

Newsletter

What's in a name?

Discover the multi-layered meaning behind Ginninderry.

Acknowledgement of Country

Ginninderry proudly acknowledges Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water on which we rely.

We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities to Australian life and how this enriches us. We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards the equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice.



Intangible Heritage

How the Ginninderra Corroboree Ground Cultural Gathering Place is being preserved as an ACT heritage site.

Meet Tyson Powell

The Ginninderry Conservation Trust's Aboriginal Project Officer.



Photo: View from Shepherds Lookout

All of the knowledge holders identified Ginninderry as being located within a culturally significant landscape. The lower Ginninderra Creek area is regarded as holding a high degree of cultural significance.

The eight identified knowledge holders also provided cultural and historical information on the broader cultural landscape of the region and their family connection to the area. This information informed the assessment process about the cultural heritage values and significance of the identified cultural heritage sites.

Following the completion of the Cultural Values Assessment report, the knowledge holders were invited to form the Ginninderra Aboriginal Advisory Group (GAAG) to provide ongoing input to the project. The GAAG has input on the cultural values management within the project, thus ensuring that Aboriginal cultural considerations are factored into all decision making. The GAAG also has a role in managing the Conservation Corridor by way of two member positions reserved on the Conservation Corridor Trust Board.

The origins of GAAG

Ginninderry is a staged residential development located in the West Belconnen area of the ACT and adjacent Parkwood area of NSW. Ultimately it will lead to the rejuvenation and conservation of land that has been used, at various times during European occupation, as farmland, a landfill site, and a quarry among other purposes. In addition to future homes and other urban uses, it will also create a large conservation reserve – the Ginninderra Conservation Corridor – along the Murrumbidgee River and Ginninderra Creek. The first stage of the reserve, some 240 ha of land, is already in place.

Before European occupation, the land has a deep history of Aboriginal custodianship, dating back at least 20,000 years. Understanding and responding to the Aboriginal cultural values associated with the landscape has been a critical component in the approach taken to the planning of Ginninderry.

An Aboriginal cultural values assessment was undertaken in 2017 by Waters Consultancy in collaboration with the Representative Aboriginal Organisations (ACT) and the Registered Aboriginal Parties (NSW). The Aboriginal Organisations and Parties nominated eight individuals as cultural Knowledge Holders for the project area. Through consultation with the Knowledge Holders, site visits, and associated documentary research, a total of eight places of cultural significance were identified within or adjacent to Ginninderry.

GAAG Members

- Richard Allen
- Tyrone Bell
- Wally Bell
- Tina Brown (Proxy: Adrian Brown)
- Matilda House (Proxy: Michael Williams)
- Violet Sheridan (Proxy: Darren)
- Alice Williams (Proxy: Olivia Williams)
- Arnold Williams (Proxy: Maria Williams)

The meaning of Ginninderry

Ginninderry is derived from an Aboriginal word meaning “throwing out little rays of light” or simply “sparkling”. It’s a very appropriate name for a community and landscape that will be bounded by the Murrumbidgee River and Ginninderra Creek. Over time,

the word has taken various forms, including Ginninginninderry, Ghinninghinninderra and Gigininderra, with recent linguistic work by AIATSIS suggesting Djinindirri. Ginninderry was first used for one of the early homesteads in the area including the creek that bordered

its land. It has had various iterations over time: Ginninginninderry, Gigininderra and Ginninderra. After extensive consultation, it was decided that Ginninderry, and its reference to the stunning river corridor, was a name that had both historical provenance and contemporary relevance.

Corroboree Ground registration

The Ginninderra Creek Corroboree Ground Cultural Gathering Place is an intangible heritage place of high significance for the Aboriginal communities of the ACT and nearby NSW. The Corroboree Ground is located adjacent to Ginninderra Creek in the Belconnen district of the ACT, lying between the western edge of MacGregor and the Parkwood Egg facility.

The Corroboree Ground was one of the eight places of cultural significance identified as an outcome of the Ginninderra Cultural Values Assessment by the GAAG in 2016/17. The eight sites are within or adjacent to the Ginninderra Development Project area. The Corroboree site is now known as the Ginninderra Creek Corroboree Ground Cultural Gathering Place. Because of its significance, Ginninderry commissioned a

consultant to prepare a detailed report in consultation with the GAAG to support the nomination of the place for listing on the ACT heritage register. This would mean that it would be protected in perpetuity. The nomination report was completed in April 2020, and the Corroboree Ground Cultural Gathering Place was nominated for listing on the heritage register; the ACT Heritage Council listed it in May 2021.

The heritage citation, which underpins the heritage listing, says as follows:

“The Corroboree Ground Cultural Gathering Place is one element in a broader associative cultural landscape that holds meaning and significance for the Aboriginal communities of the wider region. The area was traditionally utilised by the Aboriginal communities of the area as they travelled down the Ginninderra Creek pathway for cultural business, including the young men’s initiation rituals that occurred near the

Ginninderra Falls. This place has particular significance in its role as a gathering place where men, women and children all came together to educate and celebrate through cultural activities, including song and dance. It was an important place where people came together before separating into groups, based on gender and age, as they moved down the creek towards the sites where restricted ceremonial business happened. The ceremonial business that people were gathering here for was only one stage in a complex network of initiation places that included sites in the Brindabella Mountains, Tuggeranong, Tidbinbilla, the Bogong Peaks, and Black Mountain.”

Preserving this site is another essential step in recognising and celebrating the rich Aboriginal cultural heritage in the ACT region. The GAAG is now working with Ginninderry on the best ways to manage the site into the future, and to share the cultural knowledge and history associated with it with the broader community.



Connection to Country

Tyson Powell is the Ginninderry Conservation Trust's Aboriginal Project Officer. Tyson joined the team in August 2020 after leaving the Yarralumla Nursery. He is a proud Wiradjuri man with Ngunnawal family ties and has a strong passion for his culture and the land, immersing that into everyday life while educating and inspiring others. Tyson will be working hands on with the land management of the corridor with a focus on the cultural aspects working alongside GAAG and the local Aboriginal community.

Tyson holds regular 'Connecting with Country' walks to provide an Aboriginal perspective on connection to Country and the history of the Ginninderra area. Tyson encourages all members of the community to contact him for a tour of Ginninderry and the Conservation Corridor.



Future opportunities

Members of the local Aboriginal community are invited to contribute to Ginninderry through further consultation and creative opportunities.

An open forum occurred on 4 August with the regional Aboriginal community invited to participate. We requested feedback for place name nominations and the cultural interpretation of the first track within the Conservation Corridor at this online session.

Ginninderry recently launched an Expression of Interest for an Aboriginal contribution to the Ginninderry Design Library. The Library contains a series of designs which can be installed on a wide

variety of infrastructure around the development, including paths, posts, water fountains, fences, walls and more. This will contribute to creating a cohesive aesthetic and a sense of place across Ginninderry's suburbs.

A further upcoming creative opportunity includes the creation of a sculpture which will seek to honour the surrounding natural landscape and local totems. The Expression of Interest for this sculpture is expected to be sent out shortly.



Stay connected

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

The Conservation Corridor:
Ginninderry Conservation Trust
(@ginninderrytrust)

Ginninderry Community:
Ginninderry Community
(@ginninderry)

Contact us

For more information about GAAG contact community@ginninderry.com or visit ginninderry.com