

THE WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 111 – Autumn 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 Dr. Robin Doherty

By Liz Grace

It is with sadness that I note the recent death of Dr. Robin after a lengthy illness. In the mid sixties Robin, with his wife Jean, also a doctor, opened a practice in Watson. Situated in the corner next to the then Post Office, in what is now The Knox, the practice was a valuable asset to a suburb largely populated by young couples and fledgling families.

I wonder if there are still residents who, like myself, had their babies delivered by Robin. Both he and Jean had soft Irish accents which soothed many a fractious child and reassured many anxious parents. Together they saw my family and, I'm sure many others, through the vicissitudes of pregnancies, childbirth, middle ear infections, flu, migraines, ingrowing toenails, etc. Robin is survived by Jean and their extended family to whom I offer my personal condolences ❀.

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022

By Petra Lean

What a tumultuous couple of months it has been since the last newsletter. I hope you were able to see and spend time with (some of) your family during the holidays and have not had to spend them in isolation like me.

Again, we thank all our front-line workers, who continue to work very hard to protect and support our health and security, but also those who work in food and transport. A big thank you this time to the local shop/cafe owners and assistants for their work over a very challenging period. A special mention also goes to the Watson Medical Centre, which ran an efficient and stress-free vaccination clinic.

After two years of having Annual General Meetings (AGMs) interrupted by COVID, we are back to running it at the usual time of the year. Attendance is open to all residents, with WCA members being able to vote. Agenda items include reports by the Working Groups (planning, Woodlands, etc). Our Guest Speaker Dr. David Headon will talk about John Christian Watson, the first Labour PM, after whom our suburb is named.

Watson Community Association Annual General Meeting

Date: 17 March 2022 (Thursday) **Time:** 7.30pm

Special Guest: Dr. David Headon

A historian, author, television presenter, researcher and cultural expert.

Please email us to receive a Zoom invite to the meeting.

Watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com

At the AGM, we will elect a new Committee. As some of our members have indicated that they plan to retire from their current positions, we are looking for new members. The Committee consists of the Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee members. There will be support for any new member.

We are also looking for support with digitizing our archive and transferring it to a new website. We'd love you to join the WCA (membership form at the back of this newsletter). If you'd like to attend the AGM, please send us an email and we'll send you the link *

Editor's word

By Nora Chan

Thank you very much to those who have contributed to the Watson

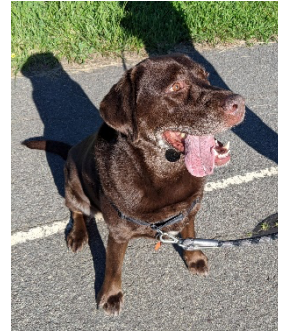


newsletter. With this being the third issues for me as the editor, it has been a great opportunity for me to learn more about my neighbourhood.

While preparing for this issue, my family and I experienced the heartbreak of having to farewell our sweet choc lab, Obi-wan Kenobi. Obi was a beloved family member, who always made sure to give you an extra warm cuddle after a long day. He was a big dog with the biggest heart. Although he was only with us for a short time on this earth, he lived each day with the goal of spreading love and affection.

My family and a number of our friends and neighbours scattered his remains at his favourite lakeside swimming place. All present were touched by his kindness and generosity.

Thank you Obi, for your pureness, your selflessness and your unconditional love. Although you were a dog, you inspired us to be better humans. We simply can't ask anything else from you*



Community Toolbox now based in Watson



**community
toolbox**
- canberra -

Operating on Saturdays out of a space at Youth With A Mission (YWAM), Community Toolbox aims to make tools and equipment available to the community and thus reduce waste. Their mission is to make it possible for everyone to

have the means to create, have fun, try a new hobby and make their home more liveable and, in doing so, to reduce waste and pressure on the Earth's resources.

It's a community-led and volunteer-run tool and equipment library operating with the support of local sustainability non-profit group *SEE-Change*. The library is membership based and, for a small annual fee, members can borrow a wide range of tools and equipment for activities such as DIY, craft, cooking, home projects, leisure activities and more. Those tools languishing in your shed can be donated too! Borrowing tools makes a lot of sense - most people only need a hole in the wall, not a drill. It can be more affordable, space- and resource-conscious to share tools and equipment within the community than to own something you only use a few times a year. More info info@communitytoolboxcbr.org or go to their website communitytoolboxcbr.org *

Community Toolbox is open most Saturdays 10am to 1pm at 76 Federal Highway, Watson (YWAM) – enter via driveway on Zelling St.



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 13 March 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

Watson Microforest

Year of the Water Tiger
Watson's Microforest springs to life
A precious gem emerging in our suburb's heart
Plants nurtured into the soil by eager volunteers
All drawn to make Watson a greener, more caring community.



May you continue to grow
Watson Microforest
Capturing carbon along the way
Your fire circle lit with community spirit
Helping to save the planet
One microforest at a time.

David Turbayne

Microforest Hopes

Crumpled beige gum leaves underfoot
Remembering the inferno of 2020
We wandered and pondered the slabs of sleeping boulders
The quintessentially Australian plants
A profusion of currajong, eucalypt and warrigal greens outgrowing their cardboard sleeves
Full of la nina rain possibility
Lending credibility to our hopes for survival
May the Microforest flourish
May the bees explore and thrive
May the forest calm our troubled minds
And our hearts and earth survive

Claudia Cresswell



Watson Buzz

By Aileen Conroy



Image- ABC Canberra

Humanity is dependent on pollinators, especially both native and honey bees for growing food. Bee populations have been decimated by herbicides, insecticides, disease, loss of habitat and bushfires.

You can help

🐝 Avoid spraying weeds- never when in flower. Bees carry poison into their hive and it kills them.

🐝 Grow plants which feed bees nectar and pollen - they love blue and purple flowers, flowering eucalyptus and many natives.

Big clumps a metre across work best for the scout bees to find.

🐝 Provide bee hotels for tiny, stingless native bees. (The species in cold Canberra do not form colonies).



🐝 Establish honey bee hives 🌸

Have you met Tracey?

From Byron Bay to Watson might seem an unusual move, yet Ngunnawal land is such big sky country: Tracey and her family love the ever-present fringe of the Brindabellas, and the tawny bump of Mt Majura at the end of the greenway. The sunsets, the people, the food, the arts, and the seasons.



Tracey loves Watson's big-windowed 60s houses and cool weather gardens. It has been the perfect setting for her third psychotherapy practice since '98, as her teens settled into ANU. Once her family found their house – uncared for and uninhabited for 20 years – the work began...and continues! The separate therapy studio – once full of garden statues – is now a beautiful, calm space.

Tracey is a psychodynamic psychotherapist and counsellor who sees women only, from 14 years and up, at her practice *Empathic*. As well as individual ongoing psychotherapy, she also runs mindfulness and meditation courses (resuming post pandemic) and is a qualified clinical Evidence Based EFT Tapping practitioner – an acupuncture stress reduction technique she can teach you in one or two sessions.

So if you are feeling overwhelmed with life, drowning in family busyness, feel anxious around your stage of life, caught up in events from your past, or are just seeking a respectful, non-judgemental ally on your journey, she is here for you in Watson.



Limited sessions are available. Visit empathic.com.au for more*

Tomat-oh how I miss you already

From Silvie Eckhardt

The end of summer is particularly sad because it means the tomato season is over for another year. Perhaps you too are missing the aroma of a roma or are smugly admiring your harvest preserved as jars of passata and oven roasted cherry tomatoes in oil, or you may be overwhelmed with a glut of green tomatoes. Whichever camp you belong to, if you are dreaming of an abundant crop next year, get red-y with some key growing tips and saucy ideas for dealing with green tomatoes right now.



Heirlooming Surplus

Luckily, tomatoes are easy to grow and do great in pots on sunny balconies or in courtyards that offer protection from frost. They can be grown from seeds inside or in a very sunny and protected spot. Or the annual Majura Primary P&C tomato sale has interesting heirloom seedlings that will tomatotally transform your salad. You need only provide good soil, deep and regular watering, plenty of sunlight and follow these key tips gained from Heinz sight:

1. Pruning, pinching, whatever you want to call it, is a necessary evil. It involves removing some of the lower branches to increase airflow which prevents mildew or disease and encourages more fruit rather than leaf growth. It makes for very attractive plants with a bare stem and bushy growth on top but if you don't do it early it can be very sad to snip off a larger branch with flowers. So go hard, go early.

2. Make no mistake and be sure to stake your plants. Wooden stakes, plastic cages, wire- there are so many options.
3. Timing is key. To save seedlings from late frosts, in Canberra, we traditionally plant after Melbourne Cup, but these days you need to keep an eye on the forecasts. Also you can beat even the early bird by picking them green to let them ripen on a sunny sill.
4. Although, green tomatoes can still ketchup. If you have lots of green tomatoes when the frosts come or if you need to make space for autumn planting, just pull out the whole plant and hang it upside down in a dry, airy place. Weirdly, the tomatoes will slowly ripen on the dead plant so you can still enjoy tasty, fresh tomatoes into autumn! Alternatively, green tomato chutney is delicious and can be strategically gifted to get you out of any pickle*✿

Designing the Watson Microforest

By Purdie Bowden and Liz Adcock

The Watson Microforest belongs to the community, so it was important to reflect local voices in its design. We held a celebratory dinner at The Knox, co-creation workshops with Majura Pre-School students, an art competition at Majura Primary, and a public consultation. The student's artwork inspired chief landscape architect Edwina Robinson to include a dry creek bed and an



Majura Pre-school students created their visions

imaginary 'campsite' into the micro-forest plan. The plan also incorporated water harvesting to ensure the micro-forest will thrive even during droughts.

The ACT Government approved the plan in late October and there wasn't a moment to lose. The team from JT4 Garden Service prepared the site. On 20-21 October more than 100 volunteers planted over 1,000 seedlings, laid over 20 cubic metres of mulch, and created a dry creek bed. Volunteers including Nick Kyrgios and sponsors SolarHub, Light House Architecture and Science and Gallery of Small Things also helped plant mature crepe myrtles and maples. The transformation was spectacular!



Special guest and Watson local Nick Kyrgios leant a hand

Thanks to Thor's Hammer and Walmsley Building Solutions, the micro-forest now features a boardwalk and 'shop-front' for kids' play. A new picnic setting will be installed later this month. And we're working with local Indigenous advisors to produce beautiful and informative signage. **It was a huge year, and this is just the beginning...**

Please take a moment to wander through the Microforest and remove weeds, join a weeding session, or hold one yourself! Thank you and congratulations to everyone who has lent a hand to bring the Watson Microforest to life. We look forward to seeing you there *

Save the date

Official Opening

Date: 20 March 2022 (Sunday)

Time: 2-5pm

Venue: Watson Microforest

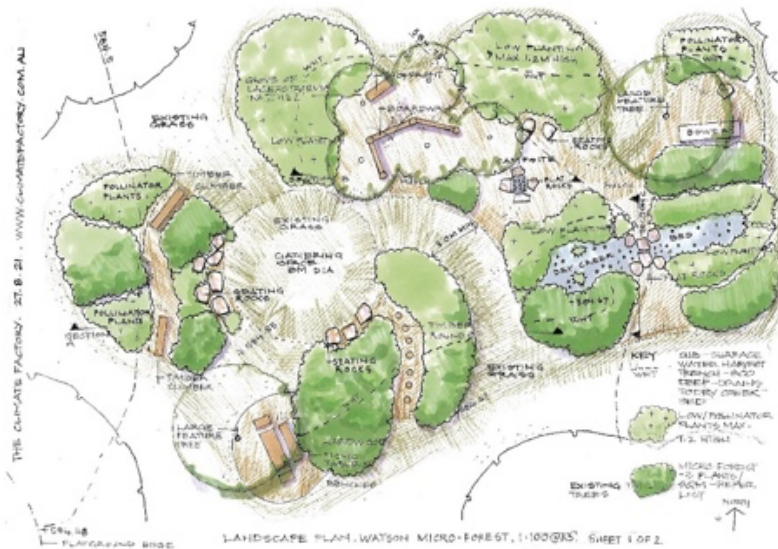
Indigenous cleansing ceremony, live music (including The Cashews), kids activities, ice cream, e-bikes, and more.

Free Bushfood Tasting


Date: 2 April 2022 (Saturday)

Time: TBC

Venue: Gallery of Small Things



P.S. Edwina's hand-drawn plan has been immortalised on a limited edition linen tea towel, available for purchase at www.watsonmicroforest.com

 [watsonmicroforest](https://www.facebook.com/watsonmicroforest)

Living Streets' camera still rolling 🎥 Interview Project 2022 Summer: How Watson Block Section 76 Brings Watson People Together

From Belle Yu, Living Street Association



During a youth meeting on the 4th of December 2021, Living Streets Youth members aged 16 to 19 reviewed the value of section 76 to Watson and brainstormed interview questions for Watson residents who are committed to preventing unkind development. By interviewing these residents, Living Streets Youth discovered what their visions were and how they played their roles as jigsaw pieces of the Master Plan of Watson. All participants of the interview, including

those who preferred to be anonymous, are exemplary of demonstrating social responsibility and inspire young people to care about community-wide matters.

Living Streets has been supporting the Watson Community Association Planning Working Group regarding the re-zoning of Sections 76 and 74 in north Watson since 2018. Living Streets will continue to help monitor and ensure that future development best meets the interests of the residents in north Watson and preserves the existing values of this area.

A cross-disciplined young adult student design team led by a passionate academic, local architect, and environment experts, who are also Watson and Canberra residents, are preparing to contribute their design skills. Together, they have a rich background in passive housing, sustainable communities, co-housing, community planning, social neighbourhood, and environmental planning. They will use three to four months to assist with this community project by designing ideal housing types on block section 76.

The interview video produced by Living Streets will also contribute to the consultation process and documentation of the grassroots bottom-up process that allows residents to collaborate with government on the planning of their suburb.

Community consultations will be arranged to welcome community input before the designs' final production to be released in mid-April. Come and comment on their designs of ideal housing types then.

Please follow Village Watson- Section 76 for updated information ✨



Indian Mynas - a Major Problem: but there can be hope

By Bill Handke OAM, President of Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc

One of the threats to our natural environment started in the late 1960s when



Indian Mynas (also called Common Mynas) were released here. Since then these pest birds – which take over the nesting hollows of native birds, destroy eggs, kill chicks and prey on insects and small reptiles – have spread across the Canberra urban area and extended into nature reserves and surrounding bush and farmland.

A major concern is the threat to some of our most endangered species: the Golden Sun Moth, the Grassland Earless Dragon, the Perunga Flightless Grasshopper and the Coorooboroma Raspy Cricket. And of course to the Superb Parrots, Owllet Nightjars and rosellas etc. Their numbers exploded, such that by 2005 they were the 3rd most common bird in Canberra (Canberra Ornithological Group's Garden Bird Survey). At that time the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc (CIMAG) was formed to tackle the problem through an innovative approach: a community-action program in which people own and operate backyard traps and humanely dispose of the trapped birds.

So far, some 2680 people in Canberra have participated in the program: their collective action has seen myna numbers drop to them now being the 24th most common bird here. However, a couple of good breeding seasons and constraints on getting traps made (because of COVID) has seen a rebound in their numbers. This points to the need for the community to be ever active. So, if you have a trap, "get it out doing its job". If you want to protect the wildlife in the Watson Woodlands, get in touch for a trap. The easiest way to do that is to go to our website – www.indianmynaaction.org.au – and fill out the application form*

Planning Group Report

By Simon Clarke, WCA Planning Group Chair

As we take a few deep breaths after Christmas, Summernats, protests and the Show, planning still rolls on. We have to keep alert, “developers” are still active.

Old Watson Servo site. - Danger! Purdon Planning did what I could only call a “fly by night” sham consultation exercise just before Christmas. The stated reason was that their previous, extensively consulted, plans couldn’t be executed due to problems “*accommodating the utility infrastructure onsite.*” (*Purdon Planning Website*) Their new “better” plans involve 2 commercial spaces (down from 3) and 30 (previously 20) two and three bed units on floors 2,3 & 4. My suspicious mind ascribed other motives for the change - a booming property market, perhaps? They also felt the need to tell us how spacious the units were, further raising my BS meter readings. Their supplied (*on the website*) architects’ drawings have four 1 bedroom (*how does this fit with other statements?*), 23 two bedroom and 3 three bedroom units. For a number of the 2br units I can’t work out how natural light can be supplied to both bedrooms plus living area. Perhaps you can see something I can’t? This will need lots of watching, I believe.

Section 76. - Watch progress. EPPSD have released their “Place Plan,” with guiding principles like a strong sense of community, sustainable living, a leafy suburb, encouraging active people, supporting inclusivity and creating a resilient neighbourhood able to deal with future challenges. Who could argue with any of that? The document is superficially positive - almost all trees appear to have been retained, the development is capped at 200 dwellings, cycle/pedestrian linkages are in place and the park is listed under “government commitments.” However there is no mention of who is responsible for the health of the trees, no indication about traffic management and nothing about build quality, type, restrictions etc. There are also questions about how/if the Demonstration Housing will be allocated. We will need to monitor this really carefully as time goes on. Too much is unsaid!

AIE Site. - Watch Progress. As expected, the section A sale of the old high school site will go ahead. The next step will be for AIE to seek planning permission for their section A plans. It will need to be broadly in line with their published intentions but, the “devil will be in the detail!”

Play Space - Community consultation finished before Christmas. They are currently reviewing the more than 500 pieces of feedback received during the recent engagement. Well done Watson and Inner North. The next step will be releasing the What we heard report on YourSay, hopefully to do in the coming weeks.

If you see anything happening with these or other spaces don’t hesitate to email me at planning2602@gmail.com *

Watson Property Sales

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

19/109 Knox Street	\$199,500	414 Antill Street	\$695,000
5B/109 Knox Street	\$199,500	61 Tay Street	\$715,000
7B/109 Knox Street	\$245,000	Negus Crescent	\$800,000
14a/111 Knox Street	\$390,000	25 Williams Street	\$850,000
84/20 Federal Highway	\$438,000	10/25 Aspinall Street	\$875,000
127/20 Federal Highway	\$458,000	3/25 Aspinall Street	\$890,000
98/20 Federal Highway	\$458,000	87 Higinbotham Street	\$1,080,000
24/20 Federal Highway	\$470,000	14 Negus Crescent	\$1,150,000
30/21 Aspinall Street	\$476,000	32 Windeyer Street	\$1,210,000
10/18 Whitmore Crescent	\$485,000	104 Irvine Street	\$1,235,000
48/35 Tay Street	\$515,200	46 McCawley Street	\$1,375,000
120/20 Federal Highway	\$521,500	112 Irvine Street	\$1,391,000
64 Tay Street	\$565,000	3 Jordan Place	\$1,400,000
28/20 Federal Highway	\$570,000	18 Molesworth Street	\$1,609,000
16/23 Aspinall Street	\$600,000	44 Piddington Street	\$1,610,000
43/25 Aspinall Street	\$603,714	10 Higinbotham Street	\$1,635,000
Negus Crescent	\$650,000	32 A'beckett Street	\$2,050,000
20/10 Federal Highway	\$690,000	18 Stow Place	\$2,310,000

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Saturday-Sunday 7:30 am to 4:00 pm

**At the Knox we are for
the locals, by the locals.**

Dinner

Tuesday-Saturday from 4:00 pm

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Mark 0401 829 087 | jenny@homebyholly.com.au



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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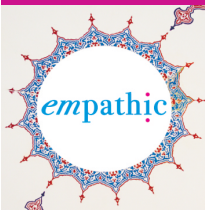
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Tracey Mansted *Psychotherapist*



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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



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.

Canberra



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

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

