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9AM & 10:30AM

FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH

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The Tuckerbox is a not-for-profit service which helps those struggling to balance their budget. The Tuckerbox has bread, groceries (*milk, fruit and vegetables when available*).

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THE WATSON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 99 – Summer 2018-19

Message from the Chair

Hello Watson! It's been a busy few months for the WCA Inc. Back in July, you gave a strong message to government representatives that our community does not support the Proposed Land Lease Variations, to allow more residential development in our suburb. The WCA Inc. Planning Sub-Committee has drafted a vision statement that could act as a Master Plan for the suburb – see Pages 8-9 for more detail.

We value your input. Please stay engaged, or become engaged, with the processes that help to improve and protect our lovely neighborhood here in Watson. One simple way is to follow us on Facebook – see below.

At our quarterly meeting last month, we reluctantly farewelled our outgoing secretary Gillian Helyar – a long serving member of the WCA Inc. Gillian's contribution will not be forgotten. Most residents would be unaware of the time and effort Gillian has invested over the years for the betterment of our suburb. We extend our most sincere thanks to Gillian and welcome Angela Wright – our new secretary. It's great to have Angela on board.

Look for the *Community Picnic* and *Welcome to Watson* invitations elsewhere in this issue and mark them on your calendar. With warm weather and sunshine here, it's a great time to get outdoors and engage with your neighbours and fellow Watson residents.

On behalf of the WCA Inc. I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and holiday time.

Leonie Watts, Chair



Do you follow us on Facebook?
Please take the time today to follow us for regular updates, information and events happening in and around Watson.
See www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/

Summer events

Sunset Cinema Canberra

28 November to 12 January

Handmade Christmas Market 2018

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 December

Welcome to Watson

Sunday 2 December, 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Carols by Candlelight 2018

Wednesday 19 December

New Year's Eve in the City

Monday 31 December

Summernats 2019

Thursday 3 to Sunday 6 January

Dog Lovers Community Picnic

Friday 18 January, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Australia Day in the Capital

Saturday 26 January

WCA Inc. Quarterly Meeting

Monday 4 February at 7:30 PM

WCA Inc. Annual General Meeting

Thursday 22 March

Contact us

Chair

Leonie Watts 0419 017 552

Deputy Chair

Julie Smith 02 6241 8861

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

Watson Community Association Inc.

The Watson Community Association Inc. (WCA Inc.) aims to promote, protect and enhance the social, cultural and physical environment of the community of Watson, and the welfare, community spirit and quality of life of its residents.

It also aims to inform the community about issues concerning Watson. One way the WCA Inc. does this is through the quarterly production and distribution of the Watson – a community newsletter.

The next WCA Inc. quarterly meeting is scheduled for **Monday, 4 February at 7:30 PM** at the Hall in the Fair on Tay Street, Watson.

All welcome.

Reports ...

Welcome to Watson

On Sunday, 2 September 2018, Joanne from C3 Church and Fiona from Watson Poets joined a handful of longstanding Watsonians to welcome several newcomers to Watson.

The next Welcome to Watson event will be held on Sunday, 2 December at 3:00 PM at the Knox (Watson shopping village). Further details are available on Page 10.

Aileen Conroy, Event Organiser

Community Picnic

Our first Explore Watson Community Picnic on Saturday, 6 October featured the Canberra City Band performing on the amphitheatre area on the oval near the old petrol station site. The weather was delightful and the children made percussion instruments from scavenged materials and accompanied the band for a few songs.

Attendance was disappointing on the middle weekend of the school holidays but those who attended enjoyed themselves. Sincere thanks to Canberra City Band for fitting us into their busy spring schedule. They meet in the hall in the old Watson High School complex and welcome newcomers.

The next Community Picnic will be held on a summer evening beside the Stirling Avenue Wetlands for dog lovers. It is planned for Friday, 18 January from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Local vets and dog services will be invited. An invitation is available at Page 14 and keep an eye on the WCA Inc. Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WCA1inc for further details.

Aileen Conroy, Event Organiser

Presentation by local Fire Fighters

A presentation by local fire fighters proceeded the WCA Inc. quarterly meeting on Monday, 22 October. It was pleasing to see over 20 Watson residents attend in person to hear firsthand what can be done in and around the home to be 'fire ready'. Fire Fighters recommend residents download and monitor the 'FireNearMe' app.

Leslie McGrane, Event Organiser

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Piano, Flute and Singing Teacher

Kelly Sturgiss

Kelly is a piano, singing and flute teacher with over 10 years of teaching and performance experience. Kelly has a diploma in music and also holds a Bachelor of Fine Art, in which she has included music and sound into her work.

Kelly teaches all styles, levels and ages.

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Michael 0419 688 034
Mark 0401 829 087
Office Dickson 6230 0005
Email jenny.mcreynolds
@luton.com.au



Did you know?

There is now a **Buy Nothing gifting group** for Watson and Hackett.

The group is a good way to pass on things you don't need like excess vegies, old furniture or baby clothes. And you can receive things you might need from around your local area, and meet the neighbours too.

The Buy Nothing project is in many countries and runs on Facebook. There are many groups in Canberra and anyone over 18 who lives in Watson, can join the local group. The idea behind the Buy Nothing project is to build community through the giving of gifts. Our local group is thriving, with new members joining every day.

Gifts that people are offering to their neighbours include books, jigsaw puzzles, outdoor furniture and a freestanding basketball hoop.

If you'd like to join just search on Facebook for Buy Nothing Watson/Hackett, ACT and request to join the group. Let the gifting begin!

Dog Lover's picnic at Stirling Avenue Wetlands



Meet near the dam on the off leash area, Roma Mitchell Crescent, Watson

5.30 to 7.30 pm

Fri 18th Jan 2019

Local vets and dog services are invited



Ruminating on Recycling

I have been wondering just what can be made with the items I put in my recycling bin. I found a most interesting website, Recycle Everywhere. It's a Canadian site but the information is relevant and clearly explained with good graphics. See www.recycleeverywhere.ca.

Think about the following.....

Recycling aluminium uses 95% less energy than using virgin ore. In addition to being used for new cans it is also used to make aeroplane parts, building facades and bicycles.

Recycled PET plastic containers are used to make upholstery, fleece jackets and carpet as well as more containers.

Glass is amazing. It can be recycled indefinitely and has a huge number of uses; highway marking beads, countertops, landscaping stones as well as new containers. In Manitoba (Canada) it is crushed and used as aggregate for roads.

The ABC's programme, War on Waste, found out from a glass recycling plant in Brisbane that Microwave turntables, ovenware, crystal glass, mirrors and light bulbs can't be recycled, i.e. tempered glass!

Cartons and juice boxes can contain 3 different materials and these can be separated and used in a variety of ways from lumber-like materials to tissues.

Can you put shredded paper in your recycling bin? It depends where you live! In Geelong, you can put it in a paper bag, cardboard box or large envelope and then put it in your bin. In Canberra, please don't! It gets mixed up with the glass and causes the machinery to clog. Pet shops are often glad to have shredded paper and it can be composted – not the high colour glossy stuff!

Recycled paper? How many of us use “who gives a crap”?

Did you know that you can bring some of your recycling with you to the recycling station at IKEA Canberra? You can place your used regular light bulbs, low energy light bulbs (e.g. compact fluorescent), domestic batteries, cardboard and paper packing in our recycling bins, located in the store exit.

Happy recycling!

Liz Grace, Committee member

Have we found the last piece of the jigsaw puzzle for the blueprint?

Watson children met in the July school holidays. The topic for the meeting was "*defend the right to plan and create an ideal community blueprint*." On the table was an A2 map that illustrated the two blocks of land near Youth with a Mission (currently the subject of a possible proposed Territory Plan Variation to provide for residential use), an advertisement for a 5 to 6 storey residential development, a developer's letter and a printout of survey. After a brief introduction, the children started to brainstorm with great relish. About an hour and a half later, six options for the wish list and two strategies for sharing the blueprint were drawn.

Options for a community blueprint included: grocery store; dog park; nature garden / botanical garden with a picnic area; natural playground - with outdoor fitness area, shelter (get together space) and open stage; sports field; and ride-in movie theatre. Options for sharing the children's community blueprint included: door knocking and delivering leaflets and a local shop explanation session.

To door knock and deliver the leaflets, the children set a competition by dividing themselves into two teams. The game finished too soon – much fun was had and children were sweating in the chilly winter breeze.

On the local shop explanation session, a grandfather was enlisted to transport equipment in his truck. Little boys ran to and fro to unload the equipment from the truck. The older children explained the petition to Watson residents. A little girl and boy took the initiative and handed out stickers for people to vote. The bigger girls engaged other children while their parents listened attentively. The university students from overseas helped to display the pictures of the options identified for a community blueprint. These took them two sleepless nights to create and were facilitated by their teacher who was also a resident of the community. People who passed by showed interest, listened, asked questions, said nice words, and even offered cups of coffee.

The children pointed out to the residents the two blocks of land on the map and told them where the kangaroo families and the cattle families dwell. They were aware of how all individuals are rooted in a larger social network, from the local community to the intertwined world. The children stood in front of the pictures of the ideal community land use, handed out stickers and invited residents to vote. Through doing this, they realized that they are influenced by society and the world, and they also realized that they can influence the society and the world.

Among the 100 plus attendees at the community consultation meeting on 23 July were a number of the children who participated in the blueprint project from the start. The consultation meeting allowed children to learn to look at issues and decisions based on community interests or a common good. It also allowed children to experience democracy. I am truly moved to witness this with the hope that seedlings of social responsibility would sprout in these children's hearts.

Let the children see a higher self and recognize that they can contribute to a meaningful idea. We can see the vision of human potential and hope in children. They fulfilled this vision that stems from the purest of hearts. It can become a lifestyle that touches other people's hearts.

"When people evoked a vision from the bottom of their hearts, they hate to not exert their own effort, they do not necessarily devote it for their own ends."

Living Streets Association @ Watson

Recipe

This recipe from the “*Capital Region Farmers Market Recipe Book*”, published in 2014, was contributed by Nanette Howard, who, with her husband Tony, was one of the driving forces in setting up this very successful market 10 years earlier. This is an old favourite and is quite easy to make.

Lemon Curd

125 g butter
1/2 cup sugar
2 eggs, lightly beaten
Juice of 2 lemons
1 teaspoon cornflour, mixed with a little water

1. Combine butter, sugar, eggs and lemons in a double saucepan and heat until mixture thickens, stirring constantly.
2. Add cornflour and mix well.
3. Pour into a warm, sterile jar.

Local services



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Summernats

Summernats is an annual motor festival held at EPIC in early January, attracting large crowds from interstate, as well as locally. The WCA Inc. has worked with Summernats organisers over several years - raising concerns principally around noise, smell and visitor behaviour and establishing a less combative relationship.

The WCA Inc. recommends Watson residents report any concerns during the event by contacting **Access Canberra** on **13 22 81** – the official government process. Access Canberra will on forward any reports it receives to the Summernats organisers.

During the event, a representative of WCA Inc., along with other stakeholders, will attend a meeting each evening with Summernats organisers. The WCA Inc. will also use this forum to report any concerns to the Summernats organisers.

Summernats will be held from 3 – 6 January 2019. Further information is available at www.summernats.com.au.

Rosary Primary School's 2018 Walkathon – a great success

We were blessed to have the sun shine on us and the whole school enjoyed the walk around our neighborhood in the company of family, friends and classmates. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the lead up to this day with special thanks to the staff and parents who took on the task of coordinating the event. Thank you also to all teachers, parents, families and friends who volunteered to help on the day and parents who were involved with the counting of incoming monies and sourcing of prize donations and sponsorship.

The Rosary Walkathon is a big event that would not be possible without the support of our community. A great big 'thank you' to the children and families who have been out and about raising funds for the school by filling up sponsorship forms. Overall, we achieved an even better result than last year! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

The highest fundraising class received a prize of a pizza and popcorn movie party! The highest individual fundraiser and the highest family fundraiser prizes included a bike pack and a family fun day out pack. Special thanks to ACU for the donation of a GoPro which was included in the bike pack.

All in all, it was a great day and the school gives thanks to everyone involved for their generosity in terms of time, funds and community spirit.

Vicky van der Sanden, Principal

Local services



The Knox motto is 'Made in Watson' which means we use local and seasonal produce!

A chilled café where you can sit back and relax with family and friends but still enjoy amazing food and drinks.

Keen an eye out for our new menu and exciting weekly specials!

Opening hours:

Brekky and lunch 7 days a week

Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 5:00 pm

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



WATSON

- **EFTPOS is available - no minimum expenditure required**
- **Free home delivery services**

Come in & experience the service for yourself.

Phone: 02 6255 6800

Woodland Working Group report

The Woodlands Working Group was formed as a sub-group of the WCA Inc. to protect, enhance and care for the valuable patch of threatened native Yellow Box/Red Gum Grassy Woodland known as Justice Robert Hope Park. Much work has been done to decrease the effects of years of commercial use, and increase indigenous species of flora and fauna in the park.

We have a feeling that the current drought and heatwave conditions may have a dramatic impact on our native grassy woodland species – with casualties likely. Although the woodland is somewhat more resilient than some of the exposed upper slopes on Mt Majura, there are limits on what will survive in these conditions. Even nature grasses will die without water within six months. This is in contrast to some of the exotic species such as African Lovegrass which is a true survivor in severe drought conditions.

We are keeping our fingers crossed for a miracle of sorts not just for the woodland but also for our home gardens. It is fortunate that we still have adequate town water. As a result of the conditions, volunteers are in a maintain mode including a couple of enclosures where planting took place in autumn and winter.

Richard Larson

Watson property sales

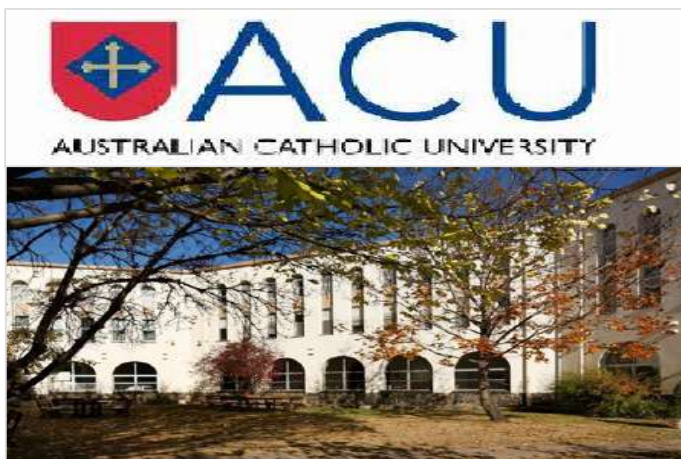
Ever wondered about house prices in Watson?

We've compiled a list of Watson sale prices for the period 1 July – 30 September 2018 for you.

Exchange (sold date)	Address	Price	Type
08/09/2018	4 Peden Place	\$985,000	House
11/09/2018	55 Blair Street	\$905,000	House
02/08/2018	28 Piddington Street	\$905,000	House
28/07/2018	46 Flos Greig Street	\$875,000	House
02/08/2018	22 Windeyer Street	\$798,000	House
15/09/2018	50 Molesworth Street	\$783,000	House
04/08/2018	2 Kerferd Street	\$782,000	House
13/07/2018	50 Williams Street	\$760,000	House
16/07/2018	26 Bettie McNee Street	\$737,500	House
24/09/2018	6 Manning Street	\$680,000	House
14/09/2018	31 Shewcroft Street	\$560,000	House
07/09/2018	88 Aspinall Street	\$695,000	Townhouse
23/08/2018	76/215 Aspinall Street	\$630,000	Townhouse
20/09/2018	9/19 Aspinall Street	\$515,000	Townhouse
06/07/2018	67 Negus Crescent	\$505,000	Townhouse
21/08/2018	15/25 Aspinall Street	\$470,000	Townhouse
19/07/2018	60/21 Aspinall Street	\$375,000	Apartment
16/08/2018	115/20 Federal Highway	\$352,000	Apartment
23/07/2018	10/10 Irvine Street	\$240,000	Unit

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

Local services



The WCA Inc. particularly wishes to thank the Australian Catholic University (ACU), Signadou Campus in Watson, for printing this Newsletter as a community service.

The Campus has about 1,000 students and is conveniently located 5km from Canberra's city centre.

For more information on courses available please call them on 02 6209 1100—Mon to Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm or visit www.acu.edu.au.

Hints for your spring garden – with Cedric Bryant

Floriade has finished for another year. Maybe it is just me but it seems to shrink every year in area with less bulbs and more annuals such as pansies to fill the spaces. Email me at cedric@citynews.com.au and tell me what you think.

You may not realise that if you missed a previous edition of my garden column simply go online, google 'Canberra CityNews' and click on 'gardening'.

- First late spring/summer job if you have not done so is mulch NOW. It is predicted to be a long hot summer with high evaporation.
- Afraid to prune daphnes, no need, now they have finished flowering a light trim will work wonders for more flowers next year.
- Chrysanthemums will be shooting skyward. To encourage more flowers, reduce the height by 50% any time now. Follow this up with another 50% chop in about mid to end of January. This gives a compact plant with more flowers. Equally applicable for Michaelmas daisies and Dahlias.
- Dead heading roses is a continuous task. Don't be afraid to hard prune to encourage more flowers.
- Prune all flowering shrubs immediately after flowering, including native plants.
- Regularly feed tomatoes with liquid seaweed and do not overwater.
- As the days heat up raise the mower blades a couple of notches.
- At Christmas, a gift voucher is often better than a plant.
- If you are newly arrived from interstate gardening is very different in Canberra. To help you buy the "Canberra Gardener", the bible of gardening here. Published by the Horticultural Society and available from newsagents and bookshops it is an ideal Christmas present.

For continuous summer hints read my garden page in the Canberra CityNews.

Cedric Bryant

2018 Majura Spring Carnival was a great day

A big thank you...

It was a fun-filled event for the school and the wider community. The sun was shining and the bands were playing. There were a lot of exciting stalls, but it might be the dunk tank that drew the most cheer and laughter.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Spring Carnival. To everyone who donated and loaned items. To the generous businesses who donated goods and services. To everyone who helped on the day. To everyone who took the planning and preparation activities. To our wonderful school management and teachers who are so ever supportive of P&C events.

All funds raised will go to the Majura Primary School P&C. Last year and earlier this year, the P&C have provided funds for the refurbishment of the children learning kitchen, shade sail for the veggie garden and music instruments. It will be able to continue contributing towards projects such as these.

Safety reminders

When delivering the Watson, the absence of locks on mailboxes concerns our deliverers. Often mailboxes are overflowing and correspondence from banks and bills are hanging out or strewn on the ground. In these days of identity theft, a lock is a small investment in personal security.

Summer is a time for outdoor adventure and play. Please take extra care. Speed limits in Watson are: past schools 40 km p/hour during school hours; 50 km p/hour most other streets; and 60 km p/hour on Knox Street.

Local services

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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 2 December at 3:00-4:30 pm
**The Knox Cafe, Watson Village
Shops**

Local groups, organisations, businesses,
sporting & hobby clubs have been
invited

More information:

watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com

Are you bushfire ready?

The ACT is fondly referred by many as the “Bush Capital”, and we pride ourselves in having open space between our suburbs and throughout our streets, bringing nature well into the heart of our city.

In Watson, we live, work and play beside, or close to open spaces, reserves and nature parks. We are classified as living on the city-rural interface. We need to take action each and every fire season to prepare ourselves, our families and our homes – **PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**

Still think a bushfire couldn't affect you?

Do you like to:

- Bushwalk or hike?
- Walk the dog in the reserve of an afternoon?
- Picnic or drive in the bush or country?
- Camp or 4WD in remote bushland or country areas?
- Enjoy orienteering or bird watching?
- Horse riding?
- Enjoy weekends travelling to the coast or mountains?

Then you too are at high risk from bushfire - **PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**

PREPARE

Prepare yourself

- Know your risk! Check if your house is located in a bushfire prone area by searching for it on the online map – see www.esa.act.gov.au/community-information/bushfires/in-the-suburbs/#bushfireproneareas.
- Prepare your exit strategy by planning your exit routes in the event of an emergency.

Prepare your Bushfire Survival Plan

- Download and complete a Bushfire Survival Plan or the MyFirePlan smartphone app. This plan contains everything you need to know about bushfire safety and survival. Make sure everyone in your household is brushed up on the plan regularly!

ACT

Get your home bushfire ready by following the house preparedness tips. Prepare your emergency kit.

SURVIVE

Maintain your garden throughout the season.

Keep up to date with the ACT Emergency Services Agency via their website, or Facebook.

For more information visit www.esa.act.gov.au/bushfireready/.

Planning Sub-Committee report

Save our Suburb

Have your say on a Master Plan for Watson

Development is happening rapidly in Watson, especially in the north of the suburb. Are you concerned by the number of separate developments appearing without planning or consultation regarding amenities, transport links, parks and tree canopy? In July this year, many Watson residents decided to mobilise.

The WCA Inc. will continue to provide you with regular updates on proposed developments in our suburb, keeping you across planning decisions and issues which effect the livability of our streets and neighborhood.

In July this year, government representatives and their consultants were given a strong message that our community does not support the Proposed Variations, which could add another 400 townhouses, to the large amount of development already underway. Watson residents unanimously insisted on genuine consultation and on the significant need for amenities to service existing residents, especially those living in the higher density areas of North Watson. Concern was high that Watson should not simply be ‘infilled’ with housing alone; we need suitable services including schools, shops, transport, leisure and green space as well as planning for the increased traffic flow.

The WCA Inc. is responding to these calls—we have formed a Planning Sub-Committee and are now drafting a vision statement that could act as a Master Plan for Watson. The draft vision for Watson will be finalised in consultation with the community in coming months. **This is where we would like your input—see below for how to get involved!**

Our draft vision statement includes a call for the following key planning considerations (so far):

- a diversity of public spaces accommodating recreational needs for the young and old
- good active travel connections (walking and cycling)
- retention of existing trees for protection of local wildlife and environment
- consideration of road infrastructure, public and active transport options to address existing and future congestion and provide options for travel as well as healthy living
- energy efficient design and orientation, sufficient tree canopy for shade and cooling
- a mix of uses (residential, community and commercial/retail) in walking distance or accessible by public transport.

Other concerns include the disparity between the older and newer parts of the suburb. The much loved, and sound planning in Old Watson, including green corridors connecting to the school/shops invites positive social interaction, has not been retained and transposed in north Watson and needs consideration.

Planning Sub-Committee report (cont'd)

To have your say on the draft Vision Statement for Watson or to voice your opinion on any local matters visit the WCA Inc. Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WCA1inc or email the Planning Sub-Committee at Planning2602@gmail.com. The draft Vision will be available on the WCA Inc. website at www.watson.org.au in mid-November with public meetings to follow. We encourage you to have your say on important planning issues for the future of our suburb.

Current Developments	
Norrebro cnr Aspinall Street and Negus Crescent	319 residential/mixed use buildings, including 2-3 storey townhouses and 4-6 storey apartment buildings plus retail and commercial uses www.norrebrowatson.com.au
The Ridge Negus Crescent	88 townhouses www.theridgewatson.com.au
Mount Majura Estate former Carotel site	129 residential blocks and 3 townhouse sites www.mtmajuraestate.com.au
Proposed Developments	
Blocks 10, 11 and 12 Section 74 and Block 2 Section 76 (Federal Highway)	Blocks are currently zoned CZ76 Leisure and Accommodation. If rezoned for residential use, 400 townhouses could be built on these blocks.
Canberra Technology Park (Old Watson High School)	The ACT Government released a report following community consultation. Future development is subject to a detailed proposal and Development Application (DA) by a successful purchaser, including pre-DA and DA community consultation. www.yoursay.act.gov.au/future-site-use-old-watson-high-school

Tree losses

A development application was lodged by the lessees of the Austereo TV Channel 10 site on Aspinall Street to remove a mature Yellow Box tree near the fence line on the eastern edge of the block. The arborist consultant has justified the decision on the basis that *“the retention of large Eucalyptus melliodora trees in pedestrian areas or on urban blocks, where risk is imposed on others, is not to be recommended.”* In this case, a walkway is planned under the canopy of the tree.

This does partially explain the loss of a large number of *E. melliodora* on other now residential development sites in north Watson. Previous examples include the ‘Solstice’, ‘The Fair’, ‘Carotel’ and now the ‘Ridge’ sites. Each large mature tree removed represents a loss of habitat and tree hollows for native birds and animals for breeding purposes and a loss of local amenity in our self-described ‘Bush Capital’. As well as direct removal, the retained and isolated mature gum trees generally have a reduced lifespan and are unlikely to be replaced with the same species by future body corporate managers. Environmental offsets such as the Watson Woodlands do not suffice. No more Yellow Box eucalyptus trees could have been planted there by volunteers. The ACT government is reluctant to release any of its unleased grassy woodland land east of Antill Street for our environmental purposes.