

MyGinninderry Journal

ISSUE 6, SPRING 2021

Hello!

What a change we've had in the last several weeks. I'm sure no one has been untouched by all the daily changes due to COVID. I have been so grateful for the blue skies of late, somehow it helps to feel connected to the outdoors while still being contained to one's house and yard.

We're reaching into sustainability this spring and this issue is focussing on a few ways to be a bit greener, reduce waste and save money! You'll find details of Sustainable Sundays, involving a Repair Café and Sustainable Workshops with the Kippax Uniting Church. The Canberra Environment Centre is joining us again this spring to run some skill-based workshops in The Link's kitchen - in no time you'll be making your own healthy ferments and useful household items.

And even though events are proving a little tricky to plan, we're hoping to introduce Paddys Park Play Days. These are based on the worldwide Play Outside Days (playoutsideday.org) and are a time to come together outdoors and play in many different creative and interesting ways. Think kite flying, paper boat making, music, circus tricks, family yoga, ice cream, sports, garden games, maker tables, outside drawing, nature play – the list could go on. You'll be able to enjoy some of the creative talent from the local region, but also, if you have an activity idea that you'd like to share then please let me know and we'll make it part of the line-up. These are YOUR DAYS!

If we are not able to run these this spring, we will delay them to Autumn 2022. I can't wait to get outside again with you all!

Tulitha King



News

June seems like a while ago now, but believe it or not, the Strathnairn community did manage to come together for a Movie Night at the Link! The fabulous local duo Clairewood Matt beguiled us with their enchanting musical folk stories and the movie Coco kept everyone entertained. Big thanks to the local Kippax Dominos & Café Stepping Stone for the pizza and soup, and Rosella Street for the Popcorn Machine (you can read more about them over the page).



Suburb savvy

Fencing

A reminder that once you've purchased your block, ownership passes to you and it is no longer the responsibility of the developer. To ensure your block is protected and to reduce dumping on your site, we recommend installing fencing around your block ASAP. If you need assistance finding a fencing provider, please don't hesitate to contact myself or the sales team.

Verges

In the ACT the verge is the responsibility of the residents. This includes not only grass but also where there are planted areas. You can find out more about this on the Access Canberra website. We encourage you to maintain your verge to keep Strathnairn beautiful!

Rubbish

In Strathnairn, waste pick up happens on Thursdays. If you are having difficulties with pick-up contact Suez on 02 6260 1547. Also make sure to bring your bins in after they have been emptied.

If you notice any illegal dumping, please contact Access Canberra on 13 22 81.

Traffic

If you notice any ongoing issues regarding traffic around Strathnairn please make a note of the time and location and get in touch with our team.

Drake Brockman Drive can get busy with construction traffic. If you can remind your builder to be mindful of other users of this road it would assist those living on this primary connector road.

Some streets around Strathnairn are 'slow streets', this means they have been designed to prioritise pedestrians. Please be mindful of this as you drive around. Also be sure to park within designated car parks and not over footpaths.

Bike Hire

There are electric bikes for hire (free for the first two hours) at The Link building. If you need help logging on, please ask Ginninderry staff.

A new walking track will begin from The Link building, follow the border, within the Conservation Corridor and continue for 3.2km to Shepherds Lookout. It will be constructed in the latter half of 2021 and will take in some varied terrain and stunning views.

Construction update

Despite setbacks due to COVID restrictions and rain events, the first track into the Conservation Corridor is still planned to be completed and opened in November this year. Landscaping around the two ponds on the south side of Asimus Avenue should also be completed by December and the open spaces within the Hilltop Area are expected to be open at the start of 2022. Please remember that dogs are not allowed within the Conservation Corridor, however a dog park within Strathnairn is being planned for the beginning of 2022.



What's On?

While our regular activities have had to be put on hold until COVID restrictions permit, they will be reintroduced as restrictions lift.

2021

On the regular		
Friday, 9.30am – 11am	Playgroup	The Link Building
Tuesday, 6pm – 7.15pm	Choir	The Link Building (currently online at www.facebook.com/WOVLive)
Thursday, 7.15pm – 8.15pm	Yoga	The Link Building
Sunday, 7.30pm	Soccer in the Park	Paddys Park Soccer Court
Fortnightly, 10.30am – 12.30pm	Women's English Conversation Group	Strathnairn Arts Association info@sawsfrienship.org.au
Thursday morning	Gardening Club	Strathnairn Arts Association (register through their website)
First Sunday of each Month	Sustainable Sundays Repair Café + workshop	The Link Building

Coming Soon

Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions in the ACT have limited our capacity to run events at Ginninderry for the near future. We are working on some exciting plans and can't wait to share these with you. Please keep an eye on your emails or the Strathnairn Locals Facebook Group for upcoming events.

Here are some of the events that may still take place depending on COVID restrictions at the time.



Garage Sale Trail

We're looking for Garage Sale hosts!

Would you like to create a Ginninderry Garage Sale Trail as part of the Great Garage Sale Trail on 13 November?

If you have things to sell let me know at community@ginninderry.com and, if there are enough garages, we can put something together!

Canberra Environment Centre Workshops

23 October: 10am – 12pm

Sourdough at home: Take home some ready to go sourdough culture, learn how to keep it alive and bake a loaf together

19 February: 10am – 12pm

The Ancient Art of Fermentation: Stock up your pantry with sauerkraut, veggies and yoghurt

19 March: 10am – 12pm

Passata Day: Continue the great Italian tradition of Passata Day! Bottle up the summer tomato glut to get you through winter.

Book at canberraenvironment.org



Sustainable Sundays at Create & Repair Café

Join in, repair things, bring your damaged items, learn some handy skills and share a cuppa...

1st Sunday of every month
2pm–4pm The Link Building,
1 McClymont Way,
Strathnairn ACT 2615

Café Stepping Stone



As many of you know, Café Stepping Stone, based at the Strathnairn Arts Association, is now also operating the Orange Coffee Van in the Display Village. I invited Vanessa and Hannah to share a few words about their organisation including some future plans.

Café Stepping Stone is a work integration social enterprise. Which means that our mission, to provide migrant and refugee women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds inclusive employment and training opportunities, is at the forefront of everything we do. To be able to increase our impact we need to expand in order to employ more women!

That is why we have jumped at the opportunity to operate the coffee van in Ginninderry's display village. It is the perfect way to give our staff more experience and make space in the team for at least one new employee. During lockdown is has enabled us to get to know the community more.

We are looking at more ways in which we can grow and continue providing the new residents of Strathnairn with

quality food and are exploring the potential to start fresh produce boxes. We are also looking into expanding our menu at the Coffee Van and - back by popular demand - we will be restarting our Friday night sunset pizza evenings as soon as we can. These evenings are a perfect opportunity to make the most of the beautiful landscapes that surround Ginninderry. I can't imagine a better end to the week than watching the sun set over the Brindabellas with some freshly made wood fired pizza and a homemade lemonade! (We do not currently have a liquor license, but you are more than welcome to BYO wine and beer)

Vanessa and Hannah

Meet the Neighbour!

Mirabai and Fey moved to Strathnairn this year, one year after they were married in March 2020. Here Mirabai shares about their journey in her own words:

"After a year of not travelling or spending, Fey and I managed to save enough money to buy our first home together. It was pretty exciting, we never thought that we would be able to marry let alone buy our first home so it has all been really wonder filled. A lot of work - but worth it.

We moved in to Strathnairn in March 2021. We chose the home because it suits our minimalistic lifestyle, and is close to the mountains, which we love. We have an adult son with a disability, who lives with us part time. We are hoping that this will be a community he can feel safe in and make friends in. The little bus is such a bonus. We love that it's non-imposing and 'fits in' with the low-key vibe of the community. Makes us smile every time we see it!

We love the peace and quiet, the walking tracks, the sunsets and being able to see the stars at night. People seem to be outside a lot here. We really love the sustainability workshops and other creative things for adults to do. Being in walking distance to Café Stepping Stone is great, and being far away from the busyness of office/shops etc is even better!! Though we are looking forward to the tradies finishing!

We can't wait to be able to walk down to the river and go for a swim and are looking forward to the community gardens and working together as a community to reach our sustainability goals. In the meantime we walk the tracks we can (Woods Reserve is our favourite) and bike ride.

You might see us playing bocce and basketball in the park and we are also in the Canberra Qwire (LGBTIQ). We're both musical and play a few instruments (mostly classical). We also love to be involved in community meetings, have our say and contribute back when we can.



We have started a little community herb garden outside our home for the street. It's in its infancy, but I look forward to having enough herbs for the street to use! If anyone wants to help out, you are welcome! We hope to create nice lawn on the verge where we can gather outside our homes in the summer (some of us have no yards). It's a work in progress!

We are really mindful of our footprint, and we try to minimise waste, water use and also use of plastics. We buy food from markets and look for unprocessed meals as much as possible. We are looking forward to growing our own food too, and maybe organising a community compost."

WOULD YOU LIKE TO FEATURE IN A MEET THE NEIGHBOUR?

Contact Tulitha at community@ginninderry.com to get started – we'd love to share your story!

Conservation Corridor

The Wood-wide Web - The ecological importance of fungi in the landscape

With the amazing rainy year we've had you may have noticed some extraordinary mushrooms about the landscape. Each of the Corridors important ecosystems has seen a flurry of fungi, some of which play a vital role in keeping the landscape healthy and happy.

For plants to thrive they need nutrients, and they rely on decomposers or fungi to break down organic matter, releasing nitrogen, phosphorus, oxygen, and carbon into the life-giving soils around them. Fungi processes these proteins to make it easier for the plants to take up the nutrients through their root system.

There are some species of fungi which form a symbiotic relationship with the trees and plants around them, known as mycorrhizal fungi. The fungus extends microscopic threads called hyphae, to form a network of mycelium which can measure many kilometres around a single plant. The mycorrhizal network attaches to the roots of trees and plants connecting them and even allowing the trees to communicate and share resources with each other. Through this network a tree can share water, sugar, and send alert messages about an insect attack, providing the neighbouring trees time to change the chemical compounds in their leaves to become unappetising. The fungi also benefit from this relationship by consuming sugars produced by the tree through photosynthesising sunlight. Amazingly, roughly 90% of the plants found on land rely on this mycorrhizal network.

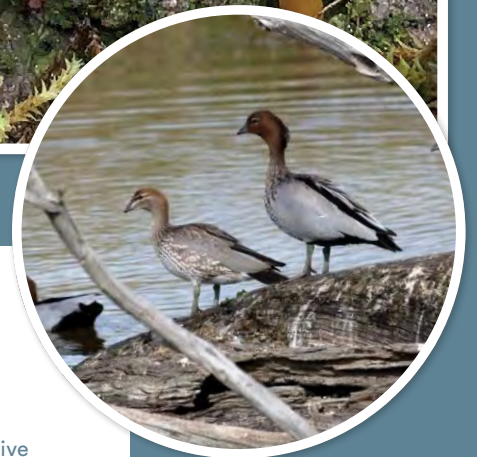
If you are interested in learning more, check out 'The Hidden Life of Trees' by Peter Wohlleben.

What's not to love about our fantastic fungi. Check out your backyard to see colourful fungi you can find.

From the team,

Ange, Tyson, Rach & Jason

Follow us on
[facebook.com/GinninderryTrust](https://www.facebook.com/GinninderryTrust)



Did you know?

You would normally think of ducks as a water-based bird, but curiously our native Wood Ducks (*Chenonetta jubata*) nest in the hollows of trees. They are also not that fond of swimming and you will usually see them on the banks rather than in the water.

Image by Jason Stainthorpe

Sharing Stuff

Tool Libraries, sharing platforms, Repair Cafés – these are all movements toward reducing our load on the planet and building community. In Canberra we see these growing rapidly with the recent appearance of the SEE-Change e-bike library (seechange.org.au/cbrebikelibrary), not to mention the ubiquitous e-scooters (don't we all love them!) and 'air' bikes.

If you're more of an analogue person the Canberra Environment Centre (www.canberraenvironment.org) has run a Recyclery, repairing second-hand bikes, alongside a Cycle Jam (where you can turn up and learn how to fix your own bike) which they have been running for many years (well before it was cool!). The Canberra Environment Centre has also played host to a Repair Café. The Repair Café concept is one that started in the Netherlands in 2009 and has taken off around the world. There are now a few in Canberra including a very popular one in Tuggeranong and a fairly recent one in Hawker. Ginninderry's first Repair Café will run as part of Sustainable Sundays

on the first Sunday of each month. The idea is that you bring anything around the house that needs fixing. It could be a pair of pants that need to be hemmed or a computer that won't start. It depends on who is there to help and what their super-fixing-powers are. Do you have a super skill? Feel free to join in and lend a hand and teach others a few new tricks! Or join in with one of the workshops and learn to make some simple things for around the house – a bag, a dishcloth, or even darning your own socks.

And skills are not the only things that are entering the sharing market. Two new platforms have sprung up in Canberra over the past year. Based in Watson, Community Toolbox Canberra is rescuing unloved tools to share with the community. For the price of a yearly membership fee, you will be able to borrow anything from their library during the year.

A Canberra based platform formerly called Hey Fritz has recently relaunched as Rosella Street, an environmentally driven marketplace, allowing you to share, donate, or buy and sell second hand items. Spaces and services can also be listed on their website. Listings range from party equipment to trailers and camping gear. To join is free and easy through www.rosellastreet.com/signup.



Scan here to join the Rosella Street community



Halloween is a recent arrival on the Australian festive calendar and has been quickly adopted as a great way for neighbours to meet up and have fun together. However, all those treats do generate a lot of unnecessary waste! It is estimated that the UK generates 2000 tonnes of plastic waste from Halloween each year. This includes costumes, decorations, and lolly wrappers, all of which are often made from plastic. To help our neighbourhood remain sensitive to the environment around us we found a few tips for making your Halloween greener.

A greener Halloween

- Decorate your home using recycled or plastic free decorations. Cheap decorations are usually costly on the environment. They are often made from plastic that cannot be recycled. Visit a second-hand shop, for some old sheets (if they're cotton they can be composted). Use poster paint to create a window display and make a paper, pumpkin or melon lantern to achieve an equally spectacular Halloween feel.
- Buy plastic free lollies. There are still some lollies sold on supermarket shelves that are plastic free and are wrapped in aluminium or sold in cardboard boxes.
- Home baked is always a winner. This will also help your family build anticipation for the main event. Chocolate crackles with eyes, Gingerbread men with missing limbs and toffee apples are all planet and kid friendly treats.

- The same goes for costumes. You can get very creative from thrift store findings. You could also use boxes or mum and dad's clothes. Face painting is also easy, green and dramatic.
- Use Paper Bags to collect treats. A positive benefit of using paper bags is that the number of treats your child can collect is somewhat limited. There's only so much sugar we can eat!

If you do collect extra plastic wrappers from lollies feel free to bring them (clean and dry) into The Link building for plastic recycling. Aluminium can be recycled by rolling wrappers into a golf ball sized ball and putting it into the recycling.

Trees for Habitat

Even before turning the first shovel at Ginninderry there was the intention to keep as many of the original trees as possible. The first suburb of Strathnairn has 80% of the original trees still standing, a wonderful asset for a suburb! Trees lower the ambient temperature of the surrounding area, keeping those Summer temperatures down and providing shade on a hot day. They also provide habitat for small animals and birds.

A hollow in a tree becomes a home for possums, sugar gliders, parrots and many other creatures, but it takes years to form, sometimes over 100 years. The area around a tree also provides habitat, with shrubs and fallen logs becoming home to many ground dwelling creatures and small birds.

At Ginninderry we work with the Fenner School at the Australian National University (ANU) to look at how best to maintain the habitat surrounding these trees. You might notice three 'treatments' around the suburb. The first is 'The Ol' Canberra Mow'. Trees are left standing and, underneath, the grass is mown regularly. Trees are maintained as is usual in Canberra's existing suburbs, with no new plantings underneath the trees.



The second treatment is 'mulching and mass planting'. Shrubs and groundcovers are planted underneath the canopy while seedlings are left to grow and become the next cohort of mature trees. Fallen branches are left in place to contribute to the existing habitat.

The final treatment is the restoration of native grasslands. This is intended to restore the critically endangered Box Gum Grassy Woodland and involves planting native grasses and wildflowers within the open spaces. Shrubs are also planted here to provide further habitat for small birds and Eucalyptus seedlings are introduced to, eventually, replace the older trees.

You will see each of these treatments around Strathnairn. To help protect these habitats, make sure not to move any fallen branches and avoid walking through these environments.

Stay Connected



Stay up to date on Facebook with what's happening around Ginninderry:

Strathnairn Resident: Join the group Strathnairn Locals (@strathnairnlocals)
The Conservation Corridor: Ginninderry Conservation Trust (@ginninderrytrust)
Ginninderry Community: Ginninderry Community (@ginninderry)