

Deakin Residents Association

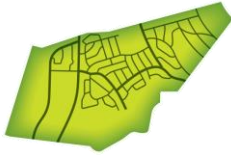
A garden Community for the Future

President's Report

Notes from DRA President's Report

The committee met on five occasions in the last 12 months.

- 1. Membership levels:** Current membership level is approximately 210. The exact figure is imprecise, as the committee is not always aware of members leaving the DRA, through leaving the area or if deceased. There have been 12 new members since the last AGM. It is hoped that the introduction of the membership fee will assist in more accurate tracking of members.
- 2. Meet the Candidates:** As this was an election year, the DRA and the Yarralumla Resident's Association held a joint "Meet the Candidates" evening at Yarralumla Primary School in September. The meeting was well attended, with some 15 or so candidates present. Each gave a brief presentation and then the floor was open for questions from the audience. The audience size was approximately 75.
- 3. Heritage Project:** The Heritage subcommittee worked with historian, Ann-Marie Jordan, to create 2 information signs, concerning some of the history of Deakin. The signs are located at the shops and in LaTrobe Park. The signs were unveiled by Rebecca Vassarotti MLA in April. This subcommittee is continuing to work and is preparing proposals for future projects including a history of Deakin and an explanation of street names.
- 4. Illegal Parking:** There has been concern expressed about Illegal parking and, in particular, Illegal parking on nature strips. The DRA wants to maintain the garden suburb and avoid damage to tree roots. Violation of the regulations and codes designed to maintain nature strips. Ed Cocks MLA has raised the issue in ACT Assembly, but there has been a failure by Rangers to enforce the law. The DRA Committee believes that this should be raised with the Integrity Commission. It is also acknowledged that we need to educate Deakin locals.
- 5. Cycleways:** The DRA is also of the view that a cycleway is needed as there had been a number of near misses, around Double Shot & the roundabout. It was also noted that traffic does not comply with the 40 km/h limit.
- 6. Development Applications:** Members of the DRA continue to raise concerns about nearby development proposals. It is a concern that the government is committed to the densification of residences in suburbs such as Deakin, to support the case for the Light Rail 2B line. The DRA is concerned that this impacts the liveability of Deakin, and further degrades the Garden City concept. The ACT Territory Plan used to be used to enforce the Planning Authority Regulations. But changes late in 2023 relaxed many of the rules.



Deakin Residents Association

A garden Community for the Future

The latest proposal for the site on Grey St opposite the Ambassador units on Hopetoun Ct is for 50 three and four-bedroom residential apartments and three ground-floor commercial units for an art gallery/shop, day spa and a club lounge/restaurant for residents. Previous proposals for a five-storey aged care facility were the subject of DRA concerns about traffic and parking issues.

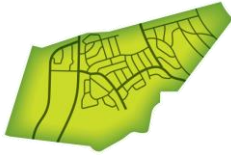
The new development proposes two basement levels where 134 on-site car parking spaces including 120 in garages with EV charging points, 12 conventional spaces with EV charging for visitors and two disabled spaces. The development is expected to generate about 49 vehicle trips during the morning and evening peaks. Deakin Residents Association remains concerned about traffic in Grey St especially during school drop off and pick up times. The redevelopment of the former art gallery site in Grey street is a major concern to nearby residents. The DRA obtained expert advice which was provided to residents, who also assisted in meeting the costs involved.

West Deakin has been described by Andrew Smith, NCA Chief Planner, as ripe for development. Amendment to Territory Plan allows for any development in West Deakin; Equinox wants to go to 20 stories. There are also plans for a light rail electricity supply station.

Finally, as was shown on the DRA website in June/July, a diagram was posted of RZ1 sites in Deakin eligible for secondary dwellings, shown as a red overlay under the ACT Government 2023 planning system changes that allow secondary dwellings of less than 120 square meters on RZ1 blocks greater than 800sqm. We encourage members to look at the diagram to see if their properties are eligible for secondary dwellings.

7. **Light Rail:** The DRA is concerned about certain aspects the proposed Stage 2B extension to Woden. The project faces significant engineering challenges to take the line from Commonwealth Park, across or underneath State Circle, to Adelaide Avenue; for example: A possible tunnel is foreshadowed, but this would be enormously costly. There would be damage to heritage values, although this is not detailed in the impact statement. There has also been some discussion about a bridge, and it was noted that there would be difficulties with the slope.

The project would take several years to complete and would cause significant disruption to traffic. The final cost is unknown but will undoubtedly be very expensive (current estimated are \$5 billion); the ACT government is not able to cover this cost. It is also noted that there is a proposal to set up a light rail works depot on parkland nearby. Moreover, the proposed route could lead to the loss of 50 – 150 trees including grassy-box trees Between the Lodge and Parliament House..

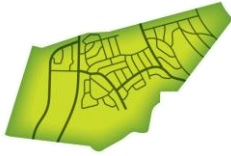


Deakin Residents Association

A garden Community for the Future

The DRA is firmly of the view that the south Canberra community would be much better served with a fleet of electric buses, which would involve no disruption, no costly engineering projects, provide more flexible routing, and could be operational within 2-3 years. They would not be so costly to Canberrans.

8. **ISCCC:** The DRA is a member of the Inner South Canberra Community Council. During 2024 the Council held a number of public meetings on topics of interest to its member residents' associations. The ISCCC developed a brief for the incoming administration on a range of issues. This document can be found on the ISCCC website. The ISCCC hopes to discuss this with the newly elected members for Murrumbidgee and Kurrajong electorates in the near future. The ISCCC will be holding their AGM on 25th November, and this will be preceded by a talk from Human Rights Commissioner Dr Penelope Mathew. All DRA members are welcome to attend.
9. **Ideas for future Projects:** The DRA Committee would like to do something positive for the suburb. We would like to hear from all residents in the community as to what they would like to see being done.
10. **Thanks:** Particular thanks should go to committee members John Bell, for his handling of the DRA finances, keeping a watchful eye on development applications and representing the DRA at the ISCCC; to George Wilson, for his energy in working to maintain the Garden City nature of Deakin and for maintaining the website and producing the Newsletter. Thanks too to Jack Gault, for ensuring that the committee receive their 'press clippings' each day.



Deakin Residents Association

A garden Community for the Future

REPORT TO AGM ON THE DEAKIN HERITAGE PROJECT

As noted in last year's annual report, the ACT Government awarded the Deakin Residents' Association a grant to undertake a project under the ACT Heritage Grants program 2023-2024 for ***Discovering and valuing Deakin's heritage***. The aim of this project was to document and describe heritage aspects of Deakin, emphasizing its importance in the historical development and legacy of Canberra as the national capital based on Walter Burley Griffin's designs and garden city principles.

To date, the project has involved the design and installation of two *Canberra Tracks* signs, one at the Deakin shops and one at La Trobe Park.

The DRA engaged an historian, Ann-Mari Jordens, to write a detailed historical overview of Deakin which is accessible via the *Canberra Tracks* app.

The project team was assisted by former Deakin resident David Brand and the knowledge of Peter Freeman OAM, author of a book about architects Malcolm Moir and Heather Sutherland who designed many homes in early Deakin.

The DRA held an event in Heritage Week 2024 to celebrate the project. The Burns Club Pipe Band and a choir from the Canberra Girls' Grammar School assisted at this event, and Minister Vassarotti unveiled the sign at the Deakin shops. The DRA thanks the staff of the ACY Heritage Unit for their assistance with this project and the ACT Government for funding it. Subject to funding, there will be a further stage of this project in 2025.

The DRA was awarded a Heritage grant of \$14,780. ACT Heritage provided an initial payment of \$11,824 in September 2023. The project team managed to bring the project in under budget, with an actual expenditure on \$13,842.80. Some expenditure was incurred after 30 June 2024 and will appear in next year's accounts. A further grant payment from ACT Heritage is expected shortly.