

YARRALUMLA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

COMMUNITY NEWS—Winter 2009

YARRALUMLA BRICKWORKS

A YRA committee member contacts the Land and Development Agency of the ACT Government (LDA) every month to get a regular update on government plans for the Yarralumla Brickworks. In early June, we were surprised to learn that the LDA has decided not to go ahead to the tender stage of the Expressions of Interest (EOI) in the process for development of the Yarralumla Brickworks.

Instead, in the second half of 2009, the LDA will draw up an extensive and consultative management plan to include public consultation (including developers), and to consider issues of contamination, heritage, and traffic. The YRA looks forward to this new process to ensure that any development proposals are acceptable to the community, and that the brickworks are preserved in some form respectful of the heritage value of the site.

YARRALUMLA RECREATION HUB

A representative of the National Capital Authority (NCA) has advised us in early July that the final plan for the Yarralumla Recreation Hub has been received from the consultants. This follows extensive public consultation over the last two to three years, with the YRA making four written submissions over that time. This final plan will determine the future directions for the area for land managers (NCA and ACT government agencies) and leaseholders, to follow over future years. At this stage, the plan is being checked and formatted for uploading onto the NCA website, where it will be available by the end of August. See <http://www.nationalcapital.gov.au/>

We look forward to seeing this final plan to which many residents have had input. Information from the previous information session of Dec. 2008 is still available at:

http://www.nationalcapital.gov.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=609&Itemid=376

WITHDRAWAL OF DA53 (ALBERT HALL PRECINCT)

On 18 June, the National Capital Authority agreed to withdraw Draft Amendment 53, which proposed a change to the land use policy of the Albert Hall Precinct. The draft amendment to the National Capital Plan has been on hold since February 2008. The YRA welcomes this decision, and congratulates the NCA for its acceptance of the concerns of the wider community. It is a fitting outcome and a result of the efforts of many community groups, including in particular The Friends of the Albert Hall, as well as the YRA, and many individuals and groups who have been calling for the withdrawal of DA53 since 2007. We welcome the retention of Heritage values for the Albert Hall and surrounding land, and the removal of proposals for land use changes.

HOUSES FIRE-DAMAGED AND/OR READY FOR REMOVAL

In the autumn, a resident drew the attention of the YRA to a house, long-vacant and ready for removal, on the corner of Bentham & Mueller streets, and suggested that it was not only unsightly but dangerous. The YRA committee were also concerned about a fire-damaged house on the corner of Musgrave & Schlich Sts. We emailed two (Molonglo electorate) members of the ACT Assembly expressing our concerns about the instability of the dwellings, the easy access for children, and the subsequent safety issues. Shane Rattenbury contacted relevant people in government departments within a day of our email, and serendipitous or otherwise, the first house was gone within a week. We are pleased to note that the site of the fire-damaged house is now also completely clear.

WESTON PARK MASTER PLAN

The final master plan prepared for the ACT government for the upgrading and maintenance of Weston Park is available at all ACT public libraries and on the TAMS (Territory and Municipal Services) website:

<http://www.tams.act.gov.au>

A short public information session was held by TAMS officers at Yarralumla shops on Saturday 27 June, and submissions about the plan are being received until 2 August 2009. In addition, a public meeting will be held at the Albert Hall on Monday 27 July 2009 between 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

Many residents feel strongly about some aspects of the plan, so we urge you to look at it, and respond to TAMS, either by their questionnaire online, or by mail to:

TAMS, GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

ATTUNGA POINT

Another local resident has contacted us to say that the non-fenced section of Attunga Point, just west of the Canberra Yacht Club, is badly vehicle-damaged. As a result we have been in regular contact with the National Capital Authority (NCA), which is responsible for the lake and lake verges. On sighting the area, they have been sympathetic to our concerns. However, we find that maintenance of access to the area is the responsibility of ACT government, which has funds only for 'reactive maintenance'. With the ongoing support of the NCA officer, we are attempting to find a more long-term solution to the problem so that people, but not vehicles, can access that area.

YARRALUMLA PRIMARY SCHOOL—AWARD FOR TEACHER

Congratulations to Mr Phillip Hall, who teaches in the Junior Autism Unit at our local school, for winning a National Excellence in Teaching Award (June 2009). His award is for innovation; he has developed techniques that help to reduce the anxiety and sensory issues faced by children with autism, established the school's Autism Information Unit, and has set up a language and literacy intervention program that assists other teachers.

PASSING OF MAC WEST

The YRA and the many friends of Mac West were deeply saddened to hear of Mac's death on June 2, 2009, and extend heartfelt sympathies to his wife, Sally, and family. Mac was a long-time resident of Yarralumla, a member of the YRA for many years and a past President. He was a passionate and articulate advocate for our suburb, and his death is a loss to all of us. For some of the views that he expressed about the role of the YRA, please see the YRA website at <http://www.yra.org.au>

JOIN THE YRA

Membership of the YRA is for a household. For information on joining see:

<http://www.yra.org.au/joinyra.htm>

To join with a cheque, send \$15 to the Yarralumla Residents Association to the PO address below with details of your name, address and email (if you have one). We use the membership fees to pay (primarily) for printing, website maintenance, and hire of hall for general meetings. Letterboxing of the newsletter is done by the YRA committee and other YRA members. Updated information is also provided in the window of the drycleaners at Yarralumla shops.

Website: www.yra.org.au

Email: info@yra.org.au

Address: Yarralumla Residents Association, PO Box 7123, Yarralumla ACT 2600

President: Robyn Cooper

Treasurer: Les Landau

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