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- 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

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National Breastfeeding Helpline:

1800 686 268 or visit

www.breastfeeding.asn.au

to check venues:

abanorthcanberra@hotmail.com

SUNDAY MORNINGS

9AM & 10:30AM

FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH

7PM-9PM

160 ASPINALL ST
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WATSON

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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

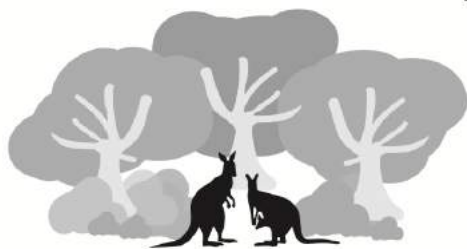
– **Opens every Saturday, 2pm to 4pm** –

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



THE WATSON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 101 – Winter 2019

Message from the Chair

Hello Watson, and how beautiful were those Autumn colours? It was great to see many of you enter, and vote, in our Autumn photo competition, run via the WCA Inc. Facebook page. The winner will be announced on 30 April.

Thank you to Aileen Conroy, our enthusiastic event organiser, for your commitment to enhancing the social fabric of our great suburb, and to Daniel and the team at the Knox for donating the prize pack for our winning entry.

At our WCA Inc. Annual General Meeting in March we welcomed two new committee members. Can you help too? Due to Richard Larson's departure, we are looking for a Watson Woodlands Convenor and with Cedric Bryant hanging up his gardening gloves, also a Gardening Tips contributor (see pages 7 and 12). As the saying goes - many hands make light work.

In this edition, we again look back at 25 editions' worth of community action and news. See pages 4-5 for a trip down memory lane from 2000 to 2005.

Planning and land sales remain at the forefront of our minds. The ACT Government has announced it intends to negotiate the sale of the Old Watson High School site to the Academy of Interactive Entertainment - with a provision for retaining green space for community use. Our Planning Subcommittee is busily preparing, on behalf of residents, a case for a suite of community facilities and retention of green space under the title 'Watson Village' (see pages 8-9).

We have before us an opportunity to shape these community facilities and green spaces. Let's stay engaged, or become engaged, with the process to help improve our suburb.

By the time you read this, the weather will be cooler. Think warm thoughts, and see you again in the Spring edition.

Leonie Watts, Chair

Winter events

Mother's Day

Sunday 12 May

Welcome to Watson

Sunday 12 May, 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Reconciliation Day in the Park

Sunday 26 May

Reconciliation Day public holiday

Monday 27 May

Watson Preschool Fete

Saturday 1 June

Truffle Festival

Starting Saturday 1 June

Kids in the Shed – Old Bus Depot

Sunday 9 June

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Monday 10 June

Handmade Market (Winter) – EPIC

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 June

WCA Inc. Quarterly Meeting

Monday 22 July at 7:30 PM

Dressmaker Costume Exhibition

To Sunday, 18 August

Contact us

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, 22 July at 7:30 PM** - both at the Hall in the Fair on Tay Street, Watson.

All welcome.

Reports ...

Welcome to Watson

A couple who retired to leafy Watson from Wagga Wagga are some of our newest neighbours. They eagerly read the Watson newsletter and came along to the 'Welcome to Watson' event on Sunday, 3 March. Brian from the Canberra City Band helped welcome them and orientate them to our community.

If you are new to Watson come along and we will help you settle in and discover the rich tapestry of our suburb. The next 'Welcome to Watson' is scheduled for Sunday, 12 May from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM @ The Knox – see Page 10 for details.

Contact lists for local groups, businesses and services are located on the WCA Inc. website at www.watson.org.au under the 'About Watson' tab.

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

Piano lessons in Watson

Ella Ragless is teaching piano in Watson. Ella is an active musician, enthusiastic about teaching anyone keen to learn piano in the inner north, including young children. Ph 0490 018 070

<https://www.musicteacher.com.au/ella-ragless/piano-lessons/>

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Team McReynolds Jenny, Michael & Mark

**For all your real estate needs
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Jenny 0409 300 065
Michael 0419 688 034
Mark 0401 829 087
Office Dickson 6230 0005
Email jenny.mcreynolds
@luton.com.au



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 4:00 pm

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

Dinner

Tuesday-Saturday from 4:00 pm

ENROLLING NOW

Enrolling now for 2020



Rosary Primary School

TOGETHER WE DO OUR BEST

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EXPLORE

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TRIUMPH

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Rosary Primary School

Fleming Street Watson ACT 2602

www.rosary.act.edu.au

Ph: 6248 0010

Email: office.rosaryps@cg.catholic.edu.au

ALL WELCOME | ENROLLING NOW

Report – AGM

The WCA Inc. Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, 21 March 2019 at the Community Hall in North Watson. Around 20 members of the WCA Inc. were there to elect the 2019 Committee, provide an update on the WCA Inc. finances and hear from our various working groups, including the Planning Subcommittee, Woodlands, Watson, and Watson Community Gatherings.

Two longstanding committee members were farewelled and thanked for their invaluable contribution over the years: Liz Grace and Richard Larson. Two new members were elected and warmly welcomed to the Committee; Megan Mears and Simon Clarke.

The WCA Inc. supported and officially accepted the Planning Subcommittee's draft Plan for the Sustainable Development of Watson and their considerable effort developing the Plan was acknowledged by the Chair of WCA Inc., Leonie Watts. The next steps will be working towards an effective promotional strategy for the Plan.

Woodlands Working Group have been busy over the past year spending the spring and summer spraying invasive weeds and raising and planting seedlings to complement individual pre-existing plants. A recent assessment and enhancement report completed on the two water bodies in the reserve and the Operational Management Plan for the area can be accessed through the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate website.

The Watson reached a very significant milestone in February this year... our 100th edition! Making the WCA one of, if not the only, Canberra community association to have such a long record of continuous communication with our residents. Be sure to read this issue's Looking Back section, where we revisit stories published in the Watson between editions 26 to 50.

There were two Watson Community picnics over the past year; Picnic on the amphitheatre section of the oval with the Canberra City Band in spring and the Summer Evening Dog Lover's picnic at the Wetlands; attended by families and also Canberra Veterinary Hospital and ACT Rescue and Foster. Two more events will be held this year – stay tuned for details in the Watson and WCA Facebook page.

Angela Wright
Secretary, WCA Inc.

Vale

In Remembrance of a dear neighbour and longtime Watson resident –
Kenneth James Rolls - 13/04/1933 - 10/03/2019

Beloved husband of Betty, Father of John, Greg, Joanne and Katrina, grandfather to nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Ken and Betty moved to Irvine Street, Watson in 1964.

Ken was a great neighbour, a good friend to many and an active community volunteer for St Vincent's de Paul and Volunteer Library Services.

A kind, gentle man who is sadly missed by his family and the many others that his life touched.

Looking back ... editions 26-50 of the Watzon

This is the second in our series looking back at Watzon's earlier editions. In early 2019, we published the 100th edition. Here we look at issues 26-50.

From 2000 to 2005, the period covered by these issues, planning and development remained high on the agenda of local issues, including the Watson Woodlands and North Watson development, the Local Area Planning Advisory Committees ('LAPACs') and Community Value Statements and Neighbourhood Plans, the Shops refurbishment and the future of the Watson High School site. This was a time of bushfires and drought, so Watzon contained a thank you to firefighters, and stories on kangaroos at risk of collisions, Open Gardens and began offering gardening tips. The hugely popular Downer Bike Track came, then went (killed by the public liability insurance crisis), and Blair Street had a fabulous community party. There was an item in the Watzon on 'road rage' and a proposed dragstrip at Majura, and we reported on Canberra 'milkos' delivering milk to Watson households in 2005. Perennial local issues such as EPIC noise, Summernats, and the Canberra International Airport were also covered, along with items on roads and traffic, cycle tracks, wandering dogs, the Mitchell Incinerator, Owls and Swift Parrots, Canberra Ornithologists Group and minimising Myna birds, missing street signs, dangerous footpaths, illegal rubbish dumping and wood collecting on Stirling Reserve and elsewhere, Stirling Avenue access, and a variety of other issues elaborated below. Our very own WCA chair, Stan Cronin, received Australia Day Honours in 2003 (edition 44).

The Watzon continued to report on the many community activities in Watson - including the Potters Society, Scouts, Majura Women's Group, the Australian Breastfeeding Association, Neighbourhood Watch, Meg's Toy Box, the North Canberra Community Council, Friends of Mt Majura, PAWS, Probus and ACT for Trees.

Watzon also reported regularly on happenings at Rosary and Majura Primary Schools, Watson Pre-School, the CIT and the ACU. The ACU hit the news for its path-breaking policy of offering 52 weeks paid maternity leave to staff (edition 36).

- Rosary celebrated NAIDOC, had outings to Tuross Beach, Sports and Swim days, Christmas Carols and Concerts, and Graduation Days for Kindy Kids and Year 6 students, and raised thousands of dollars for children in Ethiopia.
- Majura celebrated receiving a national award for Literacy and Numeracy, and participating in Writers Festivals, Spring Carnivals and the Wakakirri song and dance festival.
- Blue Gum School started up in the old Watson High School Building before relocating to Hackett in 2003.

This was the era of LAPACs and Community Value Statements, with the Watson Neighbourhood Plan emerging from extensive local discussion. There were new concerns for the nationally endangered Regent Honeyeater when the National Heritage Village (formerly Canberra Fair) was redeveloped for housing. Lincoln Red Cedar Motel (formerly the Chinese Embassy) was redeveloped for housing, raising complaints about excessive density, lack of community space and facilities, and inadequate traffic and strategic planning for the area (edition 26). When residential development of North Watson began with the demolition of existing housing on the polocrosse field (edition 50), local residents despaired at the noise of heavy construction equipment, and dust baths for housing in existing Watson. Builders rubbish flowed over into surrounding bush and roadways. Sound familiar?

Recipe

This recipe from the “*Capital Region Farmers Market (CRFM) Recipe Book*”, published in 2014, was contributed by Barbara Baikie – a Rotarian for 14 years and member of the CRFM Committee and Coordinator of the CRFM Cookbook Committee.

Cauliflower Soup

Serves 4

1 tbs **olive oil**
3 **garlic** cloves
2 tsps ground **coriander**
1 tsp ground **cumin**
1 head of **cauliflower** (approx. 750g),
cut into florets
200g **sebago potatoes**, peeled and chopped
1 litre **chicken stock** or vegetable stock
3 cm of **blue vein cheese** (optional)
¼ cup of **cream**

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat, add onions and garlic. Cook until soft (approx. 4 minutes).

Add ground coriander and cumin. Increase heat and cook, stirring for another two minutes, and then add cauliflower, potatoes and stock.

Bring to the boil, reduce heat and simmer for about ½ an hour until vegetables are very soft.

Remove from heat and cool slightly, use a blender to puree vegetables. Return to heat, add cream and chopped blue vein cheese.

Serve with savory muffins.

Local services



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

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WATSON

- **EFTPOS is available - no minimum expenditure required**

- **Free home delivery services**

Come in & experience the service for yourself.

Phone: 02 6255 6800



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/

Woodlands Working Group

Can you help?

Justice Robert Hope Park, also known as Watson Woodlands, is a remnant of critically endangered Yellow Box/Red Gum grassy woodland of national significance. It is part of a larger system that stretches from Gungahlin through to Mulligans Flat, Goorooyarroo and Mount Majura Nature Reserves.

How the Woodlands were won

The existence of Watson Woodlands is due to long term community action and the commitment of residents led by the WCA Inc. from 1992. Over the decade, this action took the form of writing multiple reports, submissions and grant applications. It also included meetings, several public rallies and campaigns. Notably, the 'Walk for Watson Woodlands' picnic rally was held in April 2000. In March 2001, over 200 people gathered to hear conservationist Phillip Toyne speak on the value of the Watson Woodlands, and in May, soon to become Environment Minister Simon Corbell announced the ALP would reserve most of the area. After almost a decade of effort, the 15 hectare Justice Robert Hope Park came into being in July 2002.

What's been happening since?

Having obtained a small Bushcare grant in 2001, the main role of the Woodlands Working Group has been organising working bees for weeding, watering and planting trees and shrubs. The Working Group liaises with rangers and administration staff from ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS). Long term convenor Richard Larsen also attended WCA Inc. meetings and contributed articles about the woodlands to the Watson.

Can you help?

The WCA Inc. is looking for a Woodlands Working Group convenor to monitor the woodlands – convene the small working group and engage with ACT PCS staff. Ideally the convenor would take an active interest in the park and update the community through contributions in the WATZON. If you are interested in taking on the role of convenor or sharing this role, please call, email or message the WCA Inc. via Facebook or email at watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com.

Thank you again Richard Larson - outgoing Woodlands Convenor

While Richard has been thanked in person for his enormous contribution to the Watson Woodlands, we would also like to publicly acknowledge his many years of committed work, attention to detail and the valuable skills he brought to the role as campaigner and convenor of the Woodlands.

Richard also served as chair of WCA Inc. and held other committee roles at various times. He will be greatly missed at the WCA Inc. We wish him and Bev all the best for the future and their move north.

*Megan Mears
Committee member, WCA Inc.*

Looking back ... editions 26-50 of the Watzon (cont'd)

- The shops were refurbished, and there was a fuss about plans to release the nearby green space for commercial development. Plans were withdrawn (editions 26-28).
- A developer proposed a club and gaming machines for the High School Oval. This too was withdrawn as community resistance gained momentum (editions 32 and 34). At this time, the CIT in Reid held the lease over the old Watson High School Building, but found it costly to run; millions had been spent on removing asbestos after it closed in the 1980s.
- AIE, which ran 3D graphic design training programs for CIT, took over the building lease. Canberra City Band practiced there still.
- There was ongoing discussion about spillovers of noise, rubbish and parking from EPIC, including from fireworks.
- Plans emerged for EPIC redevelopment (editions 32, 37-38 and 49).
- Reducing the unacceptable disruptions associated with Summernats remained a major preoccupation for the WCA Inc. and local residents over this period, with considerable improvement due to strong advocacy to government, EPIC and Summernats organisers by WCA Inc. representatives.

The Watson Woodlands

Meanwhile, the big issue of the time, reported at length in the Watzon was the Watson Woodlands campaign and residential development at North Watson. In April 2000 (edition 29), there was a 'Walk for Watson Woodlands' attended by 100 people, many contributing funds to the WCA Inc. campaign to save the red gum yellow box grassy woodland area at the northern end of the suburb from residential development (first proposed in 1992). There were also petitions, garage sales, a survey, and a determined pre-election campaign from 2000-2001 including a mail campaign of around 2000 postcards to key Ministers in the Carnell government.

A turning point was the influential launch of a scientific study, 'The Ecological Values of the Watson Woodlands', at the ACT Assembly in July 2000 (edition 31). Reading this report resulted in 'an epiphany' by the ALP opposition spokesperson Simon Corbell. At the March 2001 Picnic Rally on Stirling Reserve, leading national environmentalist Phillip Toyne called for 'a line in the sand' to be drawn against this environmental destruction. In front of the local audience of some 200 people, Corbell announced the ALP would preserve the Woodland.

A 2001, Bushcare grant assisted remediation of the area from this time. After working with WCA Inc. campaign leader Julie Smith and many others during the 1990s to secure this important remnant native woodland and obtain funding for materials, Martin Grace stepped forward to lead the volunteer working group, with our expert advisor, John Briggs. A small area of the Woodlands was gazetted as a park on 26 July 2002. WCA Inc. efforts on the Woodland culminated in November 2005 in a major event celebrating the official declaration of 18 hectares of the Watson Woodland as the 'Justice Robert Hope Park', at which luminaries including the former Liberal Environment Minister Gary Humphries praised our sustained and effective campaign. The former government had received a derisory community response to announcing that just 5 hectares of the native woodland would be preserved, within a planned development of several hundred dwellings. Now the politics had caught up with the science.

*Julie Smith
Deputy Chair, WCA Inc.*

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.

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

- Watson oval is in regular use by various sporting teams. Three clubs from the Canberra City & Suburban Cricket Association use the oval. Lions Cricket Canberra training happens on Tuesday nights. Barton Cricket Club plays there on Saturdays and Lake George Bunyips Cricket Club play on alternate Saturdays.
- Majura Football Club (MFC) use the oval for training during the winter season mostly for the junior teams that are based at Majura Primary and want to train straight after school. On Saturdays it is used by MFC's state league men's teams for games.
- An additional bike racks have been installed at the Watson shops – beside the oak tree in front of Cocos.

Community notices

The poster features a dark green rectangular background with a white border. At the top, there is a small green square. Below it, the text 'Save the Date' is written in a white serif font. The main title 'WATSON PRESCHOOL FETE' is written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. At the bottom, the date 'Saturday, 1 June' is written in a white serif font. The entire poster is set against a background of a repeating green leaf pattern.

Save the Date

**WATSON
PRESCHOOL FETE**

Saturday, 1 June

Poem

'A new tram stop'

I will remember this autumn
as glimpses of light rail's horizontal flights of
red
contrast with the slower
more informal christening of our ground
with golden doonas.
The unpredictable settling of leaves sighing
down to their home soil
reminds the folk festival to sing
yet again!

Gillian Sutton
Majura Café Poets

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Mob: 0422 668 293

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Sat: 9:00am–01:00pm

Licensed Post Office

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*Passport photos

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Personal coaching - Transition to the next stage in your life with calm,
confidence and clarity.

Mindfulness training - stress less, sleep better
(individuals and groups)

Hawaiian kahuna massage - Relief for tired muscles and minds

May is mother-daughter month: 10% off (mention this ad)

joancornish@innernature.com.au



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 May 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

Watson property sales

Ever wondered about house prices in Watson?

We've compiled a list of Watson sale prices for the period 1 January – 31 March 2019 for you.

Exchange (sold date)	Address	Price	Type
21/01/2019	11 Dodds Place	\$905,000	House
07/02/2019	17 Field Street	\$850,000	House
06/03/2019	11 Knox Street	\$840,000	House
13/03/2019	3 Kerferd Street	\$810,000	House
18/01/2019	28 Manning Street	\$747,500	House
15/03/2019	22 Burnside Street	\$740,000	House
16/02/2019	51 Piddington Street	\$740,000	House
29/01/2019	22 Manning Street	\$735,000	House
23/02/2019	129 Knox Street	\$730,000	House
28/03/2019	39 Molesworth Street	\$680,000	House
10/01/2019	54 Whitmore Crescent	\$480,000	House
04/03/2019	50 Tay Street	\$435,000	House
01/02/2019	7 Kilduff Street	\$856,000	Land
01/02/2019	4 Kilduff Street	\$450,000	Land
20/03/2019	29/15 Aspinall Street	\$489,000	Townhouse
14/02/2019	15/14 Federal Highway	\$481,000	Townhouse
02/03/2019	68 Ian Nicol Street	\$467,000	Townhouse
18/02/2019	2/36 Mabel Miller Lane	\$355,000	Townhouse
22/02/2019	46/25 Aspinall Street	\$480,000	Apartment
29/01/2019	94/20 Federal Highway	\$350,000	Apartment
07/01/2019	7/35 Tay Street	\$338,000	Apartment
01/03/2019	63/21 Aspinall Street	\$360,000	Unit

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

Hints for your garden

Can you help? Are you a keen gardener or just a bit of a green thumb? The WCA Inc. is looking for a contributor for our 'Hints for your garden' column – to contribute a short piece (250 words) for each quarterly edition of the Watson. If you are interested, email or message the WCA Inc. via Facebook or email at watsoncommunityassociation666@gmail.com.

And, a big 'thank you' to Cedric Bryant our outgoing contributor. While Cedric has been thanked in person for his valuable contributions to the Watson, we would also like to publicly acknowledge the many years he shared his knowledge and passion for gardening with the residents of Watson. Thank you Cedric! We hope you enjoy more time in your own garden. And, you can still follow Cedric's gardening advice in the Canberra City News.

Planning Sub-Committee report

Join us! Help keep Watson liveable and sustainable!

Lots of developments are afoot - both across our suburb and within the Planning Committee of the WCA Inc. We now have a comprehensive, community-led Plan for the Sustainable Development of Watson to help shape our suburb. The Plan is a living document and will be updated regularly to reflect the needs and developments within Watson. As you read through the latest planning news below think about whether you'd like to get involved.

Promoting our Plan for Watson

The community-led *Plan for the Sustainable Development of Watson* was formally adopted by the WCA at their AGM on 21 March. Read the latest Plan now at www.watson.org.au We are now focused on promoting the Plan to the Government and wider community, including other community associations.

Our goal is to ensure the provisions set out in the Plan are key considerations for the Government across all development and planning decisions affecting Watson – including genuine community consultation with the WCA their first point of contact.

Join us!

We are only as strong as our members. We are now looking for more Watson residents to share their ideas, skills and input on the future of our suburb by joining the WCA Inc. Planning Sub-Committee. We are a friendly group working towards genuine community consultation and outcomes for Watson. The level of involvement is up to you.

Contact planning2602@gmail.com.

Canberra Technology Park and Watson Oval (old Watson High School site)

You'll have received a card in the mail from ACT Government noting their intention to negotiate sale of the site to Academy of Interactive Entertainment, with a provision for retaining green space for the community. We are preparing a response to the Government with list of questions and considerations and outlining our case for a suite of community facilities to be built in the green space under the title 'Watson Village'. We will share this with the community via Facebook and forums. Feedback, concerns, or suggestions welcomed.

Canberra City Gateway

Watson will be impacted by the Governments proposed developments in this key corridor in the entrance to Canberra (which includes blocks 74, and 76 along the Federal Highway). We have invited representatives from the National Capital Authority to our next meeting to discuss the status of this project and the impact for our local area. The WCA Inc. will then be developing a strategy with the community to submit to the Government.

Planning Sub-Committee report (cont'd)

What are your burning issues?

With the completion of the Plan, the Planning Committee are now considering their priorities for the coming year. At present, these include the items and developments above. Are there are other issues of concern you'd like to see addressed?

As always, we invite you to share local issues and solutions via our email address, attend our public events, and get involved in the WCA Inc. Planning Committee.

Resident letter

WCA Inc.,

Congratulations on the 100th edition of the Watzon.

When we arrived in Watson from the United Kingdom in 1964 there were no shops - my late wife had to push the pram to Downer for shopping. The sound of cattle was heard from O'Sullivan's farm, but not the sound of birds in the treeless former paddock. However, spin-off, the unused soil grew the best tomatoes ever. I enjoyed the ice-rink across Northbourne Avenue, and occasionally the car racing at Mt. Ginn. The Drive-in, a perfect treat. The Commodore Motel gave a good meal, and for a while it was the Chinese Embassy.

When the shops started, there was a duplication of vegetable start-ups, the owners of one of them complained that no indication had been given of who the other tenants would be. Kevin the butcher remained for some time.

I liked the native vegetation in Stirling Avenue and joined in the protest for Justice Robert Hope Park. Good that Monash Drive never happened, I loved the initial uncleared state of Stirling Avenue, with its copses full of rabbits. I have a weakness for abandoned car wrecks, and I liked the old Chrysler that gradually decayed beneath vegetation.

When I found the Watzon in my letterbox this afternoon I went for a nostalgic bike ride around the suburb. Constrained development has made Watson a perfect Canberra suburb, the unique Guirgola house in Irvine Street is hidden in vegetation. The concentration of large religious establishments was initially extraordinary, the Signadou Order of nuns and the Blackfriars clergy, (if I have got that right), and the large Monastery of the Sacred Heart. The distinctive buildings now the Australian Catholic University. And now we also have C3 Church.

Watson is a wonderful place to live, and it would improve with a shopping centre on Tay Street. Alas, the iron wave of concentration is going to hit, but it has been more and more one of the most livable suburbs, made in the original Canberra plan.

*Regards, Jack Palmer
28 February 2019*