



REID RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

AO 1247

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**DRAFT Minutes of Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 26 March 2025  
6.30 pm at the Mercure Hotel, Ainslie Avenue**

Attending: Twenty-one residents.

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Marianne opened the meeting, acknowledged First Nations people, and welcomed residents and the guest speaker, historian Mr Tony Maple.

Apologies were received from Committee members Gary Fan and Molly Henman.

**2. Address by guest speaker - Mr Tony Maple**

***Before Reid: The People at the Heart of Old Canberra***

Tony opened his presentation by speaking of the local Indigenous tribes who had inhabited the land about modern day Canberra for about 1,250 generation or 25,000 years. Europeans arrived about 200 years ago, a mere 5 generations or so, and James Dickson was the first to prepare a map of the region in 1829.

The local European residents included JJ Moore who could be found on his Action Peninsula property, Canberry, in 1823. Nearby, in Quinbeam, was Timothy Beard, an ex-convict who was nudged off his land by Robert Campbell. Robert Campbell, a Sydney businessman, had received a very large land grant from the government in compensation for the loss of one of his ships that had been seconded by the government. Robert engaged James Ainslie to bring the first sheep to Pialligo which became Duntroon. Pierce Smith lived at Acton and was responsible for building the rectory in the glebe which ran down the western boundary of the Campbell property (which is now about the middle of Coranderrk Street).

With an increasing number of European land-owners in the region, the government commissioned Robert Hoddle to survey land boundaries. Hoddle later went on to survey Melbourne. Both areas were laid out with magnetic north-south boundaries. In 1841, the Bishop of Australia, William Broughton, visited Robert Campbell and they discussed the need for a church. They decided that it was better to locate the church outside Duntroon on Scott's Crossing Road and the church can be seen in an 1845 photograph of Canberra. St John's Schoolhouse can also be seen in this photo, albeit without a roof due to a fire. One of its earliest students was Harry Holland who later became a socialist, was jailed for sedition, and moved to New Zealand where he ended up Leader of the Opposition. Scott's Crossing Road can also be seen in a 1915 photo of General Bridges' funeral procession.

It wasn't until Frederick Campbell fenced his land, disrupting some of short cuts people had become accustomed to, that the government formally surveyed roads in Canberra. Frederick was also responsible for bringing trout to the Canberra River and rugby union to the region.

The church school, the smithy and the first post office were all in Reid. Priscilla Williams ran a post office on Limestone Avenue with her much older husband. She continued after his death in 1886 until she retired in 1913. It was an important role in the community because, as post mistress, she had licence to read the Squire's newspaper and was therefore one of the most informed people, and knowledge sharers, in the district. The site of the Post Office is marked on Allambee Street at the back of Kanangra Court. You can also find a plaque on the site of the first business in Canberra –Murray's Bakery – in what is now Commonwealth Park.

In 1908 the Government selected the Yass-Canberra district as the location for a national capital and sent Charles Scrivener to determine where it should be within that district. Later, there was an international competition to design the capital and the winning plans, drawn up by Walter and Marion Burley Griffin, were considered as input into a plan drawn up by a departmental board in 1912. Following an outcry, the government ditched this idea and asked Griffin to be involved. Until 1927 Reid was known as South Ainslie.

Marianne thanked Tony for his engaging presentation.

### **3. Confirmation of minutes of 2023 AGM**

Acceptance of the minutes of the AGM on 27 March 2024 was proposed by Graeme Carter, seconded by Pamela Henderson and confirmed by those present.

### **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

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

The President opened by thanking everyone for attending; the committee for their on-going work; and noted the contribution of Margaret Avard who has assisted ably with the archiving of the Association's records.

She spoke to her report and advised that copies were available.

Marianne mentioned the importance of the issues raised by Duncan Marshall when he spoke last year. Duncan reminded us of the continual concerns of managing heritage in the 'developmental disposition' held by so many. Marianne reported that the ACT *Heritage ACT 2004*, the Reid Housing Precinct, ACT Register 20023 states mandated requirements. She has written to the Heritage Council on matters that show these are not being enforced with a consequence that Reid Housing Precinct streetscapes are being degraded. She is anticipating a response prior to Duncan's retirement at the end of April.

The celebration marking the 80th year since the formation of the Reid Residents' Progress Association on 19 September 1924 was celebrated in one of the most appropriately iconic areas of the 1927 Mercure Hotel. Over 60 guests enjoyed the time and rose to the occasion

beautifully by dressing in 1940s high style. It was held within the caretaker period of the ACT elections and all MLAs of Kurrajong were invited. The Chief Minister cut a fabulous cake resplendent in icing with an embossed FCC 9 cottage.

A major project for the Association has been the Reid Park Sports Ground Conservation Management Plan (CMP). This process has involved multiple components needing to be considered in any future changes to this heritage-listed park containing sport and recreational facilities. These included the sporting and recreational history, heritage listing, extant building, topography, soil analysis and drainage, the Weston plantings of trees surrounding the park, the actual site itself situated so close to Mt Ainslie and the Australian War Memorial, increase in numbers of girls and women playing sport, current work, health and safety legislation all within a heritage precinct.

The work to develop this CMP included a survey of residents and users of the facilities and running an information-sharing meeting we hosted with the key stakeholders including: Daniel Iglesias, Executive Branch Manager City Presentation; Luke Halpin, Senior Director Sport and recreation; Rachael Dawes Senior Director Urban Treescapes, Wendy Cave, Principal Ainslie School; Sean Sloan, Rangers Depot; Lauren Coates, Ainslie Football Club; Graham Hilles, Cricket.

It appears that we are in the final stages and that, once we have sign off from Sports and Recreation, the CMP will be forwarded to the Heritage Council for approval. Fingers crossed we will have a relevant and workable plan that shapes the way forward for at least a decade.

The Canberra and Region Heritage Festival 'Unearthed' 2025 runs from 18 April to 11 May. The committee has organised a walk, commencing on the RPSG with Greg Blood, a Canberra sports historian, then walking through the Reid Housing Precinct, looking with special attention at the Federal Capital Commission (FCC) houses to mark the 100th anniversary of the formation of this commission, headed by (Sir) John Butters and the architect (Sir) John Sulman. We will then enjoy a fine afternoon tea at the Reid Tennis Courts courtesy of the Reid Tennis Club, President Sue Willis. Bookings available from 1 April.

Acceptance of the President's Report was proposed by Derk Swieringa and seconded by Debbie Wauchop.

## **6. Report from Treasurer and adoption of 2024 financial statements**

The Treasurer reported that we began the year with just under \$33,500 and finished with a balance of just over \$15,000. Our main income was a \$17,000 grant from the ACT Government toward the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Reid Oval and a \$1,000 grant from the North Canberra Community Council for printing of the newsletters and website administration. Our main expenditure was just over \$33,000 for the CMP and there is a final payment of \$2,500 to make on that project. This leaves a working capital of about \$12,500.

He thanked Derk Swieringa for reviewing the accounts and provided copies of the Profit and Loss statement as a handout.

Anthony Bergin asked why the RRA was paying for the Conservation Management Plan which led to a broader conversation about this project. Graeme Carter asked whether the history of usage (and its potential increase with more people residing in the city) and threats to the ovals (such as the proposed telecommunications tower). Debbie Wauchop remarked that clubs pay quite a lot of money to use the ovals, including for training, so they will have expectations around usage and parking. The President elaborated on the elements in the report, including the need for increased storage that has led to the unsightly shipping container and the proposed pump station and her hope that these essentials can be accommodated sympathetically. She offered to share a copy of the draft report.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Pamela Henderson; seconded by John Henderson; and agreed by all.

#### **7. Appointment of Auditor**

Derk Swieringa proposed that Scott McAlister be appointed auditor for 2025. This was seconded by Roy Jordan and carried.

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

Marianne handed the meeting over to Chris Freeman for the election of officers. He advised that nominations had been received for Marianne Albury-Colless as President; Robyn Bergin as Secretary; Derk Swieringa as Treasurer and Public Officer; and Anne Buttsworth, Sue Byrne, Gary Fan, Molly Henman, Roy Jordan, John Henderson and Debbie Wauchop as Committee Members. They were nominated en-bloc and seconded by acclamation and confirmed as the new Committee members.

#### **9. Other business**

The President mentioned that the idea of a brochure for all residents about what we would like to see in terms of alterations buildings and gardens in Reid might have merit.

Derk Swieringa thanked the President for all her work. This met with a round of applause.

There being no other business Marianne closed the meeting at 7.30 pm, thanking residents for their attendance and inviting people to stay for an informal meal.

#### **RRA Committee 2025-26**

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

President: Marianne Albury-Colless

Secretary: Robyn Bergin

Treasurer & Public Officer: Derk Swieringa

Committee: Anne Buttsworth, Sue Byrne, Gary Fan, Molly Henman, John Henderson, Roy Jordan and Debbie Wauchop