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North Canberra**

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Is a community toy library.
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with the support of
St Margaret's Church

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(during opening hours only)

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Sat 2pm—4pm

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The Tuckerbox is a not-for-profit service which helps those struggling to balance their budget. The Tuckerbox has bread, groceries (*milk, fruit and vegetables when available*).

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Meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month,
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Uniting Church

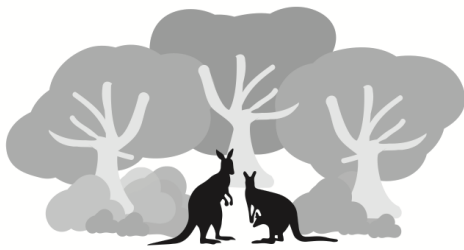
9:30 – 10:30 am each Friday

Cost \$7.00



**SUNDAY MORNINGS 10AM
FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH 7PM-9PM**

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THE WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 94 – Winter / Spring 2017

The results are in ... *Watson Community Survey*

All residents of Watson and businesses operating in Watson were invited to participate via: this newsletter, the Watzon; the WCA Inc. Facebook page; posters at the local shops; face-to-face at the local shops and preschool fete; and Majura Primary School newsletter. The survey was available online during May 2017, with hard copies available upon request.

248 survey responses were received, representing 10% of all Watson households/businesses.

- There was overwhelming support for the incorporation of public open green space with trees and pathways as part of developments in north Watson.
- There was support for mixed housing development as well as the retention and improvement of the open space on the site of the old Watson High School site.
- The three aspects of Watson most commonly liked by Watson residents were: the open, green spaces in south Watson; local shopping centre and sense of community.
- The three aspects of Watson most commonly disliked by Watson residents were: the state of play grounds; design and development of north Watson; and state of the former petrol station site.

More on the survey results is available at pages 7-10.

Do you have experience in advocacy or lobbying?

Do you want to help protect and enhance the social, cultural and physical environment of the community of Watson?

A sub-committee of the WCA Inc. will be formed to focus efforts on lobbying members of the ACT Legislative Assembly for a master plan for Watson as a suburb in totality – drawing on the results of the *Watson Community Survey*. If you have experience, or just want to help, please contact a committee member (details opposite).

Spring events calendar

Canberra Writers Festival

Friday 25 to Sunday 27 August
canberrawritersfestival.com.au

Watson Woodlands Walk

Sunday 3 September

Majura Primary Spring Carnival

Saturday 16 September

Floriade

Saturday 16 September to
Sunday 15 October
floriadeaustralia.com

Family and Community Day

Monday 25 September

Daylight savings starts

Saturday 30 September

Labour Day

Monday 30 October



Contact us

Chair

Liz Grace 02 6255 7235

Deputy Chair

Richard Larson 02 6241 3024

Secretary

Gillian Helyar 02 6255 0238

Treasurer

Carrie Wright 02 6241 1018

Watson Woodlands Convenor

Richard Larson 02 6241 3024

Watson Community Association Inc.

The Watson Community Association Inc. (WCA Inc.) aims to promote, protect and enhance the social, cultural and physical environment of the community of Watson, and the welfare, community spirit and quality of life of its residents.

It also aims to inform the community about issues concerning Watson. One way the WCA Inc. does this is through the quarterly production and distribution of the *Watson* – a community newsletter.

Next quarterly meeting

The next WCA Inc. meeting is scheduled for **Monday, 23 October 2017 at 7:30 PM** at the **Hall in the Fair on Tay Street, Watson.**

All welcome.

Message from the Chair

Winter is almost over and our fabulous Canberra spring will be here soon. Isn't it always a delight to see the first blossoms appear, the wattle flower and daffodils shake their golden heads?

The results of the *Watson Community Survey* have been collated, see pages 7-10. The WCA Inc. firmly believes a master plan is needed to ensure developments as a collective complement our suburb, and public amenity is developed for the increased population. The survey has given the committee considerable information on what you, the residents of Watson want for your suburb and ideas for improving community connectedness, infrastructure and facilities.

Many thanks to the wonderful people who assisted with the survey – it's development, rollout and interpretation. Gillian, Joanie, Fiona and Richard put in so much work on this.

And most importantly, many thanks to the wonderful Watson residents who took the time and effort to complete it! Six residents will each receive a \$50 gift voucher for our local SupaExpress for their innovative suggestions (selected at random).

In the last few issues of the *Watson* we have featured birds and, judging by the response, you have enjoyed these. Please feel free to send in items of avian interest, but this time we are focussing on WASTE.

Have you followed the ABC's series *War on Waste*? The statistics are alarming and the problem is worldwide. What do you personally do to minimise waste? There are some innovative ideas and plenty of common-sense things we can do. If you missed the series may I suggest you look at it on iView? Craig Reucassel and Wendy Harmer present their views seriously but with their own tinge of humour. The picture of Craig rolling his ball of plastic bags is unforgettable. If you don't have a way to see the series please talk to your friends and also read the item later in this issue.

*Liz Grace, Chair
Watson Community Association Inc.
August 2017*



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Canberra Music Education School

Samantha Lengyel

Experienced violinist, teacher, and composer who also strongly enjoys musicology.

Samantha has completed her Certificate of Performance AMEB and during high school excelled in High Level Music in the International Baccalaureate where she received the Jennifer May Memorial Prize for Music.

Samantha has performed in many orchestras including the Sydney Youth Orchestra, NOVA orchestra and was the concertmaster of the ANU orchestra.

As a teacher, Samantha strongly believes that an enjoyment for music is essential and advocates that through her teaching.

\$35 per ½ hour lesson

Phone 0414 788 380

Or visit www.canberramusicschool.com.au

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Michael 0419 688 034
Mark 0401 829 087
Office Dickson 6230 0005
Email jenny.mcreeynolds@luton.com.au



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Community notices

Report – Watson Preschool Fete

The Watson Preschool Fete was a huge success.

We had a glorious autumn day, scrumptious food, talented entertainers, games and activities, bargains galore and a wonderfully supportive community.

A very big thank you to our generous sponsors and donors whose support made the fete possible. Thank you to all who came and enjoyed the day.

The Fete raised over \$6,500 for the Watson Preschool. A fairy and wizard garden has been installed, and plans are underway to do further landscaping projects in the children's outdoor play area to enrich the Preschool.

Thank you very much!

Volunteers Wanted – Carnival

2017 Majura Primary School Spring Carnival

Raising funds for the next stage of the Playscapes project to improve the school's surrounds.

Volunteers Wanted

Can you spare an hour or two?

September 15 (Fri) 9am-4pm

Bargain Lane Sorter

September 16 (Sat) 10am-2pm

Face Painter

Food Server

Carnival Hand

Composting/Recycling

Email majurafete@gmail.com

Call 0410 067 118

Thank you very much!



Waste: Recycle, Re-use, Re-purpose

Waste is a challenge for us all. Do we look at disposal of waste or should we be looking at ways to minimise the need for disposal e.g. packaging?

In this consumer society 'stuff' is easy to acquire and hard to dispose of. Food scraps are easy – compost them, but do you ever unpack something and wonder what to do with the packaging? Can we recycle meat trays for example? Should we put polystyrene packaging in the yellow bin or the green one? Can we put batteries in the green bin? How do we dispose of aerosol cans – green, yellow?

There is an excellent ACT Government website - www.act.gov.au/recycling/home - which lists materials alphabetically and tells you if, where and how they can be disposed of. The irrepressible character, Ricky Starr, features in videos and you can get re-psyched about recycling!



REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE

Did you know that you can recycle batteries at Aldi, coat hangers at Bell's Dry Cleaners and The Green Shed, soft plastics at Coles and Woolworths (ask where their bin is), shredded paper can be given to pet stores or friends with cage animals and even re-purpose those outdated mobile phones? This is just a tiny sample of the information available on the above website.

For information on how to make and manage a compost bin visit Bunnings, Better Homes and Gardens and Gardening Australia websites or simply Google 'compost' – you'll be amazed!

How much water can we save? Shorter showers and double flush toilets are just the beginning. Grey water systems are frequently included in new builds and can be retro fitted in existing homes. Information is available on the ACT Government website and also from plumbers and ACTEW.

Why not make some junk art for the garden with pallets, pipes, corrugated iron? Visit a recycling yard and be inspired! Take used clothing to Salvos, Vinnies or other Op shops or take to vintage clothing shops. Gumtree is thriving and a great way to buy or sell unwanted items. Recycling/re-purposing can be fun.

The ABC series 'War on Waste' is an eye-opener. Did you know that waste is growing at twice the rate of our population! How big is the problem of coffee pods (Nescafe will recycle theirs) and take-away coffee cups – cups are usually disposable but the lids are not. Many coffee shops will fill your own travel cup. There are even coffee shops that won't supply take-away cups!

Happily, as well as the problems, there are solutions to many. We need to be pro-active in reducing our own waste. Managing our waste can be a path to sustainable living.

Note: For those who do not have access to the Internet try environmentally focused magazines and talk to friends and neighbours.

Planning update

There have been no major new development applications lodged since the last edition of the Watson.

Road and path work for a new residential development on the extension of Negus Crescent in north Watson continues. The lower half of Negus Crescent has been partly paved, and this work will continue. Several driveways have been constructed on the lower section and signs have appeared advertising blocks for sale. As part of this development, an access road and gate have been installed off Roma Mitchell Crescent to allow servicing of the storm water grate.

Representatives of the WCA Inc. and JWLand met to discuss plans for the development on Block 9 Section 64 between the Channel 9 and Channel 7 television sites. The representatives explained that Block 9 would be subdivided between Lonsdale 28 Pty Ltd and JWLand. Lonsdale 28 would occupy the stand-alone sites fronting the new extension of Negus Crescent and JWLand would construct multi-unit sites between Negus Crescent and the Carotel (Mt Majura Estate) development site. The indicative plan for 110 dwellings in total on Block 9 has not changed.

Representatives of the WCA Inc. and the Academy of Interactive Entertainment (AIE) also met to discuss AIE's approach to community consultation for the possible development of the old Watson High School site (corner Phillip Avenue and Windeyer Street).

The WCA Inc. will continue to work with the developers wherever possible to encourage developments that complement the surrounding neighbourhood and provide community infrastructure – pathways, public gardens and play grounds.

All development applications in Watson, including dwelling alterations and additions, can be viewed on the ACTPLA website at www.planning.act.gov.au/development_applications. If you think an application may affect you in any way you may submit written comments (representations) to the Applications Secretariat by email, mail or delivery to the customer service centre at 16 Challis St Dickson. Your comments must be received during the specified public notification period. Comments received outside that period will not be considered.



Recipe

On Watson's doorstep each Saturday morning is the Capital Region Farmers Market - held at EPIC and run by the Rotary Club of Hall.

The WCA Inc. are pleased to be able to bring you another verbatim recipe from the Rotary Club of Hall's "Capital Region Farmers Market Recipe Book".

This is courtesy of the "Bananaman" Michael Curtis. With no bananas grown in the region, he is one of the few out-of-region growers to participate in the market, which he does fortnightly almost since the market started, with his very popular lady finger bananas.

Tropical Banana Delight

Serves 4

- 4 lady finger bananas
- 4 passionfruit
- juice of 4 oranges
- low-fat ice-cream or yoghurt (to serve)

Slice ripe bananas into pieces and drizzle with passionfruit and orange juice.

Bake in the oven at 180°C for 10 to 15 minutes or microwave for 3 minutes, or pan cook for 5 minutes on high.

To serve, spoon mixture over low-fat ice-cream or yoghurt.



Local services



WATSON

- **EFTPOS is available - no minimum expenditure required**

- **Free home delivery services**

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FB: www.facebook.com/getwellsorted

Important Contact Details

Police, Fire, Ambulance - 000 (24hrs)

Police Attendance - 13 1444 (24hrs)

Storms and Floods - 13 2500 (24hrs)

Crime Stoppers - 1800 333 000 (8am - 9pm)

Poem

The WCA Inc. are pleased to be able to bring you a poem reproduced from the booklet "Poetry a la Carte" - collected poems by Watson Poets 2016.

Growth

My beans

Scramble away from the earth.

Escaping their birth, they twist little green
fingers

Round the chicken wire trellis

To heave their leaves and flowers

Towards the daily summons of the sun.

J E Smith

To find out more about the Watson Poets, to join, or to obtain a copy of the booklet, contact Fiona McIlroy via email at fionamcilroy@bigpond.com.

Did you know?

There is now a **Buy Nothing gifting group** for Watson and surrounding suburbs.

The group is a good way to pass on things you don't need like excess vegies, old furniture or tiny baby clothes. And you can receive things you might need from around your local area, and meet the neighbours too.

The Buy Nothing project is in many countries and runs on Facebook. There are ten groups in Canberra and anyone over 18 who lives in Watson, can join the local group. The idea behind the Buy Nothing project is to build community through the giving of gifts. Our local group is thriving, with new members joining every day.

Gifts that people are offering to their neighbours include books, basil seedlings and fresh bay leaves, a brand-new letterbox or an antique dollhouse. Everything but the kitchen sink really - although we did have a laundry sink on offer this week.

If you'd like to join just search on Facebook for Buy Nothing Dickson/Watson, ACT and request to join the group. Let the gifting begin!

Local services



Daniel has been a local of Watson his whole life, and brings his expertise to 'The Knox' – by locals, for locals.

Offering brunch 7 days a week, family afternoon teas, a gourmet lunch and dinner menu and, of course, great coffee every day.

Opening hours:

Monday-Wednesday 7:00 am to 4:30 pm

Thursday-Saturday 7:30 to late

Sunday 7:30 am to 3:30 pm

<https://www.facebook.com/theknoxmadeinwatson/>





Canberra Carotel Motel

Relatives coming to visit? Friends or family coming to Canberra for an event?

The Carotel Motel is an ideal place for them to stay. It has a wide variety of room styles that offer affordable, comfortable and convenient accommodation for their stay in Canberra.

Check us out online at www.carotel.com.au or call us on 62411377.

Watson Pharmacy

Pharmacy hours:

Monday to Friday : 9am–6:00pm
Saturday: 9am—1pm

Licensed Post Office & Sub-Newsagency

A selection of affordable gifts & wrapping, greeting cards & stationery items available

Post office hours:

Monday—Friday: 9am—5:30pm

Watson Pharmacy is a Quality Care Accredited Pharmacy and a member of The Pharmacy Guild of Australia. We have many services on offer:

- Pain management
- Webster packs
- Health checks and advice
- Medication checks
- NDSS diabetes scheme

Come in and talk to a Pharmacist to find out WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP YOU.

Phone: (02) 6241 1506



The WCA Inc. particularly wishes to thank the Australian Catholic University (ACU), Signadou Campus in Watson, for printing this Newsletter as a community service.

The Campus has about 1,000 students and is conveniently located 5km from Canberra's city centre.

For more information on courses available please call them on 02 6209 1100—Mon to Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm or visit www.acu.edu.au.

The goings on in Watson (and nearby) ... have you noticed?

- Volunteers were out in force for National Tree Planting Day on 30 July at Mt Majura.
- The Watson shops are getting a new look, with the opening of a Filipino restaurant, Lolo and Lola, mysterious woollen flowers placed outside SupaExpress and replacement of the tiled mural.
- The Australian Catholic University's Canberra campus continued work on its Veritas building, which will feature a library, cafe and a multi-function space, due for completion in June 2018.
- The ACT Government carried out night work on the Gunghalin to City light rail development outside the gate to EPIC market from 23-28 July.
- New fences were erected around Justice Robert Hope Park and kangaroo gates along the Antill Street boundary to the Park.
- The Capital Region Farmers Market released an app - CRFM showing stallholders, news and more.

Watson property sales

Ever wondered about house prices in Watson?

We've compiled a list of Watson sale prices for the period 1 April – 30 June 2017 for you.

Exchange (sold date)	Address	Price =	Type
05/04/2017	5 Dickinson Street	\$920,000	House
13/05/2017	37 Williams Street	\$879,000	House
22/04/2017	25 Blair Street	\$855,000	House
03/06/2017	5 Foster Place	\$850,000	House
13/04/2017	4 Therry Place	\$820,000	House
13/05/2017	47 Molesworth Street	\$745,000	House
30/05/2017	37 Molesworth Street	\$653,000	Land
22/06/2017	23 Bettie Mcnee Street	\$640,000	Townhouse
04/05/2017	438 Antill Street	\$480,000	Townhouse
23/05/2017	400 Antill Street	\$470,000	Townhouse
18/04/2017	412 Antill Street	\$463,000	Townhouse
25/05/2017	146/395 Antill Street	\$427,000	Apartment
28/06/2017	65/21 Aspinall Street	\$360,000	Apartment
01/06/2017	111/20 Federal Highway	\$335,000	Apartment
27/04/2017	50/21 Aspinall Street	\$310,000	Apartment
16/05/2017	9B/109 Knox Street	\$257,500	Apartment
18/04/2017	9/271 Antill Street	\$239,000	Apartment
15/05/2017	6/156 Knox Street	\$239,000	Apartment

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

Woodland Working Group report

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 increase indigenous species of flora and fauna in the park.

It has been an extremely dry last three months since the last good rain in April. The new seedlings planted by the Parks and Conservation Service appear to be surviving well enough, as well as our seedlings planting in the autumn of 2016. John Briggs from our group has been weed-spraying recently. We have noticed that the rabbits have been reinvading the reserve since the last treatment and have recently reopened burrows in the large warren on Antill Street. This makes it necessary to keep guards on all recently planted seedlings.

Want to help protect indigenous flora and fauna?

Native plants

Native plants are attractive, with various shapes, colours and densities, and with the right species you can have a flowering garden all year round. Native plants are easy to grow and are better for the environment, providing habitat for native birds, butterflies and lizards. They are also naturally adapted to suit our conditions, being low maintenance, drought tolerant, requiring minimal water and no fertilisers or pesticides.

Further information is available at actsmart-plantselector.com.au.

Cat containment

The Fair is a designated cat containment area. Residents must confine pet cats to their premises at all times. Further information is available at tccs.act.gov.au/city-living/pets/cats/cat-containment.

Are you interested in the neighbouring bushland, or want to become involved with caring for the Justice Robert Hope Park? Contact Richard Larson (Convenor) on 02 6241 3024.

Watson Woodlands Cultural Awareness Walk

On Sunday, 3 September 2017, the Woodlands Working Group will host a cultural awareness walk in the woodland starting at 2:00 PM and finishing around 3:30 PM. The walk will start at the entrance to the park on Roma Mitchell Crescent and finish where we believe the Hector Hamilton homestead was located in Rooth Place.

The Hamilton family were the last graziers who leased the woodland for cattle raising. A legacy of the grazing period is the extensive areas of introduced Phalaris and clover pasture which we are slowly attempting to overcome in order to encourage native forbs and grasses. This is a difficult process which needs to be managed well. On the walk, we will be discussing plans for a working bee in spring.

Watson Community Survey

continued from page 9

The **development of recreation facilities** was the second most common response. Respondents called for: upgrades to existing play grounds in south Watson; and construction of new play grounds in north Watson. Several suggested facilities be upgraded / developed to appeal to children of all ages, including teenagers. Most of the suggestions were for outdoor recreation facilities, including for adults, and many specific suggestions were received.

The **development of bicycle transport infrastructure** was the third most common response. A large number of respondents called for: widening of existing cycle paths; creation of new cycle paths extending from north Watson to Downer and Dickson via the local shopping centre; and creation of new cycle paths extending to the light rail stop at the top of Phillip Avenue, and the need for secure bike parking at the light rail stop.

2016 Census: Watson getting bigger, more diverse and more charitable

How do you compare to the 'typical' Watsonian¹?

In 2011, the typical Watsonian was a 33-year old female professional. While the rest of us aged five years since then, she has turned just a year older, 34, according to the 2016 Census.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released the official results of its 2016 Census on 27 June 2017. The data shows Watson is getting bigger, with more children and more migrants. It is also becoming more charitable.

- Watson's population grew from 5,123 in 2011 to 5,862 in 2016.
- The proportion of the population aged 0-14 grew from 17.6 % in 2011 to 19 % in 2016.
- The proportion of Watson residents born overseas grew from 30.1 % in 2011 to 32 % in 2016.

Demand for services is increasing as the Watson community continues to grow. Many *Watson Community Survey* respondents identified the need for the ACT Government to plan for increased pressures on Watson's commercial, educational and recreational services. Watson residents also wanted the ACT Government to prioritise the development of walking and bike track connections between the growing north of the suburb with the shops and education services in the south.

Watson has become even more civic-minded over this period of growth. The number of Watsonians who undertook unpaid work with a voluntary organisation increased from 24% in 2011 to 26% in 2016 (above both the national and Canberra averages). If you're one of the many giving people of Watson who'd like to contribute your time, please get in touch with a member of the WCA Inc. (contact details at page 1) to find out about the other ways you can support your community.

¹ Using the [ABS](#) measure of 'typical': the median age and mode of other categories.

Watson Community Survey

The WCA Inc. believes the new developments in north Watson, and the proposals for more are not befitting of modern planning in the ACT. The WCA Inc. will continue to lobby the ACT Legislative Assembly for a master plan for Watson as a suburb in totality, and will draw on the results of the Watson Community Survey to do so.

Question 1: What community facilities are most needed / desirable for Watson?

This question was designed to see if there was commonality in desires. 10 options plus 'other' were offered. The results indicate strong support for public toilets located near the shops, followed closely by parkland (trees and grass). Support was expressed for community vegetable gardens, sporting facilities and more public car parking.

Question 2: How important is it that Watson has safe and convenient pedestrian/bike pathways linking all residents, including north Watson, to public transport and public amenities?

This question deliberately asked respondents to think about the 'importance' regardless of whether they were 'campaigners' for such facilities and amenities, or not. The results show overwhelming support for such pathways, with 178 (72%) respondents rating 10/10.

Question 3: How useful would it be to have a high quality pedestrian/bike axis extending from the northern extreme of Watson (The Fair) to Downer, via Watson shops and Majura Primary School?

This question asked respondents to consider what effect this would have on them, or the suburb, even if they had not previously considered it. The results show very strong support, but with greater distribution of responses: 134 rated 10/10; 15 were ambivalent (5/10) and 13 unsupportive (<5/10).

Question 4: There is a proposal to establish student accommodation at Canberra Technology Park (the old Watson High School site) to service Watson tertiary institutions. What other accommodation do you think would be an asset in this area?

This question sought to inform Watson residents that student accommodation is being sought, and in light of that information, what else they would they consider appropriate at the site. Six options plus 'other' were presented. The results show only 17.7% selected 'none' while almost as many (16.5%) were in favor of supported housing for aged, disabled, disadvantaged. The strongest support (32%) was for a mix of the options presented. The 'other' responses basically supported the general responses.

Question 5: As part of a redevelopment of Canberra Technology Park (the old Watson High School site) other facilities are also being considered. What do you think would most improve this area?

This question was designed to collect further opinions about the space not presently developed. It was deliberately open-ended. Seven options plus 'other' were offered. The results show very strong support for outdoor recreation, children's playground and parkland. Preference for a community hall/meeting place was greater than landscaped gardens and/or a dog park.

Watson Community Survey

continued from page 7

Question 6: How important do you think it is to include public open green space with trees and pathways (similar to that in the existing older areas of Watson) as part of developments in north Watson?

This question was chosen to focus attention on development in north Watson as separate from the 50-year-old planned south (old) Watson. The results show overwhelming support for the inclusion of public open green space and pathways as part of developments in north Watson. Despite two thirds of respondents not living in the north Watson area, the results indicate Watson residents accord great value to the 50-year-old plan.

Question 7: What activities or facilities would you like to see supported in Watson's green spaces?

This question was designed to draw out further responses about present and future green spaces. Six options plus 'other' were offered. The results show very strong support (71%) for greenways which support pedestrian and bicycle travel, and also provide a mix of vegetation (44%), while also acting as wildlife corridors (51%). There was also very strong support for children playgrounds (58%).

Question 8: What specific aspects of Watson do you currently like / dislike?

This question was designed to find further information about what respondents valued in their living precinct, without ANY prompts. Most respondents indicated what aspects they liked **and** disliked. Some respondents provided a short list of likes and dislikes and others provided considerable detail.

Liked

The **open, green spaces** in south Watson were most commonly liked by respondents. Respondents were disappointed this aspect of south Watson had been overlooked in north Watson, giving rise to the disconnect between the two areas of Watson. Comments highlighted 'established trees and tree lined streets', 'leafiness', 'green corridors' and 'bird and wild life' and 'open, green spaces as supporting active lifestyles'.

The **local shopping centre** was the second most commonly liked aspect of Watson. Respondents consistently commented on the 'convenience' and 'range' of the shopping centre on the corner of Knox and Windeyer Streets. While the local shopping centre is liked and supported by respondents, many noted the impact of population growth on the shopping centre and the need for additional shopping facilities, a face lift for the southern building, absence of public toilets and insufficient car parking.

The **sense of community** was the third most commonly liked aspect of Watson. Respondents consistently commented on the friendliness of 'neighbours' and 'passers-by on foot paths', and noted the contribution of the local shopping centre, and efforts by the local preschool, schools and WCA Inc. to building a sense of community.

Watson Community Survey

continued from page 8

Disliked

The **state of play grounds** in Watson (both north and south) was most commonly disliked by respondents. Respondents frequently remarked that play grounds in south Watson were 'old' and 'not well equipped or maintained', and play grounds in north Watson were inadequate – with the Fair having a single swing only. A number expressed the view that Watson's play grounds were poor in comparison to those of neighbouring inner north suburbs.

The **design and development of north Watson** was the second most commonly disliked aspect of Watson. Respondents who resided in north Watson, in particular the Fair, commented on 'inadequate car parking', 'narrow roads', 'congestion' and 'insufficient open, green space'. Another common theme was 'inadequate services' in north Watson. Respondents were critical of the lack of any shopping/cafe facilities in north Watson, with many remarking it is too far to walk to the existing shops. Respondents from both north and south Watson were critical of the disconnect between the two areas of Watson. A number commented on the physical divide between north and south – with no good pathway linking the two either across the centre or via Antill Street.

The **state of the former petrol station site** was the third most commonly disliked aspect of Watson. Comments on the appearance of the site included it is 'ugly', 'an eyesore' and 'a waste land'. The overwhelming opinion was that the site should be developed as a priority. Respondents noted the need to improve the visual amenity of the site and surrounding area; the potential to ease the pressure on the existing local shopping centre; and the need to increase facilities and services commensurate with the growth of Watson.

Question 9: Do you have any further comments – things you would like to see developed in Watson not previously covered in the survey?

This question was designed to give an opportunity to those who believed the questions were too prescriptive or loaded, and/or who wanted to ensure their opinion was voiced. Some respondents provided a short response and others provided considerable detail.

The **development of local shopping services** was the most common response. Respondents typically wanted: renewal and expansion of the existing shopping centre on the corner of Knox and Windeyer Streets, including car parking and public toilets; and development of shopping services in north Watson. Some listed specific shopping services. Many respondents noted shopping services had not grown commensurate with the population growth experienced in Watson and was not within walking distance for some residents, and for those who drove, parking could be difficult to find. Respondents suggested as a minimum for north Watson: a local corner store / independent grocer; and café /coffee shop. Respondents noted that community facilities in north Watson would provide a place to gather and mingle, and would help to build a sense of community. There was overwhelming support for a bakery in the suburb.