

# Following Kambri : Learning Country

Curated walks through Ngunnawal country along manang Kambri

## An Invitation

To join three curated walks led by Ngunnawal Elders along different sections of manang Kambri/Sullivan's Creek.

*Following Kambri: Learning Country* a collaborative exploration, responding to and creatively documenting Kambri/Sullivan's Creek. An opportunity to bring together a multi-disciplinary collective to learn about, listen, investigate, discuss, photograph, write, measure, draw, compose or otherwise document what they discover during these journeys.

Looking at this creek in its entirety, we are exposed to a big picture view of our treatment and relationship to our waterways and the greater story these waterways can tell about the impact of colonialism on Country.

*Following Kambri* is a call to discover, celebrate and re-imagine the possibilities of a renewed relationship with water and Country.

## The Proponents

Sullivan's Trail ([sullivanstrail.com](http://sullivanstrail.com)), supported by the Molonglo Conservation Group ([molonglo.org.au](http://molonglo.org.au)), invite you to submit an expression of interest to participate in three curated walks led by Ngunnawal Elders along Kambri/Sullivan's Creek. These walks are for collaborative evidence/data generation between artists, musicians, community members and scientists. We want the participants to develop inspirational, hopefully challenging, (re)imaging and (re)makings of the creek for immediate and future use discussion and management. Participants will begin to understand the opportunities urban streams offer to care for country.

## Background

These walks directly build on Sullivan's Trail mission to embed local Indigenous knowledge into the land and water scapes, while educating, inspiring and challenging the local community to build connections to manang kambri/Sullivan's creek country. They represent the data gathering phase of a larger trans disciplinary research project Sullivan's Trail is coordinating

The scoping phase of the project identified Indigenous scientific, cultural and historical knowledge as particularly lacking. Accordingly, these walks privilege Indigenous knowledge and learning practices as well as Indigenous perspectives and histories.

The results of this data-gathering phase will be used to design broad-based community engagement projects and activities aimed to stimulate collective public memories of and connection to Kambri/Sullivan's creek. It is anticipated that the momentum created encourages community members to take responsibility and action for shaping public spaces. The proponents hope that this next phase will continue to have the approval/support of Ngunnawal Elders.

## The Opportunity

This is an evidence/data building project where 15 -18 people participate in three (3) partially curated walks along kambri/Sullivan's creek. The foundation for each walk will be the respected Ngunnawal elders leading the way, sharing Ngunnawal knowledge and stories of Country their choice. Guided by the cultural knowledge and generosity of Uncle Wally Bell and Aunty Karen, the participants will

collaboratively (re)work their expertise to unearth the water scapes and water connections that existed before colonisation and (re)imagine what might have been...

It is anticipated that the participants will gather evidence and develop expertise on these walks to support future projects.

Participants will be drawn from a wide range of fields, including but not limited to art, music, ecology, environmental sciences, literature, community development, urban studies, public policy. There will be time for collaboration and discussion and individual practice/reflection at sites along each route. We are excited by the potential connections and projects that could emerge from absorbing the knowledge and expertise of the Traditional Custodians and sharing ideas with experts across a variety of disciplines.

The participants engage with kambri/Sullivan's Creek in three places, in three forms.

1. Goorooyarroo Nature Reserve: 'natural' state at the headwaters.
2. Harris – Mitchell: a modified state including urban sites and industrial suburb with conventional storm water system.
3. Lyneham Wetlands to ANU: predominately highly modified channel with some retrofit wetlands for water quality control; kambri discharges to Molonglo River/Lake Burley Griffin at ANU.

The three walks will be partially curated to incorporate each of the component - arts, culture and science - in participatory research. The results/evidence from this research phase will be shared with/to inspire/challenge those who are connected to kambri/Sullivan's creek.

Following kambri in this way centres the stream, while highlighting greater truths the water scape can tell about the impact of the colonial-settler project on Country. These critical stories of place are explored through the lens of Indigenous heritage, environment, and culture.

Working collaboratively and outside your area of expertise opportunities learn new skills from fellow participants. Ever wanted to know how to test water quality so you can paint water pollution? Or take decent field photos? Can you set up an easel in a storm water drain? What if you want to sing to frogs? These are some of the questions that might come out of engaging with other researchers in a creek and could potentially produce evidence for community projects that respond to place.

At the conclusion of the walk series, participants will be asked to reflect on the experience and find a way to present and communicate that to a relevant segment of the 'wider' public. Depending on the group sentiment, there is potential to have a symposium or have some whole-of-group outcome.

## Practices

Networking and truth-telling through streams is a way to heal country. The guiding research practice for these walks will be relational accountability. Relational accountability is an Indigenous way of thinking, and often cited as a research approach. Reading material will be provided. It is a gentle powerful way to centre country in all that you do. Relational accountability is about connectedness and community and ethical behaviour.

Another important practice informing this project is Networking of Place. The goal is not to untangle the existing networks but to acknowledge and celebrate their entanglements. And, in this case, highlight those that came before.

Interpretation is the final practice relevant for this project as we cannot predict the outcomes. Interpretation takes many forms, including guided walks, talks, drama, art, displays, and electronic media indeed, any way in which ideas can be communicated, making it well suited for this project.

## Who We're Looking For

We are actively seeking to engage a wide variety of participants from local institutions, organisations and communities along Kambri creek to participate in this suite of curated walks to experience Kambri creek through the lens of Nggunawal Elders. We hope to spark exciting conversations across many disciplinary experts as the more perspectives trained on the creek, the more aspects of the creek may be returned to life.

While we want participants to use their expertise, we want participants who are openly curious and respectful of the expertise of others, encouraging lots of cross-disciplinary collaborations, be they short-term (a yarn where light bulb burns bright) or longer-term.

## What you bring

The purpose of the walks is to make space for participants to engage with Kambri/Sullivan's Creek and Nggunawal Elders, so while you may be expert in your field, you must be willing to respect the expertise of Elders and the creek. These characteristics speak to humility and deep listening, critical elements in Indigenous pedagogy.

These walks will proceed in most weather conditions. A walk along the creek is lovely on a dry sunny day. Are you willing to be cheery and even-tempered 3 hours into wet socks and damp work pants? If not, this may not be the project for you.

A willingness to do some of the work that will arise from the series of walks. For example to produce something for an exhibition, or to develop and deliver a workshop with the wider community.

You have some availability February – autumn solstice 2022 when we will show any work that requires a public outcome.

## Inclusions

To support participant and further research, participants will be provided:

- field kit (includes notebook to record and spark memories, pencil/pen, water bottle)
- pre-walk reading material – print some; list of suggested further readings
- information material in advance of the walks, including maps.
- catering at all three walks
- transport to and from central point for walks 2 and 3
- contact details of all participants (subject to consent)
- (optional) zoom participant meet and greet before the first walk

## Expression of Interest process

You must be able to commit to attending each of the 3 walks:

First walk        Sat 21, Aug 2021, 10am - 2pm

Location: Goorooyarroo Nature Reserve to the headwaters of Sullivan's Creek

Second Walk    Sat 16, Oct 2021 10am - 2pm

Location: Through Harris and Mitchel

Third walk       Sat Nov 13, 2021 10am - 2pm

Location: Lyneham Wetlands to ANU

Complete the Expression of Interest document (attached/get from Sullivan's trail). Please complete the document and save the file as EoI\_yoursurname.doc

The expressions will be reviewed by a panel familiar with the project aims.

You will be notified of the outcome in the first week of August.

Submission date: Fri July 30, 2021

Email: [createandsow@gmail.com](mailto:createandsow@gmail.com) by 10pm

If you have any requirements that make you wonder whether this program will work for you, we are here to talk. Arrange a time to chat (043 4518200) or send an email to [createandsow@gmail.com](mailto:createandsow@gmail.com)

# Following Kambri: Learning Country

Curated walks through Ngunnawal country along manang kambri

---

## Expression of Interest

---

Name:

Email address:

Phone number(s):

Are you available	Sat 21, Aug 2021, 10am - 2pm	Y/N
	Sat 16, Oct 2021 10am - 2pm	Y/N
	Sat Nov 13, 2021 10am - 2pm	Y/N

Dietary requirement(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Mobility assistance required    Y/N            If yes, details    \_\_\_\_\_

Are you Indigenous?            Y/N

Have you collaborated with Indigenous people before? (<500 words)

Organisations/groups you are associated with?

How are you connected to Kambri/Sullivans creek already? (<500 words)

Why do you want to join this program? (<500 words)

What do you care about? (<500 words)

Nature of expertise eg art, music, literature, community engagement/development, environmental studies, ecology, urban studies (<250 words)

Anything you'd like to share? (<250 words)