



REID RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

Formed 14 August 1944 AO 1247 info@reid.northcanberra.org.au May 2023

AGM update

There was a good turnout for the AGM on 29 March. As well as the usual formalities (the committee for 2023-24 can be found at the bottom of this newsletter; and the accounts were deemed appropriate) attendees heard from our guest speaker Max Bourke AM and President, Marianne Albury-Colless.

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. He 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.

You may wish to follow up Max's wise words about heritage and conservation by reading the text of the inaugural ACT Heritage Oration 2023 he gave titled 'Australian heritage at the cross-roads – looking back and forward without breaking my neck'. Text is available at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Max-Bourke-Oration-20230417.pdf>

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

Marianne spoke about the Good, the Bad, the downright Ugly and the outright Scary. The Good included a very successful Roaring Twenties event during Heritage Week; the Bad referred to the ACT Government's proposed reforms to the planning system; the downright Ugly reflected on the visual impact of a telecommunications tower and a pumpstation on Reid Park Sports Ground; and the outright Scary the Government's decision to ignore their own expert advice on how best to handle the intersection Euree Street and Limestone Avenue. Marianne's full report can be found on the RRA website at www.reid.northcanberra.org.au/about-us-2/.

Other Updates

Inquiry into the Planning Bill 2022

On 24 April 2023, the ACT Government tabled its response to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services Inquiry into the Planning Bill 2022. A quick look shows that the Government has agreed (fully, in part or in principle) to more than half of the recommendations of the Committee. This sounds promising. However, it's hard to see in some instances how that agreement was reached. The response can be found at https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/2211489/PTCS-12-Inquiry-into-Planning-Bill-2022-Government-Response-tabled-24-April-2023.pdf

Paul Costigan, in his article in the Canberra City News of 10 May 2023 *Failed Planners thumb a noise at the community*, commends the Combined Community Councils ACT for their submission. You can find it at <https://cccact.org>

It will be interesting to see what unfolds when the Bill is debated in the Legislative Assembly.

Inquiry into ACT's heritage arrangements

Marianne Albury-Colless appeared before the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity on 16 May representing the RRA.

The Committee's Terms of Reference are to inquire and report on the ACT's heritage arrangements, with particular reference to:

- a. the effectiveness and adequacy of the operations under the *Heritage Act 2004* including First Nations heritage, and approvals provided under the Act;
- b. the effectiveness of the structure, administration, and operation of the ACT Heritage Council, including the adequacy of governance arrangements between the ACT Heritage Council and ACT Heritage Unit;
- c. the adequacy of resourcing for the ACT Heritage Unit;
- d. the operation of heritage legislation in other Australian jurisdictions;
- e. how the ACT's heritage arrangements might be improved to guarantee the ACT Heritage Council achieves its statutory functions; and
- f. any other related matters with respect to the ACT's heritage arrangements.

There were 64 submissions to the Inquiry. Almost all were supported stronger heritage arrangements; only one ran the argument that heritage stands in the way of progress. This submission, by a group called Greater Canberra, singled out Reid and Reid residents for attention arguing that we all well off, are inaccessible, have our very own university and fast rail stop, and selfishly protect our heritage enclave from developers who want to build a 'Greater Canberra'.

It is easy to assume that Reid is a privileged community. We live in a beautiful place, full of history and heritage and we take care of it for future generations. But a quick look at the ABS data from 2021 shows that, far from being wealthy, the median weekly household income in Reid, is below all the suburbs nearby (Ainslie, Campbell, Braddon, Turner and O'Conner). We urge you to fact check the Australian Bureau of Statistics data: abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/SAL80113.

Further fact finding would show that Reid is criss-crossed by roads and paths; that the University of New South Wales does not belong to Reid; and that developers who want to destroy Reid would be diminishing Canberra, its amenity, history and heritage.

Rather than giving their views any more air than is warranted here, you can find all the submissions at www.parliament.act.gov.au/parliamentary-business/in-committees/committees/eccb/inquiry-into-ACTs-heritage-arrangements#tab2118879-2id.

Additional documents were provided by Marianne to the Inquiry and these Exhibits (13 & 14) have been uploaded to the Inquiry webpage. They can be viewed at the following links:

- www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/2227107/Exhibit-013-Reid-Residents-Association-Reid-and-Garden-City-Precinct-heritage.pdf
- www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/2227108/Exhibit-014-Reid-Residents-Association-Lets-get-the-facts-right-about-Reid.pdf

We can only hope that their specious arguments don't get traction. Incidentally, a quick internet search shows that one of their principals spent several years working for the Planning Minister. But perhaps that means nothing.

Heritage Grants

You will recall, RRA was awarded an ACT Heritage Grant for 2022-23 to restore the remaining 'Rockite' pebble posts in Reid, along with three in Ainslie, Alt Crescent and two along Patterson Street. Work is underway with Gillian Mitchell, the conservator, treating the lichen and algal growth as a first step.

The RRA has applied for two ACT Heritage Grants for 2023–24. The first is to develop a Conservation Management Plan for Reid Park that considers all aspects of its management, including drainage, trees, access, sporting facilities. The second is for a small amount of money to help the RRA begin work on a publication to celebrate the centenary of the suburb by consulting an editor, gathering some high-resolution images, and training in how to record residents' oral histories.

Reid Weeders

We have had a good response to our call for volunteers to help weed laneways and parks in Reid under the auspices of the ACT Government's Urban Parks and Places volunteers program. We are awaiting final advice from the Government before launching this group.

Signalisation of Limestone Avenue, Euree St and Treloar Crescent – no news to date. Thanks to all who contacted the RRA particularly those living nearby who are often the first responders to accidents at that intersection.

'Temporary' Optus tower proposed for Reid Park Sports Ground – no news to date.

Friends of the Canberra Olympic Pool Association

Over 50 people, many of them Reid residents, attended a meeting at short notice on 29th April 2023 and decided to form a Friends of the Canberra Olympic Pool Association. The Friends' main aim is to advocate for a continuation of publicly available year-round swimming and aquatic facilities on the current site. A delegation met with the Environment Minister Yvette Berry on 19th May 2023. The ACT Government has indicated that a decision about the pool will be made before the end of this year.

Anyone interested in the future of the Pool is invited to join their mailing list by sending an email with contact details to: friendsofcop@gmail.com

Petition to incorporate the Ainslie Volcanics site into the Mt Ainslie Nature Reserve

The area has been nominated for the ACT Heritage Register for Aboriginal heritage values associated with the outcrops. It contains critically endangered Natural Temperate Grasslands, Box Gum Woodland, and habitat for multiple Commonwealth threatened species. It is being actively managed by local volunteers working formally with ACT Parks and Conservation and Molonglo Conservation Group. There is a petition to urgently incorporate the area into the Canberra Nature Park and for the Federal Government to relinquish the adjacent area of the 'Wolseley Drive' access corridor adjacent so it can also be incorporated into the Mt Ainslie Nature Reserve.

The petition can be found at <https://epetitions.parliament.act.gov.au/details/e-pet-012-23> until 4 June.

Trees near CIT

You may have noticed that invasive species – Rowan, Cotoneaster and some Prunus spp.(not the original *Prunus nigra*) – have been removed along the edge of the service road into CIT and that many of the eucalypts have been heavily pruned by arborists for both safety and to help promote longevity.

Crime

ACT Neighbourhood Watch has provided crime statistics for the last quarter and advised that ACT Policing are implementing online reporting to supplement current reporting channels for the community.

	February	March	April
Ainslie Ave	Assault causing ABH Other theft Other property damage	Burglary dwellings	Burglary dwellings Other property damage x 2
Allambee St	Assault other	Assault causing ABH	Assault causing ABH
Boolee St	Other property damage x 2	Theft of vehicle no. plates Other property damage	Assault other Other property damage
Cooyong St	Burglary dwellings Other theft	Assault other	
Constitution Ave	Motor vehicle theft Bicycle theft		Bicycle theft
Currong St	Burglary dwellings Motor vehicle theft		Burglary dwellings
Elimatta St	Assault other		
Gooreen St	Assault causing ABH Motor vehicle theft		

Reid churches

Canberra Korean Uniting Church: 56 Coranderrk St, Reid
Events: <https://canberrakorean.uca.org.au/>

St John's Anglican Church: 45 Constitution Ave, Reid
The annual fair will be held on Saturday 14 October 2023 from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm. If you have surplus feijoas, oranges, lemons or cumquats in your garden, St John's can turn them into produce for the jam stall – please contact the Parish Office on 6248 8399. They are also collecting books for the book stall – please drop off in the Parish Hall foyer (on the bench) on Sundays.

St Peter's Lutheran Church: Boolee St Reid
Events: <https://stpeters-canberra.lutheran.org.au/>

RRA Committee 2023-24

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

President: Marianne Albury-Colless Secretary: Robyn Bergin Treasurer & Public Officer: Roy Jordan
Committee: Anne Buttsworth, Sue Byrne, John Henderson, Molly Henman and Amanda Reynolds