

## YRA COMMITTEE - Minutes of Meeting held 16.03.06

Meeting opened 8.00pm

**Present:** Mac West, Hugh Campbell, Les Landau

**Apologies:** Mike Roarty

**Minutes of last meeting** to be accepted. Moved Mac West, seconded Hugh Campbell.

### **Matters arising from the minutes**

- The minutes had not all been circulated as we used to circulate a “summary” of the minutes that were a summary of committee meeting with the Admin left out. In future we will just circulate the minutes as this is easier.

- Recording of minutes in hard copy

We should have a folder with hard copy of minutes.

The committee members should keep an external correspondence folder that can be burned to CD, so that we know what we have sent and what has been received. It was thought that if each committee member had the same structure, then it would be easier to merge and keep.

In the first instance, it was thought to be good to have the same structure as Mac West, the categories (folders) being:

- Neighbourhood Planning
- Brickworks
- Community Consultation (e.g. community councils)
- Hill Corner
- YRA Background
- Planning and Development
- Heritage
- Other Issues
- AGM
- Misc

Les to make a list of what he has electronically by the next meeting.

- Waterskiing on the lake.

Mac has written requesting information on the results of the waterskiing trial. We have received a reply by email and this will be attached to the minutes to circulate

- Mac has written asking about what if any maintenance steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence of the recent Schomburg Street fire.
- Website work proceeding as indicated in last minutes.
- Community Representation has been left to the next meeting

Sue to write to Community Engagement Unit to ask for details about how we would go about setting up a Southside Community Council so that we can discuss it with other residents associations and what the minimum requirements would be for us to receive the mailouts received by the other Community Councils.

- DA165

Les to send Hugh an electronic copy of the DA165 with a map as it is hard to find on the website

- Correspondence

Out Peter Byron

re: Waterskiing on the Lake

Out Sandy Blair re: Fire in Schomburg St  
In Peter Byron re: Waterskiing on the Lake  
In Terry & Sue Catchpole re: Development rules  
In Catherine Sykes re: Clearing of site at end of Denman St  
In NCA Capital21 Newsletter

The YRA has subscribed to Environment Defender's Office newsletter

- Correspondence follow-up  
Mac agreed to follow-up the correspondence from Catherine Sykes

### **Other business**

Mac to continue work on the website  
Embassy Motel building – Sue was to follow-up

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April / **Meeting closed** 9.00pm

Related attachments:

e-mail and response relating to the fire in Schomberg St  
e-mail and response relating to water skiing on the Lake

### **Bushfire Management correspondence**

*From: Burden, Ross*  
*Sent: Wednesday, 29 March 2006 8:54 AM*  
*To: Mac West*  
*Cc: Watkinson, Russell; Blair, Sandy*  
*Subject: Bushfire Management*

Dear Mr West

I refer to your E-mail of 15 March 2006 regarding bushfire mitigation in the Yarralumla Brickworks to Mr Watkinson and Ms Blair.

As a result of the fires that occurred on 29 December 2005, Urban Services is developing an Integrated Facilities Management Plan for the Brickworks and adjacent unleased land. As part of this plan the Department is developing a 'Fire and Land Management' section that will look at reducing fire intensity and provide for a more defensible space for fire fighting of any future fires. It should be noted that bushfire prevention and preparedness is a shared responsibility and that residents abutting edges where fires could impact upon them should also be undertaking maintenance to their areas. Please refer to 'Bushfires and the Bush Capital A Guide for the ACT' located on [http://www.esb.act.gov.au/Community\\_Ed/Bushfires\\_and\\_the\\_Bush\\_Capital/index.html](http://www.esb.act.gov.au/Community_Ed/Bushfires_and_the_Bush_Capital/index.html) for further information.

The Department has undertaken a professional tree audit of the Brickworks site, priority works will see the removal of fire damaged trees that have the potential to fall and damage residential properties or boundary fences.

The trees that have survived the fires will remain for aesthetic and amenity reasons. Other planned tree rectification works include the removal of lower branches up to a height of 2 metres to allow fires to burn under the pines rather than climbing the trees and developing into crown fires, the remaining fire damaged trees will be progressively removed. The Department will undertake further clearing around the boundary on the quarry site and sow it to grass, this will allow for additional slashing during the bushfire season.

Areas outside of the Brickworks currently meet the standards set out in the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan for the ACT, with mowing exceeding the 30-metre requirement and low fuel loads in the

adjacent asset protection zones. The stands of pine trees to the south through to the southwest along Denman Street were all lifted and woody weeds removed in 2003. The area between the Brickworks site and the Federal Golf Course will in future years further cleaned up however, it is not an immediate fire risk given the irrigated grass on the golf course side and the mowing works carried out around the brickworks itself.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you, if you would like to further discuss please contact me on [phone number supplied to YRA].

Ross Burden  
Manager Bushfire Unit  
Parks and Places, Urban Services

-----Original Message-----

*From: Mac West  
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2006 9:47 PM  
To: Sandy Blair, Russell Watkinson  
Subject: Bushfire Management*

Dear Mr Watkinson and Ms Blair

You may remember that shortly after Christmas this year there was a fire that I understand originated in the Yarralumla Brickworks and cause damage to houses in Schomburg Street.

We have been asked by the residents of that area if any steps have been taken to minimise the risk of anything similar happening again. Can you please advise us?

Yours Sincerely

MAC WEST  
President  
Yarralumla Residents Association

## **Water Skiing on the lake correspondence**

Mac

Thank you for your email regarding water skiing on Lake Burley Griffin. In October 2005, the National Capital Authority (NCA) announced that a trial of a water skiing training area would be undertaken in the East Basin of Lake Burley Griffin.

Details of the trial:

The training area is to be located near the Kings Avenue Bridge in the East Basin of Lake Burley Griffin (approx 370m course).

The trial was for a period of four months from 1 November 2005

The training area is not for use by the general public and is only for use by members of the ACT Water Skiing Association Only one boat under the management of the ACT Water Skiing Association can use the training area. The boat is a specially designed with an inboard motor which produces a low wake.

Training is only permitted for a maximum of four hours per day on weekdays with two weekend days permitted per month. Training cannot commence before 8.30am.

No refueling is permitted on the lake or shoreline.

During the trial, a range of environmental monitoring was carried out. This included an assessment of noise on surrounding key areas, the impact on water quality, geomorphology and hydrology as well as an assessment of the effects on aquatic birds and other related parameters. The results from these environmental reports is currently being collated and will be announced in the next two months.

Also announced last year was the Lake Burley Griffin Recreation Policy (download a copy from [http://downloads.nationalcapital.gov.au/corporate/publications/LBG/Lake\\_Rec\\_Policy\\_2005.pdf](http://downloads.nationalcapital.gov.au/corporate/publications/LBG/Lake_Rec_Policy_2005.pdf)). The policy aims to ' Maintain and encourage a range of compatible recreation opportunities consistent with the special characteristics of Lake Burley Griffin' .

The Recreation Policy also states the NCA's aim to increase the promotion of Lake Burley Griffin and this is occurring in national educational kits on the national capital and through promotion to sporting organisations (we have new events such as the World Triathlon Long Course Championships recently announced to be held on the lake). The section on powerboat permits remains unchanged and has been consistent for the last 20 years.

The NCA is upgrading infrastructure associated with the lake and last year opened the Commonwealth Place forecourt and new jetties, the upgraded jetty for Springbank Island and a range of other projects are planned to enhance recreational opportunities on the lake.

There were some misleading media reports in November 2005 which confused an annual powerboat event in Central Basin with the trial water skiing training area in East Basin.

Please contact me on [*phone number supplied to YRA*] if you wish to obtain further information.

Regards

Peter Byron  
Executive Manager, Events & Outreach  
National Capital Authority  
[www.nationalcapital.gov.au](http://www.nationalcapital.gov.au)

E-mail sent by Mac West:  
15/03/2006  
Peter -

I understand that you are the person to direct my query to - please let me know if this is not correct.

Last spring time there was a flurry of publicity about the possibility of changing the restrictions concerning the use of motor boats on Lake Burley Griffin. Around that time we held the AGM of the Yarralumla Residents Association, and there was considerable interest in this issue - all of it in the negative. While it's reasonable to consider the occasional and specific use of parts of the lake - the central area in particular - for motorized use for particular events, there was total opposition to a change in regulations making this possible as a general water use; in addition, the YRA considers that such uses should never be permitted in the western parts of the lake.

In addition to the noise pollution this would generate, the problem of degradation of the shores due to the wash from the boats is inevitable, and there are also reasonable concerns for the safety of other lake users. In your files for this matter, I'm asking you to register the complete opposition in this regard by the residents of this end of Burley Griffin, as a counter to one Minister's obvious enthusiasm and undoubtedly the lobbying of other interest groups.

Having made this request, I'd be grateful for your feedback on precisely what has happened in this regard at the National Capital Authority over the last 6 months.

Yours Sincerely

MAC WEST  
President  
Yarralumla Residents Association