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(during opening hours only)

Wed 10am—12pm
Sat 2pm—4pm

DROP BY AND JOIN



THE TUCKERBOX

Hackett



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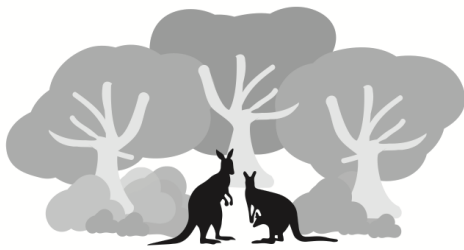
– Opens every Saturday, 2pm to 4pm –

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*).

Those on pensions, are low income families or unemployed will find this service very helpful. As a contribution, we ask a small service fee. Foodbank NSW provides the majority of stock.

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THE WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 104 – Autumn 2020

Message from the Chair

Hello Watson, after an extraordinary summer (for all the wrong reasons) Autumn has arrived, bringing hopefully a chance to regroup, renew and rebuild for thousands of Australians. Considering we were spared the worst of the fires here in Canberra, it felt like we shouldn't complain too much as we endured the smoke, but it has made me appreciate our usual quality of life here even more than before.

One of the few good things to come out of the fires was the generosity and kindness of Aussies to each other and the bonds of community that were strengthened and deepened in adversity. We have a great community here in Watson and community spirit is something the WCA Inc. aims to foster as well as working towards some of the more tangible outcomes related to planning, environment, services and effective engagement with government and other key organisations and agencies.

So, a big shout out to all those regular joes who build community and help others informally and voluntarily in all sorts of ways. Honourable mentions also to Simon Clarke, Fiona Hill-Stein and Megan Mears.

Simon has been very busy over the summer coordinating the Planning subcommittee in their many consultations (see report page 8) and representing the WCA Inc. and your needs and concerns with the Summernats organisers (see report page 6).

Fiona has done a fantastic job the last few years firstly revamping, then editing the Watzon. Due to personal commitments, this edition is Fiona's last. We just know there are people out there who can take on this role – Fiona says it's less complicated than you would think (basic MS Words skills) and just a few hours per quarter.

Continued ...

Autumn events

Enlighten Festival

28 February to 15 March

Canberra Day Public Holiday

Monday 9 March

Skyfire

Saturday 14 March

WCA Inc. Annual General Meeting

Thursday 19 March at 7:30 PM

Australian Running Festival

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 April

Daylight savings ends

2:00 AM Sunday 5 April

National Folk Festival

Thursday 9 April to Monday 13 April

Good Friday Public Holiday

Friday 10 April

Easter Monday Public Holiday

Monday 13 April

Groovin the Moo

Saturday, 25 April

Anzac Day Public Holiday

Monday, 27 April

WCA Inc. Quarterly Meeting

Monday 6 April at 7:30 PM

Mother's Day

Sunday 10 May

Contact us

Deputy Chair

Julie Smith

02 6241 8861

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

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.

The next WCA Inc. quarterly meeting is scheduled for **Monday, 6 April at 7:30 PM** - at the Hall in the Fair on Tay Street, Watson.

All welcome.

Message from the Chair (cont'd)

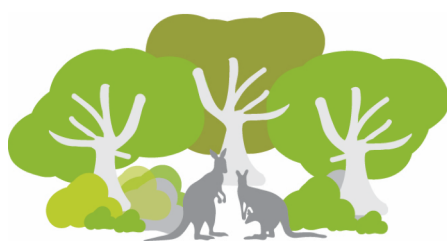
Continued from page 1

Megan's efforts over the last few months have seen the number of engagements on the WCA Inc. Facebook page almost double and it is updated almost daily with information and events of interest to us here.

Speaking of which, there is great excitement over the recent appearance of the endangered regent honeyeater in the Watson woodlands. So much so that we have made him the star of the show at our AGM (details below) where Dr Ross Crates an ornithologist at the ANU will be our guest speaker. Put this very important date in your diary and plan to attend for maximum involvement and participation in the WCA Inc.

This is also my last column as I step down from the Chair role next month. I have learnt such a lot and been wonderfully supported by other committee members, past and present.

Thanks to all - Leonie Watts, Chair



WATSON
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 19 March 2020 at 7:30 PM
@ the Hall in the Fair - Tay Street, Watson
- *All welcome* -

Tea, coffee and a light supper provided

Canberra Music Education School

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Diane London

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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

Wade Street playground ... we want your ideas!

All Play Inner North is a small group of Watson, Downer and Hackett residents campaigning for better recreation spaces in the Inner North. Last year, our petition for a 'destination recreation space' for the Inner North received more than 565 signatures. Rachel Steven-Smith MLA and Shane Rattenbury MLA both spoke in support of the petition, but the government's response was only perfunctory.

Watson is a beautiful place to live. We are blessed with nature reserves close by, numerous parks and easements and of course a wonderful community. But have you ever wondered why newer suburbs in Canberra have cutting edge new playgrounds – and we have small, dated, under-utilised and mostly identical sets of play equipment? Have you ever tried to organise a community event and struggled to find an appropriate local venue? Ever wanted to take a picnic to your local park and found there is not enough shade, shelter or inviting space to sit? Do you have a kid who would just love a little pump track close to home? Or perhaps you've thought that Watson's beautiful gum trees could be complemented by some native plants that help regulate the local climate and provide habitat for birds, bees and other animals?

Yes, the government is upgrading some inner north playgrounds – but this amounts to replacing the bark-chips and repairing dilapidated equipment. It will not provide the sort of all ages play space that is so crucial for children's development, and for building community. New suburbs have a generous government budget for creating recreation spaces while older suburbs like Watson do not, despite the sale of prime Inner North public land (like the Downer Primary School) to developers. This translates to inequality of access to recreation spaces across the ACT.

All Play Inner North wants a new, integrated, multi-age and multi-use play space in Dickson. Dickson is a community hub which is sorely in need of better amenities, especially as population density in the inner north increases. Its proximity to shops, light rail and bike paths mean it is a prime area for community recreation space.

But we are also looking at opportunities for more local, community-led improvements to public spaces. In Watson, we want to upgrade the Wade Street Playground and surrounding parkland (situated between Woolcock and Wade Streets). We are inspired by the success of the proposed Cole Street Park upgrade in Downer, which last year crowd-funded more than \$20,000. Cole Street Park works will start in April 2020. Upgrades to the Wade Street park could include a micro-forest (providing temperature regulation, habitat, community amenity and carbon sequestration), nature and loose parts play equipment, kids pump track, park benches, BBQ and other facilities.

The possibilities are endless and we want your ideas! Do you use the Wade Street park? What do you like about it? How could it be improved? Please send your thoughts to allplayinnorth@gmail.com by 31 March 2020 and stay tuned for more developments. You can also visit the All Play Inner North Facebook page to get involved in our campaign for a new Dickson recreation space.

All Play Inner North

Woodlands Working Group

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.



Our very own Regent Honeyeater - photograph credit Shorty Westlin

In January bird enthusiasts and other naturalists had a fabulous New Year treat with the visitation to the Watson Woodland of a **Regent Honeyeater**. This nationally Critically Endangered bird species was last seen in the vicinity of the woodland about 25 years ago when four breeding pairs were recorded near the current Solstice residential development. According to records on eBird, the recent Regent Honeyeater was first sighted on 13 January, and stayed until at least 21 January.

This species was once quite common and widespread across inland and coastal woodlands of New South Wales and Victoria - and extended as far west as Adelaide and north beyond Brisbane. It has now greatly contracted in its range and abundance due to the clearing and fragmentation of so much of its former woodland habitat. The only known remaining breeding sites are in the Capertee Valley, Hunter Valley and Bundarra-Barraba areas in New South Wales and near Chiltern in north-east Victoria.

Woodlands Working Group (cont'd)

In 2010, it was estimated that there were less than 400 mature birds surviving. It is thus a rare and special event to have one of these birds travelling so far from one of the core refuge areas and living in our woodland for over a week.

During the bird's presence in the woodland dozens of interested people from all over Canberra came each day to witness this rare event. Congratulations to the very observant bird enthusiast who first spotted this individual.

Whilst the bird was here, it primarily fed on the nectar of one large mature flowering Yellow Box tree. This demonstrates how important just one particular tree can be to a bird species. There was a similar demonstration of this fact a few years ago when a flock of the nationally Critically Endangered Swift Parrot fed on a single large mature flowering Bundy tree for about a month on the lower slopes of Mount Majura.

The loss of potential Regent Honeyeater habitat was one of the reasons the WCA Inc. and many others in the community objected to the new housing development being constructed on the north side of Negus Crescent adjoining the Watson Woodlands. Disappointingly, because at that time it had been about 20 years since the species had last used this area this was not considered by the decision makers as strong enough reason to protect that woodland, which sadly has now been totally destroyed.

The recent return of the Regent Honeyeater to the Watson Woodland now makes the decision to approve the clearing of those large mature Yellow Box trees adjoining the Watson Woodland even more regrettable and demonstrates why protection of known habitat for a threatened species should be given more weight than what a consultant might or might not happen to see at the time they undertake their surveys. The reappearance of the Regent Honeyeater in Watson Woodland will hopefully give our case for protecting and enhancing the Yellow Box woodland in that part of the Hackett horse paddocks that connects the Watson Woodland with the Mount Majura section of the Canberra Nature Park system.

Small flocks of the nationally threatened Superb Parrot have again frequented the Watson Woodland this summer, further highlighting the importance of this habitat and surrounding woodland to some special (and rare) bird species.

John Briggs
Watson Woodlands Working Group Convenor

Recipe

This recipe comes from the “*Capital Region Farmers Market (CRFM) Recipe Book*”, published in 2014.

Tomato and basil bruschetta

3 vine-ripened **tomatoes**

1 **red onion**

1 small bunch **basil**

100 ml **olive oil**

salt and **pepper**

2 **garlic cloves**

1 **bread stick**

This bruschetta is delicious with Frugii’s olive oil ice-cream

Quarter the tomato and remove the seeds.
Finely dice the onion and finely slice the basil.

Add a little oil and salt and pepper to taste.
Slice bread to desired size, rub with garlic and place in the oven for about 20 minutes on low.

Heat until dried.

Place a small amount of mix on the toast and top with Frugii’s olive oil ice-cream.



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See www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/

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.

The bushfire that burnt down our forests can also ignite our passion for our homeland

The widespread bushfires over the summer months have ignited young people's passion for protecting the natural environment in their suburb. Living Streets Association (LSA) has once again cooperated with university design students from Taiwan and launched two collaborative projects:

1. Block section 74 natural playground proposal
2. 'Welcome to Watson' video production.

These two projects are planned to be completed in a six-month period and follow the objective of LSA which aims to foster the sustainable development of community culture and the natural environment.

The design team consisted of both landscape design and industrial design students. The design teacher proposed a natural playground at section 74 Watson that would act as the gateway to this children friendly city as well as providing an option for community green space use. The masterplan and the play equipment designs were proposed by the design students after receiving a guided tour around the community from the LSA Youth. LSA Youth also assisted the students by providing their translation and communication skills so they can engage with residents. They will also be holding a consultation session and project exhibition later this year in winter.

In addition, the 'Welcome to Watson' video will illustrate the beauty of Watson through recording the interaction between people and the environment, as well as by interviewing the residents, who can introduce the beautiful people, places and things in Watson from their different perspectives. Viewers would not only see the natural ecology of Watson, but also understand that what we have is the result of the efforts of many people. Currently, the filming locations and content include Majura Primary School, The Knox, Justice Robert Hope Park, The Pottery Centre, birds and wildlife and Mount Majura.

This video production will also continue for half a year. If you want to share the beauty of Watson, a favourite place or your happiest memory about Watson, you are welcome to leave a message on the Living Streets Association Facebook page or the WCA Inc. Facebook page, and our interview crew will contact you.

Living Streets Association

Helping our native wildlife

It has been a difficult few months. Human and non-human animals have suffered immensely. Experts estimate that over a billion Australian native animals died in the bushfires across the east coast of Australia during December-January. One of the few good things that has come from the fires is a new appreciation of Australia's unique native animals, and their vulnerability. It may be too late to save some species. Together with the drought, and clearing of bush habitats for agriculture or urban development, many species will struggle to recover and repopulate.

However, it is heartening to see concerted efforts to support the volunteers and communities trying to rescue, treat and rehabilitate injured wildlife. Animals Australia details six things Aussies can do to help wildlife right now.

1. Leave water out
2. Keep dogs and cats indoors
3. Cover your pool
4. Keep an eye out for heat-stressed wildlife
5. Share your fruit trees with hungry wildlife
6. Know what to do if you find distressed or injured wildlife.

For further information see <https://www.animalsaustralia.org/features/summer-wildlife.php>.

In the drought conditions we have been experiencing, water for our wildlife is crucial. Putting out water is the least we can do in such extraordinarily dry conditions. In fact, an initiative called 'water for wildlife' has spread throughout communities in eastern Australia. With long term forecasts of less rainfall and more extreme weather events such as droughts, it is wonderful to see such initiatives take off. Many of you will have seen this happening around Watson too.

Feeding wildlife is generally frowned upon by wildlife experts and wildlife rescue groups. Feeding wildlife can do much harm. It can make wildlife dependent on humans, and more vulnerable to predators. It can also amount to feeding wildlife on junk food. Not usually a good thing.

However, in the current circumstances, many consider it warranted. In NSW and Victoria, governments are joining wildlife rescue groups in putting out suitable food for endangered or vulnerable species.

As a volunteer with a local wildlife rescue group, I have put together some information about watering and feeding our wildlife.

Water

Water is the essence of life. Putting out fresh water in suitable containers – some high, some low - is crucial. Different types of animals may do best with different size and shape of containers. It is important to ensure the various creatures can get out of the water container and not drown. Leaving large rocks or sticks in the water container can help prevent this. The ACT group 'Water our Wildlife' (WOW) has a Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1320302384840355/about/> where you can register your container and work with other people to ensure our wildlife have good access to fresh water. Nearly 6,000 people have joined since WOW was formed late in December 2019.

Continued ... Page 10

Local services



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.

Summernats 2020

I think it's time!

This year, I stepped in as the WCA Inc. representative at Summernats control group meetings. It was an eye-opening experience.

After asking for your feedback on the WCA Inc. FaceBook page, I was deluged with comments about traffic, burn-outs smoke, breathing issues, noise, fire and evacuation issues, and anti-social behaviour.

I raised these issues at the control group meetings on the Friday and Saturday evening during the event and found the response was either “that’s the way the event is” or “it’s not our problem.” As the WCA Inc. representative, I felt I was there as window dressing – not to be actively listened to, and issues addressed.

I was left with the conviction that it’s time Summernats went elsewhere - EPIC is no longer a suitable location.

Summernats fills a need for a national show for this enthusiast group however a site, in the middle of summer, which is so suburban (and getting more so) is not the right spot. I had many reasons for coming to this conclusion and am drafting a letter which tries to pick up the feedback I received.

I hope to post it on the WCA FB page and seek community support and feedback. Stay tuned!

Simon Clarke, WCA Inc. committee member

Poem

Wings

Oh to have wings
And not be bound by gates and fences
Traffic lights or the 9 to 5 commute

To spread one's wings and freely fly
From tree to tree
Like screeching cockies

Gathering and squawking in evening's haze
Or gang gangs
Winging their way to crunch acacia seeds

Oh to have wings
To flit and dart, swoop and soar
Wings, a bird's ode to freedom.

*David Turbayne
Majura Café Poets*

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Helping our native wildlife (cont'd from page 5)

Food

In the present extreme heat and drought conditions, it can be helpful to offer food. Offer only small amounts at first and increase if accepted. Put food away from roads, preferably in shade, close to animal pathways, and among small trees to reduce risk from predators. Feed birds off the ground on an elevated surface near water.

Here are some foods that rescue organisations put out:

For birds

- Wild bird seed
- Cut up stone fruits such as apricots and peaches.

For wallabies, wombats, kangaroos, possums, gliders, etc

- Cut up apples, carrots and sweet potatoes
- Meadow hay, fresh pulled grass
- Economix/oldtimers (pellets).

Shinglebacks, blue tongues and echidnas do okay with insects but appreciate a water bowl to drink from and soak in.

If you come across injured or orphaned wildlife, take time to observe the animal's movements, to help assessment by wildlife rescuers (see contact list). Remember most Australian wildlife is legally protected and you need a licence to keep native animals.

Helping out

If you would like to help a wildlife rescue group, there are many ways you can. People offer diverse talents in sewing pouches for orphaned joeys, organising fundraisers and/or using art and craft skills to create beautiful wildlife art and crafts. Some do pickup and drop-offs of rescued animals to carers or vets, or deliver food and water containers to burnt properties. Other volunteers operate the helplines offered by wildlife groups to members of the public seeking advice on injured wildlife. Training is offered where needed. If you would like to volunteer – see opposite. Many such groups also can be found on Facebook.

Don't be shy, there are lots of ways to help, and lots of help needed.

*Julie Smith
Deputy Chair, WCA Inc.*

WILDLIFE RESCUE CONTACT LIST

Animals Australia

<https://www.animalsaustralia.org/features/summer-wildlife.php>

WIRES

<https://www.wires.org.au/wildlife-info/wildlife-factsheets/water-for-wildlife>

If you find an injured animal in the ACT please call:

ACT Wildlife 0432 300 033 or RSPCA Wildlife 6287 8100

For injured native animals outside the ACT

Wildcare Queanbeyan - Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Wamboin & Mac's Reef Road areas - 6299 1966

NARG (Native Animal Rescue Group) - Braidwood area - 4846 1900

WIRES (Wildlife Info & Rescue Services) Southern Tablelands - Goulbourn to King's Highway including Mt Fairy, Boro & Barnet area - 4822 3888

Wildlife Rescue South Coast for Kiama to Batemans Bay - 0418 427 214. For Mogo to the Victorian border - 0417 238 921

L.A.O.K.O (Looking After our Kosciuzsko Orphans) - Snowy Mountains - 6456 1313

Injured or sick wildlife can also be taken to veterinarians who will treat or euthanise them without charge.

Watson property sales

Ever wondered about house prices in Watson?

We've compiled a list of Watson sale prices for the period 1 October – 31 December 2019 for you.

Exchange (sold date)	Address	Price	Type
07/12/2019	5 Stow Place	\$1,215,000	House
01/10/2019	30 Irvine Street	\$1,200,000	House
30/11/2019	43 Roma Mitchell Crescent	\$1,175,888	House
12/11/2019	7 Foster Place	\$1,100,000	House
09/11/2019	10 Dobbie Place	\$1,000,000	House
19/10/2019	11 Holroyd Street	\$951,000	House
07/12/2019	1/38 Cullen Street	\$922,000	House
06/12/2019	2 Flos Greig Street	\$920,000	House
12/12/2019	51 Mary Kitson Street	\$910,000	House
22/11/2019	22 Kilduff Street	\$892,000	House
25/10/2019	44 Piddington Street	\$880,000	House
04/12/2019	3 Dowling Street	\$865,000	House
09/11/2019	46 Molesworth Street	\$820,000	House
02/11/2019	4 Manning Street	\$787,000	House
25/10/2019	7 Hanson Place	\$740,000	House
26/11/2019	15 Whitmore Crescent	\$499,000	House
21/11/2019	95 Tay Street	\$480,000	House
18/11/2019	26 Kilduff Street	\$410,000	Land
25/10/2019	229 Aspinall Street	\$712,000	Townhouse
06/11/2019	11 Bettie McNee Street	\$696,700	Townhouse
18/12/2019	30/10 Federal Highway	\$475,000	Townhouse
23/10/2019	12/25 Aspinall Street	\$466,000	Townhouse
02/10/2019	129/395 Antill Street	\$465,000	Apartment
12/12/2019	4/23 Aspinall Street	\$400,000	Apartment
06/12/2019	80/20 Federal Highway	\$357,000	Apartment
22/11/2019	47/35 Tay Street	\$346,500	Apartment
15/10/2019	7/18 Whitmore Crescent	\$338,000	Apartment
25/11/2019	3/156 Knox Street	\$293,000	Apartment
20/12/2019	6/27 Ian Nicol Street	\$285,000	Apartment
11/10/2019	14/10 Federal Highway	\$480,000	Unit

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

Planning Sub-Committee report

What do we achieve?

This is a perennial question for community and pressure groups the world over. The short answer is “we don’t really know.” This may seem like a cop-out from accountability but I think it’s true.

Governments and developers are not likely to come back to us and tell us “We were wrong! We’ll rejig our approach and do it your way!” Public pressure needs to measure results in the big picture, not only on individual campaigns.

I firmly believe we have laid the groundwork to influence change. Our “New Plan for Watson” clearly sets out what we want; our meetings with ministers, MLA’s and senior public servants have established relationships and enhanced the WCA Inc.’s already impressive credibility; while our meetings (open to all) have been exploring options and innovative approaches being taken in other areas or proposed for Watson.

The continued feedback I get from our meetings is that the WCA Inc. is a respected and powerful voice in and for our Watson community and our wider ACT community.

Our aim always should be development which is sustainable, environmentally positive, enhances community, is human in scale and fits into the existing Watson “liveability,” of which we are, justifiably proud and committed to protect.

Our last meeting in 2019, we looked at the model of ‘co-housing’ and whether it might fit our suburb. If you’re not sure about ‘co-housing’ try Googling it or Google the Nightingale Project in Melbourne. We liked it as a possible PART of a housing mix.

In January, Terry Shaw outlined for us a proposal for the Kamberra site. This site stretches from Flemington Road along the north side of the Federal Highway to the Vet hospital (corner Federal and Barton Highways). It is a long thin site but runs to over 12 Ha, so its future may have implications for our Blocks 74 and 76. The current proposal is for a re-zoning application. While we really liked their concept for the site; it ticked most of the boxes listed above; the WCA Inc. has questions about the community value and validity of a developer buying a site with one zoning designation, then seeking to have it re-zoned so that it is a much higher value site.

At our next meeting, we hope to have a guest speaker to talk to us about the idea of “Town Teams”, another “value adding” community initiative. The date for this meeting is not yet set but will be publicised on the WCA Inc. Facebook page so join us there.

If you have a planning issue you wish to raise please contact me at planning2602@gmail.com. I try to access this page on a weekly basis and will get back to you.

*Best wishes to all,
Simon Clarke, Chair*

Hints for your autumn garden

Make some black gold this autumn

In the garden, autumn is the time for planning. It's the last chance to do all the set up and preparation before bunking down for winter and hoping, come spring, you see the pay off. That's a lot of pressure. But there is one autumn job that produces far more than you put in - it's composting.

Starting a compost pile is an even better idea than a Saturday morning dim sim or two from the Watson Take Away. It turns your garden and vegetable scraps which would otherwise go into landfill into rich organic matter which adds nutrients to your soil and helps it to retain water. It's like turning trash into treasure.

The key to composting is balancing green matter with 'brown' or carbon matter, such as dried leaves, shredded paper or cardboard. To be able to heat up and break down quickly, compost needs to be large enough (a pile 1 meter square or a full bin), aerated by turning and kept slightly damp. Then, in as little as 6 weeks you will have dark, crumbly, black gold to dig into any garden bed.

If you have the scraps but not the space check out the 'Share Waste' app that connects neighbors keen to exchange material for composting - it's already been embraced in Watson.

In addition to building up soil with compost, this autumn I'm planting a green manure crop of lupins, clover and broad beans in one garden bed which will be cut and dug in to add nitrogen to the soil before spring planting. Another whole bed will be dedicated to growing garlic - a long term commitment that will only be ready by December. I've already stashed away the largest cloves from last year and from the farmers' markets to hopefully grow bigger bulbs this year. I'm also getting a head start by planting wintery veggies such as broad beans, brassicas, lettuces and spinach and spring flowers like violas, poppies, sweet peas and bulbs well before the frosts.

Happy composting!

Silvie Eckhardt



Did you know ...

There is a collection point for plastic milk bottle tops here in Watson!

See the large bin in the green belt park which runs from the lower to upper end of Irvine Street. The bottle tops will be used to make prosthetics for children.

More details are on the side of the bin.

And, thank you to the Watson resident who initiated this collection point.