

GUNDAROO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER UPDATE

SEPTIC SOLUTIONS

A lot of residents have expressed concern about the recent sewerage inspections. Among other things, people want to know why the inspections are being done, what the protocols are, how often the inspections will be done and what is going to happen as a result of this round of inspections.

The GCA first contacted the Council with a formal letter in November 2006 in an attempt to answer these questions. No response was received.

The GCA has recently decided to approach the local councillors, with the intent of eliciting a response from YVC. GCA will keep you posted, so, watch this space.

GUNDAROO BRIDGE NAMING COMPETITION

Gundarooians, we need your poetic license. The Gundaroo Bridge (that's not its name) needs a name and the GCA is forming a competition for the locals to name it and submit that name for official purposes. The GCA is currently organising both the competition and gaining information on the naming protocols. GCA will keep you posted, so again, watch this space.

YVC LOCAL HERITAGE GRANTS PROGRAMME

Applications are now open for the Yass Valley Council 2007-2008 Heritage Grants Program.

The Local Heritage Grants Program encourages the conservation of heritage buildings, properties and places through the partial funding of restoration and maintenance works that enhance the heritage values of the Yass Valley local government area. Local Heritage Grants are provided to individuals or organisations for up to 50% of the cost of the proposed conservation works.

Application forms and guidelines are available for downloading, or copies can be obtained from Yass Valley Council. For more information about the Local Heritage Grants Program, please contact Suzanne Jurcevic on 6226 1477 or email enquiries to Suzanne.Jurcevic@yass.nsw.gov.au. Applications close on Friday 28th September 2007.

COMPLIMENTARY ENVIRO SAVER SERVICES

Free energy and water assessments as well as free energy efficient light globes and shower heads are currently being offered under the NSW Government Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme. The GCA understands that these services may be available to Gundaroo residents, providing multiple households can be coordinated for Envirosaver visits.

Further information is available at www.envirosaver.com.au. If you are interested in participating in this cost effective, environmentally sustainable program, please email your name, address and telephone contact with one or more of the following availability codes to langworthy@westnet.com.au: (W) for weekends, (B) for business days, (E) for evenings. eg: JOHN SMITH, XX CORK ST, 6236 8XXX, (W) & (E) only.

IS IT ACCEPTABLE TO BE RAVAGED BY A DOG?

Why is it acceptable for our lovely pooches to ravage walkers-by here in Gundaroo? There have been a number of times I've been on a walk around the village with my dogs on leads, only to walk past an open gate (and I've got to say that open gates don't contain dogs!) only to have a pack of yapping, growling mongrels and pooches come tearing down on us. The aggression and harassment is not just aimed at my dogs but also at my wife, toddler, baby and myself. It hasn't been isolated instances that our dogs have come to our defence!

Wouldn't it be *loving and considerate* of others if they could respect the enjoyment of others having stroll around the village without being harassed by a neighbours pooch, whether contained by an open gate or a closed one?

Is it acceptable for others stock to be ravaged?

Warnings about keeping dogs contained come and go, and it is easy to become complacent about the threat domestic dogs are to livestock in the Gundaroo region. We can read articles like the 'Massacre on Candy Road' where two Staffordshire terriers massacred six Alpacas and critically injured another and be horrified, but be unaffected in the control and containment of our own dogs. Is it that we can't imagine our pet pooches would do such a thing? Is it that we feel cruel to contain our dogs? I've seen a pedigree Labrador, a lovely dog with kids and babies, tee up with another dog and think it a hoot to take out a kangaroo. How much fun is it for a dog to chase sheep, alpacas or chickens up and down a fence? What happens if they are on the other side of that fence?

Being considerate of our neighbours is serious business. Can I just remind all us dog owners that under the Companion Animals Act 1998, we are guilty of an offence if our dog/s attacks, chases or harasses any person or animal. The Act also makes the owner liable for injury caused by their dog. Being loving to our neighbours is serious business: we must control our dogs at all times. What can we do? If we are against tying up our dogs, then could we act by building a secure dog yard?

IT'S YOUR GCA

We currently have 96 members, with last month's information in the *Gazette* attracting another 6 (Welcome to you!). The GCA is for Gundarooivians, we need to know what it is that YOU want in your GCA? We aim to please the majority, so we need the majority voice.

- Is it the reporting of what is going on in the village?
- Is it the potential projects that could be achieved through a community group like the GCA?
- Is it progress in terms of development and/or sustainable futures?
- Is it an informative function?

Please submit queries, ideas, information, comments and opinions to the GCA. Rob Milne has kindly volunteered to be the unbiased sounding board for this activity, Rob's mobile is: 0404032665, or you can email him: mrpatchman@dodo.com.au

NEXT MEETING

The next GCA Meetings are scheduled for 19th September, 17 October and 21 November 2007. Please contact a GCA Committee Member if you are interested in raising any issues or attending the meeting.

WEBSITE

Details of members, minutes of meetings, past *Gazette* articles and the GCA Plan and Constitution are available on the GCA website at: <http://gca.gundaroo.info/>