

## Summer Watering Tips

Cedric Bryant

Spring is not over and we are already feeling the heat of summer. From experience of nearly eight years of drought and water restrictions it is hard to believe that many were over watering their plants. We had some of the most liberal water restrictions in the country, six hours every second day and it was amazing the number of folk who literally used the whole of that time watering. On numerous consultations folk asked me to tell them why their plants were dying? Only for me to advise them that they were literally drowning their plants. Firstly, as we go into a predicted hot summer, water the plants, not the ground. Secondly, do your plants really need water? Less frequent but deeper watering will encourage roots to go deeper and the plant will be more drought tolerant. Dig a hole near plants and see if the ground has actually dried out, it may be only close to the surface and deeper it is still moist. Little and often is not the way to water your plants! Finally, sprinklers and hand-held water wands are virtually useless. A drip system is the only effective way to water your plants. Do seek advice from an irrigation specialist. I use and recommend Aspen Watering at 8 Beltana Road Pialligo [at Stonehenge]. Have a great summer in your garden. See me at [www.cedricbryant.com](http://www.cedricbryant.com)

**For a complete appraisal of your garden call me  
Cedric D. Bryant**

**Garden Designer and Horticultural Consultant  
Ph: 6241 8752 or see [www.cedricbryant.com](http://www.cedricbryant.com)  
[Resident of Watson since 1991]**

# THE WATZON

**Newsletter of the Watson Community Association Inc.**

Number 72

Summer 2011

### This edition:

Local Poetry  
Move over Masterchef!  
Summer Recipe  
Woodland Update  
Much More!

### WCA CONTACTS

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#### **Watson Oval Contact**

6241 6050

#### **50th Anniversary Contact**

6247 0859

#### **Summernats Contact**

6255 0238

### Update from the WCA Committee

The WCA held a meeting on 25 October. An update is below;

The Majura Spring Carnival was a success and the WCA attendance helped gain understanding on local issues including; the rich local history of Watson. We are planning for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in November 2013 and welcome support from all residents!

There have been developments at EPIC with the final community advisory group meeting held October 25. The WCA has been on the advisory group since its inception. Information can be found at [www.epic.act.gov.au](http://www.epic.act.gov.au)

Reports were given on environmental work being done at 'The Fair' in north Watson and Justice Robert Hope Park. 'The Fair' has been legislated as a cat containment area thanks to wider community advocacy.

The WCA has written a letter to Simon Corbell about the recent fire at Mitchell. The letter seeks information on pollution and potential impacts. Approval has been granted for the redevelopment of the old Watson Service Station site. WCA is interested in long term precinct planning of the local commercial zone and surrounds in Watson.

WCA & the WATZON editors wish everyone a safe & happy festive season!



## Watson Preschool – Four & A Half Decades & Still Going Strong

Watson Preschool on Knox Street is one of several pre-schools in the inner North of Canberra, and one of two attached to Majura Primary School. It opened its doors in January 1965, and has been a popular choice for preschool for parents in Watson and surrounding suburbs since.

There are two classes – red and blue – and each class can take a maximum of 25 children. One class attends on Monday and Tuesday from 8.45am to 2.45 pm, and the other is Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am to 1pm. The ACT Government requires that a child, if it attends preschool, receives 12 hours of pre-schooling a week. In 2013, this will increase to 15 hours a week. While preschool is not compulsory, it's a great way to start getting your little preschooler ready for primary school.

Chris Thornton, Teacher in Charge, has spent 10 years teaching inner north children at the Watson Preschool Unit, as part of a thirty three year career in early and primary education in the ACT. Chris considers preschool is important preparation for children starting 'big school'. The snack breaks, free play, structured play and lunch breaks help establish familiarity with the routines that little children encounter when they first attend primary school. Chris and Karen, Preschool Assistant, say the preschool children love the craft and painting most of all, with playing outside a close second.

The Watson Preschool is currently undergoing an upgrade of its outdoor area, with further refurbishments planned over coming years. Enrolments for the Watson and Downer preschool units take place in May of each year for the following year. With the growth in population, particularly in the Watson area and its popularity with families, places are expected to be in demand.

Chris is retiring at the end of 2011 after over three decades of service to early and primary education of children. She has some wonderful memories of the children she has taught over the years and is particularly proud of the way the Watson community has backed the preschool with such enthusiasm, especially in fund raising activities and volunteer work. Chris has seen over one thousand children pass through her preschool and she says that it's very rewarding helping children get a great start in life. Parents in Watson will miss Chris' expert teaching skills, with the new Teacher in Charge yet to be announced.

Congratulations Chris, and all the best for your retirement!

### Watson Fossils Found!

During recent construction of a storm-water drain on Antill Street a significant number of fossils were excavated. These were shown to a paleontologist working at the ANU who described them as typical Mid Silurian *Canberra Formation* (circa 425 million years) old rocks. The land at the time was a shallow sea, with coral reefs and associated bottom dwelling organisms like trilobites, brachiopods and bryozoans all being found in the sediments. How conditions have changed to what they are today.



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**Come to our North  
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Group**

- ☒ **Breastfeeding Counsellor(s) on hand to answer your questions**
- ☒ **All mums, children and mums-to-be welcome, and you don't need to be a member to join in**

Contact **Ingrid (Ph. 6249 6684)** to confirm venues and for further information  
email:

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

\*Dates/Times, Topics and Venues may change, please confirm with Ingrid.

**7-day Breastfeeding helpline, Ph. 6258 8928**  
[www.breastfeeding.asn.au](http://www.breastfeeding.asn.au).



**Celebrate at  
Joey's Kitchen**

Talk to Joey about how we can make your special occasion a time to remember.

Call 6255 6965 or

Email [info@joeyskitchen.com.au](mailto:info@joeyskitchen.com.au)

**Kids in the Kitchen**

Move over Masterchef... On 6<sup>th</sup> September, Joey's Kitchen was taken over by Year 5 and 6 Students from Majura Primary School for 'Majura Kids in Joey's Kitchen!'

Majura Primary have been supporting the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program and this was a great opportunity for the students to use their produce in a restaurant environment.

The students prepared CV's to apply and be interviewed for jobs in the restaurant including wait staff, front of house and chefs. The students prepared the menu themselves and using fresh grown ingredients cooked and served up a delicious three course meal to over 60 family and friends.

The evening was a great success and owner Joey Caruana plans to hold further 'Kids in the Kitchen' events next year.

The students of Year 5/6 Melaleuca demonstrated their knowledge of food and cooking techniques as well as working well as a team to ensure a great experience for their customers.

**Summer Fruits**

I almost missed the spring this year;  
one day there were green blisters on  
last year's new growth, then buds,  
then some gentle early rain; then  
a late blizzard of student papers  
hit my desk; and by the time I'd  
shovelled a path back to my door  
the blossom was overblown,  
the last hardy petals clinging to  
calyx and filament, fresh leaves  
already bursting. But one afternoon  
as I returned from class, a handful  
of pearl confetti, the last cherry  
and plum, blew in through my  
window, settled on the bookshelf,  
on the keyboard, on a scattered  
fan of business cards; And a  
burst of laughter in the corridor  
outside, smiles of new insight,  
anticipating summer's fruit.

A poem by Christopher Nailer, 2011

**Call for volunteers**

Watson is also seeking volunteers to help with distribution. If you are interested in helping, please email [lizgrace@grapevine.com.au](mailto:lizgrace@grapevine.com.au)

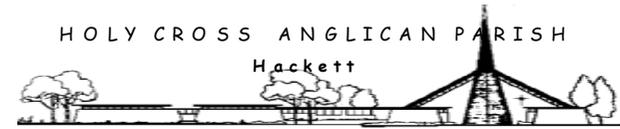
## Summer Lamb BBQ

Summer seems to have kicked in late this year, but as the days start to warm up, it's time to pull out the trusty barbeque and fire it up! Barbeque means different things to different people, but it usually involves meat, and is a truly social event. This edition's recipe comes from Lucy in Cullen Street, who loves to barbeque over the summer months. She reckons that this recipe, derived from a leading Aussie chef's recipe, is one that her and her husband love to cook for family and friends. It is super easy, can be prepared in advance and a great meal to entertain with, not to mention tasty!

This recipe serves four.

### BARBECUED BUTTERFLIED LAMB LEG WITH CUMIN, LEMONGRASS AND GINGER

1 lamb leg (about 2 kg), butterflied (your butcher can do this)  
2 garlic cloves, chopped  
2 lemongrass stems, peeled and sliced into fine rounds  
3 cm piece fresh ginger, chopped  
2 tsp roasted cumin seeds, half crushed to a powder, the rest whole  
1 tsp sea salt  
3 tbsp chopped coriander leaves  
3 tbsp chopped mint  
60 ml (1/4 cup) extra virgin olive oil, plus extra freshly ground black pepper  
lemon wedges to serve



## HOLY CROSS TUCKERBOX

Opens every Saturday, 2pm to 4pm.

The Tuckerbox aims to help anyone struggling to balance their budget. The Tuckerbox has bread and groceries. *Milk, fruit and vegetables when available.* Those who are on a pension, low income families or unemployed may find this service very helpful.

The Tuckerbox is a not-for-profit service. As a contribution, we ask a small service fee. The majority of food is provided by Foodbank NSW. The food may be excess stock, seconds, damaged or the Best Before date approaching or has passed.

### Justice of the Peace

ALF (Noddy)  
FRIPP JP  
12 Kerferd St,  
Watson ACT 2602  
Tel 6241 7475

### MEG'S TOY BOX

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

**Tel 6248 7467 during opening hours only:**  
Wed 10am—12pm



SUNDAY SERVICE 10AM 49 PHILLIP AVENUE WATSON  
TEL: 6241 7000 WWW.CCCWATSON.ORG.AU



# Notices & Local Services



## PROBUS CLUBS

Probus is a worldwide association for retired or semi-retired people. It is sponsored by Rotary and is non-fundraising. Meetings are held monthly, with a guest speaker & morning tea. Outings, lunches & bus trips are organised.

### **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME AT BOTH CLUBS**

#### **Canberra North Ladies**

10.00 am Yowani Country Club,  
2nd Monday of each month.

Membership \$20.00 per annum. Joining fee \$5.00

**Ladies contact: Beverley 6248 8236**

#### **Canberra North Men's**

10.00am St Margaret's Church, Hackett  
2nd Tuesday of each month.

No. of members: 42

Subscription \$25.00 per annum. Joining fee \$5.00

**Men contact: Ted Baker 6241 4853**

## **IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS**

Neighbourhood Watch Website	<a href="http://www.nhwact.com.au">http://www.nhwact.com.au</a>
AFP Website	<a href="http://www.afp.gov.au">http://www.afp.gov.au</a>
CRIME STOPPERS	1800-333-000 or <a href="http://www.act.crimestoppers.com.au">http://www.act.crimestoppers.com.au</a>
SCAM PROTECTION	1300-302-502 or <a href="http://www.scamwatch.gov.au">http://www.scamwatch.gov.au</a>
AMBULANCE/FIRE	000
POISON INFORMATION	131-126
POLICE ATTENDANCE	131-444
UNWANTED CALLS	1800-805-996
STRAY DOGS	6207-2424
CANBERRA CONNECT	132-281

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

To receive a monthly newsletter via email register your interest at [watson@nhwact.com.au](mailto:watson@nhwact.com.au)

**WWW.NHWACT.COM.AU**

**Or contact Mick Motion-Wise,  
NHW Coordinator on 043 747 9236**



## **Recipe continued...**

Remove the lamb from the refrigerator 1 hour before cooking.

To make the marinade, put the garlic, lemongrass, ginger, cumin, and salt in a mortar and pound into a rough paste with the pestle. Add the herbs and pound for a further minute, then stir in the olive oil and mix well. You can also process in a food processor or blender if you wish, but don't make too smooth a paste. Spread the marinade evenly over the lamb and leave for at least an hour to infuse.

Preheat the barbeque and when hot, put the lamb on the hottest part. Cook for about 6 minutes on each side for medium rare. Put on a platter and cover with foil. Rest in a warm place for 10 minutes.

Carve the lamb into 5 mm slices and arrange on 4 plates. Mix a little oil with the juices on the resting platter and pour over the lamb. Give a good grind of fresh pepper, place a lemon wedge on each plate and serve immediately.

This great barbequed lamb dish goes perfectly with an Italian style coleslaw and ripe tomato salad.

Enjoy!

Watson features a recipe each edition provided by residents of Watson. If you have a wonderful recipe, that has a special meaning and brings joy around the dining table that you would like to share, please give me a call on 0419281804 or send me an email, [cloughsarah@bigpond.com](mailto:cloughsarah@bigpond.com)

## Woodland Update

Working bees were held in August and September to plant, sow, control erosion and remove some fencing around the Roma Mitchell retention basin. In winter and early spring the group has planted over 100 forbs and grasses and around 60 wattles and eucalypts in several locations in the park. These are being carefully nurtured with regular watering in what has shaped up as a very dry spring.

The Indian Myna eradication program has recommenced. A total of 13 mynas and 22 starlings were caught in October and 6 mynas and 16 starlings in the first week of November.

In September, the Watson Woodlands Working Group (WWWG) along with the Mount Ainslie Weeders and Friends of Mount Majura (FoMM) won a joint 2011 ACT Landcare Award in the Urban Landcare category, along with \$500 prize-money to be shared among the three groups. The award winners were treated to breakfast and an official presentation, followed by mingling and photographs.

Individual WWWG members and FoMM will be conducting a joint working bee in the Mount Majura Nature Reserve at the northern Antill Street entrance from 9:00 to 12:00 on November 20. Further details are on the FoMM website.



On National Tree Day in June 2012, WWWG members and FoMM will be holding a joint event in the Mount Majura Nature Reserve north-east of 'The Fair' in north Watson. Watch this space if you are interested in participating. A new 600 metre track leading from the 'The Fair' into the nature reserve was completed in October as part of an agreement between the developer and conservation groups, including the WCA.

## Watson's 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Do you have photos, memorabilia or stories to tell about your time as a Watson resident? Do you know of anyone now living elsewhere who also might be able to share their memories with us? Have you arrived in Watson recently or were you one of the "originals"? Whatever your length of time with us, we would love to hear from you.

You can get in touch with any of the WCA Committee members or contact Gina Grey directly on 6247 0859.

## Public Toilets for Watson?

Members of the Watson Community Association attended the Majura School Spring Carnival in September, and did a rough 'straw poll' on attitudes to public toilets being provided in Watson.

The overwhelming majority of those asked expressed a definite opinion that it would be an advantage, with most preferring the area of the shops as the best location. Many, when directly asked, expressed some disadvantages, mostly around maintenance and cleanliness, with several concerned about possible 'undesirable' activity.

When asked about higher priorities for Watson, about a quarter had other priorities, but there were no other choices provided to prompt ideas. (There were quite a few comments not reported here.) Some good examples of good public toilets are reported at Ainslie and Griffith shops. From this it appears that there could be considerable support for having public toilets built in Watson.

Before the WCA officially requests action from the ACT government on this, we welcome further feedback from the interested community. Please contact the Association (see front page) with any comments you wish to make, and we will add that our information.



Myna problems?

Problems with Indian mynas or starlings? Please contact a committee member for information and assistance with trapping and humane disposal of these threats to native bird populations.

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