



australian  
breastfeeding  
association

### Australian Breastfeeding Association North Canberra

- Breastfeeding Counselor (s) on hand to answer your questions.
- All mums, dads, children and mums-to-be welcome, and you don't need to be a member

If you have a question about breastfeeding please call our  
**free**

National Breastfeeding Helpline:

**1800 686 268** or visit

[www.breastfeeding.asn.au](http://www.breastfeeding.asn.au)

to check venues:

[abanorthcanberra@hotmail.com](mailto:abanorthcanberra@hotmail.com)

#### SUNDAY MORNINGS

9AM & 10:30AM

#### FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH

7PM-9PM

160 ASPINALL ST  
WATSON

C3 CHURCH  
WATSON

[C3CHURCHWATSON.COM](http://C3CHURCHWATSON.COM)



#### Gentle Exercise Class

Uniting Church, Ainslie

9:30 – 10:30 am each Friday

Cost \$7.00

#### Canberra North Ladies Probus Club

Meets on the 2nd Monday of the month

10:00-12:00 at Yowani Country Club

Contact Terri on 0402 364 694

# Meg's TOY Box

Is a community toy library.  
Run as a non profit venture  
with the support of  
St Margaret's Church

Call—02 6248 7467  
(during opening hours only)

Wed 10am—12pm  
Sat 2pm—4pm

## DROP BY AND JOIN



### THE TUCKERBOX



HOLY CROSS ANGLICAN PARISH

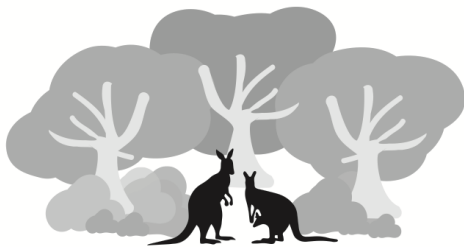
– Opens every Saturday, 2pm to 4pm –

The Tuckerbox is a not-for-profit service which helps those struggling to balance their budget. The Tuckerbox has bread, groceries (*milk, fruit and vegetables when available*).

Those on pensions, are low income families or unemployed will find this service very helpful. As a contribution, we ask a small service fee. Foodbank NSW provides the majority of stock.

Corner of Phillip Ave & Antill Street,  
Hackett—Ph: (02) 6248 5327

[www.holycrosshackett.anglicancg.org.au](http://www.holycrosshackett.anglicancg.org.au)



# THE WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 102 – Spring 2019

## Message from the Chair

Hello Watson, and welcome to another jam-packed edition of the Watzon (and no, the recipe on page 13 is not for jam). Not only do we have 25 years of history as a community to reminisce about (see next instalment on pages 4-5) but there are a number of reports from Watson groups and institutions about activities recent and and forecast.

We're pleased to welcome John Briggs on board as the new coordinator of the Watson Woodlands Working Group. John is not new at all to the group so it's great to have his knowledge and experience in the driver's seat.

Our Planning Sub-Committee is currently consulting with the relevant bodies regarding the Canberra Technology Park (old Watson High School) and old Service Station sites and they were the force behind the recent Canberra City News (CCN) article about planning concerns in Watson. If you didn't see it make sure you look it up on the CCN website. The Planning group's meetings are open to all interested residents. Contact Simon Clarke via email at [planning2602@gmail.com](mailto:planning2602@gmail.com).

We also want to make you aware of a stronger working relationship being pursued between WCA Inc. and the North Canberra Community Council (an umbrella action group representing the needs of the Inner North). While continuing with our own suburb-based action remains a priority we cannot ignore the ACT government's interest in District Planning approaches. NCCC meetings are also open to all and are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Downer Community Hall.

Keep up to date with all Watson events and issues via our Facebook page. There are more and more useful and interesting Watson and inner north related matters being posted there by our fantastic FB admin people. See you in the Summer edition.

*Leonie Watts, Chair*

## Spring events

### Father's Day

Sunday 1 September

### Handmade Market Canberra - Spring

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September  
@ Exhibition Park

### Floriade

#### Saturday 14 September to

Sunday 13 October  
[floriadeaustralia.com](http://floriadeaustralia.com)

### Welcome to Watson

Sunday 15 September, 3–4:30PM

### Majura Spring Carnival

Saturday 21 September, 10-2PM

### Tidbinbilla Reserve Open Day

Sunday 29 September, 10-3PM  
[www.tidbinbilla.act.gov.au](http://www.tidbinbilla.act.gov.au)

### Daylight savings starts

2:00 AM Sunday 6 October

### Labour Day Public Holiday

Monday 7 October

### WCA Inc. Quarterly Meeting

Monday 21 October at 7:30 PM

## Contact us

### Deputy Chair

Julie Smith

02 6241 8861

[www.watson.org.au](http://www.watson.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/  
watsoncommunityassociation666@  
gmail.com](https://www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com)

## Watson Community Association Inc.

The Watson Community Association Inc. (WCA Inc.) aims to promote, protect and enhance the social, cultural and physical environment of the community of Watson, and the welfare, community spirit and quality of life of its residents. It also aims to inform the community about issues concerning Watson. One way the WCA Inc. does this is through the quarterly production and distribution of the Watson – a community newsletter.

The next WCA Inc. quarterly meeting is scheduled for **Monday, 21 October at 7:30 PM** - at the Hall in the Fair on Tay Street, Watson.

**All welcome.**

## Reports ...

### Welcome to Watson

Dennis and Colleen retired to Watson from Wagga Wagga and joined us for an afternoon chat on Mother's Day – Sunday, 12 May. They have already joined the Watson Walkers who meet near the pharmacy on Friday mornings and walk a few kilometres before sharing morning tea. They enjoy reading the Watson newsletter as soon as it is delivered but had not yet discovered the WCA Inc. webpage at [www.watson.org.au](http://www.watson.org.au) or our Facebook page.

Our next 'Welcome to Watson' event will be held on Sunday, 15 September – invitation on Page 10.

*Aileen Conroy, Event Organiser*

### "Celebrate Autumn in Watson" Facebook photo competition

During April, 23 photos were posted on our WCA Inc. Facebook page celebrating Watson's beautiful trees and colours during autumn. You can view and enjoy them under the Photo heading in the "Autumn Photos" album.

The winners were decided by popular vote totaling the number of likes and announced by our chairperson, Leonie Watts, at The Knox Café.

With 63 votes Constanza Maffi won the first prize of a \$50 The Knox Café voucher for her glorious yellow tree titled "Higginbotham Street this morning". Constanza was also generous in voting for other images.

Nae Cloak won the second prize - a bakery back from The Knox Café - for her photo "Watson Woodlands" with 48 likes. Afruna Rahman won the third prize - a pizza from The Knox Café - for her photo of a vibrant red tree in Knox Street, which was posted near the end of the competition but still received 39 likes.

The Facebook Admin are thrilled with the engagement of our community during this celebration.

Thank you to everyone who participated and to The Knox Café for their generous donation of prizes. The winning photos are on display in The Knox Café for everyone to enjoy.

*Aileen Conroy, Event Organiser*

## Canberra Music Education School

Piano, Flute and Singing Teacher  
**Kelly Sturgiss**

Kelly is a piano, singing and flute teacher with over 10 years of teaching and performance experience. Kelly has a diploma in music and also holds a Bachelor of Fine Art, in which she has included music and sound into her work.

Kelly teaches all styles, levels and ages.

Lessons are \$35 per ½ hour

For enquiries, contact Diane on 0414 788 380

## Academy of Interactive Entertainment



Canberra Technology Park  
Block E, 49 Phillip Avenue  
Watson ACT 2602

P: +61 2 6162 5131

E: canberra@aie.edu.au

## Piano lessons in Watson

Ella Ragless is teaching piano in Watson. Ella is an active musician, enthusiastic about teaching anyone keen to learn piano in the inner north, including young children. Ph 0490 018 070

<https://www.musicteacher.com.au/ella-ragless/piano-lessons/>

## home.by holly

Team McReynolds  
**Michael, Jenny and Mark**  
For all your real estate needs,  
call us today!

Jenny 0409 300 065 | Michael 0419 688 034  
Mark 0401 829 087 | jenny@homebyholly.com.au



The Knox motto is 'Made in Watson' which means we use local and seasonal produce!

A chilled café where you can sit back and relax with family and friends but still enjoy amazing food and drinks. Keen an eye out for our new menu and exciting weekly specials!

Opening hours:

Brekky and lunch 7 days a week  
Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Saturday-Sunday 7:30 am to 4:00 pm

Dinner

Tuesday-Saturday from 4:00 pm

ENROLLING NOW

# Enrolling now for 2020



**Rosary Primary School**

TOGETHER WE DO OUR BEST | BELIEVE | EXPLORE | STRIVE | TRIUMPH

## KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR SIX CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spend some time with us to see what we have to offer. All welcome!  
Places still available for 2019.

### **Rosary Primary School**

Fleming Street Watson ACT 2602

[www.rosary.act.edu.au](http://www.rosary.act.edu.au)

Ph: 6248 0010

Email: [office.rosaryps@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office.rosaryps@cg.catholic.edu.au)

ALL WELCOME | ENROLLING NOW

## Living Streets Association

*'Living Streets Association' is a community organisation which promotes friendly community by the means of community building. Through "youth-led" community events, we can encourage participation by community members, enhance the experience of connecting to others and with each other, and enable children to develop social competence and social responsibility.*

There is currently development happening at block section 76, where there is a potential tree loss near the edge of the block. If rezoned for residential use, 400 townhouses could be built on this block. With the intention to raise awareness, Living Streets Youth organised an event on Saturday, 27 April: *"Discover the treasures of the neighbourhood"* on the block section 76. Through various activities including a bird walk (led by primary school teacher and local bird lover, Megan Mears), craft making with natural materials, and outdoor games led by Living Streets Youth, the participating children and their parents were able to learn about the treasures on block section 76 in their neighbourhood.

Children were captivated by the talk and were enthusiastic in answering the quizzes. They were running around in the woods and doing a scavenger hunt in order to search for the facts about the birds. Children's delicate perceptions and emotions are nurtured by the nature. The natural environment inside the neighbourhood of North Watson - the woods, green fields and creatures living on the block enhance our children's development.

If you are interested in contributing your time, your talent and skills to the community during the school break, please leave us a message via our Facebook Page - Living Streets Association.

*Belle  
Living Streets Association*



### **"Celebrate Autumn in Watson" Facebook photo competition**

The winning photograph titled "Higginbotham Street this morning" by Constanza Maffi.

## Looking back ... editions 51-75 of the Watson

*In early 2019, we published the 100th edition of the Watson. This is the third installment in our series looking back at Watson's earlier editions. Here we look at issues 51-75.*

Between 2005 and 2012, issues 51 to 75 of the Watson had diverse as well as continuous items: nuisance from noise, aircraft, a possible drag way and traffic, roaming cats and dogs as well as new and old planning issues, the woodlands, public toilets, the petrol station site and community activities. During this time, the Watson became an adolescent, reaching sixteen years of publication.

There were poems, quotes, recipes, and obituaries for much loved long term Watson residents. Tips for bird feeding emphasised the greater importance of water. One issue proudly featured 'dining out in Watson'. Another advised 'don't feed the ducks'.

There was also some Watson history, on our 'legal' street names and on 'the Lucerne strip' and the Australian Heritage Village. A brochure on the Woodlands was prepared and distributed to all Watson households. One issue featured Youth With a Mission (YWAM), which until 1982 was the Sacred Heart Monastery.

There were WCA surveys and advocacy regarding a proposed dragway at Majura, and reports on an expanded Canberra airport. The proposed closure of Dickson College by then education minister Andrew Barr MLA attracted strong attention in successive issues. Summernats was still a problem. The Starlight Drive In sign was Heritage-listed. Public toilets at the shops were a divisive question, though support was increasing.

Minister Barr promised action to advance a wildlife corridor linking Mt Majura and the Woodland across Antill Street Horse Paddocks. WCA Inc. advocacy helped save the Kenny Woodlands from the expansion of Gungahlin.

Neighbourhood Watch items covered seniors safety, managing teenagers' parties and an outbreak of letter box thieving. There was an 'anomalous number of incidents' reported in one issue. 'Petiquette in the Park' was discussed along with items on dogs and cats and on-leash reminders, as well as drug awareness and getting help to deal with drug abuse. Majura Mountain Scouts got a better footpath and the Potters Society got a big budget boost.

Watson Walkers, and Minimising Mynas were added to the many community groups active in the suburb. We sadly farewelled the YWCA in Hackett. Community activities included Clean Up Australia Day, a World Environment Day Walk, Woodland working bees, plant conservation workshops and Walks in the Watson Woodlands. Our annual meetings had interesting guest speakers. Open days at the woodland focused on ducks, frogs and wildflowers, and celebrated 300 plantings plus extensive tree regeneration occurring following removal of cattle. Watering and water attracted comment, with the drought dragging on until 2012. Rain and rabbits were also hot topics.

New trees were planted on Knox Street, and 'adopted' chooks moved in at Majura Primary School's revitalised grounds alongside the Stephanie Alexander kitchen gardens. The Walking School Bus got going. A neighbourhood BBQ was reported in Williams Street, continuing a local tradition of neighbourliness and community building. Residents mobilised to save and rehabilitate Watson's ovals. Watson's boat building 'Noah' provided answers on a local puzzle.

## Recipe

This recipe from the “*Capital Region Farmers Market (CRFM) Recipe Book*”, published in 2014, was contributed by Nanette Howard, wife of Rosary Club of Hall member Tony Howard.

### Date Pudding

Serves 4

1 cup **self-raising flour**

½ cup lightly packed **brown sugar**

½ cup **milk**

¾ cup **boiling water**

1 cup chopped **dates**

2 tbs **golden syrup**

3 **eggs**

**Preheat** oven to 180 degrees. Grease round baking dish.

**Rub** butter into flour. Add sugar and dates. Beat together eggs and milk. Add to dry ingredients. Mix well with a spoon.

**Spoon** half date mixture into greased dish. Drizzle over half golden syrup. Cover with remaining mixture and top with remaining golden syrup.

**Carefully** pour over boiling water. Cook immediately.

**Bake** 40-45 minutes.

**Serve** with cream, ice-cream or custard.

## Local services

WellSorted   
Professional Organiser

Chaos, overwhelm and clutter in your home, your office, your life?

I can bring calm, order & space back to your day & mind.

Call Virginia Wells – 0422 490 131

E: [virginia@getwellsorted.com.au](mailto:virginia@getwellsorted.com.au)

W: [www.getwellsorted.com.au](http://www.getwellsorted.com.au)

FB: [www.facebook.com/getwellsorted](https://www.facebook.com/getwellsorted)



### WATSON

- **EFTPOS is available - no minimum expenditure required**
- **Free home delivery services**

**Come in & experience the service for yourself.**

**Phone: 02 6255 6800**



Do you follow us on Facebook?  
Please take the time today to follow us for regular updates, information and events happening in and around Watson.  
See [www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/](https://www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/)



## Woodlands Working Group

*The Woodlands Working Group was formed as a sub-group of the WCA Inc. to protect, enhance and care for the valuable patch of threatened native Yellow Box/Red Gum Grassy Woodland known as Justice Robert Hope Park. Much work has been done to decrease the effects of years of commercial use, and increase indigenous species of flora and fauna in the park.*

Firstly, thank you to the WCA Inc. for appointing me as the new convenor of the Watson Woodlands Working Group. This appointment follows the retirement of Richard Larson. I have been working with Richard during his time as convenor, and I would like to thank Richard for his contributions to the protection and management of the woodlands over the last 12 years.

My involvement in the Watson Woodlands is not new. I first became involved in about 1996 to help lobby and prepare a case to the ACT Government for the protection of this endangered woodland vegetation type – the subject of a housing development proposal at that time. We were successful in having the first part of the woodland protected in 2001. I worked closely with Mr Martin Grace, the initial convenor, and other interested members of the local community to undertake an extensive weeding and planting program to start rehabilitating the woodland to a condition more closely resembling the period prior to European settlement.

For those interested in a little more detail on the history of the Watson Woodlands, I will investigate having the Watson Woodlands chapter in the Southern ACT Catchment Group 2013 publication 'A Labour of Love – Celebrating Landcare in the ACT' posted on the WCA Inc. website – and a link on the Facebook page.

Following the controversial decision by the ACT Government in 2014 to make the already reserved Watson Woodland an offset for the clearing of an adjoining 4 ha of woodland for housing, the focus of the Working Group has somewhat shifted. In nominating the Watson Woodland as the offset area, the ACT Government obtained funding contributions from the developer specifically to cover the costs of managing the Woodland. Much of the routine weed management and shrub planting is now being done using contractors. The role of the Working Group has been to be to undertake more specialist planting and weeding work and liaising with the ACT Government's Offset's Team regarding appropriate management and future rehabilitation activities for the Woodland. With much of the tree and shrub planting now complete, future rehabilitation activities will focus on the native grass and wildflower component of the Woodland. I have met with the most recently appointed ranger for the Woodland and she is very keen to support and continue some of the ground cover restoration works of the Working Group.

Over the next few weeks I will be making contact with previous active members of the Working Group to provide a more detailed update and discuss potential future working bees. If you are interested in becoming involved in the Working Group, please send me an email at [jbriggs1@vtown.com.au](mailto:jbriggs1@vtown.com.au).

*John Briggs  
Watson Woodland Working Group Convenor*

## Looking back ... editions 51-75 of the Watzon (cont'd)

The WCA Inc. also began planning Watson's 50th birthday. Meanwhile, much energy was spent defending a local heritage site, known as Canberra Fair to many residents, from the bulldozers. Traffic and incursion of domestic animals into the neighbouring Canberra Nature Reserve were a concern when the Fair estate was approved by the government. Silver Owls and the Regent Honeyeaters were sadly farewelled from our suburb.

Traffic issues included problems on Knox St and possible traffic lights at its intersection with Antill Street. EPIC invited the WCA Inc. onto a community advisory group on its future development. The site behind Prime TV was referred to the federal government for development approval because of harms envisaged to an endangered ecology, Red Gum Yellow Box Grassy Woodland, next door at the Woodlands.

And on a theme that may resonate currently, Watzon Issue 54 offered the following reflections:

*'You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man's freedom.  
You can only be free if I am free' (Clarence Darrow).*

*'Those who would give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty  
or security' (Benjamin Franklin).*

*Julie Smith  
Deputy Chair, WCA Inc.*

## The goings on in Watson (and nearby) ... have you noticed?

- Flower looms are adorning the deciduous trees at the Watson shops – bringing a splash of colour.
- New surfaces have been installed at the bus stop on Windeyer Street (opposite the Watson shops) to improve pedestrian safety.
- The traffic island on Knox Street (in front of the Watson Preschool) has been widened to improve pedestrian safety.
- New signage has been erected at Justice Robert Hope Park – visible from Antill Street.
- New signage has been erected throughout Watson (and elsewhere in Canberra) to guide residents to the nearest public transport routes (bus and light rail).

## Local services



**The WCA Inc. particularly wishes to thank the Australian Catholic University (ACU), Signadou Campus in Watson, for printing this Newsletter as a community service.**

The Campus has about 1.000 students and is conveniently located 5km from Canberra's city centre.

For more information on courses available please call them on 02 6209 1100—Mon to Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm or visit [www.acu.edu.au](http://www.acu.edu.au).

## Community Notices

### *Rosary Walkathon*

It was a rather cool day but the sun did come out to warm us up on the final day of Term 2 for the Walkathon. The whole school enjoyed the walk around our neighbourhood in the company of family, friends and classmates.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in the lead up to this day, especially the team of staff and parent helpers who took on the task of coordinating the event. Thank you also to all teachers, parents, families and friends who volunteered to help on the day itself and parents who were involved with the counting of incoming monies and sourcing of prize donations and sponsorship.

The Walkathon is a big event that would not be possible without the support of the community. A great big 'thank you' to the children and families who filled up sponsorship forms. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

The highest fundraising class will enjoy a pizza and popcorn movie party as their prize! The highest individual fundraiser and the highest family fundraiser prize was a weekend away at South Durras!

All in all, it was a great day and I thank everyone involved for their generosity in terms of time, funds and community spirit.

*Vicky van der Sanden, Principal*

### *Watson Preschool Fete*

Wow! What a beautiful day we were given for the Watson preschool fete! The sun was shining, and the Watson community came out to enjoy a wonderful day! Families enjoyed the activities on offer, the delicious array of food, and they gave generously to the raffles and silent auction.

With the help of the community, the Fete raised over \$5,000 for the Watson Preschool children. The money will help provide a weekly music/dance program in Term 4, a Hatching Chicks and Tadpole Watch program, and it will help towards other fun and educational resources for our preschool.

Thank you to everyone who came to the fete, and to the wonderful volunteers who helped ensure our fete was a success!

*Preschool Sub-Committee*

## Poem

*Bombala pilgrimage*

ballerinas with  
white frilled skirts  
frolic among ragged  
tussock  
cluster on the treeless  
plains

Monaro or woman's  
breast enthalls  
the passers-by  
on the bus, her neckline  
decked with glittering  
jewels- snow draped  
like pure white mink  
across her sloping shoulders  
casual yet sure of herself  
in winter's rough caress

*Fiona McIlroy  
Majura Café Poets*

## Local services

*Convenient one stop shopping  
in Watson for all your  
pharmacy needs*

### **Watson Pharmacy**

\*For friendly, efficient Customer Service

\*QCPP accredited

\* Leave/medical certificates

\*Seniors' discounts

\* We can price match

\*Free script pick-up and delivery

\*Stop smoking classes

\*Blood pressure checks

\*Hard to park? You can hand in your  
scripts by ringing us on:

Landline: 6241 1506

Mob: 0422 668 293

Pharmacy hours:

Mon to Fri 9:00am–6:00pm

Sat: 9:00am-01:00pm

### **Licensed Post Office**

\*Postal Services

\*Gifts \*Cards for all occasions

\*Passport photos

Post Office hours:

Mon to Fri 9:00am–5:30pm

### *INNER NATURE*

## WELLBEING IN WATSON

Retraining or retiring? Transition to the next stage in your life  
with confidence and clarity with Personal coaching

Learn to stress less, sleep better & find calm  
with Mindfulness for individuals and groups.

Relief for tired muscles & minds - Hawaiian kahuna massage

10% off for Watson residents (mention this ad)  
joancomish@innernature.com.au

[WWW.INNERNATURE.COM.AU](http://WWW.INNERNATURE.COM.AU)

## ANDREW MCREYNOLDS PLUMBING

FOR ALL YOUR  
PLUMBING SOLUTIONS

MOB: 0402 921 111

E: [andrew.mcreynolds1@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.mcreynolds1@gmail.com)

LICENSE NO. 20121001

ABN: 95548301062





**WELCOME TO WATSON**

## **Please Join Us**

The Watson Community Association Inc. invites newcomers to Watson to a casual, free event!

Friendly locals are also invited to welcome our new neighbours

**Sun 15 Sept at 3:00-4:30 pm**

**The Knox café  
Watson Village Shops**

Local groups, organisations, businesses, sporting & hobby clubs have been invited

**More information:**

**[watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com](mailto:watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com)**

## Watson property sales

Ever wondered about house prices in Watson?

We've compiled a list of Watson sale prices for the period 1 April – 30 June 2019 for you.

<b>Exchange (sold date)</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Type</b>
02/04/2019	69 Piddington Street	\$1,090,000	House
13/04/2019	21 Kerferd Street	\$894,000	House
11/05/2019	61 Piddington Street	\$882,500	House
12/04/2019	5 Simpson Street	\$865,000	House
23/05/2019	108 Irvine Street	\$865,000	House
03/04/2019	3 Adams Place	\$865,000	House
10/05/2019	55 Blair Street	\$860,000	House
07/05/2019	7 Blair Street	\$840,000	House
10/05/2019	11 Hood Place	\$825,000	House
05/04/2019	7 Simpson Street	\$810,000	House
18/05/2019	5 Peden Place	\$785,000	House
14/05/2019	289 Antill Street	\$780,000	House
24/05/2019	20 Bettie McNee Street	\$765,000	House
26/06/2019	137 Knox Street	\$760,000	House
17/04/2019	45 Molesworth Street	\$745,000	House
25/05/2019	38 Wade Street	\$742,500	House
19/06/2019	66 Higinbotham Street	\$740,000	House
15/05/2019	16 Phippard Court	\$720,000	House
01/06/2019	13 A'Beckett Street	\$670,000	House
03/04/2019	2 Hearn Street	\$665,000	House
02/04/2019	30 Aspinall Street	\$660,000	House
23/05/2019	13A Woolcock Street	\$598,000	House
15/04/2019	73 Tay Street	\$450,000	House
18/04/2019	53 Whitmore Crescent	\$430,000	House
15/05/2019	69 Bettie McNee Street	\$720,000	Townhouse
14/05/2019	21 Bettie McNee Street	\$670,000	Townhouse
11/06/2019	23/215 Aspinall Street	\$645,000	Townhouse
06/06/2019	96/215 Aspinall Street	\$560,000	Townhouse
17/05/2019	45/14 Federal Highway	\$480,000	Townhouse
31/05/2019	151/395 Antill Street	\$475,000	Apartment
24/05/2019	135/20 Federal Highway	\$440,000	Apartment
30/04/2019	85/20 Federal Highway	\$365,000	Apartment
23/05/2019	16/23 Aspinall Street	\$359,000	Apartment
30/04/2019	38/23 Aspinall Street	\$359,000	Apartment
04/04/2019	29/35 Tay Street	\$350,000	Apartment
08/04/2019	41/25 Aspinall Street	\$350,000	Apartment
24/04/2019	54/35 Tay Street	\$344,000	Apartment

*The contents of this list and other ACT house sale prices and information are freely published online.*

## Planning Sub-Committee report

*Let's keep Watson liveable and sustainable!*

Lots of developments are afoot - both across our suburb and within the Planning Sub-Committee of the WCA Inc. As you read through the latest planning news below, think about whether you'd like to get involved.

In the past 3 months:

1. Following completion of the community led **Plan for the Sustainable Development of Watson** we approached the ACT Government and Opposition in May, and again in July, to request a meeting to share the Plan and discuss a range of pressing development issues impacting our suburb. We have meetings scheduled with Minister Gentleman and Representatives Lee and Burch, but are still waiting for a response from other politicians.
2. **Proposed sale and development of the old High School site** - In response to the flagged redevelopment, we have developed a position paper regarding the site. Key points are to ensure that green space for community use is maximised and opportunities for active and social recreation space is retained and enhanced - with all development being sympathetic, in both scale and use, to the surrounding area.
3. **Watson Shops old service station site** - We met with Purdon Planning to discuss their concept for the site. We were, on the whole, impressed with their concept, both practically and aesthetically, however we do have concerns regarding parking (both during and after construction), and the effectiveness of proposed safeguards for the overlooking of the Nipperville site. We will continue to monitor this proposal.
4. **City and Gateway - Blocks 74 & 76 (along Federal Highway)** - There has been recent work on this site with soil sampling and testing prior to sale. The WCA Inc. position is that we want to see the National Capital Authority (NCA) rules regarding setbacks and height limits extended to the whole site managed by the ACT Government, not just the current NCA easement area. We are also ready to vigorously defend the existing established large eucalypts. It is our position that ALL these trees MUST be preserved and that real penalties must be applied for failing to do so. We are not interested in the current "slap on the wrist" approach being continued.
5. **Increased traffic** - Given the plethora of developments underway and planned in North Watson we will be continuing to push for a clear traffic management plan to be developed – and published.
6. **Amenity** - The character of our suburb needs to be enhanced by any future development. This means priority being given to environmental sustainability, connection and community spaces, natural assets being retained and enhanced, and quality of life being at the centre of all development. Your Planning Sub-Committee is committed to fighting for these things. Please get in touch with your issues and concerns.

## Planning Sub-Committee report (cont'd)

*Join us!*

Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, 12 August at 7:00 PM** at the Hall in the Fair on Tay Street, Watson. All Watson residents are most welcome. For more information, contact us via email at [planning2602@gmail.com](mailto:planning2602@gmail.com).

Finally, thanks must go to our inaugural Chair, Geoff Murray-Prior, who stood down earlier this year. The 'Plan for Watson' document would not exist without Geoff's vision and drive. The Watson Community owes him a great debt of gratitude. Thanks Geoff!

*Best wishes to all,  
Simon Clarke, Chair*

## Hints for your spring garden

*We're pleased to welcome Silvie Eckhardt on board as our new 'hints for your garden' column contributor. Silvie answered our call for help following the recent retirement of Cedric Bryant as contributor. Thank you Silvie!*

### **Weed Feed**

Can't see your springtime garden for the weeds? Before you add weeding to the top of your garden spring cleaning list, wait just a moment. Weeds play a vital role in all ecosystems including our gardens. Weeds maintain top soil, draw up nutrients so they are accessible for plants and edible weed species can be very nutritious for people too.

Throughout winter I chose to see the positive in a glut of stinging nettles (*Urtica urens*) rather than the literal pain they inflict. Stinging nettles are a sign of a healthy garden as they grow in fertile soil enriched with manure. In turn, nettles can be added to compost or dug into the soil as a green manure before they've grown seeds. If your nettles are seedier than a Knox bakery loaf of multigrain sourdough soaking them for a few weeks makes a tea that is an excellent, nitrogen-rich fertiliser for vegetables and spring flowers.

Nettles are not just good food for the garden, they are nourishing for us too. My bountiful nettle harvest has been used to recreate a restaurant dish of chargrilled broccoli with stinging nettle butter and, somewhat less successfully, stinging nettle cordial.

Now that the soil is well nourished thanks to an abundance of nettle compost and tea, what to plant? Spring in Canberra is known for punishing the optimists amongst us who prematurely pull out the shorts and sandals. Winter vegetables such as broad beans, peas and lettuces are good to plant now as are companion flowers such as calendula, marigolds, geraniums which attract bees and good insects.

If you'd like any recipes for nettles or further tips, contact me via email at [growtoguide@gmail.com](mailto:growtoguide@gmail.com).

*Silvie Eckhardt*