

GUNDAROO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DECEMBER UPDATE

Year in Review

The GCA Committee has met monthly during the year and quietly achieved on numerous fronts. The efforts of all committee members and subcommittee reps are greatly appreciated, especially those of Treasurer Ian Thomas and Secretary Tony Davis. In 2007 the Association has matured in its role as an umbrella organisation for the village, providing centralised incorporation, cost effective public liability insurance and experienced treasury and auditing services for subcommittee activities. To date this has been a very positive experience. Improvements have also been achieved with the GCA web-link thanks to the generous assistance of Graeme Challinor.

Bridge Update

The GCA finally received a response from the NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Roads in October, some nine months after writing to the Minister. The correspondence advises that design of the road is complete and design of the new (downstream) bridge is in progress. Acquisition of additional land and a full Review of Environmental Factors are also to be finalised. The Department also noted that funding has been allocated in FY07/08 to complete design and to commence construction. The GCA fully supports the planned new bridge noting the difficulty in rehabilitating the existing bridge for heavy traffic and our community's wish for a reliable two-way structure as our main link to Canberra. However, a full exploration of options for the historical existing bridge (construction commenced in 1899) is yet to be sighted and the Minister has committed to further consultation with the Gundaroo community prior to finalising plans.

Development in Gundaroo

The GCA assisted several 'new' villagers with development challenges during the year without getting engaged in detailed DA issues. Most notably, this allowed agreement with Yass Valley Council (YVC) and a private developer to construct a low impact walking track from Rosamel Street to the public access point on the Yass River. YVC have continued with their street sealing program with further work in Lind St. Installation of new Village entrance signage was also completed in recent months in accordance with the Shire standard. Council's commitments to rectification of stormwater work in Cork Street and progression of the Main Street Program remain outstanding. The GCA is also awaiting a response from Council regarding future arrangements for management of septic systems in the Village.

Cemetery Working Bee

The GCA successfully bid for a further \$2000 grant from the Council's Heritage Fund to continue improvement work at the Old Catholic Cemetery south of the Bridge.

Subcommittee Activities

The Social Soccer Subcommittee conducted another highly successful season of village soccer with outstanding participation and great corporate sponsorship. Thanks are extended to Tony Le Mesurier and Scott Green for their energetic leadership of the parents, coaches, referees and fundraisers who sustain this amazing community competition. An even bigger and better event should be possible next year (if we get some grass on the oval)!

The Police Paddock Subcommittee has sustained another year of horse agistment despite the drought conditions. This has delivered a cost neutral result to offset significant overheads and to preserve this open space in the village. The GCA thanks Peter McGlade and the subcommittee for a great outcome. Improvements including tree plantings are planned for 2008.

The Village Monuments Subcommittee coordinated the third successive ANZAC Day event this year thanks to Clive Mitchell-Taylor and Michael Carew. This event benefited from the new commemorative plinth at the War Memorial which was installed during the 2nd major stage of Monument Works. Plans to replace hardwood vehicle barriers with stonework are being developed for 2008. The small parcel of land containing the Village War Memorial was also formally subdivided from the surrounding corner block in recent months thanks to the generous concession of David Mallinson. This will ensure the perpetual viability of the Monument.

Redevelopment of Gundaroo Oval

The soccer subcommittee has also been instrumental in working with the Park Trust to redevelop and irrigate the playing surface of the oval. Progress to date includes major earthworks and installation of the holding tank and three-phase power. Trenching and placement of pipes is scheduled for the second weekend in December. The efforts of Austin Goodfellow, Ben Haseler, Tony Le Mesurier, the soccer subcommittee, Yass Council and the Park Trustees are outstanding.

Next Meeting

The next GCA Meeting will be scheduled for early in 2008 and is likely to be the AGM for the Association. This will create opportunities for new nominees to the Committee and subcommittees and expressions of interest are welcomed to any committee member or Phil Langworthy on x881 or mobile 0407 691 758.

Website

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