

Oaks Estate Progress Association AGM and BBQ - 29 June 2014
Oaks Estate Community Hall – 12.30pm

President's Report

- **OEPA submission to Review of Heritage Act** – commented on Minister's call-in powers which were threatening the creative dialogue between community, heritage and planning - Placed heritage decision-making process into the political sphere instead of it remaining an expert heritage assessment/planning process.
- **Community Garden/catalyst project concept meetings** - Held series of meetings between ESSD Woden Community Service, OEPA, St Vincent De Paul, Southside Community Services, COGS and City Farms - re: Community Garden/social inclusion. Have reported in the newsletter that the Community and Infrastructure grant application that resulted was unsuccessful.
- **Party in the Village:** Michel Starling and Rachel Bowak took the running on the Parties in the Village/Portrait of a Nation project. – High profile and very successful. (reported in Dec. newsletter).
- **Welcomed 1st Oaks Estate Scouts Troop to our community** after facilitating introduction to Southside Community Services and Garry Tongs (Scouts affiliations) who are both supporting the scouts as they establish themselves. Scouts have been strong participants in our community during the brief time they have been based in Oaks Estate (since September).
- **Bede Tongs plaque dedication ceremony (now Bede Tongs OAM - Order of Australia Medal)**
- **Ongoing participation on Inner South Community Canberra Council** – (report in June 2014 Newsletter). ISCCC have provided OEPA with funds to produce Newsletters and information flyers for distribution to community of Oaks Estate. **Michel Starling and Karen Williams are currently sitting on general committee** and Karen Williams is also on **the Heritage and the Sustainability Strategy sub-committees, and representing ISCCC on ACT Basin Priority Project.**
- **Liaising with Southside Community Services regarding tidying, general management and refurbishing of community hall.** MOU and appropriate signage for long-term hall users still outstanding issues.
- **Gift to community of Oaks Estate of Correa Canberra Christmas Bells from Centenary Celebrations team.** Planted May 2014 at the community hall.
- **Ongoing lobbying about road and traffic issues concerning Railway Street and intersection of Railway Street and McEwan Ave** (reported in June 2014 newsletter).
- **Submission on expansion of Queanbeyan sewage treatment works.**
- **Promoting Oaks Estate's environmental, social and cultural heritage:** Conducted 'Three Cornerstones' walking tour of Oaks Estate and a number of heritage walks in paddocks opposite Oaks Estate promoting Aboriginal and Colonised socio- cultural heritage landscape – from ancient times to the present day.
- **OEPA response to meeting with ACT Government Community Services - Community Recovery Support Services** – senior managers Janell Wheatley and Mark Robertson. (circulated response as flyer prior to meeting with Kate Lundy). Resulted in **Oaks Estate community resilience project** second round tender by Southside Community Services on behalf of Oaks Estate community. Community capacity building project to help prepare community response and resources in the event of a natural disaster.
- **Public meeting with Kate Lundy (reported in June 2014 newsletter).**
- **Ongoing liaising with planning team as part of Oaks Estate Master Plan process.** – discuss details under agenda item (reported in June 2014 newsletter).

I would like to thank the OEPA committee for their support throughout the year. I would like to especially acknowledge Ewan, our outgoing secretary for his ever vigilant efforts in keeping the OEPA on the straight and narrow, and to Alex for keeping our books despite our ungainly surges of activity and inactivity. Thanks to John Bruggeman who left the committee and Oaks Estate at the end of last year, who was a great support to me and in his monitoring work of water quality and the environment in and around Oaks Estate.

The long awaited Draft Master Plan is out for comment. We have had some wins, but the work is not over, there are some things to be wary of. Now the real work begins. As the planners have warned us ... read the draft with your glasses on. Every word counts. The Master Plan will inform the Precinct Code which will be prepared concurrently with the final draft. The new committee will have some serious work ahead of them.

Karen Williams
President
Oaks Estate Progress Association