



REID RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC. NEWS LETTER OCTOBER 2017

Formed 14 Aug 1944 Association No. AO 1247 ISSN 1030-0651 www.reid.northcanberra.org.au

RRA's new logo

The Reid Residents' Committee would like to congratulate and thank Penleigh Boyd whose design has been chosen to replace what appears to be the Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica glauca*) logo.

Penleigh Boyd is an architect who has lived in Reid since 1976. Penleigh has used various references to inform his design, including the Federal Capital Commission's 1926 *General Notes for the information for Public Servants*, a publication aimed to attract public servants to the new city of Canberra. The photographs in this early publication were framed in the domed shape used now to frame the new logo as you can see at the head of this publication.

You will notice too, the play on words with the letters **R-E-I-D** within the word 'RESIDENTS'. Further design elements include the use of the 1920s era font to represent the heritage values of Reid, and the domed top of the logo's frame represents Mount Ainslie.

This logo represents a meticulous and thoughtful result acknowledging the history and heritage of Reid.

12th OPEN HOUSES AND GARDENS **HERITAGE-LISTED REID HOUSING PRECINCT** **5 Nov 1.15 pm — 4.30 pm**

The National Trust (ACT) in collaboration with the Reid Residents' Association (RRA) and the property owners will open three privately-owned houses and gardens from the 1920s & 30s. The houses and their gardens will be available for inspection. Meet the owners and view inside the houses and also their gardens.

The properties, comprising two late 1920s Federal Capital Commission (FCC) houses (a FCC 7 & a FCC 9), and a 1936 Dept. of Interior Type "O" house, have not been viewed before.

Ticket price includes:

- a guided tour of the three houses and gardens
- *The Heritage of Reid* by Shibu Dutta
- an introductory talk on the Reid Housing Precinct by a Heritage architect
- a printed hand-out on each house & garden
- a delicious afternoon tea at the Reid Pre-school, which first opened in 1944.

Bookings essential & numbers are limited:

Email: info@nationaltrustact.org.au

Cost: \$25 member rate; \$35 non-member rate

Details: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/12th-reid-open-houses-and-gardens/>

DINNER

Wednesday 8 Nov at 7 pm

Mercure Ainslie Hotel Bistro, Cnr Ainslie Ave & Limestone Ave

Relax & enjoy an informal night out – bring your friends & meet your neighbours.

Cost: Meals are set at Bistro prices, plus your own drinks.

RSVP: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

REID onwards to 2050

All great cities have made an effort to retain important aspects of their cultural and historic precincts. This does not mean that these precincts have been frozen in time. They have most certainly changed over the years to accommodate and adapt to the advent of electricity, changes in transport, yet at the same time there has been resolution to retain their key historical architectural elements and streetscapes. Of, course, such resolution has had to withstand challenges. However, there are lots of examples of successful and ongoing precinct conservation, one of the oldest being Diocletian's Palace in Split, Croatia, which was built 2000 years ago and is still housing people and shops. Other examples can be found closer to home within the historic Sydney suburbs of Glebe and The Rocks, both saved largely through the 'green bans' movement.

Just because Canberra is a young city does not mean we should be not conserving historical buildings, places and precincts that will be of interest into the future.

The maintenance of an historic precinct like the Reid Housing Precinct requires both the active stewardship of the residents and supportive policies and legislation by government and its bureaucracy.

It must be said that we could do better on both counts! For example, residents are using their nature strips/verges as dumping grounds or parking spaces causing soil compactions and damaging trees. For their part the ACT governments' administration has been extremely lax in the enforcement of ACT planning legislation and statutory heritage requirements. The RRA has raised a plethora of complaints about resident actions that have been detrimental to the heritage values of the Reid Housing Precinct. These include unsympathetic alterations and reconstructions that impact detrimentally on streetscapes. If government does not enforce its own laws there is little wonder that some residents and owners do not do the right thing.

Recently we have conducted a walk around of the suburb with one of Chief Minister Barr's staff so he can see for himself what the problems are. He has undertaken to arrange a meeting with the two relevant ministers, Ministers Ramsay and Gentleman. The RRA committee will hold them to this commitment.

We would encourage all residents – those who are seriously committed to the conservation of Reid and those who are new to the Reid Housing Precinct – check the Entry to the ACT Heritage Register, *Heritage Act 2004*, which provides information on the features intrinsic to the heritage significance of Reid and requiring conservation

(www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/148474/462.pdf).

You will see that, while there are parameters set for the appropriate ‘heritage look’, there is still plenty of room for personal interpretation or for ‘individual’ taste.

The Entry is an important document. It can serve to refresh your enthusiasm for living in this delightful suburb or acquaint you with the reasons why this suburb is so special and deserving of care and commitment to retaining its heritage values.

The principal overarching elements or values are listed in the heritage Entry. Reid Housing Precinct has special heritage significance because the precinct demonstrates:

- (1) An early C20th 'Garden City' planned subdivision**
- (2) A distinct pattern of housing development and landscape demonstrating early Federal Capital planning philosophy for the provision of low-density public housing**
- (3) The Federal Capital architectural style/character of the original public housing.**
- (4) Historic remnants of the original street furniture including street signs, fire hydrants and footpath lighting and other elements including kerbs and gutters.**
- (5) Mature public and private treescape of historic, aesthetic, natural and amenity values.**
- (6) Individual places of specific aesthetic, architectural, historical and social value as listed in Schedule 1 (i.e. Reid Uniting Church & Reid Preschool p. 24, www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/148474/462.pdf)**

What both government and residents need to work towards is maintaining the intent as outlined in the Reid Housing Precinct Entry onto the Heritage Register.

The intent is ‘to retain and conserve the intrinsic features of the precinct:

- **for their ability to demonstrate historical values including ‘Garden City’ planning principles and architectural and landscape design from the initial period of urban development within Canberra;**
- **for the aesthetic unity of the streetscapes arising from the harmonious integration of low-density built forms within a mature landscape setting, and high proportion of landscape space and trees; and**
- **for the social values associated with the retention of communal landscaped reserves and community facilities, whilst managing change to meet the contemporary requirements of residential usage.’**

Let’s make sure that these values, intrinsic to our heritage precinct, are conserved so that residents and visitors can clearly see them in 2050 and further into the future.

PARKING

With our close proximity to Civic, Reid residents will have observed on many occasions examples of illegal parking or parking in excess of time zone limits. Particular areas of concern include Anzac Park West, the area surrounding Reid Oval and outside Reid Pre-School. Despite the 2-hour limits the same motorists are parking there all day every day. The RRA Committee have made a number of representations to Parking Operations ACT requesting increased presence by parking inspectors only to be met with a rebuff – they cite a lack of inspectors city-wide.

Has ACT Parking Operations not identified that more parking inspectors means more tickets in areas such as Reid which, in turn, means more revenue from parking infringement notices or an increase in parking fees in city car parks?

Please report any cases of illegal parking or parking in excess of limited time zones to ACT Parking Operations on 02 6207 7200, or by email to parking.operations@act.gov.au. Any feedback you can provide to the association on the response you may or may not receive from ACT Parking Operations would also be appreciated by RRA Committee, please email us at info@reid.northcanberra.org.au.

FIX MY STREET

The ACT Government should be applauded for this portal. It allows us to notify the Municipal Authorities of various defects in the suburban landscape. Urgent safety issues should be notified to Access Canberra (tel: **13 22 81**) 24/7.

Defects can include raised footpaths which, in our suburb, are often caused by tree roots. The government owes a duty of care to users of roads and footpaths provided that the user is taking reasonable care for their own safety. Due to resource limitations, the government has legislated to escape its duty of care unless it knew ‘... of the particular risk the materialisation of which resulted in the harm’.

An illustration came before the Court some time ago where a resident tripped on a raised (40-50mm) footpath paver. The government was notified about the offending paver some 3 years before the resident tripped and fell. It had immediately carried out a temporary repair by applying a bitumen cold mix to the gap between the pavers. The policy of Roads ACT was that a vertical gap of more than 15mm between footpath pavers was recognised as a hazard requiring intervention. In this instance, the passage of time had caused the cold mix bitumen to disintegrate such that it was no longer able to eliminate the tripping hazard.

In this case, the Court was satisfied that the ACT Government breached its duty of care because it failed to carry out a permanent repair of the known hazard.

It is clear that reporting defects to the ACT Government via the **Fix My Street** portal provides the government with some incentive to remedy the defect and should get your street fixed.

SUPPORT REID

Become a supporter or sponsor

Each year it costs about \$1,800 to operate this Association. This includes printing newsletters etc. We need people and local businesses that might be able to provide assistance in either cash or kind to assist our operational costs. Exclusive advertising will be provided in this newsletter for sponsors. If you can help please contact Derk Swieringa.

EXHIBITION

Design Vocabulary of Reid

The suburb of Reid is said to be the most intact 1920s suburb in Australia. This intactness is the primary reason for the heritage listing of Reid. To maintain the suburb's integrity it is important to recognise the intrinsic design elements originally used – the 'Design Vocabulary of Reid'.

The RRA intends to establish a curated 'exhibition' on our website, to provide a useful reference and inspiration for residents, heritage researchers, architects and planners. We would like to encourage you to forward images of those elements integral to your original house and/or garden design. It would be most appreciated if you could forward images to info@reid.northcanberra.org.au with your permission to use these images, if selected, on the website.

RRA Committee

President: Marianne Albury-Colless

Secretary: Graham Carter OAM

Treasurer & Public Officer: Derk Swieringa, 7 Geerilong Gdns

Committee:

Sue Byrne, Sue Lynskey, Joanne Nicholls, Amanda Reynolds, John Tucker