

THE WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 105 - Winter 2020

FROM THE CHAIR

A N D ... we're back!

Due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19 restrictions, there was a season's delay between last edition and this one - for only the second time in the 25 year history of *The WATZON*. We have also had to postpone the AGM, scheduled to take place in March. That's why I'm still writing to you as the Chair, after announcing my departure earlier this year.

After waiting (in vain) for things to get back to 'normal', we are now embarking on the first ever **ZOOM AGM**, on Thursday 24th September, see the notice overleaf. Although this is not what we had hoped, ZOOM is very user-friendly and convenient, so I hope you'll plan to 'attend'.

If you're not already a Watson Community Association (WCA) member, please make sure you join by 9 September, so your application can be processed ahead of the ZOOM login notice. Membership will give you maximum participation and full voting rights. [Membership form on back cover, please return by email to watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com].

We hope that Dr Ross Crates, ornithologist from the ANU, will still be able to participate in the AGM as guest speaker, as originally planned.

continued overleaf

CONTACT US

Deputy Chair - Julie Smith P: 02 6241 8861

www.watson.org.au www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/ watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com

EVENTS

- Check local events at http://www.events.act.gov.au/
- See page 11 for details of Floriade events in Watson

From the Chair continued

So, what did you notice happening around you during 'iso' (social isolation)? I noticed a lot more people and families out together walking, jogging, cycling etc. even in the middle of a weekday; children building forts and cubbies in the green spaces; friendly teddies in the windows of homes; drive-through coffee at The Knox; empty shelves and restrictions on items at the supermarket; and an unbelievably high number of Coronathemed jokes and memes on social media. It must be something about "laughter being the best medicine" or maybe it's a case of "if we don't laugh, we'll cry".

Again, as during the bushfires, there has been a great community spirit in Watson with neighbours looking out for each other, especially the more vulnerable amongst us. And top marks to all the home schooling / working from home parents. Let's hope those days are well and truly behind us. In closing here is some 'medicine' for you:

So in retrospect, in 2015, not a single person got the answer right to the question 'Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?'

'See' you at the AGM - zoom, zoom Leonie Watts, Chairperson



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 24 September 2020 at 7:30 pm see www.watson.org.au for agenda members will receive ZOOM invitation by email

Membership application form on the back cover

Watson Community Association



WINNER OF THE 2019 "AUTUMN IN WATSON" WCA FACEBOOK PHOTO COMPETITION

Welcome, New Neighbours!

Watson has a reputation as an established, thriving and engaged community. The community association (WCA) was established in 1990. Since then, it has published 104 issues of *The Watzon* community newsletter, delivered to local homes. Read past issues on WCA website.

A membership form is on the back cover of this newsletter, and we invite you to join the Association. Meetings are held at the Community Centre in Tay Street, and will be subject to COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time.



WEBSITE

www.watson.org.au



FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/



EMAIL

watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com



wca Goal to protect, enhance and promote the

promote the social, physical and cultural environment of Watson.

'A Neighbourhood Plan for Watson' Read this 2019 document on the WCA website.



Connect with us at a 'Welcome to Watson' event Check Facebook for the next date and venue.

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

From: Simon Clarke – WCA Planning Group Chair

Despite COVID-19, planning goes on! Even in the grip of a pandemic, planning issues have not gone away. In the past few months there has been lots of action, though it's mainly been in suburbs surrounding Watson - Dickson, Campbell and Braddon particularly.

Development in Watson

The sale process for the units (*Alberi*) to be built on the old Service Station site (on Windeyer Street, adjoining Nipperville ELC) is ongoing, with the board saying they plan to start late in 2020. It's uncertain how many they need to sell for construction to be viable – they say only 7 left.



I sent an email in mid-July to Rachel Stephen-Smith (Planning Minister) and Geoffrey Rutledge, ACT Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (ESSPD), to ask for an update regarding Blocks 74 & 76 (outlined on the map left), and also any news

regarding the Technology Park (Watson High School site). I received an email from Geoffrey Rutledge saying they are preparing a reply to go to the Minister to be signed off, not yet received as I write this. As Rachel S-S is also Health Minister, I'm not surprised at the delay. In previous issues I have outlined the commitments regarding Blocks 74 &76 already given to WCA by the Minister.

Planning questions for Kurrajong Candidates

If you, like me, actually read the political fliers deposited in your letter box (lots more to come, I'm sure) then you will know that planning is an issue they are all, supposedly, deeply concerned about. Reading this, and drawing on Geoff Murray-Prior's excellent gift for the hard question, I sent the email below to as many of the Kurrajong candidates as I could. Email addresses for many were very hard to find, but I covered ALP, Greens, Liberal, Progressives and a few independents.

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

continued

Dear Kurrajong candidate, do you care about planning?

Dear Candidate

I'm sure that you know that planning (or the lack of it) is a major issue for the Inner North in general and Watson in particular. There is no official Master Plan for Watson. It is such an issue that the Watson community developed and approved a Plan for Watson in 2019. (Attached.) The adoption of this plan by candidates is an important issue for Watson Residents.

The Watson community needs all candidates to commit to ethical and sustainable planning. To do this we would invite you to answer the following questions. (Responses to be made public by Watson Community Association.)

- Will the candidate accept our current Plan as the definitive Master Plan for Watson pending development of an updated Plan by EPSDD; and
- To what extent will the Candidate allow community input into the Plan; and
- 3. Will the Candidate confirm that the Plan as developed by EPSDD will be subject to Watson community approval?

We look forward to your early response to these issues.

To date I have received acknowledgement from major parties with a promise to respond quickly. Candice Burch and Elizabeth Lee (Liberal members for Kurrajong) have responded positively to the questions.

A copy of the WCA Master Plan was included with the email, see https://watson.org.au/a-neighbourhood-plan-for-watson/

continued overleaf

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

continued

We all know the currency of political promises, however they do give us a starting point and leverage in any future discussions. When I have more to report, I will make sure it's publicised on the WCA Facebook page, so join us there: https://www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/

In wider news

Hot button issues currently in **Dickson** are the proposed Common Ground development, and the retention of the remnants of the old Canberra Airfield (1920's), near the edge of the Dickson Playing Fields. In **Braddon**, it's mainly around multi storey developments with inadequate parking and traffic consideration while **Campbell** continues to fight the \$500m "redevelopment" of the War Memorial.

As always, if you have a planning issue you wish to raise, please contact me at planning2602@gmail.com I try to access this email on a weekly basis, and will respond to you.

Best wishes

Simon Clarke - WCA Planning Group Chair



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.

ACU Virtual Open Day:

29 Aug, 5 Sept, 12 Sept 9am-3pm

Visit: openday.acu.edu.au

For more information on ACU:

visit <u>www.acu.edu.au</u>, or phone 02 6209 1100. Mon to Fri, 8:00am - 5:00pm

START JOURNALING: for your Spring garden

From: Sylvie Eckhardt

Phew what a year! With the smoke over summer and a mild winter, many trees are confused and blossoming early, some for the second time this year. Of course, it is not just Canberra's beautiful street trees that are having a bad year. The COVID-19 pandemic, and resulting lockdowns, have been very tough on many in our community, and have highlighted how important it is to focus on our mental health and look out for our family, friends and neighbours.

While gardening is good for health and longevity, keeping a garden journal may have additional mental health benefits. Noticing all the growings on in your garden, like the plants that are thriving, the flowers that are blooming and all the insect and wildlife visitors, can be a mindful practice. Writing down your observations and feelings about these can be therapeutic and a creative outlet. As we are coming into Spring, now is the best time to plan and plant vegetables and flowers. Regularly recording observations of the weather, seasons, trials and successes will give your plantings the best chance of success. And it is always helpful to write down what was planted where!

Here are some extracts from some of my gardening observations from this year, to give you some inspiration:

5 January 2020: woke up to a lot of smoke and an eerie orange sky, the rainwater tank is empty. The beds of tomatoes, tomatillos, eggplants, zucchinis, lettuces, and herbs are looking very wilty and I can relate.

23 March 2020: went outside, it was warmish, looked up - sky still there, looked down - parsley gone.

16 April 2020: surprisingly warm April day, seems cruel to have to work from home when it's so nice out. More productive at digging out chilis and eggplants to experiment with overwintering in pots away from hungry possums.

27 July 2020: the rains (and winds) are here! I heed the graziers warning and lock the chickens away. All the rain will be good for the new mulberry and fig trees. I hope taking the last chance to plant bare root trees in winter will pay off with new growth in spring. Feel done with winter (and 2020) already.

WATSON WOODLANDS UPDATE

From: John Briggs, Watson Woodlands Working Group Convenor

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

Since the last newsletter, two small working bees were held in February and March to remove the bark from the ironbark logs in top dam in the woodland. These logs had been placed in the dam to create additional habitat, but unfortunately tannin from the thick black bark was leaching into the water and causing a major pollution problem.

As we have moved into the colder weather, there has been less to do on-ground for the Working Group. The regular substantial rainfall events we have had since March have begun to refresh the woodland, particularly the numerous plantings that have been done over the past couple of years.

Unfortunately the rain and the extensive patches of bare ground present after the recent drought have also led to a major germination of the weed *Paterson's Curse*. Hopefully by the time you are reading this update, the ACT Government Offsets team will have completed a spray program to control that weed.

A few weeks ago, I met onsite with the Offsets Ranger-in-charge to plan the major management activities for the next 12 months, and discuss activities the Watson Woodland Working Group (WWWG) could be involved in. Some of the outcomes of our discussions include:

 The Offsets Team will provide fencing for an extension of the existing fencing around patches of the native *Kangaroo Grass* previously been established by the WWWG. The fencing is needed to reduce the grazing impacts of kangaroos and rabbits whilst this native grass gets established.

WATSON WOODLANDS UPDATE

continued

- The Offsets Team will supply 1,000 Themeda seedlings for the WWWG to plant, once fencing and weed spraying done. A working bee will be organised for this activity once the preparation is complete (hopefully in September). Within the next few weeks, the offsets team will fence three trial areas where the exotic grass, Phallaris, has been sprayed out and which is to be sown with Kangaroo Grass.
- The Offsets Team will commence removing some of the pink guards from those plantings that are no longer likely to be damaged by kangaroo browsing.
- The retention basin sediment trap is full of debris from the Negus Crescent development and Offsets team will contact the responsible government department to clean it out, and will remove the weed species, *Umbrella Sedge*, which has established around the trap.
- There have been reports of dogs off-leash within the reserve and Offsets Team will be organising new 'dogs on-leash' signs for all entry points into the woodland.
- Rabbit numbers are again increasing in the reserve, and the Offsets Team is planning to undertake another rabbit control program within the next few weeks.
- The ACT government is currently investigating the transfer of the Hackett horse paddocks into CNP. I have provided ecological information in support of the proposal which would ensure the Watson Woodland remains linked to the adjoining part of Mount Majura Nature Park. There is likely to be a small range of options for government to consider. I have advised that WWWG preference is for all the horse paddocks to be transferred, otherwise there will be significant degrading edge effects with future development on either side of the linkage area.



RECIPE POEM

Marinated Chicken in Chermoula



by Margaret Durie
Capital Region Farmers
Market Recipe Book 2014

Serves four, adjust quantities to suit numbers

Ingredients

1 chicken fillet per person, 2 tablespoons of chermoula, 2 tablespoons of olive oil, 2 cups of couscous, 1/2 cup of Moroccan spice mix (or to taste).

Method

Spread chermoula on both sides of the chicken and set aside on a plate to rest, or cover in fridge for one day.

Place the couscous in a bowl and add a small amount of olive oil and mix well. Add salt to taste and Moroccan spice mix – mix well. Pour boiling water over the couscous, stir, cover with cling wrap, rest for about 4 minutes.

While the couscous is resting, panfry the marinated chicken in a little olive oil, on a *moderate* heat only Take care not to burn the marinade.

When the chicken is cooked, keep it warm, uncover the couscous and fluff with a fork. Add Moroccan spice mix to taste.

To serve, place the chicken on a mound of couscous. Garnish with greens or tomato salsa (fresh tomatoes, Spanish onions, olives, coriander and extra olive oil).

ROCK

By David Turbayne

MAJURA CAFÉ POETS

Walking in Watson woodlands
winter's day
sun sparkling on the pond
reflections a perfect mirror image
ducklings circling
a patch of paradise
in our backyard

Near the pond a rock placed
in memory of Martin
his efforts to save the woodlands
a win for Watson
its community the planet
for threatened 'yellow box'
endangered honeyeaters

To be a rock
to stay strong steadfast
not to roll when pushed
embedded forever
in Watson woodlands.





Majura Public School and Youth With a Mission (YWAM) successfully bid for representation in the 'Floriade Community' category. These two areas are planted up and ready to burst forth in Spring for the 'Floriade Reimagined' display.

At the Youth With a Mission
Community Garden, on the corner of Zelling and Aspinall Streets, some tulips and pansies are popping up, as part of 'Floriade Reimagined'. They'll be in full bloom for the Floriade season (mid-September to mid-October) when you are welcome to come by and see them, or even sit and rest a while in the Spring sunshine.

On **Sundays 13** and **27 September, between 12 and 4pm**, there will be a small, outdoor 'Floriade Fair' at YWAM with some food and different fun activities.

Check the 'Floriade: Reimagined' map on the website for all the different displays around Canberra. Social distancing measures will be in place and the exact event details will depend on COVID-19 restrictions at the time.
Community involvement is welcome!

Watch the WCA Facebook page for more details, call 0435637876, or email communityserve@ywamcanberra.org



https://floriadeaustralia.com/floriade-reimagined-map/

LIVING STREETS ASSOCIATION

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

A group of young people from *Living Streets Association* held an online meeting in autumn to discuss how to be healthy and happy in these uncertain times, in the face of the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic.

People are now studying ways to enhance their immune systems against viruses. In addition to regular exercises, and implementing personal hygiene, young people have recognised that one of the healthiest things we can do is to establish connections with others and create opportunities to give. Since we were now in the COVID-19 prevention period, we needed to be a creative in terms of the ways of giving.

Because people were unable to go out to meet other friends and family, they focused on social interactions with those in closest proximity to them, immediate family members and neighbours. The spirit of Living Streets became visible across the local community and the whole of Canberra during these times: numerous teddy bears were sitting behind the windows, and the streets were covered with colourful chalk graffiti. It encouraged young people to acts of kindness that could continue to bring warmth and encouragement to those around them, while complying with government advice.

Living Streets Youth successfully ran an 'Easter Bunny visit' on Easter Sunday, while adhering the social distancing, which brought joy to the neighbours.

LIVING STREETS ASSOCIATION

continued

We continued to brainstorm ways to keep people active that individual families could do and enjoy. Indoor activities, included handicrafts like knitting quilts and crocheting.

Outdoor activities included street games like hopscotch, tree-house building, and "bear hunting" with printed pictures of bears around the playground. These were all activities that could actualize ideas and creations in your own street and bring joy and a sense of appreciation to your neighbours.

In addition, we were also eager to create a *Living Streets Association* Instagram page, so that people can contribute ideas about the activities they are doing with their families, or two or three neighbours, and share a little warmth in the neighbourhood. So now you can also follow us on the *Living Streets Association* Instagram page.

"Charity begins at home", as the saying goes, so our parents and family should be included. Parents need our care to continue to do their best for the family. The creativity of young people also included preparing meals for the family, baking snacks, sharing housework, gardening, not quarrelling with siblings, maintaining peace in the home, etc. to support their parents and help the family to maintain a strong bond.

Finally, to support young people applying for university admission or job searching, Living Streets Association members cooperate as volunteers with Watson Community Association, which provides certificates for volunteering as supporting documentation for applications.



Exchange	Address	Price	Property
16-Apr-20	23 Blair Street	\$1,143,000	House
29-Feb-20	11 Roma Mitchell Crescent	\$1,040,000	House
9-Jun-20	22A Blair Street	\$1,035,000	Townhouse
20-Mar-20	34 Kilduff Street	\$1,013,000	House
16-Apr-20	46 Irvine Street	\$950,000	House
20-Mar-20	46 Aspinall Street	\$925,000	Townhouse
29-Apr-20	7 Adams Place	\$890,000	House
4-Apr-20	38 Andrews Street	\$835,000	House
3-Jul-20	41 Simpson Street	\$820,000	House
26-Mar-20	37 Wade Street	\$818,000	
31-Mar-20	53 Piddington Street	\$800,000	
15-Apr-20	6 Holroyd Street	\$790,000	House
16-Jun-20	9 Hearn Street	\$788,000	House
27-Jul-20	91/215 Aspinall Street	\$735,000	Townhouse
24-Apr-20	24/215 Aspinall Street	\$722,500	Townhouse
21-Feb-20	56 Irvine Street	\$715,000	
9-Apr-20	25 Bettie McNee Street	\$710,000	
26-May-20	12 Aspinall Street	\$706,000	House
7-May-20	6 Dodds Place	\$705,000	Duplex
22-Jul-20	21 Negus Crescent	\$679,900	Townhouse
11-Mar-20	1/9 Cooper Place	\$644,000	
11-Mar-20	9 Cooper Place	\$644,000	House
27-Feb-20	46 Aspinall Street	\$619,900	Townhouse
22-Apr-20	21 Negus Crescent	\$604,900	Townhouse
26-Jun-20	21 Negus Crescent	\$604,900	Townhouse
25-May-20	21 Negus Crescent	\$569,900	Townhouse
7-May-20	16 Tay Street	\$535,000	House

WATSON REAL ESTATE

continued

Exchange	Address	Price	Property
22-Apr-20	21 Negus Crescent	\$509,900	Townhouse
5-May-20	161/395 Antill Street	\$475,185	Apartment
1-Jun-20	22/10 Federal Highway	\$467,500	Townhouse
20-Mar-20	174/395 Antill Street	\$445,000	Apartment
14-May-20	4 Shewcroft Street	\$440,000	House
2-Mar-20	25 Kilduff Street	\$430,000	Land
18-Mar-20	107/20 Federal Highway	\$429,000	Apartment
25-Feb-20	55/21 Aspinall Street	\$377,000	Apartment
4-Mar-20	42/21 Aspinall Street	\$367,500	Unit
20-Mar-20	51 Negus Crescent	\$365,000	Land
2-Apr-20	47/21 Aspinall Street	\$365,000	Unit
18-May-20	26/20 Federal Highway	\$365,000	Apartment
16-Jun-20	81/20 Federal Highway	\$360,000	Apartment
16-Jul-20	25/35 Tay Street	\$355,000	Apartment
5-Mar-20	86/20 Federal Highway	\$345,000	Apartment
17-Apr-20	82/20 Federal Highway	\$332,500	Apartment
3-Jun-20	16 Phippard Court	\$300,000	Land
4-Apr-20	10/35 Tay Street	\$288,000	Apartment
12-May-20	32/23 Aspinall Street	\$255,000	Unit
25-Jun-20	32/25 Aspinall Street	\$255,000	Unit
17-Mar-20	6A/111 Knox Street	\$190,000	Unit
17-Mar-20	6/109 Knox Street	\$190,000	
26-Feb-20	5/20 Federal Highway	\$180,000	

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

LOCAL SERVICES

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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



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 & 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

Academy of Interactive Entertainment

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

P: +61 2 6162 5131 E: canberra@aie.edu.au



LOCAL SERVICES



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EXPRESS

WATSON

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Canberra



1800 686 268

Website: breastfeeding.asn.au Facebook: @ABAACTSNSW

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

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

In view of COVID-19 measures, please contact the organisations below directly, to confirm their current services.



http://c3churchwatson.com.au/

All services online at present



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

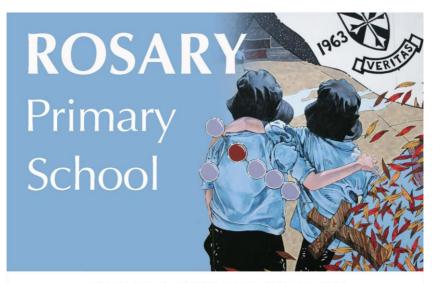


Website: http://megstoybox.org/ Email: Megstoybox@gmail.com

Phone: 02 6248 7467

Meg's Toy Library is a not-for-profit community organisation run by members, volunteers and a management committee, with the support of St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hackett.

North Canberra Ladies Probus Club Contact Terri: 0402 364 694



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(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991) APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1/ 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
(ZOOM invitations for AGM 2020 will be sent by email only)
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.

To participate in the 2020 AGM, please email completed form by 9 Sept to: watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com