

---

# A Guide for New Googonians.

---



2021



3

**Welcome to Googong!**

4

Googong Display Village

5

**Your local shops**

5

Public transport

6

**Schools and childcare**

7

Integrated Water Cycle System

8

**Our event calendar**

9

Community garden

10

**Stay in the loop!**

11

Googong's local sports teams

12

**Everything you need**

13

Googong's parks and open spaces

14

**Googong Dam and Foreshore**

16

Googonian wildlife

18

**Streets, parks and playgrounds**

19

Let's speak Googonian

---

# Welcome to Googong!

---



**Hi there,  
my name's  
Sam.**

As Googong's community manager, it's my job to help you get settled here in Googong. I'll help you get to know your fellow Googonians and introduce you to the town's many community groups. I live in Googong too, by the way, so you can be sure I'm passionate about our wonderful community and beautiful town.

A good place for new residents to start is the **Googonian Gazette** – our quarterly newsletter that provides you with an update on the township and advice on community matters, events and opportunities. So be sure to **keep your contact and email details current with me** to ensure you receive your copy. We also host residents-only events which you will be notified of via email.

So, if you're a newly minted Googonian, I'd love to hear from you! I work from the **Googong Sales Office** on Courtney Street **Tuesday to Friday** from **10am to 3pm**. So feel free to call **1300 446 646** for a chat, or to organise a time to meet in person. Alternatively, you can email me at **community@googong.net**

---

# Googong Display Village

---



**With 19 homes to explore the Googong Display Village is the largest in the region.**

The display village hours are 11am-4pm Saturday to Wednesday unless otherwise noted below.

- **Achieve Homes**  
(two display homes)
- **APA Homes**
- **BBS Homes**
- **BLD Homes**
- **Burbank**  
(two display homes – open 7 days)
- **DJ Homes**
- **Dixon Homes**  
(open weekends only)
- **Exceed Homes**
- **G.J. Gardner Homes**

- **Ideal Building Solutions**

- **JD Homes**

- **McDonald Jones Homes**  
(two display homes)

- **Thrive Homes**

- **Rawson Homes**  
(two display homes – open 7 days)

- **Vogue Construction**

There are 15 builders who make up the Googong Builders Guild and all offer a large range of house and land packages for sale. There is no obligation to build with any of these builders, but they are a great place to start looking.

---

# Your local shops.

---

**Most of the five neighbourhoods that make up the township of Googong will have a local shopping centre.**



Googong North Village Centre opened in the town's first neighbourhood with an IGA supermarket, liquor store, Gorman & Co. pub, cafe, hair salon, beautician, Our Place Childcare, Domino's Pizza, Club Lime gym, GP clinic, physiotherapy, dentist, vet, pathology services, discount pharmacy, a real estate agent and a Community Centre.

Googong's second neighbourhood, Googong Central, is under

construction and will eventually feature the town's major shopping, entertainment and wellness precinct. The towncentre is proposed to include two major shopping supermarkets as well as retail shops, cafes, restaurants, a Community Centre, fire station, library, secondary school, and more. It's an exciting new direction for the township which will provide employment, entertainment and major shopping opportunities to

---

# Public transport.

---

QCity Transit provides public and school chartered bus services from Googong. There are local links to ensure you can access your desired destination in Canberra and Queanbeyan.

For further information please visit [qcitytransit.com.au](http://qcitytransit.com.au) or contact the traveller information line on 02 6299 3722.



# Schools and childcare.

**By the time the town is complete, Googong will be home to two secondary and two primary schools.**



Our town's first school – The Anglican School Googong – welcomed its first students in 2015, and since then has grown to around 400 students from ELC (Pre-School) to Year 10. Eventually, the school will teach children from Early Learning all the way up to Year 12. The first Year 12 cohort will graduate in 2023.



The Anglican School Googong is co-educational and open entry, and has already welcomed students from across Googong's catchment areas, including Queanbeyan, Jerrabomberra and Canberra.



For further details visit the school's website at [GoogongSchool.nsw.edu.au](http://GoogongSchool.nsw.edu.au), or email the school directly ([enrolments@tasg.nsw.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@tasg.nsw.edu.au)) with any questions. You can also follow them on Facebook.

We've gifted two school sites within Googong township to the NSW Government – the first for a public primary school and the second site for a public secondary school. The primary school site is located adjacent to the Village Centre in Googong North and the public secondary school is located adjacent to the

Googong Town Centre in Googong Central. NSW Government have confirmed that the public primary school will be open for students for Term 1 2023.

We're also providing early childhood education and day care options for the township. The Anglican School Googong has an early learning facility for children aged from three years through to Pre-School age. Further information can be found by visiting: [googongschool.nsw.edu.au/ourschool/early-learning-centre](http://googongschool.nsw.edu.au/ourschool/early-learning-centre).

Our Place Early Learning opened in 2018 at Googong North Village Centre. This facility provides long day care options for children from birth to five years of age. For details, email [googong@ourplace.education](mailto:googong@ourplace.education) or phone **(02) 6299 2510**. You can also follow them on Facebook.

There are a number of home-based childcare providers in the township. Contact Communities@Work – [commsatwork.org](http://commsatwork.org) and/or Queanbeyan Family Day Care – [qprc.nsw.gov.au/Services/FamilyDay-Care](http://qprc.nsw.gov.au/Services/FamilyDay-Care) for details.

If you're a parent of a very little one, join other local parents for the pram walking groups and playgroup that meet every week. Our Community Manager, Sam, can fill you in on the details. Email her at [community@googong.net](mailto:community@googong.net)

# Integrated Water Cycle System.

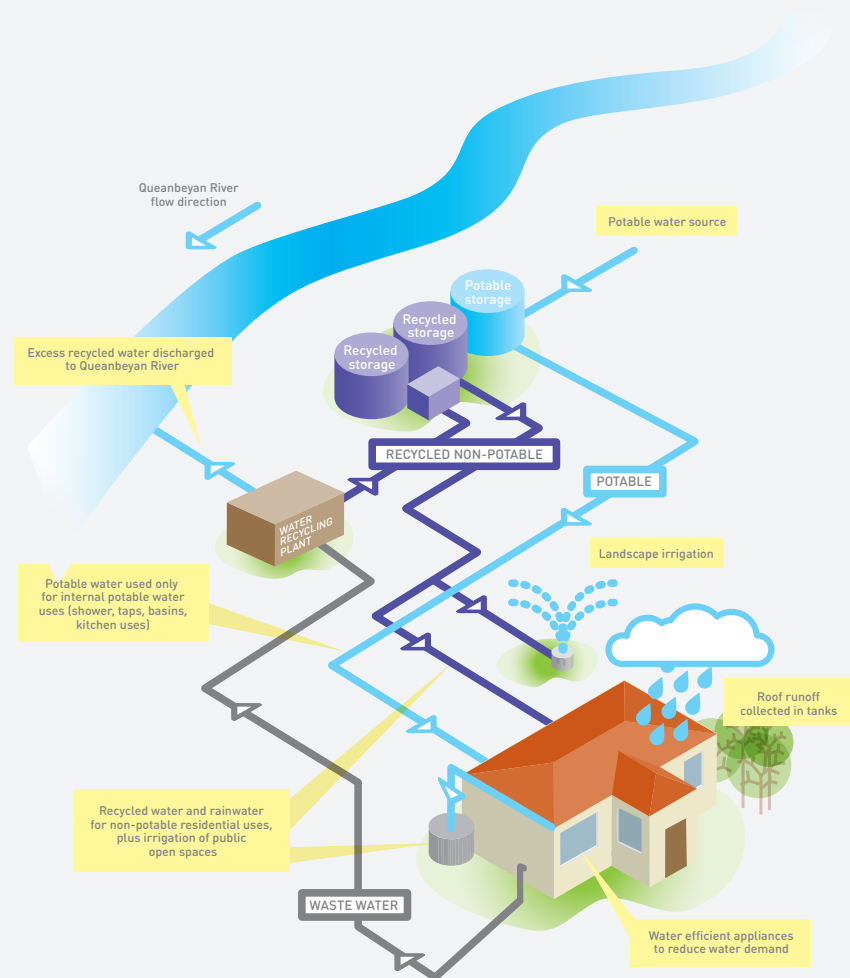
Following several years of testing and commissioning, the Googong Integrated Water Cycle system commenced reticulation of recycled water within the township from 1 December 2020.

Recycled water is used for watering Googong's public open spaces, as well as delivering recycled water back to every home in Googong for non-potable uses such as watering gardens and flushing toilets, using the 'purple pipe' network. Excess water meets stringent environmental guidelines for discharge to waterways. The recycled water complies with the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling.

Googong's Integrated Water Cycle (IWC) system was recognised with a Federal Government Grant of \$5.1 million for its innovative approach to water efficiency and urban design. Googong Township Pty Ltd (a joint venture with Peet Limited and Mirvac) has invested a further \$133 million into the state-of-the-art infrastructure, which has been gifted to council to own and operate.

**The system will reduce potable water use at Googong by about 60% and recycle over half of Googong's wastewater. Googong will be so water efficient, its 18,000 residents will use less water than just 6,500 residents in an average Australian community.**

Innovation and sustainability have underpinned the vision for Googong, which was recognised by the



Green Building Council of Australia awarding Googong their first 5 Star Green Star – Communities rating in the ACT/NSW region. In 2020 Googong was awarded the prestigious UDIA NSW Award for Best Masterplanned Community, and Excellence in Regional Developments, as well as being awarded the Property Council of Australia's ACT Development of the Year Award. Googong's innovative approach to urban design was recognised from the foundation years winning the UDIA NSW awards for

Excellence in Concept Design, and Excellence in Southern NSW Regions and ACT Development in 2011.

The reticulation of recycled water at Googong is the culmination of almost two decades of visioning, planning and implementation. We are pleased to have partnered with QPRC in the delivery of this significant piece of infrastructure and applaud the residents who have recognised the sustainable lifestyle and community benefits that the township of Googong provides.

---

# Our event calendar.

---

Events at Googong seem to be hitting the right note, not just with our residents, but with the wider community in the Canberra region.



Googong's events are great opportunities for you to introduce your family and friends to the township.

**Googfest**, our free Googonian music festival, is held every year at Rockley Oval on the first Saturday in the first school term. Then there's **Boogong**, our frightening-and-free Halloween event which falls on the Saturday closest to Halloween in October.

Be sure to also check out our other regular events, such as our kite-flying day **Kitefest** (on Fathers' day) and the **Googong Rural Fire Service Open Day** (October). Our **Googong township Facebook page** is another great way to stay informed about happenings in the town.

While these are free public events, we also have exclusive resident-only activities and events too, like our residents cocktail party, GooGala, our Mothers' Day Pamper Party, and more. So it's important to keep your contact details current with our Community Manager, Samantha. You can email her at [community@googong.net](mailto:community@googong.net)





---

# Community garden.

---



## Googong's first community garden is located on Helen Circuit, adjacent to Montgomery Rise.



The Googong Community Garden is managed by the community.

The garden features plots for Googonians, including a special area for our little Googonians to plant and play.

There's a BBQ and picnic area for our community gardeners to meet and there has been interest for swap meets to share produce, seeds and conversations between like-minded gardeners.

If you want to be a part of the Googong Community Garden, jump online and join the Googong Community Garden Facebook page.

### **Not on Facebook?**

Then just email the co-coordinator at [googongcommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:googongcommunitygarden@gmail.com)

# Stay in the loop!

If you're on social media, there are a few groups you might like to join.

## The Googonian Gazette

Our residents newsletter, The Googonian Gazette, is printed quarterly. A copy can be picked from the Googong IGA Supermarket, or it is emailed to our database and available on our website. If you have something you'd like to include in one of our issues (or if you'd like to update your details so you receive an email copy), contact our Community Manager, Samantha, at [community@googong.net](mailto:community@googong.net).



## Facebook groups

Googong township provides updates on the town's progress from the developer, as well as advice on events and activities of interest to residents and the region.

The Googong Residents Association is a great way to get involved with the community and have your say on issues affecting residents.

The Googong Playgroup meets weekly and offers many different activities for children. It's a great way to connect with other Googonian families and offer social connections for children and their families.

The Googong Seniors group fosters connection through social and cultural events, adult learning,

and health and wellbeing activities. A great way to stay connected with your fellow neighbours.

The Dogonians page includes events and activities for our four-legged friends. The Googong Notice Board focuses on community events.

Googong Mumma's Exercise Group, Googong Mums and Bubs, and Jerra/Googong Pram Walking and Exercise Group are must-follows for any Googonian parents.

The Googong Community Garden keeps the green thumbs in the community active.

Googong Buy Swap Sell is a must for any bargain hunter or de-clutterer.

## We're also on Instagram

Tag your images of life at Googong with **#GoGoogonian** – we'd love to see what you've been up to.



Follow us  
**googong\_township**



Like us  
**googongtownship**

# Googong's local sports teams.

Googong is already home to a number of local sports teams.



The **Googong Hogs Aussie Rules Club** is based at Googong's Rockley Oval.

The **Googong Hogs Netball Club** also plays in the region. To find out more about the clubs, home games and more, visit [googonghogs.com.au](http://googonghogs.com.au)

**Tigers Junior AFL** teams play at Rockley Oval. Visit [www.tigersclub.com.au](http://www.tigersclub.com.au) for more information.

**Googong Monaro Panthers Football Club** (soccer) have games for boys and girls U5-U18 as well as men's and women's games. There are also day time programs for 3-4 year olds. Their home ground is Duncan Fields. Visit [monaropanthers.com.au](http://monaropanthers.com.au) for more information.

**Queanbeyan Junior Cricket** plays at Googong's Rockley Oval – details can be found at [queanbeyan cricket.com/site/juniors](http://queanbeyan cricket.com/site/juniors)

Off the field, you'll also find swimming and aerobics lessons in Club Googong; walking groups; a choir; martial arts groups; yoga; boot camps; a dance school; tennis school; craft groups; seniors group; and there are more activities and groups being formed every week.



---

# Everything you need.

---

## We want to make sure Googong is a great place to live.

So, in addition to the all the local streets and utility services you'd expect, we're spending an additional \$283 million to increase Googong's amenity.

### What's in our first neighbourhood?

You can enjoy all of these amenities right now.

- The Anglican School Googong accepts students from Early Learning to Year 10, and will grow each year till the school eventually extends to Year 12 in 2023.
- Upgraded local approach roads to benefit both Googong and the Queanbeyan region were completed in 2020, including duplication of Old Cooma Road, and the extension of the Edwin land Parkway. Additional roadworks are planned for the intersection of Lanyon Drive and the Monaro Highway, streamlining connectivity between Googong, Queanbeyan and the ACT region.

- A purpose-built water and sewerage system that delivers recycled water to every home for toilet flushing and garden watering, as well as providing irrigation for parks and open spaces.
- Eight local playgrounds are currently open, including an all-abilities playground.
- Three bike pump tracks.
- Two tennis courts.
- Six netball courts.
- A swim school with a 25m indoor pool and outdoor kids splash-deck.
- Rockley Oval and Duncan Fields already host cricket, Aussie Rules, soccer and cricket games.
- Two dog parks for four-legged residents and their two-legged owners to enjoy.
- Gas, fibre to the home and mobile phone coverage make cutting-edge tech and modern convenience par for the course in Googong.
- Established network of walking paths, cycleways and bush tracks.
- Googong North Village Centre includes an IGA supermarket, liquor store, Gorman & Co. pub, a café, hair salon, beautician, 'Our Place' childcare, Domino's Pizza, Club Lime gym, GP clinic, physiotherapy, dentist, vet, pathology services, discount pharmacy, a real estate agent, and a community centre that is managed by Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council.

### What's planned for the future?

As development of Googong continues, you can look forward to:

- A local shopping village in each neighbourhood.
- Googong's Town Centre will be located in our second neighbourhood, Googong Central, and include at least one major supermarket, retail shops, businesses, cafés, restaurants, a library, community centre, fire station and a proposed public secondary school.
- NSW Government have announced that work will commence on Googong's public primary school in 2021, and open for students in Term 1 2023.
- Recreational facilities including eleven playing fields, ten tennis courts, a regional playground, skatepark, pump track, thirteen neighbourhood and local parks, an indoor pool and sports centre, and a network of over 15km of walkways, and bike paths and bush trails.
- Ecological waterways and ponds.
- Habitats for protected native species.
- 196 hectares of gardens and open space, including 45 hectares in Googong Common.

---

# Googong's parks and open space.

---



**Eventually, 23% of Googong will be dedicated to parklands and open spaces – that's almost as much space as in Centennial Park in Sydney.**

The largest park in Googong – Googong Common – is a 45-hectare parkland and ecologically restored chain of ponds that will meander through the heart of the town, acting as Googong's 'green lungs'.

In developing the parklands, we will be revegetating degraded areas with native species. Native grassland will be protected, along with habitats for other threatened species. A good example of this can be seen in the regeneration taking place in the area around Montgomery Creek.



## **Parks for people, parks for pooches.**

The parklands at Googong will also provide you with a place for sport and active recreation, as well as quiet places where you can simply enjoy the nature around you.

We've already opened two separate dog parks for our four-legged friends, with a dog park adjacent to Rockley Oval, and another adjacent to Duncan Fields that includes a large pond.

Currently, there are three playing fields, eight playgrounds (including an all-abilities playground), two tennis courts, six netball courts, and a pump track ready for you to enjoy. But ultimately, the town will boast eleven playing fields, ten tennis courts, six netball courts, a regional playground, skate park, pump track, thirteen local parks, and indoor pool and sports centre, and over 15km of walkways, bike paths and bush trails.

---

# Googong Dam and Foreshores.

---



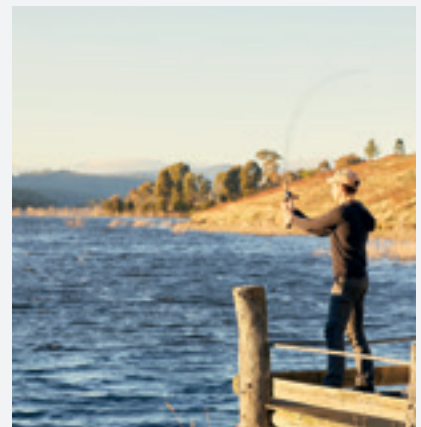
**Just a short drive down the road from Googong, you'll find the dam and surrounding conservation area.**

If you're into fishing, hiking, trail running or mountain biking, you'll fall in love with this beautiful place. It's been described as one of the country's best inland fishing locations. And whether you're on foot or on a mountain bike, you'll find trails of varying difficulty and length, so you can enjoy a day out in this stunning natural setting, whatever your fitness level. To discover more, grab a copy of the Googong Dam Trails brochure from our Sales Office on Courtney Street.

The dam foreshores is also a dream location for a picnic, with designated BBQ areas overlooking the scenery of the dam and surrounding bush.

The area is also an important refuge for native plants and animals. Keep an eye out for the incredible wedge-tailed eagles that circle the skies over the Foreshores.

**Googong Dam is a water catchment area for the ACT region's water supply. Icon Water, who own and manage the dam, allow public access to the water and foreshores for recreation, but there are restrictions to this access. It is important that residents respect these restrictions so that this beautiful asset continues to be available for us all. See the chart on page following for what is and isn't permitted.**



You can delve into the history of the historic **London Bridge Homestead** and **London Bridge Arch**, a natural limestone arch formed by Burra Creek over thousands of years.





Dogs are not permitted in the Dam and Foreshores area, and swimming, wading and petrol powered boats are not allowed in the water catchment (Googong Dam). Fishing, kayaking, sail boating and other activities like biking, walking and picnicking are permitted.

While you can't swim in Googong Dam itself, in warmer weather you can swim at nearby **Cascades** or **White Rocks Reserve**, in the Queanbeyan River just below the dam.

Maintaining the quality of the water in the reservoir is paramount, and Googonians will be asked to respect these rules whilst visiting Googong Foreshores to ensure the protection of the water supply and the surrounding natural environment, and to ensure that public access is maintained.



### Opening times:

The northern end of the dam is open **8am-8pm during daylight saving months**; and **8am-6pm during non-daylight saving months**.

The southern end of the dam closes an hour earlier: **8am-7pm during daylight saving months** and **8am-5pm during non-daylight saving months**.

### The following MUST be observed by all visitors:

Recreation at Googong Foreshores			
	Bike riding		No dogs
	Picnicking		No swimming
	Bushwalking		No petrol powered boats
	Fishing		No wading
	Kayaking, sail boating	Protect your drinking water.	

It is an offense to visit the area outside of these times, even on foot.

Please note: Gates are closed during periods of high fire danger.

### For more information:

Visit the **Ranger Station on Googong Road** or phone the rangers on **02 6207 2779**.

---

# Googonian wildlife.

---



**As a Googonian, you'll regularly see and interact with native species given the wonderful natural surroundings of Googong.**



Native animals that you might see in the Googong area include kangaroos, wombats, possums, gliders, lizards, snakes, turtles, insects, spiders and a myriad of birds.

Planting local native species is a great way of encouraging native animals, especially birds, into your yard. You can contact the rangers at Googong Foreshores for information on suitable plant varieties on **02 6207 2779**.

You might notice a family of Wedge-tailed Eagles that soar above the town and nest just inside the eastern Conservation Area. While on the top of Nangi Pimble a species of Casurina have been planted to support a community of vulnerable Glossy Black Cockatoos.

## **Pink-tailed Worm-lizard**

During planning for Googong, a large population of this vulnerable species was found living in the eastern part of the town site.

These little guys — that look like snakes, but aren't — are threatened by habitat loss and modification (i.e. removal or disturbance of bush rock, fertilizing leading to dominance of exotic pasture grasses, weed encroachment and heavy grazing), so as a town and as a community, we're doing our bit to protect them.

We have established a 52Ha fenced Conservation Area along the eastern boundary and established a \$1 million fund to create a sanctuary on a 30Ha site to the south-eastern boundary.



The Pink-tailed Worm-lizard is harmless. If you think you have encountered one or are unsure, please call the Googong Rangers on 02 6207 2779.

## A Googonian cat is an indoor cat

Googong is surrounded by rural properties, conservation areas and protected nature parks. This poses several unique risks to local cats, and risks to the natural environment, that cat owners should be aware of.

Cats are prohibited on public land which is zoned for 'environmental conservation'. This includes the parkland adjacent to the Googong Foreshores, as well as the Pink Tailed Worm-lizard Conservation Area. Local Rangers have warned us that if they find cats in these areas, they are likely to be controlled (shot, captured or poisoned through fox baiting). Additionally, cats roaming onto neighbouring private properties face danger of being controlled by the landowners (shot or baited).

Cats are known to have a disastrous impact upon native fauna.\* Given the proximity of Googong to the Googong



Foreshores, a refuge for native wildlife, roaming cats are likely to kill native fauna, particularly birds and lizards, within both Googong and the Foreshores.

Googong Township, in association with The Molonglo Conservation Group, have established extensive conservation areas to the eastern and south eastern boundaries of the town for the protection of the Pink-tailed Worm Lizard. You might notice high fences which define the boundaries of these areas. This rare lizard is listed as 'vulnerable' in Australia. We are enormously excited

about our achievements to identify and protect this species, which could be devastated by the impact of pet cats that roam.

Cat runs are an excellent way to keep your cat healthy and happy, and the area's wildlife safe from harm. We ask that Googonian cat owners keep their cats indoors at all times.

\*On average, each roaming pet cat kills 186 reptiles, birds and mammals per year, most of them native to Australia. Studies that used cat video tracking collars or scat analysis (checking what's in the cat's poo) have established many pet cats kill animals without bringing them home. Keeping your cat securely contained 24 hours a day is the only way to prevent it from killing wildlife.

The Canberra Times: *One cat, one year, 110 native animals: lock up your pet, it's a killing machine*, 14 May 2020.

## Injured wildlife

If injured or orphaned wildlife are found within Googong Foreshores, you should alert the rangers at the ranger station on Googong Road. If injured or orphaned wildlife are found outside of the Foreshores, you should call **Wildcare** on **02 6299 1966**.



# Streets, parks and playgrounds.

## The streets and parks of Googong North have been named to reflect the heritage of the area.

The names include a mix of gender, age and social status: property owners are recognised alongside farmers, housemaids and drivers; children, including young infants are remembered; and the women and men who farmed, taught, traded, lived and worked in this region have streets named after them.

A number of Googong's parks and places of significance have been named by the traditional custodians of the land, the Ngunawal and Ngambri.

Examples include:

- **Nangi Pimble** is the highest point on the Googong site, adjacent to Old Cooma Road. It means 'See District'. In times of Aboriginal preoccupation, hills such as this provided a vantage point to not only see who was approaching but also to identify other hill tops and pathways in which to traverse the country.



- **Yerradhang Nguru**, in the Aboriginal language of the Ngunawal people, means 'Gumtree Camp'. It was a place to rest and stop for a while under the shade of a gumtree. The park on Aprasia Avenue is recognisable by its distinctive gumnut climbing structures. It includes BBQ facilities, ping pong tables and iconic and challenging play equipment.
- **Munnagai Woggabaliri** (Ngunawal for 'Come Play') is the playground located within the Montgomery Rise area.
- **Bunburung Thina** (meaning small lizard track) is the name of the walking trail that runs through Googong Common. It recognises the venerable Pink-Tailed Worm Lizard that has been discovered along the eastern edge of the township. We have created a Conservation Area for the species here, and are establishing a Sanctuary on the south-eastern boundary.
- **Lovegrove Park** is one of two exceptions to the Indigenous naming strategy. It was named after Troy

Lovegrove who was seven years old when he died from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Troy's story is told in the documentary "A Kid Called Troy". Troy dedicated his short life to raising AIDS awareness and understanding. Troy's father Vince also wrote a book about his family's experiences.

- **Aprasia Park** is named after one of its 'residents', the Pink-tailed Worm-lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*) mentioned earlier in this booklet. A population of these tiny creatures lives in a Conservation Area east of the park.
- **Rockley Oval** is named after a form of women's cricket that was played in the late 1800s; and the streets around the oval are named after the women, coaches and even ball runners who played the sport locally and who represented the region competitively.
- **Duncan Fields** is named after the Duncan family (David, Nellie and David Coupar Duncan) who operated bakeries in the area from the 1930's until 1980. They also contributed to many charities and were heavily involved in the Park Cycle Club and the Tigers Football Club.

For the stories behind the names of Googong's streets, check out <http://googong.net/handy-information/helpful-links-for-new-residents.php>

---

# Let's speak Googongian.

---

**Kayakable**

Any amount of water capable of holding your kayak (see Googong Dam).

---

**Googercise**

Physical activity performed at Beltana Park, Googong Dam, Club Googong and in the natural parkland surrounding Googong.

---

**Neighbover**

A common ritual in which Googonians invite the people next door around for dinner.

---

**Enporched**

Kicking back on the porch on a Saturday afternoon with a glass of wine, a good book, and absolutely no intention of moving for the next several hours.

---

**The Googenheim**

The fridge door, after being decked out with your kids' latest paintings from school.

---

**Technogoogs**

Googong residents who enjoy the fast internet speeds of the township's fibre to the home network.

---

**Googojoy**

A unit used to measure happiness. Measurements amongst Googong residents are off the charts. E.g. After a day spent fishing at the dam, Gavin's mood climbed by approximately 470 googojays.

---

**Googongalicious**

Used to describe food or wine prepared during a Googonian social gathering.

---

**The Googong Off Switch**

A day spent playing in Googong's parks and outdoor spaces – your kids will be out like a light come bedtime.

---

**Noogonians**

Residents new to the township, still wide-eyed and smiling all the time (though to be fair, that doesn't tend to go away).

---

**Googong Fun-gineers**

Our landscape team who are also responsible for our playgrounds and parks.

---

**Free-range kids**

Googonian children who enjoy the wide outdoors and friendly neighborhoods of the township.

---



A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN MIRVAC AND PEET