



australian  
breastfeeding  
association

### Australian Breastfeeding Association North Canberra

- Breastfeeding Counselor (s) on hand to answer your questions.
- All mums, dads, children and mums-to-be welcome, and you don't need to be a member

If you have a question about breastfeeding please call our  
**free**

National Breastfeeding Helpline:

**1800 686 268** or visit

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

to check venues:

**[abanorthcanberra@hotmail.com](mailto:abanorthcanberra@hotmail.com)**

#### SUNDAY MORNINGS

9AM & 10:30AM

#### FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH

7PM-9PM

160 ASPINALL ST  
WATSON

C3 CHURCH  
WATSON

**C3CHURCHWATSON.COM**



#### Gentle Exercise Class

Uniting Church, Ainslie

9:30 – 10:30 am each Friday

Cost \$7.00

### Canberra North Ladies Probus Club

Meets on the 2nd Monday of the month

10:00-12:00 at Yowani Country Club

Contact Terri on 0402 364 694

# Meg's **TOY** Box

Is a community toy library.  
Run as a non profit venture  
with the support of  
St Margaret's Church

**Call—02 6248 7467**  
(during opening hours only)

Wed 10am—12pm

Sat 2pm—4pm

## DROP BY AND JOIN



### THE TUCKERBOX



HOLY CROSS ANGLICAN PARISH

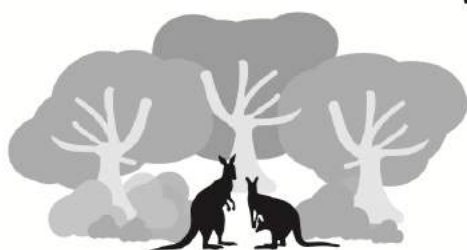
– **Opens every Saturday, 2pm to 4pm** –

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*).

Those on pensions, are low income families or unemployed will find this service very helpful. As a contribution, we ask a small service fee. Foodbank NSW provides the majority of stock.

Corner of Phillip Ave & Antill Street,  
Hackett—Ph: **(02) 6248 5327**

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



# THE WATSON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 100 – Autumn 2018-19

## Message from the Chair

Hello Watson and hello Autumn; how glad we are to see you in all your glory.

And welcome to issue 100 of Watson! 25 years of community mindedness in our suburb is worth commemorating in some way, so each quarter this year we'll look back at 25 editions' worth of community action and news – it should be a fascinating look at our history. See pages 4-5 for a recap of happenings from the mid 90's.

Our Planning Subcommittee continues to move forward energetically – seeking to represent all residents and stakeholders in formulating “a strategic plan for the sustainable development of one of the ACT's first suburbs”. Note - the goal is strategic and sustainable development not ‘no development’. Make sure you read ‘The Plan’ on our website [www.watson.org.au](http://www.watson.org.au).

The public meeting that officially presented it on 4 February was well supported by residents and politicians alike. Indeed, there is a groundswell of concern and action happening right across Canberra about planning and development issues. Numbers talk! So make sure you add your voice and your efforts to “make Watson great” (a little joke from the public meeting). See pages 8-9 for more detail.

Thank you, Subcommittee for your commitment and hard work on our behalf.

Again (after Gillian Helyar) we're sorry to be farewelling another longstanding member in Richard Larson. Richard has served on committee and worked tirelessly in key planning and environmental areas for many years, particularly with the Woodlands Working Group. We wish him and Bev all the best as they move closer to family in Brisbane.

The WCA Inc. AGM is on Thursday, 21 March at 7:30 PM. There's never been a better time to get involved and we need you (clichés that just happen to be true).

*Leonie Watts, Chair*

## Autumn events

### Haig Park Picture Festival

Friday 1 to Sunday 3 March

### Enlighten Festival

Friday 1 to Sunday 17 March

### Welcome to Watson

Sunday 3 March, 3:00 – 4:30 PM

### Black Opal Stakes

Sunday 10 March

### Sky Fire

Saturday 16 March

### WCA Inc. Annual General Meeting

Thursday 22 March, 7:30 PM

### Canberra Kids Market

Saturday, 23 March

### WCA Inc. Quarterly Meeting

Monday 8 April at 7:30 PM

### Canberra Running Festival

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 April

### Groov in the Moo

Sunday 28 April

### Collector Village Pumpkin Festival

Sunday 5 May

## Contact us

### Deputy Chair

Julie Smith

02 6241 8861

[www.watson.org.au](http://www.watson.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/](https://www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/)

[watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com](mailto: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 WCA Inc. AGM is scheduled for **Thursday, 21 March at 7:30 PM** and the next WCA Inc. quarterly meeting is scheduled for **Monday, 8 April at 7:30 PM** - both at the Hall in the Fair on Tay Street, Watson.  
**All welcome.**

## Reports ...

### Welcome to Watson

A friendly Sunday afternoon gathering welcomed a few newcomers to Watson on 2 December. The next 'Welcome to Watson' is scheduled for Sunday, 3 March from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM @ The Knox – see Page 10 for details. Please join us for a relaxed chat if you are new to Watson, or would like to meet new neighbours and help them settle in.

Contact lists for local groups, businesses and services are located on the WCA Inc. website at [www.watson.org.au](http://www.watson.org.au) under the 'About Watson' tab.

### Dog Lover's Picnic

Unfortunately, "we cannot control the weather" and for our summer evening Dog Picnic at the wetlands on 18 January it was very hot and humid with thunderstorms!

We are grateful to the professional team from Canberra Vet Hospital (CVH) who offered teeth checks, chip scanning, advice and doggy treats (especially for dogs who have been swimming in the dam ...). CVH is one of only 54 Vet hospitals in Australia to be recognised by the Small Animal Veterinary Association as an accredited veterinary hospital of excellence. They are located on the corner of Barton Highway and Federal Highway and they offer all services including behavioural therapy (phone 6241 3333).

ACT Rescue and Foster (ARF) also came to tell us about their work and brought a very cute rescue puppy. You can find out how to adopt a dog, find your lost dog, rehome your dog or complete a "dog wanted" form on their webpage [www.fosterdogs.org](http://www.fosterdogs.org), facebook and Instagram. Thank you very much for taking our photos James Tamaro.

The next opportunity for you to celebrate our Watson Community is "Watson in Autumn" – an online photo competition during April.

*Aileen Conroy, Event Organiser*

### *Canberra Music Education School*

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.

Lessons are \$35 per ½ hour

For enquiries, contact Diane on 0414 788 380

### Academy of Interactive Entertainment



**Canberra Technology Park  
Block E, 49 Phillip Avenue  
Watson ACT 2602**

**P: +61 2 6162 5131  
E: canberra@aie.edu.au**

## LUTON

### Team McReynolds Jenny, Michael & Mark

For all your real estate needs  
please call your local residents  
and Watson area specialists!

**Jenny** 0409 300 065  
**Michael** 0419 688 034  
**Mark** 0401 829 087  
**Office** Dickson 6230 0005  
**Email** jenny.mcreeynolds  
@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!



## Neighbourhood street Christmas party

After a busy year of work, a rare holiday finally arrived. After receiving a barbecue burner trolley for a Christmas gift, a neighbour pushed it out onto the street and invited everyone to come to share some food, drinks and a good time. As soon as a dish was prepared, a change of nice, clean clothes was on, a reminder of proper manners to the children was given, we attended the street party straight away. The stresses from work on the body and mind disappeared instantly after attending the neighbourhood street Christmas party. Because of my busy work and life, both my body and mind longed for a rest on the beach of an uninhabited island. But, it turns out that the peace I was longing for was found in my neighbourhood.

Every household brought out their tables and chairs while platters of food and drinks were piled onto tables one after another. A festive greeting of “Merry Christmas” can give the person receiving the blessing a smile instantly. People clumped into groups of 2 or 3 to chat casually and listen to each other’s goings-on in life. Many neighbours had relatives who came from interstate or even from foreign countries. They chatted with the other neighbours as if they were family. Isn’t it just wonderful how people from all over the world can meet here to celebrate being together?

Children and adolescents were originally scattered all over the street while playing but later got together in one big group to play handball. The younger children ran in and out of this group while playing with the various vehicles that had been contributed by different neighbours. There were tricycles, push bikes, scooters, and so many other exciting wheeled toys on offer. A grandmother was able to teach her little granddaughter how to skate and ride the fun toys. One of the neighbours pushed out their electronic piano for the other adults and children to play on. Classical music, pop songs, and of course the Christmas songs played in the background of this joyous scene. It was such a good idea.

A healthy and harmonious community is created by individuals with a soft heart and an open mind. If you are able to maintain a friendly interaction with your neighbours that live on your right, left and across the street, that's already four families that can get together to organise activities. During the festive season, you can organise a simple activity where you can invite all the other neighbours on the street to join in. That way you really will be able to bring the whole street some Christmas spirit that’s full of laughter and blessings.

*Living Streets Association*



## Report – Summernats 2019

The annual car festival – Summernats - was held at Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC) from 3-6 January 2019.

As the WCA Inc. representative for this event, I attended operational meetings on Friday and Saturday evening, hearing first-hand what goes on in the day-to-day running of the event, and providing feedback on the impact on our suburb. These meetings are attended by all parties involved in the running of the event. Participants range from Summernats promoters and staff and various ACT Government agencies including ACT Police, Fire, the ACT Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), EPIC and Territory Services. This was my 4th year participating in this process.

The weather this year was particularly challenging on the Friday due to heat and a lack of wind in the afternoon, however a cool change with rain on Saturday and Sunday improved conditions significantly. Evaporative cooling is not an option regardless of weather conditions throughout the event from the hours of 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM due to the residue from the burnout competition. There was a noticeable increase in noise due to the new drift car display in the Farmers Market pavilion. EPIC engages an external party to conduct testing with respect to noise and receives a written report. The WCA Inc. received two formal complaints by Watson residents pertaining to noise and pollution, which were passed onto the EPA. A WCA Inc. representative spoke on the ABC Drive program in response to complaints and an audio recording of very high noise levels experienced by nearby residents during the burnouts event.

There were no reports of antisocial behaviour. ACT Police were observed patrolling Knox Street on motorcycles. Signage ensured illegal parking was also kept to a minimum.

As a resident of Watson for over 16 years, I can attest that having EPIC as our neighbour has both its advantages and disadvantages. Some activities held at EPIC may not be as agreeable for Watson residents as others, and the WCA Inc. work with the ACT Government and management at EPIC for all major events that occur throughout the year.

If you have concerns about any activities held at EPIC, please contact Access Canberra on 13 22 81 or log an issue online at [www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au](http://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au).

*Rod Lestone, Committee member*

## 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 and autumn are 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.

## Looking back ... the first 25 editions of the Watzon

*This is the 100th edition of the Watzon (formerly What's on in Watson?) So, starting this issue, we will have a quick look back at Watzon's earlier editions, from issue 1-25. Do send your reminiscences too, for us to include in future Watzon editions.*

Welcome to the 100<sup>th</sup> Edition of Watzon! Looking through the first 25 newsletters of the WCA Inc. shows some issues are always close to us - "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" ("the more things change, the more they stay the same").

The WCA Inc. was formed in 1990. The first 'news-sheet' noted that the WCA Inc. was modelled on Downer where the community association had started over a single issue and developed into a community movement. This was not long after the ACT Government controversially closed down local primary schools in Downer, Hackett and the Watson High School. A theme in early issues was collaboration with the Hackett Residents Association and Downer Community Association, highlighting the sense of a 'Majura' community which continues today. The original goals of the WCA Inc. include now as then, to protect enhance and promote the social, physical and cultural environment of Watson. The WCA Inc. became incorporated in 1995. 'Movers and shakers' in these early years included John Schneider, Ann Milligan, Linda Hogan, Patrick Turner and others. The inaugural committee at the first AGM of the WCA when it incorporated in 1995 were Stan Cronin, Julie Smith, Kate Temby, Lyn Davey and Sandra Blaik.

Children's activities had a high profile in most issues. There was news from the baby clinic, the preschool and primary schools, Scouts and the Watson Craft Centre. In Issue 7, children at Majura were raising money for Somalia. In 1996, Rosary Primary celebrated its students winning the Wakakirri Dance and Song Eisteddfod. Issue 21 in 1999 reported what kids said about grandparents – a grandmother was 'a lady without her own children', while 'a grandfather is a man grandmother'! Various editions reported on the activities of the Nursing Mothers Association, the Majura Women's Group and the Toy Library. Christmas Carols, and the Christmas Giving Tree, and outdoor concerts were also regular items. Based at the old Watson High School, the Canberra City Band has long been a valued part of the Watson community. Former Signadou College now Australian Catholic University reported in 1996 on its gold star rating in the "Good Universities Guide". Refurbishing the Watson Shops was also an ongoing interest, as was parking at the shops. Residents' concerns in the early 1990s included dogs roaming the streets - 'Fine, except that they foul, and fight, and frighten'.

Broader planning issues demanded attention from the early 1990s. The ACT Government hadn't got the money needed in the Budget for infrastructure - concerns about government plans for local green space were raised in the first issue. Increasing traffic volumes on Antill Street were bothering Watson residents. Liz Grace (later WCA Inc. Chair) reported in Issue 2 that the North Canberra Protection Group had petitioned to save the bush in Mt Majura and Mt Ainslie from construction of Monash Drive: the alternative route, Majura Parkway, was eventually accepted. There was relief in 1991, Issue 5, when local resident action groups prevented the High School Oval becoming medium density housing. The government agreed it would remain a community facility, and there were ideas for a teenager skate park and refurbishing and relocating the tennis courts closer to Watson shops.

## Recipe

This recipe from the “*Capital Region Farmers Market Recipe Book*”, published in 2014, was contributed by Warrick Morris – a fruit and vegetable grower. This is an old favourite and is quite easy to make.

### Old-fashioned cocktail

1tsp sugar  
3 dashes Angostura bitters  
1 strip lemon zest  
1 maraschino cherry  
70ml bourbon or whisky  
85 ml soda water  
Orange slice

1. In the bottom of a chilled old-fashion glass, saturate the sugar with the bitters.
2. Add the lemon zest, orange slice and cherry. Muddle together.
3. Fill the glass with ice, add the whiskey and stir well.
4. Top with soda water, if desired.
5. Garnish with the orange slice and cherry.



## Local services

WellSorted  
Professional Organiser



Chaos, overwhelm and clutter in your home, your office, your life?

I can bring calm, order & space back to your day & mind.

Call Virginia Wells – 0422 490 131

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

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

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

## Criminal activity in Watson

Through the WCA Facebook Page we have heard about a range of worrying criminal activity in Watson during early January. Most incidents occurred during the early hours of the morning, and included: bottles being thrown at a house resulting in a smashed window; mailboxes being damaged including a concrete one; solar lights being ripped out; kicking of top hats and lane barriers on Phillip Avenue; midnight door knocking; and multiple bins being knocked over on more than one occasion. In the case of the bins, a resident gave chase and identified the approximate age of the offenders and saw where they ran to.

In another instance of vandalism a wheelie bin was thrown at a door followed by a group of young men attempting to kick the door in. A few residents witnessed incidents involving cars revving and someone being chased. A white convertible, which was one of the cars involved, was dumped and set alight.

One Watson resident commented on Facebook that she'd noticed an increased Police presence in Watson. The WCA Inc. understands Police are most interested in obtaining CCTV footage to identify offenders. The WCA Inc. urges you to report all criminal activity in Watson – via:

Emergency	000	Call Triple Zero ( <b>000</b> ) in an emergency or life threatening situation.
Police assistance Line	131 444	Call this number if you require police assistance, but there is no immediate danger.
Crime Stoppers	1800 333 000	Call Crime Stoppers if you have information about a crime. You may remain anonymous.



## 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.*

The working group has largely been inactive during these hot dry months. John Briggs has braved the elements to spray individual St John's Wort plants and a cluster of spreading blackberry. These are highly invasive weeds which can form monocultures in a relatively short period of time.

We have been unable to contact the Parks and Conservation (PCS) offsets team to obtain a report from them. It does not appear that they have been working in the park recently. Both of the previous offsets managers have taken up new roles elsewhere and we do not know if they have been replaced. The movement of PCS staff is a constant complaint of other Parkcare groups in the ACT.

Unfortunately, I will be leaving the ACT this year and my time as the woodland coordinator will end after the WCA Inc. AGM next month. This is after almost twenty years spent volunteering in the woodland. I have enjoyed the experience immensely and wish to thank all of the other volunteers for their assistance and companionship. I also thank the WCA Inc. who fought to save the woodland from extinction in the hands of developers and allowed us to preserve this precious piece of our environment and improve it. *Our rewards do not come from the hands of humans but from the flora and fauna that inhabit it.*

Richard Larson

## 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**

## Looking back ... the first 25 editions of the Watzon (cont'd)

The fight to save Watson Woodlands also got underway in late 1992 at a meeting attended by 250 people. As reported in Issue 8, of particular interest to the WCA Inc. was how the proposed 1,300 new dwellings would affect pressures on local community services and facilities, residential amenity, traffic movements, noise and safety and trader profitability. The WCA Inc. proposed alternative development at North Watson, involving among other things, a tourist information and picnic area, a senior citizens centre and an adventure playground. This was to be integrated with walking and equestrian trails and regeneration of the valuable native grassland west of Antill Street.

In 1994, Issue 14 reported that the ACT Government had abandoned its highly controversial 50/50 urban infill target for North Canberra. By 1996, the WCA Inc. had published its satirical "Planner Speak", a hit with local media, and later cited in an influential urban planning book. The long-running battle to save the Watson Woodlands, a critically endangered remnant grassy woodland ecology featured in most issues throughout the decade of the 1990s. The WCA Inc. had a kids competition in 1996 about 'why I like living in Watson'. We heard in issue 18 that the local children liked 'nice neighbours, a good school and friends and trees and flowers and birds', as well as 'fish and chips', 'freddo frogs', and Watson's dogs and cats.

By 1997, the National Library of Australia was requesting the newsletter for their collections.

Issues 15 and 19 reported on some local dramas: discovery of contaminated sites due to a former sheep dip (later partly explained by a natural 'gossan' of lead) and a baby who got stuck in a highchair. 'Six burly fire persons and ambulance officers' supervised rescue of the latter. An upgrade of Federal Highway discussed in several issues resulted eventually in the Antill Street/Federal Highway roundabout. Canberra Airport development was a hot topic in the 1990s due to aircraft noise – a slight re-routing of southbound jet flights seemed to fix the problem. Meanwhile, local businesses came and went at the shops (remember the newsagent, and the petrol station?) and an upgrade of the public spaces became more imminent. In Issue 20 in 1997, a Mothers Memorial Park was proposed by WCA Inc. together with the North Canberra Community Council, to acknowledge the suffering of mothers whose children were 'stolen' by the authorities. The What's on in Watson newsletter recorded that the Governor General liked our proposal.

Summernats had begun on a disastrous note at Natex (now EPIC) in 1989, and there was an official apology to Watson residents for the nuisance caused in 1990. Two thirds of locals responding to the survey said they experienced inconvenience from noise up to 2:00 AM, and a similar proportion did not want the event held at Natex. Around 90% wanted greater controls on the event. In Issue 25 edition, Patrick Turner, a founding member of WCA Inc, reported on his difficult role of negotiating improvements. Although the WCA Inc. recognised the enjoyment that people got from motorsports, he noted the ongoing controversy of 'The Burnouts'. "However hard I have tried," he wrote, "I alone cannot make the 4- day car festival much quieter or easier to live with than the organisers permit it to be. I keep asking why it is that long loud intermittent burnouts are permitted between 11:00 PM and 4:00 AM."

As we move into 2019, urban infill policies are once again an issue, and Summernats is still a topic of interest in the New Year.

Well .... 'the more things change, the more they stay the same'.

*Julie Smith*

## 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](http://www.acu.edu.au).

## The goings on in Watson (and nearby) ... have you noticed?

- Watson has a bakery!  
The team at the Knox have transformed the old “My friend” into an artisan bakery! The bakery will be in full swing by mid-March but they have already started putting out some amazing treats. Offerings will include, sourdough, pies, danishes and more ...
- The Canberra Times recently reported that the Australian Catholic University precinct is now going to be protected on the ACT Heritage Register. This is in no small part to the work of Ms Mira Kwasik - who lives adjacent to the campus. Ms Kwasik put in a very strong submission to the ACT Heritage Council asking for protection to be given. Thank you for all your hard work and effort.
- New signage has been erected at Majura Primary School – complemented by further landscaping around the main entrance on Knox Street.
- Rosary Primary School has built a Lone Pine Memorial Garden – with the support of an Armistice Centenary Grant.
- Painting of the exterior of the Australian Catholic University continues.
- Street Libraries in Watson and surrounds are taking off! At the WCA Inc. we're aware of Libraries on Molesworth, Ian Nicol and A'Beckett Streets, Nipperville Daycare on Gwynne Street, Gang Gang Café in Downer and the Hackett Shops. Know of more? Please let us know via email at [watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com](mailto:watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com) or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/](http://www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/).



**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/](http://www.facebook.com/WCA1inc/)

## Poem

### *'Watson Dreaming'*

Where Ngunnawal people have lived for  
thousands of years  
Mt Majura, sentinel like - part of an ancient  
ecosystem  
Extending into Watson woodlands  
Yellow box and red gums reaching above  
more recent plantings.

Beyond, a rapidly changing landscape  
New housing estates springing up  
Not all fondly welcomed by Watson locals.

Still, we like our patch - fondness there is  
The 39 bus keeping us moving  
Majura Primary School a lively community  
Watson shops, a vital hub  
'The Knox Made in Watson' cafe filled with  
chatter and good food  
Next door Coco's Hair Salon's always busy  
There's a lot more going on - like the Watson  
Art Centre Space  
And technology hub at old Watson high.

Watson's growing to be sure - hopefully not  
too fast  
That its character and charm will stay  
For us and future generations to love  
Watson - once 'South Goulburn' now inner  
North  
Our patch, our place, our home.

*David Turbayne  
Majura Café Poets*

## Local services

*Convenient one stop shopping  
in Watson for all your  
pharmacy needs*

### **Watson Pharmacy**

\*For friendly, efficient Customer Service

\*QCPP accredited

\* Leave/medical certificates

\*Seniors' discounts

\* We can price match

\*Free script pick-up and delivery

\*Stop smoking classes

\*Blood pressure checks

\*Hard to park? You can hand in your  
scripts by ringing us on:

Landline: 6241 1506

Mob: 0422 668 293

Pharmacy hours:

Mon to Fri 9:00am–6:00pm

Sat: 9:00am-01:00pm

### **Licensed Post Office**

\*Postal Services

\*Gifts \*Cards for all occasions

\*Passport photos

Post Office hours:

Mon to Fri 9:00am–5:30pm

## **ANDREW MCREYNOLDS PLUMBING**

FOR ALL YOUR  
PLUMBING SOLUTIONS

MOB: 0402 921 111

E: [andrew.mcreynolds1@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.mcreynolds1@gmail.com)

LICENSE NO. 20121001

ABN: 95548301062







**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

**Sunday, 3 March at 3:00-4:30PM**

**The Knox Café  
Watson Village Shops**

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

**More information:**

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



## Watson property sales

Ever wondered about house prices in Watson?

We've compiled a list of Watson sale prices for the period 1 October – 31 December 2018 for you.

Exchange (sold date)	Address	Price	Type
03/11/2018	2/22 Blair Street	\$1,180,000	House
22/10/2018	12 Kerferd Street	\$1,100,000	House
24/11/2018	75 Irvine Street	\$980,000	House
10/12/2018	67 Roma Mitchell Crescent	\$970,000	House
29/11/2018	38 Knox Street	\$930,000	House
01/11/2018	1 Holroyd Street	\$920,000	House
17/11/2018	11 Piddington Street	\$900,000	House
31/10/2018	12 A'Beckett Street	\$885,000	House
12/10/2018	6 Street Place	\$842,000	House
24/11/2018	34 Andrews Street	\$830,000	House
21/10/2018	7 Molesworth Street	\$772,500	House
05/10/2018	8 Manning Street	\$760,000	House
17/11/2018	32 Blair Street	\$740,000	House
17/11/2018	9 Hanson Place	\$699,000	House
20/12/2018	44 Simpson Street	\$685,000	House
06/11/2018	13 Dickinson Street	\$860,000	Duplex
31/10/2018	86/215 Aspinall Street	\$645,540	Townhouse
29/10/2018	33/14 Federal Highway	\$490,000	Townhouse
10/10/2018	14/25 Aspinall Street	\$475,000	Townhouse

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

## Major development off Aspinall and Antill Streets and Negus Crescent

People familiar with the area will be well aware of the scale of development which has recently begun in this area of north Watson. Building work has commenced with a vengeance on the three blocks of land between the Channel 10 and the Channel 7 TV stations. The staff of Channel 10 have been informed that their positions will terminate at the end of 2019. This will more than likely accelerate work on that site.

*Richard Larson*

### *Save our Suburb ... We're on it!*

Over 100 people attended the “Save our Suburb” meeting last July in resounding response to the government’s ad hoc infill development already impacting Watson ... Here’s what happened next ...

- Inspired by the energy and passion of the public forum, 15 residents volunteered to form a planning subcommittee of the Watson Community Association.
- The subcommittee started a consultation process to find out how residents want to see Watson develop.
- We launched a petition to halt further ad hoc residential development in North Watson (Sections 74 and 76).
- We challenged developers to stop illegally cutting down trees.
- After much thought, discussion, mapping and research, we drafted a ‘*Plan for the Sustainable Development of Watson*’.
- We promoted the draft Plan through the WCA website and Facebook page.
- We set up stalls and visual displays to consult residents at the Watson shops.
- We wrote to Ministers, MLAs and the heads of the relevant planning Directorates.

This process culminated in a second big public meeting on 4 February. Over 80 residents unanimously supported the ‘Plan for the Sustainable Development of Watson’. Invited guests Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith, Minister Shane Rattenbury and Shadow Minister Candice Burch attended.

#### **What’s in the Plan?**

The ‘*Plan for the Sustainable Development of Watson*’ describes our vision for the future of Watson. In brief, the Plan seeks:

- sound planning that highlights the beautiful existing features of Watson and learns from both the merits and mistakes to informing future developments
  - genuine participation in a holistic planning approach for the whole suburb
  - energy efficient design and orientation
  - adequate community facilities and infrastructure, including convenient shopping, recreation and meeting spaces
  - accessible well-planned and safe transport options
- enhanced green spaces and tree coverage.

#### **What happens next?**

The Plan will be submitted to the WCA Inc. AGM for endorsement. Once that is done, the Planning Sub-Committee will continue to maintain the document as a current representation. We will also expand the promotion of the Plan to all Assembly members and to the EPSDD, and strive to have it recognised as the de facto Master Plan for Watson. We now have access to the EPSDD and to at least three Assembly members and we will continue to develop those relationships.

## Planning Sub-Committee report (cont'd)

### How you can get involved?

It's not too late to contribute to the Plan. You can read the Plan on the WCA website at [www.watson.org.au](http://www.watson.org.au) and email your comments and suggestions to [Planning2602@gmail.com](mailto:Planning2602@gmail.com).

Keep up to date with Watson developments on Facebook [www.facebook.com/WCA1inc](http://www.facebook.com/WCA1inc) and report issues that you are concerned about.

### *Petition for Trees!*

Care about local trees disappearing?

Many Watson residents aired their concerns at the recent 4 February public meeting—and now you can do something positive too—sign and share the online petition to the Legislative Assembly (before the 15 March deadline) at this link:

<https://epetitions.act.gov.au/CurrentEPetition.aspx>

The petition says:

*The following residents of the ACT draw to the attention of the Assembly that street and park trees in our established suburbs are declining by around 3,000 a year because the ACT Government's replanting program is inadequate.*

*Worse, the last report on this issue, from 7 years ago, showed that our streets and parks need 40,000 trees to fill gaps where trees are missing and to replace dead and dying trees.*

*Canberra's urban trees are loved by the Canberra community. They provide shade to keep our suburbs cool in summer and are important for native birds and animals.*

*Trees will be even more important in future as our climate gets hotter. Planting trees now is an investment in the future of our city.*

*Your petitioners, therefore, request the Assembly to request the ACT Government to plant an extra 7,000 trees a year to reverse the decline, and begin restoring the city's tree canopy.*

---

### Tree removal on Negus Crescent

I was horrified, but not surprised to notice that all of the 15-year-old *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* on the northern edge of Negus Crescent were removed recently. The estate development plan approved by the ACT Government permitted the developer to do this. In late winter last year, the trees flowered and mobs of native nectar feeding birds were seen by a number of bird watchers feeding in the trees. I myself noted a large group of Rainbows Lorikeets doing the same, but I believe Super Parrots were seen by other birdwatchers. To me, this was a real tragedy. The developer intends to provide 'visitor' car-parking on the road verge.

*Richard Larson*