



THE WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 109 – Spring 2021

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The distribution of this issue was postponed due to Covid-19 Lockdown. We apologise for any out of date advertisements/ items.



Acknowledgement of Country The Watson Community Association Inc. would like to acknowledge the Ngunawal and Ngambri people, who are the traditional custodians of the land on which Watzon is created. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We would also like to acknowledge other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may be reading Watzon today.



WCA1inc



watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com



Just in Case

By Julie Smith

As we are preparing for this issue's final draft, a seven-day lockdown commences in the ACT. In addition to the useful contacts on page 19, we thought you might find the following information useful in these unprecedented times.

COVID-19 Helpline (02) 6207 7244 operates between 8am and 8pm daily. The following lines offer practical advice for businesses operating through changed arrangements due to COVID-19:

 Have a question? Looking for advice?	▶ Access Canberra Business Liaison Line – 6205 0900 Advice about operating in a COVID safe environment	▶ Canberra Business Advice and Support Service – 6297 3121 Tailored advice for ACT businesses impacted by COVID-19
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Please visit the *Community Services and Support* website for more information:

<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/connect-in-canberra/Community-Services-and-Support>



in relation to support around food and essential supplies, hardship isolation payment, support for multicultural community and temporary visa holders, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Peoples etc.

FYI Red Cross offers a Wellbeing Call service to call once off or regularly to check-in and see how you are doing. To register for a call- call (02) 6234 7630 between 8am and 4pm weekdays. Stay safe! ✨

(Last updated: 12 Aug 2021)

Greetings, Watson residents!

By Petra Lean

As the new Chair of the Watson Community Association, I'd like to welcome you to the 109th edition of the WATZON.

How quickly things change. As I write this, we are in day 3 of the lockdown, which we have just been told has been extended. At this stage we don't know when we will be able to deliver this newsletter to you.

We do know however that we are grateful for all Watson residents who support the community, be it by working long hours in the health sector, in schools, in shops and other frontline positions, or by checking on their neighbours, and helping those that need support. This situation is tough on all, though tougher on some. We are thinking of the parents working from home plus supporting their children and those on their own. There is support if you need it – see p.2 and 19 for more.



My family moved to Watson in the late 1980s and I couldn't think of a better place to live. We have copious green spaces and easy access to Mount Majura, and the people who live here are amazing. We know our neighbours and we look after each other, which is so important, especially in these trying times. And some, whom we met when they were kids have now come back to Watson with their own family. I look forward to watching their kids learn to ride a bike in the local park.

Watson is an active neighbourhood, with a lot of people engaged in the issues affecting the community. At the last AGM we said goodbye to a number of Committee members. I'd like to give a big Thank You for their enthusiastic and hard work to Megan Mears, Carrie Wright and Liz Adcock. We also thank our outgoing editor Celia Lindsay for her contribution, and welcome our new editor Nora Chan.

Since its inception in 1990, WCA has been a platform for everyone living in Watson to connect, socialize, exchange ideas and contribute to the quality of life in our beautiful suburb. We currently have about 300 members. We have active working groups that always welcome new members. Simon Clark and John Briggs are the leads of our *Planning Group* and *Woodlands Group* respectively. You can email us at watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com to get in touch with them. In addition, there is a group called *Watson Micro-Forest Project*- check out their website watsonmicroforest.com for details.

Alternatively, you can help up distribute this newsletter. Other than working groups, we also organise social gatherings such as the 'Welcome to Watson' at The Knox café, publish the quarterly WATZON newsletter, and raise issues of community interest through our Facebook page.

Please also consider joining the association too. The membership form is on the back cover of this issue. *

Note From The Editor

By Nora Chan



After moving to Watson earlier this year, I was first introduced to the Watson newsletter in May. With heavy rainfall on that day, the newsletter in my mailbox almost turned into pulp. It was my partner Dan who took it out of the mailbox. Instead of throwing it

straight into the recycling bin, he kept it instead, as he thought I might be interested in having a read. So, this is how it all started.

Best wishes to our previous editor Celia, who moved to the southside of Canberra. With her absence, I had the opportunity to have a crack at the editor role. I'm grateful that I have free time to make my little contribution towards a neighbourhood I love. I believe contribution comes in many shapes and form. There are many ways to contribute to our beloved community. Mr Peter Humphries was one of my beloved lecturers from my social work study. He inspired me to think community. I don't think I'd ever consider becoming the editor of my local community newsletter without his inspiration. Thank you, Peter!

I hope you and your family are staying safe. Hopefully this edition comes as a welcome read during the long days of being under lock down. I'm still getting a hang of this editor role and I always welcome new ideas into Watson to share with you all. Please be in touch watsoneditor@gmail.com if you have any great ideas. ❀

CALL TO ACTION!

Content moderator for our upcoming webpage

By Leonie Watts

With more and more happening in our suburb and community, WCA is looking for help with the ever-growing task of media and communications. Would you like to help with populating and managing information for our upcoming WCA website? With our website currently under construction, we are looking for a content moderator to work collaboratively with WCA committee to put together and manage content of our webpage.

The moderator would work with a WCA committee member to combine relevant existing content and new content, and manage the website for any issues, additional pages required or changes. Please let us know if you're interested. Don't forget to check out our Facebook page in the meantime. Let us know if you have something that you think would be an informative or interesting for the page. ✿

Welcome To Watson Event

By Aileen Conroy

We welcomed eight new neighbours with warm Knox drinks and friendly chatter on Sunday 20 June. Everyone received their invitation in Watson and two newcomers offered to help deliver it! Fiona and Cynthia from Majura Poets recited two of their creations; WCA chairperson Megan encouraged everyone to attend our upcoming AGM; Catherine told us about the wonderful projects Soroptimists support; Kirsty explained the Holy Cross Tuckerbox which provides food for those with budget constraints every Saturday. We welcomed a young family from Sydney into Molesworth Street, two new families swapped hints about their builder on Ehrlich Circuit (near Carotel) and a couple from Aspinall Street knew heaps about birds and enjoyed immersing in Watson's 'nature appreciating culture'. ✿



WELCOME TO WATSON

**Please
join us**

The Watson Community Association Inc. invites newcomers to Watson to a casual, free event!

Friendly locals are also invited to welcome our new neighbours

Sun 7 Nov 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

Planning Group Report

By Simon Clarke

Sometimes no news is good news, BUT this time it's just no news is no news. The latest advice from the ACT Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate is that there is nothing new they can share with us at this time. What we do know is that the Block 76 work has been slowed as soil sampling showed the presence of heavy metals in the soil. These are believed to be of natural origin, however they are conducting soil sampling to be sure and to see what further action, if any, is required. We will keep monitoring the situation.

Demolition work has commenced on the Academy of Interactive Entertainment (AIE)/Old Watson HS site. While this is a forward step, the plans are still with the relevant authorities and changes could happen. I suspect that the published plans will go ahead – both government and AIE have too much invested in this.

The North Canberra Community Council has been involved in meetings regarding the proposed new planning framework for the ACT. The feedback at this stage is not promising with enormous dissatisfaction about the ability of the new framework to benefit the community, rather than developers. The process has engendered “much frustration and cynicism in the community about the quality, sincerity and intent of community consultation.” This disquiet is echoed by the other community councils who have been involved.

The development work for the new Coles Dickson shopping complex has begun. It's not Watson, but it will affect most of us. The WCA, along with the Dickson Residents Group and others, have expressed our dismay at the poor communication displayed by the project, especially in regards to parking and road closures. We got little positive response. What we got can be summed up as “Here is our communication strategy. It was signed off by Planning. That's all we need to do!” Very unsatisfactory but we have no real recourse at this stage.

Finally, the Planning Working Group is getting a lot of feedback about issues with new builds. Specifically, around drainage, building quality, problems with body corporates, parking and building certification. If you have had these issues in the last two or three years, we would love to hear from you. Please email me with details. ✨

Thank you ACU!



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

2021 ACU Blackfriars Lecture Series: Health and Wellbeing

Tuesday 14 Sept	AGEING WELL: FLOURISHING OR SURVIVING ADJUNCT PROF. STEPHEN CORNELISSEN, GROUP CEO, MERCY HEALTH
Tuesday 26 Oct	HOW DOES SOCIAL CAPITAL ENHANCE HEALTH AND WELLBEING? DR URSULA STEVENS, CEO, CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA

Venue: Level one, 301.1.20, Veritas Building, ACU, 223 Antill Street, Watson
To register, please email OCD.Canberra@acu.edu.au

Majura Café Poets

Fruit

the fruit of our labours
is on the page, in the air
at the table
whenever it lands

when it falls from the tree
ripe, bruised, or not quite
ready

take out poetry in your hands

savour the unique local
flavours
Soak up the creative juices
of our minds
from the climactic year

By Fiona McIlroy

*Adapted from
2020 Toast To Poetry: Collected Poems by Majura Café Poets*

Have you met Geoff?

Geoff Murray-Prior is an octogenarian who, while hoping for a career in astronomy, instead started in the embryonic computer industry in the early 1960s. Specialising in computer programming, he had training assignments in NZ and Asia, and software development assignments in both Europe and the USA. Geoff was transferred to Newcastle for what was a highly successful multi-year IT project. However, the biggest success to come from that project was meeting and marrying Gillian.

Geoff and Gillian's lifestyle then overtook Geoff's career goals, and they moved to a farm in the Canberra region, and bred Angora goats. Geoff was a member of various IT industry groups as well as Government agricultural sub-committees and he liaised with the Agriculture Department to facilitate genetic importations as well as legislation providing research funding.



They moved to Watson in 2008 and Geoff finally permanently retired in 2017. The couple are kinship carers to granddaughter Kirily, who is a member of the Living Streets group.

Geoff was the initial Chair of the WCA Planning Group which developed the *“Plan for the Sustainable Development of Watson”*. He is also a kinship carer representative on the Child and Youth Protection Services Carer Wellbeing Sub-Committee.

He believes that as Watson is the gateway to Canberra, it should be an immediate and obvious reflection of Canberra's growing history of innovative and sustainable development. *

Watz In A Name- Part 1 of 2

From Petra Lean

We researched the origin of Watson street names back at the beginning of the century, and the old ACT Government website gave us the following information:

Being one of the older suburbs in Canberra, Watson was gazetted in 1960, together with Hackett and Downer, but well after Ainslie (1928).

Watson is named after John Christian Watson (1867-1941). He is the third Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, and the first Labour Prime Minister of the Commonwealth (April-August 1904). He was prominent in the Labour movement from 1893



onwards, and was elected the President of the Sydney Trades and Labour Council at the age of twenty-six. Later on, he was elected to Federal Parliament 1901 and appointed Leader of the Labour Party.



To look up Canberra's suburb and street names https://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools-resources/place_names/place-name-search

Marie's Insight

From Megan Mears

We were delighted that Marie Coleman AO PSM agreed to speak at our Annual General Meeting on 24 Jun 21. Marie is a distinguished Australian, being the first Australian woman to head a national statutory authority during the 1970s. Throughout her career, Marie has received recognition for her service to government, society and the advancement of women. She is particularly proud of her work for the Council for Single Mothers and Children. Until then, the only choice for many unmarried mothers was forced adoption.



Marie told us of her long interest in civil society issues. She grew up in rural NSW, where if you wanted to play tennis, you formed an association and you built the tennis court. From the days when Marie had young children, she became involved in baby health care, pre-schools, primary schools and she saw a lot of value in the civil society traditions for social capital to be built. Marie described the expansion of Federal funding in the 1960s, which supported strong growth in these areas. From the 1980s onwards, many of these areas have diminished, due to funding cuts and Marie wondered if this contributed to the sense of isolation, we hear about so often. She said, "There's a need for growth of groups who build social capital." Marie complimented the WCA for the way it supports its working groups, such as the the micro-forest project. Marie is also encouraged by new network formulations made possible through social media. She described her sense of awe about how a Canberra artist created a beautiful cover for her garden pond- for free - only possible due to social media. Marie also mentioned the number of her neighbours who have checked in on her, in person, since the start of the pandemic, and yes her suburb is Watson! ✿

Read more about Marie's contribution to Australian society:

- *National Foundation For Australian Women- Our Champions* <https://nfaw.org/our-champions/>



The Spirit Behind Mary Kitson Park

From Cathy Lin



Watsoners who have been in this suburb long enough will know that many of the parks have gone through wonderful transformations. One of these parks is the Mary Kitson Park in Majura Rise. It is all thanks to a group of silent contributors who give by example, inspiring many others to also care for the communal space. The young people of *Living Streets Associations* met with these volunteers to get a behind-the-scenes story of the work that goes into the park garden creation and maintenance.

We first talked with Keith and Pam who told us that a few years ago, “the park was overgrown with a lot of weeds up to a metre high, and no one was using it.” Thus, they set to work, spending time, money, and labour to maintain the garden. Pam persistently put pressure on the government to come and mow regularly, whereas Keith put in a row of agapanthus along the path, and together, they planted some other trees like the Kurrajong to create a well-shaded area in the future. Others joined in to help, including Brodie, Anna and Keith with their granddaughters, Peter, Geoff, Monica and Mark- the loose team grows! They care for all of these plants by watering with their hose, fertilising, and putting in mulch. Keith and Pam are

constantly working towards their goal of creating a common for people to meet and play. “If we show by example, then when we are no longer here, we hope that other people can just continue to keep it a lovely area for people to meet and be together.”

Eight years ago, shortly after his daughter was born, Brodie planted the Peppercorn tree behind the bench that overlooks the playground. Brodie and his partner Lisa had wanted to shield the bench from the harsh, beating sun, and remove the spiky bushes that were uncomfortable to sit amongst. He dug three holes around the tree and filled them with sand and gravel so that they can become pockets of water that encourage the roots to grow away from the playground. Brodie says, “I’d like to think people can... see a corner of the park and... get an inspiration to dig their own holes and plant their own plants, perpetuating the beauty in the park.”

During the lockdowns in Canberra, Monica and Mark got to know a lot of the neighbours who took interest in the park. They realised that “a common focus on caring for this space and making it welcoming and inviting would be a great way to keep people connected at a time when it was easy for people to be isolated from each other.” They got to work on the corner entrance of the park by clearing the space, putting down newspaper and bark to stop the weeds, and planting flowers like tulips, daffodils and daisies. Now Keith and Brodie will water the flowers, but Monica and Mark continue to look out for any weeds that pop their heads through the bark. As they say, it is a “team effort”!

Despite the dull sunless afternoon, everyone at the park was warmed by each other's stories of giving and volunteering. The young people could see the huge impact of leading by example, and how the garden fairies of Mary Kitson Park had beautified the space through their unceasing care. The older volunteers were happy to meet the lovely young people and witness their teamwork to share these community stories. Thank you to Patrick and Nat for doing an amazing job with interviewing our volunteers, and thank you to everyone else involved, who have demonstrated a wonderful example of how a friendly neighbourhood is established. ✨

 livingstreetsassociation@gmail.com

 www.facebook.com/Living-Streets-Association

 [living.streets.association](https://www.instagram.com/living.streets.association)

Watson Property Sales

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

37/21 Aspinall Street	\$425,000	16/14 Federal Highway	\$660,000
40/15 Aspinall Street	\$490,000	1A/111 Knox Street	\$220,000
7/35 Tay Street	\$481,000	2 Holroyd Street	\$1,270,000
1 Mabel Miller Lane	\$462,000	2 Piddington Street	\$1,662,000
1/109 Knox Street	\$235,000	2/25 Aspinall Street	\$771,000
11 Blair Street	\$1,260,000	215 Aspinall Street	\$771,000
11 Woolcock Street	\$1,790,000	24 Kerferd Street	\$1,300,000
11B/109 Knox Street	\$218,000	25 Manning Street	\$1,200,250
123/395 Antill Street	\$765,000	26/109 Knox Street	\$218,000
16 Phippard Court	\$945,000	28/35 Tay Street	\$345,000
2C/6 Irvine Street	\$240,000	4 Rooth Place	\$1,455,500
3/23 Tay Street	\$372,000	40/15 Aspinall Street	\$490,000
36 Irvine Street	\$1,300,000	41/14 Federal Highway	\$662,000
38/35 Tay Street	\$350,000	41/21 Aspinall Street	\$293,000
3A/111 Knox Street	\$235,000	420 Antill Street	\$620,000
48/21 Aspinall Street	\$455,000	57a Williams Street	\$1,100,000
49/21 Aspinall Street	\$422,000	67 Roma Mitchell Crescent	\$1,415,000
49/23 Aspinall Street	\$527,500	7 Manning Street	\$1,440,000
5/20 Federal Highway	\$412,000	7/35 Tay Street	\$481,000
56 Shewcroft Street	\$1,400,000	75 Whitmore Crescent	\$570,000
8/62 Knox Street	\$323,000	Negus Crescent	\$689,900
9/23 Tay Street	\$435,000	Negus Crescent	\$749,000

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the service for yourself!

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**At the Knox we are for
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Dinner

Tuesday-Saturday from 4:00 pm

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Canberra Music Education School

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 \$42 per half hour

**Enquiries - contact Diane
on 0414 788 380**

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Professional Organiser 

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your office, your life?

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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:

- 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



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 Contacts

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
Access Mental Health	1800 629 354 or 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

