Report: Marea Fatseas

Marea Fatseas presented her President's Report (Attachment A) outlining the activities of the YRA Committee for the year 2014/15. Marea welcomed everyone to the YRA's AGM reminding the meeting that this was the 27th year of the YRA.

Marea Fatseas acknowledged the incredible effort that the Committee and YRA members had contributed to the various submissions that had been submitted in the past year, in particular the outstanding work on the proposals for the development of the Brickworks and environs. The recent back down by the ACT

Government illustrates the power of advocacy by local residents and Community groups. The YRA is cautiously optimistic about the development.

The Yarralumla Residents Association has a proud history of working in support of Yarralumla residents to protect and enhance the amenity of the suburb. In the past year that has involved, addressing parking and traffic issues at the shops, updating the Website and the Notice board, representing the YRA at ISCCC and other community meetings and being involved with the Canberra Marathon.

The YRA joined with the National Trust in organizing walking tours to celebrate the centenary of the Staffordshire kiln at the Canberra Brickworks. The YRA organized a members evening for the performance of *Anthology* and ran a stall at the Yarralumla Primary School Fete. Support has also been given to the Molonglo Catchment Group, Friends of Grasslands and Save Stirling Park Group.

Marea Fatseas informed the meeting that due to the wishes of the Yarralumla community the YRA was planning another 'Party at the Shops'. To be held on Sunday 6th March and invited members to join the planning committee.

Marea Fatseas concluded her address by informing the meeting that she was standing down as YRA President and thanked her fellow committee members and the YRA members for their support.

Anne Charlton-Bien moved the motion that the President's report be accepted, and seconded by Margaret Cornwell. The motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report: David Harvey on behalf of David Johnstone.

David Harvey presented the audited income and expenditure statement for 2014-2015. Copies were available at the meeting. Greg Cornwell moved the motion that the report be accepted, seconded by Caroline Fitzwarryne. The motion was carried. David Harvey informed the meeting that Sue Ross, the previous Treasurer of the ISCCC would continue to be the auditor for the coming year and that the YRA has now approximately 185 household members and 95 ordinary members.

Appointment of Auditor:

The motion to reappoint Sue Ross as Auditor was moved by Caroline Fitzwarryne and seconded by David Harvey. The motion was carried.

Subscription Fees:

The meeting approved that the subscription fees remain at the current level. Households \$30 and Single members \$20. Graham Wright moved the motion that the subscription fees be accepted, seconded by Phillip Perman. The motion was carried.

Election of Committee Members:

Nominations received both before the meeting and from the floor:

- **President:** David Harvey
- **Vice President:** Margaret Pentony
- **Secretary:** Janie Gillespie
- **Treasurer:** David Johnstone
- **Public Officer:** Diana Wright
- **Member: Newsletter Editor** Anne Charlton-Bien
- **Member** Marea Fatseas
- **Member** Robyn Cooper
- **Member** Paul Flanagan
- **Member** Janet Harris
- **Member** Alissa Page
- **Member** Mike Lewis
- **Member** Chris Windsor

These nominations were accepted by members of the YRA attending the meeting.

Questions/ General Discussion / Other Business:

The LDA proposal for the Brickworks and environs was the main topic raised by YRA members at the meeting. The LDA had proposed various workshops in October, November, February and June to discuss planning objectives. Each workshop was to have a different topic with 12-15 community members involved.

Members at the meeting were still in disbelief about the changes to the Brickworks site from 1800 units to 380 with development to start in 2017-18. It was believed the dramatic change was to enable the development to be fast tracked. Members were also concerned about the possible loss of trees on the area surrounding the Brickworks.

Steve Doszpot thanked Marea Fatseas and the Committee for their sterling work. He raised the issue that Yarralumla residents were not anti-development but were against bad planning. He was concerned about the lack of consultation by the current government.

Gary Kent, Chair of the ISCCC, informed the meeting that the ISCCC supported local residents groups, especially the YRA. The ISCCC will hold a community forum before the upcoming ACT election. He believed the Chief Minister was 'glad to get rid of [Brickworks] problem'.

Other issues raised were:

- The need to get commitments from all political parties before the election about the Brickworks development.
- The Brickworks should be separated from big density infill.
- The level of residential design in ACT is very poor.
- YRA has been putting forward suggestions for 27 years.
- LDA can't be trusted and should be watched carefully.
- LDA have been doing various activities across Canberra

Discussion followed in regard to the upcoming community workshops proposed by the LDA for the Brickworks development.

Issues raised were:

- LDA have different definitions to everyone else
- Who drafts the recommendations
- Who are the group members
- Election next October – bother the politicians

Vote of Thanks:

David Harvey, incoming President, thanked everyone for coming to the evening meeting. He informed the meeting that there were many forthcoming activities awaiting the Committee in the next year notably the consultations about the Brickworks were on the horizon. Mr Harvey then welcomed the new members both to the Committee and the YRA and invited all attendees to enjoy the evening. The Secretary, Janie Gillespie gave Marea Fatseas a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the YRA.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
YARRALUMLA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
AGM 22 September 2015**

1. Introduction

Welcome to the YRA's 27th annual general meeting since our Association's incorporation in 1988. We have had another busy year, dominated by our response to the revised development proposal for the Canberra Brickworks and environs. We are delighted that YRA membership reached 183 households in the last financial year. That means about 15 percent of Yarralumla households have gone to the trouble of paying membership fees, demonstrating that we continue to have the confidence of the Yarralumla community. Of course, we hope to increase this membership further in future.

Some of the YRA's key activities and achievements in the past year were:

2. Proposed Brickworks and environs development

Thanks to the ongoing advocacy of the YRA, our members, other Yarralumla residents and many other stakeholders in Canberra, the ACT Government announced on 28 August 2015 a much smaller development than proposed previously for the Brickworks and environs. The site area has been reduced from 49 to 16 hectares, maximum building heights have been reduced from 8 storeys to 3 storeys, there will be a maximum of 385 apartments or 175 townhouses, and the ridgeline and trees will be retained. This is a great outcome and we look forward to working with the ACT Government to ensure a development that is more in character with the existing suburb.

The YRA is cautiously optimistic about the results and will closely monitor the formation of plans for the proposed Precinct.

It is important to realize the new plan does not solve the congestion on Dudley Street since the Mint Interchange is no longer part of the plan. We also remain concerned about how the precinct will interface with Bentham Street, Lane Poole Place, Schomburgk Street, Woolls Street and Denman Streets in particular.

You will recall that in February this year, the ACT Government released a revised Brickworks and Environs Planning and Development Strategy (2015) with a density of over 1800 dwellings, compared with the 1600 dwellings proposed in 2014 and the 990-1100 dwellings proposed in 2010. We were also shocked to discover plans for massive earthworks that would have flattened the ridges and buffers and the forest of about 2000 trees.

At a public meeting on 14 March this year, Yarralumla residents emphasised that we should use different approaches to respond, including linking up with other stakeholders across Canberra and developing a strategy in the lead up to the 2016 ACT elections. We did indeed link up with a range of community organisations and also ramped up our meetings with elected representatives. The YRA also hosted a presentation from current Brickworks tenants on 20 August 2015 where they explained their vision of turning the Brickworks into an Artisan and Designer Hub. As a result of all our efforts, we were very pleased with the ACT Government's recent change of heart, and look forward to finding out more details of what is proposed.

While the Artisan and Designer Hub proposal has met with favorable response from our members and the wider community, it is not currently part of the government's plan for the Precinct. We will continue to talk to the government about the Artisan and Designer Hub proposal along with other plans the government may have for revitalizing the brickworks to ensure the best outcome for residents and long-term conservation of the brickworks.

We thank YRA members and the broader Yarralumla and Canberra community for engaging so actively in the consultation process, including by lodging your own personal submissions in response to the Brickworks and environs development proposal, by contacting your elected representatives, writing to the newspapers and in social media, and participating in meetings. I would like to thank YRA committee member Diana Wright in particular for her fantastic work on the YRA submission. I would also like to thank all those volunteers who assisted us with their expertise, including retired urban planners such as Wanda Kaucz and Tony Powell, retired transport planner Paul Ratcliffe, media and legal experts and others in our Brickworks subcommittee and elsewhere in Canberra who assisted us with our response to the latest Brickworks and environs proposal.

The YRA's meetings with elected representatives included:

- Katy Gallagher, first as ACT Chief Minister on 30 October 2014, and then as ACT Senator on 22 August 2015.
- TAMS Minister, Shane Rattenbury, walk around site on 2 November 2014 and then meeting on 23 June 2015.
- Senator Zed Seselja, guided walk around site on 5 November, 2014.
- Mick Gentleman, Planning Minister, in 2014 and on 16 June 2015.
- Attendance at public meeting organised by Steve Doszpot and Canberra Liberals on **16 April** 2015 to advise on its response to the ACT Government's proposed Canberra Brickworks and Environs development.
- Gai Brodtmann, MP, on 9 June to brief her on national capital issues related to the proposal.
- Attended, and was invited to submit questions at, the biannual hearings on the National Capital Authority by the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories on 18 June 2015.
- Chief Minister Andrew Barr on 28 August 2015.

The YRA Committee has also met and liaised with a range of other stakeholder groups, residents associations and community councils, with a view to identifying common concerns and interests. We cooperated with the Deakin Residents Association, Inner South Canberra Community Council, Weston Creek Community Council and other community councils, as well as the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (ACT Chapter), National Trust, Molonglo Catchment Group, SEE-Change, Friends of Grasslands and others. We raised our concerns at the National Capital Authority's public forum on 30 April 2015 and provided briefings about our concerns directly to the NCA, as well as copying our submissions to the Office of the Governor General.

We would particularly like to thank Steve Doszpot MLA and YRA Member for his ongoing support during the past two years on this and other issues affecting Yarralumla.

3. Asbestos at the Brickworks

Stage one of the asbestos remediation process was completed before Christmas. The finding from the site investigations was that there may be up to 7,533 tonnes of asbestos contaminated material plus many tonnes of other fill in the dump and surrounding area. Therefore, the remediation of the Canberra Brickworks site has been deferred to occur during the remediation process of the broader Canberra Brickworks and Environs project. This will eliminate the need for trucks containing contaminated material to travel through Yarralumla streets. Several measures were undertaken to ensure the area is safe, including covering the site with soil, completing the security fence to fully enclose the area and implementing a 'Soil Capping Procedure for Contaminated Soil' plan.

3. Other planning and Development issues

The YRA lodged a comprehensive submission on the exposure draft of the revised National Capital Plan in July 2015. This is important for Yarralumla because significant areas in Yarralumla are subject to the National Capital Plan. We also prepared a submission on Draft Variation 343 to the Territory Plan concerning proposals to change planning laws to enable dual occupancies on Mr Fluffy house blocks larger than 700 square metres.

We have continued to make representations to the ACT Government and National Capital Authority about the YMCA sailing club, including by lodging a Controlled Activity Complaint, to ensure the premises are used for the lease purpose of aquatic recreation rather than as the YMCA headquarters. We will continue to make such representations. We took interest in the auction of the land at Yarralumla Bay that was purchased by the Canberra Girls Grammar School. The principal of that school has indicated that the school will consult with residents in future in relation to the use of that site, which will be primarily for aquatic recreation (rowing).

The YRA lodged a submission in late 2014 in response to the ACT Government's draft variation to the Territory Plan to remove the urban open space public land overlay for Yarralumla Nursery (block 3 section 123) to reflect the commercial uses of part of the land. However, as a result of public consultations, including the YRA's submission, they have agreed to retain the urban open space overlay for the English Garden near the Yarralumla Nursery.

4. Parking and traffic management at the Yarralumla shops

Following a range of representations, including from the YRA, the ACT Government implemented a low cost option to address parking problems at the shops that included time-limited parking restrictions around the shops, and increased short-term parking on Hutchins Street and at the north of Bentham Street where parking was previously unrestricted.

5. Cooperation with the Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC)

As noted earlier, the YRA has been liaising closely with the ISCCC on the Brickworks and environs development proposal, as well as a range of other planning issues affecting inner south Canberra, and we thank its chair Gary Kent and other members of the ISCCC committee for their support. The YRA would like to acknowledge also the annual financial contributions of the ISCCC towards YRA newsletter costs. For its part, the YRA publicised ISCCC public forums such as the ISCCC Public Forum on 9 July 2015 on Residential Asbestos in the ACT (Mr Fluffy).

6. Communication and events

Our Committee has continued upgrading the YRA website, and maintaining a social media presence through Twitter and Riot-ACT, as well as sending regular e-mail newsletters (about fortnightly) to members about relevant developments. Our hard copy newsletters were delivered quarterly to every Yarralumla household: in November 2014; and in February, July and September 2015.

We also maintain a noticeboard at the Yarralumla shops, where we maintain a calendar of Yarralumla events and notices relevant to the community such as the Neighbourhood Watch meetings. In the past year, we have had numerous media interviews about the Brickworks and environs development.

YRA organized a members' showing of the innovative outdoor theatre production *Anthology*, 29 November 2014, which showcased the history of the former settlement at Westridge in Stirling Park. The YRA had a stall at the Yarralumla Primary School Fete on 22 March 2015. This helped raise awareness of the issue at the Brickworks as well as raising some funds for the school.

The YRA has co-operated with the Friends of Grasslands (FOG) and Save Stirling Park Group in publicising monthly work parties at Stirling Park. We have also supported the efforts of the Molonglo Catchment Group, FOG and Ngunnawal traditional custodians to restore woodland at the eastern end of Stirling Park.

The YRA's partnership with the National Trust to run walking tours of the century old Staffordshire kiln and Canberra Brickworks on 11 April 2015 as part of the ACT Heritage Festival was a great success, with demand for tickets exceeding supply.

The YRA also volunteered to run the drink stations for the Canberra Marathon on 12 April 2015. This was our second year of involvement and we thank the residents who woke up early to help. We plan to make this an annual YRA event. Not only is this a great way to show that Yarralumla residents are welcoming, but the YRA also receives a donation from the organizers for each volunteer we provide. We once again enjoyed the support of students from Canberra Boys Grammar and Canberra Girls Grammar to supplement our contingent of resident volunteers.

7. Changes in committee and thank you

I would like to end by thanking my fellow committee members for your support during the three years in which I have been YRA President. After a hectic three years, and given the Government's decision to pursue a much smaller development in the Brickworks and environs in the lead up to the next election, this is a good time to have a smooth succession to new leadership in the YRA. I have every confidence in the capacity of those nominated for positions on the committee to work effectively, if elected at this AGM, in support of members' interests. We are lucky to have a strong committee, and it is important to rotate leadership so that we can develop an even stronger and well-rounded committee. For my part, while standing down as President, I am seeking re-election to the committee, and will retain a strong interest in Brickworks and environs, and other planning matters.

Thanks to David Harvey for standing in the President's position while I was away for six weeks. It turned out to be a very busy time with the announcement of the Government's decision on the Brickworks and environs development, with heavy associated media interest. Thanks David for doing a great job in my absence.

Besides my committee, I would like to thank Denise Page for maintaining our noticeboard at the shops, as well as all those YRA members and other volunteers who have helped us throughout the year,

especially in responding to the Government's proposals for the Brickworks and environs, and in delivering our YRA newsletters to households.

We look forward to your continued support in the coming year.

Marea Fatseas
YRA President