

YARRALUMLA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 19 September 2009

2.00pm, Uniting Church, Denman Street, Yarralumla

WELCOME

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

APOLOGIES

Shane Rattenbury, Tony Hill, Helen & Ian McAuley, Frank van de Loo & Lanie Stephens, Michael Wagner & Patricia Fuary, Ian and Margaret Clark, Alan & Pam Ray, John Mulveny & Liz Morrison, Landon Carter, Julia Trainor, Peter Abbott, Robyn Cooper, Janet Harris

APPROVAL OF 2008 AGM MINUTES

Motion: 'That the minutes of the AGM of 20 September 2008 be approved'

Moved: Graham Wright

Seconded: Greg Cornwell

Accepted

REPORTS

General report:

Anne Charlton-Bien read the general report (in the absence of the president) on the activities of the YRA during the year. See **Appendix A**.

Moved: Max Simpson-Morgan

Seconded: Joe West

Accepted

Dorothy thanked Paul Ratcliffe for his supervision of the YRA website. The owners of the Yarralumla Dry Cleaners were also thanked for the use of one of their windows to display the YRA information notice board.

Treasurer's report:

Les Landau presented a written audited Treasurer's report.

Current bank balance as at 30 June 2009 is \$1,706.93.

Motion: 'That the audited financial report for 2008/2009 be approved'

Moved: Les Landau

Seconded: Malise Armstrong

Accepted

Les Landau spoke to a motion on a change to Membership in the Constitution.

Motion: 'annual dues paid after 1 April become members for 18 months'. Discussion and questions from the floor—nil.

Moved: Les Landau

Seconded: Greg Cornwell

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 2009/2010 financial year’
Special thanks to Fraser who again audited the accounts.
Accepted

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nominations have already been received from the following existing members:

Anne Charlton-Bien
Robyn Cooper
Dorothy Jauncey
Janet Harris
Les Landau
Denise Page

A nomination has been received from Peter Abbot (apologies for today already noted) nomination seconded by Dorothy Jauncey.

Further nominations were invited from the floor – none received, however Dorothy to have further talks with several other YRA members.

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

Dorothy Jauncey thanked Max Simpson-Morgan, who is stepping down from the committee, for his contribution to the YRA over the past year.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dorothy Jauncey introduced the guest speaker, Ms Fleur Flanery, Manager of the Urban Forest Renewal Program for the ACT Government, who will discuss what will be involved in this renewal process.

Ms Flanery gave a power point presentation in which she spoke about the background to the process, and what will be involved. See **Appendix B**

Mr Gary Rake, Chief Executive of the National Capital Authority, also spoke about tree renewal for which hat the NCA is responsible, specifically in Yarralumla—elm replacement in Dunrossil Drive, and future renewal work planned in the area adjacent to the Brickworks where pines are Sirex-infested and dying.

At the conclusion of the presentation, residents were invited to ask questions of Ms Flanery and Mr Rake about the program.

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

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

APPENDIX A: General report

Over the past 12 months, the YRA committee has been involved mostly with issues to do with planning in the ACT, and keeping abreast of proposed development planning in Yarralumla by monthly (or often more frequent) contact with phone calls and emails back and forth with ACTPLA (the ACT Planning Authority), TAMS (Territory and Municipal Services) and the National Capital Authority. This has also involved several meetings with TAMS and the NCA at their offices. We try to find out, on the community's behalf, what is the latest news on the Brickworks, the Yarralumla Recreation Hub, Weston Park, the elm replacement on Dunrossil Drive, and so on.

A few of those issues follow:

We were very pleased in June to learn of the withdrawal of DA 53, which had proposed changes to the land use area in the Albert Hall precinct. This was the result of many community groups including the YRA, and in particular the Friends of the Albert Hall. We look forward to the retention of the heritage values of the site and are delighted to see work has already begun there, as evidenced by all the scaffolding. This result is an excellent example of what community groups can achieve if they care enough about an issue.

The National Capital Authority's plan for the Yarralumla Recreation Hub at Yarralumla Bay has been ongoing since late 2006 when it was first proposed. In the three years since then, the YRA has made four written submissions about this to the NCA, the last of those submissions in January of this year. We have dealt with five different managers of the program, as changes have occurred within the National Capital Authority. In the middle of this year, we were told that the final plan was expected to be on the NCA website by late August, but it is now scheduled for October. This plan will determine the future directions for leaseholders and the ACT government to follow. So we shall look forward to that with great interest.

Re the brickworks: the Land and Development Agency of the ACT decided mid-year not to go ahead to the tender stage of the Expressions of Interest re development of the brickworks. We were surprised about this, but have been told that the agency will draw up a management plan with extensive community consultation in this latter part of 2009. So once again, it seems that the Brickworks is on the back burner. We will keep members informed.

On another note—the elms on Dunrossil Drive are under the responsibility of the National Capital Authority. There have been a number of gaps where trees have died, and following discussions in which the YRA was included, these have now been replaced with quite large American elms. This is one of the species presently growing along the Drive. So we welcome the NCA keeping us involved and informed about the tree renewal for which they are responsible—quite a lot of trees in the ACT are their responsibility, although most are the responsibility of the ACT government, as we will hear later this afternoon.

A lot of our time this year has been spent dealing with TAMS (Territory and Municipal Services) re their plans for upgrading Weston Park. We felt that their two public presentations, one at Weston Park last November and one at Yarralumla shops in June, plus the time allotted for making submissions, were quite inadequate. So we lobbied strongly for a longer time for submissions, and for a public meeting, to both of which they finally agreed. Our committee's submission is on our website, and we also encouraged members to make individual submissions. Latest news from TAMS is that the final plan is expected to be signed off by the end of the year; a

Conservation Management Plan is already underway (necessary before any new work is undertaken) and the process of upgrading toilets and play areas has begun.

In addition to these planning issues, we respond to concerns of residents that have contacted us. These have included making representation to the appropriate agencies or politicians about such things as

- 1) damage by vehicles at Attunga Point near the Canberra Yacht Club
- 2) safety issues with vacant or fire-damaged houses in Yarralumla sitting empty for a long time
- 3) bus services from Yarralumla
- 4) and development applications in Yarralumla where planning laws appear to be being flouted

—all these matters raised by local Yarralumla residents who have written to our PO box number or our web address.

In return we try to be proactive with letting residents know what is going on. In the past year since the last AGM, we have made five letterbox drops to every house in Yarralumla: a newsletter in the spring of 2008, an information pamphlet about the public meeting about the Yarralumla Recreation Hub in December, a newsletter in the late summer 2009, a newsletter winter 2009, and the recent pamphlet about this 2009 AGM.

Our website is maintained by Paul Ratcliffe, for which we are most grateful to him, and this is regularly updated. Emails are sent to members on particular issues, with several hand-delivered to some members who do not have email. Additionally, current information is displayed in the window of First Choice Drycleaners at Yarralumla shops, for which we thank them.

I would like to ask you to please to accept this short report on the main activities of the YRA committee for the last year. In the year to come, if time and opportunity permit, we would like to be more involved in local community events, for example in planning involvement in the 2010 Clean-up Australia campaign at a local level. To date, community events do involve complicated insurance issues, but perhaps we can work our way through those.

Other challenges that lie ahead are those to do with the ongoing problem of traffic in Yarralumla, especially at the shops, and with future improved bus services. As well, we will continue to keep an eye on the Brickworks, the ACT government Sustainable Transport Plan, and the ACT tree renewal that we will learn more about later in our meeting today.

We would urge you to become a member of the YRA if have not already joined. I would also encourage you to think about nominating for a position on the committee—after all, the voice of residents through the YRA can influence decisions that affect all of us.

Thank you all—and please feel free to ask any of us questions over afternoon tea later this afternoon.

**APPENDIX B—Yarralumla Residents Association 2009 AGM: Guest Speaker
A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION BY MS FLEUR FLANERY
ON THE PROPOSED URBAN FOREST RENEWAL PROGRAM
TO BE LAUNCHED ON 25 NOVEMBER 2009**

WHAT IS AN URBAN FOREST?

Canberra's urban forest consists of over 1 million trees, 630,000 of which are managed by the ACT Government, the remainder by private home owners, ANU, National Capital Authority, Defence, etc. 450,000 trees are on nature strips and mown parks and thoroughfares throughout Canberra.

WHY THE NEED FOR A RENEWAL PROGRAM?

Trees have a natural life-cycle. The effect of climate change and the drought is causing mature trees to die faster than expected and over the next 25 years substantial numbers of trees will need to be replaced, therefore there is a pressing need to commence replacement of Canberra's urban forest. Over the last 6 years 18,500 dead and dangerous trees have been removed and a limited number have been replaced. No audit of Canberra's trees has been conducted since an ANU Research Report was completed 10-12 years ago. There is a need for a condition assessment by the ACT Government on the health and condition, the species, the size and the number of trees in Canberra at the present time.

THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE RENEWAL PROGRAM

The Minister for Territory & Municipal Services, a Cross Government Steering Committee, an Urban Forest Renewal Team, an Expert Reference Group & a Community Advisory Group (includes experts on heritage, planning, water, species selection, climate change, etc).

UNDERTAKING

An undertaking was given by Ms Flanery that the Community would be widely consulted and that no blanket removal of street trees would happen without prior notification and consultation with the affected home owners.