

# ***WATERWAYS COUNTRY***

## **Symposium Program**

**Monday, 14 November, 10am - 3pm**

**National Museum of Australia Peninsula Room**

### ***LOOKING TO SEE***

#### **10am - 10.30 am - Welcome to Country**

Introductions: Nicola Lambert, Creative Producer, Catchment Studio

Welcome to Country: Wally Bell, Ngunawal Elder

#### **10.30 am - 11:30 am - Networking Through Our Waterways**

Join the three symposium convenors for an introduction to Waterways Country. We'll share the story of the Following Sullivans, Learning Country project from which the symposium grew, consider the process of co-designing this program with Ngunawal Community and Country and reflect on the program's interest in de-colonising waterways. What did we learn from walking the length of Sullivans Creek with Uncle Wally Bell and Auntie Karen Denny and the project's group of expert participants?

Panellists: Nicola Lambert, Creative Producer, Catchment Studio  
kate harriden, Indigenous water researcher  
Kirsten Wehner, James O Fairfax Senior Fellow in Culture and Environment,  
National Museum of Australia

#### **11:30 am - 12 noon - Break**

A beautiful spread from Broadbean catering off the Peninsula Room.

#### **12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Country Acting Through Community, Part 1 - Education, Youth, Community**

After the Following Sullivans, Learning Country walks program, some of the expert participants created workshops sharing their learning about the waterway with the broader community. In this panel, five participants from diverse disciplines reflect on their outcome projects and explore how they helped build community awareness and capacity to better care for our local environment.

Convenor: Nicola Lambert

Panellists: Byrd, artist and sculptor  
Faith Bentley, educator, ACT Education Directorate  
Jeannine Fromholtz, Molonglo Conservation Group  
Bruno Ferronato, Waterwatch Coordinator, Ginninderra Catchment Group  
Jess Nguyen, Committee Member, Trash Gather

Respondent: Bradley Bell, Ngunawal cultural knowledge holder, Ngunawal Ngadjung (water)  
Project Officer, Conservation and Water Planning and Policy, Environment,  
Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate ACT Government

### **1.00 pm - 1.30 pm - Break**

Join us for snacks from Broadbean catering off the Peninsula Room.

### **1:30 pm - 3:00 pm - Positionality Statement Workshop**

Facilitators: kate harriden, Indigenous water researcher  
Tom Gray, cultural and urban planner

The Following Sullivans, Learning Country program was centered on the understanding that to open our hearts and minds to Country, we need to become more aware of how our identity and experiences, including inherited, often colonialist, legacies, shape how we see, hear and think about waterways. The Following Sullivans, Learning Country participants tackled this challenge through writing positionality statements, as individuals and a collective. Live documents that evolved throughout the project, these statements helped participants understand how their preconceptions shaped their responses to new ideas, personally and professionally confronting as well as exciting and enlightening.

In this friendly and accessible workshop, you'll learn about drafting your own positionality statement and discuss how to use it as you engage with a community or develop a research project. Educator Faith Bentley will share the statements she created during the Following Sullivans, Learning Country program and discuss how her understanding evolved over time. Following Sullivans' participants will present their collective statement, which will be revisited and possibly adapted at the conclusion of the symposium.

### **3.00 pm - Symposium sessions end for the day**

### **3.30 pm - 4.30 pm - Accumulations and Accretions workshop & Water Memory exhibition**

#### **National Museum of Australia Gandel Atrium**

Join artists Amanda Stuart and Ellis Hutch for a hands-on workshop exploring the material, creative and emotional complexities of waterways in Ngunawal Country and the often-dry creeks of Mparntwe (Alice Springs) on Arrernte Country. And don't miss viewing filmmaker Sammy Hawker's and water researcher Paul Wyrwoll's new video work, *Water Memory*.

**Tuesday, 15 November, 10am - 3pm**  
National Museum of Australia Peninsula Room

## ***LISTENING TO HEAR***

### **10:00 am - 11:00 am - Country Acting Through Community, Part 2 - Country & Creative Practices**

Extending our previous day's discussion on the Following Sullivans, Learning Country community engagement outcomes, join five project participants discussing their community workshop outcomes and how they reveal how the arts can transform our engagement with Country.

Convenor: Tom Gray

Panelists: Amanda Stuart, artist and lecturer, ANU School of Art and Design  
Ellis Hutch (aka. Kate Murphy) artist and lecturer, College of Indigenous Futures,  
Charles Darwin University  
Sammy Hawker, independent photographer and filmmaker  
Karen Williams, President, Molonglo Conservation Group.

Respondent: Don Christopher (Gunggari), Assistant Director for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts Engagement, ArtsACT, ACT Government

### **11:00 am - 11.30 am - Break**

A beautiful spread from Broadbean catering off the Peninsula Room.

### **11:30 am - 1:00pm - Bio-Centrica Movement Workshop**

Garden of Australian Dreams

Facilitator: Kate Clement, Biocentrica

As the Following Sullivans, Learning Country participants walked the waterway with Uncle Wally and Aunty Karen, we learned that if we are going to truly understand the stories archived in Country, we need to do more than just talk about them. We need to dance, sing, paint and walk the waterscape, using all our sense to attend to Country, just as the Ngunnawal Community have been doing for thousands of years.

Responding to this insight, in this interactive session, Kate Clement, Biodanza and Deep Democracy facilitator, will invite us to have a conversation through movement. Water is not still, and neither are we. This workshop will enable us to travel imaginatively through Sullivans Creek, sharing an expansive experience and a sense of water's continuity and cycles. No dancing skills are needed, just comfortable clothing and a willingness to stretch and move.

### **1.00 pm - 1.30 pm - Break**

Join us for snacks from Broadbean catering off the Peninsula Room.

### **1.30 pm - 3:00pm - Flows Workshop**

Facilitators: Adrian Brown, Ngunawal Traditional Custodian  
Kirsten Wehner, Senior Fellow, National Museum of Australia

Following Sullivans, Learning Country brought together twenty people, each expert in their own field, to walk the creek and share their knowledge and perspectives. Including visual artists, scientists, educators, writers, activists, conservationists and economists, all led by Ngunawal Elders and Custodians, the group started to map out our community's complex knowledges of ACT waterways.

This relaxed FLOWS workshop continues the process of gathering waterways knowledge. Working in small groups, you'll contribute to a 'mud map' recording our personal and professional understandings of Ngunawal Country water systems and networks. You'll note down the creeks, wetlands, pumping stations, water treatment plants, rain gardens and drains, record your stories about living with these waterways and reflect on how and why they are important.

### **3.00 pm - Symposium sessions end for the day**

### **3.30 pm - 4.30 pm - Accumulations and Accretions workshop & Water Memory exhibition**

#### **National Museum of Australia Gandel Atrium**

Join artists Amanda Stuart and Ellis Hutch for a hands-on workshop exploring the material, creative and emotional complexities of waterways in Ngunawal Country and the often-dry creeks of Mparntwe (Alice Springs) on Arrernte Country. And don't miss viewing filmmaker Sammy Hawker's and water researcher Paul Wyrwoll's new video work, *Water Memory*.



## Wednesday, 16 November, 10am - 3pm

### National Museum of Australia Visions Theatre

## LEARNING TO UNDERSTAND

### 10:00am - 11:15am - Flows Mapping

Facilitators: Mary Mudford, Ngunnawal Traditional Custodian  
Kirsten Wehner, Senior Fellow, National Museum of Australia.

Following on from Tuesday's FLOWS workshop, in this interactive session we'll consolidate and reflect on a series of mud maps collecting knowledge and experiences of Ngunnawal Country waterways. Working with digital artist Arran McKenna we'll discuss how these documents reveal intersections and resonances and, with Arran capturing discussion in real time, continue to draw out and add in cultural, social, ecological and political tributaries, confluences and disappearances.

Once completed, our FLOWS maps will be gifted to each symposium participant to be used as a tool for us to think collectively, inclusively and from multidisciplinary perspectives about our water systems and communities.

### 11:15 am - 11.45 am - Break

A beautiful spread from Broadbean catering on the Visions Theatre mezzanine.

### 11:45 am - 12:45 pm – Waterway Values

The Following Sullivans, Learning Country project was framed by a series of 'touchstone' questions exploring the meaning and value of the waterway, its nature as Country, and how culture, art and science might transform our relationships with it. Including the premiere screenings of two films capturing responses to these questions, this panel brings together representatives from different sectors of the Canberra community to consider how the lessons of Following Sullivans might inform our relationships with waterways across the ACT.

Convenor: kate harriden, Indigenous water researcher

Panellists: Sammy Hawker, filmmaker  
Andrew Griffith, Development Director, Gungahlin, Suburban Land Agency, ACT Government  
Gillian Whiting, Coordinator, Connecting Nature – Connecting People Initiative's Urban Biodiversity Projects, ACT Government  
Ben Bryant, Manager, Environment and Sustainability, ICON Water  
Mark Butz, landscape historian

**Following Sullivans: Learning Country**, 7 mins, film by Sammy Hawker.

ACT film-maker Sammy Hawker documented the Following Sullivans, Learning Country program, walking the length of the Sullivans waterway with the collective, exploring Country and recording reflections.

**Sully's Creek: A community outlook flowing from the past to the future**, 6.15 mins, film by SEE-Change (with big thanks to Astrid Breuer)

In this grassroots mini film, SEE Change explores Canberrans' connections to Sullivans Creek and especially the industrialised area in the inner north of the city. SEE Change interviewed people using the bike path, play areas and parks along the creek to gather stories about how our community uses, values, and understands this waterway. The film will be used to educate and challenge viewers waterways across the ACT.

### **12.45 pm - 1.30 pm - Break**

Join us for refreshments from Broadbean catering, on the Visions Theatre mezzanine.

### **1:30 pm - 2:45 pm - Ngunawal Voices**

Ngunawal Traditional Custodians come together to share reflections on the symposium discussions, on Sullivans Creek, deep listening and how they envisage ACT waterways communities into the future.

Facilitator: Melissa Bell

Panellists: Wally Bell  
Karen Denny  
Adrian Brown  
Rebecca King

### **2.45pm - 3pm - Next steps and Thanks**

### **3.00 pm - Symposium sessions end**

### **3.30 pm - 4.30 pm - Accumulations and Accretions workshop & Water Memory exhibition**

#### **National Museum of Australia Gandel Atrium**

Join artists Amanda Stuart and Ellis Hutch for a hands-on workshop exploring the material, creative and emotional complexities of waterways in Ngunawal Country and the often-dry creeks of Mparntwe (Alice Springs) on Arrernte Country. And don't miss viewing filmmaker Sammy Hawker's and water researcher Paul Wyrwoll's new video work, *Water Memory*.

# Installations Program

**Monday - Wednesday, 14-16 November, 9am - 5pm**

National Museum of Australia Gandel Atrium, lakeside bay windows

***Accumulation and accretion: walking, listening and learning waterways***

**Amanda Stuart and Ellis Hutch**

Visual artists Amanda Stuart and Ellis Hutch come together to create a layered installation exploring the material, creative and emotional complexities of waterways. Combining found objects, sound, video and drawings responding to Sullivans Creek in Ngunawal Country and the often-dry creeks of Mparntwe (Alice Springs) on Arrernte Country, the artists trace signs of watery life, from the microscopic to the discarded.

**Daily 3.30 – 4.30 pm: Installation Workshop**

Artists Amanda Stuart and Ellis Hutch invite you to join them in creating new object drawings to add to their installation and grow the story of waterways life.

***Water Stories***

**Sammy Hawker and Paul Wyrwoll**

This intriguing video installation by filmmaker Sammy Hawker and water researcher Paul Wyrwoll invites us to trace the water cycle that reveals the interconnectedness of Canberra's (often hidden) waterways. Mapping our urban waterways as a series of joined flows, the work draws attention to the colonial mentality of concreting, damming, piping and channeling water into straight lines in order to discipline it to fit a city's purpose.

## With Thanks

We gratefully acknowledge Ngunawal Elders Uncle Wally Bell's and Aunty Karen Denny's ongoing guidance.

The Waterways Country program was made possible through the generous support of ICON Water, the ACT Government's Suburban Land Agency, National Museum of Australia and the James Fairfax Foundation. The program was presented as part of the Design Canberra Festival 2022.

