

## FROM THE CHAIR: Megan Mears

### Greetings, Watson residents!



Welcome to our winter issue and what a stunning, luminous autumn we've experienced in our patch of Canberra.

It's been an active quarter in WCA, with planning issues front and foremost. We held two public meetings on significant proposals. My thanks to the team of volunteers who made this possible, especially Simon Clarke for his leadership and organisation, and Geoff Murray-Prior, for work on the Section 76 Draft Variation submission, in line with the WCA's Plan for the Sustainable Development of Watson. The thorough and constructive approach was recognised by Paul Costigan in City News in April. Danielle Nohra at City News also got behind the issue of tree loss on Section 76.

In this issue, we pay tribute to the late Patrick Turner, founding member of the WCA, and long-time Watson resident. Local birders Kathy Walter and John Goldie share their expertise on creating bird friendly gardens, while regular columnist Silvie takes a break to welcome her first child. We continue our Watson profiles with local resident and architect Claire Reece, and Hal Judge. Hal and his wife Joan have been major contributors to the WCA, notably in the Planning Working Group, Micro-Forests and in organising *Party at the Shops* some years ago. They leave Watson with our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for their future,

*We hope you enjoy Watson #108.*

## Watson Community Association Annual General Meeting 2021

Everyone is invited to take an active part in the Watson Community Association. Please come along to our AGM.

**Date and time:** Thursday 24 June, 7.30 pm

**Venue:** Youth With a Mission (YWAM) 76 Federal Hwy, Watson (please use Zelling St driveway, near intersection with Federal Hwy)

**Speaker:** Marie Coleman, AO PSM, reflecting on social issues.

**Updates:** From WCA working groups, including Planning Group.

**Voting:** Membership is required for voting – complete the membership form on the last page of this newsletter.

**Committee nomination:** To nominate for the committee, please email [watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com](mailto:watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com) for a form.

### MAJURA CAFÉ POETS

Majura Café poets have met since 2009 in a variety of venues in Watson, Hackett, Downer and at Dickson Tradies.

We write about matters close to our hearts and minds. Every year we publish a collection of poems. Also this year, we will be on the Poets Train: Poetry in Motion. This year we will travel to Goulburn in winter, and Katoomba in spring.

From June, the group will meet at the Old Canberra Inn on Wednesdays, from 2.30-4.30pm Wednesdays.

If you would like to come along, please contact Fiona on [mcilroy77@gmail.com](mailto:mcilroy77@gmail.com) or 0427088149 to confirm meeting arrangements.

*after more than a year  
in solitary confinement  
in a Covid cocoon*

*we hope to emerge  
with wings outstretched  
very soon*



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 20 June at 2:00-3:30 pm**  
**The Knox Café, Watson Shops**

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

***More information:***

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

# PLANNING GROUP REPORT

From Simon Clarke – WCA Planning Group Chair

*“You can’t score if you don’t have goals.”*

This motto is woven into the band of a t-shirt I own. The Planning Group has goals for Watson. We want to see any development take as its core premise: ***“kind to the community and kind to the planet!”*** Sounds simple, but it doesn’t always work out that way.

Since our last Newsletter we have put in detailed submissions about proposals for Block 76 (between Aspinall St & Federal Hwy) and the AIE development ( Old Watson HS.) On May 6 I received an update from Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESPDD). I have outlined below a brief summary of what we asked for and (in italics) the ESPDD update.

## **Canberra Technology Park – Block 1 Section 13 Watson**

The WCA believed that the AIE proposal was excessive in scale, too big for the site (a quiet residential area), failed to adequately address parking pressure and was somewhat vague about when/if tree canopy and permeability targets would be met. We also wanted to ensure that adequate community consultation would be given for the redevelopment of the green space (oval area.) We will follow up with TCCS about a briefing regarding the green space plans.

A summary of the ESPDD response is as follows.

### ***AIE’s Future Intentions Plan***

- *The Academy of interactive Entertainment (AIE) completed their community engagement activities in late March 2021.*
- *The ACT Government is now considering the AIE’s Future Intentions Plan (31 March 2021) to determine if AIE can progress with the purchase of part of the site.*

### ***Demolition and Remediation by Government***

- *Demolition and remediation contractors Delta Pty Ltd will undertake remediation works for part of the Canberra Technology Park site from April to June 2021. Letters were sent to residents and local businesses in December 2020 and March.*

- *Delta Pty Ltd has a proven track record of handling asbestos and other hazardous materials. WorkSafe ACT as regulator will oversee site activity.*
- *Temporary fencing has been installed around the part of the site that will be demolished and remediated, including the small car park and the building known as the 'band hall'.*
- *The existing tennis courts will remain open and available to the public during the demolition works. The trees that are adjacent to the demolition works will be retained and protected.*

### **The public open space area**

- *As part of the agreement between the AIE and the ACT Government, part of Block 1 Section 13 Watson (area where the old oval was) will be upgraded and maintained by the ACT Government.*
- *Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) will hold community engagement on the proposed facilities in the open space. A TCCS representative can provide a briefing in person to the Watson Community Association.*

*More information about Canberra Technology Park can be found here:*  
<https://www.planning.act.gov.au/urban-renewal/other-projects/canberra-technology-park-demolition-and-redevelopment>

### **Watson Section 76**

In our detailed submission we argued that (1) ALL trees should be retained OR replaced with mature specimens of appropriate species. (2) ACT Govt should retain responsibility for the tree lines (3). Development scale should be reduced by extending NCA Gateway height limits to the whole site (4) road infrastructure be used to enhance community by use of cul-de-sacs (5) a variety of builders and groups to be given tenders so that we avoid a “cookie cutter” box-like development. (6) We urged more consultation with local community regarding the park area and pointed out the potential traffic and pedestrian issues.

The EPSDD response is below.

- *The outcomes of community consultation (closed on 19 March 2021) are being considered for finalisation of the Place Plan and Development Concept (PPDC).*
- *Currently, EPSDD is working with local Ngunnawal groups and Living Streets Association to ensure their input forms part of the considerations for the Place Plan and Territory Plan variation.*
- *EPSDD is also considering different mechanisms to retain trees on the site, particularly the trees at the perimeter of the block.*
- *The PPDC, including the draft concept for the park, will be finalised following consultation with local Ngunnawal groups and the Living Streets Association. This is anticipated in June/July 2021.*
- *If approved, Territory Plan Variation 371 is anticipated for completion in 2022.*

### **Watson Section 74**

We have been clear that we see this site as an ideal opportunity to have an “Entry to Canberra” statement, celebrating our “Bush Capital” status. Discussion around this plot seems to be a fair way off. The ESPDD response is below.

- *At this stage, there are no plans to undertake a Territory Plan Variation to re-zone the block. Further planning is required for Section 74 to determine the best use for the site.*
- *EPSDD will continue to update the project website as necessary and will be in contact with the WCA prior to any future plans being released for the site.*

More information on Section 74 and 76 Watson can be found here <https://yoursay.act.gov.au/northwatson>

I hope we can reinstate regular face-to-face meetings of the Planning Working Group. Please use the address [planning2602@gmail.com](mailto:planning2602@gmail.com) for feedback, questions or tip-offs.

*Best wishes*

*Simon Clarke – Planning Group Chair*

# EASTER CELEBRATION at YWAM

From Leonie Watts

*Youth With A Mission (YWAM) is an international Christian movement. Locally, it runs 'The Pantry', a community garden, and hosts events and seminars for YWAM and other groups. Enquiries welcome to [info@ywamcanberra.org](mailto:info@ywamcanberra.org)*

The afternoon of Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March brought beautiful weather for an Easter Celebration at YWAM. Over a hundred people from the community and different churches and groups gathered under the trees to enjoy a musically diverse concert - jazz, bush ballad, Islander dance, contemporary drama, a Filipino choir and a young pianist who accompanied his even younger sister who sang.

Good Faith Choir (a combined Anglican/Uniting group from the Hackett congregations) wowed the crowd with Ukuthula (a Zulu spiritual) and Sanctus (with drums). After the concert, an Easter egg hunt kept the kids occupied for ages, with the centre courtyard's many trees and shrubs etc. proving to be a great hiding place for a couple of hundred plastic eggs which could then be exchanged for chocolate ones. There was also egg decorating and a delicious afternoon tea.

The community spirit was alive and well and it was wonderful to see people sitting around enjoying each other's company on a lovely autumn day.



## 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.*

## Experience ACU

Join our free Experience ACU activities. Tailored to your study area of interest, these sessions will give you an insight into life as a uni student.

### **Date and time:**

06 July 2021, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

### **Location:**

Canberra campus, Building 301 (Veritas), 223 Antill St, Watson

### **Register:**

<https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/events/2021/july/experience-acu-canberra-campus>

## 2021 ACU Blackfriars Lecture Series: Health and Wellbeing

Tuesday 08 June	<b>MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION: SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO THRIVE</b> Heidi Prowse, Chief Executive Officer, Mental Illness Education Act
Tuesday 20 July	<b>CLOSING THE GAP THROUGH INDIGENOUS HEALTH INITIATIVES</b> Mr Craig Ritchie, Chief Executive Officer, AIATSIS
Tuesday 14 Sept	<b>AGEING WELL: FLOURISHING OR SURVIVING</b> Adjunct Prof. Stephen Cornelissen, Group CEO, Mercy Health
Tuesday 26 Oct	<b>HOW DOES SOCIAL CAPITAL ENHANCE HEALTH AND WELLBEING?</b> Dr Ursula Stevens, CEO, Catholic Social Services Australia

### **Lecture venue:**

Level one, 301.1.20, Veritas Building, ACU, 223 Antill Street, Watson

### **Registrations essential:**

OCD.Canberra@acu.edu.au



## In MEMORIAM: Patrick Turner

### **From Julie Smith, WCA**

*The recent passing of Patrick Turner was a loss for many in the Watson and Hackett community. Patrick was involved with the WCA from the very start, leading the Interim Committee of the Association from when it formed in 1990 until 1994. He remained involved on the WCA Committee until incorporation in 1996. His founding role and commitment to the establishment of the Association is gratefully acknowledged.*

### **From Julie Derrett, a personal reflection**

Patrick Turner was my neighbour for 25 years. At one time he was the chair of the Watson Community Association and he had a great love of this place we call home, Watson.

Patrick was a talented builder, and in later life, turned his attention to a new career as an amateur electronics enthusiast. He specialized in building “old school” valve amplifiers and sound systems. He built himself quite a name among other enthusiasts. Patrick cycled with great gusto and he once told me that he had cycled around the planet many times, hence the double knee reconstruction.

Patrick was a man who loved cats, though he never wanted to admit to it. But I know it to be true, because he and one of our adopted cats had a very special relationship. Patrick was sure that our rescued, not very smart, black and white moggie, Cleo, was an extraordinary cat. They were clearly in love, and Cleo moved into Patrick's workshop on a permanent basis. I think she even became a house cat. He shared the stories of Cleo's special talents for many years. I think Cleo's special talent was that she could spot a softie a mile off, and I think that really sums up who Patrick was, an old softie at heart.

Rest in peace Patrick, and thank you for being a solid, peaceful, and friendly neighbour for all those years.



## WATSON PROFILE: Hal Judge



The ‘Kangaroo House’ in Piddington Street, Watson, has been home base to Hal Judge for 15 years, and a launch pad for international and local projects, including volunteer and consultancy work in South East Asia.

During his time in Watson, Hal, and his wife, Joan, established a beautiful backyard permaculture garden (including giant sunflowers) which eventually expanded into the reserve—to share pumpkins and plums with neighbours.

As a writer and trainer, Hal was an adviser for the Ubud Writers and Readers Festival. He was instrumental in setting up a humanitarian training centre in Yogyakarta, Java. In recent years, he has been engaged in clearing Cambodia of landmines.

Throughout his travels, Hal has appreciated coming home to and contributing to our Watson community. He helped organise the successful Watson ‘Parties at Shops’ events and was a strong contributor to the WCA’s ‘Plan for the Sustainable Development of Watson’.

Seeking new challenges and experiences, Hal and Joan are about to make their dream move to a five-acre property in the picturesque town of Bermagui, to see what will grow there. They go with the thanks and best wishes of the WCA and the Watson community.

# Sonderarchitects



Sonder Architects is an emerging practice that seeks to connect with people and their ideas about spaces, to collaborate with designers and artists, and ultimately create buildings that bring delight to clients.

The practice focuses on spaces that have a high impact on personal wellbeing, and where clients' environmental responsibilities can be prioritised.

Both principals, Claire Reece (top left) and Wendy Christie, graduated with Honours in Architecture. They are excited about architecture that enhances the way people live and work, and seek to pursue creative and environmentally responsible solutions to spatial and technical construction issues.



Claire and Wendy bring over 30 years of professional experience to the practice, designing new buildings, as well as adapting and renovating existing buildings.

*For more information:*

- visit their new website (work-in-progress) [sonderarchitects.com.au](https://sonderarchitects.com.au)
- or contact Claire [claire@sonderarchitects.com.au](mailto:claire@sonderarchitects.com.au)



# LIVING STREETS YOUTH: Autumn Playday

From Natalie Walker, 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 and friendships.*

A meeting was conducted on 5 April to devise a program of events for the Living Street Association Autumn Playday on 17 April, for the children of Watson. We brainstormed ideas around the theme of teamwork.

The Playday began with team-building games led by volunteers, to increase team interaction, trust, and connecting with others. After that, we walked to Justice Robert Hope Park to build tree forts. The teams competed against each other to create a fort within a set time limit. The day concluded with Capture the Flag and a Studio Ghibli film *Howl's Moving Castle*.

The Autumn Playday was a wonderful day, full of laughter and enjoyment for the volunteers and the children attending.

## Contacts and updates on:

Email: [livingstreetsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:livingstreetsassociation@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Living-Streets-Association](https://www.facebook.com/Living-Streets-Association)

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



# ATTRACTING BIRDS TO THE GARDEN

From Kathy Walter and John Goldie

Birds bring life to any garden and the key to attracting them to your garden is to try to provide shelter, natural food and water. We are very lucky in Watson with around 10 parrot species regularly seen in our gardens. Many of these will come to your garden with very little effort.

Birdlife Australia advises that a constant supply of 'artificial' food can be unhealthy for birds. Feeding birds can attract large numbers of one species at the expense of diversity. Seeds in some wild seed mixes are potential weeds. Groups of birds at a feeding station become easy targets for birds of prey and cats. It is better to create a bird habitat through planting and providing clean water.

A good wildlife garden tries to provide three layers: canopy trees, denser shrubs and good groundcover. To attract a wide range of birds, try to have a good mix of different types of plants, shrubs of different heights and densities, grass, forbs, and trees. These will provide both food and shelter.

## Plants to attract birds include:

PLANTS	PURPOSE/BIRDS
Prickly dense shrubs - Hakea, Acacia, Bursaria, Westringia, Cassinia	To shelter small birds – Fairy Wrens, Thornbills
Tall trees - Eucalypts, Casuarina, Banksia, Acacia, Brachyciton	To shelter bigger birds - Magpies, Owls, Tawny Frogmouths, Parrots
Insect hosts - Acacia, Bursaria, Correa, Hardenbergia, Melaleuca	For Robins, Wrens, Treecreepers
Seed bearers - Acacia, Casuarina, native grasses and sedges	For Cockatoos, Finches, Pigeons
<b>Multi-purpose:</b> Acacia, Banksia, Eucalypts, Grevillea, Hakea, Leptospermum, Melaleuca	



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FAITH AND HOPE IN THE FUTURE

# WATSON PROPERTY SALES

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

4A/111 Knox Street	\$176,000	2/10 Federal Highway	\$612,000
31 Whitmore Crescent	\$340,000	438 Antill Street	\$620,000
14c/6 Irvine Street	\$355,000	4/21 Aspinnall Street	\$627,000
31/21 Aspinnall Street	\$372,600	32/45 Negus Crescent	\$710,000
2 Mabel Miller Lane	\$390,000	1B Hood Place	\$715,000
114/20 Federal Highway	\$397,000	7/5 Phippard Court	\$780,000
36/21 Aspinnall Street	\$399,000	100/215 Aspinnall Street	\$841,000
52/35 Tay Street	\$405,000	1 Hallenstein Lane	\$878,000
21/20 Federal Highway	\$409,000	56 Aspinnall Street	\$895,000
32/23 Tay Street	\$420,000	40 Wade Street	\$965,000
44/15 Aspinnall Street	\$420,000	28 Windeyer Street	\$990,000
8/64 Knox Street	\$420,000	16 Field Street	\$1,000,000
20/23 Tay Street	\$422,000	14 Cooper Place	\$1,020,000
8/18 Whitmore Crescent	\$427,500	14 Simpson Street	\$1,025,000
56/20 Federal Highway	\$450,000	57 Negus Crescent	\$1,035,000
164/395 Antill Street	\$475,000	36 Irvine Street	\$1,063,000
49/25 Aspinnall Street	\$508,000	43 Molesworth Street	\$1,100,000
20 Tay Street	\$515,000	80 A'Beckett Street	\$1,155,000
74 Ian Nicol Street	\$535,000	35 Phillip Avenue	\$1,180,000
25 Whitmore Crescent	\$555,000	2 Holroyd Street	\$1,270,000
10 Phillipa Weeks Street	\$570,000	1/9A Dodds Place	\$1,300,000
24/19 Aspinnall Street	\$580,000	8 Fleming Street	\$1,300,000
67 Tay Street	\$584,000	41 Piddington Street	\$1,375,000

## LOCAL SERVICES



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# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Canberra



**Australian  
Breastfeeding  
Association**

1800 686 268

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

Facebook: @ABAACTNSW

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

### We have:

- events for members and guests
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  - breast pump hire
  - the mum2mum app
- and so much more.*

Email: [canberra@breastfeeding.asn.au](mailto:canberra@breastfeeding.asn.au)



## THE TUCKERBOX

Hackett

### HOLY CROSS ANGLICAN PARISH

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

Email: [tuckerbox@holycrosshackett.org.au](mailto: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.