

DRAFT

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting (AGM) - 29 March 2023
6pm at the Mercure Hotel, Ainslie Avenue**

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

1. Welcome and apologies

Marianne opened the meeting, acknowledged First Nations people, and welcomed residents and the guest speaker.

Apologies were received from two committee members.

2. Address by guest speaker - Max Bourke AM

Before beginning his formal address, Max commented on the letter written to him 42 years ago from Margaret Swieringa, then President of the RRA, and commented that he had admired the work of the RRA from afar. He spoke about his long history with conservation from his studies in Bruges where he was taken with the work of William Morris and Philip Webb to his role as Director of the Australian Heritage Commission from its inception in 1976.

Along the way, he spoke of the work of William Morris in setting up The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, an organisation that still exists today. Among other things, the Society proposed ancient buildings should be repaired rather than restored so that they sit in their time. This movement led to the establishment of the National Trust which flowed through to Australia. People were encouraged people to think about 'the things we want to keep'.

Max spoke about the importance of the citizen activists; the voluntary sector; and the work of local, regional and international bodies in protecting heritage. He regaled the audience with stories of his experiences in protecting the Franklin River, in putting Fraser Island (now K'gari) and Lanyon Homestead on the Register of the National Estate, and his interactions with politicians and public servants.

Max remarked that good conservation is mostly about opposition to government rather than it being established by government. He left us with the thought that we should not be afraid of being called NIMBYs because it is in our own backyards that good conservation begins.

Following Max's address, Scott McAlister, Treasurer of the ACT National Trust and Reid resident, took the opportunity to present Marianne with an award for the work of the Association in preserving the 'Rockite' pebble posts.

3. Confirmation of minutes of 2022 AGM

The minutes of the meeting on 30 March 2022 were agreed by those in attendance. Formal acceptance was proposed by Jack Waterford and seconded by Ian Clark and confirmed by those present.

4. Matters arising

No matters were arising.

5. Report from President of Reid Residents' Association

Marianne spoke to her President's report and advised that copies were available for those present and will be available on our website.

She opened by recognising the untimely death of our former president, John Little, who is much missed for his ebullient presence and wise counsel. A tree has been replanted where John was so concerned about its loss and a bench/seat in John's memory will be situated in Geerilong Gardens.

She went on to talk about the Good, the Bad, the Ugly and the outright Scary!

In terms of the good:

The Roaring Twenties in Reid on 10 April was a definite success with thanks going to the Reid Tennis Club; to all those who dressed to impress; the Tilt Trio jazz band who kept everyone entertained all afternoon; and Graham Carter OAM who managed to attract owners of a fleet of stunning cars. There was ministerial presence from Rebecca Vassarotti and Rachel Stephen-Smith and the shadow minister for heritage, Nicole Lawder, all who seemed very happy to join in dancing, a catchup with people or selecting some of the offerings at Ainslie Primary cake stall. This event marked the completion of the conservation work on the 'Rockite' pebble street signposts.

The RRA was successful in its application to the ACT Government under its Heritage program for 2022 for funding to restore the remaining 'Rockite' pebble posts in Reid, along with three in Ainslie (a tall one in Alt Crescent and two short posts along Patterson Street). This project is now underway.

In terms of the bad:

The RRA, like so many associations, individuals and groups, has made submissions to, and appeared before, the Legislative Assembly's Inquiry into Planning Bill 2022. The Committee's findings were very plain – 49 salutary recommendations were made. Concerns with the proposed ACT Planning System Review and reform continued with submissions made on the Draft Inner North and City Strategy and Territory Plan. There is considerable angst in the community about the proposed changes to Canberra with the ACT Planning System Review and Reform. Consultation and governance issues, lack of rigor and appeal rights in the DA process, inability to explain how an 'outcomes' approach to planning can replace a system that is based on regulation and need for clearer legislation are just some of the concerns raised by the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services.

Marianne urged people to read the Legislative Assembly recommendations and hoped that there may even be an unredacted report on the findings of the more recent submissions on the Territory Plan and District Plans.

In terms of the ugly:

Marianne spoke of the SINGTEL OPTUS via COMMPLAN PTY LTD proposal to erect a telecommunications tower on Reid Park Sports Ground.

She also spoke of proposals for new fencing around the ACT Ranger's Office and the proposed creation of a Pump Station. These proposals have been paused, as a result of RRA action, pending advice from the Heritage Unit. The dissolution of the Heritage Council has created additional concerns about the value the ACT Government places upon heritage and is something the RRA is watching closely.

In terms of the downright scary:

Again, the RRA was alerted by residents rather than through an ACT Government consultation process, to the signalisation of the intersection at Limestone Avenue, Euree Street and Treloar Crescent. Funding of over \$1.6m has already been approved without community consultation which is a concern given this is a condition of the federal grant under the Black Spot program. Representations have already been made and will no doubt continue through the coming year given the increase in traffic passing through Reid that is a likely outcome.

Marianne referred the meeting to the various submissions, representations and other activities undertaken by the Association that are listed in her written report.

She finished by thanking the RRA Committee for their support and wished everyone the very best for another year in our suburb of beautiful gardens, delightful streetscapes and landscapes.

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

6. Report from Treasurer and adoption of 2022 financial statements

Robyn advised that the Association began the year with \$11,446.75 in the bank and that expenses totally \$2,999.92. As of 31 December 2022 the Association had \$23,469.08 in the bank, \$12,743 of which is grant money for the second phase of pebble post conservation. Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Jack Waterford and seconded by Anthony Bergin.

7. Appointment of Auditor

Scott McAllister has been the RRA's auditor. John Henderson proposed that Scott be appointed as the auditor for 2023; this was seconded by Rob Fergusson.

8. 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 as President; Robyn as Secretary; Roy as Treasurer and Public Officer; and Sue, Anne and John as Committee Members. They were nominated en-bloc and seconded by acclamation and confirmed as the new Committee members.

9. Other business

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

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

President: Marianne Albury-Colless

Secretary: Amanda Reynolds

Treasurer & Public Officer: Robyn Bergin

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

RRA Committee 2023-24

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