



## CHARTER

### History

Forrest is named after Sir John Forrest, an explorer, legislator, federalist, premier of Western Australia, and a father of the Australian Constitution. The original suburb name, Blandfordia, was changed and gazetted as Forrest in 1928. Streets in the suburb are named after explorers, governors and State capitals. Streets named after capitals point towards their respective city.

Forrest is one of a few suburbs in Canberra built to the original Walter Burley Griffin plan. Consequently, many Forrest streets are wide, tree-lined and circular or geometric in shape. Because of its age and location, the suburb has many original buildings designed by the architects Oakley and Parkes, who also designed the Lodge. The first National Capital horticulturalist, Thomas Weston, was responsible for deciding tree species planted along Forrest streets and in its parks. While most original residents of Forrest were senior public servants moved from Melbourne in the 1920s and 1930s, the suburb has developed an eclectic character over time. Forrest had the first private two-storey house in Canberra and a number of prominent Australian architects, including Ken Oliphant and E.H. Henderson have contributed buildings to the suburb. Eminent Australians including Sir Robert Menzies and Gough Whitlam have at some time called Forrest home.

The preservation of this unique character is of particular importance to many in the suburb, in the Canberra community and in the nation as a whole.

### Formation of a Forrest Residents Group (FRG)

An inaugural meeting was held 30 August 2016 under the auspice of the Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC) to gauge interest in forming a Forrest Residents Group (FRG). Around 60 residents attended this meeting. Six volunteers formed a steering committee to establish a structure, draft objectives and charter for the group. The steering committee reported to the community at a general meeting on 10 November 2016. The FRG formally came into existence at that date.

The FRG is a voluntary, not for profit, community organisation aiming to conserve and develop the unique character of the area. The boundary of the suburb of Forrest subscribes the principal area of concern to the FRG.

### Objectives

The primary aims of the FRG are to protect and enhance the residential, environmental, cultural, social, and economic qualities of Forrest; and to promote the character of one of the National Capital's oldest and most historically significant suburbs.

The FRG's specific objectives are to work towards:

- High quality planning, urban design and construction in the area.
- Appropriate maintenance and management of the area.
- Protection and conservation of the area's unique heritage character.

- Provision of adequate green spaces for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.
- Effective transport planning, including traffic and parking management.
- A strong community spirit.
- Protection of the quality of life, including safety, light and noise management in the suburb.

FRG works towards these objectives by:

- Monitoring relevant activities and proposals in our area.
- Sharing information through a website, a newsletter and public meetings.
- Seeking and representing community views.
- Working constructively with developers, government agencies and local businesses.
- Contributing to planning processes.
- Engaging with local and federal politicians, including prospective candidates.
- Engaging as a member of the ISCCC.

## Rules

**1 General Meetings and Annual General Meetings:** A general meeting (GM) open to all members of the FRG will be held once a quarter. These meetings would present and resolve issues by vote. Members will be notified and an agenda made available at least 7 days before this meeting.

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held each October or November. Members will be notified at least 7 days beforehand and an agenda made publicly available. Changes to governance documents or fees will be made by members through vote at the AGM or at a duly notified GM.

**2 Executive Committee:** The FRG is not a political organisation. It will elect an Executive Committee (EC) at the AGM. Should a member of the EC be unable to fulfill their duties or resigns, a casual vacancy will be declared and the position filled by vote at a GM. The EC will liaise with other community groups on common issues. The Chair and Deputy Chair of the EC will represent the FRG on the ISCCC Committee.

Executive Committee positions are:

- |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Chair                  | 2 Deputy Chair  |
| 3 Treasurer              | 4 Secretary     |
| 5 Communications Officer | 6,7 & 8 Members |

A quorum for a meeting of the EC will be five (5) members, one of which will be Chair or Deputy.

**3 Membership and fees:** A person 16 years of age or older who pays the appropriate membership fee has full voting rights at all general meetings. Membership is open to a person who:

- resides in Forrest and/or
- is a lessee or sub-lessee of a crown residential lease in Forrest.

At the discretion of the Secretary, applicants may be asked for documentary evidence: a lease title, drivers' licence, proof of age card, utility bill, bank statement or lease agreement.