

# THE WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 110 - Summer 2021



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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With major public events starting up again, you may find the following phone numbers helpful:

- For noise issues, please contact Access Canberra at 132 281
- For anti-social behaviour, please contact ACT Policing at 131 444

The WATZON, *Issue 110 – Summer 2021*



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

# Greetings, Watson Residents!

By Petra Lean

By the time this newsletter is being delivered, lockdown may be a distant memory. Last Friday was the first day without having to wear a mask outside and everybody had such big smiles on their faces.

While the early stages of lockdown already seem to be a distant past, there are some positive memories of young and grown-up people getting creative to entertain kids outside. We found in and near the local green spaces:

- Stone artists (big and small) hiding treasures
- Majura P&C setting up a couple of trails of book titles to find on the daily walk (then only 1 hour/day)
- Spoonvilles popping up in various places
- The long tale (or tail) of the little brown mouse being told, and
- Some creative parents setting up bike trails.

We saw neighbours meeting for a tea (or beer) by the roadside – each on their own property, properly distancing. And once we were allowed to meet up with (limited numbers of) others outside, picnic blankets and tables popped up on the local green spaces everywhere.



During the last 2 years, a lot of new dogs moved into Watson. They may not be familiar with the rules in the off-leash area between Knox/Aspinall and Antill Streets. This is from the ACT Government webpage:

*Dogs in off-leash areas must be under effective control at all times. They should only be off-leash if they remain in sight and can respond to and follow your commands. You must be able to prevent the dog from approaching other animals or people.*

# Vale Cedric Bryant (1939- 2021)

By Liz Grace

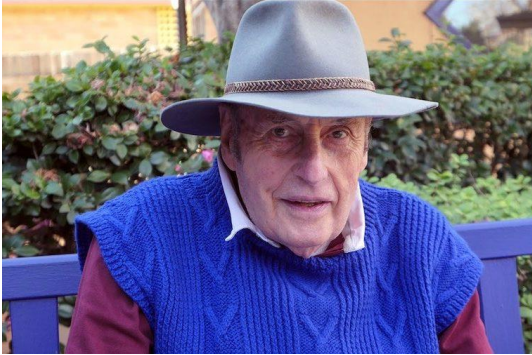


Image: CBR City News

Cedric Bryant was a longtime Watson resident and for several years wrote a short seasonal article for The Watson, which was much appreciated and sorely missed when he was unable to continue his writing.

Many tributes to Cedric have flowed in over the last two weeks and I have no doubt that there has been much sadness over the loss of this great garden lover but also much delight has been expressed for the pleasure of knowing and learning from him. Paul Costigan and Ian Meikle have shared their memories in the “City News”. I had the pleasure of attending one of Cedric’s talks, many years ago now, when he spoke of his childhood in Bovingdon, UK, where his grandparents owned a wholesale plant nursery and his father ran a dairy farm. At age 17, Cedric came to Australia with the Big Brother Movement, worked on a station in Gunnedah learning to slaughter sheep and cattle, and to plough. He then tried city life in Sydney where he trained as a gas fitter.

Working for Esso and PortaGas took him back to Gunnedah, where he met his wife Gerdina, and they eventually settled in Canberra in 1968. Cedric began growing fuchsias as a hobby which soon expanded into a general nursery. The rest, as the saying goes, is history. It was always a delight to walk past Cedric’s garden in Burnside Street with its distinctive curved photinia hedge. If he was around, he was happy to answer questions and once I had the pleasure of being shown his garden office while he looked up something for me. He was always courteous and I for one will miss his familiar figure in Watson. On behalf of the Watson Community Association, I offer our condolences to Gerdina. ❀

## Upcoming Meetings

### Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 8 February 2022

Time: 7pm

Location: TBA

### Annual General Meeting

Date: Thursday, 17 March 2022

Time: TBA

Location: TBA

Guest Speaker: Dr. David Headon

Historian, author, television presenter, researcher and cultural expert.

## Welcome To Watson Event

By Aileen Conroy

At last we were able to welcome our new neighbours once more on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November.



Maggie and Paul from Oakwood, Lisa from The Fair and Elsa from Beechworth Street made connections to swap plants. David represented Majura Poets and sold one of their latest booklets. Simon from our planning group is following up to help lobby for building improvements in one complex. We talked about community led initiatives such as the Buy Nothing New Group, the Community Tool Shed and the

Micro-Forest. It was a friendly gathering and we encourage all Watsonians to continue to reach out and build the community spirit for which Watson is known. While we brought spare Watzons, everyone had gratefully already received one, thanks to our wonderful volunteer deliverers. \*



**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 12 Dec 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](mailto:watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com)**

# Majura Café Poets

## Greet

In the hills of Tibet  
When the monks are to meet,  
They stick out their tongues  
As their way to greet.

The reason for this  
Dates far long ago  
When cruel King Lang Dama  
Had a black tongue to show.

So now in Tibet  
A protruding tongue  
Means coming in peace  
You're fighting no one.

At present with Covid  
When kisses are out,  
This charming new greeting's  
Worth thinking about.

Rubbing noses is out  
And handshakes can't start,  
I like the Malaysians'  
A hand on the heart.

Or in Thailand and Laos,  
Palms upward shown,  
Head slightly bent,  
The 'wai' is well known.

In Japan to revere  
Try a very deep bow,  
It shows great respect  
If your spine will allow!

In most of Europe  
Air kisses flew free,  
A problem no longer –  
One, two or three?

I'm tired of the knuckles  
Or elbows to greet,  
With so many options  
This COVID we'll beat.

*Jenny Burgess*

# Planning For Climate Change

By Simon Clarke, WCA Planning Group Chair

As we consider any sort of development in 2021 and beyond, it is to be hoped that “McMansions” and denuded blocks may become a thing of the past (am I dreaming?). Increasing emphasis will need to be placed on trees and canopy coverage, building for extreme conditions and conservation and collection of fresh water. While these are small steps compared to the major changes needed to transition to a low carbon world, they are necessary ones. Without all sectors contributing what they can, we will not get even close to 1.5C. I am not optimistic but I do have hope, and, as Greta Thunberg said recently, “there is still hope, but all hope (must) begin with honesty.” Sadly, honesty is in short supply. I fear for the world my grandchildren will grow up into. Our planet will survive however, what we call “civilisation” may not! On more mundane matters, the following updates have been received from EPPSD.

## ***Canberra Technology Park – Block 1 Section 13 Watson***

Following community engagement and two presentations to the National Capital Design Review Panel, the Academy of interactive Entertainment (AIE) submitted their Future Intentions Plan to the ACT Government for consideration on 31 March 2021. After a review of the Future Intentions Plan, the ACT Government requested several minor amendments to the plan before it could be endorsed. Once the final Future Intentions Plan is endorsed by government, and AIE has met other requirements, the direct sale to AIE for Block A (Block 4 Section 13 Watson) can be finalised.

## ***Canberra Technology Park - Demolition and Remediation works by Government***

Delta Pty Ltd has completed demolition and remediation works for part of the Canberra Technology Park site, known as Block A. Temporary fencing will remain for public safety until the site can be sold. The existing tennis courts remain open and available to the public while the trees adjacent to the demolition site were retained and protected throughout the time the works were undertaken.

## ***The public open space at Canberra Technology Park***

Consultation on the proposed playground for the Watson green space adjacent to the AIE site will be undertaken in November - December 2021 via the YourSay website. Please refer to p.13 for more details of the consultation.

## ***Section 76 Watson***

Site investigations for Section 76 Watson are mostly complete. Once the final site investigations can be done, the Place Plan and Development Concept (PPDC) for Section 76 Watson can be finalised and publicly released. EPSDD will continue to keep the community informed about any site investigations and the release of the final PPDC. If approved, Territory Plan Variation 371 is anticipated for completion in 2022. Section 76 Watson is scheduled for land release in the 2022/23 financial year.

## ***Section 74 Watson***

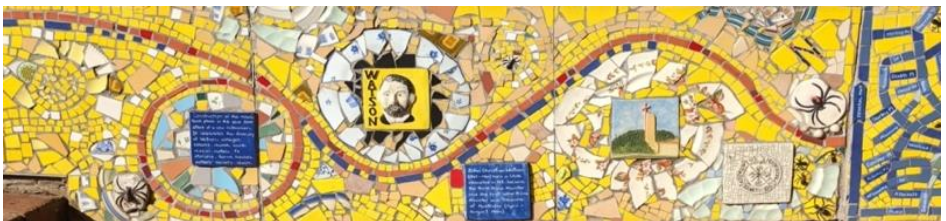
At this stage, there are no plans to undertake a Territory Plan Variation to re-zone the block. Further planning is required for Section 74 to determine the best use for the site.

(My thanks to Ben Riches and Nyah Donaldson (ESSPD) for these updates.)

## ***Garden City Bike Path***

We believe this will come through Watson and join the existing path near Dickson College however detail is scant. If anyone knows anything more, or can tell me where to get more info, please contact me at

[planning2602@gmail.com](mailto:planning2602@gmail.com). \*





# Community Working Bee to Create a Natural Oasis

From Cathy Lin, Living Street Association

How wonderful it is to be able to get out and about within our community with freedom again. During the Canberra lockdown, the local outdoor park spaces became oases of play and exercise for all the masked people getting a breath of fresh air. At the heart of Watson is the biggest natural playscape in the inner north, the Majura Naturescapes. How lucky we are to have such a space in our community!

It really was the perfect place for Watsoners to get close to nature to detox from lockdown pressures. When we went on our daily walks, it was so joyful to see so many community members enjoying the outdoors, and children laughing and playing on the Naturescapes. We have heard from neighbours how difficult online learning has been on young children, so it is a great benefit to be able to live so close and get out into a natural outdoor ecological classroom. Some parents even joined their children in their play, taking a much-needed break from their home offices to exercise. We look forward to more natural green micro-ecosystems in the area for community members of all ages to enjoy the huge physical, mental, and communal benefits.



Back in June, Living Streets Youth helped to plant grass and flower seeds in a working bee. We had to soften up the soil, then spread out the grass seeds before pressing it into the ground. It wasn't all just work though, as we also had a lot of fun in the process.

Someone had the idea of rock hopping, and before long, everyone was



## Have you met Elly and Patrick?



**Gold St. Press**  
FB. IG- @goldst.press  
[goldst.press](http://goldst.press)

Gold St. Press is a family run business comprising Elly Freer and Patrick Galvin, a photographer and graphic designer team. They live in North Watson on Ngannawal land with their 6-month-old – Otis and their dog Reggie. They chose the name Gold St as an homage to their previous home in Brunswick, a place full of warm memories where they fell in love. They both grew up in Canberra and moved back in 2019 to buy a house and start a family.

Gold St. Press specialises in niche and uncommon gifts, stationery and homewares, with a focus on unique designs and quality goods. Their products are all hand-made in their home studio. They make cards for all the big life events, but also to make a point of celebrating things that are just as important - like leaving a bad relationship, starting a new business, or going to therapy. The kinds of things that are wild and magical and take courage. Elly and Patrick view the world through a different lens by taking influence from old Hollywood, horror movies, nature and their community, while keeping a healthy sense of humour and a penchant for the macabre. They are all about connections, being kind to one another and... skeletons. ✨

# Night Gardening Deserves A Quiet Night

From Silvie Eckhardt



*The slugs and snails' favourite buffet of fennel, broad beans, borage and peas*

While not quite as popular as the Majura P&C tomato and plant sale, night gardening is on the rise\*. While this, yet unstudied, phenomenon may be a product of the pandemic where gardening jobs often take a backseat to home schooling, the demands of little people or watching back to back daily press conferences, it also just makes sense. Being out in the garden after dusk allows for quiet contemplation in the stillness left by the absence of birds and bees. Doing repetitive jobs like pulling weeds, raking leaves or turning compost in the evening can be a calm way to wind down before bed and probably aids in getting a good night sleep\*. And all for the price of a head torch. Even inside, it can be a relaxing weekly ritual to wipe down the leaves of

your indoor plants and wish them goodnight. Just ensure that watering is done in the early evening, so the leaves don't stay damp overnight causing fungal issues.

After dusk is also an excellent time to launch a devastating assault on the enemy hordes of slugs, snails, slaters and other bugs that use the cover of darkness to munch on new seedlings and precious crops. In my veggie patch I've been trialling laying traps made from containers with soy sauce and oil which by morning have resulted in significant earwig losses. Another popular trap is laying out beer bottles- many pesky bugs can't resist the dregs and then drown. I'm always impressed by neighbours who still have the energy to set lots of beer bottle traps throughout the yard even after a big party!

As the weather heats up, night is the most pleasant time to garden as there's no risk of sunburn and increased chance of encounters with nocturnal wildlife like possums, flying foxes, an elusive owl or tawny frogmouth and of course, many overly friendly mosquitos. So get outside tonight and literally see your garden in a new light! \*

*\*Not necessarily supported by research*

# Old Watson High School Oval Site

Consultation on the proposed new inner north play space has just opened.



Transport Canberra and City Services is planning to upgrade the green space adjacent to Canberra Technology Park in Watson to provide a wider range of outdoor recreation opportunities for inner north residents (and visitors) of all ages and abilities. The proposed upgrade will feature a new play space and recreation park.

Residents are invited to help shape the future upgrade by telling us what recreation facilities and play equipment you would like considered. Children can have their say too by submitting a drawing or short story via our online kids' corner.

For more information visit: Inner north play space | YourSay ACT  
<https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/inner-north-play-space>

Consultation closes Tuesday 14 December 2021.



# Watz In A Name- Part 2 of 2

From Petra Lean

*Please see Part 1 in our previous issue*

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:

Judges and members of the legal profession are common themes of Watson's street names. The Street names range from A-Z – A'Beckett St (gazetted in 1961) to Zelling St. (gazetted in 2005)

**A'Beckett Street** is named after

- Thomas A'Beckett (1836-1919)  
Justice of Victoria Supreme Court, 1886-1917, and
- William A'Beckett (1806-1869)  
First Chief Justice of Victoria, 1851-57; knighted in November, 1852.

Whereas **Zelling Street** is named after Australian lawyer Sesca Ross Zelling (1918-2001) and is one of Watson's younger streets, gazetted in 2005. Sesca was admitted to the Bar and from 1942 until 1947 held the position of prosecuting officer for the Deputy Commonwealth Crown Solicitor. She was the president of the Australian Federation of University Women, and the third woman to be appointed to the Council of the University of Adelaide. In addition, she was the president of the National Council of Women of SA (NCW), 1957-1960 and vice-president (1954-1957); in 1970 appointed honorary life president. She was awarded The Order of the British Empire - Officer (Civil) in 1960 for services to women and the community of South Australia.

And finally, an oddity: **William Street** (Gazettal date: 1961) is named after three persons (which seems to be only fair, considering there are three parts of Williams Street):

- Edward Eyre Williams (N/A – 1880)  
Judge of Victoria Supreme Court, 1852-74,
- Hartley Williams (1843-1929)  
Judge of Victorian Supreme Court, 1881-1903, and
- William Daniel Campbell Williams  
Surgeon-General; served in Sudan, 1885, and South Africa, 1899-1900; Director-General of Medical Services, 1906-19. (An exception to the rule – not a member of a legal profession) \*



# Watson Property Sales

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

8C/6 Irvine Street	\$220,000	90 Aspinall Street	\$875,000
3/113 Knox Street	\$290,000	51/215 Aspinall Street	\$885,000
4/271 Antill Street	\$335,000	9 Cooper Place	\$1,020,000
9/20 Federal Highway	\$418,000	10A Dickinson Street	\$1,021,000
22/23 Tay Street	\$442,000	16 Negus Crescent	\$1,100,000
3/27 Ian Nicol Street	\$485,000	6 Cullen Street	\$1,200,000
53/35 Tay Street	\$520,000	24 Piddington Street	\$1,230,100
69/21 Aspinall Street	\$553,150	4 Dowling Street	\$1,295,000
Negus Crescent	\$575,000	35 Negus Crescent	\$1,305,000
Negus Crescent	\$575,000	22 Negus Crescent	\$1,341,000
Negus Crescent	\$575,000	16 Bettie Mcnee Street	\$1,350,000
Negus Crescent	\$620,000	16 Knox Street	\$1,370,000
Negus Crescent	\$649,900	35 Flos Greig Street	\$1,375,000
2 Phillipa Weeks Street	\$655,000	63 Negus Crescent	\$1,415,000
90 Tay Street	\$719,000	19 Dickinson Street	\$1,435,000
145/395 Antill Street	\$720,000	27 Piddington Street	\$1,475,000
50/14 Federal Highway	\$803,000	12 Lukin Place	\$1,803,000
9/25 Aspinall Street	\$820,000		

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Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 4:00 pm

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

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the locals, by the locals.*

#### **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**



E: [virginia@getwellsorted.com.au](mailto:virginia@getwellsorted.com.au)

W: [www.getwellsorted.com.au](http://www.getwellsorted.com.au)

FB: [getwellsorted](https://www.facebook.com/getwellsorted)

**Chaos, overwhelm and clutter in your home,  
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## Community Notices



**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](http://breastfeeding.asn.au)

**Facebook:** @ABAACTSNWSW

*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](mailto:canberra@breastfeeding.asn.au)

## THE TUCKERBOX



Hackett

### HOLY CROSS ANGLICAN PARISH

**Website:** [www.holycrosshackett.org.au](http://www.holycrosshackett.org.au)

**Email:** [tuckerbox@holycrosshackett.org.au](mailto: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

# 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

*Mental health and wellbeing support*

1800 595 212

*M-F 8.30am- 5pm  
(except public holidays)*

## **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](mailto:watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com)

