

# WHITLAM

newsletter may 2025



connecting communities  
an initiative of the Suburban Land Agency



## Creative Whitlam

Named after former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, the recent Let's Paint Whitlam initiative creatively celebrated his legacy in the arts. It was great to see so many residents participate in the Easter Art Hunt, which included a scavenger hunt to discover the eight murals in Whitlam. These murals honour the artists after whom the streets of Whitlam are named. They add vibrant colour to our local landscape, and if you haven't seen them all yet, now could be the perfect time to explore and learn more about your neighbourhood.

This winter, Whitlam offers even more opportunities to get creative. You can explore the pivot/al exhibition at the Innovation Precinct, enjoy live music at Heartbeat Café,

visit the Artist in Residence, or join a Crafting My Story or BelcoArts Infuse workshop. More information about these activities is available over the page.

I'm inspired by the community members of Whitlam who are starting their own initiatives. Thank you to everyone who has participated in gardening, supported the Lids4Kids sorting station, held events, or hosted classes and workshops. If you have ideas you'd like to bring to life, the *Mingle Community Support Fund* can help. Reach out to the Mingle team at [mingle@act.gov.au](mailto:mingle@act.gov.au) to see how they can support you.

**Minister for Homes and New Suburbs,  
Yvette Berry MLA**



Day and time	Activity and location
<b>Monday</b> 10am – 11:30am	<b>Playgroup with ACT Playgroups</b> Mingle Community Space
<b>Wednesday</b> 10am – 11am	<b>Mega Yoga</b> (Mums Exercise Group Australia) Mingle Community Space Book Here: <a href="http://megamums.com.au">megamums.com.au</a>
<b>Wednesday</b> 11:30am – 12:30pm	<b>BOLD Moves</b> Mingle Community Space

Day and time	Activity and location
<b>Wednesday</b> 3:30 – 4:30pm	<b>Wednesday Walk</b> Meet near the Heartbeat Café
<b>Thursday</b> 1pm – 2:30pm	<b>English Conversation Group</b> Mingle Community Space
<b>Saturday 24 May</b> Further dates will be shared on <b>Facebook</b>	<b>Saturday Fun Day</b> Mingle Community Space
<b>3 Sundays each month, starting 11 May</b>	<b>Yoga &amp; Pilates</b> Mingle Community Space



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*Whitlam*



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☎ 02 6205 0600

📘 @WhitlamMingle

🌐 [suburbanland.act.gov.au/mingle](http://suburbanland.act.gov.au/mingle)

# What's on in Whitlam

## Welcome Rio!

We're happy to welcome Rio, Whitlam's new community development officer! Rio has already met many of you at the recent school holiday sessions which over 80 people attended! It was such a success that you will see more of this fun over the next few months on weekends.

Do you have any ideas you'd like help bringing to life? Rio can help! Send him an email or join him at an upcoming activity or event [rio.buan@communityservices1.org](mailto:rio.buan@communityservices1.org).



## Saturday Fun Day

If you enjoyed the recent school holiday program you'll be happy to hear that Robyn and Rio are joining forces again to bring their crafty activities to Whitlam on regular Saturdays through winter. 10 and 24 May are the first dates for these, but more dates will be released soon on the **Mingle Whitlam Facebook page**. It's fun for all ages! Children need to be accompanied by a responsible carer (over 18 years).

## Let's Paint Whitlam!

Thanks to those who joined us at the Easter Art Hunt, featuring our 8 Let's Paint Whitlam! murals. Read up about this initiative through the QR Code. Thanks to the Stromlo Forest Scout Group for providing the delicious BBQ!



## The Stromlo Forest Scout Group

The Stromlo Forest Scout Group located in Duffy is an organisation that is available for children aged 5 to 14 and adults.

Their diverse range of activities help young people to develop leadership, teamwork, problem solving and communication skills, while being assisted and mentored by adults. Activities vary from cooking and crafting to hiking and camping.

Scouts meet during the school terms on the following nights:

- **Joeys (5 to 7)** - Wednesday - 6pm to 7pm
- **Cubs (8 to 11)** - Monday - 6:30pm to 8pm
- **Scouts (11 to 14)** - Tuesday - 7pm to 9pm

If you'd like to learn more contact

[groupleader.stromloforest@scoutsact.com.au](mailto:groupleader.stromloforest@scoutsact.com.au).

## Staying Active in Winter

There are lots of opportunities to move and stay well through winter. Join in at any of these upcoming classes!


### Yoga and Pilates in Whitlam

Weekend Yoga and Pilates classes are coming to Whitlam in the Mingle Community Space from May!

Once a month join Taneesh of In Kilter Fitness for traditional Ashtanga and Hatha Yoga, including pranayama, meditation and sound healing.

 10:30 – 11:30am 1 June

Local resident, Erin, brings Pilates to Whitlam on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 11 May onward. The 45 minute mat session is designed for all skill levels. Mats can be provided. Bring your own water bottle.

 9am – 9:45am 11 May




### BOLD Moves

BOLD is Back! This time join Kate Page for a circuit class using dumbbells.


Dumbbells can be a fun and effective way to work your whole body, targeting various muscle groups, improving strength, and enhancing cardiovascular fitness when used properly.

Bring your own dumbbells if you can, the weight needs to be heavy enough to give you a good workout, but not too heavy to lose form. Kate will bring spares.

 11:30am – 12:30pm Wednesdays

### MEGA

MEGA continues in Term 2. If you're a mum feel free to bring your children to this inclusive workout each Wednesday during school term.

 10am – 11am Wednesdays

## Space Hire

Did you know that the Mingle Community Space is available for hire for community initiatives? If you have an initiative that you'd like to run, then get in touch with our Place Curator at [SLADisplayVillage@act.gov.au](mailto:SLADisplayVillage@act.gov.au). Please note that private events can not be accommodated in the Community Space.



# What's on in the SLA Display Village & Innovation Precinct?

The SLA Display Village is a vibrant place which delivers a range of community facing activities, events and initiatives. It hosts artists, musicians, educational workshops, art exhibitions, community and cultural events. All Canberrans are welcome to join in. Visit the What's On webpage at [suburbanland.act.gov.au/events](http://suburbanland.act.gov.au/events) or scan the QR code for bookings and to find out more.



## pivot/al – May to August 2025

pivot/al, from BelcoArts, showcases a selection of artworks and functional ware within the SLA display homes. Seven artists' are featured and works include: ceramics, photography, glass, prints and paintings.

Pop in from 10am to 4pm, Thursday to Sunday to view the works. All artworks are for sale – you might even find something for your home!



## Music at Heartbeat

Free live music continues at Heartbeat Café through May and June. Pop in to support our local musicians and grab a hot drink while you are there.

**Image:** Monica Moore Duo



## Workshops

Bring a friend and learn something new in these workshops held right on your doorstep:

- **Building a Sustainable Home** - Personalised tips on how to reduce energy loss and live more comfortably
- **Growing Through the Seasons** - Learning about growing vegetables successfully
- **Infuse** - Artist led workshops providing opportunities to explore your creative side. Hosted by BelcoArts.
- **Crafting My Story** - A social enterprise craft series led by migrant women, for women
- **Women's Shed** - Learn how to make a frame or planter box and other handy skills (women only)

Registration for all workshops is required and there may be a small fee. For more information and to register go to [suburbanland.act.gov.au/events](http://suburbanland.act.gov.au/events).



## Artist in Residence

From May to July, Dr Zsuzsi Soboslay is Whitlam's Artist in Residence. She will be on site each Friday and Saturday, creating a Story Mosaic. This explores how our stories intersect and contrast, and she needs your help! Drop in or join in on one of her organised activities to share your stories which will be incorporated into a narrative scroll and audio installation at the end of her residency.



# Whitlam School Update

The ACT Government is planning for a new public primary school and co-located early childhood education and care service in the suburb of Whitlam.



Through the planning phase of the project our delivery partner has advised us on an updated completion date which will now see the first stage of the new school open for term 1 in 2027.

We know this might be disappointing news for some families, particularly those intending to enrol their children in the 2026 school year. Evelyn Scott School will remain the Priority Enrolment school for Whitlam.

It is important to the government that our infrastructure projects continue to deliver the best value for money

for Canberrans and meet community expectations, while also navigating the rising costs and skills shortages across the construction industry which can cause construction delays.

The Department of Education Directorate will continue to keep the community updated on the progress of the new public school in Whitlam through website updates, local newsletters, and community engagements.

Please email [ACT.Education@act.gov.au](mailto:ACT.Education@act.gov.au) if you have any questions, or scan the QR code to visit the school website.



## Green Waste

Do you have a green waste bin? You can **order one online** for a **one-off registration fee**, or free for residents with one of these concession cards:

- ACTION Gold Card
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card
- ACT Seniors Card.

Garden waste is accepted in the light green lidded bin. It's important to keep garden waste out of your landfill bin to reduce the creation of the harmful greenhouse gas, methane, in landfill.

### What can go in your green waste bin?

Branches (no longer than 45cm and a diameter of 10cm), leaves, prunings, bamboo (all varieties), weeds, wood chips, grass clippings and flowers.

Household green waste can be dropped off for free at Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre (Corkhill Bros) for recycling. Please note that fees apply to oversized branches or trees (larger than 20cm in diameter and/or 2m in length).



## Straight to your inbox

Sign up to the Mingle email list **here!**



We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians, and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We pay our respects to the elders past, present and future.



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