

## **Welcome to the Purple House!**

In 2016 we rebuilt (extended and retrofitted) our 1940s cottage in Ainslie. Sustainability was a key value that informed many of our design and building decisions. In particular, we chose not to knock down and rebuild, because we wanted to preserve the charm of the original cottage, while transforming it into a comfortable modern home.

### **Some of the sustainable features of this house are:**

- good solar orientation: we are 20 degrees east of true north, with north to the rear
- thermal mass – the new part of the house has concrete slab floors
- large north facing windows that allow sun to penetrate in winter,
- double glazing to limit heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter
- insulation of walls, ceiling, under-slab and beneath the old wooden floors;
- replacement of and re-insulation of the building envelope of the old house
- retention of some original features eg the masonry hearth, wooden door frames and doors
- reuse of some fittings from the old house in the studio eg cladding, and bathroom and kitchen cabinetry
- entire house plumbed to rain water, large volume water tanks, option of mains connection
- grey water recycling
- 4.5kW of solar panels with an LG Chem battery and Reposit system
- the amazingly efficient heat pump electric hot water service
- garden progressing towards a food forest and organic vegie garden
- a multi-tasking wood stove

**Use this map for a self-guided tour. Volunteers will be stationed around the home to answer your questions.**

### **Please watch your step! Look out for steps and uneven ground.**

1. Register with Janet at the desk
2. Then and now: talk with Barb, who lived here for 35 years  
Displays – kitchen bench and dining area cupboards
3. Building in sustainability: talk with Liz about what we did, and why
4. Our urban farm: meander past the grey water, worm bath, fruit trees, and chooks
5. Meet BB, the 46kL water tank, helping us aim for water self-sufficiency
6. Charlie can explain why we spent \$20k on solar panels, a battery, and Reposit, and why we disconnected the gas.
7. Exit via the western side gate