

Introduction

In 2005, the Gundaroo Community Association continued efforts to become widely recognised as a mainstream organisation in the Village. With all other entities in Gundaroo being focused on activities, asset management or religious groups, the GCA can only be successful if it is accepted as a genuinely representative community forum.

Strategies

To mainstream its community role, the GCA has loosely pursued three strategies:

1. *Raise visibility, widen appeal and increase membership;*
2. *Sustain the historic, cultural & community characteristics of Gundaroo;*
3. *Maintain moderate views on matters that polarise the Community.*

Raising Visibility, Widening Appeal and Increasing Membership

The Association approximately doubled its membership in 2005 and dramatically increased its exposure through extensive Gazette articles and a comprehensive web-link. I would like to thank Linda Harris and Graeme Challinor for their generous assistance in these respective areas. The activation of three GCA subcommittees managing the Village Monuments, the Police Paddock and this year Social Soccer, has directly engaged several hundred additional villagers in GCA-sponsored, highly valued community pursuits. These residents represent the future of a more widely based community association.

Sustaining Historic, Cultural & Community Characteristics of Gundaroo

The Association has moved away from just project-based and issue-based initiatives to a wider role that sustains the valued historical, cultural and community aspects of the Village. For example the neglected Clemenger Monument and WW1 Memorial have been extensively refurbished, used as the foundation of successful Dawn Services and the War Memorial will soon be extended to recognise all Village veterans who served in WW2 and later campaigns.

Similarly, the GCA has secured the historic Police Paddock under a Dept. of Lands License and initiated an active horse agistment group within the Village. This has not only created a limited opportunity for agistment within Gundaroo but has preserved this highly valued open space within the heart of the Village. More recently, the Association has supported the sustainability of the highly successful Gundaroo Social Soccer by facilitating integration of Village soccer activities into the GCA charter. This outcome has secured the viability of Social Soccer for over 100 village children while also delivering rationalisation of insurance, incorporation and financial management overheads.

Maintaining Moderate Views on Community Matters

The 2005 Committee has realigned the Association objectives to emphasise moderate and mainstream community views when engaging with government or other stakeholder groups. Where the community is polarised on particular issues, the GCA has successfully demonstrated the capacity to represent the full diversity of community opinion to relevant bodies. For example, the proposal to allow B-Double trucks on Sutton Road between Gunning and the Federal Highway was widely opposed by villagers and this was objectively communicated to Yass Valley Council. However the GCA also recognised the smaller rural lobby, which stood to gain significant economic benefits from B-Double haulage options for produce and supplies. This was also communicated to Council and the RTA with a view to allowing local permit-based access for B-Double vehicles.

Similarly, the issues of traffic calming and main street beautification have partially divided the village with a healthy diversity of opinions. The Association has utilised a variety of community surveys and public meetings to present the full breadth of views to Council and the project consultants engaged on these initiatives. However the legitimacy of the GCA's role in these matters remains challenging for the Committee and will not improve dramatically until GCA membership encompasses a majority of residents in Gundaroo. The community needs to decide whether it wishes to be represented by a valid GCA - as a group of 'elected' Gundaroo residents or whether it wishes to remain silent or disjointed on these issues and accept the perceptions and decisions of government agencies and other bodies.

Other GCA Achievements

The Association has worked on many tasks and challenges in 2005. Some of these include:

- Acquittal of Heritage Grants to restore the Village Monuments;
- Rebating of YVC Rates on the Village Police Paddock;
- Winning GBR funding for the GCA, the Monuments and the Police Paddock Insurance;
- Conduct of the outstanding inaugural 2005 ANZAC Day event.
- Creation of the GCA web-link on the Gundaroo Home Page
- Initiation of concept planning for the Gundaroo Main Street Program;
- Resolution of the David St Enclosure Permit with construction of a footpath to the Park;
- Provision of Community update briefs during the Bridge closure;
- Installation of signage at the Lot St Picnic Area to protect private driveway access;
- GPS veterans awareness project with 5th/6th class students;
- Award of a \$3000 Heritage Grant for restoration work at the Old Catholic Cemetery;
- Responding in detail to Community concerns re YVC rates increases;
- Completion of upgraded recycling facilities at the Gundaroo Tip;
- Commencement of urban sign renewal following signage audits;
- Transfer of Crown Rd reservations within the Village from Dept of Lands to YVC.
- Award of a \$4000 DVA grant for 2nd stage works on the War Memorial;

Challenges for the New Committee

Challenges for the 2006 Committee might include:

1. Overseeing commencement of main street works with Harp St drainage works in Aug 06.
2. Working on final realisation of the village-walking track.
3. Advising YVC on utilisation of unconstructed ex-Crown Roads transferred to local Council.
4. Finalising compromise for track development for western end of Rosamel Street.
5. Completing works on Old Catholic Cemetery and War Memorial.
6. Increasing the autonomy and sustainability of the GCA subcommittees.
7. Lobbying YVC to maintain the high percentage capital works return on our rating base.
8. Closing action with Council on subdivision of the War Memorial site as public land.
9. Determining any GCA role in current non-urban LEP reviews.
10. Working cooperatively with other Village groups and trusts to achieve beneficial outcomes.
11. Providing a sustainable insurance & incorporation environment for village groups and activities.