

## Ginninderry Local History Study:

### Nature, Culture, People, Places

The Ginninderry Project is a sustainable development extending west of Belconnen and across the border into NSW. The memories and history of the site are important for the project and for the future residents and visitors.

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*It's important to know who was here before us and the part our ancestors have played in looking after this land. I try to imagine what their lifestyle would have been like when I am out in the bush.*

Lee-Anne Daley, resident of Belconnen

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Mary Hutchison is conducting a local history study of Ginninderry that encompasses nature, culture, people and places. She is interested in the knowledge, memories and observations of people who have lived here, studied the area, walked or ridden through it or cared for it in the many ways you can care for a landscape.

- What would you like people to know about the land on which the suburbs of Ginninderry will be built?
  - What are the places and elements in the landscape that have meaning for you?
  - What memories and histories can be traced on the land?
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*I'm big on history because I think what it was tells you how it is. And if you're not grounded in where you are, you don't have that sense of place which means you can really put your feet down and have roots, and that's what you need to go forward.*

Stewart MacLennan, descendant of Austin Shepherd, Belconnen farm, from an interview with Louise Maher, broadcast ABC Radio Canberra, 3 May 2017

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Ginninderry grasslands  
Photo: G.W. Bot

# People and the landscape

*Water's the most important element there is and that's why we find so many of our sites close to water. Over time I've walked the Ginninderra Creek from its headwaters to the Murrumbidgee. Travelling downstream I noticed that most of our sites were on the left. It makes you curious and asks the question, "why on the left?" It's something I often think about.*

**Wally Bell, Ngunawal Elder, Traditional Custodian**

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*As mid-afternoon approached silence from birds was to be expected. Ravens' calls were an exception. There were brief 'creaky-door' calls from unseen Gang Gang cockatoos seeking cones from the Callitris pines in the Ginninderra gorge and along the Murrumbidgee.*

**Rosemary Blemings, volunteer land carer and amateur naturalist**

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*Historians of the area and newspapers of the day record that from the 1840s to 1850s Julia Webb, a.k.a. Judy the Great, was running a sly grog shop in the vicinity of the Belconnen and Parkwood properties. I've been looking around and I think I've worked out where her little shack was.*

**Brian Rhynehart, local historian**

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*Legend has it that I was conceived in the shade of a large hawthorn tree growing on the bank of the Ginninderra Creek one autumn in 1940. The Ginninderra is like the blood running through my veins.*

**Jim Kilby, farming family**

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*It was on the New South Wales side of the Murrumbidgee River that Pyos and I first saw the rock face beneath Shepherd's Lookout. While drawing. A surprise - a quiet but powerful majesty - so much language written into the rock. It is like a Rosetta Stone. A book, not to be held in one's hands though - something you behold. A wonder.*

**G.W. Bot, artist**



**We called it the Picnic Paddock because it was where we could get down to the river.**

Brian Corkhill, land owner.  
Photo: The Corkhill family

Top Right: Jim and Brooke Kilby, Ginninderra Creek Crossing near Gooromon Ponds  
Photo: The Kilby family

Top Left: Uncle Wally Bell, Ngunawal Elder, Ginninderra Creek.  
Photo: *Yass Tribune*, 11 March 2016

## How you can contribute to the research

- Get in touch and let us know your interests
- Mark places of memory and story on our story map at The Link
- Suggest a walk to see the places that are important to you

## How your information will be used

The memories and stories that you provide will be used in a variety of ways to help existing and new residents understand and appreciate the rich heritage of this place and what it has meant and continues to mean to people.

## Your formal permission for us to use the material is required

Outcomes planned include publication in book form and a range of other formats including posts on the Ginninderry website, radio interviews and exhibitions. Your contributions will also generate further community and cultural activities such as community art projects, walks and other outdoor activities.

## The people leading the research

The Local History Study is part of Ginninderry's cultural planning and community engagement program managed by Susan Davis. Mary Hutchison is a public historian and writer. She specialises in collaborative and creative interpretations of history and place. Ruth Hingston is working with Mary on the realisation of the visual dimension of the project. Ruth is a visual artist with an interest in maps, daily life in local and historic places, and the environment.

## Contact details

**Susan Davis**  
susan@ginninderry.com

**Mary Hutchison**  
mary.hutchison@anu.edu.au

**1800 316 900**

**Ginninderry** 