

## A NOTE ON EXISTING VEGETATION, TREES AND NATURE STRIPS

You will need development approval if your proposal impacts on:

- existing vegetation – submit a vegetation survey that includes identifying regulated or registered trees and
- existing trees – submit a Tree Management Plan, contact the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate.

Work to existing trees over a certain size requires development approval. Your development application will need to include a tree survey and report by a qualified arborist that identifies the trees and the impact on them. Regulated trees:

- are 12m or more high or have a canopy 12m or more wide and/or
- have a trunk circumference of 1.5m or more, 1m above natural ground level and/or
- have two or more trunks and the total circumference of all the trunks, 1m above natural ground level, is 1.5m or more.

You should contact the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate if your block has trees on or adjacent to it and you are unsure of their status or the potential impact of your proposal or if you propose to remove or lop a significant tree, as you will need to make an application for tree damaging activity.

### Nature strips

Development approval is needed if your proposal impacts on existing nature strips – submit a Verge Management Plan in accordance with Department of Territory and Municipal Services requirements. You are responsible for the maintenance of nature strips next to your property. This includes the care of all grass and plantings and pruning to hedges, but not:

- works to the street tree, such as tree surgery or chemical spraying and
- repair and maintenance of pathways.

Nature strips should not be used as private parking areas.

[http://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/design\\_build/da\\_assessment/landscape](http://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/design_build/da_assessment/landscape)

## ACT GOVERNMENT PLANS NEW NATURE STRIP VEGGIE PLANTING RULES BY EARLY SEPTEMBER



The Canberra Times reported on 21 July 2016 that the ACT Government has confirmed that new rules allowing Canberrans to grow vegetables on their nature strips are expected by early September. Guidelines now being finalised.

A spokeswoman for City Services Minister Meegan Fitzharris said the guidelines, which did not need legislation, were expected to be in place before the government goes into caretaker mode on September 9 for the October election.

However, the same Canberra Times article reported that nature strips cannot be planted in "garden city" heritage precincts under the draft proposal, including the Barton housing precinct, areas of Braddon and Reid, the Corroboree Park and Wakefield Gardens precincts in Ainslie, and areas in Forrest and Griffith. Those areas must remain in grass.

### 11<sup>th</sup> REID OPEN HOUSES & GARDENS

Plans are underway to hold this popular event again in November 2016 in conjunction with the National Trust (ACT). The event not only allows Reid residents, Trust members and their friends to meet the owners and view their homes and gardens with sympathetic up-dating or extensions, but it also raises money for the Trust, RRA and the Reid Pre-school. If you are interested in opening your house and garden, please call John Tucker



## REID RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC

### NEWSLETTER JULY 2016

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Association Number A0 1247

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#### IS THERE AN ELECTION IN THE AIR?

The Government has initiated plans to swell the population of inner north suburbs six-fold within 5-10 years, from 3,500 to 20,000. Last month the Committee met with Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA to discuss a range of topical issues affecting the suburb.

#### NEW URBAN PARK

Existing open space and recreational areas are being alienated or lost. As a means of partially redressing this situation we proposed creation of an urban park at the rear of CIT and along the Amaroo Street nature strip between Coranderk Street and St John's Church Hall.

This park would not only enhance urban amenity for residents but provide connection through Glebe Park for pedestrians and cyclists to the new Bunda Street shareway. As a shareway, Amaroo Street would be pedestrian friendly and safer for all road users.

The park should also celebrate the industrial heritage significance of the site as the only remaining site of the railway line built to accommodate trains carrying building materials from Kingston to Civic for the new federal capital. Griffin's railway plan also followed this alignment. This could be celebrated by naming the new park "Railway Park".

#### INNER NORTH COMMUNITY FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Information provided by the Government for the ABC flats demonstrated a prevailing shortage of community facilities in the inner north. RRA previously raised this problem with the Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services (PETAMS), which recommended Community Services Directorate conduct a Community Facilities Needs Assessment but so far no action has been taken. Such a study was previously done for the southside. We believe the Needs Assessment must:

- take account of the fact that land available for community facility use is finite. The planning process must be more strategic and the prioritisation of needs be undertaken with a whole of government approach; and
- recognise ACT community values the protection of community facilities afforded by the Community Facility Land Use Policy (CFLUP) and be concerned about potential loss of CFLUP land for other land uses.

The study must also address the importance of a periodic audit/assessment of current facilities, which will assist Government agencies and the community in planning for social infrastructure in the future.

**President**  
John Little  
12 Geerilong Gardens Reid

**Secretary**  
Graham Carter OAM  
15 Elimatta Street Reid,

**Treasurer & Public Officer**  
Derk Swieringa  
7 Geerilong Gardens Reid,

#### Committee Members

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

Better policies must be applied that will assist the Government in responding to applications by lessees seeking de-concessionalisation of leases and to change the type of facilities to some other purpose. From our perspective the deconcessionalisation of Braddon Oval effectively robbed the community of its land.

### REID HERITAGE PRECINCT REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF BOLLARDS AND SIGNS

These important elements of heritage street furniture are being eroded and lost due a total lack of maintenance, repair and replacement.

The bollards are built of precast exposed aggregate concrete and originally had pressed-metal street names set into the four sides of the pillar. There is a taller column version with precast street signs. We understand the bollards and signs were supplied under contract by a company owned by the original owner of the Canberra Times.

The Precinct is listed on the ACT Heritage Register and there is a requirement that street furniture should be retained and conserved. The bollards and signs are a unique component of the streetscape and important part of the history of the city.

Residents currently pay high rates (over \$4,000, total over \$1m) yet there is minimal municipal expenditure by TAMS on the precinct's heritage assets. We requested that remaining bollards and signs be repaired and those lost be replaced.

For his part, Mr Rattenbury was receptive to the arguments presented and we will be interested in the actions that hopefully result.

### HELP NEEDED

The RRA is very keen for assistance with its IT needs including a website. If you can help please contact Graham Carter

### SUPPORT REID – Become a sponsor or donor

The Reid Residents Association is your organisation and it needs your support. Each year it costs about \$2,000 to pay for insurance, printing newsletters, audit etc. We are looking for people and local businesses, who might be able provide assistance in either cash or kind to assist with our operational costs. Exclusive advertising will be provided in this newsletter for sponsors. If you can help please contact: Derk Swieringa Treasurer

### REID – SUBURB DINNER Tue 23 August 2016 @ 7pm

**Come and enjoy!!!! Bring your friends, meet your neighbours!!!**

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

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

**RSVP:** Sue Lynskey

### HAVE YOUR SAY

The RRA is very keen to hear from you about issues affecting our suburb. If you can help please contact John Little Tel 6247 2095 or Graham Carter Tel 62472095.

### NATIONAL TRUST – Become a Member

The National Trust is a volunteer organisation, that fosters public knowledge and conservation of places and objects that are significant to our heritage. The benefits of joining the National Trust include free entry hundreds of Trust properties in Australia and over 18 countries around the world. The Trust has range of social and educational activities as well as an extensive program of tours catering for a wide spectrum of interests - ranging from local heritage tours; through weekend trips to places

of historic interest; to longer tours interstate and overseas.

Membership is open to anyone. If you are interested in becoming a member ring 6230 0533. More information is available on the Trust's website:  
<http://www.nationaltrustact.org.au/>.

### NATURE STRIPS (VERGES) IN REID

The 'generous landscaped verges containing substantial street trees and footpaths' are one of the features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the Reid Housing Precinct and are duly recorded in the entry to the ACT Heritage Register (see: [http://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage\\_register/register-by-place/r](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage_register/register-by-place/r)).

In short, the verges or nature strips in Reid are a vital element in the Heritage listing of most of the suburb.

Degrade or destroy the verges and you remove one of reasons for listing Reid as a prime example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> Century residential subdivision exhibiting 'Garden City' planning in combination with American 'City Beautiful' principles.

Many residents of Reid, some contractors, and even some ACT Government employees consider the verges in Reid to be of no particular significance and act accordingly. Cars and trucks are parked on them, building and other materials are dumped on them, heavy tracked plant and other vehicles are driven across them, and some residents even install a hard surface on the verge in front of their home as a personal convenience.

In addition to the ACT regulations that are designed to protect all of Canberra's nature strips and prevent the actions described above (see [http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/city-presentation/public\\_land\\_use#naturestrips](http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/city-presentation/public_land_use#naturestrips)), the nature strips or verges in the ACT's Heritage Precincts, which includes most of Reid, are afforded additional protection under the Heritage Act 2004. This is set out in the

"SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE PRECINCT" in the entry to the ACT Heritage Register for Reid and other urban housing precincts. The requirements relating to verges are reproduced below in full:

### "Objective 2.3 – Verges:

To retain the broad grassed verges that are complemented by the patterns of street trees, and form a landscaped foreground to the precinct subdivision.

### Mandatory Requirements

**2.3a** Verges shall be retained at their current widths and remain grassed.

**2.3b** The introduction of new paving shall not be permitted unless, in the opinion of the Authority, the paving is essential for pedestrian or vehicular safety, public transport, or to restore or maintain an original pathway or driveway.

**2.3c** The introduction of trees or shrubs or any form of planting that detract from the open character of the verge shall not be permitted, excluding approved street trees.

**2.3d** Verges shall not be used for the long term parking of vehicles, trailers or other equipment or for the storage of building and landscaping materials or garden refuse."

The Reid Residents' Association has been concerned for some time that many of the suburb's verges are being treated poorly and in complete contravention of the **Mandatory Requirements** for their conservation. This includes the regular parking of vehicles on nature strips throughout the week. The Association has written to ACT Ministers and had discussions with ACT Government staff and will continue to make representations for breaches of the **Mandatory Requirements** to be followed up with leaseholders and others and for the Specific Requirements for the Conservation of the Precinct to be enforced. It's your suburb. Please look after it.