



REID RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

Formed 14 August 1944

AO 1247

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November 2023

Optus Tower rejected for Reid Park Sports Ground

In November an application to install a 20m tower and associated infrastructure on Reid Park was denied because it would affect the surrounding landscape and built area of the heritage precinct.

There were forty-one written objections, many from Reid residents. The Heritage Council didn't support the proposed structure and the National Capital Authority requested perspective drawings, which were not forthcoming, to show the possible visual impact on the Australian War Memorial. The decision is on the ACT Government's Decided Development Applications database– DA 202240878.

There are some, particularly on social media, who believe that those who objected to this proposal are NIMBYs (not in my backyard) and that effective electronic communication should trump all else. We understand that more towers are needed for effective 5G coverage and that Canberra, unlike other cities, has restricted options for locating these towers on the rooftops of buildings where they would be less obtrusive. Perhaps this needs to be revisited as 5G requires more towers – the 5G signal is faster than 4G but it doesn't travel as far. We believe that good urban planning can find a way that delivers good services while maintaining the amenity of our environment.

More on Reid Park Sports Ground

Work on a Conservation Management Plan has begun. Philip Leeson Architects, in conjunction with us, are developing a stakeholder consultation program to understand as much as possible about the Ground—how it does or doesn't work; what's good or not good about it; and what aspirations and plans there are for changes taking into consideration the impact of climate change. The Plan has been funded with a grant from the ACT Heritage Council and the Transport and Community Services Department and will look at tree management, soil composition, water management and drainage issues.

In a separate development, the shipping container has been moved (again) to allow for a new security fence around the City Rangers Office. It is now located next to the change rooms to try and reduce the visual bulk of the container. Ideally, the change rooms would be upgraded and include more space for the essential maintenance equipment etc. currently stored in the shipping container.

There is no news on the above ground pumping station that was proposed for the Limestone Avenue side of the Ground.

Tree Protection

From 1 January 2024 new laws will provide greater protection for Canberra's trees on public and private land by, among other things:

- reducing the size requirements for protected trees on private land and protecting dead native trees of a certain size
- classifying all trees on public land as protected trees
- increasing penalties for people caught damaging a protected tree or breaching a Tree Management Plan or direction
- expanding the ACT Tree Register which celebrates and protects our most significant trees.

The RRA has been busy mapping and liaising with the ACT Government on trees that are missing in our laneways and streets. If you are concerned about missing trees please let us know so we can reconcile this information with our list.

ACT Heritage Jurisdictional Review

This is separate from the ACT Government's Inquiry into the ACT's heritage Arrangements (below). The RRA submission, in the main, asks the Review Team to:

- establish a clear vision for heritage in the ACT and for Canberra, our national capital
 - clarify the relationship between the Planning Act and Heritage Act and engage an independent arbiter to decide when there are conflicting views
 - increase the resources of the Heritage Unit to assist in consistency in decision making
 - increase the knowledge and appreciation of heritage across decision-makers
 - increase the capacity to actively enforce breaches of heritage across all forms so that the community understands there are consequences for non-compliance
 - encourage adaptive reuse of buildings of identified heritage value wherever possible and assess and tax the value of embodied energy when such buildings are demolished.
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Inquiry into ACT's Heritage Arrangements

Following the dismissal of the ACT Heritage Council, the inquiry was initiated in December 2022. The report of the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity was published in October 2023. The Standing Committee members were Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA, and Mr Ed Cocks MLA.

The report contains 37 recommendations, including that the ACT Government:

- urgently address its structure of governance of the ACT's heritage arrangements
- develop an ACT Heritage Strategy
- ensure any reforms to the heritage framework be in line with recent planning reforms
- review and make a definitive decision on the powers provided to the ACT Heritage Council
- consider removal of the Chief Planner as an *ex-officio* member of the ACT Heritage Council
- increase the frequency of ACT Heritage Council meetings in order to deal with the increased volume of applications and advice that need to be considered
- allow low-impact improvements to be made quickly and easily to heritage-listed properties.

Mr Cocks dissented partly because 'there is also a risk, particularly in the context of the current planning reforms, and the impending review of the heritage system undertaken by the same Directorate, that the main report could be seen as endorsing unfettered development over heritage considerations'. He recommends, among other things, that the government establish an independent office for heritage with adequate resourcing and 'that the Government provide conditional rates relief to owners of heritage listed residential properties, in recognition of the significantly increased responsibilities and costs that accrue for these buildings.'

The two reports can be found on the Legislative Assembly website.

- www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/2307019/Report-9-Inquiry-into-ACTs-heritage-arrangements.pdf
 - www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/2307174/Report-9-Dissenting-Report-by-Mr-Cocks.pdf
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Reid Reminiscences – Sunday 10 September

A lovely time was had by those who came along to share their memories over afternoon tea. Many thanks to our local MLAs Shane Rattenbury and Rebecca Vassarotti for their remarks and to Emeritus Professor William Maley AM who inspired us all with his memories of early Reid. Here are a few for your enjoyment.

- In the late 1940s, micro film was regularly left in the cypress trees in Geerilong Gardens, along Currong Street, by Walter Seddon Clayton who was the head of a Soviet spy ring. These would be collected by members of the Russian Embassy, decoded and the material send back to Moscow.
- There was a proposal in the late 1960s by the then administration to tax lavatories, or pedestals as they were called, to raise funds for services in the ACT. This led to a review at the Canberra

Theatre under the title 'Gone Potty' starring Reg Livermore which had a recitation about the characteristics of different suburbs of Canberra. Ours was 'Reid, Reid, public servants gone to seed'.

- In the absence of refrigerators, an ice man used to come round about once a week with a big block of ice that would go in the foot of the ice chest and keep goods chilled for the rest of the week. One ice man had a glass eye which he would take out enthusiastically to show people at the least opportunity. What was unusual was that he had one made up with a Union Jack in the middle and he used to put it in on Empire Day.

Other residents shared their memories too: on Empire Day there would be a bonfire near the tennis courts and a concert back in someone's home; children would play on Anzac Parade which was full of native orchids; Reid was a small community where a wandering grandfather, who had forgotten his way home, could be collected when the War Memorial staff rang to say he was lost and with them.

And there are more. Reid residents must have been very obliging. In 1952 when Queen Elizabeth II visited Canberra, the army was camped on Anzac Parade. One young boy, upon finding out that they had no way to wash their clothes, invited them home to use his mother's laundry!

We look forward to hearing more of your stories.

Reid Open House and Gardens

The 15th Reid Open House and Gardens, an RRA event in conjunction with the National Trust (ACT), was sold out again. The weather was perfect; the properties beautifully presented; the owners' stories engaging; and the Reid Preschool served a delicious afternoon tea. Thanks to John Tucker for setting the scene for the 60 keen participants.

Thank you also to those who opened their homes and gardens. We know it is a lot of work and we couldn't offer this popular event without you. Reid is the only suburb that does this which says a lot about our residents and their willingness to share the heritage of their homes with others.

The foundations of Reid

Some residents have reported that, after nearly a hundred years, the foundations of their homes need a bit of support. If you are faced with this issue and would like to talk to others who have acquired knowledge and experience in dealing with this, please let us know at info@reid.northcanberra.org.au.

Ainslie Pre-School

The Pre-school celebrated its 80th birthday on Friday 10 November. The Reid Progress Association, forerunner of the RRA, played a seminal role in establishing the pre-school and some of our readers were in the first cohort to attend.

Holiday safety

House break-ins often increase over holiday periods because offenders know an empty house can be an easy target. ACT Police suggest that you could reduce the risk by organising a house sitter or making it less obvious that no one is home by:

- asking someone to collect your mail so your mailbox doesn't overflow
- keeping a light on inside
- getting someone to water your plants and/or generally check on your house
- letting your neighbours know you're going away so they can keep an eye on your home and raise the alarm if they see anything suspicious.

Here again is a handy list that's a useful reminder of all the things to check before heading off for a good long break: nhw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Home-Safety-Holiday-Checklist.pdf.

Crime

On Saturday 28 October 2023 changes to the Drugs of Dependence Amendment (Personal Possession) Bill came into effect. Drug possession remains a criminal offence—the legislation has simply reduced the penalties that apply for the possession of small amounts of illicit drugs in the ACT. It is important to note drug driving laws have not changed – it remains an offence to have any amount of an illicit substance in your system while driving.

The RRA Committee is working in cooperation with ACT Neighbourhood Watch Inc. Further information at www.nhwact.com.au. Reid crime statistics for August – October 2023.

	August	September	October
Ainslie Ave		Assault other x 2	Other property damage x 2
Allambee St	Motor vehicle theft	Assault other Burglary dwellings Other theft x 2 Other property damage x 2	Assault other Other theft
Boroondara St		Other property damage	
Constitution Ave	Bicycle theft		Number plate theft
Cooyong St	Burglary dwellings Motor vehicle theft Other theft	Burglary dwellings Other theft x 2	Other property damage
Coranderrk St		Burglary dwellings	
Currong St	Other theft	Motor vehicle theft	Bicycle theft
Euree St	Burglary dwellings	Burglary dwellings	
Kogarah Lane	Other theft	Other property damage	
Goreen St	Other theft	Other theft	

Community news

St John's Anglican Church
45 Constitution Avenue

Gingerbread Decorating, Saturday 2 December.
Bookings <http://trybooking.com/CNBAB>
Christmas: events include Carols on the Lawn.
All are welcome. Details can be found at:
stjohnscanberra.org

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

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



The RRA was well represented at the Community Fair on Saturday 14 October 2023.

AGM – Wednesday 27 March 2024

Please pencil in the date for our AGM next year. We look forward to seeing you.

This is our last newsletter for the year. We would like to wish you all a joyous holiday season. Stay safe, have fun and we will be back in the new year.

RRA Committee 2023–24

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

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