Caring for Curtin

Curtin Residents Association Inc.

Newsletter

27 January 2026

Notable Curtin resident awarded the OAM

Our much-loved long-term Curtin resident Viola Kalokerinos has been awarded the Order of Australia Medal, OAM. Viola co-owned the Curtin Milk Bar in the Square for over 30 years (and was the Queen of Curtin at Curtin's 50-year birthday celebrations), and keeps on contributing her energy to many good causes and activities. Congratulations, Viola!

Curtin Autumn Fair

The next Curtin Autumn Fair will be on Saturday 2 May, in Curtin Square of course.

Craft, pots of jam and chutney, plants, information, music, activities. Save the date, and be prepared to be tempted. And if you'd like a stall, email Sue at willran@netspeed.com.au until mid-March and Ann at ann.parkinson@iinet.net.au from mid-March.

Fix my seat… and my street

In our December newsletter we noted the danger of redback spiders on the public seating in Curtin Square. Fix My Street responded very quickly to this issue—from a request on 21 December, action on 23 December! And a reply on 5 January: 'outdoor seating furniture at Curtin Shopping Centre has been inspected and treated for spiders'.

Now it's safer to sit, there is good shade in the square, and it feels several degrees cooler than out in the carparks, thanks to the power of the tree canopy. Trees, just what we need to guarantee for all new housing!

Other recent street fixes include the numerous patches made this month to the southern part of Theodore Street to Melrose Drive, and on Carruthers Street near the shops. The initial patches to potholes and peeling surfaces made in the last few years were starting to wear out; let's hope these big patches last longer. It's a shame that the work resulted in so many tarry tyre marks across the wombat crossing at the bottom of Theodore Street but at least it's filled the chasm that was developing between the crossing bump and the road surface.

It is crunch—and munch—time for cockatoos.

Response to the petition for traffic lights on Cotter Road at Amberfield

The ACT Government has responded to the Legislative Assembly petition to install traffic lights on Cotter Road at the intersection with Fryer Road, which is the sole access for the Amberfield retirement community. The main points:

- the ACT Government is against traffic lights here because they would increase congestion on Cotter Road, which is already congested and over capacity
- the ACT Government is against adding bus stops near Amberfield because it's not safe to cross Cotter Road, unless a safer crossing can be provided
- costs of any upgrade to the intersection are the responsibility of the lessee (LDK, the developer and owner of Amberfield)
- planning here is the responsibility of the National Capital Authority (NCA) rather than the ACT Government
- traffic markings and lanes are done by ACT Roads, which is considering and discussing some improvements.

The full report is on the Curtin Residents Association website:
www.curtinresidents.asn.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/ResponseAmberfieldPetition25.pdf.

Report on community consultation on the proposed North Curtin residential development

The North Curtin Residential Area is a 200-metre wide section of the North Curtin horse paddocks adjacent to Yarra Glen that is set aside from the diplomatic area on the rest of the site. In April 2024 the ACT Government announced that the area would be developed to provide 'more than 1300 homes'. Consultation with the community about the proposal took place in May and June 2024. The report from this consultation was finalised in August 2024; however, it was only publicly released on Christmas Eve 2025!

The proposal for more than 1300 homes would be a high-density development. It would effectively be a new suburb but without any of the facilities found in other suburbs of Canberra. The Residents Association believes that this area is a great site for medium-density development. The results of the ACT Government's consultation with the community support this position. When asked for their three preferred options (from a list of seven), the great majority of respondents preferred townhouses and duplexes on this site. About half of the respondents included apartments up to 4 storeys. Only a small minority wanted apartments taller than 4 storeys. (See page 23 of the report.)

The development process is now with the ACT Suburban Land Agency. The SLA has told the Association that it anticipates holding community consultation on draft planning conditions for the area in the first quarter of 2026. We will see then what effect the community consultation in 2024 has had on planning for this site. We'll keep you posted. *Ian Elsum*

The full report is available on the CRA website:
www.curtinresidents.asn.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/NCurtinConsRpt24.pdf.

Written by Chris Johnson and Ian Elsum, edited and designed by Ann Parkinson. Contributions welcome!