

Resident Association Reports

Downer Community Association

The Downer Community Association lodged a [submission on the Inner North and City District Strategy](#). We also featured in a Canberra Times article, "[Downer Community Associate critical of 'piecemeal' densification outlined in Inner North District Plan](#)" on March 13.

We continue to administer grants for the Berry St park and the bike pump track. The bike track is now open for use.

We expect our new Centre Coordinator to commence work in April.

Our five year lease of the Frencham Street community halls is due for renewal at the end of March.

The Well Station Scout Group and nineteen other people participated in the Downer Community Association's twentieth clean up day. We collected ten bags of rubbish and two bags of recyclables.

Following our representations, Kurrajong MLA Rebecca Vassarotti undertook to arrange a meeting for the DCA to discuss with City Services Minister Chris Steele the issue of reopening the Downer public toilets.

We are working to find a mutually convenient date for a meeting with Kurrajong MLA and ACT Opposition Leader Elizabeth Lee.

Our next committee meeting will be on Monday 3 April.

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Leon Arundell

Downer Community Association representative

Braddon Collective

Recent happenings

- January 2023 - Summernats Braddon Fringe Festival held on the Friday and Saturday nights of Summernats for the second year - positive feedback with possibility of expanding to the Thursday night in 2024 to reduce anti-social behaviour leading up to the Fringe Festival
- February 2023 - first quarterly catch-up with the City Renewal Authority for the year - the focus of the advocacy of the Braddon Collective with CRA in 2023 will be on the urgent need for pedestrian crossings in Braddon (currently zero) and increased/improved public toilets
- March 2023 - participated in two ABC interviews on (1) the sub-standard gravel paths in Haig Park (Drive radio interview) and (2) on parking issues in Dickson and Braddon (TV interview).

Future happenings

- 16 March - representations for the [amendment to the DA](#) for the Braddon Place proposal close (replacing hotel component with Build-to-Rent)
- 16 March - online meeting with Elizabeth Lee
- 20 March - online meeting with CRA to discuss Lonsdale Street upgrades
- 5 April - walking meeting with Ken Marshall, Executive Group Manager, City Operations (TCCS) and Minister Stephen-Smith to highlight infrastructure issues in Braddon
- April (date TBC) - history tour of Braddon in the Heritage Festival - the festival will be taking place from 11 to 30 April
- hopefully the Haig Park Community Centre will be opening soon!

Kind regards Ernestine (on behalf of the Braddon Collective)

Reid Residents' Association report to NCCC March 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

Minister Stephen-Smith Site met with us on Reid Park Sports Ground, 25 January

We were able to explain the need for a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and discussed the importance of upgrading the amenities including disabled accessibility, provision of a running track, parking, drainage of the area and the concerns for the management of the trees. We are keen to see an integrated management plan based on the CMP.

Ainslie volcanics & woody grassland reserve (adjacent to Quick Street, Ainslie)

Weeding on the Ainslie Volcanics weeding is going great guns with piles of St John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) being carted away already by Allan McLean and Barbara Simpson, ACT Parks, Volunteer Coordinators. We had 9 sturdy weeders there last Sunday and we delighted to have Minister Vassarotti applying a strong arm to the wort. We anticipate getting on with weeding Reid laneways etc. once the area has been finalised.

Archiving Reid 1976–2004

We are still digging up very pertinent planning documents from this era including a letter (10 November 1981) from the Chair of the Reid Community Association (now RRA) to Max Bourke, in his former role as Director, Australian Heritage Commission. The Australian Heritage Commission was instrumental in developing a greater awareness of the fundamental importance of heritage, natural and cultural, and established the Register of the National Estate, which was closed and archived in 2007. The Reid Housing Precinct was listed on this Register and is on the ACT Heritage Register. Max has had an extraordinary career and was made a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition. We are delighted to have him as our guest speaker at our AGM on 29 March.

ACT Heritage Festival: Reid Reminiscences 16 Apr 2–3.30 pm TryBooking
www.trybooking.com/CGSWJ

Using written memories from our archive we are preparing a walk in Reid to explore the lived experience of the 30s and 40s in Canberra.

ISSUES

Heritage

1. Proposed Optus Temporary Telecommunications Facility on Reid Park, Reid Sports Ground Limestone Avenue, Euree and Elimatta streets and Anzac Park West, Block 5 Section 39, REID, ACT. This proposal from CommPlan Pty Ltd acting for OPTUS, now wholly owned by SINGTEL, is for a 20.57m Steel lattice mesh tower with 3 attached antennas and associated mounted telecommunications apparatus, new cabinet at the base of the mast, security fencing, access gate, ancillary equipment and associated works.

The proposal is misleading:

- it uses the term 'temporary' which is disingenuous, a handy weasel word for authorities
 - impact on the heritage values of Reid Park, which lies within the Reid Housing Precinct are waved aside.
 - images do not show the visual blight that this will inflict on the Sports Ground
 - a monopole was the term used in the DA s but this totally misrepresents what is being proposed
 - only two sites were deemed as being suitable for installing this Tower one being in a heritage precinct
 - the DA is full of misinformation yet was accepted by Sports and Recreation Facilities.
2. As previously reported we still have not as yet heard from ACT Heritage re:
 - differences in requirements between Ainslie & Reid with Mr Fluffy rebuilds
 - clarification of compliance with what we understand to be mandated heritage requirements according to the Reid Housing Precinct, Entry 20023, ACT Heritage Register, Heritage Act

Watson Community Association goings-on! March 2023.

- Publicity for campaigns around car parks, planning laws and TPV's via Facebook and Watson magazine.
- Met with Co-housing Canberra re their ideas for their block in the Block 76 development.
- Met with Elizabeth Lee (initiated by her office.)
- Community concern about the management of the Majura PS upgrade.
- Concerns re parking, traffic and pedestrian safety around the school
- Concerns re the safety of Antill St, especially the section between Aspinall and the Mt Majura pathway.
- Future of the Car-o-tel.
- Future congestion on Aspinall Street.
- Concerns re the state of Justice Robert Hope Park.
- Concerns about the results of the soil testing done on block 76. Contamination?

Best Wishes, Simon Clarke. Watson Community Association.