



THE WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 117 – Spring 2023



The Watson Community Association Inc. acknowledges the traditional Aboriginal custodians of Canberra and pays our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge that many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from across Australia have now made Canberra their home. We also acknowledge and celebrate their cultures, diversity, and contribution to the ACT and region.



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*'Finding the Light', Melissa Hammond ©
Instagram @melissa.hammond_artiste*

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



Welcome to Watson!

By Geoff Murray-Prior, Chair of Watson Community Association

In general terms, the role of the WCA is to promote the liveability of the suburb of Watson and enhance the community environment. About two years ago we provided some (non-financial) assistance to a keen group anxious to establish a micro-forest in Watson. This project has now advanced significantly but understandably still has a long way to go. This is just one example of activities which can involve the WCA. We have some limited funding available for community projects which are consistent with WCA objectives. If you believe that you have, or if you are aware of, a community activity that warrants support (financial or otherwise), please contact us through the details elsewhere in this edition.

After waiting patiently, we can now see one promise being translated into reality. Work has now commenced on the recreation park on Section 76, on Aspinall Street. Many people have lobbied for this for some time, and none harder than the youths of Living Streets. Now they can see the outcome of their efforts. Our own Planning Group has also been very proactive on this project for some time, and their efforts are similarly rewarded. Simon has more details in The Planning Group Report.

Welcome to Watson*

Editor's Word

By Nora

As I was putting together the final draft of this newsletter, I returned to ACU Signadou Campus for a meeting one afternoon. After 11 issues as the Editor, I finally met the mastermind behind the printing- **Alex** from the Concierge in the flesh! It is about time to a name to the face. Alex gave me a run-down of how she prepares the printing and told me how impressed she was by the growth of Watson as a suburb. Thank you, Alex!

Here's a big shout out to **Maggie** for orchestrating the delivery, **Petra** for dropping off the papers at ACU (as well as distribution!).

Watson would not be able to appear in your mailboxes without the efforts of the following volunteers:

**Liz, Ingram, Matthew,
YWAM (Leonie and her team),
David and Vilaisan,
Helen,
Peter and Anne,
Suni,
Janelee & the Ling Street Associations,
Chris, Peter, Rob, Leigh, Pamela, Jenny,
Faseny, Fiona, The Cubs from Majura Mountain Scouts Group,
*Aileen and *Simon.**

**Content contributor of the newsletter*

I recently stumbled across a TV series called *Fisk* starring Kitty Flanagan as a *probate lawyer in a suburban estate law agency in Melbourne*. It is definitely a great homesick fix for me.

My partner Dan and I finished all three seasons of *War on Waste* on ABC. We were astounded to see the amount of waste we generate across the country. We are one-month into having a compost bin at home and we are pleased to see a great reduction of food waste that goes into our home red bin. We believe little step counts. I look forward to providing an update on how we go in the next issue ❀

'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow'

By Melissa Hammond

Our mighty oak trees have long been a symbol of Watson. They dress our streets in seasonal colours, provide lush canopies full of life and have been here since our suburb was first established in 1960. Sadly, a number of them were recently removed on the corner of Knox and Irvine Street and it has raised a number of questions as we look to the future.



1. Should we move powerlines underground to protect the oak trees of Watson?

There has been a strong community interest to move powerlines underground to preserve our mature trees and the benefits they provide to our local environment. If the powerlines remain above ground, it may result in further tree removals and most certainly will limit us in options to replace them with a 5-metre height restriction.

2. What type of trees would you like to see replace the oaks that were cut down?

The ACT Government is currently working with an arborist on possible options for the trees that were removed on Irvine Street. At this point, it would be great to gauge if the community would prefer a similar feel that will provide seasonal colours or endemic species to support the local biodiversity and threatened species that call Watson home.

3. What would the community like to see with the wood that has been salvaged?

Although we were unable to save the trees on Irvine Street, we were able to save the wood. The ACT Government has advised that it is currently available to schools and not-for-profits in the Canberra region. The type of wood is not suitable for outdoor use and therefore cannot be used for existing programs like Nature Play or for outdoor furniture. Therefore, we have an exciting opportunity as a community to put forward ideas to utilise the salvaged wood, within the restrictions, that will hopefully retain its value, history and links to Watson.

'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow' is an old proverb that speaks of great things that can come from small beginnings and I believe we have an opportunity here in shaping Watson's treescape. Please send your answers along with any ideas or comments to the following email address: treesofwatson@gmail.com and I shall provide an update and next steps in the Summer Edition ❀



WELCOME TO WATSON

Please Join us

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

Sun 1 Oct at 2 to 3:30 pm

Eastern BBQ area at "The Ridge"
***(Park cars near 67 Negus Cres
and follow signs)***

Local groups and organisations have also been invited.

More Information:

Watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com

Participating in Community Education with Living Streets Youth and International Students

By Belle Yu and Cathy Lin



Our Living Streets Youth meeting this month was joined by international students doing an English immersion and Community Education course. Together, they would get to know one of the local community groups and this time they chose to volunteer with Lyneham Commons.

These young people from diverse backgrounds worked together to grow their cross-cultural competence and communication skills. We had conversation activities, exchanged ideas, and planned events to make the Taiwanese students feel welcome and included in the LSA Youth Meeting. These exchanges allowed Living Streets Members and Taiwanese high schoolers to experience cultural diversity, through the greetings, language(s) spoken, body language, eye contact and gestures. It also helped everyone to reflect upon their own cultures and embrace cultural differences with an open mind.

Our winter event involved collaborating with a local community group and inviting more volunteers to help. This time it was with Lyneham Commons, so we



prepared a program with gardening and games. The discussion points of this agenda include how to invite, what to bring and where to meet before the volunteering, following the instructions of the members of Lyneham Common during the volunteering, and discussing activity ideas for after the volunteering works. We even got tips for engaging with young kids from Carmel Richardson, the President of LSA.

On the working bee day, we did pruning, weeding, mulching the pathways, and even built a small woven windbreak around some trees. Thank you to the

Lyneham Commons volunteers who led the gardening activities. The concept of sharing an edible garden with the whole community was not only rarely seen in their country, but the international students said seeing people work together towards a common purpose was also very inspiring.



Website

If you'd like to learn more or come along to an upcoming event please see the LSA webpage, Facebook or Instagram for further details or contact us at:

Website: <https://living-streets.com>

Email: livingstreetsassociation@gmail.com

Facebook: Living Streets Association

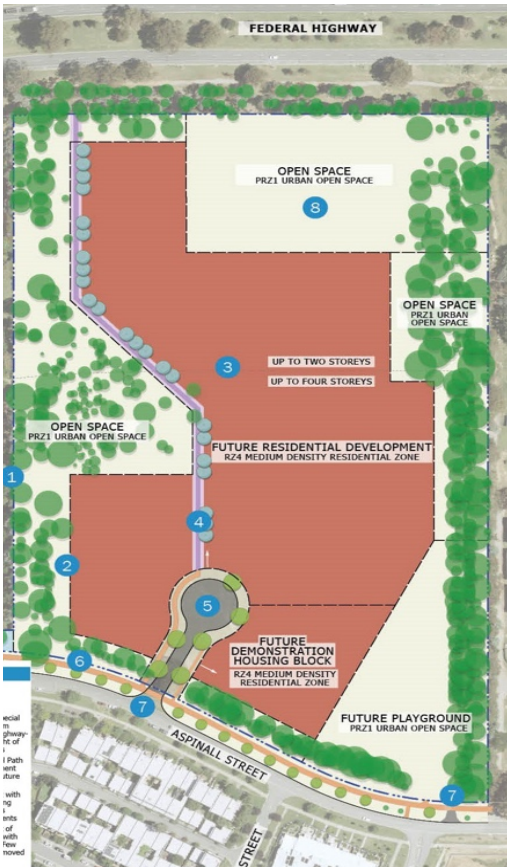
Instagram: livingstreetsassociation✿

Watson Planning Report

By Simon Clarke- WCA Planning Group Convenor and NCCC representative

A quiet few months. Apart from a gigantic hole and crane at Norrebro it's really only Block 76 where anything is happening. The current Estate Development Plan Development Application has firmed up what we had already been told. However, it is good have it finally "in writing," as they say. I have been able to clarify the following:

- The sale will go ahead in the first 1/4 of 2024. With the exception of the demonstration housing site, it will be sold as a single block.
- The open space in the NE corner, where the naturally occurring arsenic etc is found, will be capped, and covered with about 1.5m of clean fill, then left undisturbed.
- The tree line reserve area will be managed by TCCS. They will take responsibility for upkeep, mowing, pruning etc.
- Some dead/dangerous trees will be removed.



- Some dead/dangerous trees will be removed.
- The entry for the cul-de-sac has been pegged out. Sadly, some trees will go to create a safe entrance.
- Work on the 1 hectare play space has started. It will have a strong indigenous theme. Parking will be an ongoing issue, but options are very limited.
- The future Garden City Cycle Path will run up the north side of Aspinal St.

Here are some photos from the Chief Minister's office for the recent sod turning ceremony for the Block 76 playground ❀*



Photo credit- Freya Brent

Majura Café Poets

Other Things

'Quaddle' is not yet a word
But other things seem more absurd.

Jill Sutton *

THOUGHT

tossing scraps
for the dog
snapping his jaws
when does
a bite
become
a morsel?

Belinda Ketley *

Yes

Can a nation take a step?
A step to acknowledge our First
Nations peoples
In our Constitution

A step towards inclusion
A step towards equality
A step towards closing the many gaps

In our so-called lucky country

Yes to listening more intently
Yes to empowering the disadvantaged
Yes to a more generous sharing of
opportunities
Yes to real choice
Yes to self determination

Yes to a Voice
to be heard and
Embedded for all time

Cynthia Shannon *

Rosary Primary School turns 60!

By Fiona Hill-Stein

This year Rosary Primary School celebrates its 60th anniversary.

In the early 1960s, the Dominican Sisters were invited to Canberra to establish a Teacher Training College and Primary School. And so, Rosary Primary School began in 1963. The original name of the school was Blackfriars but this was changed within the first few years. For several months in 1965 the enrolment almost doubled each Monday morning as new families arrived as tenants of the government housing in the new suburbs. Today, Rosary caters for 365 students.

On 2 August 2023, a special Mass was convened to celebrate the Feast Day of St Dominic and the 60th Anniversaries of Rosary Primary School and the Blackfriars Parish, Australian Catholic University (formally Signadou). Many special guests joined Rosary students, staff and parents to celebrate – including the school's first lay principals.

Following the mass Rosary students enjoyed a special pizza lunch and extra play time to celebrate the 60th Anniversary. The students also received a commemorative 60th Anniversary badge which they continue to wear with pride.

A formal cocktail party is being planned for Saturday, 4 November 2023 – see invitation on the next page. This event will be a great opportunity for current and former Rosary parents, staff and students to come together and celebrate 60 years of Rosary Primary School.

Please help to spread the word ✿



SAVE THE DATE

ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL
60TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

4 NOV
2023

QT HOTEL

LUCKY'S SPEAKEASY

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EVENING
TO CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF
ROSARY EDUCATION.

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MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

More from Majura Café Poets

Plum Tree Bonus

There is a family of courageous plum trees
At the corner of the oval
And Knox street,
Who insist on flowering
To tell us that spring will come
Though most of us remain cynics
In the late winter frost.

Undeterred,
These trees monitor our neighbours
Who offer homage to the shops
With their dogs and pushers
And, for those nasally responsive,
There is a balmy blessing,
The sweetest cloud
Of plum blossom perfume.

Caught on a wave
It can float them down to Gina
Who presides loyally at the checkout.
They pass by the dogs and Knoxy
conversations
Into the watchful search for dinner
bargains,
Join the queue
Where, if they're lucky,
They meet a friend or
After recalling a magic pin,
May linger by fresh-picked bouquets at
the door.

Jill Sutton✿

Stonehenge - Summer Solstice

Six thousand gather
in the darkness
waiting, waiting
for summer's solstice

Five millennia ago,
druids planned this place
for burials
and ancient rituals

They dragged these rocks
from miles away,
the means unknown-
another mystery

Trilithons stand
in a horseshoe pattern,
some lintels fallen
to the ground.

How did they plan
at solstice sunrise,
rays would pierce
the Heel Stone,
point to the heart of the circle?

No instruments,
no digital aids,
yet perfect precision,
astronomical calculator.

Now people of all creeds
witness the miracle,
derive their paths,
leave with sun's enlightenment.

Jenny Burgess ✿

Friends of Watson Green Space

By Veronica Walker

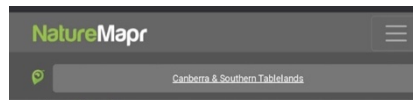
Watson Green Space now has its own dedicated map on the NatureMapr Canberra Nature Map site. Canberra Nature Map is an amazing resource that allows you to contribute to Citizen Science by uploading sightings of the plants and animals, the photos are then viewed by expert moderators who identify the sightings. Please check it out and consider adding some sightings when you're on your next walk.

Friends of Watson Green Space recently welcomed a mulch delivery from the ACT Government's Urban Parks and Places Program. Volunteers are planning to suppress the weeds around the base of the Watson Green Space 'Meeting Tree' and replace them with plantings of native grasses and wildflowers.

If you are interested in taking part please contact Veronica at

friendsofwatsongreenspace@outlook.com or via the group's Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofwatsongreenspace ✨



Home → Maps → Canberra Urban Parks → Watson Green Space [sightings | surveys | field guide]

Watson Green Space

The group managing this site is called Friends of Watson Green Space. Their goals are described on their Facebook page:

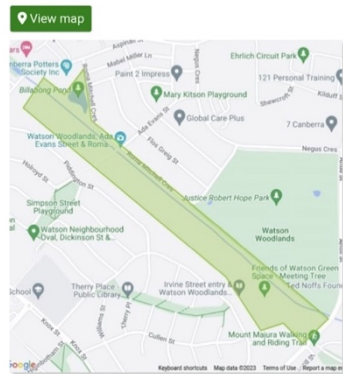
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofwatsongreenspace>

Moderators

Become the first moderator for Watson Green Space

[Become a moderator](#)

Page 1 of 3 -



Follow Watson Green Space

Receive alerts of new sightings

[Subscribe](#)


Filter


All sightings	651
Significant sightings	3
Unidentified sightings	20

Watson Buzz

By Aileen Conroy

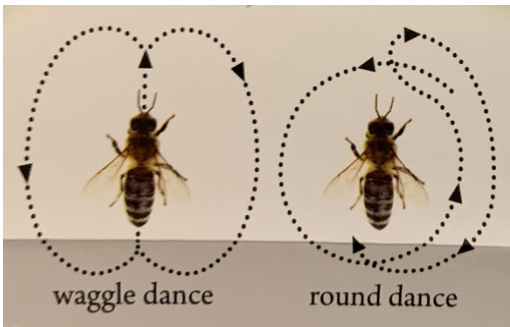
Honey Bee hives swarm in spring and summer.


 Abundant nectar producing flowers of spring trigger honey bee queens to lay more eggs. This can result in a rapid increase in the number of bees in a hive up to 60,000 or more.


 If not managed by a beekeeper, the crowded hive prepares to swarm by raising replacement queens and sends out it's most experienced foragers 'house hunting'. You may recognise them slowly and carefully investigating any small openings which enter weatherproof spaces such as possum boxes.





Pollen from camellia in August



 They return to their hive and share their findings using a waggle dance to communicate distance, direction and quality. More exuberant dancing indicates better quality and other foragers "feel" the dance in the dark via vibrations transmitted through the vertical wax comb!

 Strict voting rules enable the colony to reach CONSENSUS, sometimes taking hours. The scouts guide the swarm to the new home and surround the entrance, releasing scent from their Nasonov glands.

 A loud buzzing cloud of bees which lands and forms a cluster may only be resting. Don't spray them with water or insecticide. Wait and watch from a safe distance. Contact a beekeeper from actbeekeepers.asn.au for a swarm catcher if.....the swarm enters a building or begins building comb (after about 24 hours). They are usually very placid*

Watson's Electronic Distance Measurement Baseline

By Andrew Hammond and Veronica Walker

Andrew Hammond, a local Watson registered surveyor, has kindly shared the meaning behind those grey and yellow pillars in the Watson Green Space.

The grey pillars are known as the Watson Electronic Distance Measurement (EDM) Baseline and are used by surveyors to calibrate their instruments and check that they measure a true metre (or kilometre, since the entire line of grey pillars is 1000 metres long).

Watson's EDM Baseline is used by surveyors from all around the ACT and NSW to calibrate their instruments. The yellow posts are indicator posts for survey marks that have a precise location in latitude/longitude/height above sea level. These marks are so stable because they are driven deep down underground into the bedrock *



Photo credit: Andrew Hammond

Watson Property Sales

Available on Realestate.com.au

20 Shewcroft St	\$1,276,000	124/20 Federal Highway	\$420,000
1 Hanson Place	\$965,000	23 Molesworth St	\$1,053,000
181/395 Antill St	\$642,000	406 Antill St	\$730,000
8/113-115 Knox St	\$385,000	34 Williams St	\$1,020,000
166/395 Antill St	\$620,000	11 Kilduff St	\$1,285,000
32/35 Tay St	\$396,888	4 Phippard Court	\$1,241,000
137/20 Federal Highway	\$480,000	54 Aspinall St	\$935,000
42/21 Aspinall St	\$515,000	28 Andrews St	\$1,640,000
41/21 Aspinall St	\$420,000		
23 Andrews St	\$1,667,000		
12/14 Federal Highway	\$669,500		
83/215 Aspinall St	\$879,000		

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Tuesday-Saturday from 4:00 pm

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FYI- The Fair Community Hall for hire



Address: 21 Tay Street, Watson ACT 2602

Please contact Virginia for details

virginia.sinlao@bright-duggan.com.au ✨

Community Notices



Watson Community Pantry

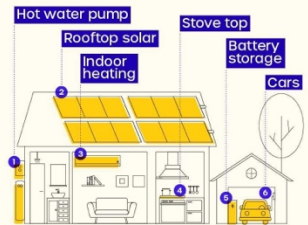
Behind the bus stop on the corner of

Knox and Higinbotham Streets ✨



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<https://www.suburbzeroact.au/> ✨



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

