



# REID RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC

## NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017

Formed 14 August 1944

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*Come along, join us and meet your neighbours.*

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday 22 March 2017 @ 6.30pm Mercure Hotel (aka the Ainslie Hotel)  
Grosvenor Room  
Followed by informal dinner in bistro**

#### Agenda

1. Welcome & apologies John Little President
2. Confirmation of minutes & matters arising
3. Reports and financial statements & Appointment of Auditor
4. Election - President, Hon Treasurer, Secretary and up to 5 committee members
5. Other business

#### GUEST SPEAKERS

- Ms C Le Couteur MLA
- Detective Sergeant Napse

#### LAUNCH OF WEBSITE

#### NOMINATIONS

Committee nominations forms are now available from Mr Derk Swieringa and must be returned to him prior to the meeting.

#### Reid Residents' Association website

Reid Residents' Association is joining the internet age. The Committee is arranging for a website to be built to promote the delights of our suburb, its heritage and community issues affecting its Residents. We are launching the website at the AGM on 22 March 2017, along with its new email address. If there are topics that you would like to be included initially could you please email: [suebyrne111@gmail.com](mailto:suebyrne111@gmail.com). We will of course like to receive your feedback and input after the launch as well – contact details will be posted on the website.

#### REID – SUBURB DINNER 22 March 2017 @ 7.15pm Mercure Hotel

**Straight after the AGM in Grosvenor Room then dinner in Bistro  
Come and enjoy!!!! Bring your friends, meet your neighbours!!!**

**Location:** Mercure Ainslie Hotel Grosvenor Room & Bistro, Cnr Ainslie Ave and Limestone Ave

**Cost:** Meals at bistro prices plus your own drinks

**RSVP:** Sue Lynskey

**President**  
John Little

**Secretary**

**Treasurer & Public Officer**

#### Committee Members

Marianne Albury-Colless, Sue Byrne, Sue Lynskey, Joanne Nicholls, Amanda Reynolds, John Tucker, Reba Kirby

## **Message from the ACT Chief Minister and Member for Kurrajong Andrew Barr MLA**

### ***“PROMOTING CANBERRA’S HISTORICAL ELEMENTS***

*Canberra has a rich natural and urban history, built up over centuries. Although our city is relatively young, it’s important we balance planning for the future with heritage considerations. In inner Canberra, this balance is more prominent than in other parts of the city. Modernising the Griffin legacy is essential for our city to grow and to reflect the positive, forward-thinking community that Canberra is today.*

*A key priority of my Government is to revitalise our inner city suburbs; keep what makes them great, but make them better. I want to promote the garden suburbs and the historical elements of this city and take action now to make sure that we continue to be a world-leading city, while still maintaining everything we love about the Canberra of old.*

*Urban renewal is more than just new bars and cafes. It’s about valuing the things that make each of our suburbs – particularly those in the older parts of Canberra – unique. It’s about making sure we make the most of our suburban heritage and making sure we give ourselves the opportunity to express ourselves as a city in new ways.*

*Reid is a significant suburb in Canberra’s past, present and future. This suburb is the home of Canberra’s oldest church and hosts some of the city’s brightest students. Sitting alongside Anzac Parade, constitution Avenue and the Australian War Memorial, Reid is a major link between the original Griffin plan and modern day Canberra.*

*The ACT Government is working to promote and conserve the heritage of our garden suburbs, including Reid, in a number of ways.*

*Reid’s heritage importance has been recently recognised through consultation on the provisional heritage registration of City Railway Remnants that run through the area. Reid was an essential part of Walter Burley Griffin’s design for a rail route that connected Canberra with Yass and Goulburn and parts of the temporary track that was laid in 1921 remain today as a vital part of Canberra’s history.*

*This consultation, through the ACT Heritage Council, helps to inform the heritage listing process and is a good way to canvass community views to heritage in the Reid area.*

*The past has helped shape today’s Canberra. It’s important we all recognise its impact on our city as we plan for the future.”*

### **WALK AROUND BY MS LECOUTEUR MLA**

Reid is an early Canberra housing precinct that is heritage listed due to its significance in demonstrating Garden City planning in the National Capital. The philosophy behind Garden City planning was to create healthy working and living environments for urban Residents’. It developed internationally through the 1900s. These principles were integral to Walter Burley Griffin’s winning design for the new Federal Capital of Australia.

The precinct has been identified by the National Trust as “At Risk” largely due to a lack of compliance management and monitoring by Government agencies. The Committee recently met Ms Lecouter, Chair ACT Assembly Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal and discussed the problems and actions that should be taken.

### **REID RAILWAY PARK**

Many residents in Reid may not know that part of Canberra’s first railway connection from Kingston to Civic ran through Reid. Walter Burley Griffin’s plan for Canberra included a City Railway which was to run from Queanbeyan, to the present Kingston station to what is now Russell, along the line of Amaroo Street to Civic, and then northwards out of the city along the line of Lonsdale and Ijong Streets, Braddon.

The single track rail link was operational from May 1920 to July 1922 when a wooden trestle bridge supporting the railway line across the Molonglo River was washed away in floods. Although the railway was to be re-built, that never happened. The railway carried materials for construction of buildings in Civic. The train had a reported speed of 4 mph near St John's so as not to interrupt church services. The temporary rail line terminated near Elouera Street, Braddon. There was a platform in Garema Place, and railway sleepers were dug up when the Canberra Times fountain was installed outside David Jones' main entrance adjacent to Ainslie Avenue.

The ACT Heritage Council decided on 9 February 2017 to provisionally register part of the former rail easement in Reid into the ACT Heritage Register – together with part of the railway remnant in Kingston. The part of the former railway easement in Reid provisionally registered is approximately 33 metres wide and 275 metres long and stretches along the south side of Amaroo Street from approximately opposite Euree Street through to Coranderrk Street (part of Block 12, Section 33, Reid).

Two rows of mature *Eucalyptus maidenii* trees along a landscaped space mark the line of the former railway in Reid that curved gently at Coranderrk Street crossing into the now Heritage-listed Glebe Park. The rows of trees were located on the south west side of the former rail track. The former railway track had been between the rows of trees and Amaroo Street. While much of Reid was constructed in the late 1920s, dwellings along Amaroo Street were not built and occupied until the early 1950s. Landscaping work and the construction of Amaroo Street and its verges removed most traces of the railway and its embankment. The steel rails had been removed in 1940 following the outbreak of the Second World War and the old railway sleepers were reportedly burned in Reid bonfires in subsequent years.

The area of the former railway easement was known to Amaroo Street residents as "The Blossoms" and its tree plantings were highly valued by the Reid community, particularly as it provided a windbreak to the suburb. In the face of the trees' demolition, once with the construction of a preschool and later for an informal car park, the community banded together lobbying administrators and arranging for comment and debate in the Canberra Times. The success of the community campaign underlined the social values of the place.

Now, some 12 years after the initial proposed Heritage nomination, the ACT Heritage Council has taken a positive step about the provisional registration of the City Railway Remnants in Kingston and Reid. RRA applauds its decision.

In order for the tract of land behind the Reid CIT that runs beside Amaroo Street area to be properly protected and managed, the RRA has made a submission to the Government for this area to be declared a suburban park. At the same time the Committee has sought to have Amaroo Street become a "shared way" in an effort to assist better management of traffic, cycling and parking in the area as the impacts from the future development of Constitution Avenue wash through the area.

### **RRA LOGO COMPETITION**

Reid was established in 1927 and the Reid Residents' Association was formed in 1944. The existing logo depicts Blue Atlas Cedar, *Cedrus atlantica f. glauca*, street tree, that abounds in Reid. A logo design competition has been launched, with the aim of updating the logo with a modern, fresh design suitable for use in correspondence, newsletters and on the RRA website.

To enter, send a high resolution pdf of your logo design to Sue Byrne with the subject heading "RRA logo design". Your entry should be supported by examples of your logo design formatted for different contexts (e.g. letterhead, newsletter banner, website banner). A condition of entry is that copyright for the winning design will be assigned to the RRA. Entry is open to the public. Your entry must include your name, address, telephone number and email address.

The winning entry, which must be judged to improve on the current RRA logo, will be decided by a panel appointed by the RRA Committee. The winning design will be unveiled on 14 August 2017.

The prize is \$100.

**Entries close: 1 July 2017**

## **OPEN HOUSES – Coordinator Needed**

After 10 years of arranging the event, John and Esther Tucker are standing down from organizing the Reid Open Houses event each November. This is an important event for showcasing the suburb as well as raising funds for the Preschool as well as the Residents' Association. This involves arranging for owners and coordinating the afternoon activity with the aid of other volunteers. If you can help please contact John Little.

## **BRADDON - Development Application**

A development application for the former Currong Flats site was lodged immediately prior to Christmas. Interesting timing! It is planned to construct up 515 apartment up 12 stories. This development will have direct and indirect impacts on Reid as well as Braddon particularly when aggregated with other existing and planned developments. The RRA made a detailed submission on the DA, which addressed: Poor Public Consultation, Traffic Impacts, Street, Design and Extension, Kogarah Lane and its limited size, Heritage, Loss of Amenity, Appearance Identity and Maintenance, Reduction of Street Activities and "Neighbouring", Impact on Land Use and Social Stability, Trees, Poor Community and Planning Outcomes. Twelve other parties also made submissions.

Twelve other submissions were lodged. Not much hope is held for the Planners taking much notice of these representations particularly as over 130 submissions were lodged at an earlier stage and little notice was taken.

## **CRIME IN REID, CIVIC AND BRADDON**

Householders in Reid should be on the alert for opportunistic crime, particularly at night.

Three homes in the part of Currong Street nearer to Civic experienced thefts in January 2017. Two of the thefts involved taking advantage of an open window or door during the very hot weather to steal an iPad and other items that could be readily turned into cash. In one case, a flyscreen was slashed and the thief put his or her arm through the window to steal items from a nearby table. In the second case, entry was made through a closed but unlocked door. In the third instance, a bicycle was stolen from a property. Police were sympathetic. Although in the case of the iPad its location was traced electronically by the owners to somewhere in the Bega Flats, recovery of the property was not made.

Other break-ins in Reid have been reported in Elimatta, Gooreen, Euree, Booroondara and Coranderk streets as well as Dirrawan Gardens. These include damage and theft from parked cars in driveways. While break-ins and thefts are disturbing enough, an additional factor is the trauma which can be caused to householders and children by intruders seeking to gain entry to homes.



Canberra's crime hotspots were revealed by an analysis published in the Canberra Times on 6 March 2017. Data mapping shows that assaults, sexual assaults and theft are concentrated in the areas of Civic and Belconnen. Findings included:

- On average, at least one person is assaulted every day in Civic
- The most burglaries occur in Kambah, Fyshwick, Belconnen, Braddon and Griffith
- The most cars are stolen in Kambah, Belconnen, Braddon, Fyshwick and Phillip

The number of assaults within the city centre was particularly concerning, with reported incidents climbing from 281 in 2014, to 430 in 2016. The Canberra Times reported that a spokesman for Police Minister Mick Gentleman said the government was aware inner-city violence was an issue and was working to combat it.

A large part of Reid, together with parts of Campbell, was covered by Neighbourhood Watch in the 1980s and 1990s until a few years ago. The convenors of this Neighbourhood Watch area decided to wind up the service due to declining support from volunteers and sponsors and the difficulty in obtaining disaggregated statistics

from ACT Police. The Reid Residents' Association has recently been in contact with the AFP to discuss how we might work together to improve the situation.