



**REID RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.
NEWS LETTER August/September 2021**

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MR FLUFFY'S UGLY LEGAGY

A fourth house in Reid, the stunning house at 36 Elimatta Street (FCC 9 Type A – see [Reid Housing Precinct](#) p. 4), has been identified as a Mr Fluffy house. This house must now be demolished.

Somehow, it missed being identified for the [Asbestos Register of Affected Properties](#). This has devastated the family who have just finished renovating it so beautifully and, of course, is of concern for other Canberra residents.

The owners are urging us to have our properties inspected as, if 36 Elimatta Street was not picked up on the Register, there is a chance that your property may also have been missed.

The owner did inspect the ceiling cavity but informs us that, in this house, the layer of asbestos was hidden under all the batts laid over the asbestos and so was not discoverable within a 3m radius of the manhole. The asbestos was not discovered until a ceiling fan was being installed. As we have previously said, there are many questions that need answers in these circumstances.

There are good references on asbestos available, but it is important to note that the fine particles of loose-fill asbestos can, in the fullness of time, cause cancer. The [Cancer Council of Australia](#) has very useful information.

REID TENNIS COURTS – COVID 19 – COMMUNITY FLORIADE

Tennis ACT, acting on advice from the Department of Sport and Recreation, closed all Canberra courts on 12 August 2021. Tennis ACT will provide more information as it comes to hand.

We understand that this is an anxious time for everyone but let's hope that the courts can be reopened soon. The courts provide a wonderful venue for social interaction and tennis. Membership is strong. We look forward to having, on average, the 40 people a day back playing tennis at Reid when we are out of lockdown. Inquiries can be sent to ReidtennisclubACT@gmail.com.

In the meantime, enjoy [Community Floriade](#) as you walk or drive past the courts on Currong Street. For the first time, the club is taking part in Community Floriade. After receiving a permit from the ACT Government to use the Currong Street verge, the club purchased two metres of soil and created two gardens. Club members planted 400 tulips and annuals. Most are along Currong Street with the remainder planted around the gardens in front of the club house. Both bulbs and annuals are emerging and should be 'bloomin' beautiful in a few weeks' time.

After Floriade, the soil will be removed, and the verge returned to its original state.

Reid residents are, of course, more than welcome to walk around the grounds and see the new bulbs in front of the club house.

50 EUREE STREET – One of Reid's Oliphant houses

Congratulations to the highest bidders at the [August 28 auction of this Ken Oliphant house](#). It is so good to hear that we are lucky to have people not only keen on moving into Reid but who are also genuinely interested in the heritage of this precinct and its architects. We wish the new owners sympathetic but creative renovating and a long and happy life in Reid.

Kenneth Oliphant (1896–1975) was the first privately practising architect in Canberra. There is an excellent article on Oliphant and his work by [Roger Pegrum](#) in the [Australian Dictionary of Biography](#). While many of Reid’s houses were built by the Federal Capital Commission (FCC) and later by the Department of the Interior, there are also more than 10 Reid houses designed by Ken Oliphant.

Like most of the housing stock in the Reid Housing Precinct, 50 Euree Street is designated as an Identified Dwelling under the [Entry 20023 Reid Housing Precinct, ACT Heritage Register, Heritage Act 2004](#). The map on p. 24 of this document shows the Identified dwellings and pp. 17–22 provides further information on the Unity of Built Form. As one of the precinct’s most esteemed heritage values, Unity of Built form is mandated within the heritage-listed precinct.

1: TREES – Replacement

The ACT Government released its [Urban Forest Strategy 2021–2045](#) on 30 March 2021. Minister Steel’s (Minister for City Services) [media release](#) noted: *Canberra’s urban forest is one of our city’s most precious assets. It contributes to cooling our suburbs, cleaning our air, improving the liveability of our streetscapes, providing habitat for local wildlife and enhancing community wellbeing. It is essential that we protect, maintain and enhance our urban forest as Canberra continues to grow so that our community can share in these benefits today and into the future.*

The strategy notes (p. 14) that: *Over the last decade, Canberra’s established suburbs have seen a net loss of trees on public land due to necessary removal from age and disease. Many exotic species planted in the early years of Canberra’s urban settlement are reaching the end of their lives.*

The RRA is aware that selected trees are being felled across Reid as part of the regeneration program but there are also gaps where trees have been felled in the past or died and unfortunately the ACT Government failed to maintain appropriate records for replanting. We have been advised by several residents where trees are missing. Please continue to notify us (info@reid.northcanberra.org.au) of trees that need replacing.

If possible, send us photographs of the tree growing in place and/or the site where the gap is/stump ground out, and our Tree Coordinator will take this up with the ACT Government.

2: TREES – Are you killing them?

If you park your car on the nature strip, beware – you’re [killing Canberra’s street trees](#) and the ACT Government will track you down. ACT City Services Minister Chris Steel believes motorists are compounding the damage. ‘It is illegal to park under street trees on public land, on verges. [It] damages tree roots by compacting the soil, stops nutrients from getting to the tree and puts them at risk of dying.’ Mr Steel said that the focus would be on Canberra’s heritage areas.

Please help you fellow residents to keep our suburb ‘cool’ and beautiful by not parking on your nature strip and save yourself from getting a hefty fine!

INNER NORTH ‘ROCKITE’ PEBBLE POSTS – ORPHANED!

You may have noticed conservation work being undertaken for Phase 1 *Reviving Inner North’s Pebble Signposts* (Reid & Braddon). The work has been supported by both an ACT Government 2020 Heritage Grant and Transport Canberra & City Services (TCCS). You may also have caught sight of the revived pebble signposts in Inner South heritage areas that were completed with similar support.

However, we have been unable to progress Phase 2 of this project as TCCS have now declared these posts ‘assets surplus to requirements’ and call them ‘orphans’.

[Entry 20023 to the ACT Heritage Register Heritage Act 2004](#) states the heritage values include ‘features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place and requiring conservation’. These features are:

Historic remnants of the original street furniture including street signs, fire hydrants and footpath lighting and other elements including kerbs and gutters. (p. 4)

These pillar signposts most certainly have needed conservation for many years and we have been very disappointed with this TCCS decision. What we will do is apply for a larger grant in the 2021 ACT Heritage Grants. We will not only hope we are successful but also, at some stage, hope to establish who exactly owns these 'orphans'. The pebble signposts are, of course, on ACT Government property as the verges/nature strips are public land. This is a puzzlement indeed! Let's just hope these posts are not 'disappeared' at some stage like some of some of Canberra's original light posts, only to be reinstalled in some rural properties – but perhaps that's an urban myth.

REQUIREMENT TO KEEP REID FOOTPATHS CLEAR OF VEGETATION

Sean Sloan, Senior Director Licensing and Compliance has kindly provided the residents of Reid with the following article for our newsletter:

ACT Government officers with Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) work hard to maintain and protect Canberra's beauty and amenity. Our nature strips and gardens are an important part of Canberra's urban streetscape and help create the 'garden city' character Canberra is well known for.

Residents have an important role in maintaining the quality and amenity of our streetscapes through maintaining their front garden and nature strip and ensuring their use of the nature strip is compliant with laws designed to protect these valuable assets and the safety of the public. Plants that grow over public land can cause line of sight issues or obstruction issues especially for our more vulnerable people such as the elderly, or vision or mobility impaired.

The *Public Unleased Land Act 2013* requires people to prevent any trees or plants from their property obstructing or inconveniencing anyone on the public land (such as the footpath). Where such trees or plants are identified, an authorised officer can issue a 'Pruning Direction' which allows the owner 7 days to prune the vegetation. In cases where there is an immediate safety issue, a 'Plant Removal Direction' can be issued that requires the removal of the offending plant within five days.

If a pruning or removal direction is not complied with, the Government can undertake the work and seek costs from the owner. Penalties may also apply for non-compliance. However, TCCS takes an 'engage and educate' approach to these sorts of issues and seeks to work with owners to resolve issues, wherever possible.

For further information around pruning clearances and the general use of nature strips, please refer to the [Your Nature Strip – Guidelines for the Use of Residential Nature Strips](#) downloadable from the City Services website.

If you identify any trees or plants that are growing from a private premise onto or over public land that you believe are causing a danger or an obstruction to the public, you can report these issues to Access Canberra on 13 22 81 or Fix My Street on the ACT Government website at www.act.gov.au/fixmystreet

ACT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The RRA Committee is working in cooperation with ACT Neighbourhood Watch Inc. Further information at www.nhwact.com.au. Reid crime statistics for May, June and July 2021.

	May	June	July
Ainslie Avenue		Other property damage	Theft of vehicle number plates x 3
Allambee Street	Other property damage x 2	Other property damage	Theft of vehicle number plates x 3
Allambee Street	Other theft	Assault other	Assault other x 2
Allambee Street			Other property damage
Allambee Street			Burglary dwelling
Amaroo Street	Other theft	Other theft	
Boolee Street	Burglary dwellings x 2		

Booroondara Street	Motor vehicle theft	Other theft	
Booroondara Street	Other property damage		
Currong Street	Motor vehicle theft	Other theft	Other property damage
Doonkuna Street		Other property damage x 2	
Elimatta Street	Assault causing ABH	Assault other	Burglary dwelling
Gooreen Street		Theft of vehicle number plates	
Limestone Avenue			Other theft

Burglaries & strange mail

We have been reliably informed that there have been robberies in Amaroo Street and in the Jamison complex (near St John's Reid) where apparently a burglar got into the building's lift and then into an individual unit. Neighbourhood Watch has confirmed that the sort of Jamison complex security breach is quite a common occurrence with apartment blocks. Apartment builders and body corporates are being encouraged to address this issue. If you need to report a robbery, please call Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**. Contact Police when there's an emergency and/or you are in danger on **000**.

Some stamped addressed letters delivered by Australia Post to 'Reid Neighbour' have appeared in residents' mailboxes. It appears to be promoting 'NextDoor Reid'. The problem is that if you visit the site you may find your name being used for continued promotion. Possibly permission may be hidden in the conditions to see/use the site. The RRA has, and will have, absolutely nothing to do with this site.

PLEASE STAY SAFE & TAKE CARE!

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL: Main Works Packages

The controversial extension of AWM continues. Please note that NCA is asking you to submit your thoughts by **10 September '21** on the three Main Works Packages: [New Southern Entrance](#); [Bean Building Extension](#) and [New Anzac Hall & Glazed Link](#).

NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S

The Church is closed during lockdown; however, a recital for organ and flute is scheduled for 12.30 pm 28 October. Music will range from early baroque to the time of J.S. Bach. Information is available from the Parish Office (T: 02 6248 8399).

On 30 July, the Parish farewelled Rector, Canon Paul Black, having spent 13 years with St John's. While steps are being taken to appoint a new rector, Canon Margaret Emil and Canon Kevin Stone are leading the Parish.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN REID

If you are a member of an organisation holding indoor or outdoor activities in Reid, **please** advise RRA if you would like to publicise in our newsletters. At present, only Reid Tennis Club & St John's Church provide us with any information. This is your suburb, so please let us know what is going on in other Reid churches or organisations. Obviously, we are under COVID-19 restrictions at present but here's hoping these might lift when things are safer.

RRA Committee

Contact via: info@reid.northcanberra.org.au

President: Marianne Albury-Colless, Secretary: Amanda Reynolds

Treasurer & Public Officer: Derk Swieringa

Committee: Sue Byrne, Robyn Bergin, John Henderson, Molly Henman, Roy Jordan, Warren Nicholls