

YARRALUMLA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2008

WESTON PARK UPGRADE

The ACT Government has begun work on a master plan to upgrade facilities and services at Weston Park. An Adelaide firm of landscape architects and urban designers, Oxigen, has been commissioned to prepare the plan, and is having a series of interviews with community groups including members of the YRA committee. The proposed master plan will be put on the Internet, and Oxigen plans to hold an Open Day for all interested residents in Weston Park on a Saturday in November – the date has yet to be confirmed. See further material on YRA website.

We are advised that the aim of the project is to develop the existing amenity and infrastructure of Weston Park and not to propose wholesale change. For example, it is looking at the beaches, views, open space, family facilities, parking, road access for vehicles and bicycles and so on. We understand that people will have about four weeks to respond to the proposals after the Open Day.



Oxigen was commissioned by Parks, Conservation and Lands (PCL) within the department of Territory and Municipal Services. It has been asked to give priority to a Weston Park refurbishment and redevelopment works program over the next five to 10 years.

The consultants met the YRA committee in October to discuss suggestions for the proposed master plan. The website is expected to be up in November, and the date of the Open Day will be advised. The YRA has expressed concerns that even one-day events at Weston Park should not lead to parking problems in nearby streets.

NEW YRA COMMITTEE

Robyn Cooper was elected president of the YRA for 2008-09 by the committee at its first meeting following the September AGM. Dorothy Jauncey continues as secretary and Les Landau as treasurer. Other members of the committee are: Janet Harris, Denise Page, Anne Charlton-Bien, and Max Simpson-Morgan. We wish them every success in what is likely to be an active year for the Association. Tony Hill will continue as editor of the quarterly newsletter.

2007-08 REPORT

At the AGM, outgoing president Tony Hill thanked the committee and all who have helped the YRA during the past year, including businesses that make shop windows available to display newsletters and information. See YRA website for full report. The current status of key issues for Yarralumla residents includes:

* **Recreation Hub.** The YRA made a submission opposing any straightening of Alexandrina Drive or provision of accommodation by the lake. We supported efficient high-quality smart ponds near the stormwater drain, reported an overall positive reaction from residents to the idea of some cafes but no large franchises by the lake. We understand the NCA received some 31 submissions. A draft plan will be available for public comment about November, which will probably involve another public meeting at a date to be advised.

* **The Brickworks.** The YRA made a submission in which we did not object to a small development within the Brickworks, provided heritage aspects were preserved, but arguing that the whole of the recreation area in Denman Street should be retained. This reflects the strong preference of those residents who contacted us. Submissions closed at the end of April; but while the Evaluation Panel has considered the Expressions of Interest, the LDA has made no announcement on which ones should go on a short list and be made public for the next stage of the development process. We anticipate an announcement bravely following the ACT election.

* **Hampton Circuit.** Again, there is no decision to date from the ACT Planning and Land Authority to objections from the YRA and some neighbours to erect a five storey block of 19 units at 43 Hampton Circuit. It is one of six adjacent blocks that front Adelaide Avenue identified by the NCA for high-density development in our suburb. Our submission identifying planning, traffic and environment concerns was one of 14 received.

* **Albert Hall.** Steps are now underway to produce a Plan of Management for the building. The YRA is a member of the Friends of Albert Hall, part of the reference group and is arguing for continued public management of this valuable community asset. As to the development of the wider Albert Hall precinct, the Parliamentary committee recommended that DA53 not proceed, but the Minister has not announced a decision on the committee's report.

* **Hill Corner.** Following an appeal by residents to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the St Nicholas preschool and childcare centre has had the maximum number of places scaled back from 40 to 30 – with a maximum of 15 at the childcare centre. This represents a partial victory for residents concerned about traffic access, although there are continuing problems of parking. See YRA website

* **Traffic.** Given continuing development pressures in and around Yarralumla, a comprehensive study is needed into the future needs and limitations of the road system in our suburb. After an approach about a pedestrian crossing near the shops we were advised that, following another count, not enough people use the footpath to warrant a crossing. It's a subject that needs to be further pursued.

Yarralumla Residents Association contacts:

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Membership: \$15 per household. **President:** Robyn Cooper. **Treasurer:** Les Landau