



## REID RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC. NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2020

Web Version

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### 2019–2020 BUSH FIRES

Undoubtedly without precedent, the tragic bush fires that have ravaged vast areas of Australia, have raised many questions. The extraordinary community response to assist the many people who have lost homes, businesses, stock and equipment has been heart-warming. We also seem considerably more aware of the utter devastation of landscapes, habitats and all those amazing endemic species within.

With much of February and March still to come there is still a need to stay aware, alert and ready. The Orroral fire sadly demonstrates this and Canberra, the national capital, does indeed, have its own [unfortunate bush fire history](#). Please see the information available at [Emergency Ready](#) and, of course, in emergency situations stay tuned to ABC Canberra, AM frequency of 666 kHz for their par excellence continuous updates. You may be interested in contributing to the UNSW Centre for Ecosystem Science [Environment Recovery Project: Australian Bushfires](#).

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**RRA 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING\* at 6.30 pm Tuesday 24 March**  
Mercure Canberra (formerly Olims, Ainslie)

Guest speaker: **Jack Waterford AM**, journalist, commentator, Reid resident

Topic: 'How the west was lost. And the east, and the north and the south!'

RSVP: [info@reid.northcanberra.org.au](mailto:info@reid.northcanberra.org.au)

After the meeting, please join other Reid residents and have dinner at Olims Bistro

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### THANKING REID RESIDENTS

After the loss of their lovely Reid home to fire last year, the Helmers family sent us the following note to publish in this newsletter:

*We would like to thank the residents of Reid for all the support during this difficult time for our family. We are very grateful to live in such a wonderful neighbourhood. Our family has suffered a very traumatic experience but we are getting better day by day.*

*Whilst it has been difficult, we are moving forwards and we are hoping to move back to our home in the near future. We have been discussing our plans with the RRA and we are very happy to discuss with any resident so please feel free to make contact with us on [info@reid.northcanberra.org.au](mailto:info@reid.northcanberra.org.au).*

*The Helmers family*

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**CANBERRA AND REGION HERITAGE FESTIVAL 14 April – 3 May 2020**

Theme: reIMAGINE

RRA is hosting 'The Heritage of Reid using 2020 Vision' tour as part of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival.

We will meet at the Reid Tennis Club, Dirrawan Gardens at 1.30 pm Monday 27 April

Bookings: [info@reid.northcanberra.org.au](mailto:info@reid.northcanberra.org.au)

Cost: **\$20** (includes afternoon tea and a copy of Shibu Dutta's *The Heritage of Reid*)  
For further information on the many Festival events see [Canberra and Region Heritage Festival](#)

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### REID OPEN HOUSES AND GARDENS – 2019

The 14<sup>th</sup> Reid Open Houses & Gardens, conducted by RRA in collaboration with National Trust (ACT), was again sold out. The three houses were all Department of Interior mid-1930s houses (Types 'C', 'N' and 'O'). Hearing the owners talk in situ about their homes and gardens attracted very favourable comments. The event included a presentation on the heritage significance of the *Reid Housing Precinct* by Heritage Architect, Ken Charlton AM, and an excellent afternoon tea provided by the Reid Pre-school. RRA and NT(ACT) greatly appreciates the contributions of the property owners, volunteers and the Reid Pre-school and hopes to offer the event again in Oct/Nov 2020. Details will be announced by RRA in its newsletter and by the National Trust at [What's on ACT](#) later this year.

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### AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY (AGHS)



In March 2020, [AGHS](#) commemorates the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment. The AGHS aims to promote awareness and conservation of significant gardens, parks and cultural landscapes through engagement, research, advocacy and activities.

The ACT Monaro and Riverina Branch continues to play an active role in meeting the aims of the Society through organising visits to gardens and cultural sites, advocacy and lectures. Two projects have been the sponsorship of digitisation on to the Trove platform of early garden literature held at the National Library and Charles Weston's records of plantings which were stored at the Yarralumla Nursery. His handwritten cards and ledgers are now available for viewing through the [Archives ACT website](#).

As you will appreciate, Reid falls well within the realm of the Society's interests and there have been activities organised jointly with RRA. As well as garden visits from time to time, there have been more formal events such as the Reid Sustainable Heritage Cottage Gardens Design Competition for students from the University of Canberra and, in 2018, a lecture given by Phillip Johnson, landscape designer and organiser of the red poppy display at the Australian War Memorial.

Reid is a very special example of Garden City principles for which Canberra has been well recognised. However, in these present times of seemingly poor support for heritage and with the emphasis on development for short term economic wealth, it is imperative that community groups such as RRA, National Trust (ACT) and AGHS continue to advocate for sites of local and national heritage value.

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### GIVE YOUR THIRSTY VERGE AND TREES A DRINK!

With only two hits with the sprinkler and a couple of washing of the cars on the grass, I have managed to keep my verge greenish and my street tree healthy through this terribly hot summer. The small investment in time and at a cost of less than a dinner out it has certainly paid back in maintaining the value to my home, not to mention the comfort of shade. Have a look at Reid's score in CSIRO's report on [Mapping Surface Urban Heat in Canberra](#). Come on Reid, it is time to shout a drink to our valuable street trees and wide verges! It's a privilege to have them. See [Give your Thirsty Trees a Drink](#).

Signed: Concerned Reid Gardener

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### I JUST DO NOT GET IT

At any time in Reid somebody is renovating their house and/or garden. In most cases the results are sympathetic to the heritage values of the precinct. However, extensive use is often made the nature

strip at the front of the house. The parking for tradies, drop-off of materials, dumping of waste etc. inevitably makes a mess of the nature strip and its ground cover. There are government requirements to fence off this area to protect properly the ground and trees from this damage.

You would think that the owners of the renovated property would at least make good any damage to the nature strip, but this rarely happens and usually only after the government inspector requires the area to be remediated. What I just do not get is that, after spending lots of money on renovations, property owners are prepared to leave their nature strip a barren mess.

Signed: Grumpy Old Man of Reid

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### NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S 1845 – 2020

St John's Anglican Church is celebrating 175 years. The foundation stone was laid on 11 May 1841 on land originally held by Robert Campbell. The Church, with its adjoining churchyard, was consecrated in 1845 by the Right Reverend William Broughton, the first Bishop of Australia. In 2004, St John's was listed in the ACT Heritage Register. For further information see [St John's History](#).

Forthcoming events

6.00 pm Thursday 12 March: as part of the celebrations there will be an organ concert by international organist David Chynoweth on at performing works by Handel, Bach and Elgar. Tickets at the door– \$30 adults, \$25 concessions, \$20 students and young people.

2.30 pm Saturday 21 March: we will enjoy afternoon tea at the Officers' Mess at Duntroon, followed by a tour of Duntroon House, acknowledging the long connection between the Campbell family, the Royal Military College and St John's.

For tickets contact the Parish office on 02 6248 8399 or [admin@stjohnscanberra.org](mailto:admin@stjohnscanberra.org).

Saturday 18 April 2020: Friends of St John's will be holding 'Back to St John's Open Day' as part of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival.

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### WONDERFUL TO HAVE ECHIDNAS IN REID!



The Echidna sp. (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) endemic to Australia belongs to the family Tachyglossidae, the monotreme order of egg-laying mammals. Echidna spp. (there's also the New Guinea long-beaked echidna) and the platypus are the only egg-laying mammals. See [Environment NSW Native Animal Facts](#).

In Canberra's extreme weather echidnas seek shelter by burrowing into soil, hiding under leaf litter and other vegetation, crawling into hollow logs, rock crevices and burrows.

Please keep your cats and domestic dogs under control as they, and of course their feral kind, are major predators of these extraordinary creatures. Echidnas are territorial creatures and have their preferred path so don't move an echidna. Only move it (use a thick towel or some other protective layer – the spiny anteater is indeed a prickly creature) if it is in immediate danger or on the road.

Even more reason to monitor the traffic in Reid!

## ACT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The RRA Committee works in cooperation with ACT Neighbourhood Watch Inc. (ACTNHW) [www.nhwact.com.au](http://www.nhwact.com.au). Reid statistics, November to January 2020, are available in the table below.

Location	November '19	December '19	January '20
<b>Ainslie Avenue</b>	Other property damage	Other property damage	Assault other
	Assault other	Other property damage	Other property damage
	Other theft	Assault causing ABH	
	Theft of vehicle number plates		
<b>Allambee Street</b>	Burglary dwellings	Motor vehicle theft	
	Assault other	Assault other	
	Burglary dwellings	Motor vehicle theft	
	Burglary dwellings		
<b>Amaroo Street</b>	Burglary dwellings		
<b>Anzac Pde</b>			Assault other
<b>Boolee Street</b>	Bicycle theft	Assault causing ABH	
<b>Booroondara Street</b>	Other property damage		
<b>Constitution Avenue</b>	Other theft		
	Assault other		
	Motor vehicle theft		
	Other property damage		
	Other theft		
<b>Coranderrk Street</b>		Burglary dwellings	
		Burglary dwellings	
<b>Currong Street</b>	Theft of vehicle number plates	Burglary dwellings	Assault causing GBH
<b>Dirrawan Gardens</b>		Burglary dwellings	
<b>Elimatta Street</b>	Burglary dwellings	Burglary dwellings	Burglary dwellings
		Burglary dwellings	
	Burglary dwellings	Burglary dwellings	
<b>Euree Street</b>	Burglary dwellings	Burglary dwellings	
<b>Kogarah Lane</b>	Theft of vehicle number plates		
<b>Limestone Avenue</b>	Other theft		

Neighbourhood Watch is anticipating an account from Police of the crime spike last December.

### WELCOME PACKS

Lovely to see new arrivals to our cool and beautiful suburb over the last six months. We would like to congratulate you on your excellent choice of dwelling and present you with our Welcome Pack. If you would like one of these comprehensive packs please contact us via [info@reid.northcanberra.org.au](mailto:info@reid.northcanberra.org.au)

### 23 DIRRAWAN GARDENS

You may have noticed a 'For Sale' notice on the verge at the front of 23 Dirrawan Gardens. An auction has been rescheduled for 07/03/20. We also note that advertising mentions DA approved plans. This is incorrect as a certifying process was used by the owners for their proposed rebuild plans. Neighbours, other Reid residents and RRA soundly rejected these plans because they, while featuring design elements entirely suitable for newer suburbs of Canberra, were far from appropriate for this site, Block 5 Section 28, within the Heritage-listed Reid Housing Precinct.

## Installing External Solar, Water, Air conditioning and other Services in Heritage Places

We applaud residents installing photovoltaics but installing these, or any of the equipment mentioned above, requires consultation with the ACT Heritage Unit. Information is available in the [Entry to the ACT Heritage Register Heritage Act 2004](#) which specifies the following mandatory requirement:

**4.2c Roof elements such as skylights, solar hot water heaters, air-conditioners and telecommunications masts or dishes shall be sited to minimise visibility from the street or adjacent public domain.**

See also [Development at heritage sites Policy](#):

Please note compliance with this policy does not remove any statutory obligation to obtain development consent. If you have recently installed any such equipment in plain sight from the street it would be advisable to seek advice from the Heritage Unit.

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### TWO SUBMISSION DEADLINES: Feb – April 2020

**28 February: Draft Variation 369 – [Living Infrastructure in Residential Zones](#)**

Is this DV written in sufficiently strong enough terms to meet our 30% canopy and permeability targets, particularly in high-rise areas, **AND** to keep Canberra (and Reid) cool?

**17 April: [Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#)** (EPBC Act) This Act is of **fundamental importance** for Australia's environment. 'It provides for the listing of natural, historic or Indigenous places that are of outstanding national heritage value to the Australian nation as well as heritage places on Commonwealth lands and waters or under Australian Government control. Further information at [World Heritage properties and National Heritage places](#).

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### NORTH CANBERRA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (NCCC)

Please note that NCCC is now convened under a new constitution and committee members are drawn from resident associations including RRA or nominated representatives. Public meetings are held monthly (February to November) on the third Wednesday night each month at 7.30 pm, Downer Community Hall, Frencham Place, Downer ACT. Please visit [NCCC website](#) for further information and find out how you can contribute.

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### PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS TO COMMONWEALTH PARK

National Capital Authority has informed RRA that a new shared-way path will provide access for pedestrians and cyclists directly to Constitution Avenue. Stage 1 connects this path to the Heritage building. Plans submitted to NCA indicate fencing on the eastern side of the site will be reduced when sections of the path are finished. This will allow improved access from the underpass to Constitution Avenue while other construction work is occurring. NCA informs us the applicant has not submitted a timeline of proposed works so the path's expected completion date is unknown. Application for the buildings and landscaping has not been approved yet and is still being assessed. Thus, it seems there will be quite some time before access resumes. Developer: Amalgamated Property Group

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### SUPPORT REID

Each year it costs about \$1,800 to operate RRA. This includes website management, printing newsletters etc. **Do you run a local business** and might wish to insert an ad in our newsletter to assist with our operational costs. If you can help please contact Nadine Neilson at [info@reid.northcanberra.org.au](mailto:info@reid.northcanberra.org.au).

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### RRA Committee 2019–20: [info@reid.northcanberra.org.au](mailto:info@reid.northcanberra.org.au)

President: Marianne Albury-Colless Secretary: Amanda Reynolds Treasurer & Public Officer: Derk Swieringa  
Committee: Robyn Bergin, Sue Byrne, Graham Carter OAM, John Little, Nadine Neilson, John Tucker

\*You are welcome to apply to join the 2020 Committee – [Nomination Form](#)