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Watson Community Association (WCA) Contacts

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Woodland and EPIC
02 6241 3024

Summernats
02 6255 0238

Editors
Richard Larson 02 6241 3024 or
Karen Bulpitt karen.bulpitt@yahoo.com.au

Position vacant (*with current editors*)—
opportunity awaiting !



Watson's Special Places

Win over \$150 of prizes! How?

Are there places in Watson that are special to you? A place you met a loved one, a precious memory of a childhood? Tell us about it!

There is \$60 open cash prize and special prize categories for primary, high school and college students.

Take a photo, write a poem or create an artwork. We'd love to include your 'Special Places' in future publications celebrating Watson's 50th anniversary.

Please send contributions to the WCA (contacts this page).

snail

she's casual about sex
she can switch gender
anytime
she makes love quietly
not like a cat.

she'll never criticise
another mollusc
oyster, clam
or sea-slug

she never takes more
than her small share
she's a pacifist
and vegan

she blinks like the stars
on rainy days she gets busy
her trail sparkles
silver in the sun

this is not a metaphor
about love
or ideology
it's about a snail

Anon



Deadline for Winter
Edition **August 2**

THE WATZON

Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.

Issue 79—Winter 2013



WATSON MEDICAL CENTRE

Renovation Complete

Now operating at its
Watson premises.

Please contact **02 6248 7005**

WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN EDITION OF WATZON



There's a lot on in Watson at present as this newsletter contains updates on a range of local community activities, future events and environmental issues such as the Kenny Woodlands and land development proposals in north Watson and local planning.

This includes: **The Party at the Shops** - the **Leaping Lizards** event - and initiatives including this year's **50th anniversary (Golden Jubilee)** of the suburb of Watson. Read on.

Oval Update—The hard work of the people working on rejuvenation of the oval next to the school is about to bear fruit. Work is set to begin in July. The association is advocating for easily accessible public toilets for Watson and a shared cycle/pedestrian pathway linking the oval and the shops to the growing north Watson developments.

More news next Watson.



Summernats Survey 2013— Interim Report

The Summernats survey in the last newsletter elicited 44 responses. Thank you to all who did respond, and for some very detailed responses.

We had responses from two females in their 20s, and five to six people in each decade after this, till four people in their 70s, with both sexes represented. Respondents were two thirds female, one third male.

Three quarters of respondents live in the half of the suburb closest to Federal Highway and EPIC, while the remainder were indeterminate in location or live closer to Antill St. The majority of respondents never attend Summernats, one goes regularly, and a few occasionally.

Continued p.4

Watson Woodlands Update



The Watson Woodlands Working Group has been active on a number of fronts over summer and early autumn.

We helped staff members of the American Embassy to chip out woody weeds around the two retention basins next to Majura Rise. The ambassador attended for tea.

John Briggs has done a magnificent job of spray poisoning African Lovegrass and St John's Wort. Members do their bit by chipping out weeds if they have not received Chemcert training and certification.

There have been a number of working bees in the Mt Majura Nature Reserve next to 'The Fair' in north Watson.

Continued p.4

Watson Pharmacy

With Winter fast approaching, now is the time to stock up on vitamins to ward off the Winter sniffles. Olive Leaf extract may help in the relief of upper respiratory tract infections. Come in and chat with our friendly staff about how we can help.

May is **BOWEL CARE AWARENESS MONTH**. We are participating in the Rotary program, testing kits are available for \$10.00

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

To receive a monthly newsletter via email please register your interest at:

watson@nhwact.com.au

or call

Claire 0419 767 211

www.nhwact.com.au

Notices & Local Services

WATSON GOLDEN JUBILEE

**Birthdays Celebrations
8 to 10 November 2013**

Are you, or do you know of, a World War 2 veteran who lives or who has previously lived in Watson?

Would you like to share their wartime experiences for the Watson 50th celebrations? If so, please contact Matthew on 6263 6342 or email mjn@sparke.com.au

If you'd like to get further involved in various other Watson Golden Jubilee Celebrations or Watson Community Association (WCA) please contact us and let us know your ideas and interests. WCA contacts on page 8



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

The Campus has more than 600 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 7:30am - 8:30pm or visit www.acu.edu.au



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



**Celebrate at
Joey's Kitchen**
Watson Shops

Talk to Joey about how we can
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a time to remember

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Group**

australian
breastfeeding
association

- Breastfeeding Counselor (s) on hand to answer your questions.
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If you have a question about breastfeeding please call our

free

National Breastfeeding Helpline:

1800 686 268 or visit

www.breastfeeding.asn.au

to check venues:

abanorthcanberra@hotmail.com

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To contact ACT government
services call
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To place an ad or
article please contact
the WCA—contacts
listed on last page.



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Summernats Survey Continued page 1

Some people were away for 2013 event but commented on their previous experiences.

Attractive aspects - about half respondents found some aspects of the event attractive, and support for local businesses rated highest (20% of respondents), closely followed by the city cruise parade. Only four respondents found burnouts attractive.

Detractive aspects - two thirds of respondents found excessive noise, unnecessary air pollution, smell and waste of non-renewable resources detractive while several were scathing in their comments. Half of the respondents mentioned antisocial behaviour, such as street racing, vandalism and littering as detractive. Some of the strongest comments came from those living closest to the event, or along the path of the attendees.

Most respondents answered the questions about leaving home during the event or inviting people over during the event. About half indicated in the affirmative about each.

Overall, the responses gave a varied representation of residents' opinions from a range of ages and from both sexes. They reflect that there is some ambivalence towards Summernats.

The Summernats organisers will be provided with the material on the spreadsheet (no contact details will be disclosed).

We have been encouraged by the organisers' respectful attitude and efforts to make positive changes to the event and evolve it towards a less environmentally and socially challenging one.

For those interested in receiving further information please contact the WCA representative on 6255 0238.

Land for development sells for over \$2 Million

A 4000 square metre block of land on the corner off Aspinall Street and Negus Crescent, was sold to Platinum Constructions for \$2.57 million at auction on May 7, 2013.

The Background Planning Report for North Watson released on 28 March 2003 mentioned that:

"It is intended that the site on the corner of Aspinall St and Negus Crescent is serviced and handed back to the Territory for future release as a mixed land use site and subject to a variation of the Territory Plan. This site is to be serviced for an additional 25 dwellings, as well as commercial and community facilities."

The Economic Development Directorate clearly had no intention to facilitate any variation to the Territory Plan to ensure that a commercial or community facility will be erected on this site.

Watson Woodlands Update

Continued from page 1

Representatives from Watson Woodlands, Greening Australia, Friends of Mt Majura, the Conservation Council and ACT Government met to discuss ways and means of progressing a small project through a jointly funded ACT/ Federal Woodland Restoration program. We intend to use a small portion of these resources to rehabilitate 'The Fair' planting site.

CONSULTATION DRAFT Gungahlin Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Watson Community Association (WCA) responded previously to the Development of the Future Urban Areas of Kenny and Throsby – EPBC 2012/6279. This was revoked and replaced by an overarching Gungahlin

Strategic Environmental Assessment which considers the environment values in a more holistic sense.

WCA commends the consultation draft produced by Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited. It has provided a rigorous independent assessment of the biodiversity values and Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) in Gungahlin.

What is being proposed is the excision of Block 775 Gungahlin or 154 hectares of land from future development to protect and maintain a MNES listed striped legless lizard population. The proposal would also preserve over 90% of a MNES listed box woodland community including the majority of the 300 trees recorded on the site estimated to be over 200 years old.

Watson Woodlands Jubilee Year Open Day April 21

On a beautiful sunny Sunday morning the WCA hosted a casual open day. The entry point was a lovely site for some light refreshments.

Richard took a display of fossils found just down the road near Antill Street. Further into the Park, 'Reptiles Inc' had been engaged to bring some lizards and pythons, and this was very popular with both adults and children.

More than 60 people visited over the 3 hours, many going on a guided walk with John Briggs, a botanist intimately involved with this patch of bush, while Watsonian Warren Saunders played the didgeridoo and clap sticks. The walk showed how much regeneration has taken place over the period since this area has been under our custodianship.

Richard brought some other materials including the beautiful freshly launched *A Labour of Love* landcare book in which our woodland appears.

Copies of the book are available for \$25 by emailing the Southern ACT Catchment Group, info@sactcg.org.au.



The Rainbow Centre Watson

Located at the Canberra Technology Park (old Watson High School) the 'Rainbow' Centre operates community space for people (and their friends and family) who currently have or lived with mental health issues. 18yrs up are welcome.

The Rainbow has been operating for 10 years under the umbrella of the Mental Health Foundation and works hard to provide a space where members can meet and socialise with others, enjoy activities such as sewing, cooking, jewellery making, artwork and more.

Computers, internet and phones are available to members. The centre keeps a veggie garden and has a pool table (comp coming up). The Rainbow is staffed by dedicated trained, specialist workers who ensure the Rainbow is a place you want to return to. **Hours** : 10am—4pm Mon to Fri (closed weekends) Ph: **02 6242 6575**

Joey's Cafe poetry group

☪ *Each Wednesday 4-6pm*



"Possums love Watson"

The Transact cable's a perfect highway
To the leafy green delights below
There's plenty of possum hollows and roofs

To cavort around
And disturb a human's good night's sleep

'Possums for Watson' they call themselves

Celebrating their good luck living in Watson

- and ours."



David Turbayne

Party at the Shops



Parties at the Shops was created to showcase the communities of Canberra as part of the Centenary celebrations. The events were held simultaneously at shops all over Canberra on Tuesday the 12th of March 2013, rounding out an action-packed Canberra Day long weekend.

When I first heard about Party at the Shops in late January and put my name forward to assist with a Watson event I was told not much was happening yet. Things change quickly in Watson and about a week later I met up with Hal and Joani from Piddington St, Richard from the Watson Community Association, and Amy from Devil Moon Productions, and ideas started bubbling.

A couple of weeks later and after a few more beers at Joey's, a team of Watsonites decided to **create** a Party at the Shops to remember that would be **enjoyed** by all, and to **connect** and inspire the people in Watson to join in and share what was wonderful and wacky about our suburb.

From the initial meeting phones started ringing, inboxes began filling as friends, neighbours, musicians, businesses and community groups started working together contribute their

own talents to a Party at the Watson Shops. With plentiful ideas and few resources – but endless energy and enthusiasm – it was clear that many in Watson were keen to be a part of the day in some way.

On a sunny Autumn Tuesday after Canberra day, the people of Watson didn't disappoint—with over 1000 people coming out to enjoy some food, entertainment and fun together as a community and to celebrate Canberra's 100th Birthday.



With the enthusiastic assistance from an army of cheerful volunteers, including countless helpers from Youth with a Mission, the Watson Green was transformed into a festival atmosphere. Children got to enjoy a multitude of activities and enjoy some gelato with their friends, and the adults took in all the sights and sounds of the party. The courtyard was abuzz with stalls from local businesses and community groups, while dozens of delicious dishes filled a long table and barbecues sizzled in preparation for a fabulous community banquet!

The 8-hour entertainment program of locally-sourced talent included comedy, open mic, trivia, poetry, circus, fire, burlesque, dance and song. Highlights of the entertainment program included performances by the Majura Primary School choir and band, Beth 'n' Ben, Konrad Lenz and the Spirits of the Dead, Sarina Del Feugo, Ultraviolet and Buasavanh Tribal Belly Dance.

It was an amazing day and I was very happy to have played a part in bringing it together!

-by Howard Grace, local resident.

Howard is a local resident who helped with the organisation of the Party at the Watson Shops. Other community folk who contributed huge amounts of time and energy to organise the Party included Katherine Horak, Hal Judge, Joani Cornish, Amy Moon, Richard Larson, Joey Karuna and Leoni Watts from Youth with a Mission. Supabam Watson donated the hire for the jumping castle and for the face painting. Supabam also donated the sausages and condiments for the Youth with a Mission barbecue. Big ups also go to Joey's Kitchen and Café Satis for their support and enthusiasm. A massive THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped out – a special mention for Youth with a Mission volunteers for their huge presence helping to set up and clean the green – you are all AWESOME! Parties at the Shops was a Centenary of Canberra event proudly supported by the ACT Government and Principal Partner, ActewAGL. Other supporters included Medicare Local and Capital Chemists.



Watson Party at the Shops got everyone excited about the community in Watson. There is talk of more community events including Watson's 50th Jubilee and another Party at the Shops in 2014.

To the local artists, writers, musicians, gardeners, foodies and talented folk of Watson:

What else can we cook up to showcase Watson's vibrancy and diverse community? Why not send in your ideas or get in touch and get involved? All contributions big and small are appreciated and getting involved is a great way to meet new friends and have a whole lot of fun!

To get involved contact:
WatsonJubilee50@gmail.com

Watson's 50th Jubilee Community Celebration coming up in November!

The Watson Community Association and the group of volunteers that brought you the Party at the Watson Shops are looking for people to get involved in helping with Watson's Jubilee Celebrations in November 2013.

After the success of the *Party at the Shops* which revealed Watson's vibrant community, it would be great to have another event including local musicians, performance, community groups, dance, art, kids activities and food.

We would especially love to hear from local artists and musicians in Watson. The idea is for our amazing arty folks to combine their talents and ideas and help by dreaming up a creative vision for our event. This creative vision may provide a theme for our event, or help in some way to bring together people in the community. We would like to create atmosphere that encourages sharing and environmental sustainability, while showcasing all that is wonderful about Watson.

We are also keen to hear from individuals, groups and businesses who would like to showcase their activities.

As was with the Party at the Shops, all participation and contributions from individuals or groups, large or small, is welcome.

Why not take the reins and take part in creating something amazing? At the very least you'll have a great time and meet lots of new friends...

Sound like you?

Would you like get involved in some way?

Contact us at WatsonJubilee50@gmail.com to send in suggestions or find out details about meetings, opportunities, happenings and workshops in the run up to Watson's 50th birthday in November.



Konrad Lenz and the *Spirits of the Dead*

Interview by Howard Grace

I caught up with Konrad Lenz, who is also my neighbour, over a cuppa in my lounge room, to talk to him about his music and his forthcoming album, *Mr Living Good*.

For Konrad, resident of Watson for 5 years and Canberran for 16 years, music was always a big part of his life, but it wasn't until his twenties that he felt driven to play, write, record and perform music. Konrad writes mainly blues songs with elements of folk which he performs with his band, *Konrad Lenz and the Spirits of the Dead*.

Konrad taught himself to play music in early his twenties and started playing live at the age of 29. He draws influence from the likes of Bob Dylan, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Marianne Faithfull, Eric Burdon and Gary Shearston and appreciates the stories and characters that are captured within lyrics and music.

His recently recorded new album of jazz and blues songs from the 1920s and 30s. It's the first time he has recorded a full album of non-original material.

He decided on this concept for the album because he has always liked the edginess of the music of that era and he wants others to share his appreciation for the songs.

"There are some songs on there that people will recognise and some that they won't... I sorta wanted to mix it up,. I want to show people why I really like these songs"

Performing on the album are some fairly well known musicians like Phil Moriarty and Mikangelo. Also heard playing on this album are Randall Blair from the The Wedded Bliss and harmonica by Jim Conway of Captain Matchbox fame and a bunch of other local musos.

You may have seen Konrad Lenz and the Spirits of the Dead performing on the 12th of March 2013 at the Watson Shops for the *Parties at the Shops* centenary celebration.



If you didn't get to catch Konrad at the Watson Shops on the 12th of March, you'll be able to see him and his band on Thursday the 18th of July at The Front Café and Bar at the Lyneham Shops where he'll also be launching his new album. Entry \$7.

For the event the band will be souped up with musicians that don't usually form part of the Spirits of the Dead. There will also be performances by Alice Cottee and performances by A KREWD Ensemble.

By no coincidence, the album launch will also be Konrad's 40th Birthday.