

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

➔ Neighbourhood Watch

In addition to establishing working groups, the EC would like to establish a Neighbourhood Watch coordinator position, or failing that, a liaison officer who can attend meetings and monitor crime statistics for the area.

If you are interested in assuming this important role, please respond to:
mail@forrestresidents.org.au

➔ Membership

If you are interested in joining the FRG please send a message to:
mail@forrestresidents.org.au.

A membership application will be then emailed to you. Annual membership is \$20, or \$10 for pensioners.

We need your support, not only financially but also as a volunteer. Two current working groups: on transport infrastructure, and the environment need support. Heritage research and assessment of development proposals for the suburb are additional activities.

➔ FRG Charter

The meeting on 13 February considered a draft Charter for operation of the FRG until the organisation may be incorporated. The meeting voted on a number of changes to this document; most were passed by a majority of votes.

The relevant changes have been made to the Charter (that is being further reviewed for any legal implications of provisions). The current draft FRG Charter and the Minutes of the meeting can be viewed at
www.forrestresidents.org.



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FORREST RESIDENTS GROUP

A meeting of Forrest residents, on Monday 13 February 2017, formally established the Forrest Residents Group (FRG).

An Executive Committee (EC) was elected to represent the group over the next twelve months:

Chair: Margaret Atcherley

Deputy-Chair: Carolyn Norrie

Treasurer: Tui Davidson

Communications Officer: John-Paul Romano

General Members: John Newham, Megan Dick (ex-officio, to be voted at the next general meeting of the FRG).

The Committee has vacancies for a Secretary and a general member. Nominations will continue to be accepted for these positions. Anyone eligible and interested in nominating may send an email to mail@forrestresidents.org.au.

Forty-three (43) people registered as members of the FRG at the AGM. The Executive Committee met a week after the AGM to establish some short-term goals, develop a schedule of meetings and to set up working groups on issues of concern to Forrest residents. These working groups are:

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ESTABLISHMENT CONTINUED

Working group on transport infrastructure issues to be convened by John-Paul Romano.

The Transport infrastructure working group will consider planning, provision and maintenance of roads, kerbing and guttering, parking and pedestrian access in the suburb and the surrounding area. Maintenance of footpaths, public transport routes, parking sites, traffic and parking management in and through the suburb will be considerations for this group.

Working group on the issue of the suburb's environmental space, to be convened by John Newham.

The Environment working group will consider matters relating to the planning, maintenance and care of the suburb's green spaces. This encompasses street trees, parks and other natural or cultivated spaces, the existence of native flora and fauna, including birds and small marsupials, living in the suburb.

A further two working groups, need to be established to research and advise on heritage issues and examine and assess the impact of development or redevelopment proposals affecting Forrest and its environs.

A regular newsletter will be emailed to members approximately once a month. The newsletters will update residents on issues affecting the suburb and its surrounds. Key documents mentioned in newsletters will be available on the FRG website www.forrestresidents.org. Feedback or suggestions on the newsletter or its contents can be sent to mail@forrestresidents.org.au.

Letters of introduction for the newly formed FRG, have been sent to the Chief Minister, representatives for Kurrajong in the Legislative Assembly, the National Capital Authority (NCA) and Federal Government Members and Senators for the ACT. Copies of these letters may be viewed on the website.

Margaret Atcherley
Chair

CURRENT ISSUES

1. Canberra Avenue

The current parlous state of Canberra Avenue, a major entry Avenue to the National Capital, is clear to all. Canberra Avenue Road Reserve is within the Designated Areas of the National Capital Plan and not the Territory Plan. Therefore, Works Approval from the National Capital Authority (NCA) is required for all 'works' as defined by the Australian Capital Territory Planning and Land Management Act 1988 (Cwth).

Note that the Government guidelines for landscaping state: In order to enhance the character of Canberra Avenue as one of the Griffins' Main Avenues and as one of the main approaches to Parliament House and the Parliamentary Zone, the landscape structure of the road reserve and private landscape areas shall:

- Provide consistency and regularity in landscape structure with high quality established trees.
- Be developed and maintained as high quality landscaped corridors.
- Continue the established design theme of irrigated grass verges and medians and formal tree plantings.
- Utilise high quality paving in areas of intensive pedestrian use.
- Select tree species for regularity in landscape character along extended parts of the Avenue.

To make a submission on the state of Canberra Avenue contact the National Capital Authority: DCP@natcap.gov.au Attention: Mr Andrew Smith, Chief Planner

2. Manuka Circle Precinct

Development Related to Canberra Avenue is the recent Development Control Plan for Manuka Precinct (March 2017). The 'Effect of the Plan' (Section 2.2, Page 3) provides for;

- General planning and urban design objectives for Canberra Avenue as a Main Avenue.
- Requirements for a development application to be submitted to the Territory planning authority which is in regard to:
 - o Building height and architectural quality in built form.
 - o Access to the development and location of parking.
 - o Providing for an enhanced landscape character on along the Canberra Avenue frontage.

ESTABLISHMENT CONTINUED

- o Providing for enhanced urban design outcomes in regard to pedestrian movement, lighting and materials.
 - If approved, the DCP amend planning and urban design provisions for the site, including building height, setbacks and design, landscape character, access and parking by replacing site-specific DCPs currently in place for the precinct. Copies of the plan are available at: www.nationalcapital.gov.au
- Submissions: o Email: DCP@natcap.gov.au (to the Attention of the Chief Planner Andrew Smith)
o Write to: Mr Andrew Smith, Chief Planner National Capital Authority GPO Box 373 Canberra ACT 2601

A public information session will be held on 15 March 2017, between 12.00pm and 1.30pm at NCA Offices. Further information is available from the NCA on (02) 6271 2888 or email DCP@natcap.gov.au.

3. Fire Station Precinct

Readers may be interested in the following extract from the Canberra Times of 14 February 2017: *A group of Manuka residents has failed in an attempt to halt redevelopment of a building in the heritage-listed Forrest fire station precinct, with the ACT government successfully arguing that its decisions in the precinct cannot be appealed. The owner of the property on the corner of Manuka Circle and Fitzroy St has been embroiled in the ongoing round of development applications and objections from neighbours and inner-south residents. Two stop work notices were reportedly issued in 2015, one for an unapproved steel frame on the roof that was subsequently removed, and another for an unapproved upper floor at the rear. Nearby resident Rebecca Scouller, who says the redevelopment sets a precedent that could ruin the heritage values of the precinct, took the case to the ACT Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal on Monday. The heritage-listed block, built in 1939, consists of the old fire station and seven brick homes - one on each corner and duplexes between.*

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

National Capital Authority

Block 19 Section 7 Forrest (47 National Circuit) - Dual Occupancy Redevelopment - Open for Public consultation. Objections due by 20th March NCA website worksapproval@natcap.gov.au, or to GPO Box 373 Canberra ACT 2600.

Planning and Land Authority

Block 2 Section 34, (4 Dominion Circuit) - Proposal for multi-unit development - demolition of existing dwelling and construction of 8 new apartments over 5 stories including basement car parking. (Representations CLOSED 1 March 2017).

Italo-Australia Club Site Franklin Street - A proposal for a seven-story hotel on the corner of Franklin Street and Dominion Circuit (site of the old Italo-Australian club), has been approved by ACT planning authorities. Canberra Times article 13 March (see link: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/gungahlinised-forrest-residents-group-slams-approval-of-sevenstorey-hotel-20170310-guvirh.html>)

EVENTS

Canberra Bowling Club, Hobart Avenue, Forrest: Games of men's tenants at 12:30pm every Sunday until and including 2 April 2017. Membership enquiries: www.canberra.bowls.com.au

Forrest Tennis Club, Dominion Circuit, Forrest: Social tennis Sundays (1.00pm onwards) and Wednesday evenings (7.30pm to 9.00pm). Membership enquiries: www.tennis.com.au

FIX MY STREET

Fix My Street is an online reporting facility that provides direct contact with ACT Government agencies for the reporting and resolution of municipal service requests. Residents can submit feedback or make service requests: <http://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/forms/fixmystreet/>

NOTE: If your correspondence relates to an URGENT safety issue, please ring Access Canberra on 13 22 81 (available 24/7)