



THE WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 112 - Winter 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.

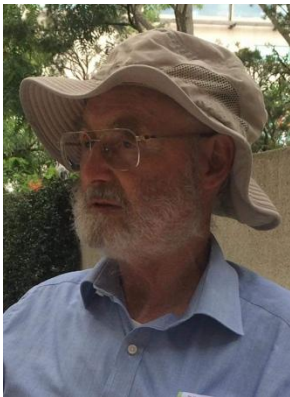


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The Watson Community Association Inc. wishes to thank the Australian Catholic University (Signadou Campus, Canberra) for printing the WATZON newsletter as a community service.



Vale Richard Larson

By Liz Grace

I am sad to advise the recent death of Richard Larson, a valued member of the WCA until 2019 when he and his wife Bev, moved to Brisbane.

Richard, a geologist by profession, was also an environmentalist and was one of the original activists lobbying to preserve the 18-hectare area now known as Justice Robert Hope Park - the

Watson Woodlands as many of us know it. He remained the backbone of the WCA until he moved.

Richard held several positions on the WCA including stints as Chair, newsletter editor and Woodlands Coordinator. He worked with others as we sought grants for fencing, and weed and rabbit eradication and worked doggedly on many responses to planning proposals for our suburb. He and others raised thousands of native seedlings and organised working parties to plant them. Richard didn't need a working party and he delighted in spending hours in the patch weeding, planting, establishing special sites and digging out thistles and Pattersons Curse. Even after the management of the area was taken over by the ACT Government, he could still be seen weeding and removing rubbish, keeping an eye on this special area. He was a great help with the newsletter production and distribution.

A singer, runner, cyclist and folk dancer Richard was an enthusiast who loved the natural world and worked hard to preserve it. Two years ago when I reported to him that the Regent Honeyeater was sighted in the Woodlands, after nearly 30 years of absence, he was absolutely delighted.

In addition to the above Richard was a good friend, much valued by my late husband and myself. On behalf of the WCA, I offer our condolences to Bev and their extended family. Richard will be sadly missed ❁

In memoriam- Dr Robin Doherty

Many residents have noted with sadness on the passing of Dr Robin Doherty and sent their thoughts and fond memories. Three long-term residents of Watson contacted us for the initial obituary, which we ran in the last edition. One of our readers also shared his memory of how Dohertys' practice originally where *The Knox Made in Watson* is now located before moving to its current location across the road. The practice has faithfully served our community for many decades including in the last few years during the pandemic and the subsequent vaccination program. The friendly and efficient atmosphere of the practice is a true reflection of the Watson community. Our reader also expressed his appreciation for dedicated medical staff and encourages us all to also show our appreciation for the men and women in 'scrubs' who may be waiting in line at the Watson shops by, thanking them, shouting them a coffee or letting them go to the front of the line at Supabarn ❁

From the Chair

By Geoff Murray-Prior

I was elected as the Chair of the WCA at the recent AGM. Whilst it is an honour to hold this position, it was disappointing that there were no other nominations; also, there was only a small number of nominees for the other elected positions. That is concerning. The WCA is a voluntary organisation with dedicated people doing much good work for the Watson community. We have positive relationships with our local Assembly members, relevant Ministers and bureaucrats, and the media. However,

the WCA cannot effectively represent the Watson community if the WCA is not itself representative of the Watson community. We need strong and vibrant community involvement. There are vacancies on the Committee, so, please, come along to our meetings and get involved. Let's be able to say "we did that", rather than hear "why didn't they do that".

Much of the work of the WCA is done through our sub-groups, such as the Woodlands Group and the Planning Group. The WCA also supported the development of the Watson Microforest. All this is done with volunteers – like the volunteers who put this edition in your letterbox - acting in their own time for the betterment of Watson. Please don't be afraid to "put your hand up" and offer your services. We all look forward to working with you



Editor's word

By Nora Chan

Thank you very much to those who have contributed to the Watson newsletter. As the editor, I know what goes onto each issue but I still get excited when I receive my copy in the letterbox. I would like to welcome Geoff and the new Watson Community Association committee. For those who have not met him before, there is a piece called 'Have you met Geoff?' in Issue 109, which is also my debut issue as the Editor. Big time!

Winter in Canberra can be challenging. The down jacket I bought when I first moved from Melbourne to Canberra four years ago remains a to-go item for winter. As someone who works normal hours, by the time I finish work at around 5pm, it is almost dark outside. After work, all I want is to go home and rug up. Recently, I started Lindy Hop dance classes to help me stay well and active again. Sometimes, after a long day at work, all I want is just to stay home and rug up. But I mentally will myself to at least get into the room, inevitably as soon as I get there all my reluctance vanishes.

Here are my two cents- no matter how reluctant you may be to leave your home, the physical act of getting out is often enough to trigger those endorphins. The Heart Foundation has shared seven tips for staying healthy over winter-



<https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/blog/7-tips-for-staying-healthy-over-winter>

The tip I like the most is 'take time for tea'. In fact, that is something my colleagues and I do during the workweek. We called it 'tea-brief' instead. We take a short 15-minute break to debrief over a cuppa at around 3 pm. Then it'll be crunch time for us to finish up for the day. It's not always possible, but we do our best *

Delivering the WATZON

By David and Vilaisan

One of the things we like about living in Watson is our longstanding community newsletter, the WATZON. We're part of a great team who help deliver the WATZON four times a year around our suburb.

Why do we like delivering the newsletter? Well, it helps us keep in touch with our community. Many people like getting a good, old fashioned hard copy of the WATZON. Occasionally, someone will say, 'no junkmail thanks' but when we reply that it's the WATZON, they go 'oh, good I'll take a copy'!

It's also fun to see the changes in our streets. One of the most interesting aspects are the great variety of mailboxes. They come in all shapes and sizes; big and small, metal, brick, wood and even stone. Some are works of art, brightly painted or with mosaic designs and plants beautifully arranged around them. A few have even been repurposed into flower holders!



We like to think delivering the WATZON adds a small piece to the collective jigsaw that makes up our lovely suburb *



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

Sun 19 June 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



Majura Café Poets

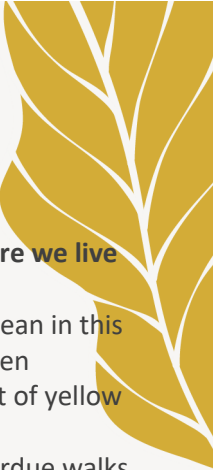
Autumn vignettes

a leaf drops
into my latte
heart-shaped
helps to float
my fallen spirits

each branch
reaches for the light
but when the wind twists
its arm too far
the crunch
snap fall as it
bites the dust

Fiona McIlroy

What I love about where we live



There can be nothing mean in this
deepness of green
Grasses flow with a drift of yellow
daisies

Dogs delight-leap at overdue walks
along paths shared by generations
of anxious families

Time out from denser caves of
domesticity
At last

There can be nothing mean in this
deepness of green

As I settle in for a knoxic coffee
At the meeting of school, surgery,
public housing and bus stop
Kids on scooters, dogs in drag and
gender fluid folk

Find each other for life review
At last

There can be nothing mean in this
deepness of green



Jill Sutton



Section 76 Watson Campaign

By Cathy L, Living Street Association

Living streets just wrapped up our biggest project yet! We have been closely collaborating with a scholarly design team to consult with community residents about their needs and to investigate the achievability of the government’s proposals on Block Section 76.



Community Picnic Day on 24th April 2022

ACT Government EPSDD’s Watson Section 76 Draft Place Plan and Development Concept from February 2021 proposed 150 to 200 dwellings on the block. In August of 2021, the design team began to work on this case study to configure the proposed number of dwellings onto the block, under the guidance of an Australian architect, Australian urban planning academic, and scholarly advisors from America’s Harvard University and England’s Cranfield University. The international design team arrived in Australia in February 2022 and started to get to know the environmental, architectural, and social context of Watson.

Around the same time, Living Streets Youth officially kicked off this year’s Section 76 Watson campaign with interviews with local residents. Our brainstormed questions aimed to discover the history of the campaign, feel the experiences of volunteers, and uncover the voices of the community. Just before the Autumn holidays, we held a meeting in one of YWAM’s classrooms to discuss the back to back tasks for the campaign which included the community consultations, organising feedback for the design team, and the Community Picnic Day.

At the Community Consultations, Living Streets Youth helped raise awareness of government plans and gather residents’ views and concerns. It was found that residents were more concerned about the quality of community spaces and facilities, and how they meet the demands of the growing population in the area, specifically North Watson. If residents were concerned about housing, they wanted to know what the proposed “demonstration housing” meant. To respect the public opinion, the design team changed the direction of their design focus from housing types to community facilities such as childcare, public green space, and community centres.

The community picnic day held at section 76 was a great success. The final designs and models were put on display while the community enjoyed the nice day out. We had nature crafts, games, a bird talk, and activities to learn to recognise native bird calls. It was a great opportunity for the community to engage with the space while it is still in this existing beautiful state. Our youth volunteers had the opportunity to reflect on how much they've grown since the 2019 Autumn Play Day on the block, as well as the success of the campaign over the past 4 years.

Finally, the long-term Section 76 Watson campaign was captured in our documentary. We hoped to convey the spirit of community that developed as a result of coming together to take action. The designs, documentary, and community feedback from the consultations will be handed over to the WCA Planning Group for them to deliver to the government.



If you would like to watch the *Section 76, Watson Documentary*, go onto our YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/livingstreetsassociation](https://www.youtube.com/livingstreetsassociation) or scan this code on the left.



If you would like to watch our *2019 Autumn Play Day video*, scan this code on the right.

Please get in touch if you would like to join Living Streets to volunteer in our community *

Email: livingstreetsassociation@gmail.com

Facebook: Living Streets Association



Block Section 76 Watson, 23rd April 2022

Watson Buzz

By Aileen Conroy

In winter honeybee colonies survive by taking a Diapause (a type of insect hibernation). The Queen stops laying eggs and the Worker bees feed the developing larvae a modified diet of less pollen (protein) and more nectar (carbohydrate), which develops fatter “winter bees”. They live for 6 months rather than the usual 6 weeks.



Image courtesy of ABC Canberra

🐝 During winter Honeybees ball up and eat stored honey. A stethoscope can be used to listen to the ball moving towards the top of the hive.



Capped honey in my flow hive

🐝 The female worker bees sustain the brood between 34 to 38 degrees by shivering their flight muscles. They pull the wings off male drone bees and evict them from the hive in early winter to safeguard honey stores.

🐝 Bees seal their hives with propolis (made from resin). It has antimicrobial properties which help prevent disease.

🐝 To help you recognise ACT’s native bees see *The Australian National Botanic Garden Native Bee Cheat Sheet* by Peter Abbott.



Forager bee carrying resin

You can help:

🐝 Plant Grevillea Bronze Rambler. It grows well in Canberra and provides a high nectar yield for birds and bees all year round.

🐝 Alternatively choose plants from the ACT Government Urban Planting Calendar, developed in co-operation with the proactive organization ACT for Bees 🌸

Planning Group Report

By Simon Clarke, WCA Planning Group Chair

What makes good planning?

At our recent meeting we were invited to view the Living Streets video entitled “Section 76, Watson” – look it up on YouTube! It is amazing. (<https://youtu.be/n-3y7Xz8fbQ>)

Their basic premise is that good planning is not about the design of dwellings, it’s about where and how you arrange the dwellings on the land. Good planning is about encouraging/creating community through dwelling design and placement, use of the natural environment, creation of community spaces and opportunities to connect, enhancing multi-generational living and living in harmony with your community and the environment. This is our hope for Section 76 and we plan to try to get this into the ears of the decision makers as soon as we are able.

Current Projects status

Section 76 Watson

EPSDD is progressing with detailed design work on the future local neighbourhood park on Section 76 Watson. The design is evolving around feedback from the Watson community received during the Place Plan process and recent consultation with the Ngunnawal Community. A more detailed update to the broader community will be available on the YourSay website in the coming weeks. See <https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/northwatson>

EPSDD are also working with the Suburban Land Agency on the development of the subdivision of the remaining portion of Section 76 Watson. Details on this work will be made available via the Suburban Land Agency in the coming months.

Inner North Play Space

A What We Heard Report was released in March.

<https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/inner-north-play-space>

In summary, 570 items of feedback in total with 85% of those identifying as Inner North residents. There was strong support overall for the new inner north play space in Watson. Many respondents expressed a strong desire for the inner north play space to cater to all ages and abilities, especially older age groups such as teenagers and young adults who may not traditionally be well catered for.

Facilities:

The top three ranked recreation facilities were children’s play equipment, trees and shade structures followed by toilets, seating and open green

space. There is also support for ensuring the recreation area can support community events, markets etc. A flexible staging area with power was suggested.

Play opportunities:

The top three ranked play opportunities for children were nature play (70%), structures with climbing (59%) and water play (52%). Children suggested a wide variety of imaginative and active play options including tree houses, a flying fox and multi-purpose courts. There was a significant amount of support for bike and skate facilities to be included in the new inner north play space.

Next steps:

Inner north play space design phase (subject to future funding).

Future directions for a WCA Planning Group -we need to talk.

For the past 12 – 24 months the prime focus of this group has been monitoring and reacting to planning proposals.

As we (hopefully) move out of COVID the purpose of the group needs evaluating. What is our role moving on? Do we remain as a monitoring group or do we move to a more pro-active structure? What might that look like? Are there other Watson community groups who would be interested in partnering with the Planning Group to hopefully provide a single but more powerful voice? The WCA has always seen its role as supporting, encouraging and partnering with local groups to achieve good outcomes. If you have ideas or would like to chat, please contact me at planning2602@gmail.com *

Foliage is power

By Silvie Eckhardt

Canberra must have the best autumn leaves in all of Australia. While a quick google search was inconclusive, there's no denying the red, orange and yellow hues of Canberra's mature deciduous street trees and eclectic gardens are *unbeleafably* beautiful.

As you really autumn know by now, our own suburb is fall of colourful foliage. The pin oaks of A'Beckett, beech trees in the Irvine Street greenway and Manchurian pear-lined streets in north Watson need to be seen to be *beleaved* (*acorny* I know, but it's true). Strange then that Watson is underrepresented in the government's Canberra autumn leaves map (<https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/trees-and-nature/trees/canberra-autumn-leaves-map>). The pictures are submitted by users, so let's get snapping put Watson on the map next autumn.

Orange you wishing you had more autumn colour in your garden? Then try small trees with big impact like: Japanese maples, Chinese pistachios, Manchurian pears and dogwoods and crab apples (which both also have lovely flowers and ornamental fruit). Some spectacular shrubs are: witch hazel, blueberries, Leucadendron and, my favourite, smoke bush which has dark red foliage and pretty, fluffy flowers which dry and stay on the plant as the silvery 'smoke' it is named for.



Deep red foliage of smoke bush behind a rose (Picture by Ella Sayers)

Following autumn, I'm making compost from piles of dried leaves and using them as mulch to keep weeds down in the garlic bed 🌸

Updates from Watson Woodland

By John Briggs

Convenor, WCA Woodlands Working Group

Some of you may have discovered the portable fencing that has appeared in the south-east end of the reserve in the past 12 months or so. This temporary fencing has been installed by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service to protect from kangaroo grazing four 20 m x 20 m plots that have been established to trial a method of replacing dense patches of introduced grasses (mainly Phalaris) with native Kangaroo Grass. This trial was initiated by the WCA Woodlands Working Group. Over the past couple of years the plots have been sprayed several times to initially kill the existing introduced grasses and the subsequent Phalaris and other weed seedlings that have re-grown from soil-stored seed.

By next spring it is thought that the Phalaris seed bank in the soil should be significantly depleted and that it will be safe to sow Kangaroo Grass seed onto the plots without there being too much competition from the introduced grasses. The seed that will be used was harvested by ACT Parks last December. If all goes well, by this time next year we hope to have a nice new sward of Kangaroo Grass established on the plots. Inevitably there will still also be some new seedlings of introduced grasses and other weeds amongst the Kangaroo Grass and that some working bees will need to be organised to hand weed out these unwanted plants so they don't outcompete the native grass. Once patches of the Kangaroo Grass are well established the plan is to move the temporary fencing to nearby areas of the woodland that have similar dense infestations of the exotic grasses.



Portable fencing erected to protect native grass establishment trial

Weather permitting, ACT Parks are planning to do a few small patch burns in the woodland this winter or spring to remove some of the dense grass groundcover that has accumulated during the past two exceptionally wet years. It is hoped that these burns will promote native groundcover species and that they may even stimulate soil-stored seed of previously unrecorded species in the reserve to germinate. Care will be taken to not damage the tree and shrub regrowth, which has been doing particularly well since the last drought broke in early 2020*
*

Watson Property Sales

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

18 McCawley Street	1,555,000	6/45 Negus Crescent	991,000
33 Woolcock Street	1,535,000	1 Kilduff Street	835,500
79 Negus Crescent	1,450,000	55 Whitmore Crescent	775,000
123 Irvine Street	1,380,000	408 Antill Street	758,000
43 Piddington Street	1,360,000	13 Phillipa Weeks Street	630,000
1 Peden Place	1,360,000	67/21 Aspinall Street	607,000
1 Therry Place	1,310,000	163/395 Antill Street	600,000
28 Higinbotham Street	1,300,000	57/20 Federal Highway	580,000
5 Rooth Place	1,280,000	103/20 Federal Highway	550,000
39 Wade Street	1,360,000	64/21 Aspinall Street	535,000
1 Adams Place	1,185,000	6/27 Whitmore Crescent	520,000
86 Irvine Street	1,150,000	24/35 Tay Street	495,000
227 Aspinall Street	1,085,000	14c/6 Irvine Street	492,500
4 Cullen Street	1,065,000	40/23 Tay Street	487,500
81/215 Aspinall Street	1,055,000	76/20 Federal Highway	460,000
4 Andrews Street	1,050,000	48/23 Aspinall Street	430,000
4 Dobson Street	1,005,000	2a/111 Knox Street	260,000
38 Aspinall Street	1,000,000	1b/109 Knox Street	245,000
		5c/111 Knox Street	240,000

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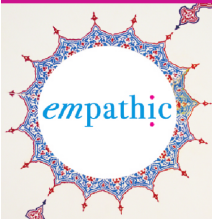
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Tracey Mansted Psychotherapist



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IN WATSON

empathic.com.au

Community Notices



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

Canberra



Australian
Breastfeeding
Association

1800 686 268

Website: breastfeeding.asn.au

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

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

We have:

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- breast pump hire
- the mum2mum app

and so much more.

Email: canberra@breastfeeding.asn.au

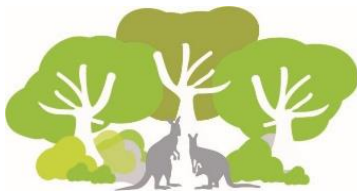


Website: <http://megstoybox.org/>

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

Useful phone numbers

Emergency	000
Canberra Hospital	5124 0000
Calvary Hospital	6201 6111
Inner North (Dickson) Walk In Centre	5124 8080
Healthdirect Australia	1800 022 222
Lifeline	13 11 44
Kids Helpline	1800 55 1800
Qlife	1800 184 527
Access Canberra	13 22 81
The Pantry	0419 017 552
<i>Food assistance at YWAM, North Watson</i>	
ActewAGL	
Electricity	13 10 93
Gas	13 19 09
Icon Water	6248 3111
Head to Health Pop Up Services	1800 595 212
<i>Mental health and wellbeing support Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm (except public holidays)</i>	
Access Mental Health	1800 629 354/ 6205 1065



WATSON
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

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

