

Oaks Estate News

Oaks Estate Progress Association

-Vol.3, No.1, May 2013



OEPA Annual General Meeting & sausage sizzle 18 May 2013, 12:30 pm, Oaks Estate Hall:

- Come and get together with your neighbours;
- Annual elections of officers & committee;
- Feel free to nominate yourself to be on this progressive committee;
- Vote on changes to the OEPA Constitution;
- Hear about the broad issues raised during the Master Plan consultation process.

Oaks Estate Circus Workshops

Ever dreamed of running away and joining the Circus?

Want to learn some basic circus skills like unicycle, stilt walking, rollabola, hula hooping, juggling, diabolo, staff & plate spinning, poi?

Maybe even learn some basic acro-balance/ adagio (acrobatics)?

Now's your chance....

Exclusive to adult residents of Oaks Estate and brought to you in Oaks Estate.....

Tuesday afternoons from **14th May 2013**,
1:30 – 3:30pm (for six weeks) at the
Oaks Estate Community Hall in William Street.

Trainers will work with you step-by-step to teach you real circus skills.

Cost ...\$ 4-00 per person per session

(Come and speak with a SVDP staff member in the community room if you cannot afford the fee.)

Afternoon tea provided between 3:30pm – 4:00pm. Afternoon tea is FREE!

Why not try a bit of everything on offer? - or stick to the activities you enjoy the most!

This project is a partnership between Warehouse Circus, St Vincent de Paul, Southside Community Services and the Oaks Estate Progress Association – and is for adult residents of Oaks Estate.

OEPA WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

Master Plan feedback: The complexity of Oaks Estate planning issues means that the process is moving slower than anticipated. ACT Planners have advised that a final heritage report will be finished by mid May and that Oaks Estate planning/design matters have been put on hold until that report can be considered. Identified heritage values will then inform design options as they are developed.

In the meantime, lobbying on Oaks Estate social, environmental and planning issues continues:

Member for Canberra Gai Brodtmann MP has spoken on our behalf to the ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher about several issues concerning Oaks Estate. A full copy of the Chief Minister's response can be found on the OEPA website

www.oaksestateact.org. Gai has reported that: *'in particular, the response from the Chief Minister addresses concerns which were raised with me about the Whole of Government approach to the development of an Oaks Estate Master Plan and the current Memorandum of Understanding for Regional Collaboration between the ACT and New South Wales. The Chief Minister has responded that the ACT Government sees the Master Plan process as the most appropriate way to address cross-border strategic planning issues for Oaks Estate. It will liaise with representatives from across the border. The master plan timeframes have now been extended to 2014 and will involve the whole Oaks Estate community, including public housing tenants.'*

Social inclusion project: Representatives of the OEPA met with Gai Brodtmann and Shane Rattenbury's social services and planning advisers. They asked the OEPA to submit a project proposal focused on increased use by the local community of the community garden and the Community Hall. We are now talking with Oaks Estate social service providers and the Canberra Organic Growers Society (COGS) about participating.

This could become a Master Plan catalyst project involving local and cross-border commercial and business interests. Increased sustainability of assets, such as the community Hall and the community

garden, would create community building opportunities for Oaks Estate as a whole.

Proposal for management of Oaks Estate

Community Hall: Southside Community Services (SCS) are currently responsible for the running of the Hall in William St. In order to increase local involvement, SCS and the OEPA committee have begun discussions about how the community can participate in the management of the Hall. The idea is that, in exchange for an agreed amount of input from the Oaks Estate community in the running of the Hall, there will be free access to the Hall for community-based events and activities, and a potential community revenue raising source. Arrangements will work best if there is wide support throughout the Oaks Estate community.

Railway land rezoning: The OEPA was invited by Mayor Overall to meet with Queanbeyan Council's planning manager to discuss the rezoning of railway land along Railway Street fronting Oaks Estate. Following advice from that meeting we have subsequently asked ACT planners for a meeting between OEPA, ACT Government and John Holland Rail (managers of the railway land for Rail Corp) to be arranged. That request has been referred to the ACT Cross-Border planning co-ordinator. We have been told that Railcorp are keen to hear the community's ideas on the use of the railway land.

Oaks Estate traffic survey: The OEPA has been campaigning for a footpath along the northern side of Railway Street, from Oaks Estate Rd to Florence St, or at least as far as Hill St, to enable safe passage for pedestrians and residents with young children living on the corner of Oaks Estate Rd and Railway St.

In January the OEPA received information from ESDD that a footpath for Railway St is ranked at No.70 in the Roads ACT Footpath Database. It is considered to be of low priority on the grounds that, according to Roads ACT, the current traffic volume on Railway St is 500 vehicles a day.

They must have been counting on a quiet Sunday over the Christmas break. So we surveyed traffic on Railway Street (opposite Hill St) from 6.00-9.00am on Thursday 7 March resulting in 896 vehicles counted over the 3 hours. We estimate that there are about 2,500 vehicles a day using Railway St between Oaks Estate Rd and McEwan Avenue.

The OEPA is concerned that wildly underestimated data on traffic volumes in Oaks Estate has:

- skewed the outcome of the Oaks Estate Master Planning;
- deflected consideration of the impact of Railway St traffic volume on proposed light industrial development of the vacant railway land on the NSW side of the road;

- enabled Roads ACT to defer Railway Street traffic calming measures, intersection upgrades and footpath construction.

Roads ACT have now made new counts. We hope they will reconsider their position on improvements to Railway Street – most urgently construction of a footpath from Oaks Estate Road to Florence Street.

Oaks Estate heritage walk & Robertsons' House open day. On 20 April OEPA partnered ACT National Trust in opening Robertsons' House for free inspection and in conducting the Three Cornerstones heritage walk and bbq. The event was publicised widely as part of the ACT Heritage Festival. 21 participants joined Karen Williams on the tour. The walk focused particularly on the significance to Oaks Estate and regional heritage of Robertsons' House, the Queanbeyan Railway Station, The Oaks and the early river crossings and junction of the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers.

Community Garden. There are plenty of allotments available. Anyone wishing to become involved in the community garden is encouraged to contact the OEPA.

UPDATING THE OEPA CONSTITUTION

The OEPA committee is proposing to update our constitution. The draft will be submitted to the 2013 AGM for consideration.

The Committee has proposed that we retain rules in our current constitution that have worked well in the past, but also make some practical changes based on the government's Model Rules, which include:

- membership limited to residents of Oaks Estate, and other people if approved by Committee
- remove the present ban on executives of political parties being on committee
- financial year to end on 31 December
- committee to consist of 4 officers and 5 ordinary committee members
- officers to include a Vice-President
- quorum at committee meetings to be one office-bearer and any 3 other committee members
- no committee member may be an office-bearer for more than three continuous terms
- notice for ordinary general and annual general meetings to be at least 14 days
- nominations may be received by the Secretary in writing prior to the commencement of the AGM and by the Chair from the floor during the AGM
- nominations require the express consent of the person nominated, to be received at or before the AGM
- quorum at general meetings to be one office-bearer and 8 other members
- membership fees if any to be considered by each new committee

- cheques etc to be signed by the treasurer and one other committee member.

The ACT Model Rules have a bigger set of definitions and procedures. However, adopting them wherever possible avoids conflict with ACT law and means that our constitution has the same layout as that of most other incorporated associations.

Copies of the OEPA's current rules and proposed revised rules are accessible by clicking the OEPA link on www.oaksestateact.org, or contact one of the committee for a paper copy.

SUPPORT SERVICES IN OAKS ESTATE

The St Vincent de Paul Society is about ordinary people helping anyone in need. The Society has a unique ethos focused on "being with" those in need and is a volunteer based organisation that has been working with the poor and forgotten for 200 years.

The Society's work in Oaks Estate has been primarily around providing love, hope and respect to the community that inhabit the George St public housing units and has recently extended to begin work in the River St public housing units also. The focus of the ACT Health funded community mental health program "Samaritan Services", is establishing relevant supports for our guests to ensure improved daily living skills, personal stability, improved relationships including a sense of belonging in the community and the capacity for sustaining tenancies and independence. This includes the provision of transitional and longer term supported accommodation in units head leased from Housing ACT however we are much more than just a landlord.

On site supports comprise a community room and meeting/ office spaces, staff and volunteers onsite 08:30 – 17:30hrs Mon to Fri and as needed after hours and on weekends. Case management support is also provided for those with a diagnosed mental illness, practical assistance such as the community transport program, group activities, chaplaincy, referral to external service provision and significant community engagement for all who live here. We welcome everyone through the door aspiring to engender tolerance and understanding and offering "a hand up" to those in need.

Liz Parker | Coordinator – Mental Health Services
St Vincent de Paul Society – Canberra/ Goulburn
Mobile 0458 091 532 | Phone 02 6297 2890 |
Fax 02 6299 0903

RIVER REHABILITATION, STAGE 2

You will have noticed that poisoning of the willows and other of the more invasive species growing downstream from River St to Oaks Estate Rd bridge has been done. Clearing of the dead trees and the remaining flood debris accumulated in the river corridor was completed in early March. Follow up

spraying of Datura (Castor Oil Plant) has taken place during April, as has new plantings of seedlings and bank stabilisation measures.

MORE NEWS FROM THE RIVER

Thanks to Queanbeyan Landcare and Molonglo Catchment Group who joined forces with OEPA on Sunday May 5 to plant out new seedlings and enjoy a sausage sizzle at the Oaks Estate Hall. Molonglo Catchment Group and Greening Australia provided some replacement plants to repair some of the damage the heat and the high river level has done since the initial May 2012 planting. The plants are a mix: mostly small grasses and plants (for near the river edge) and larger tree species. Thanks especially to the 18 volunteers who turned out to do the planting. While the focus was on planting out the new seedlings, a lot of valuable work was done in monitoring and maintenance of existing seedlings.

This present work builds on the earlier work done by the 40 people in May last year and the efforts of 20 volunteers who turned out to help water seedlings in January this year. Apart from the good progress of the initial plantings we have also noted that since the clearing of the banks of invasive trees and blackberries there has been a distinct improvement in the density of native riverine vegetation growing at water level - the common club rush, the common reed and one other small type of rush, in particular.

If we don't get rain in the next couple of weeks the plants will probably need some help with another hand-watering session soon.

AN ALLIANCE OF DIFFERENCE: 'UNMADE EDGES' – CANBERRA ... MORE THAN THE GRIFFIN LEGACY

Canberra's villages have taken the first steps in forming a loose alliance to deal with significant current and future ACT planning, heritage, social and environmental issues, and to be better heard, in this centenary year, above the strains of the official Griffin Legacy mantra.

On Sunday 20th January the OEPA hosted a lunch in Gillespie Park at Oaks Estate.

The reason: to explore the potential of an alliance between the respective village communities – Hall, Oaks Estate, Pialligo, Tharwa and Uriarra who all wear the 'unmade edges' tag in one way or another, along with sharing the experience of not being well represented or of being misplaced in Canberra's collective thinking.

Who was there? Representatives of: the communities of Oaks Estate, Pialligo and Hall; ACT Government's Strategic City Planning and Design Team, Environment and Sustainable Development; Inner South Canberra Community Council; Queanbeyan Landcare; Molonglo Catchment Group;

Southside Community Services; Woden Community Service; St Vincent de Paul; Centenary of Canberra; ACT Roads.org.

Gai Brodtmann, Member for Canberra also generously gave an hour or two of her time, support and encouragement.

And ... the outcome?

- **Continue** the conversation begun during the UNMADE EDGES lunch: how to build a supportive relationship between the various villages and interest groups, and as a networking tool.

- **Broaden** the discussion initiated in December 2012 between the OEPA and the non-government social service organizations working with public housing related issues that concern Canberra's villages.

- **Ensure** that Canberra's village communities are not left out of the celebrations of the 2013 centenary. Following the meeting in January, the Centenary team agreed to provide some extra support to the villages to help celebrate Canberra's Centenary. They have undertaken to meet with the various villages to discuss ways to better involve them in the celebrations.

THE VILLAGE OF OAKS ESTATE

Oaks Estate was gazetted as a Division name on 18 May 1884. The name Oaks Estate is derived from *the Oaks*, an outstation of Robert Campbell's property Duntroon built in 1836. Oaks Estate referred to a 300 block subdivision put up for sale in 1887 and registered as a village plan in 1888. Hall and Tharwa were also gazetted as villages on 18 May 1884.

INNER SOUTH CANBERRA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The OEPA thanks the Inner South Canberra Community Council (ISCCC) for their support of the Oaks Estate community and assistance in communicating our interests and issues of concern to the broader ACT community.

The ISCCC is a voluntary, not-for-profit, community-based association. The Council's objective is to preserve and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental well being of Inner South Canberra and its community.

Member suburbs to date include Barton, Deakin, Griffith, Kingston, Narrabundah, Oaks Estate, Red Hill, The Causeway and Yarralumla.

ISCCC was established on 22 November 2011 with the primary aim of representing and promoting the interests of the Inner South Canberra community.

The governance arrangements of the Council recognise and respect the vital and enduring role played by existing residents' associations in advancing the interests of the residents of their suburbs. These arrangements reflect the intention that

the Council complements and assists, rather than duplicate or supplant, the role of these associations. The objects of the ISCCC are to:

- protect & enhance the amenity and environmental community well-being of Inner South Canberra residents and the broader community;
- promote and represent Inner South Canberra residents in respect of the above;
- promote communication and coordination among residents and local community groups;
- contribute to the planning of Inner South Canberra, consistent with the above objectives; and
- assist in ensuring all groups, especially the more vulnerable, are adequately represented.

OAKS ESTATE NEWS – JUNK MAIL?

OEPA recently annoyed an Oaks Estate resident by placing a community information flyer in their letterbox which bears a *no junk mail* sign.

Unfortunately, having contacted us by email, that person did not tell us who they were or where they live so we have no way of ensuring that OEPA material does not get placed in their letterbox in future

Please let us know if you do not want the OEPA newsletter or leaflets left in your letterbox, especially if your letterbox has a 'no junk mail' sign on it.

You can read the *Oaks Estate News* on the OEPA website. Please check the OEPA webpage and the community notice boards and blackboards for updates on community news, events and activities.

OAKS ESTATE WEBSITES

OEPA website: www.oaksestateact.org

ACT Government, Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESDD), website for Oaks Estate master planning:
http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/topics/significant_projects/planning_studies/oaks_estate_master_plan/

OEPA Committee Members

President: Karen Williams
email: oeпа@hotmail.com.au

Treasurer: Judith Saeck

Secretary: Ewan Maidment

General Committee Members:

John Bruggeman

Bernadette Fitzgerald

Francis Lethbridge

Alex Saeck

Nick Saeck

Michael Starling

Public Officer: Ewan Maidment

Web Master: Terry Williams