



## **REID RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.**

Formed 14 Aug 1944 Association No. AO 1247 ISSN 1030-0651 [www.reid.northcanberra.org.au](http://www.reid.northcanberra.org.au)

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 30 March 2022 6.00 pm at the Mercure Hotel, Ainslie Avenue**

Attending: Twenty-eight residents according to the AGM Attendance Register

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Marianne opened the meeting and welcomed residents and guest speakers.

Apologies were received from seven residents and Alicia Payne MP.

#### **2. Address by Luke Garner and Suzanna Holmes on the University of NSW Canberra City campus**

Luke and Suzanna advised that COVID-19 had affected the progress of the development, alongside the teaching delivery mode but it was still progressing. The University had a new Rector (Prof. Emma Sparks) and a new Vice-Chancellor (Prof. Attila Brungs) who are both very supportive of the new campus. Building J has been leased from the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) for a year and cyber security teaching has commenced headed by Prof. Robert Fitzgerald.

The UNSW has been working with the National Capital Authority and the ACT Government on the development plans. Some aspects are rigid such as roads, entrances and exits and building set-backs. They can have a maximum height of 25 metres along Constitution Avenue (about 5–6 floors), reducing back towards Reid. Following the experiences of COVID, UNSW is questioning whether they will need the amount of student accommodation originally envisaged.

#### **3. Questions from residents**

In response to questions, residents were advised:

- While the Department of Defence is a key partner with UNSW, the Reid project is a university development and there is no funding from Defence.
- The development is unlikely to commence within the next 18 months but the major work will only be undertaken after CIT relocates to Woden. They have 15 years to complete all stages of the development.
- Originally it was anticipated that approximately 1400 first year students would be accommodated on site but with the building of student accommodation across the city and the learnings of COVID teaching, this may not all be required.
- The control of the Railway Easement is still with the ACT Government for maintenance, signage, tidying etc. It will come under the UNSW when the transfer is completed.
- Lots of parking will be provided on site, a requirement of the National Capital Authority. It is not anticipated that staff or students will be parking in the suburb's streets.
- There is no traffic access planned from Amaroo Street.
- UNSW had no idea of what the ACT Government planned for the car park or child care centre that were not being transferred to UNSW.

#### **4. Address by Philip Leeson on the ACT Heritage Advisory Service**

Philip advised that the role of the Heritage Advisory Service was to provide householders with advice as to what they could do with their existing property/proposed property purchase. His business has been contracted by the ACT Government to provide this service. Philip advised that intention of the Heritage Act was for it to be written for the layman but parts have not been written particularly well and needs interpretation.

Issues that often arose included:

- Property set-backs with extensions at the rear of the property and behind the building line.
- Plot ratio of building to permeable garden on the site – 27.5 percent for building and 40 percent for landscaping.
- Gates not allowed in front hedges.
- Windows can only be replaced like for like and the heritage Council are firm that the replacement windows have to pass the 'squint' test. Modern building rules require thicker glazing bars which do not look the same.
- Chimneys at the front and side of a property have to remain.
- Only corner blocks can have two driveways.
- Trees over six metres are protected in heritage areas, in the rest of the city it is 12 metres before they are protected.
- Mandatory requirements were fixed but discretionary requirements could be explored.
- The Heritage Council put it on the internet that they prefer solar panels to be on the side of a property.

#### **5. Questions from Residents**

In response to questions, residents were advised:

- The 10 or so unidentified properties within the Reid Precinct were not subject to all the requirements of the suburb's heritage listing e.g. a replacement building did not have to be like for like to the original but it had to consider the neighbourhood and streetscape and fit in with those nearby.
- His firm has a folder of house plans built by the Federal Capital Commission which can be inspected.
- Photographs were taken of the exterior of the recently demolished Mr Fluffy house in Reid as a historical record.
- It was difficult to monitor the plot ratios when property owners made further additions to their properties although it was already build up to the maximum permitted under the guidelines.

#### **6. Agreement of minutes of AGM of 30 March 2021**

The minutes of the meeting on 30 March 2021 were agreed by those in attendance. Formal acceptance was proposed by Sue Lynskey and seconded by Sue Byrne and confirmed by those present.

#### **7. Matters Arising**

No matters were arising.

#### **8. Report from President of Reid Residents' Association**

Marianne provided her President's Report. She advised that the full report was available at the back of the room for members present and would be posted on the Association's website. Marianne noted the retirement of Derk Swieringa's retirement from the role of Treasurer and Public Officer for many years and thanked him for his valuable input to the Association. She also noted the retirement of Warren Nicholls from the Committee and wished him and Jo, a former RRA Secretary, well for their future. She noted that four newsletters had been issued during the year; the 'Welcome' packs had been revised and were being distributed to new residents; and that the Committee had been in correspondence with Minister Steel and the MLAs over various matters appertaining to Reid including the election promise of funding for Reid under the Age Friendly Program (copies of the letters were available at the back of the room).

Marianne advised that she wished to focus on two issues – the 'Rockite' pebble pillar posts and the 2022 ACT Heritage Festival.

*The 'Rockite' pebble pillar posts:*

Seven posts had been conserved this year with funding received from an ACT Heritage Grant and from Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS). Marianne thanked the Reid residents who had volunteered to help the Committee members to paint the panels on the posts. We hope to be able to conserve the remaining posts in Reid, along with those in Braddon and Ainslie and will be seeking funding via a grant from the ACT Heritage Unit in the 2022–23 funding round. The TCCS had advised these posts were now considered surplus to requirements; however, they are noted on the ACT heritage listing for Reid as part of the original street furniture. The ACT Heritage Unit consider they are part of Canberra's heritage. Negotiations are continuing at this time between the government departments.

*The Roaring 20s in Reid:*

Planning is well advanced for our event in this year's ACT Heritage Festival 'Curiosity'. The Tennis Club are putting on a match using wooden tennis racquets, a jazz band, Ainslie Primary School's cake stall, swing dancing and a static display of classic cars had been arranged. Walks to the completed pebble posts would be offered. Marianne expressed her thanks to Robyn, Roy and Molly for their help.

Acceptance of the President's Report was proposed by Robyn Bergin and seconded by Gary Fan.

## **9. Report from Treasurer and adoption of 2021 financial statements**

In the absence of Treasurer Derk Swieringa, Amanda gave his report. She advised that the Association had \$10,692.55 in the bank. The Association had received \$24,000 in grants to conserve the pebble posts, \$15,000 was received in 2020 and \$9,000 in 2021. All but \$754.20 had been expended in 2021 and remains to be paid. Our other major expense was the cost of printing and maintenance of our website which was \$565.26.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Robyn Bergin and seconded by Pamela Henderson.

## **10. Appointment of Auditor**

Scott McAllister has been the Association's auditor. Chris Freeman proposed that Scott be appointed as the auditor for 2022 and seconded by Graham Carter.

## **11. Election of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Officer and Committee**

Marianne handed the meeting over to Reid resident Gary Fan for the election of officers. Gary advised that nominations had been received for Marianne, Amanda, Sue, Robyn, Roy, Molly and John and were confirmed by consensus as the new Committee members.

## **12. Any other business**

There was no other business and Marianne closed the meeting, thanking residents for their attendance.

**RRA Committee 2022–23**

**Contact via: [info@reid.northcanberra.org.au](mailto:info@reid.northcanberra.org.au)**

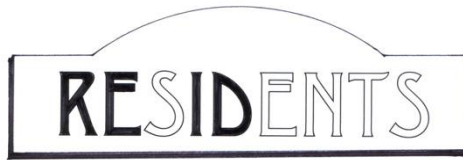
President: Marianne Albury-Colless,

Secretary: Amanda Reynolds

Treasurer & Public Officer: Robyn Bergin

Committee: Sue Byrne, John Henderson, Molly Henman, Roy Jordan

DRAFT



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AO 1247

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021-22

1. I wish to thank the team, the RRA Committee, who provides sound advice and support at all times. Reid is lucky indeed to have such civic-minded people, who delight in living in this suburb and have committed time and energy for some 77 years.

I would particularly like to acknowledge Derk Swieringa's retirement from the Treasurer & public Officer position. Derk has diligently kept the books & provided huge support for the heritage values of the Reid Precinct for over a decade. We wish you well and will miss your valuable input & common-sense approach over the many years.

We also note the retirement from the Committee of Warren Nichols. Warren and Jo Nichols were long term residents of Reid and opened their residence and garden in the Open Houses and Gardens National Trust (ACT) and RRA joint event in 2019. Jo served as RRA Committee Secretary for many years and Warren's knowledge of Reid and Heritage was formidable. We wish them both the very best for the future.

## 2. Activities

### *i. Reviving Inner North's Pillar Signposts Phase 1 Reid & Braddon*

We are thrilled to have completed the project 'Reviving Inner North's Pillar signposts. Phase I comprised seven of these 'Rockite' pebble pillar posts. This project was made possible with an ACT Government Heritage Grant with supporting funds from Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS). The assistance from Warren Nicholls with this project must be noted.

The major conservation work was undertaken by Gillian Mitchell, Senior Conservator, Conservation Works Pty Ltd. You may have noticed the posts looking revived and refreshed as a result of her expertise. Many thanks go to the stalwart volunteers who, in the last few weeks, painted the posts' street name panels with honourable mention to Pauline, David, Robyn & thank you too, to Irene who also volunteered. Unfortunately, rain interfered, yet again, when you were available to help. Three committee members also assisted with painting: Sue Byrne, Robyn Bergin and myself. Robyn Bergin definitely did the lion's share, painting 3 panels to my 1 for each of our three posts.

There are two remaining short posts in Reid to be conserved as part of Phase 2. We are hoping to work with Ainslie and Braddon residents to conserve the remaining Inner North streetscape elements & will apply this year for another grant to progress this conservation project.

### *ii. Reid Walks, 2021 ACT Heritage Festival*

Two Reid walks were held in the: 'The Long and Short of Reid's Pebble Signposts' (11 April) and the 'Camino' Walk – no mountains, no cliffs!' (18 April). These walks were well received even if COVID-19 somewhat diminished the attendance. Holding these walks also was to comply with the Heritage Grant requirements.

### *iii. RRA Newsletters*

Four newsletters have been published and news updates when we think there's something important going on that can't wait until the next newsletter.

### *iv. The Roaring Twenties in Reid*

Preparation is well underway for the Reid entry into this year's Heritage Festival event on Sunday 10 April 12 to 3 pm. We are delighted to have help in turning back time with staging the following:

- a. Reid Tennis Club staging a 20s style tennis match (with wooden rackets we hope)
- b. Ainslie Primary School P&C with a baked goodies stall
- c. Jazz music provided live with the Tilt Trio
- d. Cathie Gough from Savoy Dance demonstrating the Charleston & other dances from the era
- e. CLASSIC Cars display
- f. Guided walks to the recently restored pebble signposts.

Bookings available through Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/BXKSI>

I wish to thank Robyn Bergin, Molly Henman, Roy Jordan and Graham Carter OAM a former RRA president and secretary, who have been so instrumental in many & various ways getting this event off the ground. Further thanks must go to the Reid Tennis Club and to Christina Pilkington, President of the Ainslie Primary School P&C, Rebecca Scouler, doyen of the twenties who has agreed to be costume judge on the day, and Cathie Gough of Savoy Dance. Let's just hope to have fine weather!

v. *Archiving RRA records*

Approximately two thirds of the RRA records 1980s to 1998 have been archived in readiness for accession by the ACT Heritage Library.

vi. *Reid's weedy nature strips*

We walked, with Margaret Ning, former Vice-President of Friends of the Grasslands (FOG), along Euree Street, with residents who had raised the issue of weed infestation in our nature strips. We have the three major nasties and a lot of minor ones too.

vii. *Submissions*

Anzac Pde redevelopment

viii. *RRA Constitution*

Preliminary work has been undertaken on revising and I thank Roy Jordan for his very methodical work.

ix. *Welcome to Reid packs*

These packs have been revised and 8 distributed to date.

x. *Identified Dwellings in the Reid Housing Precinct – type*

Considerable work has been undertaken to identify the actual type of identified dwellings (i.e Federal Capital Commission, Department of Interior, Oliphant) so that a web map can be developed for the Reid Housing Precinct. Thank you, John Henderson, for this undertaking which will definitely enrich our walks.

### 3. Correspondence

The letters will be attached as addenda and posted on RRA website.

### 4. Issues ahead

- Revision of the Territory Plan: we need to see how heritage precincts will be managed going forward.
- Clarifying the responsibility for streetscape elements itemised in Heritage precincts under the ACT *Heritage ACT 2004*
- Ainslie Avenue proposed redevelopment
- Traffic & parking overflow potential with the UNSW Canberra City Campus development
- Proposed DOMA apartment development on Mt Ainslie hills, ridges and buffer spaces that will have major impacts
  - a. on threatened fauna and flora and Aboriginal artefacts
  - b. Traffic on Limestone Ave & through Reid.

I wish you all as uneventful remainder for 2022 as possible.

Stay safe

Marianne