

WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 119 - Autumn 2024

The Watson Community Association Inc. acknowledges the traditional Aboriginal custodians of Canberra and pays our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge that many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from across Australia have now made Canberra their home. We also acknowledge and celebrate their cultures, diversity, and contribution to the ACT and region.



Aspinall Street Bus Stop Photo credit- Melissa Hammond

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Please note that the views expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Watson Community Association.

The Watson Community Association Inc. wishes to thank the **Australian Catholic University (Signadou** Campus,



Canberra) for printing the WATZON newsletter as a community service *

A fond farewell to Liz, our long-time Watzon newsletter delivery coordinator who has moved out of the area. We will miss you!!

The Summer issue was brought to you by your neighbour volunteers:

Petra, Aileen, Faseny, Peter & Anne, Chris & Helen, Simon, Matthew, Fiona & Bob, Ingram, Jenny, David & Vilaisan, Leonie & Ben @YWAM, Janelee and Living Streets Associations, Helen, Leigh, Peter, Pamela and Suni.

Thank you, Alex@ACU, Maggie and Petra for orchestrating the printing, paper drop off and delivery of the last Watzon newsletter *

Welcome to Watson!

By Geoff Murray-Prior Chair of Watson Community Association

In just two years from now the WCA will be celebrating 30 years since its incorporation. The year 2025 might seem some time away, but we all know how time flies. The WCA Committee would like to celebrate this milestone with relevant community events, but we need your input. We propose to discuss this in detail at our next Annual General Meeting, in April 2024. In the meantime, please give this some thought, and send your suggestions to the Committee, via the WCA Committee's email address-

watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com.

At the same time, please give serious thought to giving some time to your community association. Members are always welcome at our quarterly meetings (next one on Tuesday 13th February 2024) and of course your active involvement is always being sought.

It appears that the new community park on Aspinall Street, opposite Negus Crescent, will not be completed before Christmas, but hopefully will become usable before the end of the January school holidays.

Welcome to Watson *

Crime in Watson

By Geoff Murray-Prior Chair of Watson Community Association

The WCA Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 13th February, was devoted to crime in Watson. This followed some alarming reports about drug-dealing, breakins, theft, harassment etc. By invitation, Homelessness Minister Rebecca Vassarotti, and a representative for Opposition Leader Elizabeth Lee, attended.

The meeting firstly covered Neighbourhood Watch, a volunteer organisation focussed on people reporting suspicious activity to Crime Stoppers, without being directly involved in the investigation process. Residents can join Neighbourhood Watch through their website, www.nhwa.com.au.

The meeting then discussed more specifically the issues facing Watson residents. Attendees reported a wide range of issues, many centring on the surrounds of the shopping centre. Some of the many issues raised were:

- begging at the shops, and harassment and threats towards shoppers, shop staff, the elderly, and children,
- drug dealing, and drug usage, in the shopping centre area,
- theft from vehicles parked at the shops and elsewhere in the suburb, and theft from homes and sheds, and
- syringes on the ground in the shopping centre surrounds.

Concern was raised at the apparent lack of a police response. Minister Vassarotti responded directly to many questions, and committed to facilitating a meeting between concerned residents and relevant Ministers, including Police and

Housing, regarding the issues raised. Six impacted residents formed a group to be involved in these ongoing meetings.

The next day, WIN TV featured residents' concerns prominently on their evening news bulletin, featuring a resident who had been the victim of theft. Residents' concerns were also reported in The Canberra Times. The Chief Minister wrote to a theft victim advising that "Directorates and service providers have been asked to provide additional support services to the community."

At Minister Vassarotti's request, I chaired a meeting on 27th February with her, Attorney-General Shane Rattenbury, a high-ranking police officer and a senior ACT Housing executive, along with the six impacted residents. We addressed both criminal and social behaviour, and discussed strategies. One outcome, designed to advance community cohesion, is to run a community event on the grass near the shops on Sunday 7th April. This will be coordinated by the WCA.

Hopefully the action the WCA has taken in facilitating these meetings will result in a safer community. Further meetings are planned. The WCA will continue to interact with the relevant Ministers, Police, and Directorates, over the coming months *

Who Do I Call?

Emergency 000

In an emergency or life-threatening situation. You can also download the Emergency+ app to contact emergency services.

Police Assistance 131 444

If you require police assistance, but there is no immediate danger.

Online reporting police.act.gov.au/online-services

For non-urgent matters, such as historical sexual assault (for incidents that occurred more than six months ago), property damage, vandalism. If you prefer, you can still report non-urgent matters to 131 444 or by attending a police station.

Crime Stoppers 1 800 333 000

If you have information about a crime; you can remain anonymous.

Provided by Strategic Communications and Public Engagement, ACT Policing



National Neighbour Day – Strengthening Community Ties

By Melissa Hammond

National Neighbour Day is on 31 March 2024 and Relationships Australia have some handy resources and tips on how to strengthen community ties. At the WCA Quarterly Meeting where we discussed the recent events that have raised concerns for residents, my thoughts turned to what we can do to build a stronger community. When asked what my idea was, my answer was to start

small – get to know your neighbour.

As it so happens, Neighbour Day is upon us and the theme this year is 'Create Belonging - Share Belonging'. Belonging occurs when people feel safe, comfortable and accepted. With the recent events and people feeling unsafe, we can definitely help each other out at this time whilst other steps are being taken by the authorities to address the increase in crime.



Check out https://neighbourseveryday.org/resources/downloads/ for some great resources and conversation starters. There are also some colouring pages for the kids, connection cards to drop in letterboxes, street play and game ideas and if you need more, they have a list of 20 ideas on how to create and share belonging in our community.

And finally, we would love to hear your stories! Let us know what you, your building, your school or your street did to celebrate Neighbour Day. Please send your stories and pics to watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com, or my Watson email address treesofwatson@gmail.com and we can share a couple in the next edition. Have fun **

Heart Foundation- Watson Walkers

By Susan Grigson Walk Organiser of Watson Walkers

Meet up with the Watson Walkers, Fridays, 8am, at the Post Office



Did you know that just 30 minutes of walking a day can significantly lower your risk of heart disease, stroke, and Type 2 diabetes? When it comes to walking for heart health, some is better than none (and more is even better).

Why not try joining our free community walking group, Watson Walkers, and let regular physical activity help you:

- Reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke
- Manage weight, blood pressure, and blood cholesterol
- Prevent and control diabetes
- Lower the risk of developing some cancers
- Maintain bone density, reducing the risk of osteoporosis and fractures
- Improve balance and coordination
- Boost your daily mood for better mental health
- Connect with your community: Cross paths with friends, neighbours and new people while you walk.
- Improve your energy and wellbeing: Enjoy better energy, mood and sleep, as well reduced stress and fatigue.

For more information, contact Susan Grigson sgrigson@internode.on.net or visit our website https://walking.heartfoundation.org.au/ **

Updates from the Planning Group

By Simon Clarke
WCA Committee and Planning Group Convenor
planning2602@gmail.com

Good planning is only part of the solution

We know that planning decisions have a big impact on how community develops. How we design developments can really impact on the way people interact. That's the rationale behind the new co-housing development planned for Block 76 on Aspinall St. However, we know it's not that simple – we don't live in a "Field of Dreams" where "build it and they will come" is the mantra.

Good community creates connectedness which, in turn, has a huge impact on mental wellbeing; but community has to be planted, worked at and nurtured if it is to survive, let alone thrive. It was encouraging to see people come together to support each other when things began to get out of hand recently. The challenge for us all now is to keep that momentum going.

Building Strong Communities

Strong communities have 3 things in common. Those things are *Purpose*, *Belonging and Resilience*. We all want Watson to be a great place to live, whether we're 8 or 80. We all want our suburb to be a diverse, happy and supportive community. While we can't always control how that happens, we can influence it by meeting each other, talking to each other and supporting each other.

Watson's population is changing. It's not easy being in a new place. Have you met the new people in your street or your block? Why not letter box the 10 residences around you and invite them to meet for drinks and nibbles at 4.30 on a Sunday afternoon and meet each other? If you've got a front deck or front yard why not take your coffee out there occasionally and say Hi! to people going past.

Building these micro community connections is a great way to keep our suburb strong – and we all want that, don't we?

Watson Buzz

By Aileen Conroy

Autumn is honey harvest time in Canberra! The purpose of honev is as a food source for bees and they need sufficient stores to feed the colony during our cold winter when they huddle together inside their hives. Beekeepers judge carefully how much to harvest.



Honeybee pollinating my zucchinis

👊 In their lifetime of approximately 6 weeks, female worker bees progress through the essential jobs in the colony, in a predictable order.

爆 Baby bees chew their way out of their cocoon within the hexagonal comb and their first task is to clean out their cell ready for repurposing.

Bee bread (side view)



Then the 3-to-6-day old worker nurses feed larvae "bee bread" made from layers of pollen mixed with nectar and honey. Except, in an amazing example of epigenetics, the few larvae being raised to be Queens are never fed bee bread, only royal jelly, which dramatically changes their body, behaviour and life expectancy from around 5 weeks to 5 years!!!

ע Royal jelly from their head glands is fed by 7-to-11-day old worker bees. Next, they make wax cells; clean their hive and store food. They even take a turn as undertakers removing dead bees from the hive. At 20 days old they guard their hive against robbers from other hives, by fighting or stinging them if necessary.

At 3 weeks old workers start their dangerous life as foragers with short orientation flights near the hive, learning the landmarks to find their way home. The most experienced foragers become scouts, who find nectar, pollen, water and suitable new homes for their hive *



Mosaic Magic

By Sharon Pech



Are you a creative person with tactile tendencies, time and patience to spare? Then creating mosaics could be the ideal activity for you! Actually, I reckon mosaics are for anyone and everyone as they can be simple or difficult, for indoors or outdoors, a solo or group activity. So that's my sales pitch...and now a bit about me and my mosaic practice.

I'm a self-taught artist with about 15 years of experience. Creating is in my DNA, but practise, risk-taking, experimentation and mistakes have all been a part of my mosaic journey. I was drawn to this space by my love of colour, my need to literally touch the materials I use, and an enjoyment of planning and assembly. Typically my mosaics start with an overall concept and a few design elements and then they take shape in a fairly organic way, with no rules about what to include other than 'best fit'. My mosaics are made with mostly recycled materials; usually big; many months in the making; sometimes 3D; and often tell a story.

The pictured mosaic, In Science we Trust was included in the Herlands III 2021 group exhibition at the Women's Library in Newtown. It is a 'point in time' mosaic reflecting the year in which Covid-19 and Black Lives Matter were prominent issues



Majura Café Poets

US Marunta

In the pavers, in the gutters, in the kerbs are the beats, are the echoes, are the shoes. in the day, in the night under a moon of nostalgia, US - making marks, leaving footprints, in the light, in the shade, heading towards. coming from, on the treadmill, on the mobile, in the supermarkets US - stories past, stories present, in the future, in the silence, in the mind, what do we value? what's our legacy? US 🗱

Removal

Judy Smith

If you can't stand the bombardment, Remove yourself South to safety. If you are seeking aid, Remove yourself To hospital grounds, Or south to safety. If you are seeking food and water Remove yourself South to Rafa. Relief is just over the border. Huddle tight together Against the fence Where we can remove you

All of you -Permanently **



Have you been to the Gallery of Small Things?

By Anne Masters Director of the Gallery of Small Things



Did you know that Watson has an award-winning gallery? In 2021 and 2022, Gallery of Small Things (GOST) won a Commendation in the Canberra Region Tourism Awards. Anne Masters is the Owner / Director and is looking forward to celebrating its anniversary since opening in September 2017.

I can't believe we are turning 7! I think having a gallery in our backyard has brought out the curiosity in visitors - both local, interstate and overseas. Often, they wonder if the gallery space is small or if the artworks are small?

It turns out to be both. The artworks range from handheld to A3 size. There is ceramics, jewellery, illustrations, paintings, textiles and so much more.



I wanted the gallery to have affordable artworks and encourage visitors to start their art collection even if it's only small and under \$1000.

GOST is open Thursdays to Sundays, 11-4 and by appointment. Visit galleryofsmallthings.com to view the online shop and find out more *

+61 422 263 533 facebook.com/galleryof smallthings



Upcoming Exhibition at Canberra Potters

By Katrina Leske Gallery and Events Manager of Canberra Potters



Moraig McKenna Black Bowl and Celadon Forms, 2023 Photo by David Paterson.

Surfacing by Moraig McKenna

Dates: 22 March to 21 April 2024 Opening at 6pm Thursday 21 March 2024, all welcome!

Time: 10am-4pm Tuesdays to Saturday and 11am-3pm Sundays. Closed Mondays and public holidays

Where: Canberra Potters- 1 Aspinall St. Watson ACT.

Surfacing is an exhibition by Gundaroo-based artist Moraig McKenna which delves into the profound narrative of surface and substance. Through layers of slip, glaze, salt, and ash, McKenna intricately weaves tales of time and experience onto the textured canvases of her ceramic works. Each mark and scar etched into the surface unveils a story—a testament to the artist's journey with clay and the enduring influence of ceramic traditions. With the unmistakable imprint of McKenna's hand guiding the narrative, Surfacing invites viewers to explore the interplay of materiality and meaning, where the surface becomes a canvas for the intricate tapestry of human expression.



ABOUT CANBERRA POTTERS

Canberra Potters is a not-for-profit community organisation established in 1975, promoting excellence and innovation in ceramics through classes, exhibitions, artist studios and events. As an ACT Government Key Arts Organisation, Canberra Potters receives some funding from the ACT Government and manages Watson Arts Centre, an ACT Government arts facility, located in Aspinall Street, Watson 🏶

How young people experience meaningful happiness through community-building projects

By Belle Yu Public Officer of the Living Streets Association (LSA)

Over the summer, new members joined our Living Streets youth leaders and engaged themselves enthusiastically to plan their first community-building project together- the Community Picnic Day. They held two youth meetings in December and January to discuss the importance of community engagement and brainstorm ways to be connected to the community.

At the first youth meeting, the young people reflected on how to cultivate the seven development outcomes through participation in LSA activities, which are abilities required for most young people's future workplaces.

We were also very happy to issue volunteering participation certificates to young people who have made continuous contributions in the past two years. Young people formed groups to discuss and decide on activities to contribute to the community picnic day.



At the second meeting, young people focused on discussing the role of an activity leader, and how to explain and lead their activities confidently. An activity leader will also be aware of the group diversity, and encourage everyone's participation while remaining respectful of individual willingness to join in. An event flyer designed by one of the new youth members was presented to the group

during the meeting. Everyone was invited to edit the flyer with final details as a group.

On the actual event day, young people spent the last weekend of the holidays having fun with neighbours and old friends from the neighbourhood. They got to learn a Chinese number song and simple greetings together, ate a picnic under the trees, played many competitive games and soaked each other with water balloons. Some young people said it was just like in their childhood when they would play in the street together.

When young people participate in volunteering work such as community building activities, they are contributing to the happiness of others, and in turn, experience this long-lasting happiness that can follow them into their daily lives. This coincides with the type of happiness pointed out

by the psychologist Seligman. The type of happiness that has a deeper sense of fulfilment, generated when we are connected to others and we mean something to others.

Website: https://living-streets.com Email: livingstreetsassociation@gmail.com Facebook: Living Streets Association Instagram: livingstreetsassociation **

Website

Connecting Nature, Connecting People

By Veronica Walker Friends of Watson Green Space

Watson Green Space has been selected as one of seventeen sites as part of the Connecting Nature, Connecting People Urban Connectivity Areas Project.



Image credit: Dr Kara Youngentob

In February, Friends of Watson Green Space members braved the rain to meet with Allan McLean, Urban Biodiversity Projects Coordinator to select planting areas. They were joined by representatives from the Friends of Mount Majura - who shared their experience in improving biodiversity at The Fair, North Watson - and from the Molonglo Conservation Group.

For this project, Friends of Watson Green Space plan to improve the connectivity between Billabong Pond and the marsh pond. This will include removing weeds and planting local native and threatened groundcover species and adding habitat logs and rocks between the two sites. This will provide safer passage for amphibians, reptiles and small mammals travelling between Billabong Pond and the marsh pond. We are working with Allan to seek the necessary approvals before work can commence. We have also been selected to receive funding for a picnic table or park bench.

Connecting Nature, Connecting People is an ACT Government initiative aimed at supporting the movement of species across the landscape, enriching and building the resilience of urban biodiversity, enhancing our community's connection to nature and helping cool the city.

Watson Property Sales

Brought to you by home by holly

67 Higinbotham Street	\$ 1,406,000	80/45 Negus Crescent	\$ 795,000
41 Dickinson Street	\$ 1,305,000	71 Ian Nicol Street	\$ 708,000
50 Flos Greig Street	\$ 1,280,000	15/7 Shewcroft Street	\$ 695,000
21 Piddington Street	\$ 1,270,000	7/14 Federal Highway	\$ 672,000
22 Phippard Court	\$ 1,255,000	20/14 Federal Highway	\$ 655,000
19 Dobson Place	\$ 1,200,000	31/14 Federal Highway	\$ 635,000
11 Simpson Street	\$ 1,200,000	57/21 Aspinall Street	\$ 530,000
44 Knox Street	\$ 1,075,000	65/20 Federal Highway	\$ 522,500
4 Williams Street	\$ 1,045,000	10/20 Federal Highway	\$ 455,000
18 Dickinson Street	\$ 1,020,000	9/156 Knox Street	\$ 432,000
8 Dowling Street	\$ 960,000	22/28 Beechworth Street	\$ 425,000
20/45 Negus Crescent	\$ 950,000	4/156 Knox Street	\$ 355,000
59 Ehrlich Circuit	\$ 950,000	10/10 Irvine Street	\$ 290,000
2/45 Negus Crescent	\$ 927,500	12A/111 Knox Street	\$ 270,000
6/3 Phippard Court	\$ 875,000	1B/109 Knox Street	\$ 255,000
102 Beechworth Street	\$ 820,000		

Support Our Local Businesses



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EXPRESS WATSON Phone: 02 6255 6800

EFTPOS available - no minimum FREE local home delivery services



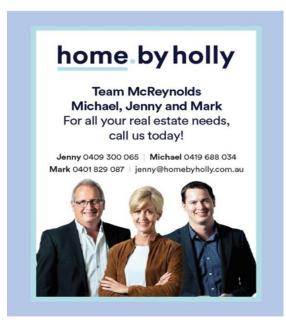
At the Knox we are for the locals, by the locals. We are a local hub for families and friends to relax and enjoy excellent local & seasonal food and beverage.

We care about the earth and environment, and we do everything in our power to be sustainable and environmentally friendly in all our business practices.

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





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- Covid-19 vaccines- Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca
 We can price match For adults and children over 12 years old
- Flu vaccines For adults and children over 5 years old

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Chris Williams

M I 0420 607 765

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Contact Virginia Wells on 0422 490 131

virginia@getwellsorted.com.au www.getwellsorted.com.au

Community Notices



We're looking for 500-1,000 Canberra homes to be a part of a world-first program to electrify their suburb



Do you want to reduce your cost of living while safeguarding our environmental future?

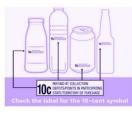
Take our survey!

surveymonkey.com/r/electrifyACT



INNER NORTH COMMUNITY PANTRIES NETWORK

TURNING THIS:



Neighbours, schools, community groups, workplaces, collect your cans, bottles and donate your 10c redeemables to the Inner North Pantries Network



INTO THIS:

Funds are used for \$50 weekly Box Divvy fruit & veg and help fund supplies for Ainslie & Braddon Account number: 0432 947 136

Help with O'Connor supplies Account number: 0458 793 285

Drop to our collection points: O'Connell or Stephen Street, or drop to an Express or ReturnIT point





www.innernorthplayschool.org

Adjacent to Ainsile Church of Christ, Corner Limestone Avenue & Grimes Street, Ainsile



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991

I / We,(full name of applicant/s)
of (address)
hereby apply to become a member/s of the above-named incorporated Association. I / We agree to be bound by the rules of the incorporated Association for the time being in force.
Email
(Signature of applicant 1)
Date
(Signature of applicant 2)

Note:

Information provided by the applicant is used to confirm Watson residency and to enable the Watson Community Association (WCA) to communicate with members regarding upcoming meetings and matters of interest. Information provided is not shared beyond the purpose of WCA information distribution.

Please return completed form to:



watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com

