



THE WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 114 – Summer 2022



The Watson Community Association Inc. acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural and spiritual practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Buff Banded Rail. Image courtesy of John Harding.

IN THIS EDITION...

- Thank you ACU
- Greetings, Watson residents!
- Editor's word
- Sunday sessions at the Watson Microforest
- Welcome to Watson event
- Watson Profile- Box Divvy
- Majura Café poets
- A Watson weed
- Recent happenings at Living Streets Association!
- Friends of Watson Green Space
- Watson buzz
- Spring Fair at YWAM
- Planning group report- November 2022
- Gardening for all abilities
- Watson property sales
- Support our local businesses
- Community Notices
- WCA Membership Form



The Watson Community Association Inc. wishes to thank the Australian Catholic University

(Signadou Campus, Canberra) for printing the WATZON newsletter as a community service.

Greetings, Watson residents!

By Geoff Murray-Prior

Now that almost all the COVID restrictions have effectively been removed, the WCA will be reverting to in-person meetings again. The room YWAM kindly makes available for our meetings is sufficiently large to enable a reasonable number of people to attend whilst maintaining social distancing. With warmer spring and summer weather, and longer days, the WCA Committee looks forward to seeing more people at our quarterly meetings, and our AGM in April.

A proposal is being prepared by consultants for the rezoning and subsequent development of another open space in Watson, the large block on the corner of Antill and Aspinall Streets. The WCA, through our Planning Group, will be active in trying to ensure a quality development with more open space than has been provided in medium to high density developments in the past*

Editor's word

By Nora Chan

I hope you all enjoy reading this issue. Here's an important message from Simon, our Planning Group Chair ✿

Upcoming Major Events @ EPIC:

- **Spilt Milk Festival** – 11am to 11pm - 26 November – Sold Out - 35,000 plus attending.

Organisers estimate that 70% of those attending will be from out of ACT. They will have dedicated Bus and Light Rail capacity however it will be crowded. They have dedicated clean up crews in and around EPIC.

- **Summernats 35** – January 5 to 8 – 2023

*We know what Summernats brings so make plans accordingly. Their hotline on Thurs/Fri/Sat is **02 6169 4996**.*

*Concerns re either event should be directed to Access Canberra on **13 22 81**. Illegal activity concerns should be reported directly to the Police.*

Sunday Sessions at the Watson Microforest

By Purdie Bowden

The first ever Watson Microforest Sunday Session was a celebration of community. A strong crowd enjoyed sunshine, live music from local artists Matthew Lord and As Famous as the Moon, and delicious snacks courtesy of Sylvie & Bruno. We were also privileged to be led by Ngunawal elder, Tyronne Bell, in a Cleansing Ceremony. This was a special opportunity to

connect with country and pay respects to the traditional custodians of the Watson Microforest site.

Tickets are now available for the Sunday Session on 27 November 2022. The line-up of awesome Canberran musicians includes blues rock sensation Weasey Wade and the Wildfires, and acoustic trio Ragged Blossom. This is another **free event** from the Watson Microforest. If you like our events, please consider donating when you get your tickets so we can keep organising them!



[Note: this is a QR code linking to the Humanatix page for Sunday Session tickets. Alternatively, people can visit www.watsonmicroforest.com and follow the link.]



A visit by Costa Georgiadis

Last month, Costa and the Gardening Australia team filmed a story on the Canberra micro-forests. They spent a full day shooting at Downer and Watson. The segment will air in 2023 and feature Edwina Robinson, Purdie Bowden and many members of the micro-forest community who showed up in force to welcome Costa to the Watson Microforest! Costa was as enthusiastic and delightful in real life as he is on television and his team was a pleasure to work with.



Locals were excited to meet Costa, and he didn't disappoint



Photo credit: Jarra Joseph McGrath



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 11th Dec at 2 to 3:30 pm
**The Knox Cafe, Watson Village
Shops**

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

More information:

watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com

Watson Profile- Box Divvy

By Hannah Mitchell

Box Divvy is a fantastic fresh food co-op that is taking on major supermarkets, paying Aussie farmers well, and reducing food bills by more than half - all while lowering the refrigeration, transport & packaging impact on the environment.

What's the catch? Believe it or not, there isn't one.

Our very own Watson Hub is the first Box Divvy co-op to be running in the Inner North. The more households that join our co-op, the greater our bulk buying power becomes.



The ordering system lets you choose what you want, it's not the typical "get what you're given" box. There's also much more on offer than just fresh fruit and veggies - there are eggs, meat, seafood, raw honey, spices, bread, legumes, and pantry basics.

Our group order is sent off on Monday night, Box Divvy purchases everything for us direct from farmers on Tuesday and delivers it to me on Wednesday. As your hubster, I then get to work divvying up the boxes for collection or delivery from my home on Stow Place from 3pm.



If you want to save money, engage in the community and help shake up the produce industry - give it a go!
... and if it's not for you? Cancel anytime.

BUY. SHARE. SAVE *

Lost in Limbo

He walks by the lake as a cold wind blows,
So different from the heat of Kabul.
Lost in Limbo, neither Australian or Afghan,
Here alone.

Three teenage girls laugh as they cycle past,
School tunics flap above their knees,
Faces smile in their freedom, blond hair streams -
School is out.

He remembers his daughters so keen to learn,
Now prisoners at home, faces all covered,
School and Uni closed, music banned,
Soccer no more, death if defied.

He remembers his role as army interpreter,
Respected and loved by his Aussie mates.
He hoped they'd bring peace
To his homeland at last.

He remembers the airport as he watched,
From his seat's safe haven,
The frantic scramble,
People dropping from that last plane.

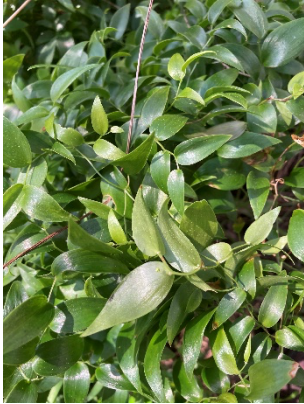
Now he waits for residency,
Prays that his family soon may escape.
One day his daughters might cycle here too,
Free as the breeze, a reason to live.

Jenny Burgess ✨

A Watson Weed

By Barbara Read, a friend of Mount Majura

These glossy leaves are the top growth of a nasty weed which is spreading in Watson. It has been found under the trees on the east side of Block 76



(between Aspinall St and the Federal Highway) and in the Mount Majura nature reserve and probably it could be in your garden too. It has a pretty name, **bridal creeper**, *Asparagus asparagoides*, but it is a Weed of National Significance because it invades bushland and smothers native plants. It produces small green berries after flowering and these turn red with small black seeds. Birds eat the berries and carry the seeds into the bush and gardens. It can also be spread by fragments of the bulbous roots, shown in the second picture.

The Friends of Mount Majura don't want to see this creeper spreading through our wonderful wildflowers so please check in your yard. If you find any small plants remove them, carefully dig out the roots and place everything inside a double bag, leave to cook in the sun for a while and then put in your landfill bin, NOT in your green bin, NOT in your home compost. And check the spot again later to see if any more come up. (An alternative treatment is glyphosate Roundup spot sprayed or painted on the leaves.)

If you find a large vine it would be best to notify the ACT Invasive Weeds Control Program ACTBiosecurity@act.gov.au and they may be able to help.



These photos were taken in the nature reserve by two of the friends of Mt Majura and put on the Canberra Nature Map <https://canberra.naturemapr.org/> where you can find great photos of our flora and fauna.

The Friends of Mount Majura welcome all to events at Mt Majura – see <https://majura.org/> for details of what's coming up soon ✿

Recent Happenings at Living Streets Association!

From Cathy Lin

What a wet past few months we've had! Despite the dreary weather, Living Streets has pushed on to conduct many activities for our community, and were even recognised by multiple awards!

Living Streets has been ecstatic to win the International Association for Learning Environments- Kelley Tanner Innovation Award in the Most Valuable Player Award category. The award recognises work that has been done to stimulate innovative and pioneering practices that enhance our communities, and we received it for our continued initiatives in the community consultation process. After winning consecutive ACT Children's Week Awards in previous years, Living Streets Youth has come a full circle to become Youth Ambassadors for this year's Launch and Ceremony. The MCs were honoured to meet female ministers and VIPs and were inspired by these role models of leadership, humility, and integrity. We hope we can continue this relationship with the Children's Week Committee so that we can have more opportunities for different members of the youth team to become ambassadors in the future. We also look forward to attending the Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Award Ceremony in mid-November which we were invited to as one of the finalists.

We were so excited to see children of all different ages interact positively with others and undertake leadership and collaborative roles at our September Spring Street Play Day. Our high school and uni-aged activity leaders played various games with younger children, and even created a mini-Lego version of our street! Many parents felt touched that their children had big brothers and sisters to play, interact, and learn with, and we are glad to have actualised this core concept of a community village.

Halloween night was one with high-speed winds and torrential rain, but we still saw many scary monsters, ghosts, and witches out Trick or Treating with umbrellas and gumboots! We love this event because it allows everyone to practice knocking on our neighbours' doors and getting to know each other through small chitchat and laughter. This year, many households in the new developments of Watson such as the Ridge, Mt Majura Estate, and Norrebro put up Halloween decorations but didn't have many visitors, so remember to visit those areas in future years!

If you would like to read more about our stories or happenings, head to the *Our Stories* page on our recently launched website *



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

Website



Friends of Watson Green Space

By Veronica Walker

Members of Watson Green Space recently met for a volunteer induction session with a member of the ACT Government's Urban Parks and Places Program. This means that volunteers can now undertake weeding and maintenance activities in the area once they have registered on the Urban Parks and Places Better Impact site. If you are interested in taking part please contact Veronica at friendsofwatsongreenspace@outlook.com or via the group's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofwatsongreenspace.

The Watson Green Space is the area that runs under the powerlines between Aspinall and Antill Streets in Watson.

John Harding captured these photos of a family of four Tawny Frogmouth's that have taken up residence in the area. The photo also appeared on the ABC Weather News on Tuesday 1 November 🌸



Photo credit: John Harding

Watson Buzz

By Aliene Conroy



 Our fruit and vegetables need pollinators to visit their flowers to develop fruit. The more pollinator visits, the larger and more numerous the crop. Some familiar crops which Honeybees pollinate are strawberries, blue berries, apples, zucchinis, and pumpkins. However, tomatoes need “buzz pollinators” such as native Blue Banded bees.




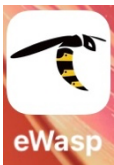
Figure 1 A Blue Banded Bee about to pollinate a tomato flower. Image retrieved from <http://www.aussiebee.com.au/beesinyourarea.html>




Figure 2 Blue Banded bee hotel at the Canberra Region Beekeepers apiary.



 You can encourage Blue Banded bees in your garden by providing clay filled pipes for nesting and Lavender, Abelia, Buddleia and Salvia plants for food.

 Bees will die without water- each hive drinks ½ litre per day. Bees cannot swim and can drown in deep water if there are no sticks, stones or corks to help them climb out. They drink with their tongues which are hollow like a straw. A dripping sprinkler is a popular water source in summer.



 Feral beehives in tree hollows can now be reported on the eWasp app. If the current outbreak of Varroa mite spreads to the ACT, this record will be valuable in assisting management and control.

You can help:

 If you encounter a swarm, please consult actbeekeepers.asn.au for a suitable swarm catcher 

Spring Fair at YWAM

By Leonie Watts

Despite several bleak or rainy days in the lead up, YWAM's Spring Fair on Sunday afternoon 16th October enjoyed great weather. There were stalls (art, craft, food, books and toys mainly) with a generous serve of preloved household items. Crowd favourites like the sausage sizzle and sweet Korean pancakes, hot and cold drinks with a yummy slice on the side, and a photo booth (Christmas or beach theme) were popular. Some home-grown musicians kept the crowd entertained as well as the band 'Tuesday Weld Experience' ("original poppy/country tunes about



lost love and loneliness"). The band is great, check it out for your next event!

Living Streets ran a display about development concerns and options and Living Streets youth helped the YWAM crew run kids' games and activities. They also made an excellent video of the

event as a birthday gift to YWAM Canberra. Look for it on youtube ('YWAM Spring Fair'). As well as Living Streets, WCA and Community Toolbox were present keeping Fair visitors updated about their latest activities. The Toolbox even ran a couple of mini tours over to their tool library located on the YWAM property. The Spring Fair was a great collaborative effort for the Watson community and great fun all round



Planning Group Report- November 2022

By Simon Clarke, WCA Planning Group Chair

“There was movement at the station....”

Things are starting to happen! After a slow first half year there is some movement.

Block 76. The Suburban Land Agency has announced that tenders open in mid January 2023 for the main section of block 76. It will be sold as one piece **excluding** the tree line, demonstration housing block and playground footprint. This is effectively about 50% of the block being sold as one parcel. They will be running a design based tender with 50 % weighting to design, 30% to price and 20% to other factors. There will be an emphasis on “sustainable and innovative design” with the tender process allowing the planners to go back to applicants to fine tune or clarify areas of their design. Tenders will awarded in August 2023. There will still need to be normal planning processes before anything is built.

Block 74 is not included in the current 5-year indicative land release program. That can change but Block 74 is not on the radar at this stage.

Block 3; Section 95 – This is the Car O Tel site on Aspinal St from CCC church up to Antill St. Purdon Planning, acting for the owners, are seeking a Territory Plan Variation to change the zoning of the Block from its current CZ6 (Leisure and Accommodation Zone) to a Residential Zone. It is a 3 ½ hectare site with their indicative plans showing about 140 dwellings (80 apartments, 60 single dwelling blocks.) Any plans, however, are purely indicative of what **might** go onto the site. They are **not** planning proposals. There are 3 very old mature trees on site which would be retained. Given the surrounding area it’s hard to see how they will not be successful in their application. The key will be what is done **after** the re-zoning. We will need to watch closely.

Kamberra – Public Feedback on TPV DV383. This is technically in Lyneham but is only a stone’s throw from Watson. It is a 12 ½ hec site stretching from the VET hospital along Federal Hwy to Flemington Rd. They propose up to 2,000 dwellings (multi-life stage plus commercial spaces plus health and ageing services.) 300plus 3br dwellings; 800plus 2br dwellings. The proposal has 3 storeys at front moving to 6 storeys at the rear. Our current concerns are – given that we also have Canberra Racing Club and Yowani both flagging large developments is this small area being overdeveloped? What will be the impact on Sullivan’s Creek? It is spruiked as “close to light rail.” Do we have sufficient light rail capacity? Not Watson but worth watching*

Gardening for all abilities

By Silvie Eckhardt

A neighbor uses a long-handled pick upper to pull weeds in her front garden and it's such a good idea it got me thinking about other ways to make gardening more accessible for everyone.

Gardening has so many benefits as a source of physical exercise and mental stimulation, it also brings joy and reduces stress and can be a nutritious activity if you like to eat what you sow. However, it can be tough on the joints and difficult for people with reduced mobility or disabilities. Digging to plant or turn over beds, weeding, mowing, planting and pruning are all physically demanding and risk strain or injury.

Here are some tips but an occupational therapist could provide specific solutions and designing or modifying a garden for accessibility should consider the needs of the person and their abilities.



Similar to my neighbour using a pick upper to weed, a spoon attached to the end of a hard length of pvc pipe (or cardboard at a pinch) can be used to plant seeds while seated or without bending. Tools that are light and have long handles can be easier for those with less strength or mobility in the hands, and tools can be adapted with forearm supports.

In the garden, raised beds can be useful for wheelchair users or to reduce bending, also consider using the no dig method of layering organic materials (google will have examples of what to use). Sitting on a low stool or crate or kneeling on a mat can be more comfortable for prolonged weeding or

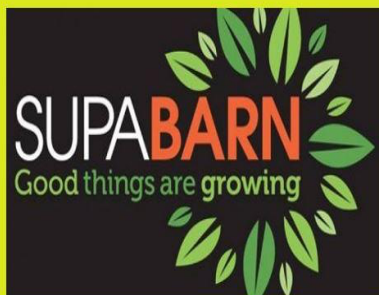
planting sessions and wheels (on a barrow, cart or pots) are invaluable. Growing flowers or veggies in containers at a good height or vertically on walls can be more manageable as they require less digging and soil ❁

Watson Property Sales

Publicly available, kindly supplied by Mark McReynolds, from home by holly

1 Flos Greig Street	\$1,225,000	34 Aspinall Street	\$981,785
1/18 Whitmore Crescent	\$520,000	36/23 Aspinall Street	\$571,000
104/215 Aspinall Street	\$910,000	37 Bettie McNeen Street	\$1,000,000
118/20 Federal Highway	\$520,000	38/15 Aspinall Street	\$565,000
11A/111 Knox Street	\$286,000	40/21 Aspinall Street	\$385,000
131/20 Federal Highway	\$478,000	41 Flos Greig Street	\$1,255,000
133/395 Antill Street	\$605,000	43 Mary Kitson Street	\$1,270,000
15 Andrews Street	\$1,500,000	44 Simpson Street	\$1,008,800
15/23 Tay Street	\$460,000	45 Beechworth Street	\$865,000
16 McCawley Street	\$1,260,000	47 Blair Place	\$1,000,000
2/156 Knox Street	\$365,000	51 A'Beckett Street	\$1,175,000
21A Negus Crescent	\$855,000	9B/109 Knox Street	\$385,000
22/35 Tay Street	\$527,000	60/23 Aspinall Street	\$570,000
25/215 Aspinall Street	\$1,050,000	6B/109 Knox Street	\$270,000
28/23 Aspinall Street	\$570,000	7/7 Shewcroft Street	\$675,000
29/25 Aspinall Street	\$395,000	87/215 Aspinall Street	\$1,075,000
32 Aspinall Street	\$950,000	94 Aspinall Street	\$1,000,000
32/14 Federal Highway	\$760,000		

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Dinner

Tuesday-Saturday from 4:00 pm

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Diane London

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**Enquiries:
Contact Diane
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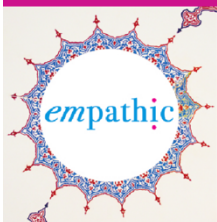
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76 Federal Highway, Watson ACT
2602
(Enter via driveway on Zelling Street)
Thursdays 4pm-7pm | Saturdays
10am-1pm
0493 286 862 (opening hours only)
info@communitytoolboxcbr.org

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Inner North Playschool Inc.

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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

..... Date
(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

