The people who reveal their lives in this book are a reflection of the diverse community of the Narrabundah Longstay Park, located in a semi-rural setting in the Canberra suburb of Symonston. They are workers, parents, school children, pensioners, artists and builders. Some have bought homes in the Park as the first step towards buying a larger house in the suburbs. Others choose to live in the Park because it offers sanctuary after illness, divorce, retrenchment or retirement. The Park’s 102 sites are home to people who have, over the past 30 years, put down strong roots in the Park through their dwellings, their gardens and their friendships.

The Park community was devastated on Tuesday 9 May 2006 when a developer gave eviction notices to all residents. The residents sprang to action in a campaign to save the Park. With the strong support of community groups, the media and the ACT Government, the Park community now looks likely to survive this ordeal, with the offer of a land swap that will bring the Park back into public ownership.

Here are the stories and portraits of some of the people who would not leave the Park.