



THE WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 107 - Autumn 2021

IN THIS EDITION...

- From the Chair, Megan Mears
- Welcome to Watson event
- Capital Scraps Composting
- The Watson Micro-Forest
- Planning Group Report
- YWAM Christmas Fair Report
- Thanks ACU, recipe/poem
- Profile: Ed Miller
- Profile: Jacque Lewis, pottery
- Living Streets Youth
- Garden tips
- Watson Property
- Local Services
- Community Notices
- Membership Form



CONTACT US: watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com
Next WCA meeting: Tue 27 April, 7pm, Tay St – The Fair Community Hall

FROM THE CHAIR: Megan Mears

Greetings, Watson residents!

Since our last issue it's been a busy time in Watson. WCA members have:

- **Met with ACT Government ministers to discuss planning and zoning issues.**

Significantly, assurances were given by Mick Gentleman MLA and Rebecca Vassarotti MLA that the Hackett Horse Paddocks will become part of Canberra Nature Park, linking with Mount Majura Nature Reserve, thus forming a wildlife corridor with Justice Robert Hope Park. During these meetings, the Government also indicated they will retain existing mature trees on Sections 74 and 76 (blocks of land on the Federal Highway) and they are committed to allocating community space and facilities on these blocks of land, before commercial development (*see Planning Group article in this issue*).

- **Responded to two major community consultations.**

Firstly to the Academy of Interactive Entertainment (AIE) who plan to expand and house hundreds of students on site (comments on AIE's surrounding open space are not yet open.) Secondly, to the Government's plans for urban renewal on Section 76: 150-200 proposed new dwellings up to four storeys high, a neighbourhood park and a wildlife habitat area. Both consultations close on 19th March. Please have your say <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/northwatson> and <https://community.aie.edu.au/>

- **Supported the Watson Micro-forest Project** in raising more than \$50 000 (*see Micro-Forest article in this issue*).
- **Held stalls at two Youth With a Mission fairs**, to engage the community around planning prior to the election, and to support the Watson Micro-Forest Project.
- **Created a map of all the remnant trees, including many old Box Gums, on Section 74.**
- **Provided feedback to Majura Primary School about their challenging traffic situation.**

- Co-ordinated the *Slow Street* signage in Watson.
- Started work on our new website.
- Visited a class at Majura Primary School to discuss local planning issues.

In addition, we held our quarterly meetings of course (with 25 people attending the most recent one) and continued to coordinate the publication of the WATZON. We hope you enjoy reading #107.

If you are interested in getting involved in the WCA:

- **become a member** – application on the back cover of this newsletter
- **contact us by email** watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com
- **attend our next meeting** on Tuesday 27th April, 7pm, at The Fair Community Centre (30 Tay St Watson) at 7pm, (RSVP by email is essential due to social distancing measures)
- **check our Facebook page regularly.**

Best wishes to all

Megan Mears



WEBSITE

www.watson.org.au



FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/



EMAIL

watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com



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 21 March at 3:00-4:30 pm
The Knox Café, Watson Shops

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

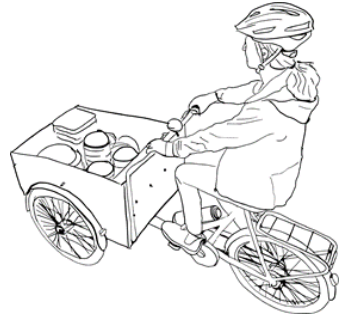
More information:

watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com

CAPITAL SCRAPS COMPOSTING

From Brook Clinton, Founder and Manager

Capital Scraps Composting carries out community-level composting for climate impact. We charge a fee to collect household kitchen scraps and compost them, but we are a not-for-profit organisation. All monies collected go to carrying out the work and building new composting hubs (out of recycled timber), and we use a lot of volunteer labour. Our newest composting hub was installed in the YWAM community garden in Watson in late 2020.



Sign up to our curbside collection service and then recycling your food waste will be as easy as popping a bucket out by the letterbox each week. We can provide you with post-consumer buckets to save your scraps in and we will swap them out for a clean bucket every Friday (or use your own container and we'll empty it on the fly). We collect the buckets by bike for emissions-free transport. The compost gets donated back to the community for urban greening projects.

Please visit our website for more information, and to sign up.

Web: compost.org.au

We take your kitchen scraps and turn them into valuable soil amendment, avoiding the generation of methane in landfill.



Composting information session at YWAM Community Garden

THE WATSON MICRO-FOREST PROJECT

From Purdie Bowden



The Watson Micro-forest Crowdfunding campaign raised \$52,992 from 186 people and businesses, surpassing its stretch goal of \$40,000. This incredible result is a testament to the wonderful Watson

community. It means we can create a micro-forest in Wade Street Park with a forest classroom, nature play, park benches and more. The forest will cool the suburb, provide a play area for kids, habitat for native species and a shady place to enjoy. A huge 'thank you' to all the volunteers and contributors including Andrew Hammond for the site plan, Jarra Joseph-McGrath for the campaign video and the WCA for printing; and to our fantastic business sponsors: Supa Express Watson, AIE, Jenny, Michael and Mark McReynolds from Home by Holly, Solarhub, Inner Nature, Lighthouse Architecture & Science, Community Shapers and Ritchies Recycled Bricks & Pavers.

Now, it's time to design the micro-forest! You are invited to share your ideas for the Micro-Forest design at a community design workshop on Wednesday 31 March 2021. Please visit our website or join the facebook group to find out more, and if you'd like to volunteer, please email us.

Email: watsonmicroforest@gmail.com

Web: www.watsonmicroforest.com

Facebook: [watsonmicroforest](https://www.facebook.com/watsonmicroforest)



PLANNING GROUP REPORT

From Simon Clarke – WCA Planning Group Chair

*If you don't get involved in the process,
you can't really complain about the outcome!*

This blunt statement is absolutely true at this time. Two extremely significant consultations in Watson are underway or about to open. We need to get involved. As usual, ten individual submissions, however short, will carry more weight than one submission saying it represents ten people. So don't think 'Oh, that's already been said!' Say it again – it matters! Links below for having your say on the relevant projects.

Now, the good news... the wildlife corridor!

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

At meetings in December with Mick Gentleman, and in February with Rebecca Vassarotti, we were assured that the Wildlife Corridor **WILL PROCEED!** This has been advocated by WCA and would help link Mulligans Flat and Kenny, via Watson Woodlands and the "horse paddocks" east of Antill St to Mt Majura Nature Reserve.

This is great news and the result of an almost 20 year campaign by your Watson Community Association.

CONSULTATIONS

1. **The AIE campus renewal**

The public phase of the AIE Future Intentions Plan (AKA Campus Master Plan) is open, as I write. I am disappointed with the limited scope of the consultation and have made my views known, however, it is still important to be involved. The only process we will get is the one we are offered. Please go to <https://community.aie.edu.au/> and have your say before consultation closes on 19th March, if you can.

At first look, our response is that it's not a terrible proposal, but we have concerns.

We are concerned about the number of trees to be removed. We think the designation of “to be retained if possible” is a licence for removal. There should only be two designations – Retain or Remove. There should be **significant** penalties for non-compliance and a **rigorous process** if developers feel they need to remove a “Retain” tree. These issues are a test of how serious the ACT Government is about its tree canopy targets.

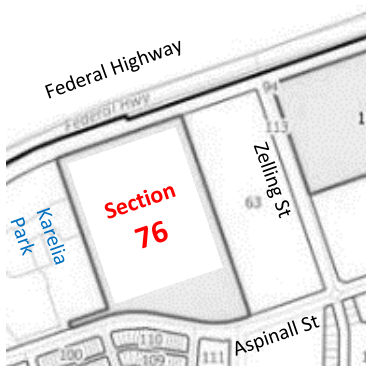
We have concerns also about noise issues from the residential component. Putting 600 residences in that small area needs to be managed well. We believe that there needs to be mandatory double glazing in all the residential areas, plus noise mitigation strategies for the outdoor areas.

We have concerns about the parking capacity. An allocation of 340 parking spaces for a campus with 600 residential spaces and up to 2000 students is manifestly inadequate. The site is well-served by public transport, but that is no guarantee. Phillip Ave aside, the streets are small suburban streets and will not cope with a large increase in roadside parking.

2. AIE green space

The current green space is to be retained by ACT government and will be developed as a park. Another chance to have your voice heard. The best timeline we can get from TCCS is that consultations will be open “in the near future.” Watch the WCA facebook and website for news.

3. Section 76 development - <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/northwatson>



We had an online consultations with EPPSD on Feb 1st and see what has been proposed as a starting point. It’s fair to say it wasn’t as bad as it might have been, but not as good as we’d hoped. Many of you will have received flyers in your letterbox about this development. They have a large consultation planned, including public forums and pop-ups at the Knox Street shops. The WCA will be making a submission outlining our vision of the pros and cons, and what we would like.

The site, and particularly its very old, mature trees, provides habitat and shelter for a range of wildlife including smaller (grassland) birds and plus nesting for a range of birds. Once green space and trees like this are gone, they CANNOT be replaced, and the wildlife associated with them cannot be replaced and will not return. As per the government's own climate change mitigation policy, the heat island reduction effect of such trees is very significant. The north part of the Watson community has already been the victim of unsympathetic, unimaginative and community-degrading developments. The Watson community is united in calling for this not to be repeated on these, the last large plots of land in Watson.

We believe the Watson (and wider) community needs an assurance that the wildlife corridor will be implemented and that its future will be assured by legislation. We believe that there should be development conditions which, at the minimum, are strong enough to ensure the developers commitment to ensure the health of, and maintain the status of, these trees.

Any removal of trees needs to be matched by replacement, to allow for the stated targets of 30% canopy to mitigate the heat island effect. (See current plans for the east side of Section 76 <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/northwatson>)

Can we have assurances that:

- the tree line on the eastern boundary will be replaced with trees of the type suggested in the Tree Assessment?
- Section 76 will achieve the targets set by the ACT Climate Change Strategy, page 67 for:
 - at least a 30% tree canopy cover?
 - at least a 30% permeable surface?

**As usual I'm available on the WCA planning email planning2602@gmail.com
Please don't hesitate to contact me.**

*Best wishes
Simon Clarke – Planning Group Chair*

YWAM CHRISTMAS FAIR

From Leonie Watts

Youth With A Mission (YWAM) is an international Christian movement that conducts relief and development projects, and mission training schools. Locally, they also run 'The Pantry', a community garden, and host events and seminars for YWAM and other groups. Enquiries welcome to info@ywamcanberra.org



The Christmas Fair at YWAM at the end of November was a great day, despite our continuing talent for running events on days where the weather goes crazy! There were approximately 25 stallholders who did good business selling a wide range of new and second-hand wares. There were games and free food, and as with the Floriade Fair in September, donations went to the YWAM Jakarta COVID-19 relief effort. We were wowed by some incredible musical talent throughout the day, including 'Chins' band (high school kids) and the Northside Life Church band, who did an awesome job leading the carols.

Watson Community Association members were there to promote the new Watson Micro-Forest project, as well as discussing with fairgoers other issues relevant to the local community.

Here's some feedback we received on our YWAM Canberra Facebook page:

A bit of a disastrous start with high winds and heavy rain [but] the day was awesome after that. We had free hamburgers, sausage sandwiches, tea and ice blocks. First time I've sung carols in forever. Well done YWAM, a GREAT day. Dad loved hearing the laughter and seeing the kids playing.



WITH SPECIAL THANKS...

The Watson Community Association Inc. particularly wishes to thank the Australian Catholic University (ACU), Signadou Campus in Watson, for printing the WATZON newsletter as a community service.



For information on ACU:

www.acu.edu.au

or phone 02 6209 1100

Mon to Fri, 8:00am - 5:00pm

RECIPE



Fudge Fingers

*by Suzanne Carter,
Rotary Club of Hall
Capital Region Farmers
Market Recipe Book
2014*

[edited extract]

Ingredients

2 large eggs, 1 cup sugar
1 cup self-raising flour
1/2 cup of melted butter
2 tablespoons cocoa
4 tablespoons of sultanas, glace/crystallised
ginger and chopped walnuts.

Method

Beat eggs and sugar till fluffy.

Add remaining ingredients and mix well.

Press mixture into a Swiss roll tin and bake in a moderate oven for up to 20 minutes, till glazed and a skewer inserted come out clean.

Cool and then cut into slices.

POEM

Bedtime call

By Fiona McIlroy, Majura Café Poets

*the bedtime call goes out
above the trees
the shrill repeat of the piper
peppers the night air
a raucous squawk of cockatoo
tells us all to scoot
while kookaburra shares
a joke at dusk
who gives a hoot
but the owl*

WATSON PROFILE: Ed Miller, a life well-lived

From Catherine Pickering (née Miller)

Ed Miller: 9 July 1930 – 18 August 2020

Watson resident: 1962 – 2018

Ed brought his family to Australia from the U.K. in 1962, moving into the fledgling suburb of Watson. It was here that Ed and Beryl lived for more than fifty years, raising their family, and becoming a part of the new community.

Ed was instrumental in setting up and running the local cubs (now Majura Scout Group). He was involved in the movement for more than twenty years, part of that time as District Commissioner. He showed his talent for entertainment in those early days with regular productions of the Gang Show.



Later, Ed was on the school board at Watson High, where all four Miller siblings were educated, and he took on the role of Chairman.

After retirement, Ed continued to entertain the crowds telling stories, some of them his own tales of his childhood in Glasgow, around local schools and other venues. His contributions to community extended to working in the disability and aged care sector, and organising and building supported housing.

Ed will be fondly remembered for his commitment, kindness, humour and contribution to the life of Watson by all those he befriended and helped.

I will always be proud to call him my Dad.

WATSON PROFILE: Jacqueline Lewis, Potter

Tenmoku vase



Jacque Lewis' family moved to Watson when she was only four months old, so she is very much a Watson local. She started studying Ceramics in 1996, and graduated from the ANU in 2005.

Jacque has exhibited her work throughout Australia, and currently has a gallery in the front half of her Watson home.

Water bowl



Jacque makes domestic ware, water bowls, garden sculptures, vases, Ikebana pots and lots more.

The gallery is open in Foster Place Watson on Sundays, from 11 am to 4 pm, or by appointment.

Carved bowls



JacPots Ceramics

Instagram:
[jacquelinelewis8665](https://www.instagram.com/jacquelinelewis8665)

M: 0420 525 778

LIVING STREETS YOUTH

From Kirily Martin, Living Streets Youth Member



Living Streets Youth, under the umbrella of the Living Streets Association, is a Watson-based neighbourhood group which promotes strong community connections.

Another successful holiday program completed! Thanks to Living Streets Youth for putting on such an amazing program this year. We are all so grateful to have been part of it.

- **“Clean up Watson”** - a great way to motivate the kids to clean up our beautiful neighbourhood.
- **Plant activity, led by Patrick.** We gathered cuttings from succulents, and planted them in decorated recycled old plastic bottles, adding little gratitude notes.
- **Rocket-making program, led by parent Daniel** - which the kids enjoyed thoroughly, especially testing their rockets!
- **Choir, led by parent Catherine.** We learnt *What A Wonderful World*, and other songs. A great little activity!
- **‘Capture The Flag’** to build team connection; it was loads of fun and helped everyone get their energy out.
- **Food sustainability, led by Ryan and Kirily.** We taught them to make rice paper rolls, and we had them for lunch straight afterwards. A huge ‘thank you’ to YWAM for letting us use their facilities for this activity.
- **Meditation – a beautiful session led by Sophia.** A huge success - everyone participated, and some even fell asleep.
- **Japanese session run by Sachi** - not only educational but tons of fun.
- **Bird talk by Megan** – wonderful!

Contacts and updates on:

Email: livingstreetsassociation@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Living-Streets-Association

Instagram: [living.streets.association](https://www.instagram.com/living.streets.association)

GARDEN TIPS: The other plagues

From Silvie Eckhardt

We are lucky to share our suburb with a variety of critters, beautiful birds, possums, lizards, and interesting insects, but sometimes sharing becomes unbalanced and this can feel like a one-sided, toxic relationship. Snails and slugs can decimate seedlings as soon as they are planted, leaving you with no leaves for eagerly awaited summer salads. Birds or fruit bats can eat every plum before they are even ripe, like a passive-aggressive flat mate. Fungus gnats can move into your indoor plants producing a less-than-Zen effect.

While pestilence and plagues are frustrating, it's important not to become the toxic one in the relationship. Chemical pesticides kill bees and insects that pollinate our plants and can seep into soils and water, having long-lasting effects on our urban environment. Pets and birds can become the unintended victims of poison baits for snails or mice. Some fruit netting can trap flying foxes or micro-bats.

In any case, the heavy stuff is unnecessary when there is an organic solution for every pest you're unlucky enough to encounter. If you can sacrifice a splash of beer in a plastic container- leave it out overnight to drown heavy-drinking slugs. Alternatively, eggshells, coffee grounds or copper tape apparently provide some protection, but I haven't found these very effective. I knock slaters and harlequin beetles off plants into containers of detergent and water, and spray chilli-steeped water on plants that prove too tasty to possums.

White oil and neem oil are effective on a variety of bugs that infest indoor plants, and gnats can be prevented by letting soil dry out in between watering. One plan befitting a Bond villain is to plant land cress near brassicas and lettuce which is attractive for cabbage moths to plant their eggs on instead. Then when the eggs hatch and caterpillars eat the land cress leaves... let's just say you won't need bother with a licence to kill.

If you'd prefer more good in your garden than evil, companion plantings of marigolds, nasturtiums, lavender and rosemary deter pests, or attract insects that will eat bad bugs. Picking off bugs by hand, planting enough veggies, herbs and flowers to go around, and picking fruits or tomatoes early and letting them ripen inside can also be harmonious ways to share in the garden.

WATSON PROPERTY SALES

Address	Price	Address	Price
9/271 Antill St	\$219,000.00	103/215 Aspinall St	\$685,000.00
9/157 Knox St	\$219,000.00	19/215 Aspinall St	\$731,000.00
9/115 Knox St	\$279,000.00	67/395 Antill St	\$745,000.00
38/35 Tay St	\$310,000.00	67/215 Aspinall St	\$745,000.00
39 Whitmore Cres	\$325,000.00	Negus Cres	\$749,900.00
10 Phippard Court	\$359,000.00	3/17 Wade St	\$789,000.00
4 Phippard Court	\$359,000.00	15 Bettie McNee St	\$796,100.00
2/27 Ian Nicol St	\$362,000.00	15 A' Beckett St	\$810,000.00
17/20 Federal Hwy	\$367,000.00	25 Kilduff St	\$811,000.00
2/27 Whitmore St	\$375,000.00	12 Windeyer St	\$820,000.00
119/20 Federal Hwy	\$375,000.00	20 A' Beckett St	\$835,000.00
43/35 Tay St	\$395,000.00	245 Antill St	\$850,000.00
116/20 Federal Hwy	\$460,000.00	60 Higinbotham St	\$860,000.00
51/25 Aspinall St	\$465,000.00	7 Stow Place	\$910,000.00
57 Whitmore Cres	\$469,000.00	14 Blair St	\$916,000.00
H3 'Norrebro'	\$491,000.00	80 Irvine St	\$933,500.00
76 Ian Nicol St	\$510,000.00	9 Piddington St	\$945,000.00
21 Ian Nicol St	\$510,000.00	18 Mary Kitson St	\$965,000.00
75 Tay St	\$515,000.00	20 Ada Evans St	\$1,033,000.00
20 Tay St	\$515,000.00	31 Phillip Avenue	\$1,061,120.00
6/14 Federal Hwy	\$543,000.00	32 Woolcock St	\$1,140,000.00
55 Ian Nicol St	\$550,000.00	27 Shewcroft St	\$1,200,000.00
103/215 Aspinall St	\$685,000.00	38 Molesworth St	\$1,400,000.00

Publicly available, kindly supplied by Mark McReynolds, from Home By Holly

LOCAL SERVICES



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 & environmentally friendly in all our business practices.

At the Knox we are for the locals, by the locals.

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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Mark 0401 829 087 | jenny@homebyholly.com.au



Canberra Music Education School

Piano Teacher
Diane London

Diane is a piano teacher with over 15 years of teaching experience. Diane's training included B. Music at the Australian National University School of Music with some of Australia's most prominent pianists. Diane teaches all styles, levels and ages, including adult students who have never learnt piano before, but have always wanted to!

Lessons are \$37 per half hour
Enquiries - contact Diane
on 0414 788 380



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EXPRESS

WATSON

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Sat: 9:00am–01:00pm

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Canberra



**Australian
Breastfeeding
Association**

1800 686 268

Website: breastfeeding.asn.au

Facebook: @ABAACTNSW

We support, educate and advocate for a breastfeeding-inclusive society.

We have:

- events for members and guests
 - a 24-hour Breastfeeding Helpline
 - breastfeeding education classes/webinars
 - breast pump hire
 - the mum2mum app
- and so much more.*

Email: canberra@breastfeeding.asn.au

THE TUCKERBOX



Hackett

HOLY CROSS ANGLICAN PARISH

Website: www.holycrosshackett.org.au

Email: tuckerbox@holycrosshackett.org.au

Holy Cross Tuckerbox is a volunteer-run food outlet designed to assist people with budget constraints.

Phone: 0490 336409

Rev. Tim Watson



Website: <http://megstoybox.org/>

Meg's Toy Box is a community organisation which hires toys, puzzles and games for children aged from three months to five years.



WATSON
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

(incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991*)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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